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■ VOL. C NO. 109 ■ PRICE ₹6.00/WITH HINDUSTAN ₹ 10.50 (₹ 9.50 IN FARIDABAD)/WITH MINT ₹ 15.50 ■ 18 PAGES + 4 PAGES OF HT CITY. AREA SPECIFIC PAGES EXTRA.

NEW DELHI/METRO
Tuesday, **May 07**, 2024

Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

Ph-3 today: 93 seats up for grabs across states

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: More than 172 million people across 11 states and Union territories, ranging from the riverine islands of Assam to the coast of Gujarat and from the Konkan coast in Karnataka to western Uttar Pradesh, will vote in 93 Lok Sabha seats on Tuesday, sealing the fates of 1,331 candidates, including six Union ministers and four former chief ministers.

When voting closes on Tuesday, more than half of India's 543 Lok Sabha seats – 282 to be exact – would have gone to the polls, marking a crucial turn in the six-week-long general elections that began last month. At stake will be all 26 seats in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stronghold of Gujarat, as well as 14 seats in the Congress-ruled Karnataka and 11 in Maharashtra, where splintering regional forces have rendered the elections unpredictable.

"The Election Commission of India is fully geared up for the Phase-3 of the Lok Sabha polls tomorrow (Tuesday)... The commission has called upon voters to turnout in greater numbers at polling stations and vote with responsibility and pride," ECI said in a statement on Monday.

By the end of day, voting

continued on →13

Sule vs Pawar: All eyes on Baramati as key Maha constituencies go to polls

MUMBAI: Polling for 11 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra will be held on Tuesday, with the spotlight being on the high-stakes battle in Baramati, where incumbent lawmaker and NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule is pitted against Sunetra Pawar, wife of the veteran leader's estranged nephew and Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

While Sule is seeking a fourth straight term from Baramati, her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar is making her electoral debut in these polls as an NDA nominee.

With dominance over the family home turf on stake, both Sharad Pawar, who founded the NCP in 1999, and his nephew Ajit Pawar, who orchestrated the vertical split in the 24-year-old party in July last year and joined the Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruling alliance in the state, canvassed extensively in the constituency to ensure the victory of their nominee.

→P11

LG CALLS FOR NIA PROBE OVER AAP 'LINKS' WITH SFJ, PARTY HITS BACK

NEW DELHI: Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Monday recommended a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe against chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly accepting political funding from banned pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) — a move that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged was at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and meant to influence the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The AAP alluded to two instances before the 2022 Punjab elections when similar allegations were raised, pointing to how they had come to naught.

→P3

MODI CALLS JUNE 4 EXPIRY DATE OF BJD; DAYDREAM, SAYS PATNAIK

BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD)-led government in Odisha will cease to exist on June 4, the day the results for the assembly elections will be announced, a claim chief minister Naveen Patnaik dismissed as a "daydream".

Modi, who was addressing his first set of rallies in Odisha, also took a dig at Patnaik over his presumptive successor VK Pandian, saying the state needs a chief minister who understands the Odia language and culture.

→P10

ED seizes piles of cash in Jharkhand search

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RANCHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out multiple raids across Ranchi on Monday, recovering close to ₹35.23 crore in cash from the residence of a man allegedly connected to the officer on special duty (OSD) to state rural development and parliamentary affairs minister Alamgir Alam. In raids that continued through the day across at least six places in Jharkhand's capital, ₹3 crore was also allegedly recovered from the home of a builder, also ostensibly linked to the OSD. The recoveries set off a political firestorm in the state ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, with polling across its 14 seats set to begin on May 13, spread across four phases. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) asked for the Election Commission to step in and probe the matter, while the Congress questioned the timing of the raids.

ED officials said seven teams began the raids at 6am on Monday morning, and recoveries were largely made from the residence of Jahangir Alam near Ranchi hill. Alam ostensibly works at the home of Sanjeev Lal, OSD to Congress leader and state rural development and parliamentary affairs minister Alamgir Alam. ED officials said that searches continued into the evening, and multiple cash counting machines had to be

continued on →13

Close to ₹35.23 crore in cash was recovered from the residence of an official connected to Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam. ANI

Soren takes legal fight against his arrest to SC

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NEW DELHI: Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren has taken his legal battle to the Supreme Court after the Jharkhand high court dismissed the challenge to his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged land scam case. Soren's move comes amid the approaching elections in the state, scheduled to commence in the fourth phase on May 13.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, representing Soren, mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, requesting an expedited consideration of Soren's appeal against the high court's ruling last week.

Sibal emphasised the urgency of the matter in light of the imminent election polling in Jharkhand, urging the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, to prioritise the case.

→P13

More victims in clips join Prajwal probe as his father seeks bail

BENGALURU: The special investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged sexual harassment of women by Hassan MP and now-suspended Janata Dal (Secular) leader Prajwal Revanna is making efforts to reach out to survivors — some of whom have been identified from widely circulated videos of the crimes — to come forward and file a complaint, a senior officer said on Monday.

"As expected, the women (survivors) are scared and worried about coming forward to give a statement. We are in constant touch with (them) and taking confidence-building measures so that they come forward to lodge a complaint," a senior officer privy to the ongoing probe said.

As part of its confidence-building measures, the SIT also warned people at large not to share the videos showing women being sexually assaulted and molested allegedly by Revanna on social media or personal messenger applications.

SIT chief and additional director general of police (ADGP) BK Singh on Monday said: "It is easy to trace people sharing these videos on messenger services, so action will be taken against such individuals."

Meanwhile, a Bengaluru court on Monday posted the hearing in a bail petition moved by HD Revanna to Tuesday.

→P12

NEET-UG PAPER LEAK ALLEGATIONS BASELESS: TESTING AUTHORITY NTA

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NEW DELHI: Allegations of question paper leak in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET-UG are "completely baseless" and "without any ground", the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the medical entrance examination, clarified on Monday.

NEET-UG was held across India on Sunday, with 2.4 million students registered for it.

Stressing that every question paper has been "accounted for", the NTA in a statement on Monday said that purported images of the question paper circulating on social media have no relation with the actual paper.

→P12

Manhunt on for 2 terrorists from Pak over Poonch strike

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JAMMU: The Army on Monday released sketches of two Pakistani terrorists suspected to have been involved in Saturday's ambush on an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in Poonch in which one soldier was killed and four others were injured.

Security forces joined by elite para commandos of the special forces, the special operations group of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF continued searches in the jungles of Shahsitar ridge in Poonch's Surankote sub-division. Posters promising a reward of ₹20 lakh for information on the two suspects were also put up.

IAF soldier Vikky Pahade was killed and four others injured after terrorists ambushed their convoy on Saturday at Sanai Top in Shahsitar, Surankote. On Monday, security forces picked up a man named Mohammad Razak for having provided food to the attackers at his house.

"The terrorists, who attacked the IAF convoy on Saturday evening, had food at the house of Mohammad Razak, aged around 42 years. The individual is being questioned," said an official.

The number of locals detained

continued on →7

The Army also put posters promising a reward of ₹20 lakh for information on the two suspects. SOURCED

{ RTI ACTIVIST } COURT SLAMS PROBE

BJP leader acquitted for 2010 Guj murder

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat high court on Monday allowed the appeals of former Bharatiya Janata Party MP Dinu Solanki and six others against their conviction by a CBI court in the case of RTI activist Amit Jethwa's murder in 2010.

Observing that the trial court conducted proceedings with a "predetermined notion of conviction", a division bench of justices AS Supehia and Vimal K Vyas quashed the CBI court's order sentencing Solanki and the six others to life imprisonment.

Jethwa was shot dead outside the high court on July 20, 2010, after he tried to expose illegal mining activities allegedly involving Solanki by seeking information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The CBI court sentenced Solanki and six others to life imprisonment in 2019 and ordered them to pay a fine of Rs 15 lakh in the case of murder and criminal conspiracy.

The high court later suspended the life sentences of Dinu Solanki and his nephew Shiva.

In its judgment, the court said the case will be remembered as "an antithesis to 'Satyamev Jayate' " (truth alone triumphs) and observed that the investigation appears to be an eyewash from the inception.

"We reiterate that the entire investigation appears to be perfunctory and prejudiced. The prosecution has failed to secure the confidence of the witnesses," the bench said in its order.

→P12

GUNSHOTS FIRED IN TILAK NAGAR CAR SHOWROOM, FOUR INJURED

NEW DELHI: Two men stormed into a car showroom in Tilak Nagar on Monday evening and fired 10-12 rounds in the premises before fleeing, police officers said, adding that four people — including the owner of the showroom — were seriously injured.

Before escaping, police said, the assailants threw a handwritten note — which mentioned the names of some gangsters — into the showroom. Officers are probing whether the gangsters mentioned in the note were attempting to extort money from Manoj Malik, the showroom owner.

→P6

COURT DISMISSES CONTEMPT PLEA AGAINST ARMY BY WOMEN OFFICERS

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a contempt petition against the army over charges made by women officers that they were discriminated against in promotions to colonels, holding that the process to deny them could not be faulted.

The top court dismissed the contempt plea filed by 30 women army officers, who claimed that the special selection board that considered their promotion in January violated the top court's order of November 3, 2023.

→P13

Hamas accepts deal for ceasefire, Israel to examine proposal

JERUSALEM: Hamas announced Monday it has accepted an Egyptian-Qatari proposal for a ceasefire to halt the seven-month-long war with Israel in Gaza, hours after Israel ordered about 100,000 Palestinians to begin evacuating from the southern city of Rafah, signalling that a long-promised ground invasion there could be imminent.

Israel's military spokesperson said that all proposals regarding negotiations to free hostages in Gaza are examined seriously, and that in parallel it continues to operate in the Hamas-ruled territory.

In recent days, Egyptian and Hamas officials have said the ceasefire would take place in a series of stages during which Hamas would release hostages it is holding in exchange for Israeli troop pullbacks from Gaza.

It is not clear whether the deal will meet Hamas' key demand of bringing about an end to the war and complete Israeli withdrawal.

Hamas said in a statement its top leader, Ismail Haniyeh, had delivered the news in a phone call with Qatar's prime minister and Egypt's intelligence minister. After the release of the statement, Palestinians erupted in cheers in the sprawling tent camps around Rafah, hoping the deal meant an Israeli attack had been averted.

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari of the Israeli military said: "We are exhausting every possibility regarding negotiations and returning the hostages."

The agreement, should it take effect, would be the first truce since a week-long pause in the fighting in November.

→FULL REPORT ON P15

YOUR INDIA, YOUR VOICE

Democracy is a simple but dramatic dance. Giants are felled, currents shift. One vote at a time, change is fought for and won. This year, HT brings all that drama — the intrigue, the surprises, the unlikely friendships — on one app. Past, present, current. Videos, photos, numbers. **Scan the QR code to get started.**

PRESIDENT OF GST APPELLATE BODY APPOINTED, SAYS SITHARAMAN

Rajeev Jayaswal
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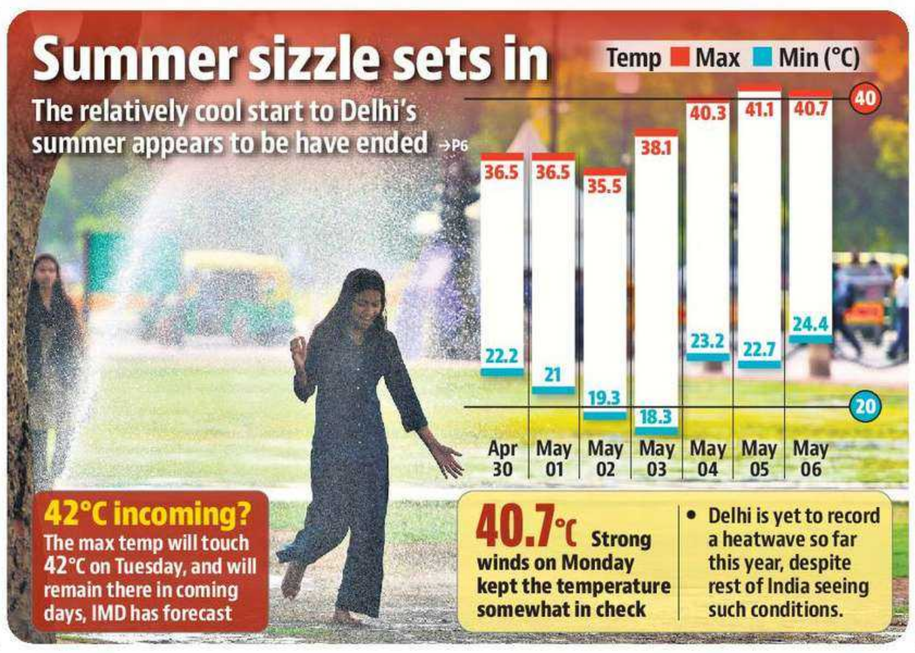
NEW DELHI: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced the appointment of Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the president of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) and called it as one of the two "significant milestones" in the larger GST architecture.

The second, according to her, was crossing the ₹2 lakh crore monthly revenue collection benchmark for the first time since the indirect tax reform was launched by the Modi government on July 1, 2017.

→P16



MUKHTAR ANSARI SON UMAR GETS ANTICIPATORY BAIL FROM APEX COURT

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to Umar Ansari, son of late gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari in a case in which he is accused of being part of a conspiracy to promote enmity and obstruct public servants during the 2022 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. "The offending statements not being attributable to the petitioner but his brother... we direct that in case the petitioner is arrested, he shall be released on furnishing a bail bond of the sum of ₹20,000," a bench said on Monday.

→P12

{ ECOLOGICAL FLUX }

Marine heatwaves since October last year leading to widespread bleaching of corals in Lakshadweep Sea

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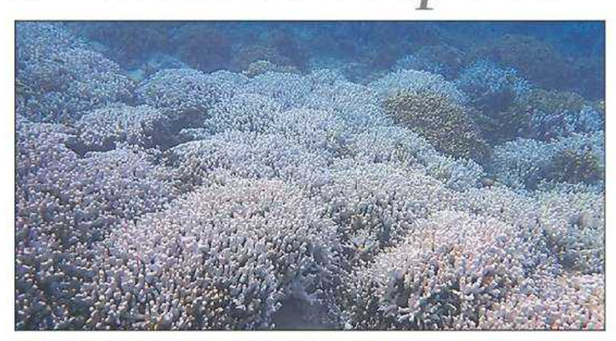
NEW DELHI: Marine heatwaves starting October 2023 have resulted in widespread coral bleaching in the Lakshadweep Sea, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), said in a statement on Monday, with some experts putting the damage at around 75% of the corals around the eponymous archipelago.

How bad is it?

According to the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services, a marine heatwave event of moderate category with area of spreading 98.56% has been observed on May 3 over the Lakshadweep coast. And one of moderate to extreme category with area of spreading 100% has been observed on May 3 over the South Tamil Nadu coast. There was bleaching in Gulf of Mannar also, according to CMFRI.

"Marine heatwaves are rare extreme weather events that involve prolonged periods of abnormally high ocean temperatures. These temperatures often exceed the 90th percentile of typical regional ocean temperatures based on historical data. In Lakshadweep, the Degree Heating Week (DHW) indicator, which measures accumulated heat stress, has surged above 4°C-weeks. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

continued on →7



Bleached Porites corals in the Kavaratti lagoon. HT PHOTO

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SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

STAGE IS SET FOR ROUND 3

A look at what is at stake in the 93 seats that vote in the third phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections today

Phase 3 May 7

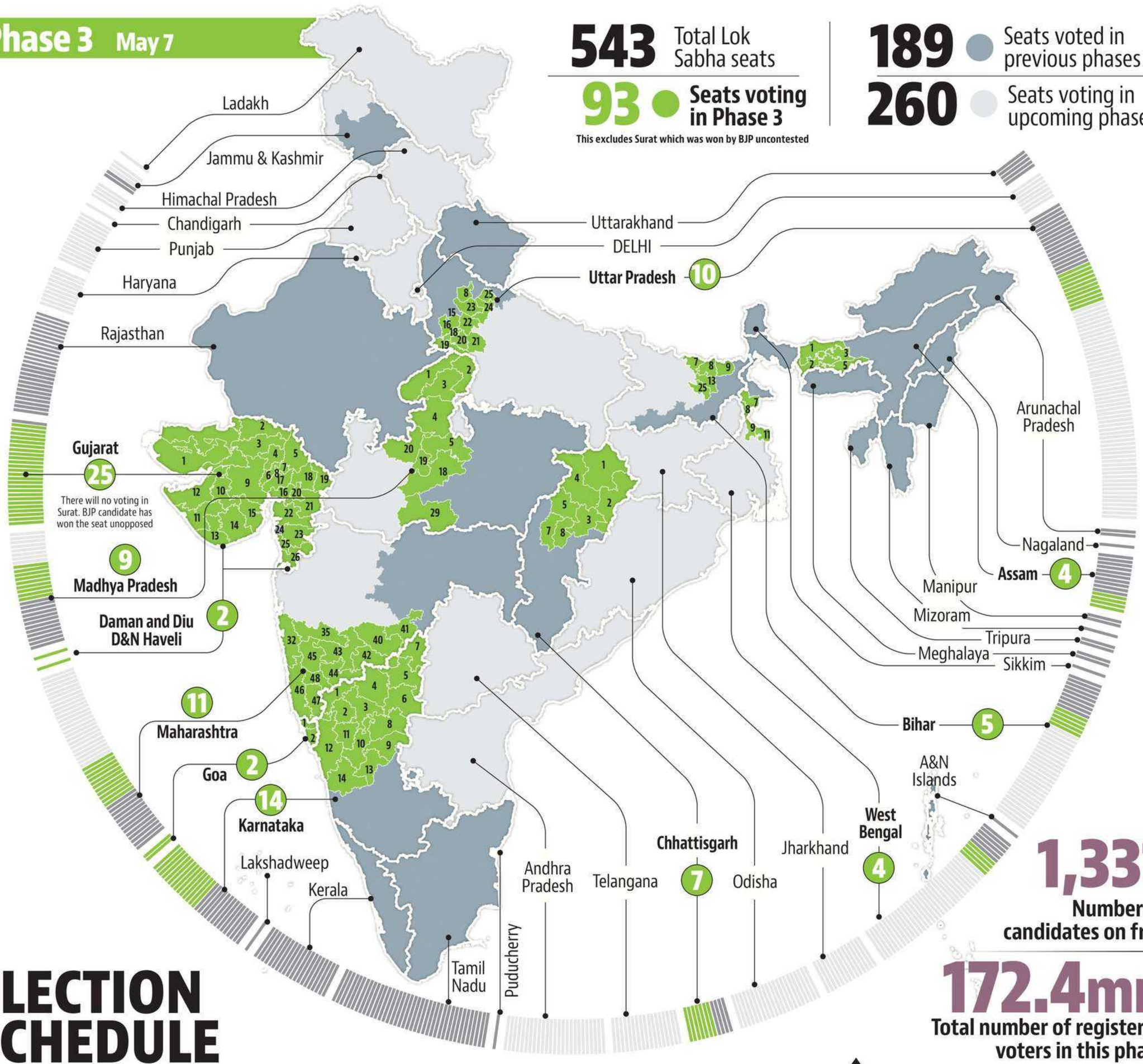
543 Total Lok Sabha seats

93 Seats voting in Phase 3

This excludes Surat which was won by BJP uncontested

189 Seats voted in previous phases

260 Seats voting in upcoming phases



VOTING TODAY

ASSAM
1 Kokrajhar (ST)
2 Dhubri
3 Barpeta
5 Guwahati

BIHAR
7 Jhanjharpur
8 Supaul
9 Araria
13 Madhepura
25 Khagaria

CHHATTISGARH
1 Surguja (ST)
2 Raigarh (ST)
3 Janjgir-Champa (SC)
4 Korba
5 Bilaspur
7 Durg
8 Raipur

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAND AND DIU
2 Dadra & Nagar Haveli
1 Daman & Diu

GOA
1 North Goa
2 South Goa

GUJARAT
1 Kachchh (SC)
2 Banaskantha
3 Patan
4 Mahesana
5 Sabarkantha
6 Gandhinagar
7 Ahmedabad East
8 Ahmedabad West (SC)
9 Surendranagar
10 Rajkot
11 Porbandar
12 Jamnagar
13 Junagadh
14 Amreli
15 Bhavnagar
16 Anand
17 Kheda
18 Panchmahal
19 Dahod (ST)
20 Vadodara
21 Chhota Udaipur (ST)
22 Bharuch
23 Bardoli (ST)
25 Navsari
26 Valsad (ST)

KARNATAKA
1 Chikkodi
2 Belgaum
3 Bagalkot
4 Bijapur (SC)
5 Gulbarga (SC)
6 Raichur (ST)
7 Bidar
8 Koppal
9 Bellary (ST)
10 Haveri
11 Dharwad
12 Uttara Kannada
13 Davanagere
14 Shimoga

MADHYA PRADESH
1 Morena
2 Bhind (SC)
3 Gwalior
4 Guna
5 Sagar
18 Vidisha
19 Bhopal
20 Rajgarh
29 Betul (ST)

MAHARASHTRA
32 Raigad
35 Baramati
40 Osmanabad
41 Latur (SC)
42 Solapur (SC)
43 Madha
44 Sangli
45 Satara
46 Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg
47 Kolhapur
48 Hatkanangle

UTTAR PRADESH
8 Sambhal
16 Hathras (SC)
18 Agra (SC)
19 Fatehpur Sikri
20 Firozabad
21 Mainpuri
22 Etah
23 Badaun
24 Aonla
25 Bareilly

WEST BENGAL
7 Maldaha Uttar
8 Maldaha Dakshin
9 Jangipur
11 Murshidabad

1,331 Number of candidates on fray

172.4mn Total number of registered voters in this phase

ELECTION SCHEDULE

Phase 1 April 19

A&N (1), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Assam (5), Bihar (4), Chhattisgarh (1), Jammu & Kashmir (1), Lakshadweep (1), Madhya Pradesh (6), Maharashtra (5), Manipur (1), Meghalaya (2), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Puducherry (1), Rajasthan (12), Sikkim (1), Tamil Nadu (39), Tripura (1), Uttar Pradesh (8), Uttarakhand (5), West Bengal (3)

101* Seats | **21** States/UTs

*A part of Manipur Outer voted in Ph-1, and the rest voted in Ph-2

2019 results: 41 NDA | 45 UPA | 10 Others | 6* Redrawn seats

Phase 2 April 26

Assam (5), Bihar (5), Chhattisgarh (3), Jammu & Kashmir (1), Karnataka (14), Kerala (20), Madhya Pradesh (6), Maharashtra (8), Manipur (1), Rajasthan (13), Tripura (1), Uttar Pradesh (8), West Bengal (3)

88 Seats | **13** States/UTs

2019 results: 55 NDA | 24 UPA | 3 Others | 6* Redrawn seats

Phase 3 May 7

Assam (4), Bihar (5), C'garh (7), D&N Haveli, Daman and Diu (2), Goa (2), Gujarat (25), K'taka (14), Madhya Pradesh (9), Maharashtra (11), Uttar Pradesh (10), West Bengal (4)

93 Seats | **11** States/UTs

Excludes Surat which was won by BJP uncontested

2019 results: 77 NDA | 6 UPA | 5 Others | 5* Redrawn

Phase 4 May 13

Andhra Pradesh (25), Bihar (5), Jammu & Kashmir (1), J'hand (4), Madhya Pradesh (8), Maharashtra (11), Odisha (4), Telangana (17), Uttar Pradesh (13), West Bengal (8)

96 Seats | **10** States/UTs

2019 results: 46 NDA | 7 UPA | 42 Others | 1* Redrawn seats

Phase 5 | May 20

49 Seats | **8** States/UTs

Bihar (5), J&K (1), Jharkhand (3), Ladakh (1), Maharashtra (13), Odisha (5), UP (14), West Bengal (7)

2019 results: 41 NDA | 1 UPA | 6 Others | 1* Redrawn seats

Phase 6 | May 25

58 Seats | **8** States/UTs

Bihar (8), Delhi (7), Haryana (10), Jammu & Kashmir (1), Jharkhand (4), Odisha (6), Uttar Pradesh (14), West Bengal (8)

2019 results: 45 NDA | 1 UPA | 12 Others

Phase 7 | June 1

57 Seats | **8** States/UTs

Bihar (8), Chandigarh (1), HP (4), J'khand (3), Odisha (6), Punjab (13), Uttar Pradesh (13), West Bengal (9)

2019 results: 32 NDA | 9 UPA | 16 Others | 5* Redrawn seats

INDIA'S 73-YEAR ELECTORAL JOURNEY (1951 to 2024)

● Seats gained by the winning party ●● 1996 was an exception when the Congress refused to form the govt after the BJP couldn't prove majority

1951 INC 364/489 — Jawaharlal Nehru-led Indian National Cong storms to power with 44.99% of votes.

1957 INC 371/494 — The INC wins again amid rise of regional interest groups. AB Vajpayee wins his first election.

1962 INC 361/495 — Nehru is PM till his death. LB Shastri takes charge but dies soon after. Indira Gandhi succeeds him.

1967 INC 283/520 — Congress fights polls under Indira Gandhi amid challenges to her leadership in the ruling party.

1971 INC 352/518 — Despite a split, ruling Cong faction led by Indira Gandhi pulls off a convincing victory.

1977 Janata Party 295/542 — Janata Party alliance wins the people's mandate. Morarji Desai

1980 INC (Indira) 353/529 — INC (I) wins by a landslide. Janata Party alliance crumbles when the Jana Sangh pulled out.

1984 INC 414/514 — After Indira Gandhi's assassination, her son Rajiv Gandhi leads Congress to a landslide victory.

1989 Janata Dal 143/529 — Janata Dal's VP Singh leads a minority govt. VP Singh

1991 INC 244/521 — Janata Dal govt collapses within 16 months. Cong forms govt, gets Left parties' support.

1996 BJP 161/543, INC 140/543 — Coalitions ride power path. AB Vajpayee, Deve Gowda

1998 BJP 182/543 — In the polls after the fall of the Gujral govt, the BJP emerges as the single largest party.

1999 BJP 182/543 — The BJP-led NDA bloc wins near majority and forms the govt with support from the TDP.

2004 INC 145/543 — Congress-led UPA bloc wins and forms the new govt in alliance with the Left, SP and BSP.

2009 INC 206/543 — Incumbent UPA repeats its 2004 showing and comes back to power, increasing its tally to 262.

2014 BJP 282/543 — Narendra Modi leads the BJP to a clear majority with 282 seats and 31.31% of votes to wrest power.

2019 BJP 303/543 — PM Modi wins his second election, riding a dominant showing by the BJP.

PMs since freedom: Jawaharlal Nehru; Lal Bahadur Shastri; Indira Gandhi; Charan Singh; Indira Gandhi; Rajiv Gandhi; Chandra Shekhar; PV Narasimha Rao; IK Gujral; Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Manmohan Singh; Narendra Modi

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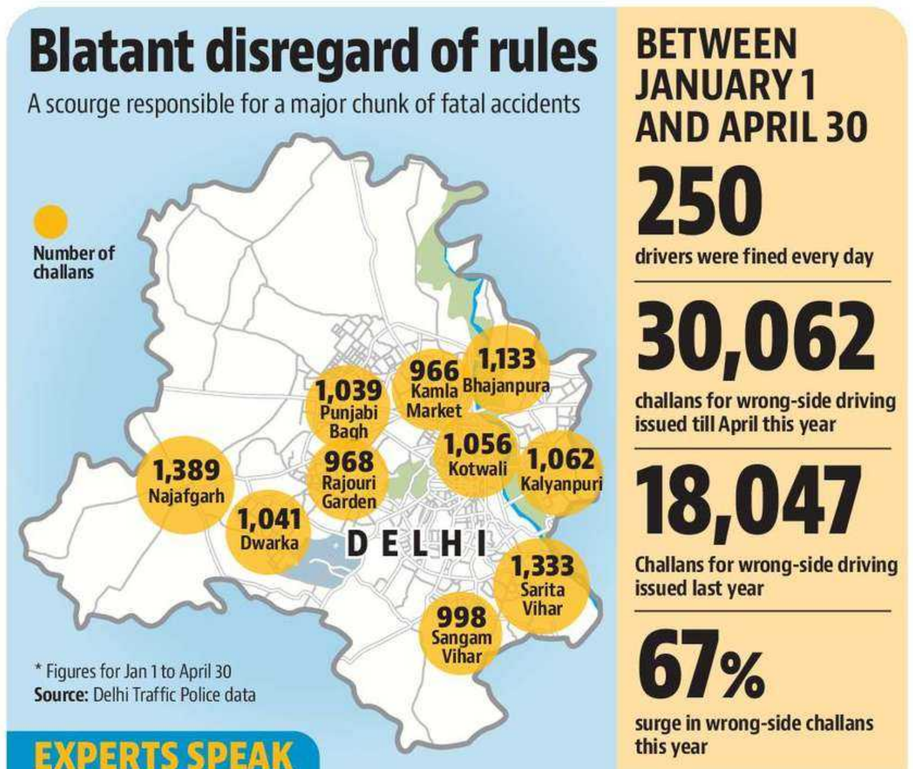
Najafgarh worst in wrong side driving, reveals police data



Karn Pratap Singh
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NEW DELHI: Najafgarh in southwest Delhi, Sarita Vihar in south Delhi, Punjabi Bagh in the west, Kotwali in the north and Bhajanpura in the east had the highest instances of wrong-side driving in the Capital in the first four months of the year, showed traffic police data, outlining the hot spots of a scourge responsible for a major chunk of fatal accidents in the city.

These areas reported the most prosecutions against people caught driving against the flow of traffic between January 1 and April 30, showed data from the Delhi traffic police.

Indeed, the traffic police fined nearly 250 people for wrong-side driving every day in these four months, significantly more than the 150 fined during the same period last year.

Traffic police have issued 30,062 fines for wrong-side driving till April this year, a 67% surge from 18,047 last year, showed the data.

To be sure, the actual number of infractions is likely to be far higher, given that police have prosecuted only a fraction of all violations.

Experts and police point to a string of factors responsible for the menace, including a near-absence of the fear of prosecution, a blatant disregard of the law and a lack of traffic personnel at key hot spots.

According to the traffic police data, the Najafgarh traffic police circle topped the list, with 1,389 fines issued, followed by Sarita Vihar (1,333), Bhajanpura (1,133), Punjabi Bagh (1,093) and Kalyanpuri (1,062).

A spot check by HT on Monday showed that commuters were willing to imperil their own lives, as well as those of others, to save a few minutes or seconds on the road.

In Sarita Vihar, for instance, Road Number 13 – commonly known as Kos Marg, which connects Jasola with Mathura Road — near Apollo hospital teemed with violations.

HT found that cars, auto-rickshaw, two-wheelers, and e-rickshaws carrying passengers were coming from Jasola/Sarita Vihar side and going on the wrong side on Mathura Road towards the hospital after taking a right turn from Kos Road.

While most entered the hospital through Gate No 3, just a 50-metre drive on Mathura Road from Kos Road, many commuters used the wrong carriageway to reach the traffic signal and cross onto the opposite carriageway of the Mathura Road, towards Ashram Chowk.

The other wrong-side drivers were either stopping at the bus stop or going to the roadside eateries outside the hospital.

Pradip Kumar Sarkar, former head (transport) of School of Planning and Architecture said, "Wrong-side driving is a common feature not only in Delhi but across the country and the majority of road accidents happen due to it."

HT spoke to some drivers to understand why wrong-side driving was frequent at the spot and many said they used the shortcut to cut down travel times and save fuel.

Niranjan Rajak (45) said he had come to the bus stop from Jasola to meet a client, who was arriving there in a bus.

"The bus stop is barely a 15-metre ride once I exit Kos Marg. But if I use the dedicated route, I will have to drive nearly 300 metres to reach the Sarita Vihar underpass and then cover another 700-800 metres to reach the traffic signal on the Mathura Road carriageway going towards Ashram Chowk, and again take a U-turn from there to reach the bus stop. In between, I will have to face traffic snarls and spend at least 15 minutes to reach my destination. I know driving on the wrong side is risky but if it saves my time and fuel, I won't mind taking the risk once or twice," said Rajak.

The situation was similar near Shram Vihar and Okhla Estate underpass, where motorists and cyclists used the wrong carriageways. At the Okhla Estate underpass, for instance, several two-wheelers and cyclists took the wrong carriageway from the traffic signal to reach their destinations in Sarita Vihar, Aali village and Mohan Estate – all by passing through the underpass.

The situation was similar at multiple points on the Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, connecting Chirag Delhi from Mehrauli-Badarpur Road. Mostly two-wheeler riders and auto drivers were found driving on the wrong carriageway.

Delhi's special commissioner of police (traffic zone-2) HGS Dhaliwal said an analysis of the 10 worst traffic circles makes it possible to target enforcement operations to improve safety and adherence to traffic regulations.

"We are also collaborating with various stakeholders, including civic authorities and educational institutions, to raise awareness about the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations. Public outreach programmes, awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives are being conducted to instil a sense of responsibility and civic duty among all road users," added Dhaliwal.

On the steps that the traffic police can take to discourage wrong-side driving, former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Muktesh Chander, who served as a special commissioner in the city police's traffic unit said, "The traffic police have a database of wrong-side driving hot spots. Regular deployment of traffic personnel should be made in such areas to prosecute violators. Additionally, the traffic police should also consider cancelling the licence of repeat violators for a year or two, depending upon the number of challans issued to him or her for the same violation."

SSB constable stabbed to death in RK Puram, 1 held

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 35-year-old Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) constable was stabbed to death at Sector 4 of RK Puram in southwest Delhi in the early hours of Monday. An auto-rickshaw driver was arrested in connection with the murder, police officers aware of the matter said.

The police suspected it to be a case of road rage, but the eyewitnesses claimed that it was a normal fight on the streets.

Deputy commissioner of police (DCP) (southwest) Rohit Meena said, "We received a PCR call regarding a stabbing incident at 2.39am on Monday. The staff rushed to the spot and found the man, who sustained stab wounds on his neck. He was taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, and was declared dead on arrival."

The deceased person was identified as Mukesh Kumar Ranwa, a resident of Sector 4 in RK Puram. Ranwa was posted as a constable (driver) at SSB. The suspect was identified as Vinod Kumar and was caught near Ambience Mall in Vasant Kunj, investigators said.

"Kumar confessed to the crime and said that he fought with the deceased when he was in an inebriated condition," the DCP added.

A senior police officer on condition of anonymity said, "Ranwa and his friends were near their home when he got into a fight with an auto-rickshaw driver. The men hurled abuses and later punched each other."

The fight turned fatal after the suspect picked up a knife from his auto and stabbed Ranwa, following which the victim died of excessive bleeding. A case of murder was lodged at RK Puram police station, investigators said.

Police recovered the knife and auto used in the crime.

NIA should probe AAP 'links' with SFJ: LG; party hits back

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Monday recommended a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe against chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly accepting political funding from banned pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) — a move that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged was at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and meant to influence the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The AAP alluded to two previous instances before the 2022 Punjab elections when similar allegations were raised, pointing to how they had come to naught.

The LG's action was based on a complaint filed on April 1 this year by Ashoo Mongia, national general secretary of the World Hindu Federation – India, a non-profit right-wing group which claimed that the AAP received $16 million as funding from SFJ between 2014-2022.

In a May 3 letter to the Union home ministry, signed by the LG's principal secretary, Saxena said that since the allegations have been made against the chief minister and "related to alleged funding of a political party, amounting to millions of dollars, from a terrorist organization already banned in India, the electronic evidences adduced by the complainant requires investigation including forensic examination".

> "LG is continuously adopting cheap tactics to tarnish chief minister Kejriwal's image at the BJP's behest.
> **SAURABH BHARADWAJ,** AAP leader and Delhi minister

"Keeping in view the sensitivity and seriousness of the allegations levelled in the complaint, Hon'ble Lt. Governor has desired that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, may consider referring the matter to National Investigation Agency for conducting comprehensive investigation into the matter," said the letter.

HT has seen a copy of the letter.

The complaint cited a purported video of Khalistani separatist and SFJ legal counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, where he claims that Kejriwal met him in 2014 and promised to release Bhullar within five hours of coming to power.

Bhullar was convicted and sentenced to death in 2011 in the 1993 Delhi bomb blasts case. In March 2014, however, the Supreme Court commuted his death sentence to life imprisonment considering his ill-health, and a delay in the trial.

In the video, Pannun ostensibly goes on to say that "Khalistani sympathisers have given funds worth $16 million to the AAP".

The complaint also cited a series of posts on X made regarding an allegedly "clandestine meeting" between Kejriwal and pro-Khalistan sikhs in New York in 2014.

Delhi minister and AAP legislator Saurabh Bharadwaj accused the BJP of trying to conjure a political conspiracy. "LG is continuously adopting cheap tactics to tarnish chief minister Kejriwal's image at the BJP's behest. And this is taking place just before the voting for all seven Lok Sabha seats of Delhi on May 25," Bharadwaj added

There were previous instances two years ago when the AAP's purported links with the SFJ were sought to be investigated.

In the first, then Punjab chief minister, the Congress's Charanjit Singh Channi wrote to Union home minister Amit Shah in February 2022, alleging that the "banned organisation is in constant touch with the AAP".

In the second, the Delhi high court in March that year struck down a plea that sought a "high-level inquiry" into the alleged SFJ-AAP ties, calling it frivolous.

Bharadwaj also referred to the two instances.

"BJP made exactly the same allegations before the Punjab assembly elections in 2022. At that time, Union home minister Amit Shah ordered an investigation too but nothing was found," he said.

In a post on X, Bharadwaj said: "The PIL demanding a high-level investigation in the same matter was dismissed by Delhi high court two years back. The Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla had rejected the plea filed by one Jagdish Sharma, stating that it is "completely frivolous"."

To be sure, NIA takes up cases only after the home ministry issues a notification to that effect. It cannot directly take up a probe that is referred to it by an LG, governor or a state government.

Even in cases where it has information about a purported threat to the sovereignty and unity of the country by a group or individual and wants to take up a probe of its own accord, the agency must first write to the home ministry, which then examines if the matter calls for an NIA probe. The agency has so far registered 556 cases related to terrorism activity or funding.

NIA officials, who asked not to be named, on Monday said they do not have information about a reference made by the Delhi LG regarding a complaint against Kejriwal or the SFJ's funding the AAP.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva welcomed the LG's recommendation.

"Kejriwal has always had a soft corner for separatist causes. His support for people like (jailed separatist leader) Yasin Mallik is well known," Sachdeva said.

COURT REFUSES BAIL TO KAVITHA, SAYS SHE IS 'KEY CONSPIRATOR'

Deepankar Malviya
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday refused to grant bail to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha, arrested in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22, noting she appears to be a "key conspirator" of the purported crime.

"The role of the Accused/Applicant also prima facie appears as that of key conspirator of the criminal conspiracy hatched for the purpose of collection and payment of upfront money to AAP through co-accused for getting favourable provisions in the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22," said special judge Kaveri Baweja

Kavitha, 46, was apprehended by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 15 in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to the excise policy, and was sent to judicial custody on March 26. While lodged in Tihar jail, she was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on April 11.

The court was hearing the BRS leader's bail applications against the two separate cases.

Dismissing her plea in the CBI case, the court said it found no merit in the argument made by the defence counsel that the arrest was made to deny Kavitha and her party a level playing field in the Lok Sabha elections.

The court also refused to grant bail to Kavitha on medical grounds noting that she was getting requisite treatment in jail.

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Kanhaiya, ex-minister file papers as nominations close for Capital

Alok KN Mishra
alok.mishra1@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Congress-Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for North East Delhi Kanhaiya Kumar, 37, led a big road show on Monday after filing his nomination from the seat at the returning officer's office in Nand Nagri as the process to file papers by candidates drew to a close with 269 aspirants in the fray.

