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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



WHY SILENT ON AMBANI-ADANI NOW, WHAT'S THE DEAL: MODI IN TELANGANA

How much did Adani, Ambani give you, PM asks Cong; Rahul says let ED probe them

'How many sacks of black money... tempos of notes delivered to Cong?'

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

ADAY after the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged that Rahul Gandhi had stopped his criticism of "Adani and Ambani" since the notification of the polls. The PM also called upon him to explain why and "declare" how much the party had got from these two industrialists. "You would have seen that the Congress shahzada (referring

to Rahul Gandhi), for the last five years, has been repeating this. Ever since his Rafale row was grounded, he started repeating this — first, he kept speaking of five industrialists, and then started saying Ambani-Adani, Ambani-Adani, Ambani-Adani. For five years. But ever since elections have been announced, they have stopped abusing the two. The shahzada should declare — during these polls, how much have they taken from Ambani-Adani (*kaina maal uthaya hai*)? **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



PM Modi in Karimnagar on Wednesday. ANI

No 'sudden' silence, Adani-Ambani a Rahul refrain this time too

ASADREHMAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

EXPLAINED PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's remarks that Rahul Gandhi had, all of a "sudden," fallen silent on Adani and Ambani don't match with the Congress leader's campaign

speeches. Over the last one week, reference to "Adani and Ambani" has figured in almost every Rahul speech. Consider these: **■ May 7, Jharkhand:** Flagging the need for greater representation for tribals, Rahul said: "The BJP says you are van-vasi and they will give all the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Sam Pitroda quits Cong post after remarks on facial features of Indians

Pitroda draws Africa-South India, China-NE parallels; PM leads attack

SUKRITA BARUAH & MANOJ CG
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, MAY 8

SAM PITRODA, one of the closest associates of the Gandhi family, stepped down as chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress on Wednesday after his politically incorrect remarks to underline India's diversity triggered a firestorm, drawing sharp reactions from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's chief ministers in the Northeast. Emphasising the diversity of India, Pitroda in an interview to *The Statesman*, said: "People in the East look like the Chinese, people in the West look like the Arabs, people in the North look like, maybe, White, and people in the South look like Africans," adding, "It does not matter. All of us are brothers and sisters." His remarks put the Congress in a difficult spot in the middle of elections. While the party initially distanced itself from



Steps down as chairman of Indian Overseas Congress

Pitroda's comments, it had to take steps to control the damage. With Pitroda's resignation, the party hopes to put a lid on the controversy and not let the row derail its campaign. "Mr Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress of his own accord. The Congress president has accepted his decision," Congress communication head Jairam Ramesh said. Earlier in the day, distancing the party from Pitroda's **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

GUJARAT POLLS

In live-stream from booth, man claims he cast multiple votes; is held

ADITI RAJA
VADODARA, MAY 8

TWO PERSONS have been arrested for alleged bogus voting after one of them live-streamed from inside a polling booth in Dahod constituency of Gujarat on Tuesday, claiming to cast multiple votes and "influencing" others to vote for a particular party, according to the FIR.

Police said both the accused are BJP workers. The man who live-streamed on Instagram has been identified as Vijay Bhabhor (28), while the second accused, Manoj Magan (38), is alleged to have helped him. While the video clip was later removed from the platform, it was widely circulated on social media.

In the over 4-minute video clip, Bhabhor can be seen entering the polling booth in Prathampur taluka of Dahod Lok Sabha constituency, and focussing the camera on the EVM while defying the warnings of polling officials. "Give us 10 minutes, we are sitting here... Only the BJP can run (here). *Machine apda baapnu che* (the machine belongs to our father)," he is heard **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

An 11-member team, 10 hours, exploding pine cone: Dousing a forest fire in Uttarakhand

The Indian Express tracks a forest team putting out a blaze



A forest fire in Dhumakot area of Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. Avaneesh Mishra

AVANEESH MISHRA
PAURI GARHWAL, MAY 8

"THIS IS why it's called 'jungle ki aag ki tarah failna' (spreading like wildfire)..." Look how fast it's spreading," says Forester Shiv Singh Rawat, dashing towards a plume of fire that's now racing down the slope like molten lava, inching dangerously close to a pile of pine needles.

Armed with only a branch to beat out the flames, Rawat, his sweat-soaked khaki uniform clinging to his body, climbs up the slope that's strewn with pine needles. As he leads the charge, another forest guard follows closely behind, using a garden rake to widen the gap between the fire and the surrounding vegetation.

The fire, in the upper reaches of a hill in the Dhumakot area of

Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district, is among the latest of 998 incidents of forest fires recorded by the state's forest department since November 2023 — 68 of those between May 6 and 7 alone. Last season, the state recorded 773 such fires. The fires have so far affected 1,196 hectares of forest land, led to reports of wild animals encroaching into residential areas, and claimed **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Will back Cong if it moves to topple Haryana govt: Dushyant



VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

A DAY after three Independent MLAs withdrew support to the BJP government in Haryana led by Nayab Saini, and sided with the opposition Congress, Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala said Wednesday that he would "support Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda" if he initiates a move to topple the state government.

"The BJP is talking of winning all 10 Lok Sabha seats and the Karnal Assembly bypoll. But three MLAs withdrawing support shows how weak the BJP has become. I would also like to tell the Leader of Opposition that according to the mathematics of numbers today, if a step is taken to topple this government during elections, I would thoroughly consider supporting him [Hooda] from outside," Chautala told *The Indian Express*. "It is now for Congress to think if it will take a step to topple the BJP government," the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

DECISION 2024

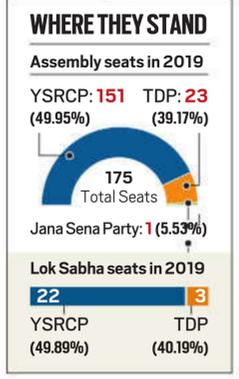
- Phase 3 turnout edges closer to 2019 figure, gap now under 2-pc points
- 'Absent' Brij Bhushan steers son's bid from shadows in stronghold

PAGES 5, 11

As poll date nears, gap between YSRCP & TDP closes in Andhra

SREENIVAS JANYALA
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 8

AFTER having swept to power five years ago in a massive victory, silencing naysayers who doubted whether he could replicate his father in popularity, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is facing what he calls his battle of Kurukshetra. "The people of Andhra will play the role of Krishna, whereas I will play the role of Arjun. I am contesting the election alone against the anti-poor capitalist partners of the NDA," he says at



every public meeting, pitching his contest against the TDP-led alliance as a "class war" between the rich and poor, with him the messiah of the masses with his welfare schemes. All the state's Lok Sabha and Assembly seats will vote simultaneously on May 13. In 2019, the YSRCP had won 151 of the 175 Assembly seats, with a vote share of 49.95%, reducing the TDP to 23 seats and 39.17% votes. The Jana Sena Party (JSP), which contested in alliance with the BSP and Left, won one seat and got 5.53% votes. The Congress got a mere 1.17% of the votes, and 0 seats. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Mumbai Indians' seniors question functioning under skipper Hardik

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, MAY 8

SENIOR MEMBERS of the struggling Indian Premier League side Mumbai Indians have questioned the functioning of the team under captain Hardik Pandya.

Languishing in 9th spot in the 10-team competition, MI's decision to remove Rohit Sharma, the present India skipper who has led the franchise to five IPL titles, hasn't been a popular one, with Hardik getting repeatedly booed by fans on match days at the start of the season.



Hardik Pandya replaced Rohit Sharma as MI skipper this IPL season. PTI

The Indian Express has learnt that MI's key players recently conveyed to the coaching staff

that there was a lack of buzz in the dressing room and the reason was Hardik's leadership style.

An MI official said this wasn't a leadership crisis but more of a sign that a team that was used to Rohit's captaincy for the last 10 years was still coming to terms with the change of guard. "These are regular teething problems for a team that sees leadership change. This happens in sports all the time," he said.

Those in the know said the players and coaching staff had met following a game. Among the Indian stars who were part **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

'They call me a clerk... how can a clerk push for BJD-BJP alliance?'

SUJIT BISOIYI
GOPALPUR, MAY 8

THE MAIN confidant of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the star campaigner of the party, and the main target of the BJP's attacks, V K Pandian says he is happy to be taking the heat off Patnaik, whom he describes as his "guru".

At the same time, the senior BJD leader scoffs at the BJP's claims that he was the one who



pushed for an alliance between the two parties. With the talks now far behind **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

'Haath has picked up jhadu': Manish Tewari makes a Congress-AAP pitch for Chandigarh

HINA ROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

DRESSED IN a white T-shirt and tracksuit, Manish Tewari briskly walks along Chandigarh's Sukhna Lake at 6.45 am, greeting people out on their morning walk with a firm handshake. "How are you, sir? I am Manish Tewari, please support



Manish Tewari during his campaign in Chandigarh. Jasbir Malhi

VOTESHARE (%)

Party	2014	2019
BJP	42.2	50.64
INC	26.84	40.35
AAP	23.97	3.02

Source: Election Commission

us. I am the joint candidate of the Congress and the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party)," the 58-year-old Congress leader tells a middle-

aged man, who promptly responds, "I know you, I was your junior at St John's (school)." After a brief conversation, Tewari moves on to the person sweeping the walkway. "My name is Manish Tewari, what is your name? Is everything alright at home? I am the joint candidate of the Congress-AAP alliance," he says in Hindi.

As the Lok Sabha election campaign in Chandigarh, which votes in the last phase on June 1, gains pace, Tewari is not only **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**



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<p>INTERNSHIP & PLACEMENTS</p> 		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Class 12th %</th> <th>CLAT Score</th> <th>SCHOLARSHIP %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>95 & Above</td> <td>110 & above</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90-94.99</td> <td>100-109</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>85-89.99</td> <td>95-99</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80-84.99</td> <td>90-94</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75-79.99</td> <td>80-89</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Class 12th %	CLAT Score	SCHOLARSHIP %	95 & Above	110 & above	100	90-94.99	100-109	60	85-89.99	95-99	40	80-84.99	90-94	20	75-79.99	80-89	10
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• 'They call me a clerk... how can a clerk push for alliance'

the two parties, which are the main contenders in the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha, Pandian told The Indian Express in an interview. "They call me a clerk. How can a clerk push for an alliance between a 24-year incumbent CM and the world's largest political party? They should not take me seriously. It's a dialogue between two statesmen for a larger cause, which couldn't succeed."

On the BJP's attacks on him calling him an outsider, Pandian said that "as a national party, the BJP must explain what they mean". Calling Odisha his "karmabhoomi", he said he associated "Odia Asmita" with the achievements of the state — the Patnaik government's health and education schemes, its disaster management record, its hockey infrastructure push, and its success in becoming a food-secure state. He doesn't see the coming elections as the BJP's toughest, Pandian said, pointing out that in 2019, the party went into polls

two years after the BJP dealt it a shock with its performance in the zilla parishad elections. "However, in 2022, the BJD won by a landslide, winning 30 of 30 zilla parishads. It's their (the BJP's) strategy to show that they are strong. But we are on the field and we know what's happening". Expressing confidence that the BJD would win due to the people's confidence in its government, Pandian dismissed questions such as 'Who after Naveen?'. He said that Patnaik would not leave the party "built on the blood and sweat of lakhs of workers... orphaned". "He has plans."

FROM PAGE ONE PM targets Cong over Adani, Ambani

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

How many sacks of black money have been taken? Have tempos full of notes reached the Congress? What's the deal that's been struck (kya sauda hua hai)? Why did you stop abusing Ambani-Adani overnight? Surely something is amiss (zaroor daal mein kuch kaala hai). Five years you abused the two and then stopped overnight; this means loot (chori ka maal) has been delivered to you in tempos. You will have to answer to the nation," he said at a rally in Telangana's Vemulawada.

Naukri Pakki Yojana — through these schemes, we will make crores of lakhpatis. They made 22 arabpatis, we will make crores of lakhpatis," he said. Congress leader and Rahul's sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "The country's public has lowered Modi's 'tempo' after the third phase. That is why he is remembering his friends' tempos." She asked him to answer to Rahul, saying the "country wants to know".

Telangana, Modi also attacked the Congress over the party's treatment of former PM late P V Narasimha Rao. "BJP's policy is nation first and it works on that policy, whereas parties like the Congress and BRS have a family first policy. By the family, for the family, and of the family is their policy. This family first policy is also the reason that Congress neglected and disrespected P V Narasimha Rao. They even denied allowing his dead body to be put at the Congress office. NDA has respect for P V Narasimha Rao and awarded him the Bharat Ratna posthumously."

In the evening, Rahul posted a video responding to the PM's comments. "Namaskar Modi ji, are you a little nervous? Usually you talk of Adani-Ambani behind closed doors; it's the first time you've referred to them in public. And you even know they give cash in tempos — is this from personal experience? Do one thing — send the CBI and ED to them, get them investigated as soon as possible. Don't be worried. I assure the nation once more — the money Narendra Modi has given to them, we will give to the poor. Mahalakshmi Yojana, Pehli

Reacting to Modi's statements, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said: "Times are changing. Friends are no longer friends... After three phases of elections, today the Prime Minister has started attacking his own friends. It is becoming clear that Modi ji's chair is shaking. This is the real trend of the result." Congress's Praveen Chakravarty said, "Clearly PM Modi is pinched and feels the heat of Rahul Gandhi's constant exposure of his nexus with Adani-Ambani at the cost of the common person and the nation." During the day, addressing a large gathering of BJP cadres in

He said that after the third phase of voting on Monday, the INDI alliance's "third fuse" has also burst. The PM was in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh the entire day. In the morning, ahead of the public meeting, he visited the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple in Karimnagar. After addressing the crowd there, Modi proceeded to Warangal. Later, he flew to Rajampet in Andhra Pradesh to address a public meeting, before holding a road show in Vijayawada in the evening.

• Adani-Ambani a Rahul refrain

forest land to Adani. He gives forest land to Adani (all) 24 hours... Whatever he does is for billions. He has 22-25 friends like Adani and Ambani and whatever work is being done is for them only. The land is for them, the forest is for them, the media is theirs, infrastructure is theirs, flyovers are theirs, petrol is theirs... everything is for them. Dalits, tribals, those from the backward communities used to get reservation in the public sector... now they are privatizing everything... He gives everything to (Adani)... People from the media are here... they are not yours... they are of the billionaires, they work for them... they will show Ambani's wedding 24 hours."

poor people belonging to the general category in the media... See corporate India. The biggest 200 companies... You will not find anyone from SC, ST, backward communities and poor in the general category... Has your or any relatives' loan been waived? Loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore of Adani ji and 22 billionaires have been waived. (This) is money for MGN-REGA for 24 years

■ May 2, Shivamogga (Karnataka): "In the last ten years, he has worked for 22 people. He put India's wealth in the pockets of 22 people... in the pockets of Adani, Ambani and such people... We are going to make crore of lakhpatis." The argument that the Government patronises a small group of the super-rich and the recurring naming of Adani-Ambani have been pet themes of Gandhi's counter since 2015. In fact, the frequent mention of the two business groups has drawn criticism, even from within the party, as many have argued that the Congress — which ushered in liberalisation in the 1990s — should not send a message that it was anti-business or anti-corporate.

Way back in April 2015, nearly a year after the Congress was decimated in the Lok Sabha elections and returning from his 56-day sabbatical, Gandhi, during an intervention in Lok Sabha, termed the Narendra Modi government a "suit-boot ki sarkar". It became a recurring theme of his Parliament speeches since 2018. In the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he picked on the Rafale fighter jet deal to raise allegations of corruption even after the Supreme Court, in December 2018, dismissed pleas asking for a probe into it and said it was satisfied that "there was no occasion to doubt the process."

■ May 6, Kharagone (Madhya Pradesh): "The whole public sector will disappear, and the country will be ruled by 22-25 people. Who are these people? They are the billionaires of India, and people like Adani whose eyes are on your land, forest and water. They want these things to be snatched from you and be handed over to them. And they are Narendra Modi's special friends. Have you heard the name of Adani? The PM wants to give Adani your land, water and forest... All the airports, power stations, ports, infrastructure has been given by PM Modi to these 22-25 people. He has never waived off your loans, but he has waived off loans of 22 richest people for Rs 16 lakh crore. Imagine that Rs 16 lakh crore has been waived off for people like Adani."

Slogans and campaigns like "suit-boot ki sarkar", "chowkidar chor hai" and the "hum do hamare do", however, were not seen as being electorally beneficial to the Congress but Rahul has persisted with his line of attack. So much so that, he displayed a photograph of Modi with Adani together during a speech in Lok Sabha in February last year to claim proximity between them and listed out the business deals the Adani Group has got since 2014 accusing the government of flouting rules and facilitating the group's meteoric rise.

■ May 6, Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh): "The press never talks about the adivasis. It will show the marriage of Ambani, Bollywood, dancing. But when atrocities happen on adivasis, and your land is taken away, they don't show it... Narendra Modi has waived off loans of 22 people who are billionaires. If they can give money to the rich, we can to Dalits, Backwards, Tribals and poor from general category."

■ May 5, Nagarkurnool (Telangana): "BJP is a party of 2-3 percent. Whatever Modi has done in the last ten years was for 22 people. He waived off the loans worth lakhs and crores of people like Adani. The country's airports, ports, infrastructure, defence industry... he handed over all that to one person."

■ May 4, Delhi: "There are no Dalits, Adivasis, backwards and saying in Gujarati. He also claims to cast multiple votes, asks voters to press the BJP's lotus symbol and claims to be "in control" of the area. An FIR was registered at the Santrampur police station on Wednesday, following a complaint filed by local Mamlatdar, Ishaq Mohammad Pathan, 47, who is the additional electoral registration officer. "Despite having the knowledge that mobile phones are prohibited inside polling stations, the accused took the mobile phone with him and violated prohibitory orders. Another accused is seen helping him... On bringing the matter to the notice of the Mahisagar District Collector, we have been orally directed to file a complaint at the police station," Pathan said in the complaint.

mer president of the Santrampur taluka panchayat," he said. Gujarat Chief Election Officer P Bharathi said: "We have sought a report from the Dahod returning officer. Once the report is available, we will be able to decide on further action regarding the polling in the affected booths." District Election Officer Neha Kumari also issued a showcase notice to four polling officials who were at the booth — Kana Rohit, Bhupatsinh Parmar, Yogesh Soba and Mayurika Patel — for "grave indifference and negligence". Meanwhile, Congress polling agents have filed two separate complaints at Santrampur police station alleging bogus voting by the two in 25 polling stations in the constituency. One of them has alleged that he was assaulted and threatened by the accused.

"In the presence of voters in the polling station, the accused resorted to inappropriate behaviour and created chaos. He made the voters wait in the queue, as it appears in the video, and pressed the (EVM) button more than once, presumably also on behalf of other voters as he claimed in the video. In the video, he also influenced voters to vote for a particular party," the complaint said. Mahisagar SP Jaydeepsinh Jadeja said the accused had been booked under relevant sections of the Representation of the People Act and Indian Penal Code. "We have arrested two persons, Vijay Bhabhor and Manoj Magan, for conducting bogus voting in the polling station in Prathamapur. The two are BJP members; Bhabhor's father, Ramesh Bhabhor, is a for-

Among the many incidents of threatening voters and trying to prevent them from casting their votes in Gujarat, the most serious cases emerged at night from Dahod, where the son of a BJP leader was seen casting bogus votes while keeping voters waiting in the queue and even went live... to say that the administration cannot touch me... It clearly shows he was acting as per the orders received from higher-ups and the police was a silent spectator," said Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi. In Dahod, BJP's sitting MP Jasvantsinh Bhabhor is pitted against Congress's Prabha Taviyad. Taviyad has written to the returning officer, seeking repoll for the booth.

gesturing to a forest guard to look for signs of creeping fires, the DFO explains. "The last rainfall we experienced was on March 3. Since then, there hasn't been any rain, which is unusual. This year, there was also no snowfall, so the moisture content in the soil and leaf litter is significantly lower. This has made the entire area prone to forest fires. We have been firefighting since mid-February." Back in Dhumakot, around 11 pm, Rawat and his team finally manage to extinguish the fire. They gather on a small hillock, away from the dense plumes of smoke, to catch their breath and take cautious sips off their water bottles. "We are running out of water. When we are out tackling forest fires, we can't carry too much equipment with us. We bring a few water bottles, gardening rakes and torches. The helmets we have are useless against loose rocks, and we don't have goggles or masks. Sometimes, we have to create fire lines that stretch on for 2-3 km, which means inhaling smoke for 6-7 hours straight," says Rawat.

While Rahul remained silent on Pitroda's latest remarks, his sister and senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit back at Modi. Asked by ANI whether Pitroda had given Modi a full toss, Priyanka, who is in Rae Bareilly, said: "Pradhan Mantri inhin fisoal baaton pe full toss khetle hain (The PM wastes time on full tosses like these). I challenge him, play full toss on employment, price rise, atrocities on women. You are saving those who are committing atrocities against women..." With Modi leading the BJP offensive, citing such "racist" comments as proof of the Congress's attempts to divide the country on the lines of race, religion and caste, the Opposition party leaders admitted growing disquiet over Pitroda, seen as a "habitual offender". Sources said a "stem message" should be sent to people like him, adding that the signal has to come from the Gandhi family.

"The Gandhis should realise that this man is giving the BJP talking points on a platter... We know that the BJP, especially Modi, is going to town, but our hands are tied. We could only disassociate the party from his remarks... that is why Ramesh promptly issued a clarification," said a Congress leader. "I still don't know what he brings to the Congress table apart from the fact that he coordinates and manages Rahul's speaking engagements, including at various universities abroad," said another. By evening, Pitroda resigned, and the party underlined that he did it of his own accord.

Lok Sabha, the break-up is 17, 2 and 6, respectively. The TDP hopes to corner Jagan over jobs and development. The most visible failure of a grand project under the YSRCP government is its still-born — and poorly-conceived — idea of three capitals. Jagan had halted Naidu's grand reinvention of Amaravati as Andhra's capital after coming to power. In a move seen as dictated by the desire to deny Naidu the chance of leaving such a legacy, the Jagan government had announced that the state would instead have three capitals — Amaravati as the legislative capital, Visakhapatnam the administrative one, and Kurnool as the judicial capital. With the matter stuck in courts, no progress has been made towards it. TDP general secretary N Lokesh Naidu, son of Chandrababu Naidu,

• Mumbai Indians' seniors

of the meeting were MI old hands Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah. Over a meal, they put out their thoughts across and pointed to the reasons for the team not doing well. It is also learnt that later there have been one-on-one interactions between certain seniors and team management representatives. This comes on the heels of Hardik, in his post-match comments after the loss to Delhi Capitals, purportedly pointing fingers at the team's top scorer Tilak Varma for lacking "match awareness". "When Axar Patel (DC bowler) was bowling to a left-hander (Tilak), the better option could have been to go after him," Hardik told the broadcasters. "I think it was just a little game awareness that we missed out on. At the end of the day, that cost us the game."

The blaming of one player for the team's failure, sources said, didn't go down well in the dressing room. Experts commenting on the game have hinted that there is something amiss about MI this season. Former Australia captain Michael Clarke went to the extent of saying that the franchise seems to be divided in factions. "I think there are different groups inside that changing room and something is not working. They are not gelling together, they are not playing as a team," said Clarke. MI officials said the franchise, like every year, will take stock of the season and, if needed, take a call on the future of the team.

• Dushyant Chautala

former deputy chief minister said. Haryana is set to vote in the Lok Sabha elections on May 25. "Three MLAs have withdrawn support and two BJP MLAs — Manohar Lal Khattar (Lok Sabha candidate from Karnal) and Ranjit Singh (Hisar candidate) — have resigned from the Vidhan Sabha. This makes it five MLAs out of the Vidhan Sabha. It proves that the BJP government does not have a simple majority. I demand that the Chief Minister resign on moral grounds," Chautala said. "The three independents have sent their withdrawal of support to the Governor. We shall also urge the Governor and even send it in writing to him seeking directions to the state government to prove majority," he said.