Kumar, a former Jawaharlal Nehru University students union leader, will face incumbent MP Manoj Tiwari of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The AAP and the Congress have forged a pre-poll alliance with the AAP contesting four of the total seven seats and the Congress fielding its candidates on the remaining three. The AAP has fielded Kuldeep Kumar (East Delhi), Somnath Bharti (New Delhi), Sahi Ram Pahalwal (South Delhi) and Mahabal Mishra (West Delhi).

The Congress has nominated Jai Prakash Agarwal (Chandni Chowk), Udit Raj (North West) and Kanhaiya Kumar (North East).

Delhi goes to polls on May 25.

The process to file nominations began from April 29. By the close of the process at 3pm on Monday, 269 people filed their papers for the seven seats. According to the election schedule, the nominations will be scrutinised on Tuesday and the last date of withdrawal is May 9.

Raaj Kumar Anand, who had quit as a minister in the Kejriwal cabinet, in April, also filed his papers from the New Delhi constituency as a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) nominee.

All Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates have already filed their nominations. The party has fielded Bansuri Swaraj (New Delhi), Harsh Malhotra (East Delhi), Kamaljeet Sehrawat (West Delhi), Praveen Khadelwal (Chandni Chowk), Manoj Tiwari (North East), Yogendra Chandolia (North West) and Ramvir Singh Bidhuri (South Delhi).

Kanhaiya Kumar at his roadshow in Maujpur on Monday. RAJ K RAJ/HT

Kanhaiya Kumar

Hundreds of Congress and AAP workers joined Kanhaiya Kumar in a roadshow after he filed his nomination papers. Senior AAP minister Gopal Rai, AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha, Delhi Congress interim president Devender Yadav, former Delhi unit chief Anil Kumar and others accompanied him to the District Magistrate's office in Nand Nagri where the formalities were completed.

Before going to file his candidature, Kumar conducted puja at his office in Maujpur.

At 37, Kumar is the youngest candidate to be fielded three main contenders -- the AAP, Congress and the BJP.

Riding an open three-wheeler, Kanhaiya stopped at several points, during his roadshow, to address party supporters.

In response to criticism that he was an 'outsider' to North East Delhi, Kumar said, "People of Bihar are often called outsiders in Delhi."

"When my candidature was announced, I was called an outsider. Calling a Bihari in Delhi an outsider is not a new thing. My story is not different from your story. You should remember that Delhi cannot run without Biharis. Biharis are not confined to doing menial jobs, they are also holding high positions in the government. North East Delhi has 10 assembly constituencies and I do not have resources. I have not taken donations. Even the accounts of my party have been seized. I do not have money. I vow to continue fighting for injustice till my last breath. It is a fight against injustice. We will together fight. The people of North East Delhi need to fight the election for their self-esteem," Kanhaiya said during the roadshow in a constituency which has a considerable number of people from the Poorvanchal region (parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar).

Raaj Kumar Anand files his nomination on Monday. ARVIND YADAV/HT

Kumar, a former president of the JNUSU, joined the Congress in 2021. He contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election as a Communist Party of India candidate from Bihar's Begusarai, but lost to the BJP candidate Giriraj Singh.

"I assure you that it is the beginning of justice. Unless we defeat the injustice, justice will not be delivered. It is just the beginning. You (Narendra Modi) want to silence the opposition, you want to put the opposition leaders in jail. You put me in Tihar, but I challenged the powers that be after coming out of jail. It is the same country which has high level of tolerance, but it also fights back when it is pushed hard. Whenever the state becomes arrogant and injustice increases in the country, the fight for justice begins in this country," Kumar said during the rally after filing his nomination.

Hitting out at his competitor, Kumar said, "Manoj Tiwari thinks that during the elections he would come, entertain the people and get their votes. But the people will not let that happen," said he said.

Raaj Kumar Anand

Anand, 57, resigned from Arvind Kejriwal's cabinet last month. He joined the Bahujan Samaj Party on May 5.

The former social justice minister said, "I am contesting the election for the welfare of people and alert them against the lollipops being given to them which is making them weak. The people should vote for their party (BSP). I am not afraid of Enforcement Directorate," Anand said after filing his papers from the New Delhi constituency.

Congres names observers to 3 Delhi constituencies

The All India Congress Committee on Monday night appointed three senior leaders as observers to the three seats that it is contesting in Delhi.

Sachin Pilot, the AICC general secretary in-charge of Chhattisgarh, has been named the observer for North East Delhi; former Union minister Chaudhary Birender Singh will be in charge of North West Delhi, while CP Joshi will be the observer at Chandni Chowk.

BJP names Lovely in list of star campaigners for Delhi

Alok KN Mishra
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday released a list of 40 star campaigners including former Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely who joined the BJP last week in a dramatic twist to the poll battle in the Capital.

Lovely quit as Delhi Congress chief on April 28 citing reservations to the alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress.

Among the star campaigners on the BJP list for Delhi are Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief JP Nadda, defence minister Rajnath Singh, home minister Amit Shah, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Hardeep Singh Puri, and Smriti Irani, and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. They are all expected to garner support for the seven BJP candidates in the city, according to the list the party shared with the Election Commission, though the schedule of rallies not been finalised yet. Delhi goes to polls on May 25.

Arvinder Singh Lovely

The list of star campaigners also includes six Delhi BJP MPs who were dropped this time — Chandni Chowk MP Harsh Vardhan (replaced by trade leader Praveen Khandelwal), New Delhi MP Meekanskhi Lekhi (replaced by lawyer Bansuri Swaraj), West Delhi MP Pravesh Verma (replaced by former mayor Kamaljeet Sehrawat), South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri (replaced by leader of Opposition in Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri), and East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir (replaced by former East Delhi mayor Harsh Malhotra).

A week after resigning from the post of Delhi Congress chief, Lovely on Saturday rejoined the BJP, along with four other Congress leaders — former Delhi minister Raj Kumar Chauhan, former MLAs Naseeb Singh and Neeraj Basyoa, and leader Amit Malik.

Lovely was first elected as an MLA in 1998, following which he served as a legislator for four terms, representing the Gandhi Nagar constituency in East Delhi till 2013.

He also worked as a cabinet minister under the Sheila Dikshit government between 2003 and 2013.

Lovely first served as the Delhi Congress president from 2013 to 2015, but resigned soon after the Congress suffered a heavy defeat in the Delhi assembly elections.

Denied ticket, Yadav backs Babbar in Ggm

Abhishek Behl
abhishek.behl@hindustantimes.com

GURUGRAM: Days after he was denied a Congress ticket to contest the Gurgaon Lok Sabha seat, former Haryana minister Ajay Singh Yadav on Monday rallied behind Raj Babbar — his party's candidate for the constituency — and said he is lending his support to ensure that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is defeated.

The Congress on April 30 had announced that Babbar will contest from Gurgaon — overlooking Yadav, a prominent state politician who contested the 2019 polls but lost to BJP's Rao Inderjit Singh, the incumbent MP.

Addressing the media in Jharsa, Yadav said that over the last five years, he visited 1,200 villages in the Gurgaon parliamentary constituency and was working hard on the ground to ensure a Congress victory in the Lok Sabha polls. "It was quite shocking that I was denied a ticket by the party but it happened due to the machinations of senior Congress leaders in Haryana... I don't want to take any names. I am a loyal soldier of the party and despite the hurt, I have decided to fully support the candidature of Raj Babbar as I respect the decision of the party high command," he said. "I have assured Babbar and party leadership that I will put all efforts in the campaign," Yadav added.

Babbar, who was also present, said that in the run-up to the nomination process, he was not aware that Yadav was seeking a ticket to contest from Gurgaon.

"Whatever has happened is in the past but I am thankful to the senior Congress leader for supporting me," Babbar said.

Meanwhile, Gurugram district BJP chief Kamal Yadav said the coming together of Yadav and Babbar will not affect his party's prospects. "The BJP is seeking votes for development and works carried out in last 10 years," he said. The Gurgaon seat will go to polls on May 25.

ECI APPROVES AAP CAMPAIGN SONG WITHOUT CUTS, SAYS DILIP PANDEY

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party's campaign song "Jail Ka Jawab Vote Se" has been approved by the Election Commission without any cuts, party leader Dilip Pandey said in a press conference on Monday.

On April 27, the pre-certification committee of the Delhi chief electoral officer rejected the song for allegedly "casting aspersions on the judiciary", "inciting violence", presenting police "in bad taste", and criticising the BJP on "the basis of unverified facts". The committee advised the AAP to modify the two-minute song and video accordingly.

AAP protested the move, saying the objections had no basis. "We did not succumb to the BJP's pressure...We did not accept any objection raised by commission," Pandey said at the conference.

The song was written and sung by Pandey, AAP MLA from Timarpur and party's chief whip in the Delhi assembly. HTC

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-87	₹ 16637941.50	₹ 233200.00

Description of work: VGLJ-Heavy repair of underground drain and sewer line including cleaning of chambers and pipe line, pumping of rain water from pit line in AC Loco Shed, Jhansi.

Date of Closing Tender: 29.05.2024 at **15.00** hrs. **Date of completion/ period from issue acceptance letter:** 12 Months. ● Tender online can be submitted up to **15.00 hrs.** on **29.05.2024.** ● For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** 803/24 FA

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

1st Corrigendum
to Tender Notice No. 74-W-1-1-518-WA-UMB
Dated: 01.05.2024 (RO NO. 1323/2024

Full Name of work	Raising of existing ROB 145-A, 164-A & 167-A on LDH-JHL section of Ambala Division for facilitating the movement of the double stack container.
Date and Time of opening of tender	24.05.2024 upto 11:30 hrs.

The following modification have been done on ireps website in the tender of the above noted work to be opened on 24.05.2024:-

Description	Existing Details	Modified details
Approx. Cost of work	₹3009.59 Lakh	₹4282.07 Lakh
Earnest Money to be deposited	₹16,54,800/-	₹22,91,000/-

All other contents of the tender/tender documents will remain unchanged.
Tender Notice No.: 74-W-1-1-518-WA-UMB Dated: 06.05.2024 1368/2024

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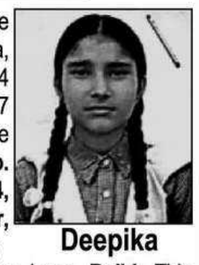

Deepika

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Deepika, **D/o:** Neeru Devi, **R/o:** Kh.No. 6/9, Gali No.14 Bhatta Road, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. **Aged:** 17 years has been missing from her house since 23.04.2024. In this Regard a **FIR No. 245/2024 U/s 363 IPC, Dated 02.05.2024, has been lodged at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under: **Height:** 4'9" feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Build:** Thin, **Wearing:** Saffron Colour Top and Blue Colour Jeans and Black Colour Fancy Chapple in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform to the following at **E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No: 011-24368638 or 24368641**

S.H.O
P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
DP/5303/ON/2024 **Ph: 7065036327**

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector – 1, Noida - 201 301
Ph.: 0120-2474050, 2544036
SAGARMALA

Brief Employment Notice No. IWAI/Fin./CAO/4344/2017-18-Part(3) Dated 03.05.2024

Engagement of positions of Sr. Consultant (Bond), Consultant (Budget & Finance) and Specialist (Audit) for Head Office Noida purely on contractual basis, for a period of one year, likely to be extended for further 02 years.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India is an Autonomous Body constituted by the Act of Parliament, Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985 (82 of 1985) under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Government of India, for regulation, development & maintenance of National Waterways.

It is proposed to engage positions of **Sr. Consultant (Bond), Consultant (Budget & Finance) and Specialist (Audit)** purely on Contractual basis, (initially for the period of one year, likely to be extended for further 02 years) and invite application from interested and eligible candidates. The maximum age limit, as on the closing date of receipt of application is 63 years. The last date for receipt of application is 30 days from the date of advertisement. Eligible candidates may apply with application in prescribed proforma, to be addressed to the Assistant Secretary (A&E), IWAI, Noida.

For further details as regards eligibility, ToR etc. please visit IWAI Website **www.iwai.nic.in.**

Sd/-
SECRETARY

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Male (depicted in the photo) name **unknown** residence and family is **unknown** about **40-50 years** of age was found dead at **Bus Stand I.G. Camp (Opp. Indira Gandhi Jhuggi), Mathura Road, New Delhi on 01.04.2024 at 07:53 AM.** In this regard a DD No. **15A, Dated 01.04.2024** has been registered at **PS New Friends Colony, New Delhi.** The dead body was preserved for 72 Hrs in AIIMS Hospital Mortuary. His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** About 40-50 years, **Height:** 5' 4" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red & white Short, grey colour T-Shirt and black colour Pant.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers:-

SHO
Website: http://cbi.nic.in **PS: New Friends Colony, Delhi**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph.: 011-26834563, 26934863**
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob.: 8750870924**
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/4911/SE/2024**

GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE (SOUTH)
M.B. ROAD, SAKET, NEW DELHI-110068
PHONE NO. 011-20860810, Email:- esdmsouth.delhi@gov.in

F.7(515)/DEO(S)/Advert.Leading/2024/1902 **Dated: 06.05.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding appointment of Police Observer, General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 to South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07)

This is for information of Political Parties and General Public/Voters of General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 of South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07), that the Election Commission of India has designated the following officer as Police Observer for General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 for South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07):

Alloted Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name	Name of Observer	Mobile no. & Telephone No.	Time & Date	Police Observer Office Address
07-South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency	Mrs. Bina Kumari, IPS	7042036965	Meeting time 11.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. w.e.f. 07.05.2024 till completion of Election	Jija Bai ITI for Women, August Kranti Marg, Siri Institutional Area, Siri Fort, New Delhi- 110049

The Police Observer will be available to General Public on all working days as per time/date/venue mentioned in aforesaid table. Any complaint with respect to malpractices in Election and violation of Model Code of Conduct may be reported at the contact number given above.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0040/24-25
(M. Chaitanya Prasad, IAS)
Returning Officer, SDPC-07

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Madhya Pradesh Commercial Tax Department
Office of Commissioner Commercial Tax, Moti Bunglow Compound, M.G. Road, Indore, MP – 452007. Ph. 0731-2437314, 312(0)

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

The last date of E-Bid submission on MP Tender portal **(https://mptenders.gov.in/)** against this office tender ID **2024_MPTAX_344533_1** dated 14th March 2024 title **"TENDER FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE"** is hereby extended up to **20th May 2024, 6:00 PM** and technical opening of e-tender is hereby extended up to **22nd May 2024, 11:30 AM**.

All other terms & conditions of the NIT shall remain unchanged. For further details, visit MP eProcurement portal **https://mptenders.gov.in/** and MPCTD website **https://mptax.mp.gov.in**

Tender Ref No : MPCTD/24/2024/27
Tender ID : 2024_MPTAX_344533_1

(Commissioner)
MP Commercial Tax Department

G-11070/24 "चुनाव का पर्व, देश का गर्व"

GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE (SOUTH)
M.B. ROAD, SAKET, NEW DELHI-110068
PHONE NO. 011-20860810, Email: esdmsouth.delhi@gov.in

F.7(515)/DEO(S)/Advert. Leading/2024/1904 **Dated: 06.05.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding appointment of General Observer, General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 to South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07)

This is for information of Political Parties and General Public/Voters of General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 of South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07), that the Election Commission of India has designated the following officer as General Observer for General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 for South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07):

Alloted Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name	Name of Observer	Mobile no. & Telephone No.	Time & Date	General Observer Office Address
07-South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency	Mr. D M Solanki, IAS	9289333610	Meeting time 11.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. w.e.f. 07.05.2024 till completion of Election	DM Office Complex, M.B. Road Saket, New Delhi-110068.

The General Observer will be available to General Public on all working days as per time/date/venue mentioned in aforesaid table. Any complaint with respect to malpractices in Election and violation of Model Code of Conduct may be reported at the contact number given above.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0039/24-25
(M. Chaitanya Prasad, IAS)
Returning Officer, SDPC-07

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER/D.C(NE),
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI,
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE COMPLEX,
NAND NAGRI, DELHI-110093

F. 6(594) DEO(NE)/Nodal Officer/Observers/GELS-2024/5035 **Dated: 06.05.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding appointment of Observer (General & Police), General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 to North East Parliamentary Constituency-02, NCT Of Delhi

This is for information of political parties and General Public/Voters of General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 of North East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-02 that the Election Commission of India has appointed the following officer as Observers (General & Police) for General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 for North East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-02

Allotted Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name	Name of Observer	Mobile/Tel No. & Email	Time & Date	Office Address
02 North East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency	Sh. Ravinder Kumar, IAS	generalobserverpc02ne@gmail.com Tel- 011-20824951	Public Meeting Time: Between 12.00 PM to 01.00 PM w.e.f. 07.05.24 to 24.05.24	Block-C, D.C. Office Complex Nand Nagri, Delhi-110095
	Smt. Sudha S Pandey, IPS	policeobserverdelhi@gmail.com Tel- 011-41771363	Public Meeting Time: Between 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM w.e.f. 07.05.24 to 24.05.24	Sarvodaya Bal/ Balika Vidyalaya Zeenat Mahal, Jafarabad, Delhi

The Observer (General & Police) will be available to General Public on all working days as per time/date/venue mentioned in aforesaid table. Any complaint with respect to malpractices in Election and violation of Model Code of Conduct may be reported at the contact number given above.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0042/24-25
(VEDITHA REDDY), IAS
Returning Officer PC-02
North East Delhi

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS
e-procurement notice
Re-INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Bid No. PW-CE-NH-CTR-Tender Notice/PBMC/2024- **Dated:-**

1. The Chief Engineer, National Highway, HP.PWD, Shimla hereby invites Bids for Performance-Based Maintenance of Roads through e-tendering from experienced firms/organizations for operation and maintenance works and activities for the following sections of the National Highways.

Sr. No.	Sections	Length (km)	Estimated Bid Cost/ Total Bid Value (Rs. Lac) Excluding GST	Bid Security (Rs. Lac)	Contract Duration (month)
1.	Maintenance works and activities (PBMC) on NH-20A (New NH-303) Nagrota- Bagwan-Ranital road km. 0/0 to 5/0 and NH 20A (New NH 503) Ranital to Mubarikpur in Km in Km 39/0 to 91/0 in the State of Himachal Pradesh.	57.000	4309.55 Lacs	43.09 Lacs	60 months

2. The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** from **29.04.2024 to 03.06.2024 (upto 1100 Hrs. IST)**. Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** on or before 03.06.2024 (upto 1100 Hrs IST). Bids received online shall be opened on **04.06.2024 (at 1130 Hrs IST).**
3. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, originals of Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. as per bid document shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before **04.06.2024 (upto 1100 Hrs IST)**, Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Officer In-charge
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Through
Chief Engineer,
National Highway, Nirman Bhawan, HPPWD, Shimla-171002
Phone/ Fax 0177-2629416, e-mail: ce-nh-hp@nic.in

DPR HP-0005
Chief Engineer (NH)
HP.PWD. Shimla-2

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Walks, exhibitions to mark MCD foundation day events

Paras Singh
paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) plans to hold a series of events over a three-day period starting June 1 to mark the first "Nigam Diwas" or municipal day, senior officials said on Monday, adding that as part of the festivities, the civic body will host heritage walks, a cultural show, lectures on municipal history, and an exhibition on artefacts.

The Nigam Diwas festivities will commemorate 160 years of the municipality coming into existence, the officials said.

MCD will also hold cultural programmes and award employees during these celebrations. However, the events will be strictly non-political as the model code of conduct would be in force for the Lok Sabha elections, officials said.

The activities will involve various MCD departments. "Heritage walks will be held in and around the Town Hall area with the help of experts to understand the history of this region. We are also working towards finalising a 'theme of the year' concept, for which feedback has been sought from all departments. The history of the municipality and its role in the evolution of Delhi will be showcased," the official from MCD's heritage cell said.

Some objects — primarily gifts and mementos brought by foreign dignitaries — are already on display near the mayor's office at the Civic Centre, but many objects still remain in storage.

"We have asked each department to hold lectures or presentations explaining the challenges faced by them and their future plans. The process to restore municipal artefacts has begun with the help of IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts), and some of these artefacts will be on display during the events," a second official said.

The official said that more than 6,500 items — which include rare files, flags, artefacts and records — have been retrieved from the old Town Hall, which would be showcased during the celebrations. For instance, in 1905, the prince and princess of Wales (who later went on to become king George V and queen Mary) visited India.

"The municipality had distributed printed handkerchiefs with images of the visitors, and treats were provided to children in bronze plates. We found the files and samples of this muslin cloth, which is now being handed over to IGNCA," the second official said.

The heritage cell also has copies of proclamations and notifications issued during royal visits, including the proclamation of the death of king Edward VII in 1910. "There are more than 4,000 such files, and we are also starting the process of digitising them," the official said.

Mayor Shelley Oberoi did not comment on the development.

Leader of the opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party councillor Raja Iqbal Singh said June 1 will be a happy occasion. "The MCD was trifurcated in 2012 and has gone back to its original form. We should find some of the oldest living former MCD employees and facilitate them. But is it also a sad moment that MCD for the last one and a half years is going through an unprecedented crisis, with no committees formed and all critical projects and policies pending due to the non-formation of the standing committee and other panels," he said.

A storied history of Delhi's municipality

The first official quoted above said that the municipality of Delhi first came into being in February 1863. "The committee, which acted like a constituent committee, was set up to frame bylaws to run the city in April 1863, and the first meeting of general committee was held with the commissioner in the chair on June 1, 1863," the official said.

Many local bodies and local authorities were looking after municipal affairs, which led to complications and problems faced by various authorities as well as by the people. "A need to have a unified body to administer the Municipal Government of Delhi was strongly felt and accordingly, a unified civic body was set up by Parliament — MCD as it exists came into existence in 1958," the official added.

Celebrations start June 1

MCD: A TIMELINE

- **February 1863:** Delhi municipality came into being
- **April 1863:** A committee was set up to frame by-laws
- **June 1, 1863:** First meeting of the general committee was held with the commissioner in the chair
- **1866:** The Clock Tower and the Town Hall were constructed in Chandni Chowk
- **1870:** First street-lighting was introduced in 1870 with lantern and lamp-posts.
- **1884:** Democratic norm of election of members through adult franchise was first accepted
- **1902:** House tax was introduced
- **1926-27:** Imperial Delhi Municipal Committee or Raisina Municipal Committee was renamed as New Delhi Municipal Committee
- **April 7, 1958:** MCD comes into existence under an Act of Parliament
- **1993:** Separate boards of Delhi government were set-up respectively, and named Delhi Vidyut Board and Delhi Jal Board.
- **2011-12:** MCD was trifurcated into North, East and South MCD
- **2022:** The three MCDs were unified

A handkerchief to commemorate the visit of the then prince and princess of Wales to India in 1905. SOURCE:MCD

MCD meet called on May 14; mayoral polls unlikely this month, say officials

Paras Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has called an "ordinary" meeting of the house of councillors on May 14, as the Delhi mayoral elections has not been held due to the non-appointment of a presiding officer. The mayoral elections are now unlikely to be held this month, and the house meet is expected to list the agenda, which could not be taken up in the previous meetings, senior civic officials aware of the matter said on Monday.

A senior MCD official on condition of anonymity said that it is mandatory under section 72 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act to hold at least one corporation meeting every month. "Mayor Shelly Oberoi, who continues to hold the post, in the absence of fresh elections, has approved that this month's meeting will be held on May 14, and elections of mayor and deputy mayor are not on the agenda," the official added.

IT IS MANDATORY UNDER SEC-72 OF DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT TO HOLD ONE MEETING EVERY MONTH, A SENIOR MCD OFFICIAL SAID

Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena on April 25 linked the mayoral elections with the availability of the Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail in connection with the excise policy case. Saxena, who needs to appoint a presiding officer to hold mayoral elections, said, "I do not deem it appropriate to excise my power as administrator to appoint the presiding officer in absence of inputs from the chief minister."

A meeting notice, issued by municipal secretary Siva Prasad, dated May 3, said that MCD's "ordinary" meeting will be held on May 14 at 11am in Aruna Asaf Ali hall of the Civic Centre. The agenda that was not taken up during the meetings — adjourned in September, October and December last year as well as in January, February and March this year — will also be listed, it added. "This is issued under the orders of the mayor," the order read.

Normally, as per section 35 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, the elections of mayor and deputy mayor need to be held in the first meeting of the financial year. Last month, the corporation made preparations to hold the election on April 26, but due to non-appointment of the presiding officer, the corporation was forced to postpone it at the last minute.

An MCD official on condition of anonymity said that the fate of the mayoral elections will now be directly linked with the CM's advice. "The file for fresh nomination of presiding officer is likely to be moved when the situation regarding the availability of the CM changes either through his release, resignation or through an order by the courts," the official added.

Meanwhile, Oberoi will continue to hold the office. LG order, dated April 25, said that in the "larger public interest it would be in the fitness of things that mayor and deputy mayor continue to hold their position till such time that election can be held in terms of the legal provisions."

HC GRANTS BAIL TO MAN ACCUSED OF TERROR LINKS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday granted bail to a man accused of supporting the banned terrorist group, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), noting that possessing incriminating material, such as photographs of terrorist Osama bin Laden and ISIS flags, on electronic devices is not sufficient evidence to label someone as a member of the terrorist organisation.

The court emphasised that such type of incriminating material was freely available on the internet and any curious mind can access such content.

"Merely because the mobile device of the appellant was found carrying incriminating material including photographs of terrorist Osama bin Laden, Jihad Promotion, ISIS flags etc. and he was also accessing lectures of hard-liner/Muslim preachers would not be enough to brand him as a member of such terrorist organization, much less his being acting in furtherance of its cause," a bench led by Suresh Kumar Kait said. HTC

Factory goes up in flames

A fire broke out at a two-storey plastic raw material factory in Narela due to a short circuit on Monday. The fire, reported at 8.26 am, was brought under control by 30 fire tenders by 1.20pm. No one was injured in the incident. HT

10 held for posing as NEET candidates

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NEW DELHI: Ten people were arrested in six different cases registered across Delhi for alleged impersonation of candidates appearing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) conducted on Sunday, police officers aware of the matter said on Monday.

According to the data shared by police, three cases were registered in south west district, two in south and one in New Delhi. The respective deputy commissioners of police – Rohit Meena, Ankit Chauhan and Devesh Mahla – confirmed that cases were registered.

An investigator said that the matter came to light when biometrics of the person taking the test did not match the data in the system which has details of all students taking the test.

South district arrested three in connection with two incidents of impersonation reported by two schools , DCP Chauhan said.

The accused were identified as Abhishek Kumar, 24, Gajraj Singh, 21, and Rakesh Kumar, 21, all native of Rajasthan.

Five people were arrested in three cases reported in south west district. A police officer said that the accused were identified as Bhagwan Singh of Rajasthan, Himanshu Joshi of Dwarka in Delhi and Vikas (identified by his single name). The names of two suspects were not revealed.

Two more — Krishna Kumar of UP and Sumit Kumar of Rajasthan — were arrested for allegedly appearing for two candidates in a school at Tilak Marg.

Bomb threat: Police, DoE to file affidavits on readiness

Shruti Kakkar
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NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday highlighted the absence of a specialised standard operating procedure (SOP) to safely evacuate students in the event of a bomb threat, and directed the Delhi Police and the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) to file affidavits detailing their preparedness for such situations.

A bench of justice Subramonium Prasad instructed the authorities to specify the timeframe within which they would reach schools in case of bomb threats, the number of drills conducted under police supervision, and the steps taken to minimise reliance on parents during evacuations. The court also asked the police to specify the steps that will be taken to probe hoax calls to schools, and the nodal officer to be contacted in such cases.

The court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Arpit Bhargava last year in the wake of a hoax bomb threat at DPS Mathura Road, which said that the government did not have an action plan to deal with such incidents.

The petition underscored the need for regular evacuation drills and robust disaster management protocols, particularly in schools ill-equipped to handle such crises.

The court's order came days after panic ensnared Delhi and the National Capital Region on May 1 after over 300 schools in and around the city received bomb threats over email, prompting institutions to evacuate students midway through classes, even as security forces launched sweeping checks across dozens of campuses.

Police officers outside Mother Mary's School in Mayur Vihar on May 1 — the day the school received a hoax bomb threat. HT PHOTO

"There is no SOP as far as schools are concerned... How do you ensure which is the authority which will start acting on information from school," the bench asked advocate Santosh Kumar Tripathi, who appeared for the Delhi government.

"Though the Delhi police has also filed guidelines to deal with bomb threat at schools, it does not give data regarding number of schools in each zone, the nodal officer to be contacted by the schools, time to take action on receipt of bomb threat and the number of mock drills that may have been conducted under the supervision of Delhi Police to ensure that children are evacuated from schools without there being any panic... The said affidavit be filed by the Delhi Police and DoE, GNCTD within a period of 10 days," the court said in its order.

During the hearing, Bhargava's counsel Beenashaw N Soni highlighted the recent spate of hoax bomb emails, expressing concerns over the strain on resources and psychological impact on parents and students.

Tripathi submitted there are around 5,500 schools in the Capital, and thus it was difficult to deploy police personnel at every school. "Police have issued their own SOP. Every private school is informed what to do," he said.

A DoE official present at the hearing said the government has issued directions to schools to conduct drills quarterly.

MHA asks schools, police to have close coordination

The Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) has asked Delhi's schools and the police to have close coordination during bomb threats in order to ensure that misinformation does not create any unnecessary panic. The official X account of MHA spokesperson wrote, "Home Secretary reviews the situation in wake of hoax emails received by some schools in Delhi last week. He stressed the need to prepare detailed protocol and SOPs to handle any such situation in future."

MCD MODIFIES PLAN TO APPOINT FIRM TO CLEAR LANDFILL WASTE

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has decided to modify its existing plan to clear landfill sites due to its inability to appoint new agencies to carry out biomining of around 6 million tonnes of legacy waste at Ghazipur and Bhalswa dumpsites, senior MCD officials aware of the matter said on Monday.

A senior MCD official on condition of anonymity said that the approval of the standing committee is mandatory in awarding such a large-scale work with massive financial implications. "We invited bids for appointing agencies to process 3 million tonnes of legacy waste each at Ghazipur and Okhla. The work order could not be issued and we could not finalise the successful bid in absence of the panel. In any tender process, the quoted rates can hold true only for a period of six months and now we have to start the process afresh," the official added.

However, an MCD spokesperson said that no new tenders will be floated till the formation of the standing committee.

The official quoted above said that whenever the fresh tender process is started the quantum of waste would be increased by around 3 million tonnes (1.5 million tonnes for each site) to take into account the delay in appointing the agencies.

The municipal commissioners have the power to grant approval to projects worth up to ₹5 crore. Projects involving higher amounts have to be first placed before the standing committee.

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Chautha/Prayer Meeting

(04.03.1961 - 04.05.2024)

Renu Alka Sehgal

w/o Vivek Chaand Sehgal

Chautha/Prayer Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, 07th May, 2024

at Durbar Hall, Taj Palace Hotel,
Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi
from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
(Entry from Sardar Patel Marg)

In grief

Laksh Vaaman Sehgal and Samriddhi Sehgal
(Son and Daughter-in-Law)
Siddh Vaasav Sehgal
Ganan Yuvaan Sehgal
Kushaan Samarth Sehgal
(Grandsons)

Vidhi and Ashnil Chopra
(Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Nirvan Avi Chopra,
Hriday Vveer Chopra (Grandsons)

Anjali and Bipin Gujral
(Sister and Brother-in-Law)
Avni Gujral, Amba Gujral,
Vedika Prakash (Nieces)

and all members of Motherson family

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Mercury remains above 40-degree mark for 3rd day, may hit 42°C today

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Delhi continued to reel under hot weather conditions on Monday as the city recorded a maximum temperature of 40.7 degrees Celsius (°C) — the third day in a row that the mercury has crossed the 40-degree mark in the Capital.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted no relief ahead, expecting the temperature to hover around 41-42°C for the rest of the week, Met officials said. IMD has also predicted a dust storm to lash the Capital on Tuesday night, but officials said that the weather event will not bring respite to residents.

The Safdarjung observatory — the base station for Delhi's weather — logged a maximum temperature of 40.7°C on Monday, which is a notch above normal for this time of the year. This was slightly lower than the 41.1°C on Sunday — the season's highest so far.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD, said Delhi recorded strong surface winds during the day on Monday, which, despite clear skies, did not allow the mercury to climb too much.

School students out on a hot summer's day at Sarita Vihar on Monday. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

"This is why we saw a marginal drop in comparison to Sunday. On Tuesday, clear skies will persist and this will lead to a rise in maximum temperature by 1-2°C at most places. It can touch 42°C at Safdarjung and even higher in other parts of the city," he said.

In terms of minimum temperature, Delhi recorded a low of 24.4°C, a degree below normal. It was 22.7°C on Sunday. Forecasts show the minimum is likely to be around 25°C on Tuesday and could cross 26°C by Saturday.

Meanwhile, Srivastava ruled out any chances of a heatwave affecting Delhi in the coming days, pointing out that in order for a heatwave to be declared in the plains, the maximum needs to be above 40°C, while also being 4.5 notches above normal.

The highest maximum recorded at any weather station so far this year is 44°C, at the Sports Complex (Akshardham) weather station on Sunday. Interestingly, the maximum temperature for the Sports Complex station was unavailable on Monday.

The highest maximum in the city on Monday was 42.6°C at Najafgarh.

This hot, dry, and windy weather has also translated into dust becoming a prominent pollutant in Delhi, leading to a spike in PM10 levels. Delhi's air quality was 'poor' for a fourth consecutive day on Monday, with a 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 247 (poor) at 4 pm, according to the national bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It was 291 (poor) at the same time on Sunday.

The air quality may worsen on Tuesday, with IMD forecasting a 50% chance of a dust storm also occurring on Tuesday night. Despite this, there were no indications from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR to hold an emergency meeting to invoke the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap). Stage I of Grap was lifted by CAQM on February 27.

"The day will be warm and dry. We can expect a dust storm with gusty winds of up to 45 kmph at night-time," Srivastava said.

Conmen dupe man of ₹2 cr over RS seat, forge Prez sign

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: A 63-year-old man was allegedly cheated of ₹2.25 crore by two men under the pretext of getting a seat in the Rajya Sabha, police said on Monday, adding that one of the suspects has been arrested, while the other one is in police custody.

According to officers probing the case, the conmen also forged the President of India's signature to gain the complainant's trust.

Police did not share the name of the complainant, but said that he is a social worker.

Officers said that the incident came to light on April 25, when the 63-year-old physically restrained one of the alleged conmen at a banquet hall in Adhchini, before informing police and filing a complaint against the two suspects at the Kishangarh police station.

Giving details of the case, deputy commissioner of police (southwest) Rohit Meena said the complainant told investigators that last year, he met a man named Nanak Dass at a house in Vithal Bhai Patel House — a neighbourhood on Rafi Marg home to several politicians.

POLICE SAID ONE OF THE SUSPECTS WAS INTRODUCED TO THE VICTIM AS A PROTOCOL OFFICER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dass, the chief priest of a temple in Kishangarh, in August 2023 introduced the complainant to Naveen Kumar, who posed as a protocol officer to the President of India, said police.

"The complainant and the suspects met several times at Vithal Bhai Patel House over the following months. We don't know how they got access to these government houses. The meetings also took place in Defence Colony and Kishangarh. The suspects led the businessman to believe that his name was proposed for a member of the Rajya Sabha," a senior officer associated with the case said.

"To gain his trust, the suspects gave him a birthday letter. The letter had the President's name and her forged letterhead," the officer said, on condition of anonymity.

Police said that the suspects then demanded ₹5 crore from the complainant to get the Rajya Sabha seat. "The complainant paid ₹1.25 crore to Kumar and ₹1 crore to Dass," the officer said.

After getting the money, the suspects broke off contact. Realising he had been duped, the complainant called the suspects to the Adhchini banquet hall under pretext of paying them the rest of the money, and managed to restrain Kumar before calling police, officers said.

"During further investigation, Dass was also caught from Delhi. Both men are being interrogated," the officer quoted above said, adding that Dass is in custody but is yet to be arrested.

35-yr-old stabbed to death on NE Delhi road, 4 minors held

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: A day after a 35-year-old man was stabbed to death on a busy residential street at Jafrabad in northeast Delhi, the police on Monday apprehended four minors involved in the murder, officers aware of the case said.

Deputy commissioner of police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said the deceased was identified as Mohammed Nazir alias Nanhe, a resident of Chauhan Bangar — a history sheeter with multiple cases of attempt to murder and robbery registered against him.

Officers said on Sunday, that the police control room received a call about the murder at around 7pm. A police team was dispatched, and found a man lying in a pool of blood with stab injuries on his forehead, neck and abdomen. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

Investigators said that the deceased was identified as Nazir, and local inquiry revealed that he was on his two-wheeler when some boys stopped him and attacked him with knives.

A screengrab from CCTV footage of the incident. HT

A video of the incident, captured by a local resident, emerged on social media, police said.

Tikey said the boys were identified with the help of the footage. "During interrogation, they told police that they committed the murder because two days ago, Nazir had threatened one of them with a pistol," the DCP said.

TEEN ABDUCTED, KILLED: ACTION ON COPS FOR FAILURE TO RESCUE BOY

Arun Singh
arun.singh@hindustantimes.com

NOIDA: A day after the body of a 15-year-old boy, the son of a dhaba owner in Greater Noida, was found in a canal at Milka Mosamgarh in Bulandshahr, around 50 km from Greater Noida, 11 teams have been formed to trace the suspects, senior police officers said, adding that departmental action was taken against the officers concerned for failing to locate the boy who was kidnapped from outside his father's dhaba in Beta 2 locality last Wednesday.

"Station house officer of Beta 2 police station, Munendra Singh, was transferred on Sunday night, and clarification has been sought from ACP, Greater Noida," said Shivhari Meena, joint commissioner of police.

"Some important points have come to the fore. We are working on these leads," Meena said.

According to police, teenager Kunal Sharma, a resident of a Mayana village in Rabupura, was helping his father run the dhaba in Accher area in Beta 2 locality, outside of which he was kidnapped on Wednesday by a gang, including a woman, who arrived there in a white car.

Shots fired at Tilak Nagar car showroom, 4 injured: Police

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Two men barged into a car showroom in Tilak Nagar on Monday evening and fired 10-12 rounds at the establishment before fleeing, police officers said, adding that four people — including the owner of the showroom — were seriously injured in the incident.

Before making their escape, police said, the assailants threw a handwritten note — on which names of some gangsters were mentioned — into the showroom. Officers are probing whether the gangsters mentioned in the note were attempting to extort money from Manoj Malik, the showroom owner.

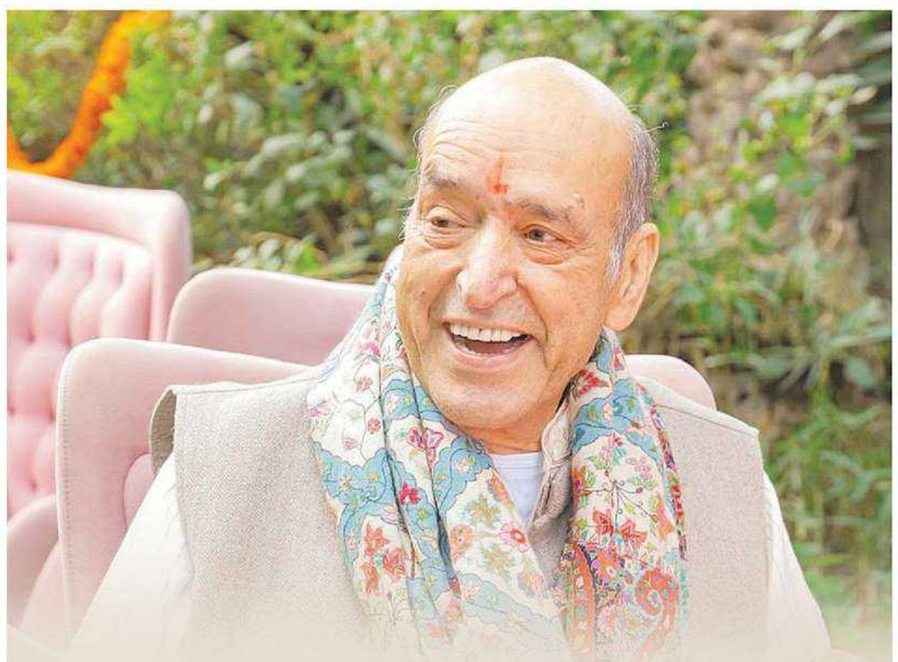
Deputy commissioner of police (west) Vichitra Veer said the showroom where the incident occurred is called Fusion Cars, located in the Ganesh Nagar locality, which deals with used high-end luxury cars.

"As per initial information, multiple shots were fired, aiming towards the glass and in the air. Some people sustained injuries due to the broken glass. They are under treatment. No bullet injury has been reported. Further details are being looked into," said DCP Veer.

Police said a case of firing, attempt to murder, and other charges was registered at the Tilak Nagar police station.

"A note recovered from the crime scene had names of gangsters Naveen Bali, who is presently in jail, Himanshu Bhau, who is suspected to be hiding abroad, and Neeraj Faridpuria, who is also absconding. It's too early to say if the gangsters named in the note are behind the firing. There is a possibility that someone used their names to create fear in the mind of the used cars showroom owner, who appeared to be the target of the attackers," said an officer.

HT Homage



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SHRI LALIT KUMAR MALHOTRA

1 FEBRUARY 1944 – 5 MAY 2024

A LOVING HUSBAND AND DOTING FATHER
A PILLAR FOR HIS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
A MAN WITH INIMITABLE STYLE
A GENEROUS SOUL FILLED WITH LOVE AND LAUGHTER
A MAN ENDOWED WITH A SPIRITUAL HEART
AN AMBASSADOR FOR LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST
A MAN WE ALL LEARNT MUCH FROM

SUNITA MALHOTRA

KAJAL MALHOTRA
BIR & USHA MALHOTRA
RENU MALHOTRA
SHAKTI SAGAR
ASHOK & BINNA MULLICK
LUV MALHOTRA
CHAND MALHOTRA
NEELKAMAL & ALKA MALHOTRA
VANITA NANDA
NAVNEET & ANITA DHAWAN

NEPHEWS, NIECES & GRANDCHILDREN

8th May, 2024 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Ballroom
Hotel The Suryaa, New Friends Colony
New Delhi
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82599569049

Shri Ajay Kumar Jain (17.08.1953 - 07.05.2021) & **Smt. Renu Jain** (26.07.1959 - 06.05.2021)

Your legacy of wisdom guides us and
brings light into our lives all the way.
Though three years have passed,
your spirit in our hearts still reamins,
Forever in our hearts, you will respectfully reign.

Deeply Mourned by :
Ritika Jain, Amyraa Jain, Vyomm Jain and all Jain family.

Death Anniversary

Lala Gopi Chand Jain
(Jassar Wale)

Though your presence may be gone,
Your memory will always live on.

Asha & Rajkumar Jain
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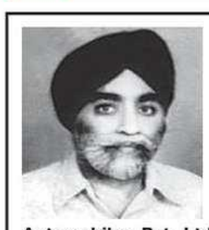

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{ FROM PAGE 1 }

LAKSHADWEEP SEA

tration (NOAA), this level of DHW poses a substantial risk of coral bleaching, threatening the region's diverse marine ecosystems," CMFRI said in a statement.

According to the Pacific Island Ocean Observing System, Degree Heating Week (DHW) shows how much heat stress has accumulated in an area over the past 12 weeks (three months) by adding up any temperature exceeding the bleaching threshold during that time period. When DHW reaches 4°C-weeks, significant coral bleaching is likely, especially in more sensitive species. When DHW is 8°C-weeks or higher, widespread bleaching and mortality from thermal stress may occur.

"Such heat stress levels signify a severe threat to coral health, leading to extensive bleaching where corals lose the symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae), compromising their survival by depriving them of essential nutrients. If the DHW continue to rise, reaching beyond 12°C-weeks, it could precipitate an unprecedented biodiversity crisis due to multispecies mortality," said KR Sreenath, senior scientist at CMFRI.

The CMFRI team has been observing this severe bleaching from around mid April.

"We have a survey team in Lakshadweep that identified that a very large area (around 934 sqkm) has been impacted. The Lakshadweep atolls are built on corals. If these corals are destroyed it will impact the livelihoods of fishermen because these corals support fish. If corals are impacted, the growth and size of the island will also be affected because the island is made of coral sand or particles," added Sreenath.

The Lakshadweep Sea has recorded around three coral bleaching events —1998, 2010 and 2016. "Following the 1997-98 event around 65% of the corals globally that were bleached recuperated. There were two other bleaching events but the current bleaching event seems to be more severe than the earlier two... these corals have started expelling the symbiotic algae. They appear white because only their skeleton is visible. If the SSTs reduce considerably very soon, some of these corals may be able to recuperate. Because their tissue is disintegrating, its an opportunity for other species to occupy the space, sea weeds can occupy this area," added Sreenath.

As El Nino gradually loosens it grip, such bleaching events are being globally including the bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef and Gulf of Mannar. "We were expecting this to happen in India. The lower latitudes have been more impacted in the past 2-3 months," he explained.

"This is expected. With increasing ocean temperatures marine biodiversity is likely to be seriously affected. Immediate impact could be on coral reefs. Other impacts expected are mortality of marine species. Unfortunately, we know these adverse impacts qualitatively. No authentic quantitative impacts are estimated," said M Rajeevan, former secretary, ministry of earth sciences.

"While the Indian Ocean warmed at a rate of 1.2°C per century during 1950–2020, climate models, we assessed, predict accelerated warming, at a rate of 1.7°C–3.8°C per century during 2020–2100. Though the warming is basin-wide, maximum warming is in the northwestern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea. The rapid warming in the Indian Ocean is not limited to the surface. The heat content of the Indian Ocean, from surface to 2000 meters deep, is currently increasing at the rate of 4.5 zetta-joules per decade," said Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

"The future increase in heat content is comparable to adding the energy equivalent of one Hiroshima atomic bomb detonation every second, all day, every day, for a decade... Marine heatwaves, periods of extremely high temperatures in the ocean, are expected to increase from 20 days per year to 220–250 days per year. This will push the tropical Indian Ocean into a near-permanent heatwave state, our study has found," he added.

Koll also said that the projected changes in pH may be detrimental to the marine ecosystem since many marine organisms — particularly corals and organisms that depend on calcification to build and maintain their shells — are sensitive to the change in ocean acidity.

"The primary cause of these marine heatwaves are excessive heat atmospheric transfer coupled with shifts in ocean currents, leading to unusually high water temperatures. Since October 27, 2023, the Lakshadweep Sea, spanning from 80.0 to 12.0 N latitude and 71.0 to 75.0 E longitude, has been experiencing these conditions, with temperatures consistently registering rises greater than 1°C above the norm," said Shelton Padua, senior scientist at CMFRI.

HT reported on November 2 last year that ocean and land temperatures continued their record-breaking spree in October. Sea surface and land temperatures have been at record highs for seven and five months respectively, data maintained by University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer shows.

The latest data on Climate Reanalyzer also shows daily sea surface temperatures have been far higher this year also since January, than temperatures ever recorded.

POONCH ATTACK

by security forces for questioning has gone up to 16. Officials privy to the investigation said the attack was engineered by Lashkar-e-Taiba's Habibullah Malik, alias Sajid Jutt. A native of Kasur district in Pakistan's Punjab province, Sajid Jutt is wanted by the National Investigation Agency for orchestrating terror attacks in Rajouri and Poonch.

"Though the attackers tried to replicate a Dhatyar Morh-like ambush of December 21 last year, this time they didn't succeed because of retaliation by the soldiers," said another official.

"The first vehicle that came under brief fire sped away and stopped at a distance before soldiers from it retaliated against the attackers. The tailing vehicle, however, bore the brunt of fire. Before the attackers could cause more damage, they were unnerved by the swift retaliation by the soldiers in the first vehicle," the official added.

Investigators found 7.62mm steel core bullets and 5.56mm bullets from the spot. The terrorists, believed to be three to four in number, used steel core bullets to inflict maximum damage.

Former DGP Dr SP Vaid said, "Since the Pakistani establishment's deep state wants to disturb the Jammu region, the best place is Rajouri-Poonch, south of Pir Panjal, because of its topography and proximity to the Line of Control, which is easy to operate in because of its difficult terrain."

"Pakistan only needs to try to infiltrate a group of terrorists. While 99 times the Army may avert their attempts, in the 100th attempt they may succeed and once a group is in, it would be on suicide mission. It will try to cause mayhem and that is what they are doing," he added.

To check frequent attacks in the twin border districts, the former DGP suggested improved human intelligence, a re-look at SOPs and engaging local youth as SPOs (special police officers) in the police force. "We need to improve human intelligence, review our tactics and improve SOPs. See, where are we lagging and what steps can be initiated to avert such attacks," he said.

"We can make use of local boys, who know the terrain. Around 500 to 1,000 local youth can be recruited as SPOs. They know the jungles, caves, routes and every inch of the land. They can be utilised for countering terrorism. They have played a significant role in counter-insurgency operations in the past as well," he said.

The modus operandi of the terrorists remains the same. With logistical support from sleeper cells, the terrorists first recce the target area and note the timings of convoys that usually move there for operational duties before finally carrying out the attack. The terrorists usually ambush convoys in the evening hours just before dusk.

"Saturday's ambush at Sanai Top was around 30km from the Dhatyar Morh ambush site of December 21 last year, which had left five soldiers dead ," said a senior police officer, who did not wish to be named.

"Now, these terrorists are using Chinese-made steel core bullets and US-made M4 rifles with the sole purpose of inflicting huge damage on the forces," said Vaid.

An Army officer, who requested anonymity, said, "Security forces have contained terrorist activity in Kashmir and brought it to almost zero, especially after the revocation of Article 370 but at the same time the area south of the Pir Panjal has been witnessing a spike in terrorism."

Rajouri and Poonch have hilly terrain spread over 4,304sq km with the Line of Control meandering along the two border districts. Saturday's attack happened days before Poonch goes to the polls on May 25 as part of the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency. The polling for the constituency was rescheduled by the Election Commission on April 30 after leaders across the political spectrum sought a change in dates due to adverse weather conditions.

Delhiwale

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Mayank Austen Soofi

The Imperial pink

Ode to an obsolete landmark

{ PUBLIC INTEREST }

The pink building bears the shade of twilight. The purpose for which it was built is long gone, but the structure continues to exist, here in Paharganj, the backpackers' district reeling with Covid-era closures of cafés and bookstores.

In a locality overwhelmed with disappeared landmarks, Imperial Cinema sits on one side of Brijmohan Sethi Chowk. It sits confidently, as if the hollow hulk were to outlast us all. The cinema closed in 2015. During its final years, it used to screen action movies from the 1990s; the morning shows were reserved for A-rated English films. The cinema hall was originally a colonial-era theatre and hosted balls for British officers, according to the book *Delhi 4 Shows: Talkies Of Yesteryear*. It is believed to be the first theatre in the city to have been turned into a cinema. The earliest movie screened was *Alam Ara*, India's first sound film.

This afternoon, the "current booking" window, in the cinema's road-facing corridor, is covered with a delicate film of cobweb. Directly above the window, painted in blood red, are the theatre's vital stats— 189 seats in the balcony, 381 seats in the rear stall. A large poster, probably of the last movie screened, is so faded and tattered that it is impossible to identify the actors, though one of the faces hints to Mithun Chakraborty. An adjacent column is plastered with pink fliers advertising "Maths and Reasoning Special Classes" by "Kishen Sir."

Directly across the road stands a spiffy building speckled with curtained windows. It is the appropriately named Hotel Imperial View.

Meanwhile, the other side of the theatre—on Lakshmi Narayan Street—has become literally wild. Wayward tree leaves are growing atop the theatre's roof. Roots of that tree have set into the derelict brick wall, clearly visible through the peeling pink. The facade overlooks a landmark about to vanish. An aged mansion—beautiful arched doorways, etc— has lately been bounded up with blue metal barricades, a sure sign of looming demolition.

Some distance away, towards the south, lies the derelict remains of the Khanna Cinema building. Some distance away, towards the north, lies the well-preserved remains of the Sheila Cinema building.

Slowly-slowly, the evening sets in, the departing sun smears the western sky (not seen in the photo) with tints of pink, soon to be swallowed by the night. The Imperial's pink is more lasting.

READ: For more stories by Mayank Austen Soofi, scan the QR code

I.C.A.R.-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute
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Interview

Online Interview via Video Conferencing will be held for filling up positions of **01 Research Associate/Senior Research Fellow, 01 IT Professional-III, 02 Young Professional-II (IT), and 01 Young Professional-I (F&A)** on 27.05.2024 and for **08 Young Professional-I (IT) on 28.05.2024** from 10.30 am onwards on contractual basis in a project running in the Institute. The incumbent shall not have any claim for regular appointment under ICAR-IASRI. The details of eligibility conditions and other relevant information are available on the Institute's website **https://iasri.icar.gov.in/Emp_vacancy.aspx**

File no. 1(3)/2023-Rectt.Cell Sd/-
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F.No. 1-7/NLM project/YP/SS/PAR/2023 Dated: 06.05.2024

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for Young Professional-I (One) (Rs. 30000/- p.m. fixed (consolidated) purely on temporary basis will be held on **24.05.2024 at 11.00 AM** at ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi for a period of One year & extension as per required in the NLM Project entitled "Genetic improvement of Forage crops for sustainable livestock production". For Essential Qualification, Remuneration and other details please visits please our website: www.igfri.icar.gov.in.

I/c Head of Office

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Degree Programmes	Admission Criteria	Links for Further Details
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M. Tech.	GATE Score/Non-GATE (Written Test Conducted by NSUT)	http://www.nsut.ac.in
B. Des	Score of UCEED /National or State Level Examination in "Design" or "Allied Design Field"	
M.Sc. (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics)	CUET-2024 Score	
MA (English, Applied Psychology)		
BBA	CUET-2024 Score	https://www.cmacadmissions.com
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MBA-IEV	Written Test plus Personal Interview	https://www.cmacadmissions.com

For detailed information regarding Eligibility Criteria, Reservation, Admission Procedure, Counseling Schedules, Application Process etc., and any further updates / notifications related to admission, candidates are advised to regularly visit: http://www.nsut.ac.in

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		• **B.Tech.** in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (Specialization: Transportation and Logistics)	4 Year	60	
		• **B.Tech** in Aviation Engineering	4 Year	30	
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4. **N.T.T.**

- Qualifications as prescribed & laid down by the CBSE & DOE. Shortlisting of candidates will be based on high academic credentials and referral check of experience.

Download the **Recruitment Form** from the school's **Website: www.vis10dwarka.com** and apply with a covering letter **latest by 18 May, 2024.** Submit hard copy at the reception or mail us at **career@vis10dwarka.com**

Maharaja Agrasen Model School

CD-Block, Pitampura, Delhi-34
Tel: 47023947, 40453808 www.agrasenschool.com

REQUIRES

- **TGT : Eng, Hindi, Maths, S.Sc., Sanskrit:** Graduate (Hons.) in English, Hindi, Maths, S.Sc (History), Sanskrit with B.Ed, preferably Post Graduate & CTET qualified
- **PRT – General, English, Hindi, Maths, Science :** B.El.Ed or Graduate in English, Hindi, Maths, Science with D.El.Ed. or equivalent and CTET qualified
- **Computer Teacher:** BCA/MCA/B.Tech (Computer Science), preferably with B.Ed.
- **Drawing Teacher:** Graduate in Drawing/Painting/Art Plus 2-year full time Diploma in Painting /Fine Art
- **German :** Graduate with Advanced Diploma in German Language, preferably with B.Ed.
- **Special Educator:** Graduate with B.Ed. (Special Education) or 2-year Diploma in Special Education, CTET qualified, registered with RCI
- **Receptionist:** Graduate, fluent in English and Computer savvy

Application form can be downloaded online from the website or obtained from the school reception and duly filled form must be submitted between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm at the school reception.
Candidates having outstanding academic record from recognized institutes, preferably with 2 years' experience, may apply within 5 days. Candidates should be proficient in the use of computer.
Salary is no constraint for deserving candidates.
The School reserves the right to treat any post deemed as cancelled.

ACADEMIC

ARVIND GUPTA DAV CENTENARY PUBLIC SCHOOL

NORTHEX, MODEL TOWN, DELHI -110009
Ph. : 011-45130482, 011-42343612, 011-47323161, website: www.agdav.edu.in
email : principal@agdav.edu.in, office@agdav.edu.in
(DAV College Managing Committee, Chitragupta Road, New Delhi-55)
Session : 2024-25

REQUIRED

Applications are invited from **06/05/2024 to 10/05/2024** from **DAV CBT qualified candidates with Provisional Eligibility Card,** B.Ed. and CTET for TGT and Primary/Nursery Teachers , preferably female with good communication and ICT Skills with minimum 50% marks from recognized universities and experience of CBSE/ICSE English Medium schools may apply for the following posts.

PGTS-4: Economics -1, History-1, Political Science-1, Phy. Education-1
TGTS-13: English-1, Hindi-2, Sanskrit -2, Maths-3 (1-Leave vacancy), Social Science-1, Science-1, Music-1, Home Science-1, PET-1,
PRIMARY TEACHERS-16: English -2, General-2, Science (PCM)-2 Social studies-2, Hindi -5, Artificial Intelligence-1, Vocal Music Teacher-1, Art & Craft -1
NURSERY TEACHERS-4: Graduate, NTT/ECCE (2 yrs. recognized)

Apply on prescribed form available at school reception on payment of Rs. 300/- between 9.00 a.m. to 02:00 P.M. on all working days upto 10.05.2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview/test. Pay & Allowances as per DAV College Managing Committee norms.
Final Selection will be made on the basis of Demonstration & Subject / Panel Interview. The job is Transferable to DAV Public Schools. **PRINCIPAL**

S.L. SURI. D.A.V. PUBLIC SR. SEC. SCHOOL

JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI-58
PH: 011-45694306
Website: www.slsuridavpsjp.ac.in

DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL WEST PATEL NAGAR,

NEW DELHI PH: 8130944832
Website: www.davwestpatelnagar.in

Managed By DAV College Managing Committee, Chitra Gupta Road, New Delhi-55

Applications are invited from 02.05.2024 to 08.05.2024 from DAV CBT qualified candidates with Provisional Eligibility Card, B.Ed and CTET for the following posts:

PGT & PRT-Maths(Janakpuri only)
PRT- English (Patel Nagar only), Hindi, Social Science, Computer Science, General.
NTT & Nurse (Patel Nagar Only)
Special Educator: RCI Certified

Final selection will be made on the basis of Demonstration & Subject / Panel Interview held at the respective schools. Candidates to apply on prescribed form available at the reception of the schools or downloaded from the respective school websites. Hard copy to be submitted with Rs. 300/- (handling charges) at the school reception between 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM on working days till 08.05.2024
MANAGER

JAI MANN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Affiliated to CBSE
Khera Khurd, Delhi-82
REQUIRES FEMALE STAFF
TGT: ALL SUBJECTS
PRIMARY TEACHERS
SPECIAL EDUCATORS
COMPUTER TEACHER
NTT TEACHER, CLERK
Send your Bio-data through e-mail:
jmpsd2015@gmail.com
School transport facility is available from Adarsh Nagar, Mukarba Chowk, Alipur, Rohini Sectors-9,11,13,16,17,18,28,29,32,34, Metro Stations: Azad Pur, Jahangir Puri, Rithala.

ARYA VEDIC PUBLIC SCHOOL

Aram Bagh, Paharganj, New Delhi-55, Ph: 011-6825522
(Managed by DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi)

Applications are invited from DAVCBT qualified candidates with Provisional Eligibility Card, CTET and min. 50% marks in Grad. with good communication and I.T. Skills as per Govt. norms for the following posts:

- NTT
- Computer Teacher
- Ministerial - LDC

Final selection will be based on the basis of Demonstration and subject/ panel interview.
Application form can be downloaded from the school's website **www.avpdav.com** and has to be submitted at the school reception from 02nd May, 2024 to 10th May, 2024 between 9 am to 1 pm
Principal

ACADEMIC

NOIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

(Affiliation No. 2130200)
A-78, SECTOR-23,NOIDA
Ph. No. 9773983383, 0120- 2412300
E- recruitment.crcct@gmail.com

REQUIRES

Administrative Officer: (1 post) Post graduate having 5 years experience in administrative field.
PGTs: Chemistry, Physics, Psychology with History **(1 Post each)** Post Graduate in respective discipline with B. Ed having 2 years teaching experience in +2 classes.
Office Assistant: (2 Posts) Commerce Graduate with proficiency in Computer & typing speed of 45wpm, preferably experienced in accounting, general correspondence and knowledge of Tally & ERP.
Music Teacher: (1 Post) Post- Graduate in Music in respective discipline.

Applications are invited on plain paper with detailed bio-data with a recent passport size photograph affixed at the top along with attested copies of all testimonials by 15/05/2024 duly addressed to the principal of the school. Applications received without statement of marks shall summarily be rejected.
Chairman (SMC).

OM FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Village Hoshiyarpur, Sector-51, Noida

A well established school working for social upliftment and educate underprivileged children for last 22 years. We are seeking applications from passionate, qualified & experienced candidates:

TGT ENGLISH
B.A. / M.A., B.Ed.
DATA SCIENCE & COMPUTER TEACHER
BCA / MCA / B.Tech.
Location : NOIDA
email your resume at:
info@omfoundation.in
visit: www.omfoundation.in

N. K. BAGRODIA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085
REQUIRES EXPERIENCED & TRAINED STAFF
(1) TGT (Hindi) & TGT (Geography) M.A./ B.A (Hons) B.Ed, CTET
(2) Assistant Trs: Hindi/ General -Graduate, B.Ed., CTET
(3) Special Edu.Tr.: Graduate, B.Ed. (Special edu.)/ 2 yrs. Dip. in Spl. Edu. with RCI Certificate, CTET (4)School Counsellor- M.A. in Counselling or Clinical Psychology, Diploma/Degree in Counselling (5) Pre- Primary Tr. - 2 yrs. Diploma in ECCE/ NTT from SCERT Recognised Institute
Proficiency in English & Computer knowledge is must. Age and qualifications as per Government norms. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for Test / Interview. Apply on prescribed form available at the School reception between 08:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. & submit on or before 17/05/2024 **PRINCIPAL**

A PUBLIC school in Karol Bagh requires Vice Principal, retired persons can also be considered : Salary as per Qualification.9654522007. chowgule publicschool145@gmail.com

NJMSS SCHOOL (Nr East Delhi) Reqs. Academic Incharge,PGT: Hindi,Phy.Ed, Bio.,Comm.AT: french,Nur.Tr. Music Swimming,Chess,TT,Skating& football njmsss2013@gmail.com 9953599905

REQUIRED PRIMARY/NTT teachers for Jr High School, Green Valley Academy, A-181, Sector-48, Noida M:9870221541 Apply: gvacareer@gmail.com

RIG INSTITUTE of Hospitality & Management, 48/1, Knowledge Park-III, Greater Noida 201306 (U.P), Applications invited for the following positions: Principal-1, Associate Professor-2, Assistant Professor-10, For BBA/ BCA Courses Subject: Management, Business Law, Accounting & Finance, Computer Application, Principle of Management & Mathematics. Eligibility- As per the UGC/ University /Govt. Norms. Send your updated CV's on director@riginstitute.com Call: +91 9818605789

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

REQUIRED SENIOR Accountant 4-5 years experience for our client at Kundali, Haryana, Noida, UP and Delhi. Mob: 9810245989 Email rakeshgrover2014@gmail.com

ACCOU. B.COM for Tally data entry bank reconcile. Min. Exp. 2yrs k'ledge of Microsoft excel typing etc near East Kailash preferred South Delhi 9818556566, dinesh4818@yahoo.in

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Accountant for our Office at Sainik Farm having Knowledge Of Company Master Data Format Tally, Income-Tax, GST, TDS. Kindly Contact: 9910444456

SALES & MARKETING

Vinar

2/20, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002
Head Office : Kolkata
52
Branches at : Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi

Require:
Smart, Efficient, Hard Working & Experience in Selling Modular / Furniture Or Institutional Sales / Direct Sales.
Required Assistant Managers for their Modular / Furniture / Storage Division at Delhi,
for Experience and Above mentioned qualification, Salary is not a limitation
Interested candidates may send their CV at
Vinar Systems Pvt. Ltd.
spanicker@vinar.org
Contact No. 9818391005

LIQUOR SALES MANAGER NICOL HOUSE

A reputed liquor company, requires a sales manager age 40-50 years with minimum 15 years experience in Civil, CSD & Para-military marketing of IMFL products, connect with Private Distributors & knowledge of Government Corporations and local state regulations. Travel minimum 15 days of the month. To be based at the Corporate Office, New Delhi. Applicants currently working in the alcohol industry and residing in Delhi/ NCR only will be considered. Applicants may send CV with current& expected salary to
Email ID :
nicolshouse@gmail.com

REQUIRED SALES executive/Manager for selling Lab testing/Construction machinery, Junior Sales with bike. Add : Bellstone, 3755 Chawri Bazar, Delhi-6 # 9818599554 Em-as@bhi.in

NKC GROUP Req Knowledge of Grey Fabric Marketing, Accounts & Purch-ase Mngr, Collection Incharge, Recep-tionist # 9810004057 E: nkfabric@ gmail.com F-32/5, Okhla Phase-2 N.D

MEDICAL

MANSARAM HOSPITAL Nangloi Required doctors Gynecologist, MD Medicine, RMO, Receptionist, TPA Billing & Xray tech. Ph 9811761676, 9899570958.

REQD. MEDICAL Representative for South Delhi (Kapashera, Mahipalpur, Rajokri,Bijwasan)own bike must.# SA Ayurveda & Organic, Ph: 9213708614 Email at: intzarlive724@gmail.com

JEEVAN ANMOL hospital mayur vihar-1 Delhi-91, Req. Specialist in Eye, Skin, Surgery, Paed., Radiologist & Report-ing (MT), CMO, HR. # 9818620384 Email: anmol.sondhi@gmail.com

HEALTH QUOTIENT, Path Lab, Mayur Vihar East Delhi Reqs Phlebo/Sample Collection Boys with byke. Also for South Delhi Lab req Junior Lab Tech-nicians Cont9318427236, 9811153416

URGENTLY REQD: Qualified MBBS, RMO, Nursing Staff for ICU Casualty, HR Manager, Front Office. for 50 Bed-ded Hospital at Kharkhoda, Sonepat. Contact: 9811884062, 9984941611.

STENO-TYPIST/ OFFICE ASST

FACILITY MANAGMENT comp. Reqd female for office coordination / Administration / Laison work. Whatsapp. 9810130379, 9818326000 corporate@corpgroup.co.in

EXPORT HOUSE JOBS

HANDICRAFT EXPORT house in west Delhi require production manager, store in charge, quality supervisor & Experience mercendiser. WhatsApp only 9810677002

REQUIRED SALES Agent / Distributor for the Indo Western Ladies Garment Brand for Retail & Wholesale Markets in Delhi and North India. Contact - 9810772456. Work Site-Laxmi Nagar

GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES

URG. REQD Tender Executive with 3 yrs Exp. in GeM /E-tendering for Security /Housekeeping/ Manpower Company at Delhi Office. Ph: 011-29964898/99 Email : info@sudarshanfacilities.in

HARPAR GROUP a leading Textile Co. requires Fabric Sourcing Person. Walk in from 11 am to 3 pm. # A-234, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase 1, New Delhi 20 # 7290079426

REQUIRED: - Marketing Manager/ Mechanical Engineer exp: 3-4yrs Contact: hr@tridentstructures, Phn. 8377902108 Locations: Sikandrabad

We are in Essential Oils & Aroma Chemicals business from last 50 years requires the following for Sahibabad

(1) FACTORY MANAGER-1
Science Graduate with min. 7 years of experience.
(2) STORE ASSISTANT-1
Graduate with min. 2 years of experience.
(3) ACCOUNT ASSISTANT-1
Commerce Graduate with min. 3 years of experience.
(4) COMPUTER OPERATOR-2
Graduate with min. 1 year of experience.

WALK IN INTERVIEW
For Post 1 & 2
on 13th May 2024
For Post 3 & 4
on 14th May 2024
between 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
SOM EXTRACTS LTD.
B-6/2, Site-IV, Sahibabad Indl. Area, Sahibabad (Ghaziabad), U.P.

GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES

REQD OFFICE Admin (Female) For excel invoice making, Back Office Job: 9.30 to 6.30 at (Mayapuri). Email: hangershangs@yahoo.com

HOTEL/RESTAURANT

UPCOMING CAFÉ IN NORTH DELHI
Req. Exp./Qualified Staff (M/F)
F&B MANAGER
COUNTER SALES GIRLS
INDIAN/ CONTINENTAL/ CHINESE COOKS/ UT/ BARISTA/ PANTRY CHEF
ACCOUNTANT
Good knowledge of Tally, MS Office, GST & Income Tax
COMPUTER OPERATOR
DELIVERY BOYS
email : info@bhlindia.com
M: 9560197404, 9810475844

URGENTLY REQUIRED Front Office Manager (M) for Guest House in DLF(Gurgaon) basic computer knowledge is must. Salary 15000 20000/- Contact : 9899331322

SR. MANAGEMENT

WANTED -ESTATE Manager Beverly Park 2, GGN - +40y male, min 5 yrs Relevant Experience - send CV to Brd Member w.app +919818549665 / mail: clothingfever6@yahoo.co.in

TOURISM

IATA TRAVEL Agency in South Delhi requires experienced staff : 1) Hotel Reservations Mgr. 2) Int'l & Domestic Ticketing Exec 3)Office Peon/Runner. 9811144455, midhakabir@gmail.com

PART TIME JOB

MANAGERIAL PROFILE avlb for Rtd / H'Wife / CA/ B'man / SrCtzn / banker, VRS. on part / full time. WFH Flexible Timing , No Target, Org. Support, Sal 30k +75k Age 25-70 # 9711865269

EDUCATION

ADMISSIONS

INTEGRATED SCHOOL OF LAW

Affil. to CCS Univ, App'd by BCI, One of the Oldest Self finance Institution in Ghaziabad
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PROPERTY

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Required Five Star Hotel at South Delhi
Required Big Disputed Properties
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DLF - SUSHANT LOK

WANTED LAND on main 60mtr. roads in new Gurgaon(including Sohna, Pataudi, Farrukh Nagar) area 1000 yd to 4000 yd . Direct buyer contact @8826545478

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PURNIMA Gupta W/O Vijay kankane R/o G8.1 10 FF Vatika India Next Sec-82 Gurgaon have changed my name from Poornima Gupta to Purnima Gupta for all future purposes by affidavit sworn before Sultan Singh Jaimini Notary dated 04-05-2024

I, ANUPMA Kumari D/o Tulsi Ram Kuthiala, R/o H. No. 18 A-2, Block, Gali No-21, West Sant Nagar Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name from Anupma Kumari to Anupama Kuthiala for all future purposes.

I HOOR Jabin D/O, Habibul Hasan R/o 167 Baqarganj Fatehpur 212601 Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Hoor Jabeen.

I, GEETIKA Washington D/o Sh. Ramesh Chand Bhati R/o H.No-C-65, Near Police Post,Sector-11, Faridabad Haryana-121006 have changed my name from Geetika Bhati to Geetika Washington for all future purposes.

I, PRIYANKA Sarin wife of Viraat Sarin permanent Resident of N - 200, Greater Kailash Part 1 , New Delhi - 110048 have got married to Viraat Sarin and have changed my name after marriage from Priyanka Vasudev to Priyanka Sarin for all future purposes.

I, VANITA Dogra D/o Shri Shambu Dutt Dogra R/o Flat No. 1E-103, AWHO Township, Gurjinder Vihar, Pocket P-5 Sector- Chi-1 Greater Noida, Kasna, District Gautam Buddha Nagar UP 201310. I have changed my name to Vanita Kumar for all future purposes.

I, SAROJ Kumar Thakur S/o Shri Parmod Singh Dogra R/o C-102, First floor, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015 do hereby declare that Saroj Kumar Thakur and Saroj Kumar is one and same person and my correct name is Saroj Kumar Thakur for all purposes.

I, MOHD Kamal S/O Mohd Yasin residing at 3593 Katra Dina beg, Lal Kuan, Delhi- 110006, have changed my name to Kamaluddin vide affidavit dated 2 May 2024 at Delhi

I, SUNIL Verma S/o Shri Jai Prakash R/o Village - House No. 135 Shorkha Jahidabad, Sector -115, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar(U.P.)-201301 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar for all purposes.

I, SHEELA Kumari W/o Dinesh Kumar R/o H. No.483, Block A, Sector -19, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) have changed my name to Sheela Devi for all purposes.

I, OM bir S/o Sh. Ajeet Singh R/o F-122, SGM Nagar Near Patel Chowk, NIT Faridabad, Haryana have changed my name from Ombir Singh & Ombir Singh Dalal to Om bir for all future purposes. Om bir, Ombir Singh and Ombir Singh Dalal all name are belongs to same and one person.

I, TANUJA Porwal D/o Sh. Girish Chand Porwal R/o 552, 4th Floor, Near Ramlila Ground Jwala Nagar, Shahdara, East Delhi-110032 confirmed that my father name has been wrongly written as Grish Chand Porwal in my X-Class Certificate and all educational certificates. My Father actual and correct name is "Girish Chand Porwal" which may be amended accordingly.

I, ROSHAN Lal Father of-No.16025867L Nk Ajay, R/o- Vill-Hamirgarh, Teh- Narwana, Dist- Jind, Haryana- 126116, have changed my name from Roshan Lal to Roshan, vide affidavit dated 06/05/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

I HAVE changed my name from Laxmi Rani Verma to Laxmi Verma W/o Sunil Verma, R/o B-383, 1st floor, Swarnjayanti Puram, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad for all future purposes.

I AUGAINI Devi W/o Late Gabar Singh R/o A-1/432, Gali No-8, Madhu Vihar, D.K Mohan Garden (West Delhi), New Delhi 110059 have changed to Gehni Devi for all future purposes vide affidavit 03-May 2024 At New Delhi

I, RAJJO mother of No.3009636L Hav Dev Karan Resident of H.No. 1584, Gali No.10,Village Nangla Part 2, Pali 13, Faridabad 121005 have changed my name from Rajjo Devi to Rajjo for all future purposes in my son's service record date of birth wrongly mentioned as 19-05-1965 instead of my correct date of birth as 01-01-1965 vide affidavit date 08-02-2024

I, KUMARI Rita W/o Kavinder Singh Bhati R/o village- Bairangpur alias Nai Basti, Tehsil Dadri, Distt- Gautam Buddha Nagar have changed my name to Reeta Bhati For all future purposes.

I, DIVYA Bali W/O Kunal Bali Mehta R/O RZD-1/215, Gali No-7, Mahavir Enclave-1, South West Delhi-110045.Have Changed My Name To Divya Jain For All Future Purposes

I, PARMANAND Satolia S/o Late Sh. Ghisa Ram R/o H. No. 6071, 4th Floor, Block No.2, Gali No. 2, Dev Nagar, Karol bagh, New Delhi-110005 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Parmanand to Parmanand Satolia for all future purposes.

I, SHAKUNTALA W/o Trilokchand R/o Village - Badraula, tehsil - Dayalpur, Distt. Faridabad-121101 declare That In my all Documents my name is Santa w/o Trilokchand and I am known and will be known by this name only in future.

I, ASHOK Kumar S/o Nand Kishore Kela, R/o Flat No. 1895, Block L, 1st Avenue Gaur City, Sector-4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budha Nagar, Noida, U.P.-201301 have changed my name from Ashok Kumar to Ashok Kumar Kela for all future purposes

I, JC-473192Y Nb/Sub Clk (SD) Santosh Kumar Pathak R/o Ward No-2, Duddhi, Distt-Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh-231208, declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Ayushi Pathak to Manvi Pathak and also changed her date of birth from 31-03-2011 to 31-03-2013 for all future purposes vide affidavit before public notary Uttar Pradesh dt 08-04-2024

I, SHAJAHAN Khathuan W/o-No.14850015W L/Nk Nazir Husain, R/o- Vill- Jangal Vishuanpura, Post-Laxmipur, Teh- Tamkuhi Raj, Dist-Kushinagar, U.P., have changed my name from Shajahan Khathuan to Shahjahan Khatun, vide affidavit dated 06/05/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

I, PUSHPA Devi Sharma W/o Umesh Dutt Sharma R/o B-11, Mansarover Colony Ramghat Road, Aligarh, U.P. 202001 have changed my name to Pushpa Gaur for all future purposes.

I, SYED Ashoor Abbas S/o Late Siqa Hussain Taqvi, R/o B-101A, Lajpat Nagar Sahibabad, Ghaziabad U.P. 201005, affirm that my father's name is wrongly written as Sayed Sika Husain Taqvi in my passport, but his actual name is Syed Siqa Hussain Taqvi.

I, HARWATI M/O No 15732794h Sigmn Gorav Singh Rawat, Vill+ Po-Aherwan, Teh - Palwal, Distt- Palwal, State - Haryana, 121102, changed My Name From Harwati to Har Bati and DOB from 04 Aug 1972 to 01 Jan 1973 for all future purposes.

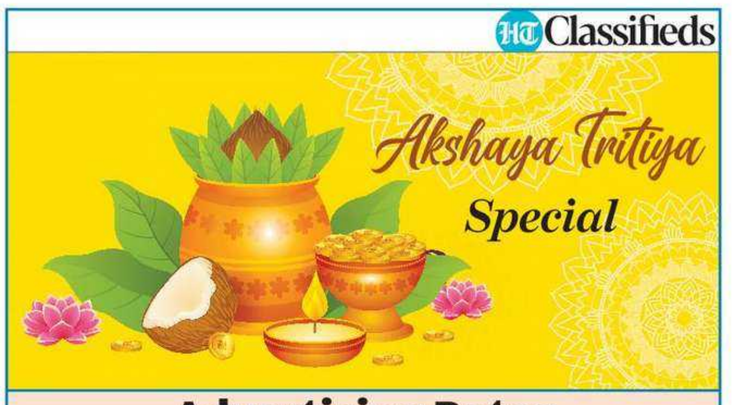
I, MOHD Aamir S/O Kamaluddin residing at 3593 Katra Dina beg, Lal Kuan, Delhi- 110006, have changed my name to Mohammad Amir vide affidavit dated 2 May 2024 at Delhi

I, INTEZAR Ali Chaudhary S/o Mr. Nawab Ali R/o J-4/3B, Second Floor, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Intezar Ali for all purposes.

I, AKHILESH kumar yadav S/o Suresh Yadav R/o - C 16, East Krishna Nagar , East Delhi, 110051 have Changed My Minor Son's Name Aryan Yadav to Aryaman Yadav For all future purposes.

I, GAGAN Satolia S/o Sh. Parmanand R/o H. No. 6071, 4th floor, Block No.2, Gali No. 2, Dev Nagar, Karol bagh, New Delhi-110005 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Gagan to Gagan Satolia for all future purposes.

I AVINASH Chandra R/o RZ-442/5C, Gali -24,Sadh Nagar-2, Palam Colony, South West Delhi-110045 have changed my minor son's name from Yashwardhan Dinesh Chandra to Yashwardhan Rajput for all future purpose.



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SOUTH DELHI & GURGAON: Abhishek Tiwari: 9899865804
NOIDA & GHAZIABAD: Gaurav: 8630242501 | **Telebooking:** 1800-103-1800

*GST as applicable | *T&C Apply

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VITTHAL Jain S/o Rajendra Prasad Jain R/o H.No.- A-19, Milansar Apartment, Rohini Sector-14, Raja Pur Kalan, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor Daughter Nainvi Jain aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as Gauravi Jain.