With MLAs Dharampal Gondher (Niockheri), Randhir Golan (Pundri) and Sombir Sangwan (Dadrn) withdrawing support, the BJP is placed tentatively in the 90-member Assembly — the majority mark is 46. With the current strength of the House being 88 following the resignation of two members, the majority mark now is 45. In the 2019 Assembly polls, the BJP had won 10 seats and the BJP 40 seats. Both parties entered into a post-poll alliance and formed a coalition government. Two months ago, the BJP broke ties with the BJP. The Congress has 30 MLAs in the House.

• Pitroda quits post after remarks on facial features

comments, Ramesh said: "The analogies drawn by Mr Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable. The Indian National Congress completely disassociates itself from these analogies." Seizing on Pitroda's remarks, Modi, while addressing a rally in Telangana, said: "I am very angry today. I don't get angry when someone abuses me. I will tolerate it. But today the Shehzada's (a reference to Rahul Gandhi) philosopher has hurled such a big abuse, which has filled me with anger. Can people's ability be decided on the basis of their skin colour? Yeh chamadi ki rang ka khel Shehzade ko kisne jiazat di hai. Samvidhan sar pe lekarke nachne wale log. (Who gave him permission for this game on skin colour. Those who dance around with the Constitution on their head) are insulting the people of my country on the basis of skin colour. Shehzade... you will have to answer. The nation will not tolerate insulting our citizens on the basis of skin colour and Modi will never tolerate it," he said.

• Man claims he cast multiple votes

While Rahul remained silent on Pitroda's latest remarks, his sister and senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit back at Modi. Asked by ANI whether Pitroda had given Modi a full toss, Priyanka, who is in Rae Bareilly, said: "Pradhan Mantri inhin fisoal baaton pe full toss khetle hain (The PM wastes time on full tosses like these). I challenge him, play full toss on employment, price rise, atrocities on women. You are saving those who are committing atrocities against women..." With Modi leading the BJP offensive, citing such "racist" comments as proof of the Congress's attempts to divide the country on the lines of race, religion and caste, the Opposition party leaders admitted growing disquiet over Pitroda, seen as a "habitual offender". Sources said a "stem message" should be sent to people like him, adding that the signal has to come from the Gandhi family.

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Assam Chief Minister and chairman of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance, Himanta Biswa Sarma, said: "Sam bhai, I am from the Northeast and I look like an Indian. We are a diverse country — we may look different but we are all one. Hamare desh ke baare mein thoda to samajh lo (learn about our country a bit)." Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh took a more aggressive stand. "I condemn Congress leader Sam Pitroda's racist comment against the people of Northeast. The Congress has always tried to divide India with their divide and rule policy. But they must know that the Northeast has been a part of India and always will be. Such a mockery of India's diversity is highly unacceptable," he said, demanding a public apology from Pitroda and the Congress. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma also condemned the remarks. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said: "The idea of unity in the midst of diversity is the main mantra of the Indian spirit. Although we live in the Northeast, our thinking is completely Indian. Similarly, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Ahmedabad to Arunachal, all the citizens of the country have one identity, as Indian. But, blinded by the greed of power, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's mentor Sam Pitroda and the discriminatory INDI Alliance mentality has gone so low that they are now judging the people of India by their skin color and face. I strongly condemn this disgusting mentality."

Pitroda had stoked a controversy last month too, when he said the inheritance tax in the United States was an interesting law and could be among the issues for debate in India. The BJP turned this into an electoral issue, with Modi claiming that the Congress would impose an inheritance tax and "snatch" people's inheritance for "re-distribution".

• 10 hours and an exploding pine cone: Dousing a forest fire in Uttarakhand

four lives. The once lush hillsides of Pauri now stand scarred with charred, blackened patches. The government, however, told the court that there were only 398 forest fires in the state since November last year, impacting 0.1 per cent of its wild cover. On Wednesday, hearing a plea on forest fires in the state, the Supreme Court said cloud seeding or "depending on rain gods" can't be the answer and that authorities will have to take preventive measures. According to the forest department, the cause of Uttarakhand's forest fires are almost entirely man-made. However, the prolonged dry spell this year and lack of snowfall last winter may have contributed to favourable conditions for the fire to spread faster and to wider areas. The summer months are when pine trees shed their needles, carpeting entire slopes and rooftops. When left uncleared, the needles turn slippery, making uphill climbs difficult. Villagers are known to set fire to pine needles to clear pathways and fields. "Almost all of the forest fires here

are anthropogenic (caused by human activity). In some cases, the fires are the result of negligence, like when someone discards a burning cigarette or bidi. But in many cases, the fires are intentional, especially when villagers attempt to clear an area of pine needles, but the fire spreads to the nearby forested areas," says Divisional Forest Officer Swapnil Aniruddha. Earlier in the day, the district forest officials had received an alert from the Dehradun-based Forest Survey of India (FSI) about the fire in the Dhumakot area. Led by DFO Swapnil, a team of 11 personnel, including Forest Range Officer Subhash Ghildiyal, a forester and forest guards, had rushed to the spot after extinguishing a fire in a nearby area. The fire, allegedly sparked by a farmer's attempt to clear stubble on his farm, had quickly spread to the nearby forest. After several tense minutes, the fire at Dhumakot is finally contained within three-metre-wide fire lines on either side. Fire lines, crucial in firefighting operations, serve as barriers to impede the fire's advance. However,

the fight is far from over. The team has to channel the fire down towards a concrete road but needs to make sure the dry leaves and the layers of pine needles around the fire line don't catch fire. The high temperatures and blinding smoke make their job tougher. Forest officials, he explains, primarily rely on three strategies to douse fires. Besides constructing fire lines and quelling 'creeping fires' (the kind that smoulders below the surface), they occasionally initiate a 'counter fire', a blaze in the direction opposite to the advancing blaze. Around 9.30 pm, as the fire approaches the concrete road that is supposed to act as a natural firebreak, the team breathes easy for the first time since they began their operation. Suddenly, a flaming pine cone explodes, reigniting the fire. The battle begins again. "Our forest staff have been doing this for days... Many of my team members have had difficulty breathing and some have been complaining of irritation in the eyes," says Swapnil. As he navigates a slippery slope,

• As poll date nears, gap between YSRCP & TDP closes in Andhra

The YSRCP had also swept the Lok Sabha polls, winning 22 of the 25 seats (49.89% of the votes), with the TDP winning three (40.19%). Just over six months ago, Jagan started his campaign with the confidence of the 2019 result behind him, as the TDP looked lacklustre. "Why not 175?" was his slogan as he exhorted leaders and cadre to try to win all state Assembly seats. However, that got a reality check after the TDP, BJP and JSP managed to forge an alliance. Consequently, Jagan changed his focus to battling anti-incumbency, with party candidates who were seen as vulnerable dropped. Now, a quarter of the YSRCP's sitting MLAs have either been dropped or their constituencies changed, while among MPs,

only 6 of 22 have been repeated. When defections and resignations followed, Jagan set off on a 22-day state-wide bus tour, with the YSRCP ensuring live telecast of the adulation showered on him. Like Jagan's earlier yatras which earned him political dividends, this one too hit its mark, at least in stealing the limelight from the newly formed NDA tie-up. Now, five days to go for the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, the Andhra contest is seen as evenly balanced between the YSRCP and NDA — with a clear line separating the two. If the rural voters continue to support Jagan having received benefits of his government's welfare schemes such as senior citizens' pension, Ammavodi (Rs 15,000 to mothers to keep children in school), YSR

Cheyuta (Rs 75,000 to socially backward and financially weak women over five years) etc, urban areas are tilting towards the NDA. In rural areas, Jagan also holds on to his main vote bank of SCs, STs and backward classes. In urban areas, issues like unemployment, lack of investment, and the general sluggish pace of development weigh heavily on voters' minds. Haribabu, 34, a seed and fertiliser seller at Nandigama, on the outskirts of Vijayawada, says: "The government's DBT (direct benefit transfer) has helped poor families immensely. As for candidate changes and whether that is worrying, YSRCP supporters such as Haribabu say they don't vote for the party's candidate, but for its symbol, a fan.

The rural-urban split also holds true in Kuppam, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu's home turf. The Jagan government has ensured saturation coverage of its schemes here, apart from generous funding to local municipalities and launch of several civic projects. Naidu has been representing the Kuppam seat since 1989. But in the 2019 polls, his vote share for the first time slipped below 60%, to 55.18%. Though still substantial, it was bad optics for the TDP veteran, who is also facing questions over his flip-flops when it comes to the BJP, which kept him hanging for a long time before agreeing to an alliance. As part of the tie-up, while the TDP is contesting 144 Assembly seats, the JSP is fighting 21 and the BJP 10. In the

says: "While concentrating on welfare, Jagan did not see the larger picture. Main issues in Andhra today are unemployment and inflation... DBT does not solve poverty." In the final leg, the TDP has pulled out a potent arsenal against Jagan. It has accused the Jagan government of bringing in the Andhra Pradesh Land Titling Act to "grab land", adding that plots without proper title holdings are being "usurped". In its manifesto, the NDA has said it will scrap the Act if voted to power. On a complaint by the YSRCP, the Election Commission recently directed that Naidu and Lokesh be booked for spreading "disinformation". YSRCP general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy says the Act is meant to "eliminate land mafia" and "distribute clear ownership titles".

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WERE PLANNING SOMETHING BIG IN DELHI: POLICE

From Punjab to Bihar, 10 of Bishnoi-Brar gang held in Delhi Police's nationwide crackdown

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

DELHI, PUNJAB, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar: In a nationwide crackdown, the Delhi Police have arrested nine members of a gang run by gangsters Goldy Brar and Lawrence Bishnoi from seven states, officials said. They have also apprehended a minor, they added.

With this, they have averted contract killings and other heinous crimes being planned in Delhi and other states, Delhi Police said.

Brar, a designated terrorist, is believed to be in Canada, while his partner Bishnoi is serving time at Sabramati jail in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

A police officer said the arrested men were planning revenge killings on members of the rival Tiltu Tajpuria gang in Delhi and Rajasthan, adding they were in touch with Brar and Bishnoi. A case in this regard was registered at Special Cell on April 24.

A senior officer told *The Indian*

PAN-INDIA OPERATION

1. **Delhi**
JASPREET SINGH alias Rahul, 25, arrested near Shastri Park Pusta
DHARMENDRA alias Kartik, arrested near Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station
2. **Haryana**
MANJEET, 24, nabbed from village Kheri Dahiya in Sonipat
3. **Punjab**
GURPAL SINGH, 26, and **MANJEET SINGH GURI**, 22, held from Mohali
4. **Rajasthan**
ABHAY SONI alias Kartik alias Kabir (22) from Jaipur arrested
5. **Uttar Pradesh**
SACHIN KUMAR alias Rahul, 26, arrested from Lucknow along with a juvenile
6. **Madhya Pradesh**
SANTOSH alias Sultan Baba, 20, arrested from Ratlam
7. **Bihar**
SANTOSH KUMAR, 27, arrested from Vaishali



Express that the operation was planned after police received a tip-off that one of the arrested men, Manjeet, was "in constant touch with Brar through

Telegram and Signal, and they were planning something big in Delhi".

The arrests

The first arrests, police said, was made in New Delhi on April 27. Jaspreet Singh alias Rahul, 25, was arrested near Shastri Park Pusta while Dharmendra alias

Kartik was nabbed near Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station. On the same day, another team arrested 22-year-old Abhay Soni alias Kartik alias Kabir in Jaipur. Simultaneously, teams nabbed Sachin Kumar alias Rahul, 26, from Lucknow along with a minor. In another raid, on April 27, 20-year-old Santosh alias Sultan Baba was arrested in Ratlam, MP.

On April 30, Manjeet was arrested in Sonapat, Haryana. In Punjab, Gurpal Singh, 26, and Manjeet Singh Guri, 22, of Mohali were also arrested the same day. The last arrest was made during a raid in Vaishali, Bihar, where Santosh Kumar, 27, was arrested on May 2. Pistols with live cartridges were recovered in almost all the arrests, police said.

The police officer quoted above said the arrested persons were planning revenge killings on the Tiltu gang. "Brar would direct them," the officer said, adding their plans came to light after police intercepted their chats. "During questioning, they revealed they were going to be provided with the name of the person to be killed a day before... it

was all going to happen within a few weeks."

According to a statement by the Special Cell on Wednesday, all the arrested gang members were "connected with each other through Facebook, Instagram, and other encrypted chat platforms".

A high-level team of Special Cell led by ACP Lalit Mohan Negi and ACP Hridya Bhushan along with Inspectors Shiv Kumar and Satish Rana "started surveillance on the gang members" before finally cracking this network.

DCP (Special Cell) Pratiksha Godara, who supervised the operation, told *The Indian Express*: "Members of this criminal gang have been involved in heinous offences in Delhi and other states."

A senior police officer said that such gang members do not know each other and are simply asked to go to a location and execute the task. "Once they commit a crime, they exchange numbers and in this case too, all the accused had one common link - conversations with Brar, who was, in turn, in touch with Bishnoi inside jail," he said.

Head constable nabbed for 'taking bribe'; on the run, SHO suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, MAY 8

A HEAD constable was arrested and the station house officer (SHO) at the same police station was suspended for allegedly taking bribes, police said Wednesday.

The SHO is on the run, they added.

According to officials, on May 3, a man who is involved in the sale of scrap materials in Delhi lodged a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) alleging that following his arrest at Civil Lines police station, Head Constable Kulvinder demanded money in lieu of his release. The amount was later given to the officer, they added.

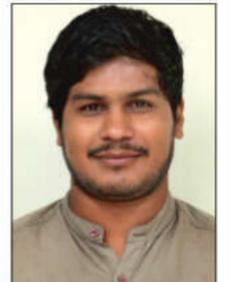
"On April 25, Head Constable Kulvinder arrested the complainant (of bribery case) on charges of theft and brought him to the Civil Lines police station in Gurgaon, where the cop demanded money in lieu of avoiding remand in court and not filing any other case. The next day, his nephew gave the constable Rs 4 lakh. The allegations were found to be true during the investigation. As per the provisions of Section 384 IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act,

Kulvinder was arrested," said ASI Sandeep, spokesperson of Gurgaon police.

DCP (West) Karan Goel said the SHO's name has cropped up while questioning the head constable. "The head constable has revealed he was in connivance with the inspector (SHO). We will ascertain this allegation as the probe is on-going. We will take further action against the inspector," he said.

RAVI KANOJIA

(07 JUNE 1982 - 09 MAY 2016)



Fondly remembered by his family and colleagues at The Express Group

Delhi Police flags rise in 'digital arrest' cases, issues warning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

A GURGAON-BASED IT engineer was "interrogated" for over two hours on Skype and told to transfer Rs 7 lakh to an account by a "police officer", who claimed that a courier under the woman's name had been busted by the customs department. The caller also listed the woman's Aadhaar card number, saying that it has been linked to a number of illegal activities.

In Noida, another IT-based engineer was duped of Rs 3.75 lakh

after being "held hostage" over a Skype call for over seven hours. "Policemen" had told her that a package under her name containing illegal drugs had been intercepted.

In both cases, a similar modus operandi had been employed by 'digital arrest' scammers to dupe unsuspecting people. The Delhi High Court, too, issued a notice to a plea in January this year highlighting new-age crimes such as digital arrests.

On Wednesday, the Delhi Police issued a public service announcement on its social media page asking citizens to beware of

such scams. "Some people call impersonating police personnel or officers of other agencies and say that you're under digital arrest. We want to clarify that there are no provisions for digital arrests. Please be aware of such scams and don't fall victim to them," said Special CP (Crime) Shalini Singh in the video.

According to police officers, the authorities want citizens to be updated of the new ways scammers find to swindle people of their money. "The biggest giveaway to the scam is the fact that no such arrest provisions exist in the law," said a senior officer.

STATE BANK OF INDIA भारतीय स्टेट बैंक

SBI, Sector-38, Gurugram Branch, (16532)
NOTICE FOR ARREARS OF RENT OF LOCKERS

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1.	914	Jitender Nagpal	Rs. 61,652/-
2.	262	Atul Barthwal	Rs. 5,192/-
3.	529	Khem Raj Sethi	Rs. 20,768/-
4.	1002	Kuldeep Dudeja	Rs. 9,440/-
5.	367	Nikhil Kumar	Rs. 16,048/-

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Place: Gurugram

Branch Manager,
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Last Date for Online Registration Application Form : 15 May 2024	Email: director.dor@smu.edu.in / deeba.gurung@smu.edu.in
Correction window : 16 May-19 May 2024	Phone: + 91 9641580247
Date of Entrance Examination : 27 May 2024	The guidelines for registration are available on www.smu.edu.in .
Online Examination Slot	
Research Methodology : 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
Subject specific examination : 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM	



FOR A RIDER LIKE NO OTHER

A MACHINE LIKE NO OTHER



MAVRICK 440
ME X MACHINE

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

(Rupees in Crore)

S.No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED			QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED		
		MARCH 31, 2024	DECEMBER 31, 2023	MARCH 31, 2023	MARCH 31, 2024	MARCH 31, 2023	MARCH 31, 2024	DECEMBER 31, 2023	MARCH 31, 2024	MARCH 31, 2023	MARCH 31, 2024
1	Total Income	9,699.34	9,965.77	8,543.70	38,348.27	34,370.81	9,794.01	10,031.43	8,671.82	38,643.16	34,727.39
2	Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional items)	1,349.58	1,417.03	1,146.66	5,418.35	3,874.56	1,292.08	1,456.08	1,128.17	5,250.19	3,863.62
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	1,349.58	1,417.03	1,146.66	5,258.36	3,874.56	1,292.08	1,456.08	1,128.17	5,090.20	3,863.62
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	1,016.05	1,073.38	858.93	3,967.96	2,910.58	943.46	1,091.12	810.80	3,742.16	2,799.90
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	1,001.98	1,070.92	853.84	3,945.61	2,901.21	931.58	1,078.02	805.35	3,709.30	2,765.03
6	Equity Share Capital (face value Rs. 2/- per share)	39.98	39.98	39.97	39.98	39.97	39.98	39.98	39.97	39.98	39.97
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	-	17,946.20	16,665.12	-	-	-	17,658.94	16,615.60
8	Earnings per share on net profit after tax - face value Rs. 2/- each (In Rupees)										
	a) Basic	50.84	53.70	42.99	198.53	145.66	46.78	54.71	40.29	187.36	140.62
	b) Diluted	50.74	53.60	42.94	198.18	145.52	46.70	54.59	40.25	187.04	140.49

Notes:-

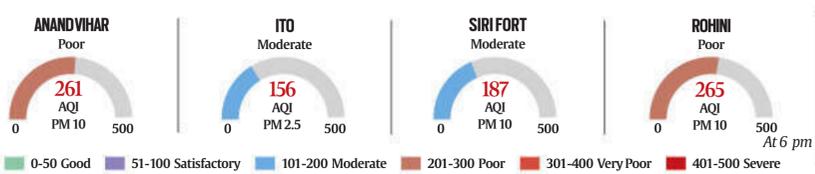
- 1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and year ended financial results are available on the Company's website www.heromotocorp.com and also on stock exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com
- 2 The above results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2024 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on May 08, 2024.
- 3 On May 08, 2024, the Board of Directors had considered and approved final dividend @ 2000% i.e. Rs.40 per equity share (face value of Rs.2 per equity share) for the financial year 2023-24. This dividend together with interim & special dividend, marking the centennial year of Chairman Emeritus Dr Binjinhom Lalji Munjal of Rs.100 per equity share, takes the aggregates total dividend for the year 2023-24 to Rs. 140 per equity share i.e.7000%.
- 4 Based on the guiding principles given in Ind AS-108 on 'Operating Segments', the Company's business activity fall within a single operating segment, namely automotive segment. Accordingly, the disclosure requirements of Ind AS 108 are not applicable.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Dr. PAWAN MUNJAL
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00004223

Shimla,
May 08, 2024

Hero MotoCorp Ltd. - Regd. Office: The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj- Phase-II, New Delhi- 110070. | CIN No. L35911DL1984PLC017354 • Visit www.heromotocorp.com

4 THE CITY



SKYWATCH
 May 9
 Partly cloudy sky. Strong surface winds (speed 20-30 kmph) during the day
MAX: 39 | **MIN: 26**
 0.3°C below normal | 0.9°C above normal

EXCISE POLICY CASE

May pass order on interim bail to CM on Friday: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE SUPREME COURT Wednesday indicated that it "may" pass an order on Friday on whether or not to grant interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the excise policy case on March 21.

"As far as interim order etc. is concerned, we may pass that order on Friday," Justice Sanjiv Khanna, presiding over a three-judge bench, said, as it was winding up the day's hearing on a batch of petitions challenging provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act.

At the end of the proceedings, the bench was fixing Thursday's schedule when Additional Solicitor General S V Raju pointed out that the Kejriwal matter was fixed for the day. Justice Khanna then told him, "No, it is the day after." The judge then mentioned the likelihood of the court passing the interim order too on that day.

Hearing the question of interim bail on Tuesday, a bench of Justices Khanna and Dipankar Data had said that it would not want Kejriwal, arrested on money laundering charges, to perform his official duties as chief minister even if it were to grant him in-

HC NIXES PLEA SEEKING FACILITIES FOR CM WITH RS 1 LAKH COST

New Delhi: The HC Wednesday dismissed with Rs 1 lakh costs a PIL seeking appropriate arrangements to CM Arvind Kejriwal to run the government from jail, and directions to the media restraining them from running "misleading news" compelling the CM to resign. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh said it can "neither impose censorship nor proclaim emergency or martial law by preventing the CM's rivals from organising any rally/protests calling for his (CM's) resignation". **ENS**

terim bail in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections since "it may have cascading effects". The bench, however, did not say when it would pronounce an order. Taking up Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest, the bench had on May 3 said that it will consider granting him interim bail in view of the elections as the hearing in the matter was unlikely to be completed before that.

Modern School asks 8 EWS kids to leave for failing exam, parents send legal notice

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

EIGHT STUDENTS of Class 9 at Modern School Barakhamba Road, admitted under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, were issued school leaving certificates after they failed to clear their exams. The parents have now sent a legal notice to the school, urging that the children be granted readmission to the same class and be allowed to continue studying under the EWS category.



A legal notice, dated May 6, was issued to Modern School Barakhamba Road on behalf of parents. Pic from school website

Private schools in Delhi are mandated to reserve 25% seats at the entry level for children from the EWS category. The Delhi Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, states that schools built on government land — like Modern School, Barakhamba — have to provide mandatory free education to children from the EWS category beyond elementary school.

The *Indian Express* called school principal Vijay Datta, sent messages and an email seeking his comments but did not receive a response. Principals of other private schools in Delhi said that students who fail a grade once are not asked to leave, but have

to repeat the class. Parents of the eight students said that their children — four boys and four girls — had joined the school in nursery. While seven of the eight students could not clear the compartment exams in Maths and Science, one student did not clear the English and Computer Science exams.

"We were told that the rules of the school are such that readmission is not possible and we should consider getting them enrolled in the 'open schooling' system for class 10. But these students are not old enough for an 'open' system... If they failed, the next step should have been to offer another chance and help them out. It has been more than a month since classes began for other students and these students are sitting at home," said the mother of one of the students.

The mother of another student said, "Admission in class IX in another school is now nearly impossible. He has been studying in this school since the beginning."

The legal notice, dated May 6, issued to Modern School Barakhamba Road on behalf of parents, by advocate Ashok Agarwal, noted: "It is submitted that your school is situated on government land and in terms of Rule 11(3) of the Delhi Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, you are bound in law to provide free of cost education to my said clients

until the completion of secondary/senior secondary education." Going by the notice, the result for the compartment exam was out on April 22. The notice added: "The academic session for Class IX started on 01.04.2024, but to date, my clients have not been granted readmission to Class IX under the EWS category, despite repeated requests."

Agarwal said that parents were called to the school on Tuesday and asked to write an application saying that they want readmission to the school. The principals of other private schools said that irrespective of the category under which a child took admission, students who are unable to clear their compartment exams in class IX repeat the year. Sudha Acharya, Principal at IITL Public School, said, "If they are not able to clear the compartment exam, they are retained in the same class. They are not removed from school."