I PARVIN Kumar S/o Kunwar Pal Singh R/o Flat No-2 Pocket-11a Ashoka Apartment Sec-23,Rohini declare that Parvin Kumar and Praveen Yadav both names belongs to same person.

I, RANJEET Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Puneshwar Singh R/o J-107, Beta-2, Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P.-201308 have changed my minor daughter's name from Mugdha to Mugdha Singh for all future purposes

I, JAVVAJI Bhagyalakshmi W/o- No. 14865226W NK/MT Gangireddy Srinivasa Reddy, R/o- Vill-Nagireddypalem, Mandal- Bellam Konda, Dist- Guntur, A.P.- 522411, have changed my name from Javvaji Bhagyalakshmi to Gangireddy Bhagyalakshmi, vide affidavit dated 06/05/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

I, RENUKA Kapoor Momin D/o Vinod Kapoor R/o 9 Todarmal Lane Bengali Market ND-1 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Renuka Kapoor vide affidavit dated 11-03-2024 before notary Firoz Ahmed, Delhi

I HAVE changed my name from Sampada to Sampada Kumar W/o Sachin Kumar, R/o C-400, SPS 2nd, Radhey Shyam Park, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, for all future purposes.

LOST & FOUND

LOST MY original property document Plot buyer agreement in the name of Deepak Kathuria S/o Shri Ved Prakash Kathuria , Payment receipts, Possession letter of Plot no C 506 Parsvnath City Karnal Haryana. Founder may contact: - Deepak Kathuria :9654811967 , R/o Flat No 50 Sharda Apartment Plot no 3 West Enclave Pitampura New Delhi 110034

LOST OUR original property document Plot buyer agreement in the name of Joint ownership of Deepak Kathuria S/o Shri Ved Prakash Kathuria and Monika Kathuria W/O Deepak kathuria , Payment receipts, Possession letter of Plot no C 447 Parsvnath City Karnal Haryana. Founder may contact: - Deepak kathuria :9654811967 R/o Flat No 50 Sharda Apartment Plot no 3 West Enclave Pitampura New Delhi 110034

I, MOHD Ayub Khan S/o Inayatullah Khan R/o C1/2766. Block C-1, Sushant Lok-1, Gurugram-122009, have lost my Original Builder Buyer Agreement, Possession Letter, Maintenance Agreement in respect of Unit No. 502, 503, 524 in Ameya Sapphire 83, Sector-83, Gurugram. Finder may cont. at address above.

I, SURENDER Singh S/o Sh. Mohinder Singh R/o C-443, Nirman Vihar, Shakarpur, East Delhi-92 have lost my original Sale Deed said house vide registration no. 3737 in book no. 1, Vol no. 1659 on pages 17 to 23 on this 01. 04.2005 day Friday. Finder contact above address.

I MOHAMMAD Abeer S/o Asim Ajaz, I have lost my passport & my passport no is U5483716. FIR No. 1528402/2024.

LOST & FOUND

I, NEETU Singh W/o Pushp raj Singh have l

SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

HT looks at some key constituencies across the country that encapsulate the issues shaping the ongoing Lok Sabha electoral contest

Caste, gender spur a churn in India's migration sink

Dhrubo Jyoti and Aditya Nath Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

ARARIA: Manjari Begum's days are long, with back-breaking labour under the sun – waking up at 4am to tend to her poultry, sweeping her mud courtyard, snapping twigs and small branches to tie together and mend the makeshift fence separating her house from that of her brother-in-law, before starting to cook for her eight children.

Then, her real workday begins.

Her husband, Mohammad Jumman, 45, has been away working in Meerut for a decade. Like most other men in the Muslim-majority village of Chandodayi in Bihar's Araria district, he returns home once a year around Eid, if at all. His earnings are based on the whims of the middlemen. Begum has learnt not to bank on her husband's income, instead working in the fields, chopping chaff and crops, the scorching sun much too fierce for the feeble ends of her saree stretched over her head. A day's work fetches ₹300.

ELECTION PINCODE
ARARIA
854 311

"Us women work all day. *Ghar chal jaye toh bohot ganimat hai* (we're lucky if we make enough to run the house)," said Begum. Her neighbour Hasbun Khatun agreed. "Can you imagine bringing up so many children? There's no moment to rest. "

In her father's house, Begum was strictly confined to the *chardiwari* (four walls) of her house. Yet, in Chandodayi, she is everywhere – picking up the 5kg of grain from the ration shop, going to the local market for vegetables every other morning, and to the bigger *haat* for provisions. Last month, she even went to the panchayat office, all by herself, to rectify some errors, and to the government office to point out a typo in their Aadhaar card. Her lifelong reticence to politics didn't come in the way of her going to the election commission drive to get voting cards made for her and those of her children who can vote. It's an independence that is complicated, and at times, unwanted, but she cannot deny that it has its perks. "I start running in the morning and keep running all day. But there is no other adult who will get this work done. At least, I don't have to depend on anyone," she said.

She is not the only one. Across Chandodayi, women run households, the absence of their migrant labourer husbands helping pierce the veil of dogma that prevent their compatriots from accessing public spaces. In household after household, their entrances marked by sheets of tin stapled together in a facsimile of a gate, stories abound about the men working in Noida, Kanpur, Bengaluru and Kochi, coming back only during festivals and only when they'd saved enough to buy new clothes for the family and toys for the children. Left to helm these households of sparsity, the women find their lives irrevocably transformed – from mundane tasks such as bringing new chaff to plug holes in the roof to delicate affairs such as managing the ego of the local panchayat chief. Ansari Khatun is clear this wasn't her choice. "My husband and son haven't returned for three years. If I don't do everything alone, who will do it?" asked the 60-year-old.

This village of 6,000 is dominated by Muslims and also comprising some Dalits, By the time boys turn 15, they follow a father or an uncle to Delhi or the south. There, 10-12 men squeeze into airless cubbyholes, with only the richest able to afford a room to bring their families. A trip home, if not sponsored by a political party, is synonymous with debt.

In this void, women step in, their mobility resulting in what academic Rithika Kumar calls the feminisation of everyday civic engagement, with deep resonances on the political dynamics of the region. The empowerment coexists with the trepidation every time a husband or a father switches off their phone – a proxy of abandonment – or there is an illness with the potential to devastate family finances. Yet, the confidence is unmistakable.

"Now that we deal with everyone, we also take the decisions about voting. We don't have to ask anyone, and parties pay us attention," said Rangli Devi.

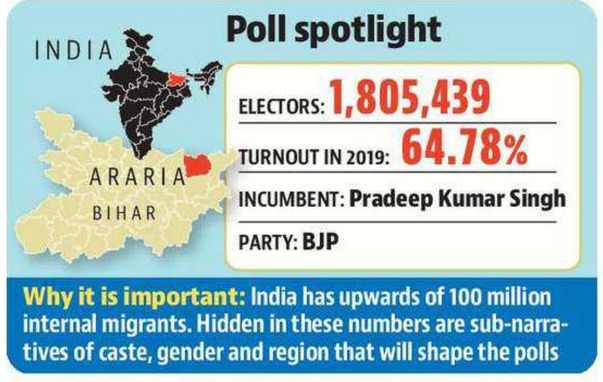
Defiance for dignity

The serenity of Halhalia can make Chandodayi look like a metropolis. Yet the verdant fields of sunflower and maize mask a mutinous silence. Forty years ago, the first man from this village dominated by the Musahar community – a Dalit sub-group – took a train to a village near Ludhiana. Farm incomes were falling and Narender Singh was in search of a source to supplement his earnings during harvest season. But something else caught his eye. "He was startled to see that in the local gurdwara, everyone sat together and prayed. Here, no one would even let us drink water," said his brother Sanjay Singh Rishidev.

That December, Narender converted to Sikhism, travelling back to his village to tell his family about his resistance to the shackles binding the community that is often forced to eat rats to stave off hunger. Sanjay is now among the most prominent member of the 350-strong Sikh community, all sporting yellow or blue turbans. "Here, people will kill themselves before eating with a Dalit or giving their hand in marriage. So, we wanted a religion with *barabari* (equality)," said the 45-year-old.

A bare-bones structure, its concrete skeleton exposed to the elements, and a smaller building with a bamboo gate and plain walls function as the spiritual nodes for the local Sikh community. They append Rishidev – an attempt to dispel the stigma associated with the word *Musahar* – to their names to ensure quota benefits. At any point, 30% of the village is in Punjab. Economic vagaries fuel their migration, but a key element is their quest for dignity. "Here, they won't allow us to sit next to you. They'll quietly exclude us from every temple or social functions. We won't ever rise in their eyes, so why should we languish in their religion?" asked Anup Kaur, a local resident.

In Maratipur, only a few stay back due to a lack of jobs. HT



Why it is important: India has upwards of 100 million internal migrants. Hidden in these numbers are sub-narratives of caste, gender and region that will shape the polls

Locals underline the progress they've made – the gurdwara now has a permanent roof , and a small school in an adjoining quarter; and the village is on the cusp of its first college graduate, a young man of 20 who wants to become a government officer. Anup Kaur's neighbour Geeta Kaur is proud that almost every child in the village goes to the school, a remarkable feat in a region where many Dalits are either denied admission or forced to undergo humiliation in front of their peers to discourage them from pursuing education.

Migration and the egalitarianism of the gurbani has helped Halhalia rise above the resentment between communities that forms the central fault line in the region. "The Yadavs and the Mandals (both members of the other backward classes community) both look down upon us." Sanjay said. Being Sikh has helped them bypass the caste-controlled access to finances and instead appeal to sangats in Delhi and Kolkata for funds. "What we have done, politicians couldn't do. Even our leaders such as (former chief minister) Jitan Ram Manjhi are too busy playing games," he added, "but we're no longer content being slaves."

The EBC shift

Maratipur sits at the head of the sweeping flatland that separates Nepal from India in northern Bihar, on the other extremity of the region from Halhalia or Chandodayi. A film of festivity hangs in the air – the son of the local village chief is getting married at the end of the month. Every morning before they go to the field, villagers take turns to show up at the panchayat office, where a mountain of yellow invitation cards with gold trimmings await them.

Not everyone can write, so a few volunteer while others brew tea or loudly discuss whose invites should go out first while two men sit on chairs, one striking names off a list and another using his best Marathi cursive to adorn the names of local elites. Pan in his mouth, Arvind Mandal, the husband of village chief Soni Devi, is monitoring the process. A contented spit indicates a job well done.

Across the brick pavement that bisects the village dominated by members of the extremely backward communities (EBC), there is a clear divide. The thatched roofs and bare walls belong to the men who haven't left the village, instead toiling away in the paddy fields or using the porous border to smuggle in liquor. In dry Bihar, all liquor sells at a premium but across the countryside, purchasing powers are depressed and hence margins are slim. On the other side are a mass of unfinished houses where men who've returned from Kerala or Punjab are adding a second storey or making their walls pucca with bricks. "If you stay here, work in the fields will let you earn a maximum of Rs 7,000 a month because who can pay more? But I work as a labourer in a highway construction company and get a minimum of Rs 35,000," said Chaturbhuj Kumar Mandal, pointing to the cement mixer whirring in his front yard.

Almost 90% of the village hail from the Kewat community, classified as EBC – a grouping that sits at the core of chief minister Nitish Kumar's electoral calculation. Yet, signs of disquiet are unmistakable. "We are always looking for someone who can help us. That's why we were loyal to Nitish ji because he gave us respect first. But it doesn't seem he has that might now," said Chintlal Mandal, former village chief.

Villages such as Maratipur were critical to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) storming to power in 2005, and were rewarded with motorable roads, a somewhat-ramshackle bridge that eased access to the region, and a general improvement in law-and-order. "Suddenly, we were not so afraid of the strongmen anymore," said Umesh Mandal, a resident. Yet, progress stalled, forcing hundreds of young men from the village to fan out across north India – the EBCs went to Noida and Kanpur and the Dalits went to Punjab, every community using a blend of kinship and caste networks to gain a toehold in hostile cities. Before an election, 8-10 buses full of migrants would return to vote en masse, before taking off again.

This time, though, there is no mahaul, admitted Chintlal. The only decent job left in the village is taken by his son Sunil, who is paid Rs 20,000 to help local residents upload their UPI details and pay or receive money over an app. "The jati samikaran (caste equations) are changing. Earlier, such political competition would give us more opportunities. Now there are no jobs."

The political churn

Chandodayi, Halhalia and Maratipur represent some key strands of the still-evolving story of India's 100 million internal migrants who spend months away from home for money, and its sub-narratives of gender and caste. This large-scale, semi-organised churn is a consequence of what economists call the spatial rift of India's unequal development – where industries and economic opportunities are bunched up in the country's west and south, prompting vast provinces in the east and north to act as ready sink of cheap and young labour.

Nowhere is this more acute than Araria, home to all three villages where migration, and the anxieties it engenders, have deep political echoes. The Araria Lok Sabha constituency subsumes six assembly segments in the impoverished Seemanchal region, where the NDA holds four. Over the last two decades, the Lok Sabha seat has swung between the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the BJP. It is currently held by the latter's EBC face Pradeep Kumar Singh, who won by 130,000 votes in 2019.

THE MIGRATION IS SPURRED BY THE SPATIAL RIFT OF DEVELOPMENT, WHICH CREATED SINKS OF YOUNG, CHEAP LABOUR

"We are fighting elections on the basis of development work carried out by the Modi government and we are getting the support from all sections of society," said BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain.

This time, Singh is squaring off against the RJD's Shahnawaz Alam, the youngest son of former MP Taslimuddin, himself from the Kulaiya backward Muslim caste and the last man to win the seat for the RJD. "We are going to the people with specific issues such as unemployment, corruption in government offices, illiteracy and backwardness...we are fighting on the work of Tejashwi Yadav," said Alam.

But he is weighed down by family rivalries – the RJD nominated his brother Sarfaraz in the assembly elections, prompting him to join the AIMIM, win, and then eventually rejoin the RJD – and the perception of him being a strongman.

"The BJP has not only aggressively wooed the EBCs, but it also managed to draw a communal divide within the group that accommodated both Hindus and Muslims. Plus the bahubali image of the RJD candidate will hurt him among Hindu EBCs who are wary of dominant groups," said Murshid Raza, a local analyst.

The sharpest impact, though, might be on the BJP's ally, the JD(U). In Maratipur, support for Nitish Kumar has cooled ironically for the same reason that once endeared him to EBCs. "In this last government, no work got done at the block level. We used to hear that babus run the government but that structure has decayed. And local leaders are powerless," said Mantulal Mandal.

That may spell trouble for the party -- perhaps now, perhaps later "The BJP is wooing us and so is the RJD. The JD(U) will get squeezed," said Chintlal.

"Mark my words when the assembly polls come, Kumar will be in trouble."

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

CORRIGENDUM

Ref : Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/23-24/G/06
Following changes are made:-

Sr. No.	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
10	Fully Automated IHC Stainer	06.05.2024	06.06.2024	07.05.2024	07.06.2024	Histo-pathology

All other details shall remain the same.
PGI RO NO 00225
Professor In-Charge (EP)

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Sd/-
Registrar

Last Date of filling online application form is 9th June, 2024

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Tender No. 01245133
Subject: Selection of Master System Integrator for the Central Video Management System (CVMS) on the Public Cloud for the IP-based CCTV Surveillance for Indian Railways for 8 Years.
Date of Closing: 12.06.2024 (Wednesday) 15:30 hrs
Pre-bid Meeting on: 27.05.2024(Monday) at 11.00 hrs at CRIS, ITPI Building ,ITO Building, Near ITO, New Delhi-110002
Documents can be downloaded from Website **www.ireps.gov.in**. For future modification/extensions pl. see **www.ireps.gov.in**.

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NOTICE FOR ADMISSION TO PH. D. PROGRAMME 2024-2025

Admissions are open for Ph. D. Programme 2024-2025 at NIPGR for conducting advanced research in the frontier areas of Plant Biology. Reservations are as per statutory norms. The selection will be made on the basis of interview/Viva-Voce.

The selected candidates will be enrolled for Ph.D. program in academic affiliation with the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. NIPGR will provide hostel accommodation to selected candidates (subject to availability).

For detailed information, visit our website www.nipgr.ac.in. The last date for submission of online application is June 18, 2024. **Controller of Administration NIPGR**

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properies is hereby given to the public in general that the below described immovable properties which have been attached vide order dated 03.02.2022 passed by the Court of Hon'ble Additional & Session Judge, SAS Nagar, Mohali in EXE/92/2022, titled as, "Daiichi Sankyo Company Limited versus Malvinder Mohan Singh and others" has been directed to be sold through open physical auction in accordance with Order XXI Rule 81 on 14 May 2024 on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** basis by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Derabassi, SAS Nagar, Mohali, for recovery of INR 49,23,03,67,248.15 (Rupees Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-three Crores Three Lakhs Sixty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Forty-Eight and Fifteen Paisa only) as on 14 May 2024, due to the Decree Holder, i.e., Daiichi Sankyo Company Limited. The nature of possession of the properties is 'physical' and the munadi process for the scheduled immovable properties was held on 23 April 2024.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES

1. Zolton Properties Private Limited,
Hadbast No. 213, situated at Koli Majra, Derabassi,
SAS Nagar, Punjab
Admeasuring: 122 Bigha, 8 Biswa

2. Zolton Properties Private Limited,
Hadbast No. 213, situated at Koli Majra, Derabassi,
SAS Nagar, Punjab
Admeasuring: 2 Bigha

The details of the auction are provided herein below:
- **Reserve Price:** INR 24,00,000 per acre
- **Estimated Market Value:** INR 1,00,00,000 per acre
- **Bid Increase Amount:** INR 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
- **Date, Time: 14 May 2024, 9:30 AM onwards**
- **Venue: Hadbast No. 213, situated at Koli Majra, Derabassi, SAS Nagar, Punjab**

CONDITIONS FOR SALE

1. The particulars specified in the Schedule of Properties above are true to the best of knowledge of the Decree Holder.
2. The highest bidder shall be declared as the purchaser of any lot, provided that he is legally qualified to bid.
3. The highest bidder shall deposit 25% of the purchase-money immediately after declaration of sale of the immovable property to the SDM, Derabassi, SAS Nagar, Mohali; whereas, the remaining purchase-money shall be deposited before the Court of Hon'ble Additional & Session Judge, SAS Nagar, Mohali on or before 29 May 2024 in accordance with Order XXI Rule 84 and 85 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
4. On receipt of the entire sale consideration, the Hon'ble Court shall grant a certificate specifying the property sold and the name of the person who at the time of sale is declared to be the purchaser. Such certificate shall bear date and the day on which the sale becomes absolute in terms of Order XXI Rule 94 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
5. All expenses relating to stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder.
6. The above properties/assets shall be sold on the basis of "as is where is basis, as is what is basis" and "without any recourse basis". The intending bidder should make their own inquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of Property Tax, Electricity Dues, etc. relating to the above properties themselves before participating in the auction sale process.
7. To the best of knowledge of the Decree Holder, there are no encumbrances on any of the above said properties and the properties are agricultural lands, as on date.

In case of any query or information, undersign being duly authorized by the Decree Holder can be contacted:

P&A Law Offices
Counsel for the Decree Holder
Mr. Shivam Chanana: +919311077171
Mr. Rahul Makkar: +919991977030

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Dy. Chief Engineer/PLW, Patiala acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites **E-Tenders on website www.ireps.gov.in**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money only through online payment modes available on **IREPS portal.** Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

N.I.T. No. & Name of work	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Closing date & time of tender	Opening date & time
CE/PLW/T-07/2024-25/PTA Dt. 02.05.2024	6837019/-	136800/-	05 Months	11.06.2024 at 15.00 hrs.	11.06.2024 at 15.00 hrs.
Extension of existing sports building in stadium area by 60' x 50' for boxing and other allte sports facilities in PLW/PTA. (2024-25)					

Note:- 1. Credentials/documents received from the tenderer after opening of the tenders shall not be given cognizance. **2.** The eligibility criteria for NIT No. T-07 can be viewed on the website **www.ireps.gov.in** **3.** Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. **No. PLW/WW/WA/CS/979/Vol-III Dated: 02/05/2024** 1366/24

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***Backlog**
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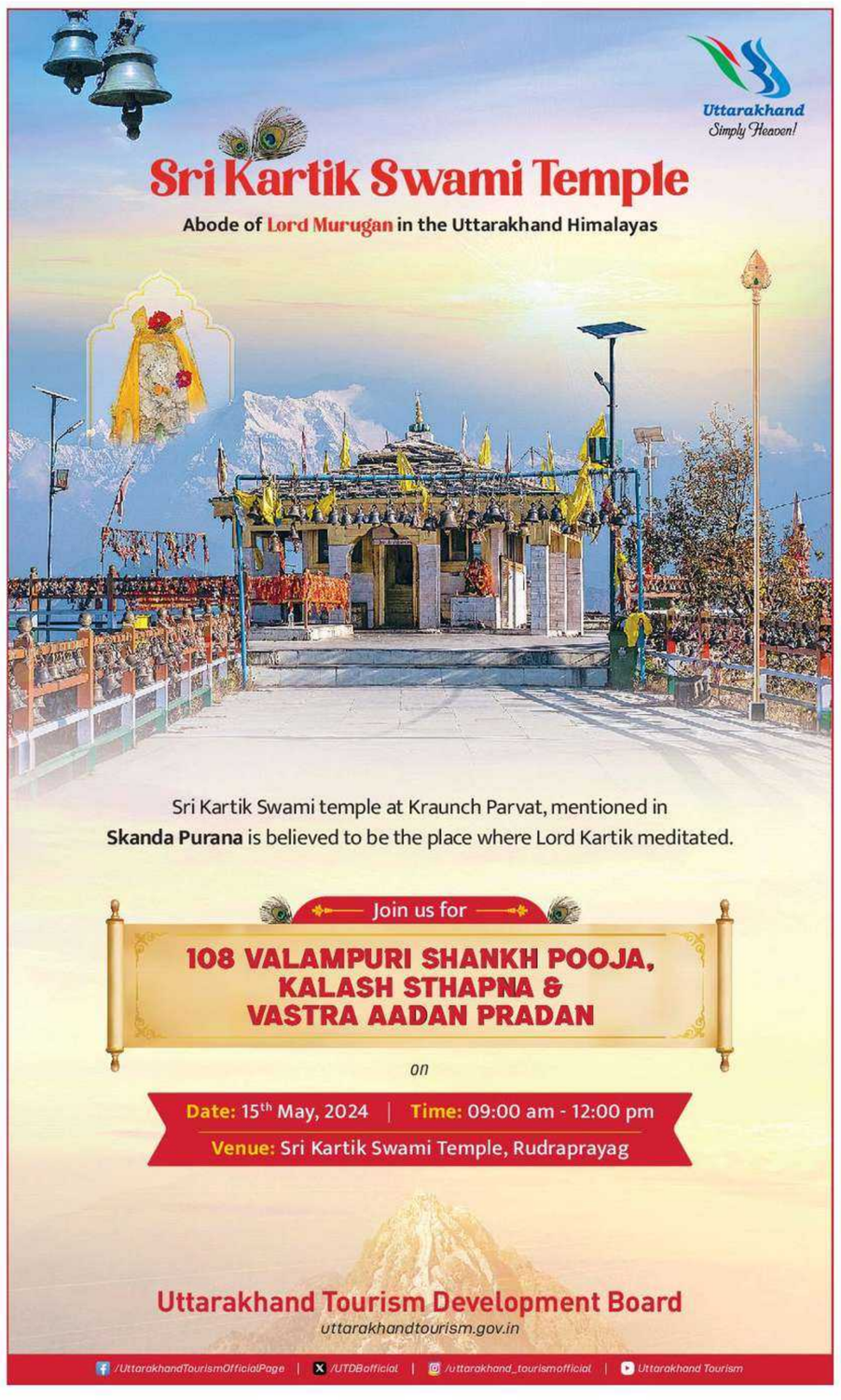
ADVT.No.: I/03/Rectt/2024-25 (Director)



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SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

BJD govt will expire on June 4: Modi; CM calls it daydreaming

Debabrata Mohanty
letters@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD)-led government in Odisha will cease to exist on June 4, the day the results for the assembly elections will be announced, a claim chief minister Naveen Patnaik dismissed as a "daydream".

Modi, who was addressing his first set of rallies in Odisha for this year's elections, also took a dig at Patnaik over his presumptive successor VK Pandian, saying the eastern state needs a chief minister who understands the Odia language and culture. He further called himself the "son of Lord Jagannath" and urged voters to give the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a chance to form a double engine government in the state.

Polling for 147 assembly seats and 21 Lok Sabha constituencies in Odisha will be held simultaneously across four phases, starting May 13. The results for both the polls will be declared on June 4.

Holding rallies in Berhampur and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seats, Modi said he is visiting the state to invite the people for the swearing-in ceremony of a BJP chief minister in Bhubaneswar, which, he claimed, would be held on June 10. "The expiry date of the BJD government is June 4. On June 6, the BJP will finalise its chief minister for Odisha and on June 10, a BJP leader will take oath. I strongly believe that the people will accept Modi's invitation and will not decline like those who refuted the invitation for the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple," he said.

"The BJP will form a double-engine government here after the ongoing elections," he added, referring to BJP governments in the state and at the Centre.

Modi also took a swipe at Patnaik over his trusted aide and presumptive successor Pandian, saying only "a person, who lives, understands and takes pride in Odia culture and tradition, can help resolve the problems of Odisha at a faster pace".

"The one who respects the soil of Odisha and its culture, knows the problems and solutions and has connections with the people will become BJP's chief minister. This is Modi Ki Guarantee. I pray to the people to bless the BJP so that it wins all the 21 Lok Sabha seats and bumper seats in the assembly polls so that Odisha can get new energy and a new leadership," he said.

Pandian, a former Tamil Nadu-born private secretary and a trusted lieutenant of Patnaik for more than a decade, joined the BJD on November 27, a little more than a month after he resigned from the Indian Administrative Services. The move came amid speculation that the influential former bureaucrat could emerge as the second most powerful leader within the party, and perhaps even Patnaik's successor as party chief in the future.

Modi accused the state government of "not allowing" implementation of welfare schemes introduced by the Centre. Calling himself the "son of Lord Jagannath", he assured that the BJP will implement all its promises made in its manifesto for the state polls that was released on Sunday.

He praised President Droupadi Murmu, saying the BJP has proudly given the highest post of the country to the "daughter of Odisha". "It is my good fortune that President Droupadi Murmu Ji advises me minutely for the development of Odisha. I feel that I will be able to do a lot for the state under her guidance," he said.

Responding to Modi's claim that the BJP will form the next government in Odisha, Patnaik said the party has been "daydreaming" of coming to power for a long time. "BJP has been daydreaming for many days," he said while he was on his way to an election meeting in Kalahandi district.

Pandian also dismissed Modi's remarks and said "Naveen Patnaik will take oath as the chief minister of Odisha for the sixth consecutive time between 11.30am and 1.30pm on June 9."

RALLY TRACKER

BJP
1. **Narendra Modi,** PM — **Odisha:** Berhampur, Nabarangpur
2. **Amit Shah,** Union home minister — **Bengal:** Krishnanagar, Durgapur; **Bihar:** Ujiarpur
3. **JP Nadda,** BJP chief — **Telangana:** Peddapalli, Bhongir, Nalgonda

CONGRESS
- **Rahul Gandhi,** Congress leader — **Madhya Pradesh:** Khargone, Ratlam

TMC
- **Mamata Banerjee,** West Bengal chief minister — **Bengal:** Birbhum

{ MADHYA PRADESH }

NDA won't even get 150 seats in polls, says Rahul

Shruti Tomar
shruti.tomar@hindustantimes.com

BHOPAL: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will not even get 150 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Monday, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made up his mind to change the Constitution, something that will deprive tribals and other sections of their rights.

Addressing two poll rallies in Madhya Pradesh — at Jobat in Alirajpur district which comes under the Ratlam Lok Sabha seat and Segaon under the Khargone constituency — Gandhi reiterated that the Opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc will ensure the 50% cap on reservation is removed in the interest of the people if voted to power at the Centre.

"These Lok Sabha elections are for saving the Constitution which the BJP and RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) want to scrap, change and throw away," Gandhi, who was carrying a copy of the Constitution in his hand, alleged at Jobat. "BJP leaders have clearly said they will change the book (Constitution). They have given the slogan of *'abki baar, 400 paar'*. Leave aside 400, they won't even get 150 seats," he added.

The former Congress chief stressed that his party and other INDIA bloc partners were protecting the Constitution.

> I want to tell you that leave aside (talk of) snatching reservation, we are going to raise it above 50%
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI,** Congress leader

Both Ratlam and Khargone seats, which are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST), will go to the polls on May 13 in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

"It is due to it (Constitution) that the tribals, Dalits and OBCs are getting benefits. The tribals have the right over water, land and jungles due to the Constitution," Gandhi said, adding Modi wants to snatch the people's rights. "Their leaders have said that they will snatch away reservation given to tribals, Dalits and OBCs...We want to stop that," he said.

The Congress leader reiterated that if voted to power, INDIA bloc will raise the 50% cap on reservation. "I want to tell you from this stage that leave aside (talk of) snatching reservation, we are going to raise it above 50%. The court has contained the reservation limit at 50%," he said.

At Khargone rally, Gandhi promised to waive loans of farmers and raise the daily allowance under the MGNREGA scheme from ₹250 to ₹400 if voted to power. After coming to power, INDIA bloc will enact a law to ensure that farmers get the minimum support price (MSP) for their produce, he added.

Attacking the BJP, Gandhi claimed that Modi has made 22 people "multi-billionaires" in the country. "Modi has failed to provide employment in the last 10 years. Tribals are migrating to other states for jobs. While your loans are not written off, loans worth ₹16 lakh crore of 22 rich people have been waived."

Work hard for a month, Gandhi tells members

Meanwhile, a day before the third phase of polling, Gandhi asked Congress workers to work hard for a month. In an open letter to party workers, Gandhi said: "I sincerely thank you for all your hard work so far. It is because of you that we have been able to prepare a radical manifesto by listening to the people of India. We fought well in the first two phases of the elections. We are capable of countering the BJP's deceitful and diverting actions and forcing them to answer us." "I am giving my all in this fight and I want the same from you," he added.

He said "now is the time for another month of hard work to ensure that the Hamati Guarantee reaches every Indian, and to ensure that everyone turns out to vote..."

Shah, Mamata trade barbs as Sandeshkhali row intensifies

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Amit Shah, Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA: Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday alleged that hundreds of women were tortured by Trinamool Congress (TMC) "goons" in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali on the basis of "religion", evoking a sharp reaction from chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of conspiring against the ruling party.

Addressing an election rally in Burdwan-Durgapur Lok Sabha constituency in West Burdwan district, Shah said: "The TMC's goons tortured our sisters at Sandeshkhali on the basis of religion. Mamata Banerjee did not want a probe but the (Calcutta) high court has ordered an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation."

He added: "Whoever has committed atrocities in Sandeshkhali, even if he hides in the underworld, we will find him and put him behind prison bars."

The Union minister's remarks came amid political tensions over a purported video of a BJP worker claiming that leader of opposition Suvendhu Adhikari had hatched the "Sandeshkhali conspiracy". The area, in North 24 Parganas, was on the boil in February following allegations of sexual abuse of women and land grabbing by local TMC leaders. The area saw protests by local women, demanding action against party strongman Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides.

While Banerjee has accused the BJP of "orchestrating the incidents" and "trying to malign" the state's image, the BJP insisted the video, released by the TMC on Saturday, was doctored and said it would have no impact on the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

Continuing his attack on Banerjee, Shah said: "Mamata didi, you are a woman and chief minister and yet hundreds of women were tortured right under your nose. You took no action to save your vote bank. Those who tortured our sisters will be thrown behind bars. They can't be saved even if Mamata didi hides them under the ground."

Banerjee, however, accused the BJP of preparing a "blueprint to win the elections". "They (BJP) insulted the women in Sandeshkhali. This was their blueprint. They don't know that the honour of our mothers is more valuable than money. They conspired without realising that everything gets exposed some day or the other," the TMC chairperson said during a rally in Birbhum.

"Do not disrespect the mothers of Bengal; do not insult them. I am warning you," she added.

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Amid row over Poonch attack remark, ex-CM rakes up Pulwama case

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JALANDHAR: Former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who sparked a controversy through his remark that the terror attack on an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in Jammu & Kashmir last week was an "election stunt" by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Monday said he is proud of the country's soldiers but questioned the Centre over the probe into the 2019 terror attack in Pulwama in the Union territory.

"We are proud of the jawans who join the armed forces and safeguard the country. My statement referred to the point that why do such attacks take place only before the elections. Even before the 2019 general elections, 40 jawans lost their lives in the Pulwama attack but the Union government has not been able to find out who executed the attack till date. The government failed to find those responsible behind it," Channi said in a video statement.

The terror attack in Pulwama district was carried out on February 14, 2019, when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a convoy of the CRPF on Srinagar-Jammu national highway. Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed had claimed responsibility.

Channi continued: "It is election time once again. Our jawans were attacked once again and one jawan lost his life. I would like to ask the government who are those people who orchestrate such attacks, why are they not brought before everyone and why does intelligence failure take place."

Charanjit Singh Channi

On Sunday, the Congress leader triggered a political row through his remark that the terror attack on an IAF convoy in Poonch district of Jammu & Kashmir a day earlier, in which Corporal Vikky Pahade was killed and four IAF personnel were injured, was an "election stunt" and "orchestrated" by the BJP to bolster its prospects in the Lok Sabha elections.

Channi claimed that the BJP is known for "playing with people's lives and armed personnel", triggering a sharp reaction from Union minister Anurag Thakur, who sought an apology from the top Congress leadership, including former party chief Sonia Gandhi.

Channi also hit out at Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, who was a part of the grand old party in 2019, saying the latter had demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation over the Pulwama attacks. "Jakhar should clear his stand on why he gave such a statement from the stage at that time. The video of his entire speech is available on social media," he said.

Hitting back, Jakhar said: "National security is top priority for me. I never used words like 'election stunt' or said that the BJP orchestrated that attack. My point was that those behind the attack must be exposed."

NC'S KARGIL UNIT RESIGNS AGAINST INDIA BLOC'S LS CANDIDATE CHOICE

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SRINAGAR: In a major jolt to the National Conference, its entire Kargil unit resigned on Monday in protest against the party leadership allegedly pressuring them to support Congress candidate from the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat as part of opposition INDIA bloc's seat deal.

Qamar Ali Akhoon, the additional general secretary of the Farooq Abdullah-led party in Ladakh, conveyed the Kargil unit's decision to the party chief in a letter. According to the INDIA bloc's seat-sharing agreement, the Ladakh seat was given to the Congress.

Akhoon, talking to reporters in Kargil, said the party high command was pressuring them to extend support to Congress candidate from Ladakh, Tsering Namgyal, but it was against the decision taken by Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) which has put up Haji Haneefa Jan as its candidate. Akhoon said the decision has been taken in the "larger interest of Ladakh, especially Kargil region."

Jan, the Kargil district chief of NC, has the backing of the Congress's district unit and was the unanimous choice to fight the polls as an independent.

Meanwhile, two independent candidates — Sajjad Hussain and Kacho Mohd Feroz — also withdrew their candidature in support of Jan, setting the stage for a triangular contest on May 20 in the seat where the BJP has fielded Tashi Gyalon, chief executive councillor-cum-chairman of the Ladakh Autonomous Civil Development Council (Leh).

BOY DIES AS CRUDE BOMB EXPLODES AHEAD OF TMC RALLY IN BENGAL

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KOLKATA: A teenage boy was killed and two people were injured when a crude bomb exploded at Pandua in Hooghly district of West Bengal on Monday morning, said police, triggering a political row in the eastern state.

The incident took place around 8.30am near a pond where a group of children were playing, said officers.

Local residents rushed the wounded to a local hospital where one child was declared dead. The other two were transferred to a healthcare facility in Chinsurah.

The deceased boy's mother was disconsolate. "My elder brother called me and told me that there was an accident. When I reached his house, I heard that my son had died in a bomb blast," the child's mother told reporters.

The explosion, which took place hours before Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was scheduled to address a rally in the village, kicked off a fresh political battle in the eastern state.

Local BJP MP Locket Chatterjee blocked an arterial road for over two hours, demanding the National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe the incident.

"Along with the people of Pandua, I demand justice for the families of the innocent boys. The state police are incapable of conducting a thorough, impartial probe into the incident. We want an NIA probe," she said.

The ruling TMC hit back.

"The BJP MP is afraid because she knew there would be a huge gathering at Abhishek Banerjee's rally," said Asima Patra, the TMC MLA from Dhanekhali.

BSP replaces Jaunpur candidate Shrikala Reddy, her ex-MP husband lashes out at party

JAUNPUR: The BSP on Monday replaced its Jaunpur Lok Sabha seat candidate Shrikala Reddy with incumbent MP Shyam Singh Yadav. Reddy, wife of former MP Dhananjay Singh, was announced as the BSP candidate from Jaunpur on April 16. Reacting to the party's latest decision, Singh said that "by doing this, my wife is feeling hurt". He also said the move was a conspiracy to humiliate him. "Talk about my wife returning the ticket is baseless," he added. Yadav said he was called by BSP chief Mayawati and asked to contest from Jaunpur.

Election Commission censures Jagan, Naidu over derogatory remarks at one another

NEW DELHI: In two separate letters to Andhra Pradesh chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu, the Election Commission has "strongly" censured the two leaders and asked them to be "careful" in their "public utterances". This came after the two leaders made derogatory statements against each other in violation of the Model Code of Conduct. The poll body cited a rule in the poll code, saying: "Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work."

29% of candidates in fray for Phase 1 of Odisha assembly polls are crorepatis: Report

NEW DELHI: Of the 243 candidates in the fray in the first phase of the Odisha assembly elections, 29% are crorepatis, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). As per the ADR's analysis of the affidavits submitted by candidates, 65 (27%) have declared criminal cases against themselves, with 48 (20%) facing serious charges. Out of 28 seats, 12 (43%) are red alert constituencies. These constituencies refer to those where three or more candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

EC issues advisory on deepfakes for parties

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NEW DELHI: The Election Commission (EC) on Monday instructed all political parties not to use their social media handles to publish deepfake videos and audio, even as it asked them to take down any such videos within three hours of being notified. Parties have also been instructed to identify and warn the party person responsible for posting deepfakes.

The notice comes a week after a BJP delegation, led by IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, approached the poll panel to demand "urgent measures required to address the impact of deepfakes on the electoral process".

To be sure, the poll body has not restrained political parties from using any technological or AI-based tools; it has only restrained them from using such tools that "distort information or spread misinformation, which resultantly lowers the standards of electioneering".

"The use of such manipulated, distorted, edited content on social media platforms has the potential to wrongfully sway voter opinions, deepen societal divisions, and erode trust in electioneering process by attacking laid out instrumentalities of the electoral steps in terms of means and material," the EC said in its letter. It also said that "forwarding/re-sharing/re-posting/re-tweeting" on social media platforms makes the spread of misinformation "dangerously unrestrained".

The EC has instructed political parties to not impersonate another person, including political parties or their representatives, on social media.

Further, the EC also instructed political parties to report "any unlawful information" and "and fake user accounts" to the concerned social media platform.

{ KISHORI LAL SHARMA } CONGRESS CANDIDATE FROM AMETHI

'People of Amethi not behind Cong's loss in '19'

AMETHI: On Friday, the Congress fielded Gandhi family loyalist Kishori Lal Sharma from Amethi, one of its family boroughs. In an interview with **Umesh Raghuvanshi**, the 63-year-old speaks about his association with the party and the constituency, and how he intends to fight his opponents in the elections. **Edited excerpts:**

How and when did you come to Amethi?

I am from Bhawanipur, a village in Himachal Pradesh. It was (former prime minister) Rajiv Gandhi who brought me to Amethi in 1983 as a Congress coordinator. He had launched a training programme for the Indian Youth Congress. I was one of the people selected for the training.