Tania Joshi, Principal, The Indian School, also said if students have not cleared compartment exams, they are detained in the same class and not asked to leave. "We can't say they can't continue in the same school," she said.

Bribes from patients, fake certificates: CBI busts doctor-supplier nexus at RML hospital

Two cardiologists among 9 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8



The central gov't-run Ram Manohar Lohia hospital. Archive

THE CBI has arrested nine persons, including two cardiologists of Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, on various charges including collecting money from medical equipment suppliers, taking bribes from patients in lieu of "fixing" appointments with doctors, and making fake medical certificates.

The arrested persons also include four employees of the hospital, including a nurse. Two of them are accused of demanding Rs 20,000 from a man after threatening to stop treatment being given to his pregnant wife, according to the CBI FIR.

The action came days after the CBI received information through a source that several doctors and employees of RML Hospital have been indulging in corrupt practices and collecting bribes from patients, either directly or indirectly, through medical representatives of companies supplying different equipment required for diagnosis and treatment of various patients.

The CBI has registered an FIR against 15 persons. Among these, they have named Dr Parvathgouda, Assistant Professor, and Dr Ajay Raj, Professor — both working in the Cardiology Department of RML Hospital; Rajnish Kumar, senior technical in-charge of Cath Lab; clerks Bhuwal Jaiswal and Sanjay Kumar Gupta; and nurse Shalu Sharma, in their FIR.

"A source informed that one Naresh Nagpal, owner of Nagpal Technologies Pvt Ltd, supplies equipment used for different medical procedures to be performed on patients. In lieu of using such instruments, Dr Parvathgouda regularly demands and accepts bribes from Nagpal... On May 2, he demanded a bribe from Nagpal and also asked him to clear the previous month's dues of the bribes. (Nagpal) assured him that the bribe he demanded would be delivered by him on May 7 at RML hospital... There is a likelihood that Nagpal may deliver the bribe money of around Rs 2.40 lakh at RML to Dr Parvathgouda on May 7," the FIR, filed on May 7, stated.

"The source has further informed that on March 26, Dr Parvathgouda demanded a bribe from one Abrar Ahmed for promoting medical equipment sup-

plied by him. An amount of Rs 19.5 lakh was transferred by Ahmed from his account to that of Dr Parvathgouda's father on March 26. Dr Parvathgouda contacted Ahmed and asked him to pay the entire pending bribe amount that he had demanded as he would be leaving for Europe on a personal tour," the FIR added.

"Dr Ajay Raj asked one Bharat Singh Dalal of M/s Bharati Medical Technology suppliers to give Rs 25,000 and Rs 35,000 (in two installments). On March 30, Rajnish Kumar demanded a bribe amount of Rs 1 lakh from Ahmed for promoting his equipment among patients...," the CBI alleged in the FIR.

Nagpal, Ahmed, and Dalal were among those who were arrested.

"On January 17, Jaiswal and Sharma demanded Rs 20,000 for helping one Aryan Kumar get his pregnant wife admitted for delivery. Sharma threatened him that if the bribe amount is not delivered, she would stop the treatment (being) given to his pregnant wife. He immediately transferred the money through UPI," the FIR stated.

The CBI has alleged in its FIR that they received information that on January 24, one Krishan Kumar contacted Gupta and asked him to extend his medical rest certificate for a few more days. In return, Gupta demanded a bribe of Rs 700 in his UPI-linked account, the FIR added.

A special court sent the accused to CBI custody till May 14.

This is the second major operation against a nexus between doctors and medical suppliers in recent times. Last year, the CBI had arrested Safdarjung Hospital neurosurgeon Manish Rawat for allegedly taking bribes from medical suppliers.

Amphibious planes to e-cable buses: Gadkari outlines vision for city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

WITH A pitch for an electric cable bus, amphibious planes on the Yamuna and a promise to make Delhi one of the top five cities in the world, Union Minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari Wednesday addressed a public meeting in support of BJP candidate from Chandni Chowk Praveen Khandelwal.

Gadkari said the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had provided Rs 1.10 crore for various infrastructure projects in Delhi, including for the construction of highways and flyovers to improve the Capital's connectivity with other cities like Jaipur, Dehradun and Haridwar.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari with Chandni Chowk candidate Praveen Khandelwal at a public meeting, Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

"A scheme has been prepared and amphibious planes will arrive in Delhi that will take off from the Yamuna front to go to any other destination in the country," Gadkari said.

"We have undertaken a plan to start an electric cable bus from Delhi to Jaipur. Work on the project is underway for three interconnected buses running at a speed of 120 km per hour that will cover Delhi-Jaipur distance in 2.15 hours," he added.

The electric cable buses will be air-conditioned with business-class facilities like aero-

'DOUBLE-ENGINE' PROMISES FOR DELHI

Tackling parking woes to stray dog issue: What is likely to feature in BJP manifesto

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

INCREASING THE number of Centrally-run schools and hospitals in the city; discounts on bus, metro and railway fare for senior citizens; more evening colleges; parking facilities; round-the-clock assistance centre for women; and initiatives to control stray dog population — These are some of the "double engine" promises likely to be featured on the BJP's manifesto for Delhi.

Expected to be released next week, the BJP is understood to have prepared a 50-point 'Sankalp Patra' for Delhi aimed, according to those who drafted it, at addressing micro-level issues — ranging from controlling the stray dog population, not just through sterilisation but by also ensuring special residential facilities for "all members of the dog family", to improving Delhi's existing sewage system keeping the next three decades in mind.

"In addition to informing citizens about the Narendra Modi-



Discounts on Metro, bus, and railway fare for senior citizens is also likely to be on the 50-point 'Sankalp Patra'. Archive

led government's achievements at the Centre, and their positive impact on the Capital through, for instance, infrastructural development in the form of the Pragati Tunnel and the continuously expanding network of the Delhi Metro among others, the manifesto for Delhi will likely include solutions for sector-specific issues," a senior BJP leader said.

According to sources, the manifesto will focus on health, education, pollution, public facilities, traffic issues, regularisation of unauthorised colonies, law and order and the city's stray

dog problem in addition to issues related to both urban and rural villages, among others.

A senior BJP leader said that when it came to specific focus groups, the manifesto would seek to address issues identified as having an impact on women, the youth, labourers — both organised and unorganised — as well as street vendors.

"We will not only enhance the number of Centrally-run hospitals, but also the facilities at existing ones. We will not only provide more schools run by the Centre but evening colleges as

well as smaller academic facilities at urban villages and slums. More public parking facilities and discounts for senior citizens on public transport and Railways are also among our commitments for Delhi," the leader said.

"More surface and stack parking facilities will be created in venues which suffer from street parking-induced congestion such as banquet halls; we will put in place a sewage network which will be sustainable for the coming 30 years, ensure at least one woman police constable is deployed on each patrolling beat, and provide free legal assistance to women in need," the leader added.

For the youth, sources said, incubation centres for start-ups and skill development centres were likely in the offing. Besides, expansion of the number of homes for in-situ rehabilitation of slums, rental housing and night facilities for the economically challenged, and revamp of sewer lines in authorised colonies and laying sewer lines in unauthorised colonies may also be part of the manifesto.

New focus for AAP campaign: Traders, women, Purvanchali & rural population

HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE AAP's Lok Sabha campaign, which has so far been about highlighting the arrest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, will shift focus on four key groups in the city — traders, rural population, women and the Purvanchali population.

According to the party's Delhi in-charge Gopal Rai, the final stage of the campaign will begin on May 12 and will be about work

done by Kejriwal for various segments of the society. "We will be doing a series of Trade Town Hall meetings, Gramin Panchayats, Mahila Samvad and Purvanchal Samagam in all the seats where AAP candidates are contesting, starting from East Delhi, West Delhi, New Delhi and South Delhi constituencies respectively," said Rai, adding that these four social segments have a very vital role in Delhi's political scenario.

The Trade Town Hall series — starting from East Delhi — will talk about work done for the

community, and seek their feedback. In AAP's Mahila Samvad series, being kicked off from New Delhi, the party will campaign focusing on its various schemes for the women like "installing CCTVs, free bus rides and honorarium of Rs 1,000 per month for women" announced under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana in the Budget for 2024-25.

For its Purvanchal Samagam campaign launching from South Delhi, AAP will emphasise on the increase in minimum wages.

People consuming milk products that aren't safe: HC on issues plaguing dairies

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

OBSERVING THAT "citizens are consuming" milk products "which may not be very safe", the Delhi High Court Wednesday said it will set up a "pilot project" in Madanpur Khadar Dairy — one of the nine designated dairies in the city — to address issues such as use of "spurious" banned drugs like Oxytocin, cattle health, and hygiene at the premises.

Hearing a petition highlighting

the conditions of dairy colonies, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said it shall pass an order and form a team involving the DLSA to bring the dairy under "immediate compliance". The bench observed that the city's designated dairies are not complying with the statutory framework in as much as they do not have "mandatory" licences from the MCD. Delhi government's animal husbandry department, DPCC, and FSSAI.

Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh

Kumar, who joined proceeding through virtual mode along with senior officials such as the MCD Commissioner, said he will file a detailed affidavit indicating a "road map" to deal with issues raised. The HC also questioned Delhi Police if it has been able to find the source of the problem — where spurious Oxytocin is produced, packaged, and distributed. It orally observed, "If police is feeling handicapped, we can hand the matter over to CBI..." The counsel appearing for police said FIRs have been registered and a probe is on.

DANISH AMBASSADOR TO INDIA FLAGS PLASTIC WASTE, DEBRIS NEAR EMBASSY

A Danish request prompts clean-up act in Capital's diplomatic enclave

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

"WELCOME TO great, green and trashy New Delhi" — Danish Ambassador to India, H E Freddy Svane, made the statement in a video showing garbage dumped on a path near the Danish and Greek embassies in the diplomatic area of Chanakyapuri. The video went up on his X account at 1.54 pm Wednesday. Within a few hours, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) swung into action — its workers were dispatched to the spot, along with an earthmover, to cart away the trash.

Tagging the official accounts of the Royal Danish Embassy in

India, the Delhi Chief Minister's Office, and the Delhi Lieutenant Governor, the Ambassador captioned the video: "Lovely and green New Delhi. Many words but no action. Saddened by this." Gesturing towards the Danish and Greek embassies in the video, Svane pointed to plastic waste and construction debris on an unpaved road in between the two buildings and said, "This is supposed to be the service lane in between but people are just dumping and doing whatever they like over here."

Svane then appealed for action over words. "I hope somebody will listen to this and take action, no more nice words just actions my friends," he said, before folding his hands and say-



(Left) Grab from the video in which the Ambassador points to plastic waste and construction debris; (above) after the NDMC arrived to clean the area. Cajendra Yadav

had a broken brick boundary wall and was covered in piles of dry leaves, plastic waste and debris. More than a dozen officials, including NDMC's public inspectors and engineers, as well as staff were present along with an earth mover, an open dumper and loader. "I received a call at 3.40 pm... and called all the staff to the spot to clean it up," said an official at the spot.

At 5.20 pm, the Danish Ambassador visited the spot and thanked the NDMC staff for their swift action. "This shows how if you really go to social media and raise an issue, change takes place... I did not blame any authority... I just saw how garbage was dumped here at a beautiful place and tagged a few relevant

authorities... I want to thank everyone here... It shows how proactive the Indian government is," Svane told *The Indian Express*. He is currently on his second tenure as Ambassador to India.

The NDMC said in an official statement, "The NDMC welcomes feedback from any stakeholder for improving its services. In this regard, the social media message from H E Freddy Svane, Ambassador, Royal Danish Embassy, was promptly acted upon. (This) was later acknowledged by the Ambassador himself to the media. Immediate steps have been taken on the plot of land (which is not a service lane) by lifting the dumped material."

A senior NDMC official said the path was not a service lane.

"... It is a vacant plot/land under the Land and Development Office... As soon as we got the information, we issued directions to remove the debris."

A source in the Council said the path is used by residents of nearby slums as a shortcut. Officials added, "L&DO officials also visited the area. A boundary wall will be constructed by tomorrow to cover the plot."

At Sanjay Camp, 500 metres away, residents said they use the path to access the main road. Sarabjit, a resident said, "The entire area was a jungle before... the embassies came up some years ago... We mostly use this stretch as it is a shortcut, else it is a 2-km distance to get to the main road."

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday. Express

POLL FLASH

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed 25 'nukkad sabhas' in Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat on Wednesday. The last one stretched beyond 7.30 pm and the permission to use microphones and speakers expired. The generators were switched off, the microphones went silent and lights went off. People in the gathering then switched on their phone flashlights, giving the event a concert-like feel.

UNDERCOVER TROUBLE

A DELHI Police team went to Madhapur in Telangana this week to detain a suspect in connection with a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The team entered a hostel pretending to be 'loan department' officials. After they left, the hostel manager lodged a police complaint, alleging impersonation, theft and trespass. Telangana Police launched a probe before discovering that these were police personnel from Delhi who didn't inform local police about the operation.

FINAL EXTENSION

IT HAS been two weeks since the Election Commission, in an unprecedented move, sent notices to parties for poll code violations. Both the BJP and Congress initially received a week's extension to file their responses on alleged violations by PM Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. That extended deadline expired this Monday. Congress has responded, but the BJP sought another extension. Though the EC has given BJP time until Monday, it has categorically stated that this is the final extension.

VRS denied, IAS officer tells Punjab govt: Won't join duty, will fight polls

Chandigarh: IAS officer Parampal Kaur Sidhu Wednesday threw a challenge to Punjab's AAP government, reiterating that she will contest the June 1 Lok Sabha polls.

The state Tuesday rejected Sidhu's request for voluntary retirement. On Wednesday, Sidhu said she would not rejoin duty.

"They can take whatever action they want. My resignation has been accepted by the Centre," she said in Bathinda.

But a Punjab official said Sidhu needs an NOC from the state's Chief Secretary to submit to the EC. Without this, her nomination may be rejected. **ENS**

POLLING AT 65.68% AS OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Ph 3 turnout edges closer to 2019, gap under 2-pc points

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE PHASE 3 Lok Sabha voting percentage has edged closer to the 2019 figure for these corresponding seats, with Election Commission (EC) estimates at 10 pm Wednesday showing a 2024 turnout of 65.68% against 67.33% last time — a dip of 1.65 percentage points.

This comes after the first two phases of the elections saw turnout dipping by just under 4 percentage points and 3 percentage points, respectively, compared to 2019. In a statement Tuesday, the EC had said the turnout in Phase 3 was estimated to be 64.40% at 11.40 pm and that the final figures would be released by Saturday.

On Wednesday, the EC's Voter

PHASE 3 TURNOUT: 93 SEATS

Overall turnout (93 seats) 2019 67.33%
2024 65.68%

State	Ph-3 seats	2019 turnout	2024 turnout	Change
Assam	4	85.15%	85.45%*	0.3
Bihar	5	61.26%	59.14%	-2.12
Chhattisgarh	7	70.87%	71.98%	1.11
Goa	2	75.14%	76.06%	0.92
Gujarat	25	64.5%	60.13%	-4.37
Karnataka	14	71.7%	71.84%	0.14
Madhya Pradesh	9	66.71%	66.74%	0.03
Maharashtra	11	63.86%	63.55%	-0.31
Uttar Pradesh	10	60.01%	57.55%	-2.46
West Bengal	4	81.69%	77.53%	-4.16
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2	77.05%	71.31%	-5.74

* Seat boundaries in Assam constituencies have changed due to delimitation in 2023. **2024 Turnout: at 10 pm on May 8**

Turnout app showed that voting percentage had increased in five of the 11 states and Union Territories in Phase 3 — Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Goa and Madhya Pradesh. The rest — Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Daman and Diu — recorded a decline as of 10 pm, compared to the 2019 turnouts in these seats. The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu had the steepest decline at 5.74 percentage points, followed by Gujarat — which saw all 26 seats go to the polls in Phase 3 — at 4.37 percentage points.

Phase 1 on April 19 saw 102 seats go to the polls, with a final turnout of 66.14%, a decrease of just under 4 percentage points from 70% in 2019. The second phase of 88 seats on April 26 had a dip of about 3 percentage points from 69.64% in 2019, excluding the five seats of Assam that have been redrawn due to delimitation last year, to 66.71%.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST 7

Uttarakhand fires: Govt suspends 10 forest personnel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, MAY 8

CHIEF MINISTER Pushkar Singh Dhami Wednesday suspended 10 forest personnel and issued directions to initiate disciplinary action against seven others for their alleged negligence that led to forest fires in Uttarakhand's Nainital and Pauri Garhwal districts.

On Wednesday, CM Dhami held a meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat to discuss the forest fires that have been ravaging Uttarakhand and issued directions to take necessary action against the concerned personnel for negligence.

During the meeting, Dhami said local traditions to control and manage forest fires should be revived and that a campaign should be launched for cleanliness of fire lines, in which the public should also be encouraged to participate.

Dhami said water conservation works should also be a part

of the plantation drives and other works that are undertaken by the forest department. He also issued directions to increase the moisture cover of the forests by creating ponds to prevent forest fires. The Chief Minister said the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization is doing good work in this direction and that lessons should be learnt from them on how to control forest fires. Since pine trees shed their needles during summer months, Dhami said local self-help groups should be roped in to collect the needles so that incidents of forest fire could be prevented in future.

Dhami instructed that personnel engaged in forest fire control as well as the panchayat and local community institutions should be rewarded. He said life insurance should be provided to fire watchers and other workers engaged in forest fire control and management. After the meeting, Dhami left for the on-site inspection of a fire in Rudrapur.

Poonch attack: Search enters 4th day, IAF to conduct internal probe

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE INDIAN Air Force (IAF) will conduct an internal inquiry into the latest terror attack in Jammu's Poonch district last week, which killed one of its personnel and left four others injured, senior officials told *The Indian Express*. The terrorists could not be traced even as the search operation entered its fourth day on Wednesday.

Officials said the investigation will look into the details of the incident and ascertain measures that can be taken to prevent such incidents in future.

On May 4, an IAF convoy was attacked by terrorists near

Shahsitar in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. According to sources, two to three terrorists opened fire from an adjacent hill as the IAF convoy, comprising eight to 10 personnel, was moving towards its location. The vehicle was close to a military post, said sources.

A joint search operation was launched immediately after the incident by the Army and the police to trace the culprits. Sources said the terrorists likely fled the spot through the thick forests immediately after they received retaliatory fire.

According to sources, intelligence inputs suggest there are 10-15 well-trained terrorists operating in the Rajouri-Poonch belt, who keep track of military

convoy movements so as to be able to lay an ambush for the security forces passing by the area.

The latest attack comes within five months of a deadly terror attack on the Indian Army soldiers at Topa Pir in Poonch district, in which four soldiers were killed. Last month, a 40-year-old villager was killed after militants opened fire on him near Shahdara Sharif area of Thanamandi. On April 28, a village defence guard, Mohd Sharief, was killed in Basantgarh area of Udhampur.

In January this year, Army Chief General Manoj Pande had said while the situation in the Valley is getting normal, the adversaries have been active in the Rajouri-Poonch belt.

No anticipatory bail for men who distributed Prajwal videos: Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MAY 8

A DISTRICT court in Karnataka's Hassan has rejected the anticipatory bail plea of four persons accused of distributing pen drives containing explicit videos and pictures of sexual encounters — including sexual assaults by Hassan Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna — ahead of the April 26 Lok Sabha polls.

The district court has rejected the anticipatory bail pleas of Chetan C, 32, Naveen Gowda, 34, Karthik N, 40 and Puttaraju, 50, on the grounds that spreading the videos amounted to a violation of privacy and dignity, and caused embarrassment to the women.



Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna

Among the accused, Karthik Prajwal's former driver who reportedly accessed the videos from devices belonging to the MP while he was employed with him.

The Hassan court, in its order rejecting the anticipatory bail plea of Karthik and three others, noted that "the alleged act of morphing obscene images and videos of a candidate and distributing them to voters... can severely impact the reputation of individuals, specifically the women folk".

Following the rejection of the plea, G Devaraje Gowda, a Hassan BJP leader, sought the immediate arrest of the four.

Karnataka's Congress government has ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team.

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Recently, our inaugural ODR Policy Summit drew participation from both national and international spheres, highlighting our commitment to fostering intellectual exchange. Additionally, we are proud to pioneer VIDHIGYA, an independent placement drive, a first in Gurgaon, and to establish partnerships with esteemed institutions such as NUSRL Ranchi, The Ranka Charitable Trust, and CIRC CUTS.

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specialised areas of law, fostering critical thinking, research skills and legal expertise to produce well-rounded legal professionals who can contribute effectively in their chosen fields.

Career avenues beyond courtrooms

Legal education, as the foundation of one of the most sought-after career paths, with a plethora of rea-

sons to pursue it — from a lucrative career to being empowered to make a real difference in society and people's lives — offers a wide scope of rewarding career opportunities worldwide.

The country's qualified legal professionals can not only pursue thriving careers within the country but also work in international law firms. Furthermore, the scope

of employment extends beyond traditional legal practice with the demand for legal aid growing in tandem with the expansion of industries, globalisation, and increasing awareness of rights and regulations, opening up career avenues in the government, multinational corporations, international organisations, NGOs, and academic institutions.

With the US Bureau of Labor Statistics stating that the employment of lawyers is projected to grow 8 per cent from 2022 to 2032 — faster than the average for all occupations — the future looks bright for those aspiring to join the legal profession after completing their formal legal education.

Factors shaping legal education

The evolution of the legal profession and legal education from the times of colonial India to today's technology-driven, flourishing India, which is the world's largest democracy, has undergone a huge transformation. The demand for legal professionals and their services as well as the areas of specialisation witnessing an upward growth trajectory owing to globalisation, social changes, economic growth, and technological advancements has prompted adjustments in curriculum and training methodologies to meet evolving needs, thereby influencing and shaping legal education's landscape to cater to the dynamics of the legal market.

Regulatory frameworks established by

The demand for legal professionals is growing due to globalisation, social changes, economic growth and technological advancements.

bodies such as the Bar Council of India (BCI) play a pivotal role that influence legal education in India by shaping its structure, content, and quality through setting standards, regulating legal education, and approving law schools and their courses. Additionally, government policies on education funding, accreditation, and reforms also steer the growth of legal education by directing the course of law schools' seamless functioning and development, while enhancing accessibility, quality, and the effectiveness of legal education in India.

Several factors like the availability of resources, technology and infrastructure to foster excellence in legal education, alongside its ease of access and affordability, play an important part in shaping the learning experience and underscore the complexity of the le-

gal education ecosystem while highlighting the need for strategies to address challenges and promote improvement.

Competitive exams

Ensuring a level playing field while promoting meritocracy in legal education by providing equal opportunities to aspirants nationwide, the highly competitive law entrance exams — CLAT (Common Law Admission Test), LSAT (Law School Admission Test), and AILET (All India Law Entrance Test) — determine admissions to prestigious law schools in India. Serving as standardised measures to evaluate candidates from diverse educational backgrounds fairly, these exams assess a candidate's aptitude, logical reasoning, and comprehension skills, ensuring that only the most competent students gain entry into law programs.

through, resulting in the creation of a competent pool of lawyers passionate about their vocation and skilled to tackle the complexities of the legal profession.

Excellence in law education

For the CLAT undergraduate exam in 2022, as many as 56,472 candidates appeared for 2,622 seats, delineating the tough competition for the coveted seats in Indian law schools. Against the backdrop of the same, private institutions play a significant role in making quality legal education accessible to more and more students aspiring to join the legal profession. As they invest heavily in infrastructure to provide state-of-the-art facilities and implement innovative pedagogy accompanied by practical training through internships and collaborations alongside offering niche courses and having strong alumni networks, these institutions remain at the forefront of promoting law as a career in the country. India being the world's most populous country, yet not being among the top-10 nations in the 'Lawyers per capita by Country 2024' list, draws attention to the pressing need for expanding legal education's reach in the country and addressing the demand for quality legal professionals, wherein India's private institutions have a vital role to play. By being well-equipped in every manner to prepare students for the complexities of the legal field, these private institutions continuously raise the standards and accessibility of legal education in India.

As the backbone of a just and equitable society and with its significance extending beyond the courtroom to influence policymaking and social change, the importance of sound legal education is being growingly recognised worldwide.

Greater Noida Institute of Technology (GNIoT) Holistic development and academic excellence

Under the visionary leadership of founder chairman, the late KL Gupta, and the continued guidance of our esteemed faculty and staff, GNIOT has established itself as a centre of excellence in technical and management education. Since our inception in 2001, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to holistic development and academic excellence. The establishment of Greater Noida Institute of Technology (Engineering Institute), under the Shri Ram Educational Trust, heralded a transformative journey, culminating in our evolution into a comprehensive educational institution offering a diverse range of programs. Our successful attainment of NAACA+ Accreditation in the first attempt underscores our dedication to fostering academic rigor, innovation and societal progress.

I am delighted to share the NAAC Peer Team's Report on behalf of GNIOT (Engineering Institute). It fills me with immense pride and gratitude as I reflect on our journey to achieving NAACA+ Accreditation.



Dr. Rajesh Kumar Gupta
Chairman, GNIOT Group of Institutions

At GNIOT, our ethos revolves around nurturing not just intellects but holistic individuals capable of leading and contributing meaningfully to society. Our mission to elevate society's quality of life through educational excellence remains central to all our endeavors. The NAAC Peer Team's evaluation has highlighted several key strengths of GNIOT, including our holistic educational approach, innovative teaching methodologies, cutting-edge infrastructure, and highly skilled and devoted professionals as faculty members.

Moreover, our emphasis on fostering entrepreneurship and facilitating job creation among students aligns with India's vision for a vibrant and self-reliant economy. In addition to offering undergraduate and post-graduate programs in engineering, we provide Master of Computer Applications (MCA) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses, designed to equip our students with the requisite knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to excel in their chosen fields.

By setting a high benchmark, the exams not only contribute to maintaining the quality of legal education but also ensure that the crème de la crème of the aspirants get

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fits from an extensive network and a core team of over 40 IIT/IIM/NLU graduates. Recognised for securing top CLAT ranks and prestigious awards, CLATPREP takes pride in guiding students to fulfill their law school dreams.

In CLAT 2024, it achieved exceptional results, including 5 in the top 10. With over 50 coaching centres nationwide and 12 in Delhi and Gurgaon, CLATPREP ensures accessible and quality coaching for law aspirants.

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Asian Law College (ALC), part of Asian Education Group (AEG), which has a legacy of more than 33 years in education, offers much acclaimed courses B.A. LL.B & LL.B. To bridge the gap between the theoretical aspects of law and its practical application ALC offers four diplomas (Cyber Law, Media & Entertainment Law, Intellectual Property Law, Fashion Law) and certification in Personality Development & Legal Communication to all its students. ALC is approved by the Bar Council of India and accredited by NAAC, ALC offers in-house judiciary coaching to its students who aspire to appear in the Judicial Service Examinations and have the aim of becoming a Judge. An additional edge to an Asianite is our collaboration with the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town, South Africa where

students are taken for an 8-day residential learning program. The commendable achievements of ALC students by securing the first position in the overall merit list of university, students earning opportunity of pursuing LL.M. from Penn State University USA on a scholarship of approx Rs 40 lakh, outstanding achievements in moot court competitions, mock trial advocacy competitions etc. all across the country is in itself a testament of rigorous academic training given to the students at ALC. The focus of ALC as a Center for Legal Education is on laying a strong foundation for a successful legal professional trajectory of young law students who will be the torch bearers of the Society and Nation at large in the days to come.

Ashish Bhardwaj
Asst. Dean, Asian Law College

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The School of Legal Studies (SOLS) at K.R. Mangalam University (KRMU) focuses on practical and research methodology to transform young students into future legal experts in India. KRMU features various revolutionary courses ranging from bachelor's to Ph.D. that not only inculcate the relevant technical skills of the students through innovative curriculum and state of the art course structure but also make them industry ready in such a way that they can beat the competition in the coming decades.

The School of Legal Studies is one of the few law schools in India that provides specialisation in undergraduate courses. Graduates who pass out with a degree from KRMU get to pursue their legal careers in their field of choice.

K.R. Mangalam University has



Students visit to supreme court

extensively collaborated with National Law University, Delhi DLSA (District Legal Service Authority), Member Chambers, Tez Law associates, Gurugram to impart state-of-the-art education and hands-on training, courtroom ethics and client management. These collaborations give the students vast practical experience and make them aware of the latest and future trends in the field. Students at SOLS also visit High Court/Supreme Court to attend case proceedings which help them understand how to win legal battles.

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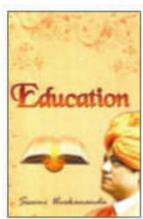
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Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS)

Following pedagogy inspired by Swami Vivekananda



Swami Vivekananda, the much-admired saint and spiritual leader, held insightful views on education that continue to resonate today. Fundamental to his philosophy was the idea of holistic development, something which we follow very rigorously at the Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS). He believed holistic development could be achieved through an education system that nurtured not only the intellect but also the physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of individuals.

Vivekananda emphasized the importance of self-discovery and self-realization in education. He believed that true education should awaken the innate potential within each individual, enabling them to understand

their true nature and purpose in life. There is a lot of focus on this count in the teaching pedagogies adopted at VIPS.

For him, education was not merely about acquiring knowledge but about realizing one's interconnectedness with the universe. One of Vivekananda's key principles was the concept of "man-making education." He envisioned an educational system that focused on character-building and moral development, instilling in students virtues such as courage, compassion, and integrity. He believed that such

qualities were essential for individuals to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives and to contribute positively to society.

Vivekananda also stressed the importance of education in fostering social equality and justice, this is something which is engrained in the environment of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies.

Swamiji advocated for education that was accessible to all, irrespective of caste, creed, or gender. He saw education as a powerful tool for empowering the marginalized and uplifting society as a whole. Gender equality is up per most in the teaching agenda at VIPS.

—Dr SC Vats,
Chairman, VIPS-TC, www.vips.edu

UPES

UPES showcases legal excellence

UPES School of Law recently organised India's largest academic law fest - Vidhi Utsav. The event in Dehradun attracted participation from 183 universities and law colleges nationwide, showcasing the institution's commitment to fostering legal talent. The fest featured competitions across various legal fields and informative sessions led by prominent legal figures. The event was held in Dehradun and concluded with an impressive valedictory ceremony featuring prominent guests such as Honourable Justice Rajesh Bindal of the Supreme Court of India, along with Honourable Justices Namit Kumar, Harkesh Manuja, and Harsh Bunger from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The festival was inaugurated by Honourable Justice U C Dhyani, marking the start of the conclave. A panel of 142 industry experts judged the competitions, including top partners from major law firms like Khaitan & Co and



Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, and Numen Law Offices, among others. The event celebrated academic and competitive achievements and honoured distinguished alumni, reinforcing UPES's dedication to shaping successful legal professionals.

Additionally, at the inaugural edition of the Justice Hidayatullah International Moot Court Competition 2024 (HIMCC), UPES emerged victorious among 40 teams, clinching the top prize of ₹2 lakh. The winning team, comprising Muskan

Sethi, Ananya Nandwana, and Mukul Khandelwal, also secured an internship at AZB & Partners, key collaborators for the event.

Manav Rachna University Relentless pursuit of excellence in legal education



NESTLED in the bustling city of Faridabad, the School of Law, Manav Rachna University (QS I-Gauge Diamond Rated) stands as a beacon of legal education, shaping adept professionals for the ever-evolving legal landscape. Garnering the prestigious title of No.1 'Law School of Excellence' by GHRDC 2023, the school proudly epitomizes a relentless pursuit of excellence. This accolade underscores the concerted efforts of its faculty, staff, and students, fostering an environment of unparalleled learning and fostering competent legal minds.

Boasting state-of-the-art infrastructure and an esteemed faculty renowned internationally, the School of Law ensures a holistic learning experience. Notably, the institution boasts an Elite Advisory Board chaired by

Shri Uday Umesh Lalit, Former Chief Justice of India, further enriching its academic prowess.

The coveted Gold Medal Legal Internship program equips students with real-world experience, bridging the gap between theory and practice. Moreover, with a steadfast commitment to student success, the institution provides 100% placement assistance, opening doors to a myriad of career prospects.

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BRIEFLY

Order to remove 'intimate' images: Microsoft moves Delhi High Court

New Delhi: Technology giant Microsoft Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court against an order that directed search engines to use their "existing mechanism" to remove intimate, non-consensual images. Appearing for Microsoft, Senior Advocate Jayant Mehta told a Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora: "It is an important purpose. But can I achieve it? If I do not achieve it can it take away my protection under Section 79 (Information Technology Act)." Section 79 of the Act pertains to instances where intermediaries are exempted from being liable for any third-party information, data or communication link hosted by them. ENS

Over 25k appear for VisionIAS's Abhyaas prelims

New Delhi: More than 25,000 aspirants across 100 cities in the country recently appeared for the first test of VisionIAS's Abhyaas prelims, an all-India mock test series to prepare aspirants for the prelims of the Civil Services Examination. The test series was conducted on April 21 at various centres, including Leh, Kohima and Rajkot. Participants in far-off places travelled to their nearest locations to appear for the Abhyaas prelims mock test. Abhyaas offered the aspirants a chance to challenge their analytical approach and work on their time management skills. ENS

Disclosed all side-effects in package, stopped making Covishield in 2021: SII

ANONNADUTT NEW DELHI, MAY 8

WITH BRITISH pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca asking for the withdrawal of marketing approval of its Covid-19 vaccine in Europe, Serum Institute of India (SII), which partnered with the company to provide Covishield vaccines in India, said Wednesday it had stopped production in December 2021.

The European Medicines Agency, the medicine regulator for the European Union, had on Tuesday said that the marketing authorisation of the vaccine Vaxzevria, known as Covishield in India, has been withdrawn at the request of the company.

An SII spokesman said in a statement: "From the outset, we have disclosed all rare to very rare side effects, including Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), in the packaging insert in 2021."

Earlier, according to media reports, for the first time, AstraZeneca had admitted in British courts that its vaccines could, in very rare cases, have the potential to cause the rare side effect TTS, opening doors for pay-outs in a class action lawsuit. TTS leads to blood clots combined with low platelet count after immunisation with vaccines that use an adenovirus platform such as Vaxzevria and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen.

The first cases came to light

within months of the vaccination drives beginning in Europe, with some countries halting the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for a while. Although immunisation with the vaccine was resumed, it was not recommended for young women, who were found to be most susceptible to TTS.

While SII did include warning regarding TTS in the second half of 2021, stating that people with a history of clotting (thrombosis) and autoimmune disorders should refrain from using the vaccine, family members of those who died of TTS and other rare side effects said that the package insert was never accessible to the people getting the shot during the mass vaccination drive and no one was there to inform them about

the possible effects.

AstraZeneca, however, maintained that the withdrawal has been initiated due to a surplus of available updated vaccines since the pandemic. AstraZeneca spokesperson in a statement told The Indian Express: "As multiple, variant COVID-19 vaccines have since been developed there is a surplus of available updated vaccines. This has led to a decline in demand for Vaxzevria, which is no longer being manufactured or supplied. AstraZeneca has therefore taken the decision to initiate withdrawal of the Marketing Authorisations for Vaxzevria within Europe."

In India, SII stopped manufacturing Covishield in December 2021, after most people had been

vaccinated and a stockpile was created. The company said: "With India achieving high vaccination rates in 2021 and 2022, coupled with the emergence of new mutant variant strains, the demand for previous vaccines diminished significantly."

Over 79% of the 220 crore doses administered in India during the vaccination drive was Covishield.

Data publicly shared by the government's Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) committee so far shows there have been at least 36 TTS cases in the country with 18 deaths. Almost all these TTS cases pertain to 2021—the first year of the vaccination in India.

-WITHENSINPUTS,PUNE

SC reserves order on suit against CBI's jurisdiction to probe cases in West Bengal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday reserved its order on the maintenance of a suit filed by the West Bengal government challenging the jurisdiction of CBI to investigate offences in the state after November 16, 2018, when the government withdrew general consent to the central agency.

During the hearing on Wednesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, said: "Once the State gives consent then you have the status of a police officer of that State and whatever the police officer can do under the code, you can do... Therefore, the CBI, in exercising its power under the Act, without the requisite State's consent, is not only violating... but usurping and ousting the jurisdiction of the State Police which is statutory for such offence."

Sibal told the bench that it "violated the constitutional provi-

sions" and "derogated the doctrine of federalism".

Conveying its preliminary objections to the maintainability of the suit under Article 131 of the Constitution that deals with disputes between the Centre and States, the Centre had earlier told the Supreme Court that the CBI was not under its control, and that the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) "does not exercise any functional control over the CBI as far as investigation of cases is concerned". Countering it, Sibal argued, "What the Centre said is a question to be decided on merits." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the CBI was not the police force of the Union. He said the Department of Personnel and Training is only a cadre controlling authority and cannot direct the registration of the FIR.

Justice Mehta asked who would be the one to authorise the agency to proceed to another state for investigation. The Solicitor General said it is the Centre.

TN Cong leader's death: Police find key evidence pointing to his murder

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, MAY 8

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING the death of a Tamil Nadu Congress leader—whose charred body was found at his farmhouse—are leaning towards concluding it as a homicide, with initial findings from the post-mortem indicating a divergence from typical patterns seen in deaths by burning.

A top investigator told The Indian Express that the lungs had no black particles—suggesting that KPK Jayakumar, the Congress Tirunelveli East district chief, was murdered before being set on fire.

The discovery of Jayakumar's half-burnt body, with hands and legs bound by strong restraints, has deepened suspicions of foul play. Investigators say it is unlikely that someone would opt for such a complex method to end their life.

A key piece of evidence emerged from a letter penned by

Jayakumar before his death, where he identified potential threats or disputes he had with five individuals, including Congress MLA Ruby Manoharan and former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee chief KV Thangakabalu. Although the letter points to a financial dispute with Manoharan and Thangakabalu, investigators have questioned the possibility of affluent political figures resorting to murder over a relatively modest sum of around Rs 11 lakh.

Both Thangabalu and Manoharan have been questioned and their statements recorded. Both leaders have strongly denied any financial obligation to Jayakumar and have labelled the accusations baseless.

The police probe points to certain individuals surrounding land deals in which Jayakumar is involved, as well as some disputes within the immediate family.

Forensic experts confirmed the authenticity of letters recovered from Jayakumar's residence.

Alleging communal statements by PM, Cong TN unit moves Madras HC seeking action

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, MAY 8

THE TAMIL Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) has moved a petition in the Madras High Court, seeking judicial intervention against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged communal statements during campaigning for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The TNCC, through its president K Selvaperunthagai, said Prime Minister Modi's speeches have not only been inflammatory but also derogatory, particularly targeting the Muslim community and the Congress party.

The petition, represented by counsel AP Suryaprakasam, confronted procedural hurdles in getting numbered by the HC Registry on Wednesday.

Refusal to expedite the process, citing the sensitive na-

ture of allegations against the Prime Minister, prompted the TNCC to seek judicial guidance. Justices A D Jagadish Chandra and R Kalaimathi, presiding over a summer vacation bench, intervened, advising the TNCC's counsel to address the Registry's queries to secure numbering for the petition.

Central to the TNCC's plea is the contention that Prime Minister Modi's election speeches, spanning multiple venues since April 21, have strayed into "divisive" territory. Allegations range from labelling Muslims as "infiltrators" to insinuating preferential treatment for them over Hindus in terms of national wealth.

Such rhetoric, according to the TNCC, not only sows communal discord but also aims to instil fear among citizens, fostering an environment of inter-community strife.

The petition asserts the

broader concern that Prime Minister Modi's speeches, though made in regional contexts such as Rajasthan and Gujarat, has the potential to stoking tensions even in states like Tamil Nadu.

Moreover, the TNCC raised concerns about the Election Commission of India's (ECI) perceived inaction against Modi's alleged hate speeches. Despite lodging numerous complaints across the country, the TNCC petition said, the ECI has issued only a show-cause notice to the BJP, not directly to Modi.

In the petition, the TNCC asked the Madras HC to direct the ECI to take swift and decisive action against Modi.

The action has been sought not only to curb the dissemination of false and derogatory statements but also to restore a level-playing field for all political parties, ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process.

Teen gangraped in MP's Shahdol; five arrested

Bhopal: Five people in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district allegedly raped a 15-year-old girl following which the authorities arrested them and demolished their "illegally constructed" houses, a police officer said Wednesday.

According to police, the girl, accompanied by a male friend, was on her way back from tuition when she was stopped by the accused. Some of them held the boy captive while others took the girl deep into the forest region and allegedly raped her. They also recorded a video, threatening to release it if they informed anyone about the incident, said police. ENS

Kerala-based church's founder dies in Texas after accident

SHAJUPHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 8

REOWNED EVANGELIST Mor Athanasius Yohan I alias K P Yohannan, who founded the Kerala-based Believers Eastern Church, died in Dallas in Texas Wednesday where he had met with an accident.

An official communication from the Church said "the metropolitan passed away due to sudden cardiac arrest in a hospital in Dallas, Texas where he had been receiving treatment since his accident on May 7."

Yohannan, 74, who rose from the ranks of a Pentecostal preacher, is an influential Christian leader in Kerala. Once blamed by RSS in Kerala for converting Hindus into Christianity,



KP Yohannan founded Believers Eastern Church

Yohannan had recently hit headlines by extending support for Anil Antony, BJP's candidate in Pathanamthitta constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Yohannan and his Church have been under the scanner of the Income Tax Department for the last few years in connection with the alleged diversion of a charity fund, reportedly to the tune of Rs 4,000 crore, for real estate and other business purposes.

Yohannan, who joined the evangelical mission at an early age, had set up Gospel for Asia (GFA) in 1979 along with his wife Gisela, a

J&K: Official slip costs man govt job for 6 years, CAT orders his appointment

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, MAY 8

AN ALLEGED oversight by an assistant in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in noticing the deposit of Rs 400 examination fee in its account made a successful candidate lose at least six years in getting appointed as a patwari in the revenue department.

On Tuesday, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) imposed Rs 25,000 as cost on the erring official of the recruiting agency as his 'negligence' and 'irresponsible behaviour' deprived a successful applicant his appointment as a patwari more than six years ago. The CAT bench, presided over by Rajinder Singh Dogra, also directed the SSB to declare the result of the applicant against the post of patwari and recommend the Commissioner-Secretary of the revenue department for issuance of appointment letter to him within four weeks.

Kushal Dev Singh of Akhnoor successfully applied online for the post of patwari in 2015. He also deposited Rs 400 as prescribed fee in favour of JKSSB. However, the admit card was not issued, he filed a writ petition in the J&K High Court in 2018.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

INFLUENCER SURVIVES KNIFE ATTACK IN BHOPAL

Bhopal: Bhubendra Jogi, a trader who recently shot to fame after his 'naam kya hai' meme went viral, was injured after he was allegedly attacked by two people in Bhopal on Tuesday evening. Police said Jogi was returning from his shop in New Market when two masked men intercepted him near a restaurant and attacked him with knives. ENS

Army Institute of Technology Dighi Hills, Pune - 411 015

Tender Enquiry Refer www.aitpune.com. For Details email: project@aitpune.edu.in Tele: 7249250184/185

Table with 4 columns: Description, Tender Fee, EMD, Last date. Row 1: Procurement of CFD Software in Mechanical Engineering Dept., 1,000/- (DD), 20,000/- (DD), 27 May 2024

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE No: S/2024/58 Date: 07.05.2024 The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 3rd floor, Near Jawahar circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Tender No., Brief Description, Qty, Unit, Due Date. Includes items like Slack adjuster complete type IRSA-600, Primary spring inner for generator car to ALSTOM, Nickel Cadmium Battery storage unit, etc.

CORRIGENDUM

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Tender No., NIT No., Description, Amendment in nit, Existing date, Extended date. Includes corrections for design, manufacturing, supply, installation, testing, commissioning, and proving of paint booth spray system.

Note: (1) Interested tenders may visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for Full details/Description/Specification/EMD & Tender cost etc. All tenders are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us on f NWRRailways NWRRailways

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction-II) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following works upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. Tender No.: EL/C/TRD/JPT/2024.

Name of work: Design, supply, testing and commissioning of (2x25KV) AC OHE & associated modification works in connection of RE-SDLP Bypass line work of NWR. Approximate cost of the Work: ₹3,68,54,104.90 Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 3,34,300.00. Date & Time of closing E-Tender: 29.05.2024 Upto 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening E-Tender: 29.05.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of above E-Tender are available on Website: www.ireps.gov.in

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

डेको के ई-ऑक्शन सूचना संख्या: सी-481/1/पाकिंग/ई-ऑक्शन/2024 दिनांक: 07.05.2024. कार्य का नाम: जयपुर मण्डल के विभिन्न श्रेणी के रेलवे स्टेशनों पर पाकिंग, एसएलआर लीजिंग, पे एंड यूज, के डेको हेतु ई-ऑक्शन कार्य की अवधि: 1. पाकिंग-03 वर्ष, 2. एसएलआर लीजिंग-02 वर्ष, 3. पे एंड यूज-03 वर्ष।

समय: 1. PKG 32 दिनांक 21.05.2024 को 11.15 बजे। 2. PKG 33 दिनांक 22.05.2024 को 11.15 बजे। 3. SLR 42 दिनांक 16.05.2024 को 11.15 बजे। 4. PnU 26 दिनांक 21.05.2024 को 11.15 बजे। वेबसाइट जहां से लॉट वाइज़ ई-ऑक्शन के संबंध में जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है: www.ireps.gov.in

536-AR/24

www.ireps.gov.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY VARIOUS REPAIR WORK TO BRIDGES ON MUMBAI DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE For & on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Engineer (Bridge Line) HQ & Central Railway, G. M. Building, 2nd Floor, CSMT Mumbai-400 001 invites e-bids at e-Procurement website, "http://www.ireps.gov.in" for the following work.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Tender Notice No. & date, Name of work, Approx cost of work, EMD Rs., Tender document cost, Completion period. Includes items like Provision of additional side path-way on B him a viaduct-I DN @ Kms 131/150-132/102 and Bhima viaduct - II DN, @Kms 133/10-18 ON KYN-IGP section over Mumbai division.

Date & Time of closing:- 10.06.2024 at 15.00 Hrs.

Complete information of above e-tender notice is available on website "http://www.ireps.gov.in". Bids other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against the above Tender.

XEN/Bridge Line/HQ For and on behalf of the President of India

SUN 83 अनधिकृत रूप से ख लाइन को पार करना स्टेशन अपराध है

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER Batch No. 05/24 dated -06.05.2024 E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.

Table with 5 columns: Sr.No., Tender No., Brief Description, Quantity, Published on/time, Closing on. Includes items like Must change kit for Axle mounted disc brake System of LHB EOG, 4.5 KW underslung constant voltage regulated cum emergency battery charger, Transformer distribution 60 KVA, etc.

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal. PR/00234/HQ/STORE/7/24-25/90 AMM/Medical

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

पंचम वि०/बि० वृत्त लोक निर्माण विभाग, हल्द्वानी Office of the superintending Engineer 5th E/M Circle P.W.D. Haldwani (Nainital) Website: http://pwt.uk.gov.in Tel./Fax: 05946-220782 E-Mail ID: sechhd.pwdk@gov.in

Tender Notice No.889/18 C.B-05-24-25 Date:- 08/05/2024

National Competitive Bidding (e-tender)

The Superintending Engineer, 5th E/M Circle, PWD, Haldwani on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand invited online tender for the following work in two bid system vide letter no- 491/18 C.B.-05/23-24 dated 06-03-2024 and corrigendum was published vide letter no-580/18 C.B.-05/23-24 dated 23-03-2024. The bid documents will be available online at website https://uktenders.gov.in from 10-05-2024 after 05:00 P.M.