What have you learnt in Amethi?

I follow many things that Rajiv Gandhi taught me during the training programme. I have also learnt from Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. I have learnt humility from the Gandhi family.

If you were not in Amethi, what else would you have done?

We (my family) have our base in Punjab. I have my own business. I don't draw any salary from the Congress. My father established a bakery 70 years ago. That bakery is still there, but had I not come here, I would have probably expanded the business. But I feel attached to this place, and always maintained a low profile in Punjab. People have a lot of expectations and I enjoy working for them.

What work have you done for the people?

We used to have Congress governments at the Centre and in the state as well. Rajiv Gandhi became an MP in 1981 and the prime minister in 1984. Whatever complaints we received from the people were forwarded to the government and

resolved immediately.

When did you learn that you are being fielded by the party?

I came to know after 12am on May 3 (the announcement was made during the day). Although, I cannot reveal the name of the person who told me about it.

How will you counter the BJP's campaign?

No one can counter others. People counter their leaders after assessing their performance. She (sitting Amethi MP Smriti Irani) should tell what she has done for the constituency in the last five years. We (Congress) will tell the people what we have done since 1982. It doesn't matter what she tells people about us or what we tell people about her. The people will say how they were treated in the last five years.

ELECTION INTERVIEW

What about the incident outside the Congress office on Sunday night?

Such incidents never took place in Amethi in the past. This is not the culture of Amethi. The people are stunned. They are not used to such a culture. They (BJP leaders) are not getting proper feedback. Such incidents are only hurting their interest.

What led to Rahul Gandhi's defeat in 2019?

There were many reasons for the Congress's defeat in Amethi in 2019. The people of Amethi, however, were not the reason. The role of the government and the official machinery affected the people. There was some problem with our management of elections. We were not able to keep in touch with our workers at the grassroots level. Our monitoring was not effective.

Is Rahul Gandhi keeping in touch with the people?

Rahul Gandhi has always kept in touch with the people (of Amethi).

Your take on statements that the Congress has conceded defeat in Amethi?

There is no machine that can read people's minds. The people will decide the fate of the candidates.

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SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

NUMBER THEORY

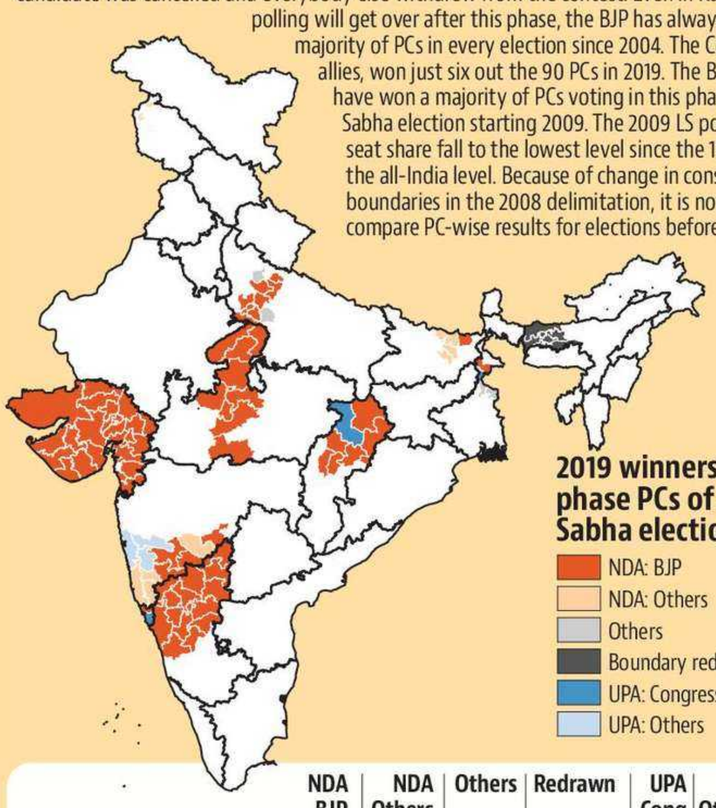
What's at stake in the third phase of voting

By Abhishek Jha

A total of 93 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) across 10 states and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are scheduled to vote today (Tuesday, May 7) in the third of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections. The Surat PC of Gujarat was also scheduled to vote, but will not be voting in any phase because the winner there has already been declared (more on this later). After this phase – it is also the third largest phase by number of PCs voting – voting would have concluded in 283 of India's 543 PCs. At the state level, voting would have concluded in 16 states and four UTs. Here are some key facts about the PCs voting in today's phase.

NDA had a seat share of 88% in these PCs in 2019

The BJP and its allies won 79 out of 90 PCs (including Surat) for which results can be compared with 2019 elections. Because of delimitation in Assam, the four PCs polling there do not have a comparable constituency in 2019 or previous elections. This data nugget gives an idea of the importance of this phase of elections for the BJP. What makes this phase easy for the BJP is that all of Gujarat is voting. In fact, the BJP has already won the Surat PC after nomination of the Congress candidate was cancelled and everybody else withdrew from the contest. Even in Karnataka, where polling will get over after this phase, the BJP has always won a majority of PCs in every election since 2004. The Congress and its allies, won just six out the 90 PCs in 2019. The BJP and its allies have won a majority of PCs voting in this phase in every Lok Sabha election starting 2009. The 2009 LS polls saw the BJP's seat share fall to the lowest level since the 1991 elections at the all-India level. Because of change in constituency boundaries in the 2008 delimitation, it is not possible to compare PC-wise results for elections before 2009.

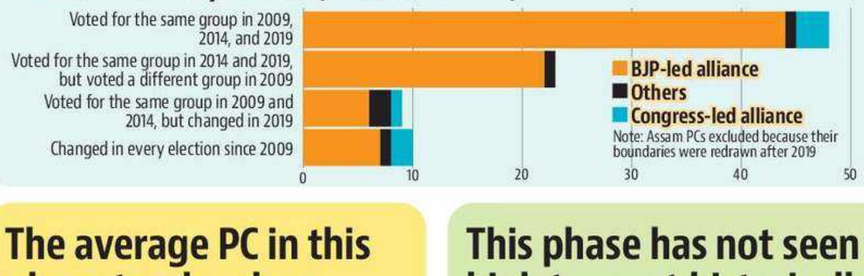


	NDA BJP	NDA Others	Others	Redrawn	UPA Cong	UPA Others	Grand Total
ASSAM				4			4
BIHAR	1	4					5
CHHATTISGARH	6				1		7
D&N HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU	1		1				2
GOA	1				1		2
GUJARAT	25						25
KARNATAKA	14						14
MADHYA PRADESH	9						9
MAHARASHTRA	4	4				3	11
UTTAR PRADESH	8		2				10
WEST BENGAL	1		2		1		4

Almost half the PCs voting today have elected the same party/alliance since 2009

A comparison of the winners of the 90 PCs voting May 7, for which past trends are known by classifying them as part of a BJP-led alliance, a Congress-led alliance, or others shows that the winning group in 48 of them was the same in the past three LS elections. The BJP-led alliance won 44 of these 48 PCs in 2019, the Congress-led alliance three, and others one. In another 23 PCs, the winner was the same in 2014 and 2019, but different from the one in 2009. A BJP-led alliance won 22 of these 23 PCs and others one. In nine PCs, the winner was the same group in 2009 and 2014, but changed in 2019. The BJP-led alliance won six of them in 2019, the Congress-led group one, and others two. The winning group has changed in every successive election in only 10 PCs, seven of which were won by a BJP-led alliance in 2019. Of the remaining three of these 10 PCs, a Congress-led alliance won two in 2019 and others, one.

2019 winners in 90 third phase PCs (including Surat) by anti-incumbency trends (Number of PCs)



The average PC in this phase tends urban although some PCs are very rural

According to 2011 census data aggregated to PC-level by How India Lives, the median value of rural population in the PCs voting today is 73.6%, less than the all-India median of 76.9%. This means that the average PC in this phase tends to be relatively more urban than the average Indian PC overall. However, the phase has some very rural PCs at the extreme end. For example, over 90% of the population in the five Bihar PCs voting today were rural according to the 2011 census.

Median share of rural population (%)

Note: Assam and Jammu and Kashmir PCs excluded because their boundaries were redrawn after 2019; Phase 3 PCs include Surat
SOURCE: How India Lives analysis of Census 2011 data

This phase has not seen high turnout historically

In each of the past three Lok Sabha elections, the PCs voting May 7 have had a lower turnout than the all-India average, a number that takes on special significance given that turnout in the first two phases was lower than in 2019. However, the gap of the average turnout in these PCs with the all-India turnout decreased in each of the past three elections, although, individually, 55 PCs still showed lower turnout than the India average even in 2019.

Turnout in Lok Sabha elections (%)

Note: Assam and Jammu and Kashmir PCs excluded from phase wise data because their boundaries were redrawn after 2019. Surat excluded from third phase PCs because it will not vote in 2024 SOURCE: TCPD-IED

Polling for 25 high-stakes Guj seats today; Surat uncontested

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Officials of an all-women polling station pose with EVMs at a collection centre at Una in Gujarat on Monday. AFP

AHMEDABAD: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is anticipating a repeat victory in the Gujarat Lok Sabha elections as the state goes to the polls in the third phase of voting on Tuesday.

With a strong presence in the state, the ruling party is aiming to sweep all 26 parliamentary constituencies, leaving no room for political rivals. The Congress and Aam Aadmi Party alliance in the state is, however, looking to break the BJP's third clean sweep in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah.

The BJP's campaign has been led by Modi, who held six rallies on May 1 and 2. The BJP has replaced over a dozen sitting MPs, including ministers Darshana Jordosh and Mahendra Munjapara, for the Lok Sabha elections in Gujarat. Union ministers Mansukh Mandaviya and Parshottam Rupala, whose Rajya Sabha terms end in April, are contesting the polls.

Shah, who is contesting from the Gandhinagar seat, is looking at winning with a huge margin from the constituency where Modi and Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel are voters. The Congress has fielded Sonal Patel, a 62-year-old architect who has been with the party for over three decades.

Sitting lawmakers have been replaced in constituencies such as Surat, Vadodara, Porbandar, Valsad, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Amareli, Chhota Udepur, Panchmahal, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Ahmedabad West.

POLL WATCH

The BJP had to change a couple of candidates after internal protests broke out following candidates were announced, including two time MP Ranjan Bhatt, who was fielded by the party to contest for the third time from the Vadodara Lok Sabha seat, but withdrew her candidacy after protests. The party instead fielded Hemang Joshi, a local leader and vice-chairman in the Municipal School Board of Vadodara.

BJP candidate Mukesh Dalal secured an uncontested victory from the Surat Lok Sabha seat on May 22. Dalal's triumph came after eight other candidates withdrew their nominations, while the nomination forms of Congress candidate Nilesh Kumbhani and his substitute Suresh Padsala were rendered invalid.

In Rajkot, BJP's Rupala will contest Congress leader Paresh Dhanani, who belongs to the powerful Leuva Patidar community. Rupala's remarks against erstwhile kings have not gone down well with the Rajput community, with many of its leaders threatening to vote against Rupala and the BJP in several constituencies of Saurashtra, including Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar and Junagadh.

Sule vs Pawar: All eyes on battle for Baramati

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Supriya Sule and Sunetra Pawar

MUMBAI: Polling for 11 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra will be held on Tuesday, the spotlight being on the high-stakes battle in Baramati, where incumbent lawmaker and NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule is pitted against Sunetra Pawar, wife of the veteran leader's estranged nephew and Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

While Sule is seeking a fourth straight term from Baramati, her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar is making her electoral debut in these polls as an NDA nominee.

With dominance over the family home turf on stake, both Sharad Pawar, who founded the NCP in 1999, and his nephew Ajit Pawar, who orchestrated the vertical split in the 24-year-old party in July last year and joined the Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruling alliance in the state, canvassed extensively in the constituency to ensure the victory of their nominee.

For Sule (54), this will be the first general elections wherein the NCP cadre will be split between loyalists of her father and cousin Ajit Pawar, the sitting legislator from the Baramati assembly segment, who used to play a key role in Sule's victory in the past polls.

Polling will also be held in Raigad, Osmanabad, Latur, Solapur, Madha, Sangli, Satara, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Kolhapur and Hatkanangale seats. Voting will begin at 7 am and end at 6 pm at the 23,036 polling centres, set up for the third phase of the general elections, an official said.

This round of elections will also see two descendents of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the fray—Shahu Chhatrapati of the Congress in Kolhapur and Udayanraje Bhosale of the BJP in Satara.

Union minister Narayan Rane is also in the fray from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg.

Altogether 20.9 million voters—10,764,741 men, 10,226,946 women and 929 from the third gender — are eligible to vote for 258 candidates in the third phase, for which 23,036 polling centres have been set up, the official said.

{ IN AT LEAST 25 OF 48 SEATS }

Farm issues hold key to Maha LS outcome

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The ruling Mahayuti is trying to pacify the famers with a slew of recent measures.

MUMBAI: Nandkumar Akangire, 50, has 15 acres of land at Renapur tehsil in Latur district where he cultivates soybean. In 2014 and 2019, the articulate school dropout says, he voted for the BJP. In this election however he is having a rethink. "In the last 10 years, crop prices have not risen by much but the prices of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides have shot up leading to high input cost. Farmers are also giving more money to the government through GST to purchase fertilisers and pesticides. It's turning out to be a bad deal for us."

Across eight constituencies in Marathwada and at least four in western Vidarbha where 80% of Maharashtra's soybean crop is cultivated, there is palpable anger about procurement prices which are currently at ₹4,300 per quintal, much below the minimum support price (MSP) at ₹4,600.

Dilip Raje, another soybean farmer from Renapur with a 30-acre farm holding, supports Akangire's contention. "During the harvesting in October 2023, the prices of soybean per quintal was ₹5,300. We were hopeful that they would climb up to ₹6,000 per quintal... However, the Centre's decision to extend the concession on oil import duty in January this year, resulted in soybean prices crashing to ₹4,300 per quintal. It led to huge losses for us," he says.

The farmers' loss is transmuting into voters' anger that is reverberating across the cotton and soybean belt in Vidarbha to the soya-onion belt in Marathwada, western Maharashtra and north Maharashtra, which is roughly 25 seats out of 48 in the state. The ruling Mahayuti has since been trying to pacify the famers with a slew of recent measures, including a promise by deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to give subsidy to soybean farmers as compensation after elections. Besides, last week the government lifted ban on onion export and also cleared the way for ethanol production from existing stock of B-heavy molasses.

Whether these steps are sufficient or too little too late will be tested on June 4 when results will be declared. "PM Modi failed to ensure a fair price for our crops so we have no choice but to think differently," says Raje, adding prices for seeds, fertilisers, pesticides shot up by around 40% in three years.

Onion farmers too are upset. "Until last week, the average procurement rate for onions was around ₹1,350 per quintal. Now, it has reached ₹1,700 at Lasalgaon. But in the last six months farmers have suffered losses of around ₹1.5 lakh per acre. This tactics of lifting the ban days before election will not fully pacify the farmers," says Bharat Dighole, president of Maharashtra onion farmers' association in Nashik.

How cohesive are NDA, INDIA blocs in 3rd phase of LS polls?

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NEW DELHI: Like the first two phases of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-led INDIA bloc will contest the third phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in a less cohesive manner than the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led NDA. To be sure, the conflict within both these alliances is more muted in the third phase of the elections than it was in the second phase with some likely to be entirely notional .

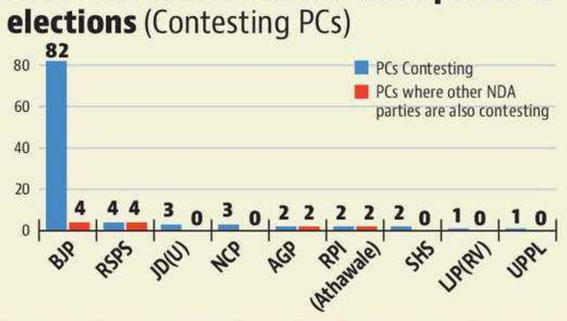
The INDIA bloc has fielded 108 candidates for the 93 PCs voting on May 7, 15 candidates more than the seats on offer. While 13 PCs have two INDIA bloc candidates, Barpeta PC in Assam has candidates from three parties contesting elections. INDIA parties being in an intra-alliance conflict in 14 of 93 PCs (15% of PCs) is an improvement compared to the second phase of elections when there was an intra-alliance contest in 40 of the 88 PCs (45.5%). Such conflicts were limited to 12 of the 112 PCs (10.7%) of the first phase.

Four of the 14 PCs where there is a conflict between INDIA parties are in West Bengal where the contest is between All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Congress-Communist Party of India (Marxist) or CPI(M) alliance. The BJP and the Congress won one each of these four PCs in 2019, while the TMC won two of them.

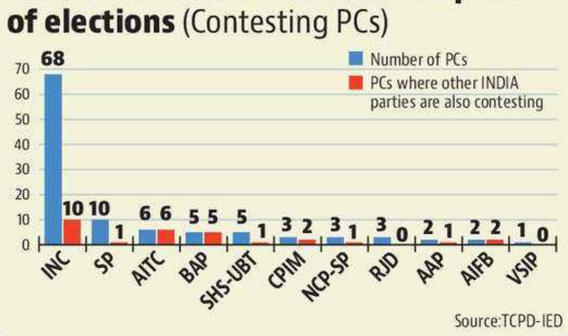
The remaining 10 PCs where there is a conflict among INDIA parties are in Chhattisgarh (1 PC), Madhya Pradesh (1 PC), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (1 PC);, Assam (2 PCs), Maharashtra (2 PCs), and Gujarat (3 PCs). The BJP-led alliance won seven of these 10 PCs in 2019, while an independent candidate won another seat. The 2019 result for the two Assam PCs is not relevant because of delimitation. Among INDIA bloc members, the Congress is contesting the highest number of seats (68 PCs) in this phase of elections.

Compared to the INDIA alliance, the NDA alliance is much more cohesive in this phase, just like in the previous two phases. NDA members are in a conflict in only 6 of the 93 PCs (6.45%), 82 of which the BJP is contesting. While the proportion of seats with intra-NDA conflicts is higher in third phase than both the first phase PCs (no conflicts) and the second phase PCs (two of 88 PCs), these are due to relatively small partners in the alliance – they did not have any Lok Sabha MP in 2019 – fielding a candidate along with the BJP. Of the six PCs where there is more than one NDA party contesting, the contest is against the BJP in four PCs (one each in Gujarat and Karnataka and two in Madhya Pradesh) and against the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) in two PCs, both of which are in Assam.

NDA constituents in the third phase of elections (Contesting PCs)



INDIA constituents in the third phase of elections (Contesting PCs)



Source:TCPD-IED

{ RAJNATH SINGH } DEFENCE MINISTER

'No one can fiddle with Constitution or reservation'

LUCKNOW: Defence minister Rajnath Singh, who is seeking another term from Lucknow Lok Sabha seat, speaks to **Pranshu Mishra** and **Pankaj Jaiswal** on BJP's "400 paar" target at the Centre and the poll prospects of the INDIA bloc. Edited excerpts:

Is the BJP's "400 paar" target realistic?

Of course it is realistic and achievable. The BJP will nail it. "400 paar" is not a rhetoric. The target was set after proper thinking and analysing the political situation.

But "400 paar" is being linked to a perceived apprehension among a section of Dalits and the most backward classes that the BJP intends to change the Constitution.

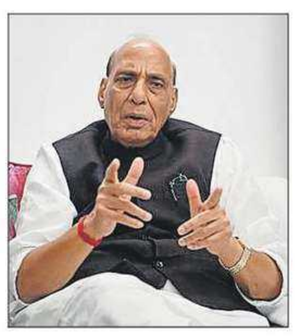
An absurd lie. The Congress is spreading these rumours. It is the Congress that changed the Constitution 80 times. And that too to an extent that during the Emergency, it amended the Preamble to the Constitution. No one can fiddle with the Constitution or reservation.

How do you assess the INDIA bloc's prospects?

I would say this alliance, so far, has not been able to win the confidence of the public. It has inner contradictions. For instance, the AAP and the Congress are contesting the polls in Punjab separately, but in some other states, they are together.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is talking about getting a national X-ray – his description of a caste census – done.

They are saying such absurd things – carrying out an X-ray, caste census... These are regressive things. Many economists say that steps such as a caste census or redistribution of wealth will lead to an economic recession.



Your party is mocking Rahul Gandhi over his decision to contest from Rae Bareli, while the Congress is calling it a masterstroke.

(Smirks) Oh, masterstroke! Running away from Amethi and going to Rae Bareli is a masterstroke? (He) couldn't gather the courage to contest from Amethi.

Has a lower voter turnout in the first and the second phases rung alarm bells for the BJP?

Not at all. Of course, there is a lower voter turnout to some extent due to the heat. But the truth is that there is some disinterest among voters allied to the Opposition. There is some disenchantment among them as they feel that the NDA is forming the government yet again. The lower turnout is not against the BJP, but benefiting us. But the lower turnout is not a good trend.

ELECTION INTERVIEW

Is there a Yogi factor at play in these elections?

There's an immense Modi factor nationwide for the work done by his government and the Yogi factor in Uttar Pradesh for all that the state government has done. The UP government has done well, especially on law and order.

You are seeking a third term from Lucknow. With what new promises and old accomplishments are you going to the public this poll season?

I have never made any promises to the people... I only tell the electorate that I will try to be worthy of their expectations. In my previous two terms, I managed to do whatever I could do.

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4 years on, resolution to LAC standoff still elusive

Rahul Singh
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NEW DELHI : The military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh has entered its fifth year, with no indication of a resolution to the outstanding problems along the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC) although India is hoping ongoing negotiations will result in restoring the status quo ante of April 2020, officials aware of the matter said on Monday.

The Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army have held 21 rounds of corps commander-level of talks to cool tensions along the LAC, but the two sides still have tens of thousands of troops each and advanced weaponry deployed in Ladakh.

Diplomatic talks are also underway to find a solution. Talks are the only way out to reach a lasting solution and ensure peace along the border, the officials said, asking not to be named.

The talks have thus far resulted in four rounds of disengagement from Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Gogra (PP-17A) and Hot Springs (PP-15), but problems at

The standoff between India and China started in May 2020.

Depsang and Demchok are still on the negotiating table.

Although the current focus is on the unresolved issues at Depsang and Demchok, the 2020 PLA actions have had a much larger impact that has altered the nature of LAC management, said military affairs expert Lieutenant General DS Hooda (retd).

"Today, there is a lack of trust, deep suspicions and greater aggression on the LAC due to the complete disregard of CBMs (confidence-building measures) by the Chinese side," Hooda said.

"Both sides have built up considerable troop strength and are improving infrastructure. Even if some agreement is arrived at Depsang and Demchok, tensions are likely to persist. This is the new reality."

In April, defence minister Rajnath Singh said ongoing negotiations with China will continue for the peaceful resolution of outstanding issues, even as Indian troops stand firm along the country's northern borders.

"Disengagement and de-escalation are the way forward," he said while addressing the country's top generals at the biannual army commanders' conference on April 2.After the standoff with China began in May 2020, India has built multiple roads, bridges, tunnels, airfields and helipads in its border areas for military mobility and logistics support for deployed forces, and for civilian use. Infrastructure development has also focussed on providing better living experience and improved facilities to soldiers, and conservation of modern weapons and equipment deployed in forward areas.

China also has built new airbases, missile sites, roads, bridges, reinforced bunkers and underground facilities to protect military assets from aerial strikes, accommodation for soldiers and ammunition depots. Meanwhile, the opposition Congress party on Monday raised questions about the dragging standoff, saying despite 21 rounds of military talks during the past four years, the situation remains unfavourable.

"Today is the fourth anniversary of the clashes that began between Indian and Chinese troops at Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh. These culminated in the fatal engagement in Galwan on 15 June 2020 in which 20 of our brave soldiers made the supreme sacrifice," Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said in a statement. "The PM's clean chit to China four days later – when he said, 'Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai (nobody has entered our border)" – was a profound insult to our fallen soldiers..."

Hitting back, BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli said:"The Congress can first consider throwing some light as to why Rahul (Gandhi) ji preferred to secretly meet with the Chinese Ambassador? They can also share details of the alleged MoU between them and Communist Party of China."

'DON'T HARASS': SC TO ED OVER SUMMONING OF TN OFFICIALS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday told the Enforcement Directorate not to "unnecessarily harass" district collectors in Tamil Nadu, who were made to sit from 11 am till 8.30 pm after being summoned in connection with the illegal sand mining probe in the state.

After the court had last month deprecated collectors of five districts who refused to cooperate with the ED probe and directed them to appear before the ED on April 25, the state said that the officers, who are saddled with several responsibilities in the district, were made to sit in the ED office from morning till late evening. "You cannot do this," remarked a bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal. ED counsel Zoheb Hossain said, "I will have to find out as I am not aware of this." Hossain added that the officers were not supplying the files necessary for investigation. The bench told ED counsel, "Do not harass them unnecessarily. You cannot detain them without reason."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for TN, said, "Whatever we had, we have given them. It is for them to say which document they are alleging has not been submitted." The bench posted the matter in July directing ED to specifically state which files were not shared by the officers. HTC

{ REVANNA'S BAIL PLEA TO BE HEARD TODAY }

SIT reaches out to more survivors in Prajwal case

HT Correspondent
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BENGALURU: The special investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged sexual harassment of women by Hassan MP and now-suspended Janata Dal (Secular) leader Prajwal Revanna is making efforts to reach out to survivors — some of whom have been identified from widely circulated videos of the crimes — to come forward and file a complaint, a senior officer said on Monday.

"As expected, the women (survivors) are scared and worried about coming forward to give a statement. We are in constant touch with (them) and taking confidence-building measures so that they come forward to lodge a complaint," a senior officer privy to the ongoing probe said, requesting anonymity. As part of its confidence-building measures, the SIT also warned people at large not to share the videos showing women being sexually assaulted and molested allegedly by Revanna on social media or personal messenger applications.

Noting that sharing such videos would damage the reputation and honour of survivors, SIT chief and additional director general of police (ADGP) BK Singh on Monday said: "It is easy to trace people sharing these videos on messenger services, so action will be taken against such individuals."

The state government is expected to soon issue an order

Prajwal Revanna

directing the Karnataka Police to provide security to all survivors willing to lodge a complaint, officers said.

Prajwal Revanna is the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate from the Hassan Lok Sabha seat, which went to polls on April 26 in the second phase of the ongoing general elections.

Explicit video clips allegedly involving the 33-year-old Prajwal, grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, had started making the rounds in pen drives in Hassan ahead of the polls, following which the Congress-led state government constituted the SIT to probe the sexual abuse allegations against the MP.

Preliminary investigations suggested that most of the at least 2,976 explicit videos allegedly involving the Hassan MP were shot from a mobile phone at Revanna's residence in Bengaluru and Hassan after 2019, officers have said.

While rape and molestation cases have been registered against Prajwal, his father and JD(S) MLA from Holenarasipur HD Revanna has been arrested and remanded to police custody for kidnapping a woman allegedly sexually assaulted by the 33-year-old lawmaker.

The SIT has also enlisted the services of at least 10 professional women counsellors for reaching out to survivors and offering assistance.

"It's crucial to counsel the families since many are not aware of these videos and because of this, women are not coming forward. We have brought in counsellors to engage with both the victims and their families to persuade them to give statements," stated another officer, also declining to be named.

Meanwhile, a Bengaluru court on Monday posted the hearing in a bail petition moved by HD Revanna to Tuesday. Advocate Pawan Sagar, Revanna's counsel, moved the plea before special MP-MLA court judge Santosh Gajanana Bhatt, who reviewed the plea and posted the matter on Tuesday.

The Holenarasipur legislator, who was arrested by the SIT on Saturday, was produced before a Bengaluru court, which remanded him to police custody till May 8.

The arrest came after the SIT rescued an abducted woman, also a survivor of sexual assault by Prajwal, from the farmhouse of Revanna's aide in Mysuru.

{ 2022 CASE }

SC grants anticipatory bail to Mukhtar's son

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to Umar Ansari, son of late gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari in a case in which he is accused of being part of a conspiracy to promote enmity and obstruct public servants during the 2022 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The court had issued notice on Ansari's plea in January this year and had protected him from arrest in the case lodged in March 2022. "Having regard to the circumstances, more particularly, the offending statements not being attributable to the petitioner but his brother...we direct that in case the petitioner is arrested, he shall be released on furnishing a bail bond of the sum of ₹20,000," a bench of justices Hrishikesh Roy and PK Mishra said on Monday, directing Ansari to participate in trial.

The case pertains to a speech, given during the elections in 2022 by his brother Abbas

Umar Ansari

Ansari, that led to registration of FIR over alleged violation of the model code of conduct and under relevant sections of IPC.

Uttar Pradesh's additional advocate general Garima Prasad told the court that Umar Ansari was present on the stage when the alleged utterances were made. But senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Ansari, said that it was a case in which the other accused were already out on bail.The order has come at a time when Umar Ansari's uncle, Afzal Ansari, MP from Ghazipur, is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from the same seat on Samajwadi Party ticket. Don-turned politician Mukhtar Ansari had died of cardiac arrest on March 28 at a hospital in Banda while in custody of the UP police.

HC acquits ex-BJP MP, 6 others in Guj RTI activist murder case

HT Correspondent
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AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat high court on Monday acquitted former Bharatiya Janata Party MP Dinu Solanki and six others in connection with the July 2010 murder case of RTI activist Amit Jethwa.

Observing that the trial court conducted proceedings with a "predetermined notion of conviction," a division bench of justices AS Supehia and Vimal K Vyas quashed the Central Bureau Investigation court's order sentencing Solanki and six others to life imprisonment.

Jethwa was shot dead outside the high court premises on July 20, 2010 after he tried to expose illegal mining activities allegedly involving Dinu Solanki by seeking information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Solanki and six others were sentenced to life imprisonment by the CBI court in 2019 and ordered to pay a fine of ₹15 lakh in the case of murder and criminal conspiracy.

RTI activist Amit Jethwa

The high court had later suspended the life sentences of Dinu Solanki and his nephew Shiva Solanki, who was also convicted in the case.

"We reiterate that the entire investigation right from the inception of the offence appears to be perfunctory and prejudiced. The prosecution has failed to secure the confidence of the witnesses," the HC bench said in its order.

The trial court on a "preconceived notion of conviction has analysed the evidence divorced from statutes and legal precedence," it said.The HC said the trial court was duty-bound to apply the law as written, "not as per its instinct"."Resultantly the common judgment on order of conviction dated July 11, 2019 passed by the special judge, CBI court...whereby the accused have been convicted for the offence under Sections 302 (murder) and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and are sentenced is quashed and set aside," the high court order said.

The high court observed that the survival of democracy and the unity and integrity of the nation depends upon the realisation that "constitutional morality is no less essential than constitutional legality."

After Jethwa's murder, the first information report was lodged against two unidentified assailants and the investigation was transferred to the state police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which later filed a charge sheet.

In September 2012, the high court handed over the investigation to the CBI.

with PTI inputs

NTA says NEET paper leak allegations are 'completely baseless'

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NEW DELHI: Allegations of question paper leak in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET-UG are "completely baseless" and "without any ground", the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the medical entrance examination, clarified on Monday.

NEET-UG was conducted across the country on Sunday with a total of 2.4 million students registering for it.

Stressing that every question paper has been "accounted for", the NTA in a statement on Monday said that purported images of the question paper circulating on social media have no relation with the actual paper.

"It has been ascertained from NTA's security protocols and Standard Operating Procedures that the social media posts pointing towards any paper leak are completely baseless and without any ground. To put rumours to rest, it is also stated that every single question paper has been accounted for," Sadhana Parashar, senior director, NTA, said in the statement.

Parashar said that no external person or agency can access the centres once the examination starts. After the gates of the examination centres are closed, no one from outside is permitted access inside the halls, which are

NEET-UG was conducted across the country on Sunday.

under CCTV surveillance, she added."All other photographs of question papers circulating in social media have no relation to the actual examination question paper which has been administered," Parashar said.

Ever since the exam was conducted on Sunday across 4,750 centres in 571 cities, social media was abuzz with rumours of paper leak.Rejecting the rumours, the NTA on Sunday claimed that the distribution of wrong question papers at an exam centre in Rajasthan led to some candidates walking out with the papers. The agency had denied any leak of the question paper. The NTA, however, accepted there have been cases of malpractice or impersonation where strict action has been taken against the involved candidates. "NTA also conducts post-exam data analysis to detect cases of Unfair Means (UFM), action on which is taken as per extant rules, which includes cancellation of candidature and debarment from future examinations," the NTA said.

ENGINEERING STUDENT DIES BY SUICIDE IN KERALA

HT Correspondent
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KOCHI: A 19-year-old engineering student has died allegedly by suicide in the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut campus, in Kozhikode district of Kerala, police said.

The student, a resident of Mumbai, was enrolled in mechanical engineering course, an officer added.

"The student's body was found outside the hostel building in the NIT campus around 6 am on Monday. He was rushed to the hospital, but doctors declared him dead. No suicide note has been recovered from the spot as of now," an officer at the Kunnamangalam police station said, requesting anonymity.

According to police, the reason behind the student taking the extreme step is yet to be ascertained. However, it was learnt that he had informed his family about his intentions prior to his death on a phone call, said the police.

"The initial proceedings in the case have been completed and an autopsy will be done before handing the body to the family members. A case of unnatural death has been registered in connection with the statement," said the officer quoted earlier.There was no statement from the student's parents or the college authorities till the filing of the report.

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29 schools receive bomb threat in Guj: Police

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AHMEDABAD: At least 29 schools in Gujarat have received bomb threats via emails on Monday, police said, adding that the threats were a "hoax" and "nothing was found".

Joint commissioner of police (crime branch) Sharad Singhal confirmed the development. "At least 29 schools, 12 in Ahmedabad city and 17 in rural areas, received email threats on Monday morning," said Singhal.

"The threats were a hoax, and nothing was found during

12 SCHOOLS IN AHMEDABAD CITY AND 17 IN RURAL AREAS, RECEIVED EMAIL THREATS ON MONDAY, SAY COPS

searches at the premises," he added.Notably, 11 of the 12 city schools that got threats are polling centres for Tuesday's Lok Sabha elections, said a police official familiar with the matter.

The development comes a few days after more than 200 schools in Delhi-NCR received threat e-mails on May 1, which also turned out to be hoax later.

Deputy commissioner of police (cyber crime) Ahmedabad, Lavina Sinha said that the preliminary investigations suggest the emails likely originated from Russia, mirroring the pattern observed in the Delhi cases.

"We are treating these threats with the utmost seriousness," said DCP Sinha. "Cybercrime experts are working closely with the affected schools to analyse the emails and trace their origins. At this stage, we believe the emails are part of the same campaign targeting educational institutions in Delhi", Sinha said.

The schools that received the threat messages include Asia School in Gurukul, Anand Niketan in Thaltej, Delhi Public School (DPS) Bopal, HBK School in Memnagar, Zebar School in Thaltej, Cosmos Castle International School on SG Road, and two Kendriya Vidyalayas in Chandkheda and Shahibaug Cantonment.

The schools have implemented stringent security protocols, with some opting for temporary closures until further information is received from the authorities.

MBBS STUDENT APPEARS AS PROXY FOR KIN, BOTH HELD

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Police have arrested a NEET aspirant and his elder brother who took the medical entrance exam in his place, officials said on Monday.

According to police, first-year MBBS student Bhagirath Ram Vishnoi appeared for the entrance exam at a government college in place of his brother Gopala Ram in Barmer on Sunday. The brothers were arrested from the examination centre the same day, Barmer SP Narendra Singh Meena said, adding that Vishnoi is a first-year MBBS student in Jodhpur. PTI

{ OVER APPOINTMENT OF DM'S WIFE }

'Atrocious and insulting for all women': SC pulls up UP govt

Utkarsh Anand
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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Uttar Pradesh government a rap on the knuckles for approving a peculiar regulation mandating that the wife of the district magistrate (DM) of Bulandshahr should serve as president of registered societies in the district, calling the norm "atrocious" and "humiliating for all women in the state".

A bench of justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan slammed the odd requirement."Be it the Red Cross Society or a child welfare society, everywhere wife of officiating DM is the president. Why does this have to be done? It appears to us that the state is trying to monopolise everything," the bench said.It questioned the state over the rationale behind making a person head a society not on leadership skills or community spirit, but rather by marital association. "What happens when the DM is a woman? The regulation seems to assume that a DM will always be man and the state approves of it," the court wondered.

Where the DM does not have a wife, the court pointed out, the regulation gave the officer the authority to make any other woman the president. "We will write something harsh about it. It's absolutely atrocious. How can you have something like this? And how can the state approve of it?" it asked.

Counsel for Uttar Pradesh said the endeavour of the state was to protect nazul lands (government land) given on lease to societies from getting grabbed for private interests. But the argument failed to cut the ice with the court.The court put the state's women and child development on notice, directing to submit an affidavit within two weeks to "justify propriety and legality of the impugned regulation". Additional district magistrate (finance and revenue) of Bulandshahar Vivek Kumar Mishra said the arrangement of appointing district magistrate's wife as officiate presidents in societies exists since 1950. He said that its objective was to protect nazul land alloted to societies for work by the governor.

Women and Child Development department deputy director Punit Mishra said the department had no regulation constituting such samitis anywhere in the state. He said, "The samiti might have been formed locally in Bulandshahr". He said the department "was also not aware of the SC order". The bench was hearing a dispute relating to Bulandshahr's Zila Mahila Samiti.

65-yr-old dies, U'khand forest fire toll touches 5

Amit Bathla and Jayashree Nandi
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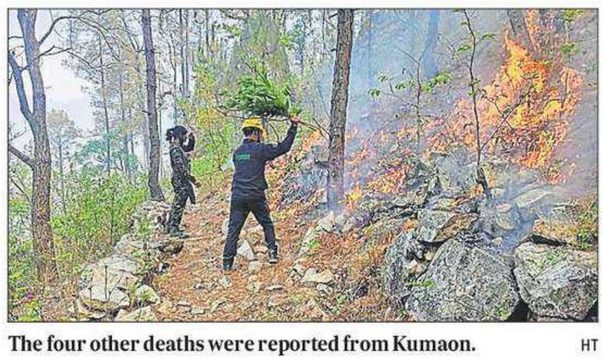
DEHRADUN/DELHI: A 65-year-old woman succumbed to burn injuries in Rishikesh on Sunday, becoming the fifth victim of the forest fires that have ravaged at least 1196 ha of land in Uttarakhand since November last year.

While the wildfire season this year has been the deadliest in the state since 2021 when eight people died in the wildfire season, it is yet to reach the 2021 level for the area affected. In 2021, 3,943 ha of forest land was affected, which was the highest since 2017. In 2016, the state lost over 4400 ha to forest fires. The worst impact was seen in 2003 when 4983 ha of land was affected.

The deceased woman was identified as Savitri Devi of Thapli village in Pauri tehsil of Pauri Garhwal district, who died on Sunday. Devi was the first victim of the fires in Garhwal region this year. The four other deaths were reported from Kumaon.She sustained injuries



The four other deaths were reported from Kumaon. HT

while trying to douse the fire that was nearing her farm, Deepesh Kala, Pauri Garhwal district disaster management officer, said.

"On May 4, at around 1.30pm, Savitri Devi was trying to douse the forest fire that reached near her farm. She was trapped in the fire as she slipped. She suffered extensive burn injuries. She was first taken to Pauri district hospital through an ambulance. The woman was eventually referred to AIIMS Rishikesh. In the early hours of Sunday, we received a call from the hospital that she died during the treatment," Kala said. Experts have attributed the spike in forest fires to rising temperatures, and an exceptionally dry winter and spring. For the rest, forest officials blamed burning of agricultural waste and anti-social elements.