Table with 6 columns: S. No., Name of Work, Earnest Money (Rs.), Validity of Tender, Time of Completion, Tender Cost, Category of Registration. Row 1: Facade Illumination Work of Thandi Sadak Nainital, 15,50,000.00, 120 Days, 06 Months, Cost of Tender Rs. 5000.00 and 18% GST Extra, "A" Class Electrical Contractor Registered in Center Govt. / State Govt. or their Undertakings

Notification No.-CSU/36014/AdvT/S-1/2024-25/01 05-05-2024

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER "ADARSHA SCHEME 2022" & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 UNDER "SCHEMES FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION"

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Name of the Scheme, Online Registration (Starting date, Closing date). Lists various schemes like Grant of recognition to institutions, Sanskrit Teaching, Samras Rashi, etc.

2. The interested parties, while submitting their applications for financial assistance, may kindly keep in mind the following instructions: i) Interested parties are advised to forward their applications in respect of the above-mentioned schemes through online mode only...

CBC 2121/2/2002/2425 Sd/- Registrar I/c



Online Proposal No.: FP/DL/TRANS/441848/2023 To: Principal Secretary (Forest)/Additional Chief Secretary (Forest)/Commissioner Secretary (Delhi) Dated: 05/02/2024

Subject: In-principle (Stage-I) approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.9511 ha forest land in favour of Power Grid Narela Transmission Ltd. for construction of 765 KV D/C Khetri-Narela Transmission Line (AL-59 ZEBRA) under North Forest Division in North West & North district of NCT/Delhi.

I am directed to refer to the online proposal no. FP/DL/TRANS/441848/2023 dated 25.08.2023 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under section '2' of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government, hereby conveyed 'in-principle' approval for diversion of 0.9511 ha forest land in favour of Power Grid Narela Transmission Ltd. for construction of 765 KV D/C Khetri-Narela Transmission Line (AL-59 ZEBRA) under North Forest Division in North West & North district of NCT/Delhi, subject to the following conditions and stipulations:

1. General Conditions

- 1.1 Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged
1.2 Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department in an area of 3.6956 ha. Degraded Forest Land in Kharsa No. 50/25/51/1, 51/10, 51/18, 51/19, 51/21, 51/22, 51/23, 52/23, 52/24 & 67/3, 67/4, Village Jaunapur, Tehsil Mehrauli, District South at the cost of the user agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species has to be avoided.
1.3 The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 12 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
1.4 The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 0.9511 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 956 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 1-1/1998-FC (PLI) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 and letter No. 5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 6/1/2022 in this regard.
1.5 All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portals (https://parivesh.nic.in/).
1.6 The KML file of the area proposed for diversion and proposed CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before commencement of works.
1.7 Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
1.8 User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 343 trees/minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
1.9 The user agency to explore transplanting of trees in consultation and guidance of Forest Department and monitoring/assessment of success of such transplanted trees by Research Wing of Forest Department. The details and location of such transplanted trees shall be submitted.
1.10 The FRA certificate as per Ministry's guidelines shall be submitted before the issuance of final approval. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
1.11 The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
1.12 The User Agency should fence the base of the tower by Chain Link Fencing to prevent the electrocution of Elephant/Wild Animals in forest area at their own cost. The concerned DFO shall inspect the area and shall take a decision as to the specific towers which shall be fenced.
1.13 Width of Right of Way for the Transmission Line shall be limited to 67 m.
1.14 To minimize the felling of trees for construction of Transmission Line, User Agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
1. The normal width clearance below each conductor or conductor bundle in case of 765 KV D/C line will be 7 m only. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
2. Outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the Transmission Line.
3. In the remaining width of Right of Way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local Forest Officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance. Trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 9.0 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The maximum sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned above.
4. The Scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species in Right of Way under the Transmission Line, as prepared by the State Forest Department shall be implemented from the funds provided by the User Agency and a scheme for this shall be submitted.
1.15 Width of Right of Way for the Transmission Line shall be limited to 67 m.
1.16 The User Agency shall ensure that the labourers and staff engaged in construction activities do not damage the nearby forest flora and fauna.
1.17 The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels preferably LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
1.18 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
1.19 No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
1.20 Earth or any other material shall not be brought from and debris resulting during construction shall not be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
1.21 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
1.22 The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the project/field requirement.
1.23 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
1.24 Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed Guidelines.
1.25 Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forest & wildlife.
1.26 The cost of the project shall be deposited in e-portals (https://parivesh.nic.in/).

2. Standard conditions
3. Specific Conditions
After receipt of the report from the State Government regarding due compliance and fulfillment of the above conditions and stipulations, formal approval will be issued in this regard under Section 2 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land by the State Government to the user agency should not be given effect to till formal order approving diversion of forest land is issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. To facilitate speedy execution of this project, the in-principle approval may be considered for issuance of working permission for commencement of works by the competent authority, if the required funds for NPV and all other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realized from the user agency and accordingly the State Government, by passing an order, may allow the commencement of work of the linear project in forest land for a period of one year.
Copy To pccf-gnctd@delhi.gov.in, ccg_gnctd@delhi.gov.in, dcfsouth.delhi@gov.in, dcfh_gnctd@gov.in
Youn's faithfully (Dr. Pranay Misra) Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnem Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427
Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 30.06.2023 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.09.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvama & EMI due up to 31.03.2024 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 20.05.2024 from 10 am onwards.
JABALPUR DISTRICT - ADHARTAL-JABALPUR: 435900001, 435900002, 435900026, 435900032, 435900033, 435900036, 435900040, 435900045, 435900056, 435900060, 435900068, 435900074, 435900088, 435900094, 435900094, 435900104, 435900123, 435900124, 435900130, 435900134, 435900135, 435900136, 435900137, 435900138, 435900139, 435900140, 435900141, 435900142, 435900143, 435900144, 435900145, 435900146, 435900147, 435900148, 435900149, 435900150, 435900151, 435900152, 435900153, 435900154, 435900155, 435900156, 435900157, 435900158, 435900159, 435900160, 435900161, 435900162, 435900163, 435900164, 435900165, 435900166, 435900167, 435900168, 435900169, 435900170, 435900171, 435900172, 435900173, 435900174, 435900175, 435900176, 435900177, 435900178, 435900179, 435900180, 435900181, 435900182, 435900183, 435900184, 435900185, 435900186, 435900187, 435900188, 435900189, 435900190, 435900191, 435900192, 435900193, 435900194, 435900195, 435900196, 435900197, 435900198, 435900199, 435900200, 435900201, 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10 DECISION 2024



'Naveen Babu won't allow BJD to be orphaned... He has his plans'

THERE IS hardly any election conversation in Odisha where his name doesn't come up. Till recently a top bureaucrat, V K PANDIAN is now the virtual No.2 of the ruling BJD in the state and the man who has the ears of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. He is the main target of the BJP as it hopes to make inroads into Odisha. As the two parties, which once contemplated an alliance, take on each other as rivals, Pandian recently said the BJP may try to form the government by any means if it gets 50-60 seats in Assembly polls. He speaks to SUJIT BISOYI before he left for his day's campaign in Gopalpur. *Excerpt:*



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
V K PANDIAN
FORMER BUREAUCRAT,
NOW BJD LEADER

Would you call the 2024 elections the toughest battle for the BJD?

Not at all. The toughest battle was the 2019 polls... because in the 2017 zilla parishad polls, the BJP had increased its tally significantly and won one-third of the parishad president posts. However, in 2022, the BJD won by a landslide, winning 30 of 30 zilla parishads.

nobody takes it seriously. People know that they do all this rhetoric and narrative-building for votes.

What do you see as the future of BJD-BJP ties?

We are in the middle of elections. No hypothesis should be done now. Our focus is on serving the people and making Naveen Babu the longest-serving CM of the country.

Regional parties tend to revolve around one leader. Do you see the BJD facing the same situation?

The BJD has more than one crore members. As long as the people want progress, development and empowerment, they will associate with the BJD. As the CM has already said, the BJD is not a one-man party.

But who after Naveen Patnaik is a big question.

The CM has said that the people of Odisha will select the leader of the BJD. Naveen Babu won't allow it to be orphaned. Contrast it to the BJP. We are in the middle of elections, they can't come up with a CM face.

Do you see yourself as the political successor of Naveen Patnaik?

I would have laughed had someone told me last January that I would join politics. I joined because of my love, respect and commitment for the CM and the state. When I went to the field, I felt that the people were emotionally connected, which made me think about whether to continue in bureaucracy or to join politics... I live one day at a time.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
indianexpress.com

IMAGE OF THE DAY



INTO THE BATTLE: AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a road show in Rae Bareilly on Wednesday. PTI

AFTER FIVE YEARS

In Amaravati, ground zero of Andhra 3 capital battle, TDP pushes ahead, YSRCP on backfoot

Hyderabad will cease to be joint capital of the two states after June 2

PUSHKAR BANAKAR
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 8

AMARAVATI, BAREILY 20 kms from Vijayawada, was envisaged as the new capital of Andhra Pradesh by the N Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government that ruled the state between 2014 and 2019.

Five years down the line, Amaravati seems to have turned into a "ghost town", becoming home to unfinished buildings and abandoned projects.

"We gave up fertile lands, borrowed money and bought a house here as we wanted to secure the future of our children. But today, we have nothing to show except our rising debts," says Ramchandra Rao, a TDP supporter.

The contentious capital issue has continued to haunt state politics since Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated to create the new Telangana state in 2014. The issue has assumed significance before the polls on May 13 as Hyderabad will cease to be joint capital of the two states after June 2, as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

After Naidu took charge as the CM after the TDP's victory in the April-May 2014 Assembly polls, his government proposed the setting up of a "world-class capital" in Amaravati and began land acquisition for it under the AP Capital Development Region (APCDR) proposal from 29 villages



TDP's Tatikonda candidate T Sravan Kumar during a campaign at Tullur village near Amaravati. Pushkar Banakar

surrounding the town. According to unofficial estimates, about 33,000 acres of land was pooled from villages.

After the YSRCP came to power in the 2019 polls, his government stalled the APCDR projects and floated a three-capital proposal: Visakhapatnam as the "executive capital", Amaravati as the "legislative capital" and Kurnool as the "judicial capital". This triggered massive protests from farmers in Amaravati whose lands were acquired.

"We gave up our only source of income - fertile land - for the development of the state. Now, we have nowhere to go," says J Ramesh, a 47-year-old daily wage worker from Venkatapalem village.

Near the state secretariat in Amaravati, a young woman is gathering plastic in a trash heap. "When I was young, this was a lush green field. About a decade ago, they (TDP) said this village will be transformed into Singapore. Today, it is nothing but a 'chatta kuppa' (heap of

garbage)," says Sai Lakshmi, 28. "My parents gave away 8 acres of land for the capital. Now they are left to beg on the streets."

The discontent seem to have spiralled to other belts. In Vijayawada, about 20 kms from Amaravati, an auto driver Atif Hussain vows to vote for the TDP. "Every state has a capital. What is Andhra's capital?" he asks.

Both the YSRCP and the TDP camps are aware of people's grievances over the matter. "I know that the people here are facing a lot of trouble," says Tenali Sravan Kumar, the TDP's candidate from the Tatikonda Assembly segment, which encompasses the APCDR. "Their life savings have gone into investing here but due to Jagan's high-handedness, they are left in the lurch. We will develop Amaravati into a global city," he adds.

The YSRCP has officially refused to comment, but sources said the party believes the capital issue is restricted to the Amaravati region alone.

Its capital dreams dust, the Vizag battle is on local issues, steel plant

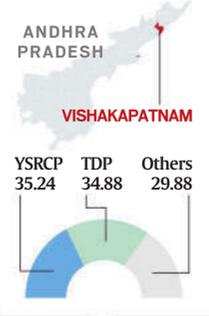
PUSHKAR BANAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM, MAY 8

WITH LESS than a week to go for polling in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh in the fourth phase on May 13, Visakhapatnam, also known as Vizag, is seemingly divided between the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) that seems to have gained momentum since it allied with the Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the BJP.

The YSRCP, facing the anti-incumbency heat has replaced its sitting MP M V V Satyanarayana with former Vizianagaram MP Botsa Jhansi Lakshmi, who is married to state minister Botsa Satyanarayana. The TDP has fielded the chairperson of GITAM institutions, Mathukumilli Sriharat, who is the son-in-law of actor and Hindupur TDP MLA N Balakrishna, one of the sons of TDP founder and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. The TDP has not won the constituency since 1999 when Sriharat's father and GITAM's founder M V V S Murthi won it. This will be Sriharat's second attempt at following in his father's footsteps, having fallen short five years ago by 4,000 votes.

In the absence of national issues, the poll narrative here is very much localised. Around 20 km from the city, in the town of Gajuwaka where the Vizag Steel

2019 VOTE SHARE (IN %)



Plant is located, V Sree Lakshmi waits for a bus along with her family. "The schemes of the state government help us get by. If not for them, it would have been tough for us to survive. My children are studying thanks to this scheme (Ammu Vodi)," she says.

Lakshmi's family is one of 7,000 who donated their land in the 1970s for the steel plant but did not get a job in return. The proposal to privatise the steel plant is an issue that resonates with the people of Gajuwaka and its neighbouring areas. "We will vote for anyone who stands by us and halts the plant's privatisation," says an office-bearer of the Visakha Steel Workers Union on the condition of anonymity. All the regional parties, including the BJP's allies, are opposed to privatising the plant.

I HEREBY DECLARE

PIYUSH GOYAL, 59
Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, BJP's Mumbai North candidate

TOTAL ASSETS
₹110.94 CR
(2024)

Movable assets ₹89.86 cr (self, spouse, HUF)
Immovable ₹21.08 cr assets (self, spouse)
Liabilities ₹14.22 cr
Pending criminal cases None

BHUSHAN PATIL, 55
Mumbai Cong vice-president, Mumbai North's Cong candidate

TOTAL ASSETS
₹21.25 CR
(2024)

Movable assets ₹5.46 cr (self, spouse, HUF)
Immovable ₹15.79 cr assets (self, spouse)
Liabilities ₹5.8 cr
Pending criminal cases None

Both did not contest in 2019

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NEW ROW

RAJIV AIDE TO RAHUL CONFIDANT, THE JOURNEY OF SAM PITRODA

KEY PLAYERS

Srinagar polls near, an unusual visitor's unusual visit to Jamia Masjid

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

WHEN HE made a surprise visit to Jamia Masjid while campaigning for his party candidate Mohammad Ashraf Mir in Srinagar Old City Monday, J&K Apni Party leader Altaf Bukhari became the first mainstream leader since the inception of militancy in 1990 to do so.

The Old City or downtown Srinagar is seen as the hotbed of separatism in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, with the historic grand mosque, the religious seat of Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, at the heart of it. Even when mainstream political activity was seen in the Old City area intermittently

over the years, the Jamia Masjid remained a no-go area for mainstream politicians.

Bukhari's surprise visit came against the backdrop of his efforts over the past year to garner support from the vast separatist constituency, and the coming Lok Sabha elections where his party is a prominent stakeholder in the Valley area. This is especially significant as the Apni Party, set up in 2020, after the abrogation of Article 370, has been trailed by the impression that it is the Centre's proxy in Kashmir.

In June last year, Bukhari made his first public attempt to reach out to the other side when he visited former Hurriyat chairman Abdul Gani Bhat at his Sopore home. Unlike in the past when political leaders would

keep meetings with separatists secret, Bukhari posted his picture with Bhat on social media.

A few weeks later, Bukhari drove to the residence of another Hurriyat leader, Aga Hassan Musavi, in Budgam. This time again, Bukhari posted his picture of the meeting on X.

Bukhari even made an overture towards the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), which was banned by the Centre as an "unlawful association" in February 2019. In September 2023, the Apni Party leader said that the doors of his party were open to anyone, whether from the Hurriyat or JeI, provided they "accept the Constitution of India".

He also advocated lifting of the ban on the JeI. However, the JeI didn't respond in kind.

Bukhari's Jamia Masjid visit has another symbolism. Apart from the mosque, the area around it is the stronghold of the Mirwaiz family and the organisation formed by it, the Awami Action Committee. There is a long history of acrimony between the National Conference (NC) and Awami Action Committee.

The NC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are seen as the most strongly placed of the mainstream parties that are contesting the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir.

However, not many expect Bukhari's visit to yield him much political dividend. "Generally, the residents of downtown are seen as anti-NC, but even the PDP has not been able to get a foothold there," a political leader said.



J&K Apni party leader Altaf Bukhari. Shuaib Masoodi

The leader said that Bukhari's bid to fill "the anti-NC vacuum" was also "immature" and may

not go down well with Mirwaiz's sympathisers. "His showcasing of the visit to Jamia Masjid as 'conquering' the separatist bastion may not resonate with the people living there."

Incidentally, Umar Farooq, who is the chief priest of the Jamia Masjid, has largely remained under house arrest since the August 2019 scrapping of J&K's special status, and has been allowed only a couple of times in nearly five years to conduct his usual Friday prayers. This also remains a major point of contention for his followers.

The Apni Party is contesting from two of the three Valley seats - Srinagar and Anantnag - and has announced support to People's Conference leader Sajad Lone in Baramulla.

In Srinagar, its senior leader Mohammad Ashraf Mir is up against the NC's Aga Ruhullah, an influential Shia cleric, and popular PDP youth leader Waheed ur Rehman Para. Mir was minister in the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP government. He later went on to join Bukhari.

The Anantnag candidate of the Apni Party is Zafar Iqbal Manhas, a Pahari leader. He was also a PDP leader before joining Bukhari. The NC candidate from the seat, Mian Altaf, is a prominent Gujjar leader.

For the Apni Party, the parliamentary elections are its first major political exercise. Before this, it has only contested the District Development Council (DDC) polls, held soon after its formation, in which it won 12 seats out

of 280. However, it managed to take control of Srinagar and Shopian DDCs with the support of independents.

A PDP leader and former minister said Bukhari's Jamia Masjid visit showed his "desperation": "He is no longer the only favourite of the BJP in the Valley and the BJP too has started to doubt his potential as a political leader. If he fails to make a mark in the elections, the BJP would look for other alternatives and that could lead to his and his party's political death."

A senior NC leader said the same, adding: "Bukhari has showcased himself as someone who can challenge political parties of the Valley. But he has seen his efforts get nowhere... People are seeing through his moves."

DECISION 2024



BALLOTIN

Karnataka BJP post taken down

New Delhi: A post by Karnataka BJP on X suggesting Congress appeasement of Muslims was deleted Wednesday, a day after the EC sent the platform a request to take down the "objectionable" post. The post was no longer visible Wednesday, with a message saying "this page doesn't exist". According to sources in EC, the request was lodged on X Tuesday and EC was informed when it was taken down. **ENS**

Nadda, Amit Malviya summoned

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Police summoned BJP chief J P Nadda and the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya in connection with a social media post allegedly intimidating members of SC and ST community not to vote for a particular candidate, officials said Wednesday. The move comes after an FIR was filed following a complaint filed by the KPCC with the EC and police on May 5. **PTI**

'Absent' Brij Bhushan steers son's bid from shadows in east UP stronghold

Karan Bhushan is contesting in the name of his father who has been facing sexual harassment allegations

MAULSHREE SETH
KAISERGANJ, MAY 8

WHILE THE ruling BJP replaced senior party leader and sitting MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh with his youngest son Karan Bhushan Singh, 33, as its candidate for the Lok Sabha polls from the Kaiserganj seat neighbouring Ayodhya in east Uttar Pradesh, Karan is fighting his debut election in his father's name. Kaiserganj's candidate along with that of Rae Bareilly on May 2, just one day before the deadline for filing of nomination there.

Kaiserganj is going to polls on May 20 in the fifth phase of polls. The former WFI chief, Brij Bhushan, 67, has been facing allegations of sexual harassment levelled against him by six women wrestlers.

A six-time MP, five as the BJP face and one on the SP's ticket, Brij Bhushan is known as a strongman Thakur leader whose writ runs large in east UP. He has

been actively associated with more than 50 educational institutions, including engineering, pharmacy, education, law and others that he established in Bahraich, Gonda, Balrampur, Ayodhya, and Shravasti districts. Since the BJP nominated his son as the Kaiserganj candidate, Brij Bhushan has kept a low-profile, keeping himself away from the limelight of the campaign trail.

He did not accompany Karan when he went to file his nomination papers in Gonda on May 3, although his show of strength was then on display. Later in the day then, he organised a big rally there for his son, which was attended by UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya. He attended the event but kept it low-key.

According to local BJP insiders, Brij Bhushan had been addressing public meetings earlier but since the declaration of Karan's candidature he has largely been managing his son's campaign from behind the scenes while camping at his house in Gonda.

Karan, who is UP Wrestling Federation chief, in his campaign, keeps on invoking his father.



Karan Bhushan at an election meeting. Express

"I am standing before you today like a son, nephew or friend. You have given your support and blessings to my father for 35 years. I want to assure you I would not let you feel his absence," Karan said in Payagpur Assembly segment in Bahraich district.

Accompanying Karan, the BJP's Payagpur MLA Subhash Tripathi told the gathering that they should vote for him not just for Brij Bhushan but also for PM Narendra Modi. He went on to list the Modi government's achievements over 10 years.

The Kaiserganj seat is dominated by the Brahmin community which accounts for about 30% of its population as compared to 20% Thakurs, 10%

Kurmis (OBC), 10% Dalits and 15% Muslims.

The SP has named Ram Bhagat Mishra, a former Congress leader, as its candidate while the BSP has fielded a local businessman Neeraj Pandey.

When asked about Brij Bhushan, an associate of Karan said, "He is not canvassing publicly but he is behind his son's campaign for the seat... Karan is fighting the election in just his name."

Another BJP worker also said Brij Bhushan is overseeing the entire campaign from his home, holding meetings there regularly.

Brij Bhushan's elder son Prateek Bhushan, the sitting BJP MLA from Gonda, has been engaged in canvassing for his

brother. In Kharpurva village, Raj Bahadur Yadav, 40, who runs a paan shop, said, "The election scene is clear. Although Karan is a new face, it is being fought in the name of Modi and Brij Bhushan."

On whether he or others from the local Yadav community would back the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP's candidate, he said, "What have they done for Yadavs here... If they had given some strong candidate, then we would have thought about it."

Asked about the allegations of sexual harassment against Brij Bhushan, he claimed, "It is not an issue in this constituency."

About 20 km away, at Pasin ka Purva, 48-year-old Vidyawati is waiting for an auto along with her neighbour Kamla. Both women, belonging to the Pasi (Scheduled Caste) community, seem to be unaware about the candidates in the fray or the wrestlers' protests that had taken place in Delhi for months against Brij Bhushan last year. They however hail Modi.

An elderly man Ganga Nath Tiwari, who runs a brick kiln along with his sons near Kaiserganj town, had seen the wrestlers' protests on TV. He admitted the women from his family were moved by it. He, however, said, "This is not an issue in this election here."

RALLYING POINT

Tejashwi promises jobs, Shah goes to Kheri, Mamata accuses BJP of giving money to spread lies



Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Hooghly, Wednesday. PTI

RJD LEADER TEJASHWI YADAV IN JHARKHAND 'WON'T LET NDA CHANGE CONSTITUTION'

ALLEGING THAT the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre is trying to "change" the Constitution and "snatch reservation quota" from SCs, STs and OBCs, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Wednesday asserted that such an attempt will be thwarted by his party.

He claimed that during his stint in power in Bihar, the Mahagathbandhan government provided 5 lakh government jobs there. If the INDIA bloc wins, it will begin a recruitment drive. "PM Modi is the manufacturer, distributor and wholesaler of lies. He sold LIC, ports, airports and assets of the nation," he alleged and promised LPG cylinder prices would be brought down to ₹500 if INDIA bloc wins. **PTI**

AMIT SHAH, UNION HOME MINISTER IN U.P. 'ENSURE TENI WINS, WILL MAKE HIM BADA AADMI'

Campaigning for his deputy Ajay Mishra Teni in Lakhimpur Kheri in UP, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday assured the people of the constituency that if they ensured the victory of the BJP MP, he would make him a "bada aadmi (a big man)".

Union MoS for Home Ajay Mishra's son, Ashish, is the main accused in the case of killing of 4 farmers and a local journalist by running them over during a farmers' agitation in October 2021. Ashish is currently out on bail. Shah said: "Mai desh bhar me jaata hoon... Har ek jagah kehete hain ki hamare saansad ko mantri bana dena bhaitiya... Magar Kheeri waalon, aapko to humne bana banaya mantri dene ka kaam kiya hai. Ye Ajay Mishra ko yahan se jeeta do, unko bada aadmi banane ka kaam mai karunga. (I travel across the country... at every place, people demand that their MP is made a minister. The people of Kheri, we have already given you a minister. Ensure the victory of Ajay Mishra and I assure you that I will make him a big man)." **ENS**

MAMATA BANERJEE, BENGAL CM IN HOOGLHY 'BJP HATCHED CONSPIRACY TO SNATCH JOBS'

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Wednesday accused the BJP of hatching a "sinister conspiracy" to snatch school jobs and said she is now relieved that the SC has stayed the Calcutta HC order cancelling nearly 26,000 jobs.

About Sandeshkhalai, she said, "Blatant lies were invented by the BJP, which plotted a conspiracy by giving money to some people to tell lies." **PTI**

Before losing heir status, Akash Anand had mostly targeted BJP

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

BEFORE HIS sudden demotion, the BSP's Akash Anand had made the BJP his primary target during his LS campaigning in Uttar Pradesh last month—a departure from his aunt Mayawati who has mostly targeted the Congress and SP in recent years. Mayawati's action against him came after one such speech on April 28 when he called the BJP "atankwadiyon ki sarkar (a government of terrorists)".

However, Akash has not spared the Congress or SP in his speeches either.

A look at Akash's speeches last month, when his campaigning began:

■ **April 6, Nagina:** In his first rally for these LS polls, Akash said BJP leaders feel proud when people call their government "bulldozer ki sarkar" and that they are fools (murkh) for thinking that way. "They don't understand this is not something to be proud of but something to feel embarrassed about."

■ **April 24, Gorakhpur:** Akash called UP the country's "kidnapping capital". He said he would not call Yogi Adityanath's government "bulldozer ki sarkar" anymore because it was "gaddaron ki sarkar (a government of traitors)".

■ **April 28, Unnao:** Akash accused the BJP government of ruining the education sector in the past 10 years. He said: "Yeh kam ka phool khila hai... kyun ki isne Bharat ko keechad bana



Akash Anand

rakha hai (The lotus is blooming because the BJP has turned India into muck)."

On free ration scheme, Akash said: "Itni padhai likhai karkar, itni mehnat karkar bhikhari banane ke liye yeh satta me baithey the? Bataiye 80 crore janata ko bana diya na bhikhari aur garib? (After studying and working hard, have we placed them in power just to make us beggars? Haven't they made 80 crore people beggars and poor?)" he said.

Akash also said considering the way the BJP government was functioning, the day was not far when the world would compare it with the Taliban. "Yeh logon ki sarkar tabahi ki sarkar hai, na ki tarakki ki sarkar hai (Their government is destructive, not progressive)," he said.

Targeting the SP, Akash said Muslims had supported the party in the 2022 UP Assembly elections but its leaders never uttered a word on the atrocities against the community.

About the Congress, he said it ruled at the Centre for more

than 60 years but did nothing for the Bahujan community.

■ **April 28, Sitapur:** The same day as the Unnao speech, Akash called the BJP government "atankwadiyon ki sarkar (a government of terrorists)". In his address, he asked the crowd which party had been in power at the Centre over the past 10 years.

"BJP nahi, choron ki party satta me rahi hai (It's not BJP, but a party of thieves that has been in power)," he said. Again accusing the BJP government of being responsible for the "declining quality" of education in government schools, Akash told voters to beat BJP workers with slippers, shoes and sticks if they came seeking votes. "Vote mangne aaye... toh chappal, juta aur danda maar-maar ke usko bata dena ki jo tum logon ne hamare se shiksha cheeni hai uske badle tumko vote nahi yeh danda milega (when they come to appeal for votes, beat them with slippers, shoes and sticks for depriving you of education)."

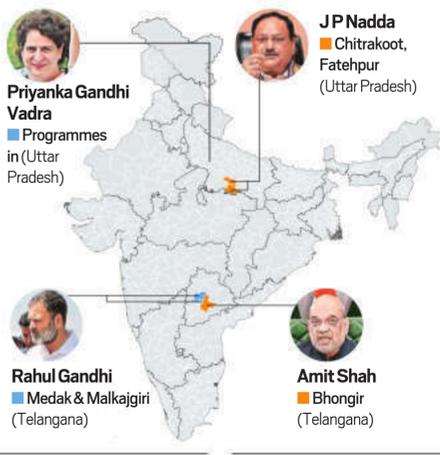
Akash said a government that keeps children hungry, allows atrocities against women, keeps youths unemployed and makes people slaves (ghulam) in the name of free rations is "atankwadiyon ki sarkar" (a government of terrorists).

On the SP, he said the party considers the Yadav community its "jageer" (asset).

He also said the Congress was advocating reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes just because it was struggling for survival.

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Who will be where Thursday, May 9



FROM PAGE ONE

Manish Tewari makes a Cong-AAP pitch for Chandigarh

going across the city addressing public meetings, he is also making his presence felt at popular spots such as Sukhna Lake, Tagore Theatre, and the Leisure Valley park area, a packet of chocolates and candies always at hand for children.

Tewari's message, delivered in Hindi, Punjabi, or English depending on the crowd he addresses, is simple — "democracy is in danger... you have endured 10 years of misuse... now give us a chance". At meeting after meeting, he underlines: "Hath ne jhadu fad liya hai, badlav aayega (The hand is holding the broom, you will see a change now)."

A lawyer by profession, Tewari rose through the Congress rank after starting his political career with the NSUI in the 1980s. The party gave him his first big chance in 2004 when he was fielded against SAD's Sharanjit Singh Dhillion but he lost. Five years later, Tewari won Ludhiana, defeating Gurcharan Singh Galib of the SAD. He has served as the I&B Minister in the UPA II government from 2012 to 2014.

In the 2014 LS polls, Tewari did not contest from Ludhiana amid speculation that he preferred Chandigarh, something Tewari has denied. "I wasn't able to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha polls as I was unwell," he told *The Indian Express* in an interview in 2017. Two years later, he won the parliamentary election from Anandpur Sahib.

With the Congress looking to win back Chandigarh, a seat it won from 1999 to 2009 but has lost the last two times, Tewari has his work cut out. He is up

against Sanjay Tandon, a former Chandigarh BJP chief and the son of former Punjab Deputy CM Balram Das Tandon.

'Elections could be game-changer'

At the Valmiki Dharamshala in the Manimajra neighbourhood, as Tewari arrives for an outreach programme, he is presented as a "homegrown candidate, born and brought up in city". The organisers say how despite being MP from Anandpur Sahib, he addressed problems in Manimajra by allocating funds for surveillance cameras and helping bring down thefts.

Sporting a Congress neck scarf, Tewari addresses the crowd in Punjabi, hitting all the notes from the Congress stump speech. He talks about rising prices, alleges that the BJP government is working for one industrialist, and warns about the "threat" to the Constitution posed by BJP. "Samvidhan nu khatra hai, 2024 mulk di aakhrhi chunaon hogi (The Constitution is in peril, 2024 will be this nation's last election)."

Tewari also criticises the alleged undemocratic practices during the Chandigarh mayoral election, praising AAP city in-charge Dr SS Ahluwalia and others for their work. The AAP-Congress bonhomie is also visible at another event where AAP councillor Prem Lata and her Congress counterpart Jasbir Bunty have cobbled together a gathering of mostly elderly residents.

"I do not feel ashamed to say that every officer of the administration is a workshirker and don't listen to any of the 35 councillors.

Even to get grass trimmed, we need to request the administration. And Chandigarh is going to the ruins because of these officers," says Prem Lata.

Tewari, who apologises to the crowd for arriving late, proceeds to agree with the AAP councillor. "Our councillor Prem Lata hit the nail on the head. The bureaucracy is too heavy-handed. After 58 years, it is time to shake up the administrative structure," he says, telling those in attendance they will play a "pivotal role" in an election that "could be the game-changer for a free India's legacy".

"I am speaking from the depths of my commitment to safeguard our Constitution. This is the last stand for our nation... The intention is crystal clear: to scrap the Constitution and impose their own... You know what's in their Constitution," he says.

Tewari then moves to another gathering in Palsora colony, donning a neck scarf with AAP's colours alongside his Congress one. He says AAP leaders such as Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia were arrested because they "stood up to the ruling government's tactics".

Back at his home brimming with supporters, Tewari says he can see discontent on the ground. "Ten years of non-development, arrogant misuse and frivolous cases by weaponising the ED and agencies, they have turned this into an Orwellian state."

Responding to Tewari's speeches, Tandon says, "I learnt he has been talking about saving democracy in his addresses. I want to ask where was the 'samvidhan bachana' during Emergency?"

Why BJP is still confident in Haryana and Cong may not move in for kill yet

Situation regarding Independents, JJP remains fluid enough to give Cong pause as it focuses on LS elections

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

FURTHER WORSENING problems for the BJP government in Haryana, after 3 Independent MLAs withdrew their support to it, its former ally Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) announced it would support any Congress move to topple the government. The developments come ahead of the LS polls to all 10 seats in the state on May 25. The BJP insists its government led by CM Nayab Saini is intact.

The five reasons for its confidence:

A no-confidence motion looks difficult

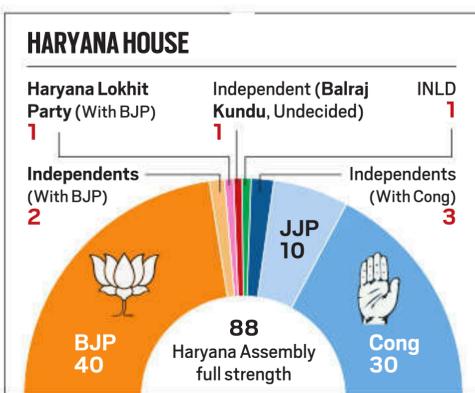
The Congress led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda moved a no-confidence motion against

motion cannot be moved within six months of a previous one. Asked about this, Hooda agreed that the motion could not be moved at this point, but asserted that "the Chief Minister should resign on moral grounds, as his government has lost majority".

The situation in March versus now

Today, the strength of the House is 88, after Manohar Lal Khattar and Ranjit Singh resigned from their respective Assembly segments of Karnal and Rania to become BJP's LS candidates from Karnal and Hisar, respectively.

At current strength, the BJP needs 45 for a majority. With Khattar's resignation, it has 40 MLAs, plus the support of two Independents and the HLP MLA, taking its total to 43. The BJP has also claimed the support of three of the JJP's 10 MLAs, who have



distanced themselves from Dushyant and been served notice for "anti-party activities". Counting the three, the BJP government has the support of 46 MLAs, just 1 more than a simple majority. Even if they get disqualified for defection, the House strength will come down to 85, and the majority mark to

43. The BJP has 43 as of now. But the Congress has claimed that several other MLAs are in touch with it. As has the BJP.

Can Opp stake claim?

It will first have to seek an appointment with the Governor to stake claim to form the government. The Congress, given it is the

largest Opposition party, has to do it but is yet to initiate such a move. On Wednesday, while offering his support to the Congress should it make such a move, Dushyant said, "It's up to Leader of the Opposition Hooda to make the move to topple the government."

Hooda told *The Indian Express* that Dushyant too could take the initiative. "He is saying these things after staying in the BJP-led government for four-and-a-half years. If he isn't the BJP's B-Team, he should meet the Governor and parade his 10 MLAs, and then I shall send ours to the Raj Bhavan, led by MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra."

Even if both the Congress and JJP meet the Governor and parade their respective MLAs to stake a claim, there is no guarantee regarding what the Governor will do. Even if the Governor directs the state government to prove its majority within a specific time period, the possibility that some JJP MLAs would either defect or abstain from voting remains high.

In other words, the BJP may again be able to prove its majority.

Plus, the Congress's whole focus now is the Lok Sabha polls, due on May 25. The BJP currently holds all 10 seats, and is campaigning intensely to retain them.

The Haryana Assembly elections are scheduled for October. There is a possibility that once LS polls are over, the Opposition may press the issue again to mount pressure on the BJP ahead of the Vidhan Sabha polls.

How is the BJP looking at the scenario?

Haryana BJP leaders are confident their government is "intact", and that if the need arises, "other MLAs will support us". Khattar told mediapersons, "The Congress and JJP shouldn't worry about us. Instead, they should first set their own houses in order. There is no threat to our government. We shall win an absolute majority in the next Assembly elections." Vidhan Sabha Speaker Gian

Chand Gupta said, "Officially, I have not received any intimation from any MLA. It is only in the media that there are reports 3 Independent MLAs have decided to support the Congress. Usually, when a no-confidence motion is moved, the next one can only be moved after six months, although the Governor, as a constitutional authority, can take any decision as and when the need arises. If he gives us any directions, we will follow those."

Former home minister Anil Vij said, "I'm saddened that the Independent MLAs have withdrawn their support today, but Hooda Sahib's wish will never be fulfilled, as we have many arrows in our quiver."

But why is it still damaging for BJP?

Even if the BJP government survives, the fact that MLAs are leaving it for the Opposition may strengthen the public perception that the pendulum is swinging towards the Congress.



The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

From home to workplace

An agenda for the next government to increase women's participation in Viksit Bharat's labour force



FARZANA AFRIDI

A NEW GOVERNMENT will soon be taking up the challenge of making India viksit by 2047. With women lagging behind on several parameters of well-being in the country today, empowering them economically lies at the heart of the challenge we face in transforming India into a developed country. What key policies can the new government adopt to propel us towards gender parity in socio-economic outcomes?

First, India's overall employment rate has historically been around 50 per cent of the working-age population — much lower than in China (almost 70 per cent) or even our neighbour, Bangladesh (about 55 per cent), according to ILO and World Bank estimates. Bringing more working-age population into the productive workforce is critical to achieving a high GDP growth rate. Amongst the main reasons for the significantly lower labour force participation (LFP) rate in India, is women's low LFP (currently around 25 per cent). Increasing women's LFP to 50 per cent of labour force will bring India closer to 8 per cent GDP growth rates and a five-trillion dollar economy by 2030, according to World Bank estimates.

At the core of expanding the LFP rates of the currently low-skilled, low-educated women, is expanding our manufacturing capacity, which shrank from 17 per cent of GDP to about 13 per cent in the last decade. The Production Linked Investment (PLI) scheme aims at achieving this objective but is currently more focused on the less labour-intensive sectors. Increasing production capacity in labour-intensive sectors such as readymade garments, footwear, and other light manufacturing, where women form a large proportion of workers, and bringing them under the ambit of the PLI scheme, would address some of the cost disadvantages that India suffers from in creating jobs in these sectors due to labour regulations and constraints around land acquisition.

Second, a key marker of a developed country is a dominant formal sector. Concerns regarding India's slow transition from low- to high-productivity activity, and the pressing need for "good jobs" abound. The underlying challenge is to provide high-quality, relevant and affordable skilling to the masses, and women in particular. While about 25 per cent of India's employed are engaged in salaried (mostly formal sector)

work, this proportion is 55 per cent and 40 per cent in China and Bangladesh, respectively. The ongoing structural transformation away from agriculture, and the informal character of the labour market, has affected women disproportionately in the past few decades — the fall in rural women's labour force participation accompanies a high proportion of women working in the informal sector (almost 90 per cent).

Although several policy initiatives are being undertaken to improve the skilling ecosystem in India, they currently lack focus on redressing stark gender imbalances. Improving physical access, easing financial support and improving employer matches after skill training are some of the key areas that require interventions. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) offer the most affordable and dense network of skilling programs across the country, but only about 7 per cent of those who enrol in ITIs are women. There is tremendous scope to raise the number of training institutes that cater exclusively to women from the current 17 per cent (of ITIs), in both traditional and non-traditional skills. Distance to vocational centres and credit constraints are barriers to women's access to skilling.

As India urbanises at a rapid pace, we need cities that welcome, accommodate and enable women's mobility. Research suggests that younger married women, with young children, are not only less likely to diversify their labour to the non-farm sector, but are also less likely to migrate from the villages relative to men (with the same characteristics) when faced with adverse shocks. Physical mobility of women who reside in urban neighbourhoods is restricted although it is critical for accessing education and work opportunities.

Under the recently proposed National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, stipend support to 47 lakh youth has been promised — yet families may be reluctant to devote limited resources to the vocational training of women as they may not foresee good returns on such an investment. Besides credit access and scholarship programmes aimed specifically at women trainees, government training institutes can consider fee payments in installments or offer subsidised loans. Additionally, potential employers can enable up-skilling through performance-based incentives and zero-interest loans and salary deductions in small installments over time, post training completion. Evidence also suggests that women have worse employment outcomes even if they are skill-trained, relative to men. Career counselling, job placement cells embedded in training institutes and harnessing alumni networks to activate women "role models" and mentors for female trainees, may be effective tools to redress this gender imbalance.

Third, as India urbanises at a rapid pace, we need cities that welcome, accommodate and enable women's mobility. Research sug-

gests that younger married women, with young children, are not only less likely to diversify their labour to the non-farm sector, but are also less likely to migrate from the villages relative to men (with the same characteristics) when faced with adverse shocks. Physical mobility of women who reside in urban neighbourhoods is restricted although it is critical for accessing education and work opportunities. Urgent policy focus is required for planning urban infrastructure, transportation and public safety with a gender lens. With rapid demographic shifts and population ageing, a high-quality, subsidised urban care infrastructure will not only release women from care work but also create new jobs for them in this sector.

While these policies can strengthen the forces that pull women into public spaces, what measures must be adopted to push women out of their homes and the drudgery of domestic work? Public policy that furthers India's energy transition can also incentivise households to adopt clean technology that reduces women's time at home. Women in rural areas spend the same amount of time cooking as they would if they were engaged in part-time work: About 20 hours per week. Much of this cooking uses inefficient, polluting fuels (e.g. firewood), which require significant amounts of time to collect and cook with, besides adversely affecting women's health and productivity. The PMUY programme is laudable in facilitating a seismic shift towards adoption of LPG, yet regular usage of LPG is only about 25 per cent of its potential. There is much that India can adopt from the Biden administration's transformative Inflation Reduction Act — cash rebates to consumers at the point of purchase of clean technology along with production incentives that create new jobs in the clean energy sector.

As history has shown, women are empowered when they step out of their homes and enter market work only when their education levels rise and "good" jobs appear. Improving the value of investments in women's human capital, and at a low cost, is our best bet for engendering gender parity and creating a "developed" society.

The writer is professor of Economics at the Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi) and visiting professor at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

IT'S ABOUT TRUST

In SC verdict in West Bengal teacher recruitment case, state must heed larger message. Remove systemic defects

ON TUESDAY, A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court gave relief to the school teachers and non-teaching staff whose appointments were cancelled by a Calcutta High Court order of April. The HC's decision had cited irregularities in the West Bengal School Service Commission's procedures. The apex court's order does not exonerate the SSC. It rightly said that it would be unfair to set aside all the appointments because the tainted and untainted ones have not yet been segregated. In a stinging criticism of the SSC and the West Bengal government, the Chief Justice of India-led bench described their conduct as a "systemic fraud". The CBI will continue its investigation and the school staff appointed in breach of due procedures will have to refund the salaries. Meanwhile, the West Bengal government would do well to heed the SC's larger message: "Ultimately what happens is that today public jobs are so scarce and so valued, today, that if the faith of the community in public employment goes then nothing remains."

In 2014, the SSC announced a state-level selection test would be used to recruit teachers for West Bengal's state-run schools. The process which began two years later invited criticism and petitions were filed in the Calcutta High Court alleging that the mark sheets were not evaluated properly. The HC ordered an investigation by the CBI, which opened a can of worms. The SSC, reportedly, told the agency that it had destroyed the OMR answer sheets — answers to multiple choice questions in these sheets are scanned by computers, and not manually evaluated, making the process foolproof — after a year. The ED is conducting a separate investigation. The ongoing saga has also revealed the lack of transparency and accountability that dogs the SSC's recruitment process. Last month, a Calcutta HC bench constituted on the directions of the Supreme Court annulled the appointments.

The teacher recruitment issue is among the talking points in the campaign in West Bengal for the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has alleged that numerous deserving candidates were denied jobs. West Bengal's ruling party, the TMC, has charged the BJP of mounting a drive to rob people of their jobs. It reveals the deficits of the state, where social and economic mobility often rests on getting a government job. According to the Unified Digital Information of School Education, West Bengal's government schools provide employment to more than 4,74,000 teachers. While the state government must course correct on teacher recruitment, it — and the Centre — must work closely to ameliorate the conditions that breed such scams.

OFF COLOUR

Sam Pitroda's crude parallels to explain diversity show how, for some Indians, self-worth is skin deep

NO ONE CAN accuse Sam Pitroda of choosing his words too carefully. After giving the 2024 Lok Sabha campaign one of its main talking points with his comments on inheritance tax, the former Indian Overseas Congress chairman has once again kicked off a row that his party is scrambling to distance itself from and which has cost him his position. With the intention of celebrating Indian diversity, Pitroda said in an interview, "People in the East look Chinese, people in the West look like Arab, people in the North like, maybe, White and people in the South look like African." Surely, Pitroda, a longtime US resident, should know the connotations of such descriptors and their links to prejudice.

The fact that there is something truly unique and wonderful about how India, despite all its differences, holds together needs more nuanced articulation. But it is really surprising that, coming from a nation which still props up a skin-lightening industry worth several thousand crores, Pitroda's instinct, in explaining Indian diversity, was to latch onto differences in colour and facial features? If anything, this instinct is merely an extension of the still widely-held belief in India that the hue of one's skin is not just a matter of melanin count, that it says something about the value of the flesh and blood underneath.

There is, in fact, a rich irony in the outrage over Pitroda's words, given that much of the ire is directed at the comparison of south Indians to "Africans". This strand of condemnation is based on the assumption that to be compared to Africans is somehow undesirable — given the history of racism against people of African origin. A post script: Some decrying Pitroda's comments have called out the African parallel, not the "White" one. When it comes to prejudice, perhaps Pitroda and some of his critics are painted in the same hue.



M H ILIAS

ACCORDING TO ITALIAN political philosopher Giorgio Agamben, democracy is both a means of constituting the body politic and a technique of governing. As a technique of governance, democracy has been a source of legitimacy for governments to exercise power and control or govern the "population" since the French Revolution. In societies, on the other hand, it is a natural sentiment, an essential value. Freedom to dissent, demand justice, recognise differences and respect the rights of others are driving forces of democracy in the first sense. The "majoritarian consensus" determines the character and content of democracy in the second sense.

In practice, democracy as a principle seldom overpowers the notion of democracy as an administrative practice. It is no different in India. Questions about the state of democracy come up only around crises of procedures like those related to elections or institutions like Parliament. Few seriously examine what values should mark democracy in a country like India where pluralism, diversity and tolerance are necessary for society to survive.

The idea of democracy was introduced and nurtured during the national movement. Despite its upper-caste and middle-class content, the values and principles of democracy became entrenched in politics and thereby in the political imagination of the people in sub-

IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY

Entrenched as a practice in India, its values are on shakier ground

IN GOOD FAITH

Even those opposed to Gandhi, Ambedkar and socialists converged on the notion and importance of tolerance and dissent. Due to the structural inequalities of Indian society, B R Ambedkar considered democracy a value that the Constitution must protect and guarantee. Gandhi did not favour the constitutionalisation of democracy which, according to him, has to be preserved in society as an essential value. He did not want to privilege and legalise democracy as a part of constitutional morality over a traditional, social morality. In his view, it was not a part of our natural sentiment. Rather, it was artificially cultivated or externally imposed — which is in contrast to the "real" democratic tradition in India that flourished through religious co-existence.