On Monday, of the 157 large fires recorded in the country, 125 were in the hill state, data from the Forest Survey of India (FSI) showed. In the last one week, Uttarakhand recorded the highest number of forest fires, followed by Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. According to the daily bulletin issued by the Uttarakhand forest department at 4 pm, 20 fire incidents were reported in the last 24 hours, affecting 52.07 ha of the forest land.

"Most of the forest fires in the state are man-made. We have been taking strict action against miscreants who have been setting fire to the forests," said Nishant Verma, additional principal chief conservator of forests.

"Since the beginning of the year, we have registered 383 cases in various districts. In these cases, 315 people are unidentified and 60 are named. Our efforts to identify those unnamed in these cases are underway," Verma said.

Since November last year, 930 incidents of forest fires have been reported in the state in which over 1,196 hectares of forest land have been damaged.

Meanwhile, the state can expect some respite from Tuesday onwards, when the India Meteorological Department has forecast rains. Bikram Singh, director of the Meteorological Centre in Dehradun, said there is a possibility of rain in Uttarakhand between Tuesday and Wednesday, and rain activity is likely to intensify from May 11 onwards. "The downpour is forecast to start in Kumaon from May 7 and in Garhwal from May 8. This may help in extinguishing the forest fires," he said. But, gusty wind at the rate of 30-40 kmph at some places may contribute to spreading the fires to new areas if rain is not heavy, the IMD said.The forest department on Monday appointed 10 nodal officers for 13 districts with regard to forest fires."We can say that entire Ganga basin is impacted. Conditions were very dry due to lack of rainfall in winter. There was no oversight and now the fire has spread to large areas including upper reaches," said environmentalist Hemant Dhyani.Meanwhile, in Pauri Garhwal district, a Mi-17 chopper of the Indian Air Force was pressed into the service to douse the forest fires.

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{ PROMOTIONS IN ARMY }

SC rejects women officers' plea over 'discrimination'

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The SC allowed the women officers to approach the armed forces tribunal in this matter.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a contempt petition against the army over charges made by women officers that they were discriminated against in promotions to colonels, holding that the process to deny them could not be faulted.

"We are satisfied that there is no breach of our order," a bench headed by chief justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said. It dismissed the contempt petition filed by 30 women army officers, who claimed that the special selection board that considered their promotion in January violated the top court's order of November 3, 2023. The order required them to be considered independent of the women officers already empaneled for promotion in January last year. "There is no wilful breach of our order. It is not a case of contempt. Their (army's) case is that the empaneled officers were considered for benchmarking to assess inter-se merit. Our order was not silent on benchmarking. Inter-se merit has to be considered while empaneling officers," said the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. "Without benchmarking, how can you empanel officers?" The court allowed the officers to approach the armed forces tribunal.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the officers, told the SC that due to the process followed by the army, out of the 150 vacancies earmarked for women, only 128 officers have been empaneled, while 22 vacancies remain. "The idea is to accommodate less women in the army," Ahmadi said.

Attorney general R Venkataramani appearing for the Centre and senior advocate R Balasubramanian appearing for the army informed the court that the petitioners belonged to the batches up to 2006. The remaining 22 vacancies have been set apart for women officers from 2006 to 2009 batches. "We cannot earmark these vacancies for you," the bench told Ahmadi, pointing out that nothing will then remain for the subsequent batches. "These remaining 22 posts are only for women officers. While passing the November order, we were only worried that when we give you another bite at the cherry, those who already got empaneled should not be disturbed," it said.

"There is no exercise discriminating male and female officers," Venkataramani said. "That perception is wrong." The court also heard Colonel Sarika Pendalwar, the army's legal officer assisting the court, who said the cadre strength of the army is fixed and additional vacancies beyond 150 posts cannot be created.

The officers narrated how at every stage they were forced to fight for parity with male officers, despite getting an order from the top court in their favour in February 2020 for grant of permanent commission across non-combat streams, and later in March 2021, an order that scrapped the assessment policy adopted by the army's selection board because it was discriminatory and arbitrary. "The respondents (Centre and Army) have conducted Special No. 3 Selection Board in highly clandestine and unfair manner and failed to implement the order dated November 3, 2023 and they have even willfully disobeyed the expressed direction of this court," the plea said. "The Army was bound to allocate the batch-wise and year-wise vacancies and minimum one vacancy ought to have been given batch-wise, year wise...Considering already empaneled officers with non-empaneled officers was violation of principle of equality enshrined under Article 14 & 16(1) of the Constitution."

The November 3 order directed that a "fresh exercise of reconvening Special No 3 SB shall be conducted no later than within a fortnight from the date of this order for all women officers who were considered by the earlier Special No 3 SSB (except for those officers who have already been empaneled)."

HC ORDERS RELEASE OF NEWSCLICK'S HR DEPT HEAD WHO TURNED APPROVER

Shruti Kakkar
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NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday ordered the release of NewsClick human resources (HR) department head Amit Chakraborty, eight months after he was arrested by the Delhi police in a case registered under stringent provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) on charges of receiving foreign funds for pro-China propaganda.

Chakraborty's release was granted after considering the fact that he had recently become an approver in the case. The bench of justice Swarna Kanta Sharma passed the order.

In its 18-page verdict, the court took note of Chakraborty's medical condition and observed that the same not only warranted special consideration but also called for a humane and understanding approach to his situation.

"The petitioner's medical condition warrants special consideration and calls for a humane and understanding approach to his situation. In cases where an individual's physical disability significantly affects his well-being and daily functioning, the court must acknowledge its responsibility to intervene judiciously and consider the possibility of relief or release from custody if the same is permissible under law," justice Sharma noted.

The court directed Chakraborty to furnish a personal bond of ₹25,000 with one surety and further restrained him from leaving the country without city court's permission.

Chakraborty had approached the Delhi high court seeking release from custody asserting that the city court in January had allowed him to turn an approver in the case and had granted him pardon.

Prabir Purkayastha, founder and editor-in-chief of NewsClick, along with Chakraborty, were arrested in the case on October 3, 2023.

Both were arrested under stringent provisions of the UAPA under sections 13, 16, 17, 18 and 22 of the UAPA, along with Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 153A and 120B.

Govt defends omission of rule restricting Ayurveda drug ads

Utkarsh Anand
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The matter pertains to a contempt case against Ramdev and Patanjali over misleading advertisements.

NEW DELHI: The Union government on Monday defended in the Supreme Court its August 2023 missive to states and Union territories asking authorities not to initiate action against any entity for violating Rule 170 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, which dealt with controlling inappropriate advertisements of Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani drugs.

Submitting its affidavit in connection with a contempt case against yoga guru and entrepreneur Ramdev and Patanjali's managing director Balkrishna over misleading advertisements, the Centre maintained that the August 2023 letter was sent to states and UTs to avert confusion and unnecessary litigation.

"It is respectfully submitted that as the process of final gazette notification will take further time, in order to avoid confusion among the various State/UT SLAs (state licensing authorities) and to prevent avoidable litigations, Ministry of Ayush vide letter dated 29.08.2023 directed all state/UTs licensing authorities not to take any action under Rule 170 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as the final notification is under process," the affidavit said.

Citing a plethora of petitions against the impugned provision in the high courts of Delhi, Bombay and Kerala, the Centre said that it stands by the decision to do away with Rule 170 and that actions for misleading advertisements could be rather considered under the Drugs & Magic Remedies Act.

A bench of justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah will on Tuesday take up the issues regarding regulatory framework to prevent misleading advertisements and unethical medical practices.

In a series of previous hearings on a petition moved by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) complaining against Ramdev's contentious comments about modern medicine and allegedly misleading advertisements about Patanjali products, the top court had initiated contempt proceedings against the yoga guru and Balkrishna, berating Patanjali for spreading misinformation that could undermine public trust in the health care system.

On April 30, the court directed Ramdev and Balkrishna to submit copies of newspaper pages that show the actual size of their published apologies for misleading previous advertisements and a press conference that went against the court's order, seeking to verify the sincerity and visibility of the unqualified apology issued by the two in the contempt case.

A day before the hearing in the court, Balkrishna also moved an application, seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against RV Asokan, IMA president, about an interview given to news agency PTI in the wake of the April 23 order of the top court broadening its judicial scrutiny into deceptive advertisements to include "alleged unethical practices" among doctors practising modern medicine.

In the interview, Asokan criticised the SC for its approach towards practitioners of modern medicine, asserting that scrutiny does not "behove the SC to take a broadside against the medical profession of the country," especially considering the sacrifices made during the Covid-19 pandemic. Balkrishna contended that Asokan's statements are scandalous in nature and a clear attempt to interfere with the course of justice, requiring the court to take a judicial note of the episode.

During a previous hearing on April 23, the court had asked additional solicitor general KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, to submit an explanation regarding a recommendation made by the Ayurvedic Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUBTAB) for the omission of Rule 170.

Ex-CM Soren moves top court against ED arrest

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Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren meets his father and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) supremo Shibhu Soren during the last rites of his uncle Raja Ram Soren, on Monday. ANI

NEW DELHI: Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren has taken his legal battle to the Supreme Court after the Jharkhand high court dismissed the challenge to his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged land scam case. Soren's move comes amid the approaching elections in the state, scheduled to commence in the fourth phase on May 13.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, representing Soren, mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, requesting an expedited consideration of Soren's appeal against the high court's ruling last week.

Sibal emphasised the urgency of the matter in light of the imminent election polling in Jharkhand, urging the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, to prioritise the case.

"Hemant Soren was arrested on January 31. We moved the high court on February 4. The high court reserved the judgment on February 28 but did not deliver the judgment. The phase of elections starts in the state on 13th of this month. So we moved this court under Article 32, and this court issued notice last week.

After the notice was issued, the high court delivered the judgment on May 3 rejecting his plea...Very unfortunate that rights are being trampled in this fashion," Sibal complained.

The senior counsel further informed the bench that another matter, regarding interim bail for Soren, is scheduled to come up before a bench led by justice Sanjiv Khanna on May 7.

The CJI asked Sibal to circulate an email regarding the scheduling of hearings for both pending petitions, saying he would look into the request.

There was no immediate reactions from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

Centre urges SC to reject K'taka plea for more drought relief fund

Utkarsh Anand
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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday urged the Supreme Court to turn down the Karnataka government's plea seeking a direction for the release of ₹17,901 crore for drought relief, contending that the release of financial aid to the state has been in absolute consonance with the disaster management law and other pertinent regulations.

Appearing before a bench led by justice Bhushan R Gavai, attorney general R Venkataramani referred to his note, which implored the bench to stop entertaining state petition any further.

He informed the bench, which also comprised justice Sandeep Mehta, that the Centre has also brought on record the inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) report on financial assistance to the southern state to show its adherence to all the norms. While the Karnataka government made a demand of ₹17,901 crore for drought relief, IMCT approved ₹3819 crore. On April 26, the Centre released ₹3,454 crore to Karnataka under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought relief. "The release of the financial assistance has been made by the Union of India in substantial consonance with the recommendations of sub-committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC), based on the items and norms of assistance under NDRF and the report of the IMCT," stated the AG's note. The release of the aide, the note said, is strictly in accordance with the "Guidelines on Constitution and Administration of the State Disaster Response Fund & National Disaster Response Fund" issued by the ministry of home affairs.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

PHASE 3

would be complete in 20 states and Union territories. On April 19, 102 seats went to polls in the first phase and on April 26, 88 constituencies exercised their franchise. In sharp focus will be the turnout – the first phase voting percentage of 66.14% and the second phase figure of 66.71% – were both lower than the 2019 numbers of about 70% and 69.64%, respectively – and the rising temperatures across vast swathes of the heartland and eastern India, which are gripped by heatwaves.

"Weather conditions are predicted to be within normal ranges. However, for convenience for voters, meticulous arrangements have been made at all polling stations including facilities like water, shamiyana, fans to deal with hot weather conditions," ECI said in a statement.

Overall, across the 93 seats going to the polls on Tuesday, the 2019 outcome is not possible to be calculated for the four seats in Assam that underwent delimitation. Of the remaining 89, 70 seats were won by the BJP and three by the Congress in 2019. The JD(U) – which is part of the NDA – won three seats; while TMC and SP – which are part of the INDIA alliance – won two each. The Shiv Sena, the NCP, and the LJP won four, three, and one seat respectively. All three parties have undergone a split since 2019.

The third phase of the polling saw fierce campaigning by both sides. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the charge for the BJP, alleging that Pakistan wanted the Congress to win and for its prince – a reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi – to become prime minister. He also blamed the Congress of blocking the development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, saying that the party wanted to give SC/ST reservations to Muslims.

Addressing an election rally in Jharkhand's Palamu on Saturday, Modi had said, "These parties now want to snatch away the reservation of SC, ST and OBC. When our Constitution was being drafted, it was unanimously decided that reservations would never be granted in India based on religion. But now they want to rob the reservation of tribals, backward classes, and Dalits and give it to Muslims based on religion."

The Opposition has rebuffed the charges and accused the BJP of running a communal campaign to divide the electorate. It has focussed on the allegation that the BJP wanted to change the Constitution if it won 400 seats and cast itself as the protector of the Constitution and reservation.

"These elections are being fought to save the Constitution and reservations extended to the poor and protect the rights on land, jungle and employment. But Modiji has made up his mind to change and scrap it (Constitution)," Rahul Gandhi said on Monday.

Shah, whose Lok Sabha seat of Gandhinagar will go the polls on Tuesday, said that opposition leaders did not go for the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in January as they wanted to appease "infiltrators". The BJP has also targeted former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who said that the recent terror attack in Poonch was orchestrated.

Four former chief ministers – Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Digvijaya Singh of Madhya Pradesh, Narayan Rane of Maharashtra and Basavaraj Bommai of Karnataka – and at least six Union ministers – Amit Shah, civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Mansukh Mandaviya, Pralhad Joshi, among others – are also in the fray. .

The Prime Minister will cast his vote from Ahmedabad on Tuesday as well.

"I am fully confident the BJP's flag will fly high in all the seats in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior and Bhopal divisions (going to polls in 3rd phase)," Scindia told reporters in Gwalior.

Of the 26 seats in Gujarat, voting for 25 will take place as BJP candidate Mukesh Dalal won unopposed from Surat.

In Maharashtra, all eyes will be on the high-profile contest in Baramati, where two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party are in direct contest. The Ajit Pawar faction has nominated the deputy CM's wife Sunetra Pawar, who is taking on sitting MP, Supriya Sule, who is also the daughter of party patriarch Sharad Pawar.

A prestige battle will also ensue in Uttar Pradesh, where the Yadav family bastion of Mainpuri is among the 10 seats in the fray. In this seat, once held by five-time UP CM Mulayam Singh Yadav, his daughter-in-law and party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav is aiming to consolidate the party's hold over its pocket borough.

Voting will also take place for remaining 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, coming just days after rape and mass sexual assault allegations surfaced against Janata Dal (Secular) Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, also the grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda.

His father, HD Revanna, was remanded in police custody for three days this weekend, and a "blue notice" was issued against Prajwal , who is outside India, over abduction and sexual assault charges.

The BJP has sought to corner the Congress over the incident, but Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah, who set up a special investigation team to probe the case two weeks ago, has blamed the BJP, asking why it allowed its ally to nominate Prajwal.

Among other constituencies voting are four in Assam, five in Bihar, seven in Chhattisgarh, eight in Madhya Pradesh, 11 in Maharashtra, 10 in Uttar Pradesh and four in West Bengal.

In Bengal, Congress's Lok Sabha floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will hope to defend his seat of Murshidabad for a sixth timne.

Voting for the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir was deferred to May 25 during inclement weather.

IN MAHARASHTRA, ALL EYES WILL BE ON THE HIGH-PROFILE CONTEST IN BARAMATI, WHERE TWO FACTIONS OF THE NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY ARE IN DIRECT CONTEST

JHARKHAND SEARCH

pressed into service.

The cash, said officials, was recovered from bags, cupboards as well as a diwan in the drawing room.

Officials also said that ₹3 crore was recovered separately from the residence of builder Munna Singh at the Tejashwini apartment complex in Ranchi. "The SAIL City residence of road construction department engineer Vikas Kumar was also searched," officials said.

ED officials said that the searches took place in a case that had seen Birendra Ram, then chief engineer of the rural development department arrested on February 23, 2023, accused of laundering money and collecting commission from contractors mandated with the implementation of government schemes.

"Following the arrest of Ram, ED arrested three persons — Neeraj Mittal, Tara Chand and Ram Prakash Bhatia on June 25," an ED official said.

In the aftermath of Ram's arrest, ED told a Ranchi court that a portion of the commission allegedly collected by Ram was distributed in a "mechanised manner" to senior bureaucrats and politicians in Jharkhand.

"Ram played a pivotal role in managing tenders and allocation of work to private entities and the percentage of commission is distributed in a mechanised manner to higher ups of government, including highly placed bureaucrats and politicians. Further, during investigation, names of senior bureaucrats and politicians have emerged which is being investigated by ED," the agency said in February 2023 in its remand note, seen by HT.

The BJP attacked the JMM-Congress alliance that leads the state government and said that such corruption allegations were not new. State BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said, "Jharkhand has become synonymous with corruption. How the domestic help of an OSD, who must barely earn ₹30,000 a month, has received such a huge amount of money must be investigated. We believe it could be black money meant to spend during elections. The ED and Election Commission should look into the matter."

Alam, however, said that he did not want to comment before the end of the ED investigation but said that Lal has also served as personal secretary to two other BJP ministers in the past. "Sanjiv Lal is a government employee and is my personal secretary. Lal has already been a personal secretary of two former ministers. We usually appoint personal secretaries based on experience and it is not right to comment on the raids before the ED investigation is completed," Alam said.

Congress president Rajesh Thakur questioned the timing of the raids, conducted on the eve of crucial elections. "One should not hurriedly jump to conclusions, and there should be no media trial. We do not tolerate corruption but the timing is an issue. The truth will prevail," he said.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

GeM-tender Notice Number: - GEM/2024/B/4912566 Date: 06.05.2024

E-Tender Notice

Following e-tender on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Jhansi on behalf of President of India.

Name of work and Station: Contract for manning round the clock 24 enquiry counters {Face to Face Enquiry, Public Announcement system, Train/Coach Guidance system feeding, May I help you (Enquiry/Sahyog)} at 18 stations i.e. VGLJ, GWL, BNDA, MRA, DBA, DAA, BIX, OR, LAR. PHN, KURJ, CKTD, MBA, ORC, HPP, TKMG, MCSC. GTM over Jhansi Division for 1095 days (03 years) on manpower basis.

Estimated cost of work (for 03 years)	Earnest Money
(₹) 6,07,80,384/-	(₹) 4,54,000/-

Period of Contract: Three Years, **Time & date for the opening of tender:** At 12.00 hrs. on 27.05.24, **Website & Notice where the full detail of tender can be seen:** E-tender forms shall be available on www.gem.gov.in up to 12.00 hrs till the date of opening of the e-tender i.e. (27.05.24. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 812/24 (ADM)

@CPRONCR North central railways @cproncrly @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No. JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-83

Description of work: Annual Sectional contract for repairs & maintenance work and supply of material under ADEN/HQ-II/JHS for year 2024-25. **(A)** Zone no-2A-2 JHS (Railway Station & Circulating area) **(B)** Zone no-2A-3, P-Way Training center.

Approx Cost: 14000000.00	Earnest Money: 220000.00

Date of closing Tender : 28.05.2024 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter. : 12 Months

- Tender on line can be submitted up to **15:00** hrs on **28.05.2024** .
- For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 800/24(P)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.: 04 (A,B,C,D)/24-25/WE

Name of work with its location: (A) Repair & Maintenance of Lawn/Ground and Cricket Pitches at Karnail Singh Stadium in the S/o SSE/Hort./NDLS under ADEN/Hort./NDLS. (B) Annual supply of Horticulture material in the S/o SSE/Hort./HNZM & SSE/Hort./BH under ADEN/Hort./DLI. (C) Annual supply of Horticulture material in the section of SSE/Hort./SPM & JE/Hort./SOJ under ADEN/Hort./DLI. (D) Annual supply of Horticulture material in the S/o SSE/Hort./NDLS & SSE/Hort./DKZ under ADEN/Hort./DLI.

Approx. cost of work: (A) Rs. 25,99,999.87, (B) Rs. 19,99,979.73, (C) Rs. 19,99,946.13, (D) Rs. 19,99,990.07.

EMD Amount: (A) Rs. 52,000.00, (B) Rs. 40,000.00, (C) Rs. 40,000.00, (D) Rs. 40,000.00.

Completion period of work: (A) 12 Months, (B) 12 Months, (C) 12 Months, (D) 12 Months.

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Closing date of tender on 28.05.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.

Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/269/OET/24-25/WE/NIT/04 (A,B,C,D) Dated: 03.05.2024 1370/24

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WESTERN RAILWAY RATLAM DIVISION

W/623/5/1/NIT **E-TENDERING NOTICE** Date: 02.05.2024

The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Ratlam for and on behalf of the President of India invites **"Open Tender"** through e-tender on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The details are as under:

Sr. No.	E-tender No. & Name of work	Approx Value (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)
1	RTM-2024-25-1 **Zone-1 "A"** – Godhra (Excluding) to Meghnagar (Excluding) section: Dahod-Godhra (Excluding).	10499985.75	202500.00
2	RTM-2024-25-2 **Zone-1 "C"** – Dahod Local Station colonies (a), (b), (c) & (e) site, station colony, Kalidam Km. 523/02-03 to 543/0	10499947.67	202500.00
3	RTM-2024-25-3 **Zone No. 2 "A"** – Dahod Local "D" site colony m. 539/02-03 to 543/0	10499402.87	202500.00
4	RTM-2024-25-4 **Zone No. 2 "B"** – Dahod Local workshop maintenance.	10499957.17	202500.00
5	RTM-2024-25-5 **Zone No. 3** – Meghnagar (Incl.) to Ratlam (Excl.)	15302274.86	226600.00
6	RTM-2024-25-6 **Zone No. 21** – Dahod Proper Sanitary Zone	7017816.72	140400.00
7	RTM-2024-25-7 **Zone No. 6** – Ratlam (Excl.) to Nagda (Incl.) Km 651/05-06 to km 698 & Km 0/00 to 1.25 under Section Engineer (Works) Nagda	7339938.38	146800.00
8	RTM-2024-25-8 **Zone No. 4A** – Ratlam Colony (Excl. East side of BG line and excluding Road no. 7-17 on new colony). The zone includes sanitary work and internal plumbing works, under SSE/W-1/RTM.	14663249.93	223400.00
9	RTM-2024-25-9 **Zone No 4B** – Ratlam Service building and all officers bungalow excluding east side of BG area. Ratlam- The zone includes sanitary and internal plumbing works, under SSE/W-1/RTM.	12942562.03	214800.00
10	RTM-2024-25-10 **Zone No 4C** – Ratlam -White wash & colour wash etc. work on service building, staff quarters & Kurel dam under SSE/Works-1 and 2 (east) Ratlam.	17665725.00	238400.00
11	RTM-2024-25-11 **Zone No 4D** – Ratlam – Maintenance work of Railway hospital and quarters of 7-17 road new colony. The zone includes sanitary and internal plumbing work under SSE/W/2/Ratlam.	10448812.17	202300.00
12	RTM-2024-25-12 **Zone No 5** – Ratlam-East side of B. G. line i.e. loco, Jaora road, ghatla colony, R.E. building, Kota Building, other service building, Diesel shed. The zone includes sanitary and internal plumbing works under SSE/W/2/Ratlam.	11132099.89	205700.00
13	RTM-2024-25-13 **Zone No 22** – All main water supply assets in Ratlam including Kurel, Bhairongarh and main line of outside buildings, bores wells in entire Ratlam are under SSE/W-2/Ratlam.	7223999.48	144500.00
14	RTM-2024-25-14 **Zone No 7** – Ujjain Proper: Km 21/6 to 22/6 and FTD excluding to UJN.	13930086.82	219700.00
15	RTM-2024-25-15 **Zone No 14** – Ratlam (Excl.) to Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Excl.) Km 374.58 to 514.20 and Rau-Tihi section K.M. 00.00 to 08.77 K.M.) (Excl. Indore, Laxmibai Nagar station area, service building and colony.)	13029843.54	215200.00
16	RTM-2024-25-16 **Zone No 15** – Indore & Laxmibai Nagar station, service building and Railway colony.	13787943.49	219000.00
17	RTM-2024-25-17 Zone No. 8A – Nagda (Excluding) to Ujjain (Excluding).	9114127.12	182300.00
18	RTM-2024-25-18 **Zone No. 8B** – Ujjain (Excluding) to Indore (Excluding) & Maksi (Excluding) to Dewas (Including).	9843256.44	196900.00
19	RTM-2024-25-19 **Zone No. 9A** – Ujjain (Excluding) to Maksi (Including).	9478690.59	189600.00
20	RTM-2024-25-20 Zone No. 9B – Maksi (Excluding) to Akodiya (Including)	9914340.78	198300.00
21	RTM-2024-25-21 **Zone No. 10A** – Akodiya (excluding) to Baktal (Including)	10450864.31	202300.00
22	RTM-2024-25-22 **Zone No. 10B** – Baktal (Excluding) to Bakaniya Bhawari up to Km 226.15	9721735.25	194500.00
23	RTM-2024-25-23 **Zone No. 16** – A – Dr. Ambedkar nagar (Mhow) (Including) to Kalakund (Including) i.e. Location From Km 514/06-07 to 529.00	14795671.19	224000.00
24	RTM-2024-25-24 **Zone No. 16** – B – Kalakund (Excluding) to Khandwa (Excluding) i.e. Location From Km 529.00 to 630.19	7777906.50	155600.00
25	RTM-2024-25-25 **Zone No. 12** – Chanderiya (including) to Nimach (excluding) i.e. Location From Km. 175/07 to 238/07	21444576.03	257200.00
26	RTM-2024-25-26 **Zone No. 13** – Nimach (Including) to Ratlam (Excluding) i.e. Location from Km 238/08 to 373/10	21444789.52	257200.00

Approx Quantity: As per tender schedule, **Completion in period:** Up to 30/06/2025, **Similar type of Work:** Any Civil Engineering Work, **Date of uploading on website:** 01/05/2024, **Date of opening Tender:** 24/05/2024.
Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Apex/5/1/30 **Divisional Railway Manager (W/A), Ratlam (WR)**

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{ OUR TAKE }

Waiting for the voters to turn up

Past the halfway mark, turnout and the Constitution become the talking points

The general elections cross the halfway mark today as another 93 constituencies go to the polls — polling was completed in 190 constituencies in the first two phases. As per the 2019 results, the contest in the first two phases was near even, whereas the BJP swept the seats in the third phase — along with its allies it won 75 of the 93 third-phase seats in the last elections while the INDIA bloc won just 11.

Political parties that have the skills to smell a win or a loss will be better placed to gauge the mood of the electorate by the end of polling Tuesday, something that should make itself evident in their outreach and messaging in the run-up to the fourth phase polling, on May 13.

One of the talking points of the past two phases was the dip in turnout, especially (according to anecdotal evidence) among women in the heartland. An analysis of polling data by this newspaper confirmed there has been a marginal dip in polling percentage-wise but concluded that no inference could be drawn from it. Still, this number will be closely watched, especially because, as an HT analysis shows, the constituencies voting Tuesday have always lagged in terms of turnout. Another talking point was the delay in the Election Commission of India (ECI) releasing the final polling figures. Hopefully, ECI will be quicker this time; the credibility of the institution is under scrutiny.

The BJP campaign led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has mentioned the considerable achievements claimed by the government in its 10 years in power but focused more on the Opposition. The Congress and Opposition parties have claimed that the BJP could do away with reservation for deprived classes, something the party has denied. Expectedly, amidst all the polarising rhetoric, there have also been substantive conversations about the Constitution and where various parties stand.

Their behaviour shows that the electorate is likely both sensitive and respectful towards this founding document of the Republic, which they understand as the guarantor of their rights. All political parties have been quick to recognise this and nuance their positions to dispel any notions that they are disrespectful to constitutional values. This points to a deepening of democracy in the country, wherein the citizens also recognise the centrality of the Constitution in the democracy project.

That would be a welcome change — if only it had not been accompanied by the polarising rhetoric.

West needs to bear its climate funding duty

The refusal of the developed nations to shoulder their fair share of responsibility in the climate crisis is baffling, given the window for action to contain warming to 2 degrees Celsius by 2100 is closing fast. At the Cartagena Ad Hoc Work Programme (AHWP) talks — in the run up to the actual negotiations at the Conference of Parties (CoP) — the United States and other western countries have reportedly pushed to make the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) contributions "voluntary" for those who "choose to pay". They have also advocated widening the pool of contributors to include developing nations based on the latter's "economic realities" and "current emission share". With all indications of these positions becoming entrenched before the next CoP at Baku, Azerbaijan, hopes of a momentum getting built on the Paris (CoP 21) climate financing targets are fading rapidly.

This development undermines faith in the West's commitment to meaningful efforts to limit the warming fallout. On climate financing specifically, the weakness of its intent showed when the 2020 deadline for $100 billion in annual funding for adaptation and mitigation measures in developing and least developed economies was not met.

Now, the attempt to split the financing burden makes a mockery of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility that underpins global climate talks. Such evasion of historical responsibility and the fact that the bulk of financing from the West so far has reached the developing and least developed nations in the form of debt, as opposed to grants, erodes trust in the developed world, which, in turn, imperils global climate action.

Developed nations must course correct immediately, given that the climate crisis is a shared condition. If it gets any worse, it does so for all.

Two Dalit narratives in Kharge heartland

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge represented a strand of Dalit politics that was less strident and accommodative of other caste interests. This time, the contest is defined by a more militant Ambedkarite politics

With Kharge's Dalit-led inclusive politics beginning to fray around the edges, it faces the same challenges in 2024 that it did five years earlier ANI

Among the politicians with the highest stakes in the constituencies that go to the polls today is one who is not contesting. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has given the ticket in his constituency, Gulbarga, to his son-in-law and handed over the reins of his campaign to his son, Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge. The transfer of his constituency to the next generation at a time when the Congress president is at the height of his national recognition is likely to be presented as a sign of a fear of failure, but it is also a commentary on the course Dalit politics has taken in India.

Mainstream Dalit politics in India has been deeply rooted in the differing perspectives of Ambedkar and Gandhi. These differences are remembered primarily in terms of Ambedkar seeking separate electorates while Gandhi wanted everybody to be able to vote for Dalits in reserved constituencies. Ambedkar argued that a general electorate in a constituency reserved for Dalits would lead to the more upper-caste-friendly Dalit winning. Gandhi saw a general electorate voting in a choice between Dalit candidates as a means of forcing the upper castes to recognise Dalit leaders. Nearly a century after that debate in 1932, the differences have moved to one between the Ambedkarite focus on Dalit identity and a more broad-based effort at Dalit absorption.

Mallikarjun Kharge clearly saw himself as a part of the second tradition. When, as a seven-year-old, he witnessed his mother and sister being burnt alive by the Razakars of the Nizam, he could have easily been drawn into an identity-based communal mindset. His decision to instead focus on reducing differences between communities extended to his Dalit identity as well. As he grew into a labour lawyer and then a politician, he focused on issues that went beyond identity, sometimes objecting to being referred to as a Dalit politician.

Narendar Pani

Playing down his identity resulted in Kharge's politics focusing primarily on issues affecting the region he represented. Northeast Karnataka is the most backward region in the state and much of Kharge's politics has been on seeking specific benefits for this region. He has sought projects to develop the region and played an important role in introducing Article 371-J into the Constitution of India. The article provides special benefits to northeast Karnataka.

Kharge's inclusive politics paid him rich political dividends. Between 1972 and 2014, he contested 11 assembly and parliamentary elections and never lost. But his repeated electoral successes over a 42-year period papered over two trends that were making his style of politics more difficult to pursue.

The more significant of these trends was the rise of identity politics. This has been most visible in the growth of Hindutva, but that was not the only identity that was gaining greater mileage. Caste identities also began to gain greater importance in the political scheme of things, and Dalit identity was no exception.

The politics of Dalit identity has taken on diverse forms. There is the growth of Ambedkar as the symbol of Dalit identity, which is presented with varying degrees of assertion. Within this larger picture, there has been the growth of sub-Dalit identities as well. In Karnataka, there has been considerable debate over the share of the Left sect and the Right sect of the Dalits. This issue dominated the discourse around this round of ticket distribution in several reserved constituencies in the state. Irrespective of the specific type of Dalit identity that was being highlighted, identity politics eroded Kharge's Dalit-led inclusive politics.

It did not also help that Kharge's efforts to develop northeast Karnataka had less success than he may have hoped for. Karnataka has been a state where much of the growth is concentrated in a single urban district, Bengaluru. Government resources into backward districts do improve growth in those districts, but the savings from that growth tend to be invested in Bengaluru. As a result, while the districts of northeast Karnataka did see some growth, it was nowhere near as rapid as that of other districts in the state, notably urban Bengaluru. As the income gap between northeast Karnataka and Bengaluru widened, the region was seen as remaining backwards despite governmental efforts. Being the politician who represented the region for over half a century, Kharge took much of the political blame. In the 2019 parliamentary election, Kharge was defeated for the first and only time in his political career.

With Kharge's Dalit-led inclusive politics beginning to fray around the edges, it faces the same challenges in 2024 that it did five years earlier. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has put up the man who defeated Kharge in 2019 and he has been aggressively presenting his Dalit identity. His campaign has been built around an agitation against the desecration of an Ambedkar statue. Kharge has himself begun to articulate the Ambedkarite position more frequently than he did in the past. But his entire politics is centred around building consensus and does not sit easily with aggressive identity politics.

In stepping back from the fray, Mallikarjun Kharge has handed over the politics of his constituency to the next generation of his family. His son, Priyank Kharge, has used his position as minister in the Karnataka government to present a much more assertive Dalit identity. He often leads the charge against the BJP in the state assembly as well as on social media. He would want to marry the inclusiveness of his father's politics with the assertion of a Dalit identity that has become an essential requirement in Karnataka's Dalit politics.

Whether the next generation of Kharges can defend Mallikarjun Kharge's electoral legacy will leave its mark on the national stature of the Congress president, but what happens in the Gulbarga parliamentary constituency will also be a commentary on whether the current emphasis on Dalit identity will necessarily wipe out other perspectives of Dalit politics. The political fortunes of this and other reserved constituencies will provide the next round of evidence in the never-ending interest in the sometimes conflicting perspectives of Gandhi and Ambedkar.

Narendar Pani is JRD Tata Chair visiting professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. The views expressed are personal

SC verdict in DMRC case raises a slew of questions

India's attempt to project itself both as a country where it is easy to do business and as a hub of arbitration has received a jolt with the recent judgment of the Supreme Court (SC) in *Delhi Metro Rail Corporation* (DMRC) *v Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt. Ltd.* (DAMEPL). The legal struggle that began in 2012 was thought to have been settled when the SC dismissed a review petition in 2021. It has now been exhumed through a curative judgment: An award delivered in 2017 has been set aside in the name of correcting the "miscarriage of justice" in the exercise of "curative jurisdiction" of the SC. To say the least, the judgment has sent disturbing signals down to national and international commercial and legal circles.

In the case of *Rupa Hurra v Ashok Kumar* (2002), the SC propounded the scope and ambit of curative power. Article 142 of the Constitution of India bestows curative jurisdiction upon the apex court. It is a wide power. But the greater the power, the more sparingly it should be used. In fact, it should be exercised only in the rarest of the rare cases: One, to prevent an abuse of the process of the court; and two, to cure "gross miscarriage of justice". In order to establish these grounds, a party would have to prove either a violation of principles of natural justice, or bias of the judge, i.e. the judge's close connection with the subject-matter, or with one of the parties to the lawsuit. These legal contours are well settled. The *DMRC v DAMEPL* judgment has upset the apple cart.

RS Chauhan

The commercial dispute between the DMRC and DAMEPL underwent different legal spheres — from the arbitral tribunal, which pronounced its award in 2017, of ₹8,000 crore in favour of DAMEPL, to the Single Bench of Delhi High Court (HC), which upheld the award in 2018, to the Division Bench of the HC, which set aside the award in 2019. Thereafter, from the Division Bench of the SC, which restored the award in 2021, to the dismissal of the review petition and confirmation of the award also in 2021, to a Full Bench of the SC, which has allowed the curative petition filed by DMRC and set aside the award recently. To say the least, the judgment has opened a Pandora's Box.

First, the concept of "finality of judgment" has been jolted. If decisions can be flipped like this, when does a legal dispute come to rest? How long do litigants run to seek justice?

Second, the apex court has sieved through the evidence in detail. Such an exercise of judicial power has raised interesting legal questions. Whether in the exercise of curative jurisdiction, the court can critically examine the merits and demerits of the case or not. Whether by re-appreciating the evidence, the court has overstepped its curative jurisdiction or not. Despite its hope of not opening the floodgates to the curative petition, has the apex court let in a Trojan horse?

Third, the SC judgment may encourage judicial interference in arbitral cases. The more complicated the arbitral process becomes, the less it will be accepted. This judicial overdrive has scared the arbitral world. The judgment has destabilised the entire arbitral structure.

Fourth, ease of doing business demands a simple, speedy, effective, and efficient dispute resolution system. Investors instinctively dislike convoluted and flippant judicial processes. The judgment may convince foreign companies not to invest in India and persuade domestic companies not to go for public-private partnerships. For, the judiciary appears to be loaded on the side of the public sector undertaking. Such a judgment will have disastrous economic consequences.

Fifth, while the apex court has cloaked its reasoning under an attractive argument — not to reconsider the final judgment of dismissal of appeal and dismissal of review petition "would be oppressive to judicial conscience and cause the perpetuation of irremediable injustice" — there are several questions that arise. Would such needless interference not cause "perpetuation of irremediable injustice" to the thousands of litigants caught in the arbitral web? Wouldn't such a "landmark judgment" be oppressive to judicial conscience? Such judgments justify what the authors of *Court on Trial: A Data-Driven Account of the Supreme Court of India* have said: The SC gives people easy access to the apex court, but not to justice.

Sixth, the SC has cast the die against the arbitration process. Since Rome has spoken, it will take years to wash away the stain. The judgment will continue to tax the legal imagination for many years.

And seventh, while dealing with the curative petition filed in the case of the Bhopal gas tragedy, the apex court dismissed it. Yet, while dealing with a curative petition filed by a State-owned company, the court ruled in favour of it. The judgment lends credence to the growing popular image of the SC not as a court of law and justice but as an executive court. Such misplaced views can weaken the faith of the people in the judicial process.

The judgment will continue to tax the legal imagination for many years HT PHOTO

RS Chauhan is former Chief Justice of Telangana and Uttarakhand high courts. The views expressed are personal

{ EMMANUEL MACRON } FRENCH PRESIDENT

The international situation means that we need to have a European-Chinese dialogue more than ever. Europe is at a turning point, which requires us to face and overcome structural difficulties

HT

For Indian students in the West, a souring of dreams

On October 3 last year, the United States (US) Supreme Court gave Indian students a welcome reprieve they had long sought. It forever rubber-stamped the lawfulness of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, the central magnet that draws international students to American colleges and universities. OPT allows international students to work for one year after graduation with a virtually-no-questions-asked Employment Authorization Document. Most Indian students pursue graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM). The STEM OPT extension expands the work benefit to three years. OPT is a critical perch to seeking permanent employment, getting sponsored for a Green Card (permanent residence), and settling down. It fulfils a dream that first develops when a student completes the 12th-grade board exams.

Rajkamal Rao

However, as Indian students who will soon leave for American shores await receiving their I-20s and the coveted F-1 visa stamp from a US consulate, things are not so sweet in the land of milk and honey. Several studies have shown that US companies, especially staffing firms, exploit OPT students to force work for low wages under stressful, enslaved conditions. The number of OPT visas issued is unlimited, making it an employer's market. The government refuses to regulate employment conditions and bring the bad guys to justice.