In the early years after Independence, the Indian state maintained some commitment to justice and fundamental rights but tolerance of dissent remained an incomplete project. The state's position as "guardian of democracy" resulted in many unpleasant episodes, including the proclamation of Emergency by Indira Gandhi in 1975. What makes the present situation different from previous experiences is that the clout of certain kinds of organisations is no longer seen as abnormal. This happened during the Emergency as well — Sanjay Gandhi's hold on the government is

tle ways. Even those opposed to Gandhi, Ambedkar and socialists converged on the notion and importance of tolerance and dissent.

Due to the structural inequalities of Indian society, B R Ambedkar considered democracy a value that the Constitution must protect and guarantee. Gandhi did not favour the constitutionalisation of democracy which, according to him, has to be preserved in society as an essential value. He did not want to privilege and legalise democracy as a part of constitutional morality over a traditional, social morality. In his view, it was not a part of our natural sentiment. Rather, it was artificially cultivated or externally imposed — which is in contrast to the "real" democratic tradition in India that flourished through religious co-existence.

In the early years after Independence, the Indian state maintained some commitment to justice and fundamental rights but tolerance of dissent remained an incomplete project. The state's position as "guardian of democracy" resulted in many unpleasant episodes, including the proclamation of Emergency by Indira Gandhi in 1975. What makes the present situation different from previous experiences is that the clout of certain kinds of organisations is no longer seen as abnormal. This happened during the Emergency as well — Sanjay Gandhi's hold on the government is

well-known. But the current regime has legitimised the sway of organisations like the RSS through popular means. The conditions of a working democracy may be the same for seven decades, but the principles and values have the potential to be altered.

Our politics increasingly seems unmoored from certain human values that are often considered essential for democracy. Thus, another way of imagining a democracy that is engaged with the human being and a concern for everyday life is challenging in our situation.

Alain Badiou describes democracy as the dominant "emblem" in a political society. One can express displeasure over the functioning of political society, denounce the structure or any aspects of it, or criticise political parties that are a part of it. You will always be pardoned as long as you do it in the name of democracy. This observation becomes more pertinent in the Indian context, especially when everyone, including those who are against democracy, engages in discussions on forms of democracy, when concern over the very content and values of democracy struggle to capture popular imagination.

The writer is professor, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala

MAY 9, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

SEVEN TERRORISTS HELD

A GANG OF seven terrorists was arrested by the police in Punjab after an exchange of fire near Ludhiana, and some arms and ammunition were seized from the truck in which they were travelling. Terrorists in the Amritsar district claimed the life of one man and injured some others while four post offices were burnt down in Mohali.

UP'S URDU ORDINANCE

THE STATE GOVERNMENT has allowed the controversial UP Official Languages (Amendment) Ordinance, which provided for

the use of Urdu as a second language for some specific purposes, to lapse. The ordinance was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution by a Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court and the state government has appealed before the Supreme Court.

INDIA'S NUCLEAR POWER

DEFENCE MINISTER R Venkataraman assured Rajya Sabha members that adequate measures had been taken against any "misadventure" of nuclear warfare by Pakistan. Venkataraman said he proceeded on the assumption that Pakistan had nuclear capability. He could not take any risk. On the border,

there was a concentration of Pakistani troops with multiple firings across the border.

BOYCOTT OF OLYMPICS

THE SOVIET UNION said it would not take part in the Los Angeles Olympic Games because of the behaviour of organisers and the US Government. "The National Olympic Committee of the USSR is compelled to declare that participation of Soviet sportsmen in the games of the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles is impossible." The statement followed weeks of complaints from Moscow that the US was violating the Olympic charter and discriminating against the Soviet Union.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

Roti, kapda, makaan, good air

Despite mention in manifestos, pollution hasn't become a campaign issue. It is a reflection of low traction at grassroots level



ABHIJIT CHATTERJEE

IT IS HEARTENING that environmental, climate change, and air pollution issues have featured in the 2024 Lok Sabha manifestos of most top political parties. But is it among the top priorities or guarantees for parties or candidates? This brings us to another question: Will we ever witness actual improvement in air quality without it becoming a people's movement or a political issue?

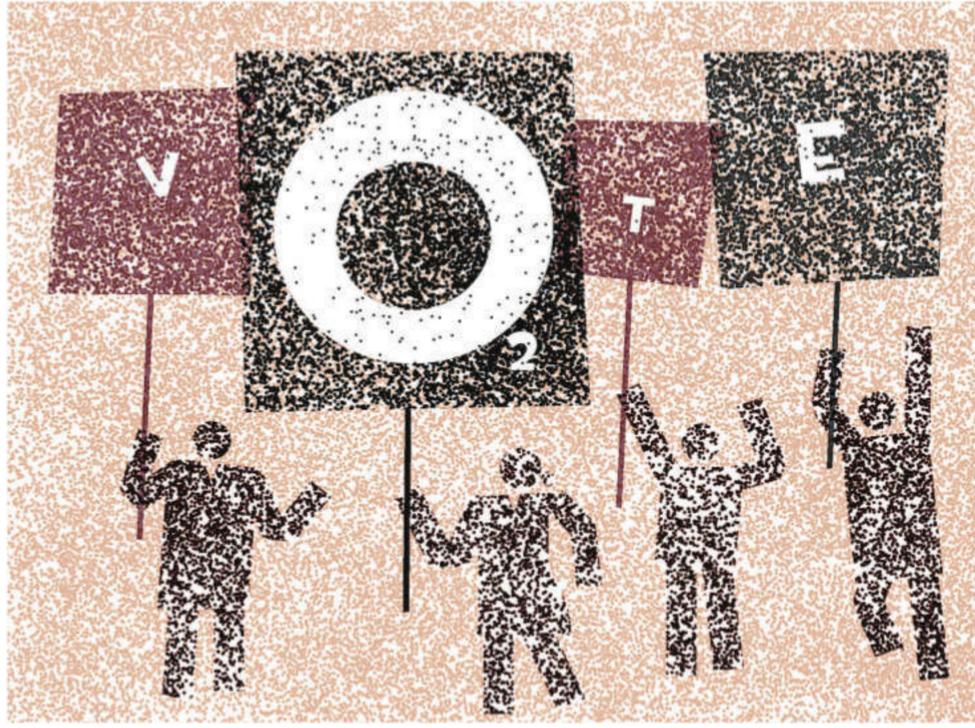
Manifestos have long been shaped by what people truly want — and, in turn, the issues that would turn into votes. The *roti-kapda-makaan* from a few decades ago became *bijli-paani-sadak*, which in the recent past turned to job opportunities and anti-corruption. Whatever the issues may be — local, regional, or national — they are mostly rooted in one thing: A sustainable society for a sustainable nation.

But air quality has not made it to the list of people's priorities, and, by extension, to the top-priority lists of parties. At least, not yet. Inadequate information and poor efforts by the local government bodies in disseminating knowledge on the effects of air pollution, among others, have made air pollution the most inconsiderate and unconcerned issue in our country. This could have serious repercussions in years to come.

To most people, poor air quality has become an "obvious environmental status". A section of the intellectuals see it as a manifestation of a growing, developing nation. They believe that economic progress cannot be compromised, no matter the quality of air we breathe or the environment we leave for the next generation. Even this line of thinking shows that air pollution should be taken more seriously than it is right now. According to a 2019 study, the yearly deaths attributable to air pollution translate to an economic loss of Rs 2.7 lakh crore, that is, around 1.36 per cent of the country's GDP. Another recent survey has revealed that the Indian GDP would have been 4.5 per cent higher if air pollution had grown 50 per cent slower each year.

To give more context, American economist and Nobel Prize recipient Simon Smith Kuznets made a graphical representation in 1971 of the relationship between economic development and environmental degradation. He showed that as economic development proceeds, environmental degradation keeps increasing and reaches a maximum. After a "level" of economic development (per capita income), economic growth leads to environmental improvement.

Here, one may argue that by following Kuznets, state and central governments are heading in the right direction and taking the right approach. A day will come when further economic development and associated activities will not harm our environment; rather, they will help improve it, as people may perceive. But the issue is, how do we identify this "level" or threshold of economic development? How far would we have to go?



CR Sasikumar

And most importantly, how late is too late?

For air pollution to become a mainstream issue, it has to become a political agenda. For it to become a political agenda, it has to find its place in page-one news and prime-time discussions regularly. But for that to happen, people will have to truly start caring about air pollution and the danger it poses to our lives and the lives of those who will inhabit this planet after us.

It is a strenuous task, but not an impossible one. What it needs is public awareness in its true sense. It is the job of academicians, scientific communities, experts, scholars, and bureaucrats alongside local governmental bodies to make common Indians realise that clean air is also a fundamental right like clean water, health, food, shelter, etc.

Since its launch in 2019, the government has released over Rs 1,000 crore for the effective implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) — a commendable step in achieving better air quality. Even with its loopholes, NCAP still has ample scope for ameliorating air quality.

One of the most effective ways would be to recognise that, in addition to core research and scientific activities, a significant portion of the fund should be allocated for on-ground activities aimed at pollution reduction. These activities should further be rooted in the air pollution programme having a federal structure, where policies and strategies need to be decentralised and diffused into microenvironments through district and local bodies.

Second, every ward under the municipalities or municipal corporations and every village under the blocks should be thoroughly scrutinised by the respective lo-

cal bodies to find out the pollution source in the vicinity as well as the scope for air quality improvement. This information should then be disseminated to the people who are residents of the area. They should be made to understand the importance of identifying micro-level hotspots, which is of utmost importance in order to mitigate macro-level pollution.

Third, there should be specific plans to identify open areas favourable for the ventilation of air — and hence the pollutants — open water bodies, green cover for every ward in a city, and all of them should immediately be marked as green zones and restored. These measures will ensure that air pollution, as an issue, directly connects to every single individual in these microenvironments.

Regular outreach or public awareness programmes should be conducted at the municipality or block level, and facilitated by local experts, academicians, and teachers. These initiatives must aim to disseminate knowledge about environmental pollution and provide guidance on both actions to take and actions to avoid.

The demand for clean air needs to be spread to far-flung corners of the country through mass movements. If prolonged power cuts, disruptions in water supply, unpaved and damaged roadways can unite us to protest and remonstrate against local governmental bodies and before the political leaders seeking votes, then why not for clean air?

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For air pollution to become a mainstream issue, it has to become a political agenda. For it to become a political agenda, it has to find its place in page-one news and prime-time discussions regularly. But for that to happen, people will have to truly start caring about air pollution and the danger it poses to our lives and the lives of those who will inhabit this planet after us.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"There is hence a need to sensitise people about disability, sexuality and gender diversity through awareness campaigns and educational programmes. Time has also come to prepare a standard for building toilets in public places across the country through programmes and policies." — THE KATHMANDU POST

The hierarchy of power

'From sarvabhuma' to GDP, measures of influence and global ascendancy have often relied on economic and military strength



BIBEK DEBROY

IN 2022, ASHLEY J Tellis, C Raja Mohan and I edited a collection of essays titled *Grasping Greatness, Making India a Leading Power*. The book was meant to be done in 2019, but Covid delayed matters. This collection complemented an earlier one — *Getting India Back on Track* (2014). The title was taken from an older essay by Ashley. Notice the use of the expression "leading power", as opposed to something like "great power". Further down the continuum, we might have something like "super power". Such expressions are not always precisely defined and a country's appellation isn't cast in stone. A leading power moves on to become a great power and graduates to super-power status. But the reverse, of a decline and fall over time, also happens. How does one define these expressions? They can be defined in terms of formal leadership in institutions that deliver global public goods (IBRD, IMF, WTO, Security Council), which adjust to altered realities and can't be cast in stone either.

Since power flows out of the barrel of the economic gun, they can also be defined in terms of aggregate GDP (for such purposes, official exchange rates make more sense than purchasing-power parity), present and extrapolated for the future. For instance, no one can wish away India's robust GDP growth rate and future potential. Fifth-largest economy now, the third-largest status isn't that far off. The gold and the silver are some distance away.

GDP may be a recent metric. Before Simon Kuznets, we didn't have a standardised template for measuring it. However, the notion of gradation of States, according to the power calculus, existed for thousands of years. Take the word *rajya*, meaning kingdom (I am not using the word in the sense of province or state). But we also have a word *samrajya*, meaning empire and clearly, *samrajya* is greater than *rajya*. We have an expression *maharajya* too. Is that greater or smaller than a *samrajya*? The respective titles of the individual heading these geographical entities are *rajan*, *samraj* and *maharaj*. In addition, there is the notion of a *chakravartin* or universal emperor, one whose chariot wheels (*chakra*) travelled unimpeded everywhere, right up to the shores of the ocean.

Most people have heard of *rajasuya*, *vajapeya* and *ashvamedha* sacrifices, though a *vajapeya* sacrifice may not be that familiar. A *rajasuya* sacrifice is a royal sacrifice, performed by a universal monarch when he is consecrated and instated as emperor, having conquered all other kings and made them tributaries (vassals?). Among others, Harishchandra and Yudhishtira performed *rajasuya* sacrifices. *Ashvamedha* is a horse

sacrifice, where a horse is let loose and eventually sacrificed. Yudhishtira performed *ashvamedha* and this sacrifice is also a voyage of conquest.

Which is the greater sacrifice — *rajasuya* or *ashvamedha*, not to forget *vajapeya*? Which sacrifice makes the king, and therefore the kingdom, a greater one. The answer depends a bit on the text and I think the only text where the answer is unambiguously given is *Shatapatha Brahmana*. I will skip the details about the rites for each sacrifice. However, according to this text, *rajasuya* is the lowest of the three and having performed it, a king becomes a universal emperor or sovereign. The *vajapeya* sacrifice is higher. I used the word emperor or sovereign, but *rajasuya* still makes the individual a king. *Vajapeya* makes the individual a *samraj*. To cite chapter and verse, this is clearly stated in *Shatapatha Brahmana* 9.3.4.8. First, one becomes a king. Thereafter, one becomes an emperor. Therefore, *vajapeya* must be performed after *rajasuya*, never the other way around. This takes one to *ashvamedha*, the highest of the three. A king not satisfied with *raja* or *samrajya* moves on to *ashvamedha*. One could perform multiple *ashvamedha* sacrifices, as Brahma did in Varanasi's *Dashashwamedh* ghat.

But this doesn't quite grade countries or economies. If the ruler is graded, the country is indirectly graded. However, we have nothing tangible and measurable. A direct gradation of countries and rulers, tangible and measurable, exists in *Shukra Niti*, attributed to Shukracharya. It is there right in the first chapter, on the duties of princes. The relevant verses are 365 to 374. The measurement wasn't through GDP, but the annual revenue of the kingdom. A *karsha* is a gold coin. Those weren't the days of fiat currency, but de facto, of gold and silver standards. The gold in a *karsha* coin weighed roughly 10 gram (Jewellers still use another such weight, known as *ratti*. Ninety-six *rattis* were one *karsha*). A *samanta's* (often a feudatory vassal) domain had an annual revenue of one lakh to three lakh *karshas*. A *mandalika's* territory (ruler of a small country or province, known as *mandala*) had three lakhs to 1 million *karshas*. A *rajan's* kingdom had 1 million to 2 million. A *maharajan's* kingdom had 2 million to 5 million. A *swarat's* empire had 5 million to 10 million. A *samarat* had 10 million to 100 million. A *virat* had 100 million to 500 million.

Finally, a *sarvabhuma* (universal emperor) had an annual revenue of more than 500 million *karshas*. Some of these titles may seem unfamiliar today. But we did have a taxonomy and gradation based on the kingdom's annual revenue. Some might argue that the kingdom's revenue is a better indicator of power than something like the GDP. In any event, the GDP didn't exist then. Plus, there was the supplementary ranking through types of sacrifice. We did think about leading powers.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

Not a blacklisting method

Wilful defaulter framework was not intended to taint borrowers



PRATIK DATTA

THE BOMBAY HIGH Court recently quashed a provision of a central government office memorandum that enabled public sector banks to request issuance of look out circulars (LoCs) against wilful defaulters. In *Viraj Chetan Shah v Union of India*, the court held that this provision violated the fundamental right to life (Article 21) as well as the fundamental right to equality (Article 14). The government is reportedly contemplating a statutory basis for PSBs to initiate LoCs. While that may resolve an immediate legal problem, policymakers should take this opportunity to revisit the very concept of "wilful defaulter".

The wilful defaulter concept is unique to the Indian financial sector. Commercial lenders like banks and NBFCs have legal powers to classify certain defaulted borrowers as wilful defaulters. Once designated as such, serious penal consequences follow.

The wilful defaulter designation is akin to blacklisting a borrower, its promoters and directors from credit and equity markets. The RBI prohibits its regulated lenders from extending additional facilities as well as any credit facility for floating new ventures to a wilful defaulter. Similarly, SEBI prohibits a company from launching an Initial Public Offer (IPO) if such company or any of its promoters or directors is a wilful defaulter. SEBI also prohibits a listed company from issuing equity shares, convertible as well as non-convertible securities, if any of its promoters or directors is classified as a wilful defaulter. A wilful defaulter is also prohibited from submitting a resolution plan under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. These implica-

tions make it critical that appropriate procedural safeguards are in place while designating a person as a wilful defaulter.

Recently, the Bombay High Court in *Milind Patel v Union Bank of India* added to the evolving jurisprudence on this subject. It held that a lender must follow natural justice and allow a borrower access to all relevant investigation material before designating him as a "wilful defaulter". The court imported the jurisprudence on the law of inspection from securities law as laid down by the Supreme Court in *T. Takano v SEBI*. This convergence in regulatory jurisprudence is indeed welcome.

Yet, it is hard to overlook the fundamental difference between a SEBI enforcement proceeding and a wilful defaulter designation proceeding. While the former is carried out by a statutory regulator which is expected to comply with natural justice and has the institutional capacity to do so, the wilful defaulter designation under RBI regulations is done by commercial lenders themselves.

This regulatory construct is legally problematic. A lender is a party to the credit contract and may not be an impartial arbiter in a wilful defaulter designation proceeding. For instance, the default could be the result of poor credit appraisal by the lender itself. A lender may, therefore, have strong incentives to push the blame for default onto the borrower by classifying it as a wilful defaulter. Such a wilful default classification does not affect the lender's provisioning obligations either. Therefore, by making the lender the sole judge of wilful default, the regulations compromise a cardinal principle of natural justice — *nemo*

judex in causa sua, that is, no one can be a judge of his own cause.

This peculiar institutional arrangement is the outcome of a multi-layered process of institutional change over time. The first layer of institutional design was initiated by the Central Vigilance Commission in 1998. It instructed RBI to collect information on wilful defaults of Rs 25 lakh and above, and disseminate the same to reporting banks and financial institutions. The RBI issued a scheme in February 1999 mandating banks and financial institutions to report quarterly details of wilful defaults which had occurred or were detected after March 31, 1999. Since this scheme involved only information sharing, there was no pressing need for procedural safeguards while designating a wilful defaulter.

The second layer of institutional design was initiated by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in December 2000. It recommended blacklisting of wilful defaulters from institutional finance as well as equity markets but did not suggest any commensurate procedural safeguards. The RBI circular on wilful default in 2002 introduced these penal measures for the first time. RBI kept on updating these through circulars, primarily on account of judicial intervention. Procedural safeguards, however, did not receive their fair share of regulatory attention till the Supreme Court decision in *Jah Developers* in 2019. In September 2023, RBI released a draft master direction on the treatment of wilful defaulters and large defaulters proposing to update the procedural safeguards.

It is important to recognise here that the basic institutional arrangement of commercial lenders designating wilful defaulters was originally intended for information sharing among banks and financial institutions. It was not intended for blacklisting borrowers from financial markets. Yet, this arrangement continues unquestioned when the ultimate purpose of the wilful defaulter designation has changed from information sharing to blacklisting.

The Bombay High Court decision in *Milind Patel* is a timely reminder that the current institutional arrangement for wilful defaulter designation is deeply problematic. While the court has provided a working solution by mandating commercial banks to follow natural justice principles, the larger question for policymakers is whether the wilful defaulter concept itself has outlived its utility.

In 2002, it probably made sense when India did not have a modern corporate insolvency law. In 2024, when a company default, financial creditors like banks and NBFCs can simply trigger the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and take over the company's business irrespective of whether such default is wilful or not. In this contemporary institutional setting, is there any practical utility in continuing with the convoluted wilful defaulter framework to blacklist borrowers, their promoters and directors from financial markets and issue LoCs against these individuals?

The writer is Associate Director (Research), Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COST OF NEGLIGENCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Blaze in hills' (IE, May 8). The raging fires engulfing Uttarakhand's forests have again turned the spotlight on the problem of forest fires in India. They devour precious green cover posing a grave threat to human settlements, wildlife and the fragile ecosystem. It is disheartening to note that a significant number of these are attributable to human error. The need for stringent enforcement of laws cannot be overstated. Moreover, the Forest Survey of India's alarming data on forest fires paints a grim picture, with Odisha emerging as the worst-hit state. The correlation among climate change-induced droughts, soaring temperatures and the spike in forest fires demands urgent attention from policymakers.

Kholkan Das, Kolkata

NOT OUR JOB

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Sugar and spice, not all nice' (IE, May 8). Our supermarket shelves are overflowing with hundreds of varieties of spices. However, consumers neither have the time nor the access to information to ascertain the quality of the products they buy. The onus is on the FSSAI, which ought to have carried out stringent safety checks. One wonders if FSSAI and/or other such institutions have the wherewithal to carry out quality checks. Looking to ally concerns over adulteration and contamination through surveillance, testing and enforcement, the FSSAI can play a bigger role in promoting food safety and

building consumer confidence in our food industry.

SS Paul, Nadia

STRIKE A BALANCE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Playing the field' (IE, May 8). There is no permanent enemy or friend in international relations, only national interests remain a priority. In this context, the writer has correctly highlighted the opportunities as well as challenges that middle powers like Europe and India face while securing their strategic autonomy in the superpower game. Active engagements of India with like-minded countries have produced better opportunities in recent years such as the grand success of G20, a balanced approach to the Ukraine crisis etc. Yet, solving the "China puzzle" will be the nation's biggest challenge in the coming years

Jagmohan Chaudhary, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Playing the field' (IE, May 8). While China is closing the gap with the US economically, the latter is still politically and militarily too far ahead. Alliances with like-minded nations in Europe, Asia and the Middle East give genuine lift to American leadership. While China has influential economic relationships with most of the world, these do not translate into real political power. Xi's latest tour to Europe is an attempt to close this gap. India too can balance its relationships with the USA and China by cultivating a robust European vector.

Shubhada H, via email



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

Do marriages need to be registered? What happens if they aren't?

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE SUPREME Court last week ruled that a Hindu couple who had appeared before it had "never acquired the status of husband and wife", as they had registered their marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA) before performing wedding rituals. The SC ruled that the couple, who had filed divorce cases, need not get a divorce because they were never married in the first place.

The apex court's observations spotlight various issues on the registration and solemnization of a marriage, and its necessity.

What is a solemnized marriage?

Solemnizing a marriage refers to the performance of an official marriage ceremony, with appropriate rituals.

In India, marriage is largely governed by a gamut of personal laws, and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA). Though codified

through statute, these personal laws are essentially practices ordained by religion, with each religion having its own set of 'requirements' for a marriage — a marriage is 'valid' when these requirements are met.

For instance, for Hindus and Christians, marriage is a sacrament, or a religious bond. Rituals such as *kanyadaan* and *saptapadi* (*saat phere*) solemnize a Hindu marriage. Section 7 of the HMA codifies these requirements, and names *saptapadi* as an essential ritual.

For Christians, a ceremony in church based on local customs is regarded as a valid marriage. For example, for some Tamil Christians, this involves tying of a *thaali* — a chain with a cross on the pendant in church.

Under Muslim law, however, marriage is a contractual obligation. A valid marriage requires the consent of both parties, in writing, and in the presence of witnesses. In practice, this entails both parties giving vocal consent, and signing a *nikahnama* (an Islamic marriage contract) in the presence of witnesses and a *qazi*.