H-1B math doesn't work. To apply for a Green Card (immigrant visa), Indian OPT students have to convince employers to hire them on dual-intent H-1B visas. The law authorises 85,000 new H-1Bs to be granted yearly, of which 20,000 are reserved for applicants who earned a Master's degree or higher from a US educational institution. The competition for H-1B visas is so intense that the American government resorts to a lottery, which, for this fiscal year, concluded on April 1. The lottery is held just once a year, so a STEM OPT student technically has three chances of winning it.

An Indian student is not restricted to only the 20,000 reserved quota, however. The 65,000 general H-1B visa pool, which attracts applications from every aspirant worldwide, including professionals from Indian tech majors, welcomes Indian student applications too. But the students are up against stiff competition and hefty corporate law budgets. Students failing to win the H-1B are forced to return to India.

The wait for a Green Card could exceed a lifetime. Even if a student wins an H-1B visa, a significant milestone in an Indian student's journey in the US, not everything is green on the green card front. It is, again, a matter of supply and demand.

US law grants 140,000 green cards annually for employment-based applicants but stipulates that these be distributed across all countries, with no country receiving more than 7% of the allotment. So India gets 9,800 green cards a year, a pittance. With nearly 60,000 new Indian H-1Bs entering the line annually, the backlog is so long that it currently takes about 80 years to get a green card. During the wait, Indians have to seek H-1B transfer approvals when they switch jobs or get laid off.

That apart, a Goldman Sachs report said last March that generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) could impact 300 million jobs globally, with 37% of US jobs in architecture and engineering, the kind that Indian students seek, at risk. According to Layoffs.fyi, a website that tracks tech industry layoffs, 1,185 tech companies laid off 262,582 employees in 2023. The lower demand for employment hurts Indian OPT and H-1B employees even as more Indian students flock to America.

The situation in Canada is similarly glum. A YouTube short documentary called *Borrowed Dreams: The Canadian Experience*, highlighting housing, health care, education, and employment issues, has garnered over 200K views. Indian students in the United Kingdom continue to struggle with that country's strict rules for post-graduate employment and its terrible economy.

Diaspora Indians contribute immensely to India's foreign exchange reserves, and Indian students are the seed that breeds that proud diaspora. India remains the source of the globe's human capital, and the Modi government has aggressively promoted this fact as a competitive advantage.

But when the western dream fails to materialise, Indian students should reconsider whether they are better off at home in one of the world's fastest growing economies.

Rajkamal Rao is managing director, Rao Advisors LLC. The views expressed are personal

R. N. I. No. 503/1957 ● Postal Reg. No. DL(ND)-11/6058/2018-19-20 'Licensed to post without prepayment' LICENCE No. U(C)-113/2006-08, AIR SURCHARGE: Raipur and beyond by Rail or Road - Re 5/-, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Chennai, Cochin, Goa, Hyderabad, Khajuraho, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and beyond by Rail or Road - Rs. 10/-;

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY MANHAR KAPOOR for and on behalf of HT Media Ltd. 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001 and printed at HT Media Ltd. Presses at Plot No.-8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar. (UP). Pin-201306.
BOARD: (011)23361234 ● EDITORIAL: (011)66561234 Extn. 1254, 1268 ● CIRCULATION: (011)66561111 ● ADVERTISING: (011)66561389 ● FAX: (011)66561270.

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Hamas accepts truce proposal ahead of Israel's Rafah offensive

After the release of the statement, Palestinians erupted in cheers in the sprawling tent camps around Rafah city

Smoke billowing following an Israeli bombardment east of Rafah in south Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement, on Monday. People fled the eastern parts of Rafah after Israel's evacuation order, on Monday. AFP

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

GAZA STRIP: Hamas announced on Monday it has accepted an Egyptian-Qatari proposal for a ceasefire to halt the seven-month-long war with Israel in Gaza, hours after Israel ordered about 100,000 Palestinians to begin evacuating from the southern city of Rafah, signalling that a long-promised ground invasion there could be imminent.

An official familiar with Israeli thinking said Israeli officials were examining the proposal, but the plan approved by Hamas was not the framework Israel proposed.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because Israel is still formulating a formal response, did not elaborate.

The language signalled that a deal could still be a ways off.

In recent days, Egyptian and Hamas officials have said the ceasefire would take place in a series of stages during which Hamas would release hostages it is holding in exchange for Israeli troop pullbacks from Gaza.

It is not clear whether the deal will meet Hamas' key demand of bringing about an end to the war and complete Israeli withdrawal.

Hamas said in a statement its top leader, Ismail Haniyeh, had delivered the news in a phone call with Qatar's prime minister and Egypt's intelligence minister. After the release of the statement, Palestinians erupted in cheers in the sprawling tent camps around Rafah, hoping the deal meant an Israeli attack had been averted. Israel's closest allies, including the United States, have repeatedly said that Israel shouldn't attack Rafah. The looming operation has raised global alarm over the fate of around 1.4 million Palestinians sheltering there.

The United States said on Monday it was reviewing a response from Hamas to a ceasefire proposal. "I can confirm that Hamas has issued a response. We are reviewing that response now and discussing it with our partners in the region," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters.

Biden speaks to Israeli PM on Rafah invasion

US President Joe Biden spoke on Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and reiterated US concerns about an invasion of Rafah. Biden said that a ceasefire with Hamas is the best way to protect the lives of Israeli hostages held in Gaza, a National Security Council spokesperson said on condition of anonymity to discuss the call before an official White House statement was released.

Hamas and key mediator Qatar said that invading Rafah will derail efforts by international mediators to broker a ceasefire. Days earlier, Hamas had been discussing a US-backed proposal that reportedly raised the possibility of an end to the war and a pull-out of Israeli troops in return for the release of all hostages held by the group. Israeli officials have rejected that trade-off, vowing to continue their campaign until Hamas is destroyed.

Netanyahu said on Monday that seizing Rafah, which Israel says is the last significant Hamas stronghold in Gaza, was vital to ensuring the militants can't rebuild their military capabilities and repeat the October 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war.

Lt Col Nadav Shoshani, an army spokesman, said about 100,000 people were being ordered to move from parts of Rafah to a nearby Israel-declared humanitarian zone called Muwasi, a makeshift camp on the coast. He said that Israel has expanded the size of the zone and that it included tents, food, water and field hospitals.

It wasn't immediately clear, however, if that material was already in place to accommodate the new arrivals.

Around 450,000 displaced Palestinians already are sheltering in Muwasi. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said it has been providing them with aid. But conditions are squalid, with few bathrooms or sanitation facilities in the largely rural area, forcing families to dig private latrines.

After the evacuation order announcement on Monday, Palestinians in Rafah wrestled with having to uproot their extended families once again for an unknown fate, exhausted after months living in sprawling tent camps or crammed into schools or other shelters in and around the city. Israel's bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza have killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, around two-thirds of them children and women.

{ SCOTLAND } TO FOCUS ON SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

John Swinney set to become new leader

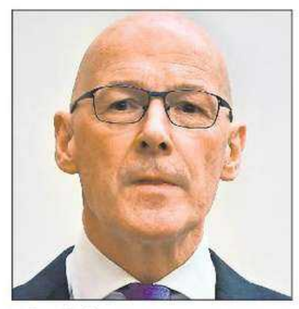
Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Scottish political veteran John Swinney on Monday was named head of the pro-independence SNP party, leaving him poised to become Scotland's new leader.

Swinney, 60, said on X, formerly Twitter, he was "deeply honoured to have been elected as leader of the SNP" after Humza Yousaf resigned last week after little more than a year as Scottish leader and head of the Scottish National Party (SNP).

The SNP confirmed Swinney's election after nominations for the post closed at noon without any other challengers emerging.

He told reporters later that alongside advancing the case for Scottish independence his key policy idea was the eradication of child poverty.



John Swinney AFP

"It is a curse and under my leadership I want to eradicate it in Scotland," he said.

On independence he said the party would "get our act together" to win back the votes of supporters who may have turned away from the party in recent years.

Humza stepped down last Monday as he faced a confidence vote in the Scottish parliament that he was set to lose having ditched his junior coalition partners, the Scottish Green Party, in a row over climate policy.

Swinney, an old party hand who led the SNP from 2000 to 2004 when the nationalists were in opposition, will now face a vote in the Scottish parliament later this week.

But he inherits a difficult political legacy, with former SNP leader and ally Nicola Sturgeon embroiled in a party funding scandal and a challenging domestic policy landscape.

Critics have accused the SNP, in power in Edinburgh for 17 years, of focusing on pursuing independence at the expense of issues like the cost-of-living crisis and health.

The party has struggled to rebuild momentum for another independence vote since Scotland voted against leaving the UK in a referendum in 2014. Support for independence, meanwhile, has since fallen to between 41 and 43%, according to three opinion polls taken in April.

Donald Trump AP

NEW YORK JUDGE THREATENS EX-PREZ TRUMP WITH JAIL TIME FOR GAG ORDER VIOLATIONS

NEW YORK : The New York judge presiding over Donald Trump's historic criminal trial again found the former US president in contempt of a gag order on Monday and threatened to jail him if there are further violations.

Trump, 77, is charged with falsifying business records to reimburse his lawyer, Michael Cohen, for a $130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels just days ahead of the 2016 election against Hillary Clinton.

Judge Juan Merchan held Trump in contempt of court and fined him $1,000 for a violation of the gag order prohibiting him from publicly attacking witnesses, jurors or court staff and their relatives.

But Merchan said the fines — Trump was also fined a total of $9,000 last week — were not serving as a "deterrent" and he would have to consider jail time for further violations.

"As much as I do not want to impose a jail sanction..., I want you to understand I will," Merchan told Trump, adding that he understood the "magnitude of such a decision". "At the end if the day I have a job to do and part of that job is to maintain the dignity of the justice system," the judge said, calling Trump's defiance a "direct attack on the rule of law".

Merchan's ruling came at the start of the third week of testimony in the trial of the Republican presidential candidate for covering up hush money payments to Stormy Daniels in a scheme to avoid potentially disastrous publicity just before election day. AFP

Indian student stabbed to death in Australia; police hunt for suspects

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

MELBOURNE/CHANDIGARH: A 22-year-old M Tech student from India was stabbed to death in Australia during a fight between some Indian students and police are searching for two Indian-origin brothers in connection with the murder.

The incident occurred at Ormond in Melbourne's south-east at around 1am on Sunday.

Navjeet Sandhu was fatally attacked with a knife by another student when he tried to intervene in a dispute between a few Indian students over some rent issue, according to the deceased victim's uncle Yashvir in Karnal, Haryana.

"Navjeet's friend (another Indian student) had asked him to accompany him to his house to pick up his belongings as he had a car. While his friend went inside, Navjeet heard some arguments and saw there was a scuffle. When Navjeet tried to intervene asking them not to fight, he was fatally stabbed in the chest with a knife," Yashvir, who'll retire from the Indian army in July, said. He added that like Navjeet, the alleged accused hail from Karnal.

Navjeet's friend, whom he was accompanying, also sustained injuries in the incident, the uncle of the deceased said.

Yashvir said the family is in a state of shock. "Navjeet was a brilliant student and was to join his family in July for vacations," he said.

According to Yashvir, Navjeet had moved to Australia on a study visa one-and-a-half years ago. "We urge the Government of India to help us to bring the body as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, Victoria Police said their Homicide Squad detectives have released the details and images of two men they are searching for following the stabbing incident.

A search is currently underway for brothers Abhijeet Abhijeet and Robin Gartan, both of Indian descent.

Death toll from Brazil rains rises to 83

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

SAO PAULO: Heavy rains battering Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul have killed at least 83 people, authorities said on Monday, while more than a hundred were still missing. The storms have affected more than two-thirds of the nearly 500 cities in the state, leaving about 122,000 people displaced, according to the state civil defence authority.

Flooding from storms have destroyed roads and bridges in several cities, while triggering landslides and the partial collapse of a dam at a small hydroelectric power plant.

State Governor Eduardo Leite has emphasised that the death toll should still substantially increase as rescue workers gain access to more regions.

Rio Grande do Sul's civil defence said 111 people were still missing, a number that has also been increasing in the last few days. On Sunday evening, it had reported at least 78 deaths and 105 missing people.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited Rio Grande do Sul on Sunday with most of his cabinet, and said bureaucracy would not stop the government from reconstructing the state. Lula promised the government would provide all necessary resources for reconstruction. South America's largest country has recently experienced a string of extreme weather events, including a cyclone in September that killed at least 31 people.

An aerial view of flooded Porto Alegre, in Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, on Sunday. AFP

Heavy rains ease around Houston in US state

Floodwaters closed some schools in US' Texas state on Monday after days of heavy rains pummeled the Houston area and led to hundreds of rescues including people who were stranded on rooftops.

Although forecasters expected storms to begin tapering off in southeastern Texas, high waters continued to close some roads and left residents facing lengthy clean-ups in neighbourhoods where rising river levels led to weekend evacuation orders.

Philippines says won't raise tensions in SCS

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

MANILA: President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Monday the Philippines would not use water cannons or any offensive weapons in the South China Sea (SCS), and the last thing it wanted was to raise tensions in the strategic waterway.

"We will not follow the Chinese coast guard and Chinese vessels down that road," Marcos told reporters, adding the mission of the Philippine navy and coast guard was to lower tensions, and there no plans to install water cannons on vessels.

China's embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Philippines and China have had several confrontations at disputed atolls in the South China Sea, most notably at the Second Thomas Shoal.

Last week, Manila protested Beijing's use of water cannons against Filipino vessels at the submerged reef, describing it as harassment and "dangerous manoeuvres", after a rise in tensions in recent months.

The Philippines has said such moves were aimed at disrupting supply missions to Filipino soldiers stationed in a naval ship there, which Manila deliberately grounded in 1999 to bolster its maritime claims.

"If the Philippines truly wants to de-escalate the situation in the South China Sea, it should immediately stop sending ships ... and stop sending supplies to illegally grounded ships," a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said at a regular press briefing on Monday.

40 workers trapped after building collapses in S Africa

CAPE TOWN: A multi-storey apartment building under construction collapsed on Monday in a coastal city in South Africa, injuring at least 22 workers and trapping more than 40 others in the rubble, authorities said. The building collapsed just after 2pm (local time) in the city of George, about 400 kilometre east of Cape Town on South Africa's south coast. AP

Nepal's population sees lowest growth rate in 8 decades

KATHMANDU: Nepal's population growth rate stood at 0.92% per annum in the past one decade, the lowest in the last eight decades, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO). "The population growth was at the lowest level compared to the statistics of the last eight decades," said Dhundi Raj Lamichhane, director at the NSO. According to the National Statistics Office report, the total population is around 29.2mn at present. PTI

Bodies of murdered Australian and US surfers identified

TIJUANA, MEXICO: Relatives on Sunday identified the bodies of two Australians and an American shot dead in a suspected robbery in Mexico, authorities said, marking a tragic end to the search for the missing surfers. The news confirmed the worst fears of the families and friends of Australian brothers Callum and Jake Robinson, and their American friend Jack Carter Rhoad, who were on a surf trip to Mexico's Pacific coast. AFP

Macron presses Xi to halt Ukraine war; Putin orders tactical N-drills

PARIS/MOSCOW: French President Emmanuel Macron and EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen pressed Xi Jinping at a summit in Paris on Monday to use Beijing's influence to halt the Russian war against Ukraine, also telling the Chinese leader to accept fair global trade rules.

Xi's two-day state visit to France is his first visit to Europe since 2019 on a trip that will also see him hold talks in Serbia and Hungary. He has said he wants to find peace in Ukraine even if analysts do not expect any major breakthrough.

Opening an initial trilateral meeting attended by von der Leyen, Macron said coordination with Beijing on "major crises" including Ukraine was "absolutely decisive" and urged "fair rules for all" in European-China trade.

Emmanuel Macron (left) and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Paris on Monday. AFP

"The future of our continent will very clearly depend on our ability to continue to develop relations with China in a balanced manner," Macron said.

Xi said China and the EU should "remain partners" and "carry out strategic coordination" and thus "make new contributions to world peace and development".

Russia captures two more villages in east Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered nuclear weapons drills near Ukraine, Moscow said on Monday, in response to "threats" from Western officials to deploy Nato troops to Ukraine.

The announcement came as Russian forces said they captured two villages in the war-battered regions of Donetsk and Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine, where outgunned and outmanned Ukrainian troops have struggled to hold the line.

Putin has upped his nuclear rhetoric since ordering his army into Ukraine in 2022, warning in February there was a "real" risk of nuclear war. AFP

{ SPACE MISSION } THE SPACECRAFT WILL BLAST OFF FROM CAPE CANAVERAL IN FLORIDA

Indian-origin Sunita Williams set for 3rd space mission

Press Trust of India
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WASHINGTON: Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams is ready to fly into space for the third time on Tuesday as the pilot aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in its first crewed test flight. Boeing's Starliner will blast off for the International Space Station (ISS) from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Starliner will carry Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station, marking what could be a momentous and long-awaited victory for the beleaguered Boeing programme.

The scheduled lift-off is set for 10:34pm local time on Monday (8:04am IST on Tuesday).

"We are all here because we are all ready. Our friends and family have heard about it and we've talked about it and they are happy and proud that we are part of the process to fix it all," the BBC quoted Williams as saying.

Sunita Williams who will fly as the pilot aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in its first crewed test flight. PTI/AFP

The mission has been delayed for several years because of setbacks in the spacecraft's development.

If it is successful, it will become the second private firm able to provide crew transport to and from the ISS, alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Such a scenario — with both SpaceX's Crew Dragon and Starliner flying regularly — is one for which the US space agency Nasa has long waited.

"Design and development is hard — particularly with a human space vehicle," said Mark Nappi, vice-president and Starliner programme manager at Boeing, during a briefing.

"There's a number of things that were surprises along the way that we had to overcome. ... It certainly made the team very, very strong. I'm very proud of how they've overcome every single issue that we've encountered and gotten us to this point," Nappi said.

"This is history in the making," Nasa administrator Bill Nelson said of the upcoming Starliner mission.

"We're now in the golden era of space exploration."

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New drug export regime to ease quality concerns

Aligning local certification with WHO's GMP follows licensing shift

Priyanka Sharma
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The move will also help foreign regulators ascertain the authenticity of Indian drugmakers.

NEW DELHI: Drugs made in India for global markets will soon have their local certification aligned with global norms, as the central government moves to assure foreign buyers after recent incidents of sub-standard drugs sold abroad.

The drug regulator will upgrade India's Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CoPP) to match the World Health Organization's (WHO's) good manufacturing practices (GMP) certification as part of an overhaul of the export-approval process, two officials familiar with the development said.

The CoPP and the WHO's GMP certificates are the preliminary documents required for obtaining product approval and market authorisation for exporting pharmaceutical items from India. The move will also help foreign regulators ascertain the authenticity of Indian drugmakers.

"The plan is to put these certificates on the website of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) so that importing countries or regulators can check whether these certificates are issued by CDSCO or not," one of the two people said.

The idea is to bring in transparency in the system, including greater oversight over the number of products shipped by Indian firms and their quality, the official said on the condition of anonymity.

The CDSCO is the apex regulatory authority for the pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and cosmetics industries, similar to the US's Food and Drug Administration. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), operates under the CDSCO.

Under the new guidelines, state governments can issue CoPP certificates to pharmaceutical companies only if CDSCO officials are involved in joint inspections.

To ensure that Indian pharmaceutical companies are manufacturing quality products, the DCGI has directed companies to strictly adhere to the WHO's good manufacturing practices guidelines at their production facilities.

The move to bring uniformity in the CoPP and the WHO's certificates is welcome as it will bring confidence to exporters and overseas regulatory bodies that exports from India are of high quality and under the supervision of the central government, said Sudarshan Jain, secretary general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

As part of the overhaul, the Union government recently wrested authority from states to become the sole entity responsible for issuing manufacturing licences for drugs meant for exports.

A health ministry spokesperson did not immediately reply to *Mint's* queries.

India is the world's largest exporter of generic medicines, which are authorized copies of patented drugs. In 2022-23, India exported pharmaceutical products worth $25.4 billion to about 210 countries. Around 60% of the country's pharmaceutical exports go to highly regulated markets such as Europe and the US, India's largest market.

FM announces 1st GSTAT president appointment

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Nirmala Sitharaman, union finance minister PTI

NEW DELHI: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced the appointment of Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the president of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) and called it as one of the two "significant milestones" in the larger GST architecture.

The second, according to her, was crossing the ₹2 lakh crore monthly revenue collection benchmark for the first time since the indirect tax reform was launched by the Modi government on July 1, 2017.

FM said the growing GST collections is testimony of "heightened" economic activities in India, world's fastest growing major economy.

India's monthly GST collections soared past the ₹2 lakh crore mark for the first time to ₹2,10,267 crore, while collections in FY24 surpassed the ₹20 lakh crore, reflecting a buoyant economy and better compliance,

According to FM, the tax reform augmented revenues of both the Centre and states. "GST has improved tax buoyancy from 0.72 (pre-GST) to 1.22 (2018-23). Despite compensation ending, state revenues remain buoyant at 1.15. Without GST, states' revenue from subsumed taxes from FY 18-19 to 2023-24 would have been ₹37.5 lakh crore. With GST, states' actual revenue amounted to ₹46.56 lakh crore," she said.

Experts said the appointment of Justice (Retd) Mishra as head of GSTAT would take the indirect tax reform to yet another level as it would expeditiously resolve pending litigations. GSTAT's first president is the former Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court, who has been selected by a search-cum-selection committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

GSTAT could not be set up earlier due to technical reasons and political oppositions by a few states. Even as the Union cabinet on January 23, 2019 approved the creation of a national bench of the GSTAT, the matter was pending because of various differences among members such as how to maintain a right federal balance and other technical issues. As approved by the GST Council, the government has notified the principal bench, to be located at New Delhi, and 31 state benches at various locations across the country.

Sitharaman took this opportunity to recall the near seven-year tax reform journey in three parts that unified the domestic markets. "The first part explores the origins of GST and its role in streamlining the Indirect tax system. The second part discusses how GST has benefitted people through a pro-poor approach. The third part underscores GST's role in promoting cooperative and fiscal federalism," she said in a post on X (formally twitter).

According to her, "the idea of GST was first mooted during the former PM Atal Ji-led NDA government. In 10 years, UPA was unable to achieve political consensus on GST. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi, the necessary consensus was carefully built, and GST Acts were passed by Parliament in 2016," she said.

SERVICES SECTOR GROWTH EASES IN APRIL BUT STILL STRONG

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NEW DELHI: India's services sector growth fell in April, though expansions in total sales and output remained among the fastest in 14 years.

The HSBC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, fell to 60.8 in April from 61.2 in March, but it was higher than February's 60.6. The index hit a six-month peak of 61.8 in January.

The reading has remained above the 50 mark, which separates expansion from contraction, for 33 months.

Manufacturing PMI in April stood at 58.8—the second-strongest expansion since the beginning of 2021.

The April services PMI figure was below HSBC's projection of 61.7, mentioned in its Flash Services PMI Business Activity Index last month.

"India's service sector made a strong start to the first fiscal quarter as growth of new business and output remained sharp and among the fastest in 14 years," the survey report said.

"In addition to buoyant domestic demand, firms noted new business gains from several parts of the world, which collectively underpinned the second-quickest upturn in international sales since the series started in September 2014," it added.

The April report noted that wage pressures and higher food prices led to an increase in cost burdens, which firms partially passed on to their customers, though charge inflation eased from March's seven-year high figures. The data showed that services companies observed the second-fastest increase in new export business in the near ten-year series history, behind only that seen in March. Anecdotal evidence highlighted gains from several countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas and West Asia, the survey added.

In terms of overall activity, aggregate output across both the manufacturing and service sectors rose in April, albeit at a slightly slower pace, indicating sustained health in these sectors.

IT industry staffers are fetching less revenue post-Covid

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The revenues have stopped climbing as before. MINT

BENGALURU: The revenue that each employee contributes to top IT services companies has been consistently falling ever since the end of the covid pandemic, a Mint analysis of companies such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd, Infosys Ltd, Wipro Ltd, HCL Technologies Ltd, Accenture Plc and Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. showed.

The pandemic saw companies world over scrambling to digitize their businesses, a trend that made IT services companies hire people in droves to handle the demand. The pandemic is becoming a distant memory, but the hired people are still around, mostly. And revenues have stopped climbing as before. So, the money earned per employee is getting squeezed.

At least two analysts said that IT firms' clients are increasingly preferring offshoring —essentially, a job that is done offshore for the client like, say, in India—which has led to lower billing per employee and, consequently, revenue as well.

Noida-headquartered HCL Tech has the highest revenue per employee (RPE) among the top four, at $58,532 for 2023-24, but it also saw the steepest drop in that number, 12.5% less compared to 2018-19. Cross-country rival Wipro reported the lowest RPE of $43,868 among the top four in 2023-24. Likewise, TCS saw its RPE fall 6.3% to $47,815 in 2023-24 from 2018-19. But for Infosys, it gained 3% to $56,208.

Infosys, over the last four years, has seen among the fastest revenue growth among its peers, but at the same time, it has also seen a decline in headcount. The Bengaluru-based IT company saw headcount fall by 25,994 in FY24.

Analysts attributed the fall in RPE to higher offshoring compared with the pre-covid times. "Offshore delivery has gone up. Increase in offshore delivery mix contributes to lower revenue per employee but also drives higher volumes," said Apurva Prasad, vice-president for institutional research at HDFC Securities.

Working 'on-site', or on a client site like, say, in the US would allow an Indian IT company to generate higher billing per employee than in an offshoring model that has the job being done in, say, Bengaluru.

"There has been a 500-700 bps (basis points) increase in offshore revenue business compared to the pre-covid levels," said a Mumbai-based analyst on condition of anonymity. "Employee expense as a percentage of an IT company's revenue has increased and with the offshore shift, this proportion must have gone down but has not because salaries given to employees have gone up from FY19."

The covid outbreak sparked a hiring spree in IT as companies across industries looked to digitize their operations. This caused IT companies to hire more people to match the client load.

I-Sec delisting: Sebi vets complaints on ICICI outreach

Nehal Chaliawala & Gopika Gopakumar
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SHAREHOLDERS VOTED TO DELIST ICICI SEC AND MERGE IT WITH ITS PARENT FIRM

MUMBAI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is looking into allegations that employees of ICICI Bank Ltd had reached out to some shareholders of ICICI Securities Ltd to try and influence them ahead of a crucial vote in March.

The shareholders voted to delist ICICI Securities and merge it with its parent firm. More than 500 shareholders of ICICI Securities coordinated on WhatsApp and social-media platforms to lodge around dozens of complaints with Sebi, a person aware of the matter said.

"Sebi is currently examining multiple complaints. Once there is proper evidence, the regulator will initiate an investigation. What action Sebi will take is difficult to say," the person said on the condition of anonymity.

Manu Rishi Guptha, a Bengaluru-based fund manager and a minority shareholder in ICICI Securities, said: "Investors have filed 60-70 complaints with Sebi and also complained on the SCORES platform." SCORES is Sebi's online platform for filing grievances. He added that the key allegations in these complaints are the violation of data privacy of its shareholders by ICICI Securities and the valuation at which the company is being delisted.

Guptha is leading a group of over 100 ICICI Securities shareholders who last month filed a class action suit with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against ICICI Bank Ltd's proposal to delist ICICI Securities. *Mint* reported earlier that employees of ICICI Bank had reached out to shareholders of ICICI Securities in the days leading up to the crucial shareholder meeting on 27 March, where it was decided to delist the company and merge it with ICICI Bank.

Both BSE and NSE subsequently sought a clarification from ICICI Bank and ICICI Securities, while experts raised concerns about data privacy and corporate governance violations.

In their identical responses to the exchanges, the two firms said they were reaching out to shareholders "to explain the proposed scheme and the e-voting process with the primary objective of maximizing participation in the vote". There was an overlap between shareholders and retail customers of the two entities, they said, without elaborating further on how ICICI Bank employees got the personal information of ICICI Securities shareholders.

A spokesperson for ICICI Bank directed *Mint* to this response when contacted, while Sebi and ICICI Securities did not respond to queries.

HC grants bail to Jet Airways founder

Press Trust of India
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Naresh Goyal, founder, Jet Airways HT

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Monday granted interim bail for two months on medical grounds to Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, who has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case.

A single bench of Justice N J Jamadar said Goyal shall pay a surety of Rs 1 lakh and not leave Mumbai without prior permission from the trial court.

"The applicant (Goyal) shall be released on interim bail for a period of two months. He shall abide by all conditions imposed," the bench said.

The high court also directed Goyal to surrender his passport.

Goyal (75) had sought the interim bail on medical and humanitarian grounds as both he and his wife Anita Goyal are suffering from cancer.

A special court in February refused bail to Goyal but permitted him to be admitted in a private hospital of his choice and seek medical treatment.

Goyal then moved the HC, seeking bail on merits and to be released on interim bail on medical grounds.

Goyal's counsel Harish Salve had urged the court to consider the case on humanitarian grounds. However, ED's counsel Hiten Venegaonkar opposed the bail and said the agency did not have any problem if Goyal's hospitalisation was extended.

Venegaonkar had submitted that the court may extend Goyal's hospitalisation for a period of four weeks and then call for a fresh medical report to assess his situation. But Salve said that apart from deteriorating physical health, Goyal's mental health was also not good.

Goyal was arrested by the ED in September 2023 on allegations that he had laundered money and siphoned off loans to the tune of ₹538.62 crore given to Jet Airways by the Canara Bank.

BSNL TO ROLL OUT 4G SERVICES FROM AUGUST

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NEW DELHI: State-owned BSNL will start rolling out 4G services across the country from August, using completely indigenous technology in line with the government's "Atmanirbhar" policy, according to official sources.

BSNL officials claimed to have recorded peak speed of 40-45 megabit per second on the 4G network which has been rolled out in the premium spectrum band of 700 megahertz (Mhz) as well as in 2,100 Mhz band during the pilot phase. The company has rolled out 4G services in Punjab using indigenously developed technology by IT company TCS and state-run telecom research organisation C-DoT-led consortium and onboarded around 8 lakh subscribers. "The 4G core developed by C-DoT is performing very well in the BSNL network in Punjab. It was installed in July last year. It takes 12 month to prove the success of such complex technology but the C-DoT core has stabilised within 10 months. BSNL will launch atmanirbhar 4G technology across the country in August," a senior government official, who did not wish to be named, told *PTI*.

Small towns shopping online light up logistics cos

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India's e-comm market is projected to grow to $300 bn by 2030 and much of this is expected to come from tier-II cities. ISTOCKPHOTO

BENGALURU: More people in India's small cities and towns are now shopping online, a potentially massive market that e-commerce firms have been wooing for about a decade. But it's not only online marketplaces and e-stores that are reaping the benefits.

Logistics unicorns Ecom Express Pvt. Ltd and Xpressbees (BusyBees Logistics Solutions Pvt. Ltd), and delivery startups including Shadowfax Technologies Ltd, Delhivery and Shiprocket are now earning a significant chunk of their revenue from tier-II cities and beyond as more people in those markets start shopping online.

India's e-commerce market is projected to grow to $300 billion by 2030, according to an October report by Redseer Strategy Consultants. Much of this growth is expected to be driven by a rapid adoption of e-commerce in tier-II cities and beyond, and improved third-party logistics.

Varun Laul, a partner at private-equity firm Investcorp, said that with more than 60% of growth coming from smaller towns, "e-commerce has been penetrating downwards, and with that, you need the infrastructure to cater to those deliveries". Investcorp is an investor in Xpressbees and Laul is on the board of the firm.

Since Investcorp's investment in 2020, Xpressbees has more than doubled the number of pin codes it services to about 20,000. The company receives more than half its revenue from outside the top 10 cities. Xpressbees is well distributed across the country, Laul said, adding that each region has a distinct purchasing power and attitude.

Another example is Ecom Express, which gets 65% of its parcel volumes from tier-2 markets and beyond. The surge is driven by two kinds of consumers, its chief strategy officer Ashish Sikka said.

The first is the value-conscious customer, who shops on social-commerce platforms and typically buys clothes and footwear. The second is the brand-conscious consumer, who buys a wide variety of products primarily from large e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart.

Several industry executives also emphasised two factors that are crucial for delivery in tier-II markets and beyond—speed and quality of delivery. While there are concerns about broken and defective products in all markets, ensuring speedy and accurate deliveries in tier-II markets and beyond has been tricky for logistics firms.

With nearly 75% of e-commerce products paid for in cash, the companies understand that the faster the delivery, the higher the chance of acceptance.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS
1 Incidental outcome of cancelling the cycle ride? (4-3)
5 Memorial of old priest outwardly Roman Catholic (5)
8 A kind of college for voters (9)
9 She spends her life in an unworldly environment (3)
10 Staff appointment (4)
12 Stop or start playing billiards (5,3)
14 It's said to be articulated (6)
15 More eager to be a mourner (6)
17 Drink to the end of the rooster? (8)
18 It can't be passed in silence (4)
21 Humbug? (3)
22 Fish press gives added firmness (5,4)
24 Ten is about acceptable as a symbol (5)
25 King in great spirits when told (7)

DOWN
1 Rest of the night (5)
2 Break it and people talk (3)
3 Promise a hot soup (4)
4 Great enthusiasm for two natural products (6)
5 Allowed one to get away with a further tenancy? (8)
6 He has earthly possessions (9)
7 Tree yielding a fir cone (7)
11 Random inspection for any rash development? (4,5)
13 Check; use sieve again (8)
14 Old instrument to strip nevertheless (7)
16 A handy pointer? (6)
19 Ruled out showing signs of age (5)
20 Count Gessler's opponent (4)
23 A renegade sailor's comeuppance (3)

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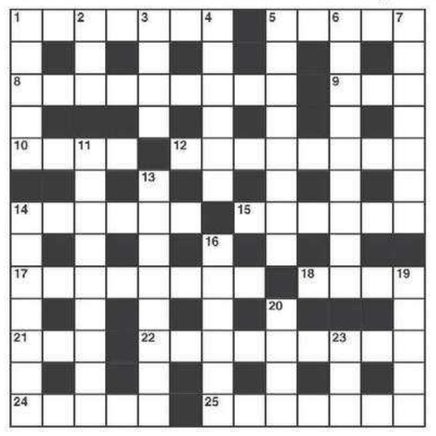


QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
1 Vividly descriptive (7)
5 Steal (5)
8 Not in the prescribed order (3,2,4)
9 Set of tools (3)
10 Subside gradually (4)
12 Capital of Chile (8)
14 A mendicant (6)
15 Trumpet-like instrument (6)
17 Rogue (8)
18 Excite (4)
21 Sum charged for a service (3)
22 Payment to remain silent (4,5)
24 Become less severe (3,2)
25 Item-by-item report (3-4)

DOWN
1 Surface shine (5)
2 Creative skill (3)
3 Fit of petty annoyance (4)
4 Mountain lion (6)
5 Operate (8)
6 Probably (4,2,3)
7 In haste (7)
11 Careless (9)
13 Privation (8)
14 Sheepish (7)
16 Incense-burning vessel (6)
19 Artificial textile fibre (5)
20 So be it (4)
23 Prefix for new (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16852)

CRYPTIC

F	A	L	L	O	V	E	R	■	P	L	U	S		
A	■	A	■	V	■	N	■	F	■	A	■	I		
T	A	S	T	E	■	D	R	E	S	S	E	D		
E	■	H	■	R	■	I	■	A	■	S	■	E		
■	C	O	M	B	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	S		
S	■	U	■	A	■	G	■	H	■	■	■	T		
P	E	T	A	L	S	■	S	E	R	E	N	E		
U	■	■	■	A	■	C	■	R	■	N	■	P		
R	I	D	I	N	G	H	A	B	I	T	S	■		
I	■	I	■	C	■	A	■	R	■	H	■	H		
O	U	T	L	E	T	S	■	A	G	U	T	E		
U	■	T	■	S	■	T	■	I	■	S	■	A		
S	P	O	T	■	L	E	A	N	M	E	A	T		

QUICK

B	U	D	A	P	E	S	T	■	W	A	R	P		
U	■	O	■	L	■	T	■	P	■	B	■	L		
M	A	L	T	A	■	A	B	U	S	I	V	E		
P	■	P	■	Y	■	T	■	T	■	D	■	A		
■	S	H	O	W	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S		
M	■	I	■	I	■	S	■	N	■	■	■	A		
I	G	N	I	T	E	■	S	T	R	A	I	N		
L	■	■	■	H	■	M	■	H	■	S	■	T		
I	N	D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	■		
T	■	E	■	I	■	T	■	D	■	R	■	L		
A	T	F	I	R	S	T	■	O	L	I	V	E		
N	■	E	■	E	■	L	■	C	■	B	■	S		
T	U	R	F	■	F	E	C	K	L	E	S	S		

{ SUDOKU }

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★

	9		3					1
		5	2			9		
4					8			5
			5			3		
	3	6				1	2	
		2			9			
6			1					4
		7			3	5		
3					4		9	

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

{ WEATHER }

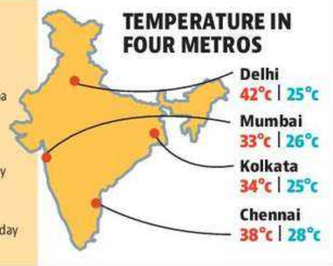
TEMPERATURE ■HIGH ■LOW

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mainly clear sky possibility of duststrom with gustywind	Strong surface winds during day time	Strong surface winds during day time
42°c | 25°c	41°c | 25°c	41°c | 24°c

ALMANAC
Today is
7th May 2024
- 27 Shawwal, 1445
- 14 Vaishakha, Krishna Paksha, 14
- Samvat 2081

Sunset: Tuesday at 07:00 pm
Sunrise: Wednesday at 05:34 a.m.
Moonset: Tuesday at 06:18 p.m.
Moonrise: Wednesday at 05:23 a.m.

TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS



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India's relay teams get the job done, qualify for Paris

The timings aren't too flattering for either team but making the Games matters most

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MUMBAI: Jyothika Sri Dandi, the runner who produced the fastest leg for India in the women's 4x400m second Olympic qualifying round at the World Relays in Bahamas, couldn't compete at the Asian Games last year due to a knee injury. "Depressed" and cursing her luck, the Andhra sprinter wanted to leave the national camp and return home. Her father too would urge her to do so, she recalled.

Only one thought had the wheels to reignite her drive and pull her back into the camp. "The Olympics — I wanted to qualify for that," she said. On Sunday, at the final time of asking in the qualifying event in Nassau, she did as part of the women's 400m quartet. So did the more accomplished Indian men's 4x400m team overcoming a nightmarish first attempt that ended with a runner down and none at the finish line.

The women's team, which did not make the cut for the Tokyo Games, will be back at the Olympic stage, finishing second in their heat of the second qualifying round that gave Paris spots to the top two teams after 40 had gone through from the first. Jyothika's blistering second leg got them up from last to second, where the team also comprising Rupal Chaudhary, Machettira Raju Poovamma and Subha Venkatesan finished with a timing of 3:29.35. "It was do or die for us," Jyothika said from Nassau. "After I lost out on the Asian Games last year, I had to qualify for this. I'm happy and relieved that we made it, and so is my father."

The women's team

SUBHA VENKATESAN
The 24-year-old daughter of a construction worker in Thiruchirapalli trained at Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu's Chennai centre. She was in the 4x400m team that won silver in the 2018 Asian juniors

JYOTHIKA SRI DANDI
The 23-year-old from Hyderabad ran the second leg in Bahamas. Last year, she was in the 4x400m team that won bronze at the Asian meet, won the 400m in the National Open and took silver in the Goa National Games

MR POOVAMMA
For the Karnataka-born Olympian, 33, it's redemption after a two-year dope ban in 2021 -- it was reversed on a Kerala high court ruling. She won the women's and mixed 4x400m relays in the 2018 Asian Games

RUPAL CHAUDHARY
The 19-year-old became the first Indian athlete to win two medals at the World U20 meet— silver in women's 4x400m relay and bronze in 400m — in Colombia in 2022. Her father is a small farmer in Shahpur Jainpur in Meerut district

The men's team

1 MUHAMMED ANAS
The 29-year-old from Kerala holds the 400m national record. In 2016, he became only the third Indian 400m runner to run in the Olympics. Last year, he was in the 4x400m team that set an Asian record at the Worlds and won the Asian Games gold

2 AROKIA RAJIV
The 32-year-old armyman from a village near Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, was in the 4x400m mixed relay team (gold) and men's 4x400m team (silver) at the 2018 Asian Games. His father was a bus driver and his mother a daily wager

3 AMOJ JACOB
Born in Kerala and brought up in New Delhi, he began athletics as a St. Xavier's School, Rohini student. His mother is a nurse at a Delhi hospital. He was in the 4x400m team that won gold at the 2017 Asian championships and in the Asian Games last year

4 MUHAMMED AJMAL VARIYATHODI
Born in Palakkad, Kerala, Ajmal was a footballer until his coach suggested he shift to the track. He started as a 100m runner and then began competing in the 400m

The men's team, which broke the Asian record at the Tokyo Games and continued to excel last year at the Worlds (fifth) and Asian Games (first), belatedly got what they hoped to secure on the first day. Rajesh Ramesh's injury, however, left them hanging by a thread and messed up plans (India did not field a team for the mixed 4x400m in the second round).

The men came back stringing together a composed show in a heat comprising stronger teams in USA and Bahamas as Muhammad Anas, Muhammad Ajmal, Rajiv Arokia and Amoj Jacob, who ran a quality anchor leg, clocked 3:03.23 to finish behind USA (2:59.95). The timings aren't too flattering for either team (there were faster teams in other heats that did not qualify). Both were also helped by strokes of luck. But, after spending a month in the Bahamas training for this, they eventually got the job done and the direct Paris berth secured.

Ramesh's injury meant India were forced to tweak their combination and order for the second qualifying race. Like in the first, though, Anas kicked things off and completed his 400m split in 46.15s behind USA and Qatar. The second-leg runner for Qatar then pulled up, pushing India to second. Ajmal maintained that position despite being challenged by Kenya and Mexico.

As Mexico's third-leg runner nudged ahead, Arokia, who replaced Ramesh, found himself jostling for third spot with Kenya. By the time the baton changed hands for the final time, the second spot had a three-way tussle between Mexico, India and Kenya. That's when Jacob, who was behind Kenya's second-placed Kennedy Muthoki at the start of the anchor leg, came into his own. Jacob cranked up his pace at the final bend and began to sneak past the Kenyan. Up to second place at the home stretch, he got the team home there. The women too changed things up in their start list after a disappointing fifth-place finish in their first attempt that made members of the squad nervously dig into stats and details about the teams they would be up against next. "But I was like, it's in our hands to get qualified. If we did our best, I was confident we would go through," Jyothika said.

With first runner Vithya Ramraj making way for teen Rupal, India started a fair bit away from the pack in their five-team heat where Jamaica, Germany and Brazil set the pace. Jyothika's 51.36 effort got them toe-to-toe with the Germans while overtaking the Brazilian second-leg runner.

Mbappe, PSG aim to seize the moment in second leg

Agence France-Presse
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain are bidding to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit and beat Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League semi-final return match on Tuesday, with the aim of bringing the curtain down on the Kylian Mbappe era at the club in the final at Wembley.

The only time PSG have previously appeared in the biggest match in club football turned out to be a depressingly flat occasion, with the French side losing 1-0 to Bayern Munich behind closed doors in Lisbon in 2020, at the height of the pandemic.

Reaching the June 1 showpiece in London, and playing before a crowd of 90,000 against either Real Madrid or Bayern again, would be a different occasion entirely. Getting there would give Mbappe the chance to end his seven-year stay with the Qatar-owned outfit in the best possible way, as they look to win the Champions League for the first time in their history, and just the second time for a French club after Marseille in 1993.

Mbappe informed PSG in February of his intention to depart the Parc des Princes when his contract expires at the end of the season, ending a prolific association with his hometown team which began when he signed from Monaco in 2017.

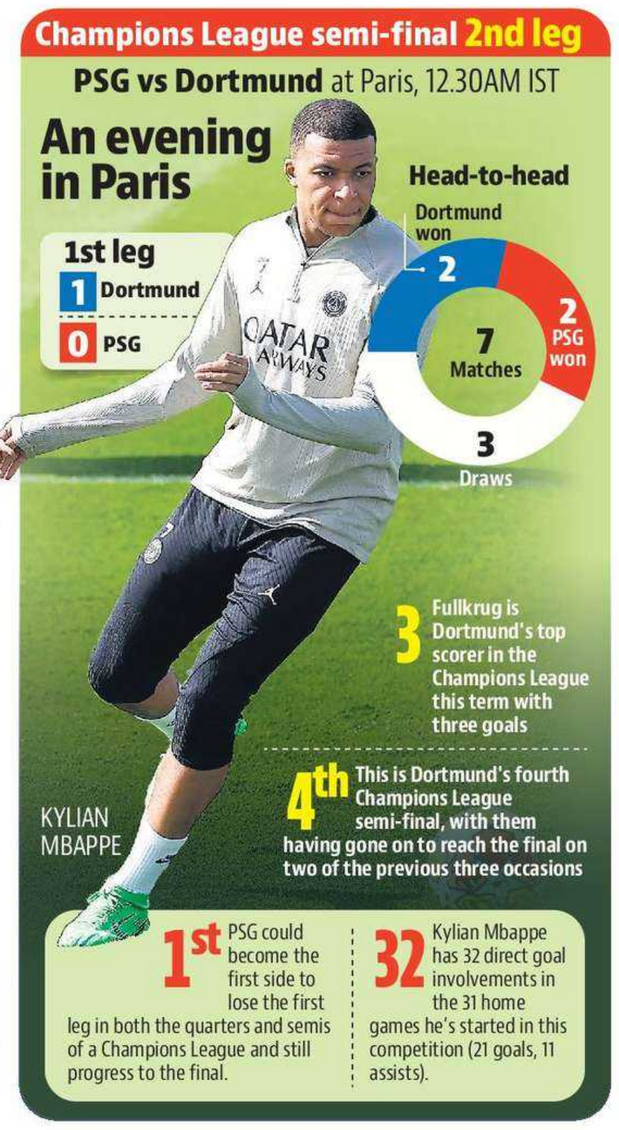
Now 25 and the captain of France, Mbappe has become the Parisians' all-time top scorer with 255 goals in 305 appearances so far, including 43 this season alone. He has 48 in the Champions League — a tally which includes six with Monaco in his breakthrough 2016/17 campaign – and Tuesday's second leg against Dortmund would be the ideal time for him to bring up the half-century. Luis Enrique's team did not produce their best performance in losing 1-0 in Germany last week, and the pressure is on them as favourites to turn the tie around at home.

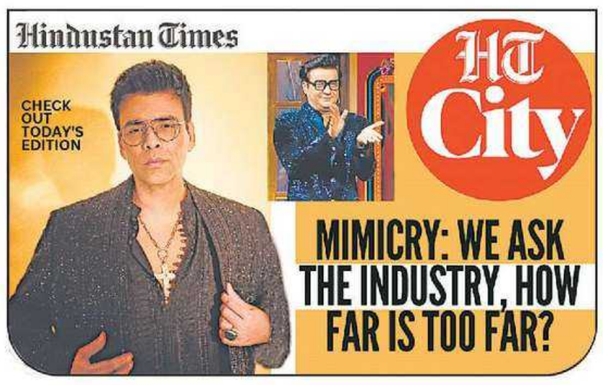
However, a repeat of what happened when they hosted Dortmund in the group stage last September will suffice — on that occasion they won 2-0, with Mbappe netting the first goal from the penalty spot. "We are sure we are going to turn it around and qualify for the final," Mbappe told several media on Sunday on the sidelines of an event on the French capital's famed Champs-Elysees.

"There is a lot of pressure on us, which is normal because there is a place in the Champions League final at stake.

"All the more so when you know about this club's past in the competition."

PSG were not necessarily expected to get as far as the semi-finals this season, with the squad undergoing a major overhaul following the departures of Lionel Messi and Neymar at the end of the last campaign.





NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	**Name of work :** Annual maintenance of green patches at 1st & 2nd entreies & maintenance of lawns, flower pots & other horticulture work in the S/o SSE/W/DLI under ADEN/DLI.	
2	**Approx Cost of Work**	Rs.94,81,841.33/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakh Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty One and Thirty Three paise only)
3	**Earnest Money to be deposited**	Rs. 1,89,900/- (One Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Rupees)
4	**Cost of Tender Document**	Rs. 0.00/-
5	**Date & Time of Submission of tender bid and opening of tender.**	28.05.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
6	**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.**	www.ireps.gov.in
7	**Allocation**	04-400-32

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system **(IREPS)** site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. **No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/06/2024-25/W-3 Dated: 06.05.2024** 1363/24
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Tender Notice
The Chief Administrative Officer/Const./Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India **invites e-tender** under **Two Packet System** for the under noted work:-

Full Name of work	Raising of existing ROB 193-A & 220-B on LDH-JHL section of Ambala Division & 256-A on DLI-BTI section of Delhi Division for facilitating the movement of the double stack container.
Approx. Cost of work	**Rs.3300.02 lacs**
Completion period of the work	24 (Twenty four) months
Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs.18,00,000/-
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 11.05.2024 to 31.05.2024 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	**31.05.2024** upto **11.30** hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. **17.05.2024 to 31.05.2024**
Date and time of opening of tender	**31.05.2024** at **11.30** hours. (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No: 74-W-1-1-519-WA-UMB Dated : 02.05.2024 1365/2024
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20
E-Tender No.- PRYJ-Sig-202-2024-25 **Date: 03.05.2024**
E-Tender Notice
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite **E-TENDER** on prescribed form for the following works up to **12.00 hrs. The details of the Tender is as under:-**
Name of work: S&T work for Construction of New LHS along with ROB at LC No-94 in lieu of (LC-94) Rura at Ch: 1060/11-13 in between CNB-TDL section of Prayagraj Division North Central Railway.
Approx. Cost of work (₹): 4040839.96/-, **Bid Security (₹):** 80800/-, **Completion period:** 09 Months, **Date of Opening of tender:** 31.05.2024, **2. Availability of tender form:** Tender forms shall be available on **www.ireps.gov.in** **3. Time date & place of opening of tender:** Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre determined date at **12.30 hours.** **809/24(K)**
@CPRONCR @northcentralrailway North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No.: E-Tender No. NCR-S&T-EPC-LTE-NDLS-HWH Dated : 08.03.2024
Corrigendum No. 2
For the work of :– "Provision of LTE (Long Term Evolution) based MTRC over New Delhi-Howrah route (Including Kanpur-Lucknow Section of Indian Railways" **Corrigendum No. 2** for the above mentioned tender has been issued. For details please visit the **www.ireps.gov.in** site
424/24 (D)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण नि0 लि0
ऊर्जा भवन, 220 के.वी. विद्युत उपसंस्थान
बाई-पास रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा-282007
ई-निविदा सूचना
1. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल-एमएम / **3543-2024** : G.I. Wire 3.15 mm/10 SWG, मात्राः 11 एमटी0, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **9,500.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **1180.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)। 2.ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल-एमएम / **3544-2024 :** Stay Wire G. I. (7/4.0MM) 7/8 SWG, मात्राः **15.00** एमटी0, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **14,300.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **3540.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)। 3 . ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल - एमएम / **3545-2024 :** 11 KV G.I. Pin with Nut, मात्राः **5200** नग, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **5000.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **1180.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)। 4 . ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल एमएम / **3546-2024 :** 3 Phase DO Fuse Set, मात्राः **1000** नग, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **32,000.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **3540.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)। 5 . ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल एमएम / **3547-2024 :** Different Sizes of Clamps for 8.5 Mtr. PCC Pole, मात्राः **1,03,000** नग, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **1,36,000.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **5900.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)। 6.ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल-एमएम / **3548-2024 :** Stay Set G.I. 20×1800 MM, मात्राः **400** नग, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **4000.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **1180.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।
निविदा शुल्क केवल ऑनलाइन, **DVVNL, AGRA** की वेबसाइट **www.dvvnl.org** के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा। विवरण के लिए कृपया निविदा प्रपत्र ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ लें।
उपरोक्त निविदा दिनांक **06.06.2024** को समय **13:00 बजे** तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जा सकेंगी एवं निविदा खुलने की दिनांक **07.06.2024** को सांय **16:00 बजे** खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र उ0प्र0 शासन के **ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in** पर अपलोड की जायेंगी, वहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
पत्र संख्याः- 1299 /अधी0अभि0 (सा0प्र0-प्रथम)/ई-1 आगरा/विज्ञापन, दिनांकः 04.05.2024
(आनन्द स्वरूप शुक्ला)
मुख्य अभियन्ता(सा0प्र0)-प्रथम
"सुनहरा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएं"

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 27/2024
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar For and behalf of president of India invites **"OPEN"** e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work., **S.N.:- 1., Description of works:-** Balance work of LHS in CPA - MRT section (Under Sanctioned work of Construction of LHS at different locations in CPA-MRT section of IZN Division for elimination of 11MLCs), **Approx. Value (Rs.):-** Rs. 8,44,26,966.00, **E.M.D Money (Rs.):-** Rs.5,72,100/-, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs. NIL**, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **12 months., S.N.:- 2., Description of works:-** Civil work under sanction of work for Electrical work in connection of shifting of Electrical sub station at FBD of IZN division., **Approx. Value (Rs.):-** Rs. 30,81,509.28, **E.M.D Money (Rs.):-** Rs. Rs.61,600/-, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs. NIL** Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter **04 months., 1.** On line e-tender can be submitted up to **15.00 hrs** of dated **31.05.2024., 2.** For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in.**
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPRO/W-54 **Izatnagar**
Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

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THE WEEK THAT WAS
A quiz on the week's development.

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उ0 प्र0 लोक सेवा आयोग
संक्षिप्त विज्ञप्ति
एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आयोग द्वारा विज्ञापित निम्नलिखित पदों पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु साक्षात्कार का कार्यक्रम जारी कर दिया गया है:-

क्र. सं.	विज्ञापन संख्या	विभाग	विभाग सं0	पद का नाम	साक्षात्कार की तिथि व समय	पदों की संख्या
1.	D-4/E-1/2023	30प्र0 आयुष (होम्योपैथी)	S-11/13	प्रोफेसर-कम्युनिटी मेडिसिन	**16 मई, 2024** को पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे	01
2.	D-4/E-1/2023	30प्र0 आयुष (होम्योपैथी)	S-11/14	प्रोफेसर-गायनोकोलॉजी एण्ड आब्सट्रेटिक्स	**16 मई, 2024** को अपराह्न 02:00 बजे	03
3.	D-4/E-1/2023	30प्र0 आयुष (होम्योपैथी)	S-11/11	प्रोफेसर-मटेरिया मेडिका	**15 मई, 2024** को पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे एवं अपराह्न 02:00 बजे	04

साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम की विस्तृत सूचना आयोग की वेबसाइट **https://uppsc.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
संख्या-218/09/डी0आर0/एस-11/2018-19 टी0सी0-5 **(लखन लाल शिवहरे)**
दिनांकः प्रयागराज 06 मई, 2024 **संयुक्त सचिव**

उ0प्र0 लोक सेवा आयोग
विज्ञप्ति
सीधी भर्ती से सम्बन्धित विज्ञापनों के अन्तर्गत विज्ञापित पद जिनका विवरण निम्नवत है :-

Sr.	Advt. No.	Deptt. Name	Post Name	Deptt. No.
1	D-2-E-1-2023,	Uttar Pradesh Ayush Department,	Reader Kriya Shareer,	S-09-03
2	D-2-E-1-2023,	Uttar Pradesh Ayush Department,	Reader Shalya Tantra,	S-09-04
3	D-2-E-1-2023,	Uttar Pradesh Ayush Department,	Reader Ras Shastra Evam Bhaishajya Kalpana,	S-09-05
4	D-2-E-1-2023,	Uttar Pradesh Ayush Department,	Reader Dravya Guna,	S-09-06

उक्त पदों के साक्षात्कार में उपस्थित अभ्यर्थियों के प्राप्तांक एवं कट ऑफ अंक आयोग की वेबसाइट **https://uppsc.up.nic.in** पर दिनांक 07.05.2024 से 14.05.2024 तक उपलब्ध रहेंगे। अतः अभ्यर्थीगण अपने अनुक्रमांक एवं जन्मतिथि के आधार पर प्राप्तांक एवं कट ऑफ अंक अवलोकित/प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त सीधी भर्तियों के परिणाम के सम्बन्ध में सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम-2005 के अन्तर्गत प्रार्थना पत्र स्वीकार नहीं किए जायेंगे और न ही उन पर विचार किया जाएगा।
संख्या- 239/विज्ञप्ति/एस-09/2021-22 **विनोद कुमार सिंह**
दिनांकः प्रयागराज, 06 मई, 2024 **(संयुक्त सचिव)**

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण नि0 लि0
ऊर्जा भवन, 220 के.वी. विद्युत उपसंस्थान
बाई-पास रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा-282007
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
1.ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल एमएम / **3549-2024 :** 11KV / KV110 Volt PT Single Phase, 3 Nos. R, Y, B Phase PT without Housing in a Set for 11 KV Incoming Panel -, मात्राः **200** नग, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **72,000.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **3540.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)। 2 . ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल - एमएम / **3550-2024 :** 11KV / KV110 Volt PT Three Phase, Housing type with Male, Female Complete Set for 11 KV Incoming Panel, मात्राः **200** नग, धरोहर राशिः रु0 **1,19,000.00,** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्यः रु0 **5900.00** (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।
निविदा शुल्क केवल ऑनलाइन, **DVVNL, AGRA** की वेबसाइट **www.dvvnl.org** के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा। विवरण के लिए कृपया निविदा प्रपत्र ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ लें।
उपरोक्त निविदायें दिनांक 21.05.2024 को समय **13:00 बजे** तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जा सकेंगी एवं निविदायें खुलने की दिनांक **22.05.2024** को सांय **16:00 बजे** खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र उ0प्र0 शासन के **ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in** पर अपलोड की जायेंगी, वहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
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(आनन्द स्वरूप शुक्ला)
मुख्य अभियन्ता(सा0प्र0)-प्रथम
"सुनहरा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएं"

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited, Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, Post Office: D.L.W., Varanasi-221004, E-Tender Corrigendum Notice - E-tender No.- EAV-241/23-24 was invited on date 06.05.2024 for said work, is hereby extended upto 27.05.2024 due to unavoidable circumstances, All the terms & conditions will remain unchange. Please visit our website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/ amendments / modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of bids. Sl No., Tender Specification No., Work description, Earnest Money, Tender Fee (Including GST), Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting, Last date & time for online submission of tender documents, Date & Time for opening of tender part-I, 1. EAV-241/23-24, Appointment of project Management Agency (PMA)/ Consultant to provide services for Smart Distribution Project under Revamped Reforms-Linked Results - Based Distribution Sector Scheme in Varanasi District of PuVNL, Varanasi, 9.08 Lac, 11,800/-, 20.05.2024 15.00 Hrs., 27.05.2024 16.00 Hrs., 28.05.2024 18.00 Hrs., , **'Save Electricity in the interest of Nation' CHIEF ENGINEER (Revamped)** पत्रांक - 1149/पू.वि.वि.नि.लि.(वा.)/रिवैम्प्ड/विज्ञापन दिनांक 06.05.2024

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited, Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, Post Office: D.L.W., Varanasi-221004, E-Tender Corrigendum Notice - E-tender No.- EAV-238/23-24 was invited on date 06.05.2024 for said work, is hereby extended upto 27.05.2024 due to unavoidable circumstances, All the terms & conditions will remain unchange. Please visit our website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/ amendments / modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of bids. Scope of work, Smart Distribution Project on turnkey basis under Revamped Reforms-Linked Results-Based Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Varanasi District of PuVVNL. Varanasi mentioned against following respective Tender Specification Number., Sl No., Tender Specification No., Name of Cluster, Name of District, Earnest Money, Tender Fee (Including GST), Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting, Last date & time for online submission of tender documents, Date & Time for opening of tender part-I, 1. EAV-238/23-24, Varanasi, Varanasi, 05 Cr., 29,500/-, 20.05.2024 15.00 Hrs., 27.05.2024 16.00 Hrs., 28.05.2024 15.00 Hrs., **'Save Electricity in the interest of Nation' CHIEF ENGINEER (Revamped)** पत्रांक - 1148/पू.वि.वि.नि.लि.(वा.)/रिवैम्प्ड/विज्ञापन दिनांक 06.05.2024

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Manika Batra. REUTERS

Manika stuns world No.2

KAEC (SAUDI): Manika Batra shocked world No.2 Wang Manyu of China to secure the biggest win of her singles career and enter the pre-quarterfinals of the Saudi Smash here on Monday. Manika, ranked 39, beat the second-seeded Chinese 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 12-10 in just 37 minutes.

Norris clinches Miami Grand Prix

MIAMI: McLaren's Lando Norris won the first F1 race of his career with a shock victory over world champion Max Verstappen in the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday. Breathing life into an F1 season that risked becoming a one-man story again, Norris, in his 110th race for McLaren, beat Verstappen by over seven seconds with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finishing third.

Rublev claims Madrid Open title

MADRID: Andrey Rublev won the Madrid Open with a hard-fought 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime on Sunday to secure his second title of the year, despite battling with illness. The Russian world No.8 said he was "almost dead every day" and could barely sleep this week after securing a career second Masters 1000 victory.

Ex-WC winning coach Menotti dies

BUENOS AIRES: Cesar Luis Menotti, who famously coached Argentina to their first World Cup triumph in 1978, an achievement described as one of the "country's greatest joys", has died at the age of 85, the country's football federation (AFA) announced Sunday. Menotti managed 11 clubs, some more than once, and two national teams — Argentina and Mexico — in a career that lasted 37 years.

Suryakumar Yadav celebrates his century against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday. BCCI

Suryakumar ton takes MI to victory over Sunrisers

His sparkling 102* helps the home side chase down 174 with seven wickets in hand

Aditya Chaturvedi
aditya.chaturvedi@hindustantimes.com

	Team	P	Won	Lost	NRR	Pts
1	Kolkata Knight Riders	11	8	3	1.453	16
2	Rajasthan Royals	10	8	2	0.622	16
3	Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0.700	12
4	Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	6	5	-0.065	12
5	Lucknow Super Giants	11	6	5	-0.371	12
6	Delhi Capitals	11	5	6	-0.442	10
7	Royal Challengers	11	4	7	-0.049	8
8	Punjab Kings	11	4	7	-0.187	8
9	Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	-0.212	8
10	Gujarat Titans	11	4	7	-1.320	8

MUMBAI: At the toss, Hardik Pandya wore a smile as he usually does during interviews. Having opted to bowl, he hoped Mumbai Indians would play for pride, the badge, and the fans. Despite his calm demeanour though the weight on his shoulders was undeniable. His side was up against Sunrisers Hyderabad, who had slammed a colossal 277/3 against them earlier in the season. More importantly, another defeat would make them the first team to get knocked-out of the playoffs race in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024.

But riding on a sparkling century by Suryakumar Yadav, MI earned a seven-wicket win at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday and lived to fight another day. They restricted SRH to a below-par 173/8 before Surya hit an unbeaten 102 off 51 balls in a match-winning 143-run partnership with Tilak Varma (37 off 32). Their campaign is still hanging by a thread, but the five-time champions will believe they can finish away from the bottom of the table.

Having begun the chase with a string of boundaries, MI found themselves in a hole after losing three wickets for five runs. While Ishan Kishan and Naman Dhir were caught in the slips, it was Rohit Sharma's dismissal that was the most disappointing. The India captain, who had scored 29 runs across the previous four games, got a top edge playing a half-hearted pull off Pat Cummins and walked back with four runs off five balls.

From there, however, it was the Surya show all the way. The right-hander got his second IPL century on the back of some typically breathtaking stroke play. He did well to ride the storm initially along with Varma as Cummins and Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled testing deliveries before cutting loose, hitting 12 fours and six sixes. Cummins used just one over of spin and the strategy didn't work as Surya kept finding the fence at will. The 33-year-old brought up his century with a six, closing out the game in the process with 16 balls to spare.

Earlier, all eyes were on Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma in anticipation of another rollicking start. Although the two left-handers weren't at their fluent best, they managed a 56-run opening stand. It was Jasprit Bumrah, unsurprisingly, who provided the breakthrough for MI by getting Abhishek to edge to the 'keeper.

Anshul Kamboj, making his IPL debut, was denied Head's wicket as Nuwan Thushara dropped a sitter in the deep. But the right-arm pacer from Haryana struck soon after by rattling Mayank Agarwal's stumps. At 90/2 in the 11th over, the visitors would have been hopeful of getting a formidable total. But they ended up losing six wickets for 46 runs from there on as Pandya (3/31) and Piyush Chawla (3/33) delivered standout spells.

While Chawla showed his experience by bowling a flatter trajectory and not allowing the batters to free their arms, Pandya got a much-needed confidence boost with his best bowling figures of the season.

Brief scores: Sunrisers Hyderabad 173/8 (T Head 48; H Pandya 3/31, P Chawla 3/33). Mumbai Indians 174/3 in 17.2 ovs (S Yadav 102*). **MI won by 7 wkts.**

Jadeja's consistency a timely assurance for India ahead of the T20 World Cup

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KOLKATA: There was no whirlwind innings, not at least in comparison to what has been passing for absurdly belligerent in this edition of the IPL. Nor did he take the most vital wickets, Tushar Deshpande ticked this box by scalping Jonny Bairstow and Rilee Rossouw. Yet in grubby affairs with middling scores, Ravindra Jadeja stands out excelling in doing the mundane — firefighting collapses with balanced batting, wielding tireless control over the ball and throwing himself around to save every run possible.

The last facet has long been taken for granted. But this may be a good time to once again point out how significant Jadeja's latest uptick has been for CSK.

Wicket-taking was never his forte. But if economy is a suitable indicator of the difficulty to hit a bowler, Jadeja's 7.26 sits third among all Indian bowlers with at least 200 balls in this IPL, behind Jasprit Bumrah's 6.25 and Axar Patel's 7.26. Taking into consideration that he generally comes on after the end of the first Powerplay, that's a comforting statistic for any franchise. Perhaps more for India, going into a T20 World Cup pretty low on the allrounder quotient because of Shivam Dube's relative inexperience and Hardik Pandya's disappointing returns.

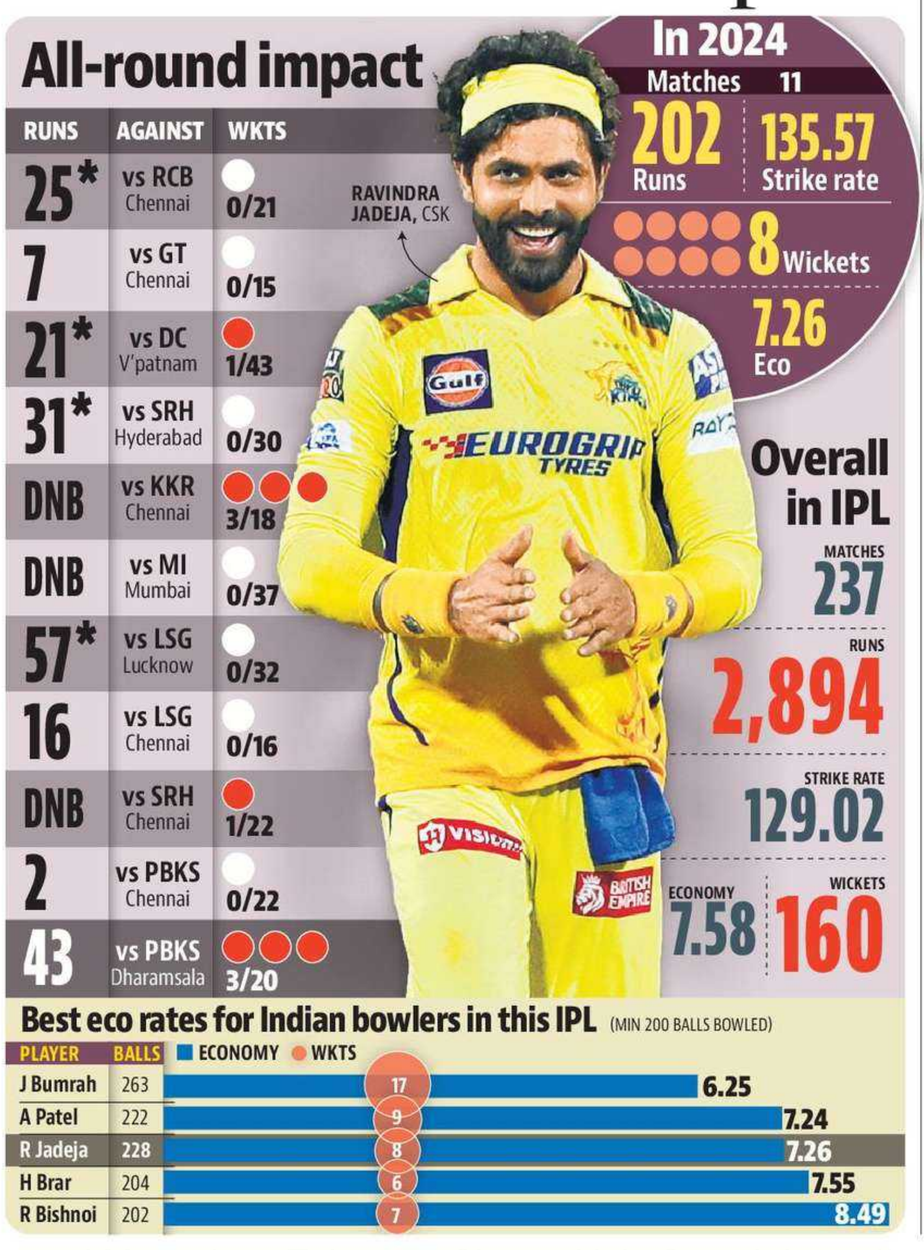
The possibility of Axar Patel and Jadeja fielded in the same 11 being next to zero, this has been an assuring preview of what can be expected from Jadeja. None of this should deflect from Jadeja's actual performance as bowler on Sunday — wheeling away, attacking the stumps to not allow any room till Punjab Kings finally gave in.

The rub of green probably went Jadeja's way when Sam Curran reached out for a wide ball but couldn't clear long-off. But enticing Prabhsimran Singh into a lofted shot with a fuller ball is what makes Jadeja such an unpredictable bowler. Jadeja the economical bowler is one thing, Jadeja the wicket-taking bowler in addition to stifling lengths becomes a different deal. Punjab Kings got to experience that.

India will play day games at the T20 World Cup. Which means dew won't be a factor on slow pitches in the US and Caribbean. So, when you take that into factor, Jadeja's performance on Monday becomes all the more indicative of how India could stand to benefit. This still doesn't cover Jadeja's batting, which statistically speaking, doesn't set the stage on fire.

CSK's gamble to send him at No 4 thrice in this IPL too has had mixed returns. But when the chips are down, no one probably does a better salvaging job at No 6 than Jadeja. Jadeja knew what he wanted to do. "The wicket was slow, and it was expected to be slow because it was quite warm," said Jadeja after CSK's 28-run win on Monday. "Wanted to build a partnership. My role is to build a partnership if we lose wickets."

If taking three wickets on a less responsive surface is a trait any team would kill to possess, scoring a 26-ball 43 in an innings where no one else crossed 32 comes a close second. By reverting to the natural order of things — letting Jadeja thrive in a batting role he knows and relishes best — CSK have not only helped themselves come out of a knot but also given Jadeja simulation for the upcoming T20 World Cup. There may not be any dazzling array of strokes, or a bagful of wickets, but trust Jadeja to quietly get the job done.



ASHA MAKES HER LONG-AWAITED DEBUT COUNT IN INDIA T20I VICTORY

Shalini Gupta
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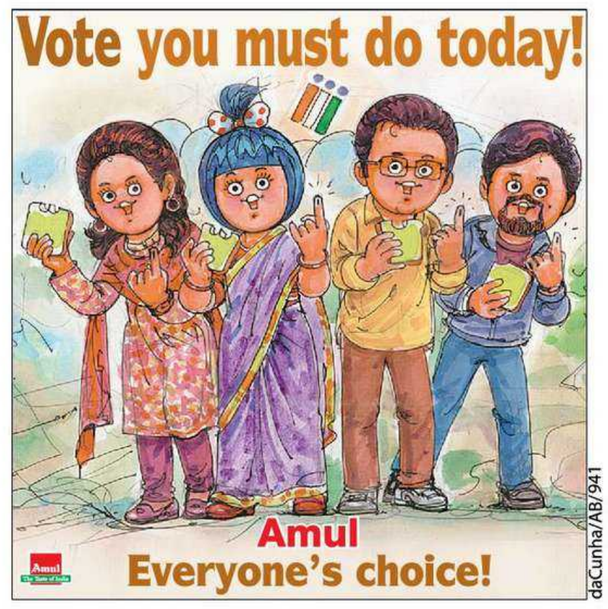
CHANDIGARH: About 18 months back, Kerala leg-spinner Asha Sobhana had decided to quit cricket and focus on her job at the Railways. That was when BCCI announced the much-awaited Women's Premier League (WPL), raising the career hopes of many domestic women cricketers.

Asha made it to the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) team even though the team did not do well in the first season. Much fitter and focused, Asha was ready for WPL 2. Not only did RCB lift the trophy, the 33-year-old emerged as the most impressive Indian leg-spinner in the tournament.

And now Asha is living her dream. She made her T20I debut against Bangladesh in the fourth tie of the five-match series in Sylhet on Monday, claiming impressive figures of 2/18. India, who scored 122/6 in 14 overs after the match was curtailed due to rain, then restricted the hosts to 68/7, winning by 56 runs under the DLS method.

The win gave India a 4-0 lead in the series. Asha wove a web around the opposition, trapping Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana (1) leg before the second ball she faced before having Shorna Akter (5) caught behind in her next over. After leg-break bowler Poonam Yadav faded away some seasons ago, it looks like India have found an able replacement in Asha, who can add zing to the Indian spin attack in the upcoming T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.

Brief scores: India 122/6 in 14 overs (H Kaur 39, R Ghosh 24, M Akter 2/24, R Khan 2/28); B'desh 68/7 in 14 overs (D Sharma 2/13, Asha Sobhana 2/18). India won by 56 runs. (DLS)



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{ LEFT FIELD }
Sharda Ugra

The Kohli-Sunny tangle, a reality of Indian cricket

Last weekend, before RCB's home match versus Gujarat Titans, Star Sports presenter Mayanti Langer asked Sunil Gavaskar about Virat Kohli's different approach to spin in the previous GT-RCB game a few days ago. Gavaskar replied, "Yes very, very refreshing to see that." He then switched topics to respond to Kohli's comments after that game.

Among other things in the post-match TV interview, Kohli had said, "All the people who talk about strike rates and me not playing spin well... I am not quite sure if you've been in that situation yourself to sit and speak about the game from a box. People can talk about their own ideas and assumptions of the game, but those who have done it day in (and) day out know what's happening" and other such words.

Gavaskar said the clip had been shown "half a dozen times" and scolded Star Sports, "For you to show the person belittling your own commentators, I'm not sure that's a great thing." He then pointed out that commentators talked about Kohli's 118 strike rate (51, 43b) versus Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 25.

"But if you have a strike of 118 and then you get out in the 14th or the 15th over with a strike-rate of 118, I mean, if you want applause for that, that's a little bit different... All these guys talk about, oh we don't care about outside noise. Then why are you replying to any outside noise or whatever it is. We all played a bit of cricket, not a lot of cricket. We don't have agendas. We speak about what we see."

But Kohli said what he said, plus he has a bit of a history against critical comment. Early in his India captaincy he had once said, "Someone who hasn't played for the country has no right to comment on an international cricketer anyway. I don't think that has any kind of logic. You cannot sit there and say how you would have done something differently when you have not been in that situation yourself and don't have the mindset of a cricketer."

For us print/text media underlings this latest Kohli and SMG back and forth became a bit of a moment. You know, how first they came for the text people and obviously no one spoke up for us, the inconsequential invisibles. Then they came for the comm box, whose biggest names find themselves "belittled", to use SMG's words, but social media for the most part showed no support.

The comm box filled with cricketing mega gods doesn't believe it belongs to the larger entity called the "media", so who we are and what we say doesn't matter. Fact is contemporary cricket divas think of comm box superstars as media. They do not treat comm box legends with consideration for their cricketing past but mostly as people with mikes who offend them. That is, simply another form of media which is responded to with either tart and tired "respond to critics" trope or by blocking access to as a means of punishment.

Indian cricket commentary boxes, particularly the English-speaking, have ceded much of their freedom of speech due to contracts with BCCI or with host broadcasters who are bound to BCCI. People in the industry say that there are three layers of freedom of expression in Indian cricket comm boxes. The least freedom of expression is found in bilateral series comm boxes in India.

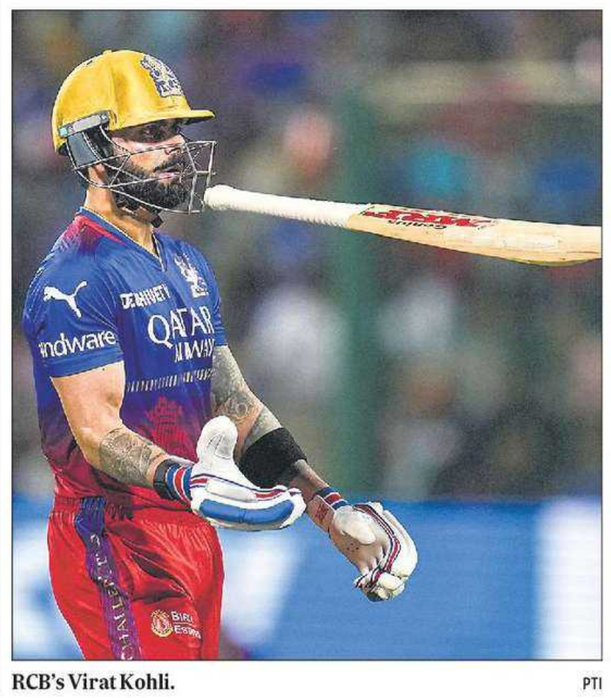
BCCI runs the entire production from logistics to selecting commentators to controlling content. The second layer is ICC events and IPL, where production is contracted to an independent entity which produces the feed and signs up commentators. Who stretch it a bit, even annoy a diva or two, keep but BCCI feelings, future contracts and social media branding in mind. But like during Covid, this layer can also find their status as the game's opinion makers and thought leaders diluted into a voiceless mush.

The cricket commentators who inhabit the land of the free and home of the brave on Indian cricket airwaves are those in the regional languages which have mushroomed into a diverse vibrancy.

It is how Ambati Rayudu was able to talk so frankly about RCB in a Star Sports Hindi show. "*Jab pressure hai, koi bada naam ka batsman koi nahin dikhta hai RBC main – sab young khiladi peeche khelte rehte hain. Aur joh naami khiladi aage jaake joh cream hain na... cake ke oopar cream ....woh kha ke nikalte hain. Aisa team kabhi nahi jeet ti hai, is liye IPL nahin jeete kabhi yeh log itne saalon se.*" (When the pressure is on, no big name RCB batsman is seen – it's the young players who will be found handling the back end of matches. The famous names have gone ahead and eaten up the cream on the game. This kind of team can never win, this is why over so many years they have not won the IPL.)

In English that is an internet-breakable offence-taking opinion.

I was surprised to learn that diva access is not a given even for Indian cricket rights-holding broadcasters; they must knock politely at the gates. Only nine out of ten IPL captains have given TV rights holders interviews this season because, well, go figure.



RCB's Virat Kohli. PTI

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