And what are registered marriages?

The registration of a marriage after it is solemnised as per rituals is different from a 'registered' marriage.

Terms like 'court marriage' or 'registered marriage' refer to a non-religious or civil marriage under the SMA, which is a secular law. A marriage performed under this law is essentially a solemnization in 'court' (a registrar's office) without any rituals.

However, marriages under personal laws (such as HMA) become valid only after the performance of rituals prescribed by religion. A marriage without any rituals is only valid under the SMA.

Section 8 of the HMA gives power to the state to register marriages solemnised as per the requirements of Section 7. Similarly, the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, provides the procedure for the solemnization of Christian marriages and their registration.

For Muslims, a *nikahnama* issued by a *qazi* outlines the terms of the marriage.

Although not a public registration under a statute, this registration form is widely adopted. Apart from this, several states have their own laws for the registration of Muslim marriages and divorce.

What if a marriage is not registered?

Although there is a central legislation on marriage registrations — the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 — it does not have a robust application to marriage, unlike the effort to record births and deaths. States have their own laws, and in some states like Karnataka and Delhi, registration of a marriage is mandatory.

A certificate of marriage registration is useful for various official purposes where the spouses need to declare that they are married — for instance, applying for a spousal visa or joint medical insurance. However, not registering a marriage cannot be the sole ground to declare it invalid — since register-

ing a marriage itself does not make it valid.

When the validity of a marriage is contested, then a marriage certificate alone is not enough to prove the marriage. An exception to this is a certificate under the SMA which is "conclusive" proof of marriage. Section 13(2) of the SMA states that "on a certificate being entered in the Marriage Certificate Book by the Marriage Officer, the Certificate shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence of the fact that a marriage under this Act has been solemnized and that all formalities respecting the signatures of witnesses have been complied with".

In Muslim and Christian marriages too, registration takes place almost immediately after solemnization, which makes for more reliable evidence. This is unlike a Hindu wedding, where the priest performing the ceremony does not routinely certify the marriage.

However, in law, there exists a general presumption of marriage when a man and woman have cohabited continuously, even if there is no direct evidence of marriage.

Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act states that "the Court may presume the existence of any fact which it thinks likely to have happened, regard being had to the common course of natural events, human conduct and public and private business, in their relation to the facts of the particular case."

A 'valid' marriage as per rituals might be key in determining who is a rightful spouse when there are claims by multiple cohabiting partners. These aspects become crucial in bigamy trials and inheritance suits. In a bigamy case, a man has to prove that one of his marriages is not valid to not be charged for marrying twice. In an inheritance case, the validity of a marriage is questioned to disinherit a spouse. Evidence of a valid marriage can be proof of performing a valid marriage as per rituals (through photos, witnesses etc); and proof of long cohabitation as spouses through acceptance by family, friends or even children. A marriage certificate has corroborative value in these cases, but cannot be counted as evidence in itself.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHY VIETNAM WANTS US TO CHANGE ITS 'NON-MARKET ECONOMY' STATUS

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

VIETNAM HAS been pushing the Biden administration to change its "non-market economy" classification to "market economy" to avoid high taxes imposed by the United States on the goods imported from the Southeast Asian country.

Communist Vietnam has been on Washington's list of non-market economies for more than two decades — a list which comprises 12 countries, including Russia and China.

The US Department of Commerce is currently reviewing Vietnam's status. The review is set to end by late July.



Assembly line at a garment factory in Ho Chi Minh City. *The NYT*

What are 'non-market economies'?

The US designates a country as a non-market economy based on several factors. These are: if the country's currency is convertible; if wage rates are determined by free bargaining between labour and management; if joint ventures or other foreign investment are allowed; whether the means of production are owned by the state; and if the state controls the allocation of resources and price and output decisions. Other factors like human rights are also considered.

The 'non-market economy' label allows the US to impose 'anti-dumping' duties on goods imported from designated countries. In international trade, dumping refers to when a country's export prices are intentionally set below domestic prices, thereby inflicting harm to industries in the importing country. Anti-dumping duties compensate for the difference between the imported goods' export price and their normal value.

The level of anti-dumping duties is determined by relying on a third country — say, Bangladesh in Vietnam's case — which is classified as a 'market' economy. The US would then assess the value of a product to be imported from Vietnam based on what it is worth in Bangladesh — and then assume that this is the supposed production cost to a Vietnamese company.

Why does Vietnam want the 'market economy' status?

Vietnam has argued that it has recently implemented economic reforms which should get its name off the non-market economies list.

The country does meet a number of criteria for the status to be changed. For instance, Vietnam allows foreign investment, and wages are determined by free negotiations between workers and management, according to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based think tank.

The change in status will help Vietnam get rid of the anti-dumping duties, making its products more competitive in the US market.

What are the challenges?

US steelmakers and the American Shrimp Processors' Association have asked the Biden administration to not change Vietnam's status, citing the country's restrictions on land ownership, its weak labour laws, and lower shrimp duties.

Also, eight US senators and 31 members of the House of Representatives have claimed that the change in Vietnam's status "would aid Chinese state firms that have invested heavily in Vietnam, by letting them more easily circumvent US tariffs on their goods," according to a report by *Reuters*.



YUBRAJ GHIMIRE

NEPAL'S CABINET last week decided to put a map on its Rs 100 currency note showing certain areas administered by India in Uttarakhand as part of its territory, provoking External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to say that such "unilateral measures" by Kathmandu would not change the reality on the ground.

The territorial dispute is about a 372-sq-km area that includes Limpiadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani at the India-Nepal-China trijunction in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Nepal has claimed for long that these areas belong to it both historically and evidently.

The map was adopted by consensus in Nepal's Parliament four years ago. The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal have agreed to have the boundary issue examined and settled through diplomatic channels. Following the Nepal cabinet's decision, Jaishankar said on May 4 that "discussions about our boundary matters [are ongoing] through an established platform", but it would appear that Kathmandu is not happy with the pace and urgency of that process.

Unlike in 2020, when the new map was adopted, the May 2 decision to put it on the currency note has met with scepticism and criticism in Nepal.

Genesis of the issue

The Treaty of Sugauli at the end of the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16 resulted in Nepal losing a chunk of territory to the East India Company. Article 5 of the treaty took away the jurisdiction of Nepal's rulers over the land to the east of the Kali River.

Buddhi Narayan Shrestha, an expert on boundaries, said that maps issued by the British Surveyor General of India in 1819, 1821, 1827, and 1856 showed the Kali River as originating in Limpiadhura. The next map, published in 1879, used the name of the river in the local language: "Kuti Yangti".

The map that was published in 1920-21 retained the name Kuti Yangti — but it identified a different "Kali". This new Kali was



shown as a stream originating from a temple site, and joining the main stream about a kilometre downstream. However, the last map issued by the British before they left India in 1947 showed the initial position of the Kali River originating in Limpiadhura, Shrestha said.

According to Shrestha, villages in this area — Gunji, Nabhi, Kuti, and Kalapani, also known as Tulsi Nyurang and Nabhidang — were covered by the Nepal government census until 1962, and the people paid land revenue to the government in Kathmandu. However, the situation changed after the war between India and China that year.

Bishwabandhu Thapa, a former Home Minister of Nepal who is now 93, said India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru approached King Mahendra of Nepal asking for permission to use Kalapani, which was strategically located close to the trijunction, as a base for the Indian Army.

Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, who served as Nepal's Foreign Minister in 2005-06 and as Ambassador to India during 1997-2003, said that even though Indian officials claimed in bilateral talks later that King Mahendra gifted the area to India, the issue was never resolved.

India-Nepal talks

Several prominent personalities who have officially represented Nepal in bilateral talks claimed that Prime Minister I K Gujral (April 1997-March 1998) had promised to give up these areas if Nepal was able to produce evidence for its claim.

In July 2000, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee assured the visiting Nepal PM G P



Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Koirala that India had no interest in even an inch of Nepali territory — however, the mechanism led by the two foreign secretaries did not make progress.

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Nepal in 2014 gave rise to hopes of a resolution of all contentious issues. He and his Nepali counterpart, Sushil Prasad Koirala, agreed to set up a boundary working group for speedy settlement of the border issue in Kalapani and Susta, a 145-sq-km area that had fallen on the Indian side after the River Gandak changed course.

After returning from India on June 3 last year, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda claimed that Modi had assured him that the border issue would be sorted out at the earliest; however, there was no mention of this in the official statement at the end of the official visit.

Frictions in bilateral ties

The goodwill of the 2005-14 period when India mediated the transition of the Hindu Kingdom into a secular federal republic, evaporated in 2015 after the Maoists rejected outright the suggestion of New Delhi, conveyed through then Foreign Secretary Jaishankar, that Nepal's new constitution should be delayed until the concerns of the Terai parties were addressed.

The 134-day blockade of Nepal that began in September 2015 created significant distrust against India, and K P Sharma Oli, who took over as Prime Minister that October, quickly moved to sign a trade and transit agreement with China in order to create a fall-back source for the supply of essential goods.

In February 2018, Oli, chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), returned as Prime Minister with a massive mandate in the first election held under the new constitution. In 2020, he took the lead to build the consensus in Parliament for Nepal's new map that formally included the 372 sq km in Uttarakhand, and pledged to bring it back.

India decried Nepal's "cartographic aggression" as unacceptable, but said the issue would have to be sorted out through diplomatic channels, on the basis of evidence. It is noteworthy that the cabinet decision on printing the new Rs 100 notes has come less than two months after Oli's party joined the ruling coalition in Nepal.

While the manifesto of Oli's CPN (UML) promised to bring these areas into Nepal, successive governments in Kathmandu have over the years taken up issues of "border encroachment" with both India and China, Rajeshwar Acharya, Nepal's former Ambassador to China, said.

2024 different from 2020

Unlike 2020, when the new map was adopted by Parliament, there is no visible consensus on putting the map on the currency note. The UML and Prachanda's CPN (Maoist Centre) are together in the ruling coalition, but the Nepali Congress, the main opposition and largest party in Parliament, is yet to make a statement on this issue.

Chiranjivee Nepal, economic advisor to President Ram Chandra Poudel and a former Governor of Rashtra Bank, Nepal's central bank, has described the cabinet decision as "unwise" and "provocative". Many others, too, believe the issue should be settled through dialogue without actions that may invite extreme steps by India. However, based on a preliminary assessment, the government appears hopeful that with better road connectivity with China, the hardships of Nepal in the event of a 2015-like blockade will be far less.

Nepal sorted out its boundary issues with China in the early 1960s through bilateral meetings of the boundary commission. Nepal's former Prime Minister Kirtindhi Bista had once quoted his Chinese counterpart Chou En-lai as saying that border issues, if left unresolved, turn into problems for the future generations that are difficult to address.

Despite the in-principle agreement on resolution through appropriate platforms based on evidence, India and Nepal have not fixed a timeframe or called a meeting for the purpose.

Baroda Dynamite Case, in which George Fernandes was sent to Tihar jail

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday heard arguments on granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, to enable him to campaign in the ongoing Lok Sabha election. During the hearing, the SC, in passing, recalled how George Fernandes had once contested an election from jail, and won by a huge margin.

George's triumph from Tihar

George was a firebrand trade union leader, who won his first Lok Sabha election from the Bombay (South) constituency in 1967, defeating Congress stalwart S K Patil on a Samyukta Socialist Party ticket. In 1974, he led India's biggest ever railway strike.

When Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975, he went underground. George was

eventually arrested in Calcutta (Kolkata) on June 10, 1976, sent to Delhi's Tihar jail, and charged in the Baroda Dynamite Case.

After the Emergency was lifted in 1977, George contested from the Muzaffarpur seat in Bihar on a Janata Party ticket, while still in prison. Hundreds of his friends and followers, including trade unionists from Bombay, students and Lohiaite teachers from Delhi University, and young supporters from all over India fanned out in his constituency to campaign for him.

Out of the 5.12 lakh votes polled, George got 3.96 lakh (more than 78%), while Congress candidate Nitishwar Prasad Singh got only a little more than 12%. George went on to become a minister in Morarji Desai's government, and was first given charge of Communications, and then of Industry.

Baroda Dynamite Case

In 1976, George and two dozen others —



George Fernandes greeting his supporters at Delhi's Tis Hazari court on March 22, 1977. *R K Sharma/Archive*

including then Rajya Sabha member Viren J Shah, the Bombay socialist leader G G Parikh, and then reporter of *The Indian Express* in

Ahmedabad Kirit Bhat, and then reporter of *The Times of India* in Baroda K Vikram Rao — were booked for waging war against the state.

According to the charge sheet, police found 836 sticks of dynamite and fuse wires from the premises of a private transporter in Vadodara on March 8-9, 1976. The CBI took over the investigation on March 23. Two cases were registered by Delhi Police, which too, claimed to have recovered explosives, and three cases were registered by Bombay Police in connection with an explosion at a railway bridge in that city. All these cases too, were transferred to the CBI, and together constituted the Baroda Dynamite Case.

CBI filed a charge sheet on September 23, 1976. George was accused of procuring large quantities of dynamite and accessories with the objective of overawing the government by blowing up road and rail bridges, disrupting communications, and creating conditions of anarchy. The trial was held at the court of the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate in Tis Hazari in Delhi.

Efforts to withdraw the case began immediately after the Janata Party government took oath on March 24, 1977. Co-accused K Vikram Rao, one of George's co-accused, told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday: "We were released on March 22 (1977), the day the results of the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat was declared (and Indira Gandhi was defeated)."

On March 26, an application for withdrawal of the case was moved in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate M Shamim, which said, "in public interest and changed circumstances, the Central Government has desired to withdraw from the prosecution of all the accused". The magistrate agreed to allow the withdrawal of the case.

However, two criminal revision petitions were filed in Delhi High Court against this order in 1977. Both were dismissed by the High Court.

Subsequently, a Special Leave Petition

was filed in the Supreme Court against the High Court order. On May 3, 1980, the top court dismissed the petition, along with similar other petitions.

Active in politics till 2010

George went on to represent Muzaffarpur in Lok Sabha on Janata Dal tickets in 1989 and 1991, and Nalanda, also in Bihar, on Samata Party tickets in 1996, 1998, and 1999. George was the convener of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and Defence Minister in Prime Minister Vajpayee's government from 1999 to 2004.

In 2004, he returned to Muzaffarpur on a Janata Dal (United) ticket and won. After being denied the party's nomination in 2009, George contested as an independent and lost. However, JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar sent him to Rajya Sabha the very same year, where he served for a year. He passed away at the age of 88 on January 29, 2019.

15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 73,466.39 ▼ 45.46 (0.06%) NIFTY: 22,302.50 ▲ 0 (0%) NIKKEI: 38,202.37 ▼ 632.73 HANG SENG: 18,313.86 ▼ 165.51 FTSE: 8,330.30 ▲ 16.63 DAX: 18,441.18 ▲ 11.13

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹72,300	₹83.51	\$83.65	₹84,700

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of May 7

International market data till 1900 IST

BRIEFLY

L&T net profit rises 10% to ₹4,396 cr in Q4

New Delhi: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Wednesday reported a 10.2 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,396.12 crore in the March 2024 quarter on the back of higher income. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,986.78 crore in the year-ago period. **PTI**

Automobile retail sales surge 27% in April

New Delhi: Total vehicle retail sales in India rose 27 per cent year-on-year to 22,06,070 units in April as all segments, including passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, witnessed growth, industry body FADA said on Wednesday. The overall vehicle registrations stood at 17,40,649 units in April 2023. Passenger vehicle retail sales rose 16 per cent to 3,35,123 units last month as compared to 2,89,056 units in the same month last year. **PTI**

Uber shares tumble on surprise net loss

Bengaluru: Uber posted a surprise first-quarter loss and forecast gross bookings in the second quarter below Wall Street expectations, sending the shares of the ride-share and food delivery company down nearly 9 per cent on Wednesday. The stock price slide, its steepest single-day drop since October 2022, was set to erase more than \$10 billion from Uber's market value if losses hold. **REUTERS**

GDP GROWTH LIKELY TO TOUCH 8% IN FY24: CEA NAGESWARAN

'No scope for upside surprise on inflation, to ease with monsoon'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THERE IS no scope at the moment for "nasty upside surprise" to India's inflation rate that is expected to ease during monsoon to 4 per cent, the mid-point of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4 per cent with a +/- 2 per cent tolerance band, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday. Nageswaran also said that there was a high possibility of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth touching 8 per cent in FY24.

On the recent data showing a decline in net financial household savings to a five-year low in FY23, Nageswaran said there was a "portfolio shift" towards real assets.

"At the moment it (inflation) is well within the RBI's reference range and the expectation is that, subject to monsoon, it will continue to head towards the mid-point of the target range... we don't see, at the moment, scope for nasty upside surprises. There can always be scenarios in geopolitics that can cause inflation to be more than what we expect but at this point, the baseline scenario is that inflation gradually converges to the mid-point of the target range," Nageswaran said at an event organised by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

Retail inflation had slipped to a 10-month low of 4.85 per cent in March, primarily led by a moderation in food and fuel prices, especially lower petrol, diesel and LPG rates. The next inflation print is scheduled to be released



On the growth beyond FY25, CEA Nageswaran said, there is a possibility of India growing between 6.5-7 per cent. **File**

Monday. Nageswaran said the investment made in supply-side augmentation of both physical and digital infrastructure has placed the economy to pursue non-inflationary growth, adding that this also helps absorb the challenge of overheating.

On tax-GDP ratio, he said it has been steadily improving, of both indirect and direct taxes. "I think the kind of tax-GDP ratio we have for an economy of this per capita income is commensurate... we need to appreciate personal income tax, corporate tax, GST registering healthy growth, aligning or even higher than nominal GDP growth, and therefore tax-GDP ratio is steadily increasing. We just need to allow the organic evolution of these trends," he said.

For the ongoing financial year, he said, the International Monetary Fund has an estimate of 6.8 per cent growth rate for the Indian economy but the RBI expects a 7 per cent GDP growth for

FY25. "If that materialises, of course, it will be the fourth consecutive year after Covid starting from FY22 that the economy will have grown at 7 per cent or more. The RBI forecasts of 7 per cent for FY25 turns out to be either correct or even underestimate, then it would be the fourth consecutive year of 7 or higher growth rate," he said.

However, he said, a lot would depend on how the monsoon shapes up. Although the expectations are that there will be an above-normal monsoon, spatial and temporal distribution will matter. On the growth beyond FY25, he said, there is a possibility of India growing between 6.5-7 per cent because the key difference this decade as against the last is of balance sheet strength in the financial and non-financial sectors and the corporate sector as well.

"Deregulating compliance and inspections at local and state govt levels, and continued invest-

EXPLAINED
Retail inflation in India

RETAIL INFLATION has remained above 4 per cent for four and a half years. The RBI's inflation target of 4 per cent, in a band of +/- 2 per cent, is expected to be finally met in July-September 2024, as per the central bank's forecast. It had slipped to a 10-month low of 4.85 per cent in March led by lower food and fuel prices.

ment and focus on skilling as well as the health dimensions of our young demography all of these will help us grow at a steady rate of close to 7 per cent and the more we address some of the legacy issues it can even rise further based on the strength of the domestic economy," he said.

NCAER Director General and member of Economic Advisory Council to the PM (EAC-PM) Poonam Gupta said India's GDP growth rate has become more resilient due to macroeconomic stability with various shocks, which mattered in the past, impacting it much less now.

"The IMF has projected acceleration in global growth and world trade volumes, decline in inflation rates, and oil prices to remain around the current levels. Based on its domestic strengths and a favourable global outlook, the Indian economy may be expected to grow at a 7 plus rate this year and next," she said.

Air India Express curtails flight schedule after mass sick leave by cabin crew

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

AIR INDIA Express has been forced to curtail its schedule of the next several days due to non-availability of cabin crew in adequate numbers after over a hundred crew members called in sick since Tuesday evening, the budget airline's managing director Alok Singh said in a letter to employees on Wednesday, it is learnt. Singh also told employees that all communication channels with the airline's leadership are open for any concern that needs to be addressed. A town hall has been pre-announced to Thursday in an evident bid to defuse the crisis, sources said.

The Tata group airline, which is an arm of Air India, saw network-wide disruptions on Wednesday, affecting over 90 flights. A section of the cabin crew, mostly senior members, reported sickly evidently to protest against the changes in the carrier's human resources (HR) policies. Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) are in the process of being merged and the airline has also stepped up hiring of cabin crew to support its expansion.

The airline is yet to give details of the curtailed flight schedule. The Air India Express-AIX Connect combine operates over 350 daily flights and has flexibility to go up to around 400 daily flights as per summer schedule for this year. While the airline has over 2,000 cabin crew in its ranks, the fact that the senior members called in sick led to a disproportionate impact on the airline's network.

The disruptions led to a number of passengers taking to social media to complain about cancellations and long delays. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has asked the airline to furnish a report on flight cancellations, apart from asking it to resolve the issues promptly. MoCA also "advised" Air India Express to ensure proper facilities to affected passengers as per regulations. The ministry also requested airport operators to provide assistance to affected passengers.



Passengers wait at an Air India Express counter at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Wednesday. **Sankhadeep Banerjee**

According to sources, Singh told employees that this action by a section of the cabin crew was not representative of all cabin crew members working with the airline. He also called upon the senior cabin crew members to help build the airline further and achieve its vision of growth and expansion, it is learnt.

In April, the Air India Express Employees Union, which says it has 300 senior cabin crew as members, wrote to Tata group and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran, alleging that the airline was being mismanaged and there was a "lack of equality in treatment" of employees. The union had complained that the Air India Express management was disregarding experience and

merit, and external candidates were being preferred over the airline's own eligible and qualified candidates. It also complained that take-home pay for cabin crew has gone down due to merger as some of the earlier allowances have been removed.

Sources in the airline indicated that with the Air India Express-AIX Connect merger, the airline is moving towards a merit-based appreciation system instead of a progression system based on seniority, and this appears to have fanned the fire of disgruntlement among a section of the cabin crew, particularly the senior members. Additional hiring of fresh cabin crew is also learnt to have led to concerns among existing crew members about career progression.

According to a source in Air India Express, the airline management had attempted to address all concerns of the dissatisfied employees in a recent town hall, and all internal channels of communication remain open for employees to engage with the management to resolve their concerns.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

'FEAR OF SANCTIONS FUELLING GOLD PURCHASE BY CHINA BLOC'

Global economic trade ties are fast resembling the initial era of Cold War, says IMF's Gita Gopinath

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

AS ECONOMIES reevaluate their trading partners following disruptions due to Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, global economic ties are changing in ways not seen since the end of the Cold War, First Deputy Managing Director at International Monetary Fund (IMF) Gita Gopinath said on Wednesday.

"After years of shocks—including the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine—countries are reevaluating their trading partners based on economic and national security concerns. Foreign direct investment flows are also being re-directed along geopolitical lines. Some countries are reevaluating their heavy reliance on the dollar in their international transactions and reserve holdings," she said while speaking at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research on the future of the International Monetary System. She added that there has been a marked increase in gold purchases by central banks during 2022-23 driven by concerns about sanctions risk, especially by China bloc countries.

"The share of gold in the for-

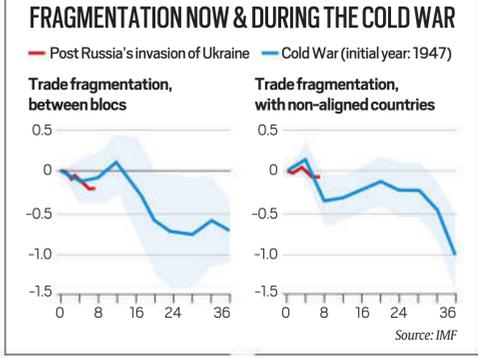


Gita Gopinath, Deputy MD at International Monetary Fund. **Express photo**

eign exchange (FX) reserves of the China bloc has been rising since 2015—a trend not exclusively driven by China and Russia. Importantly, during the same period, the share of gold in FX reserves of countries in the US bloc has been broadly stable," she said.

"This suggests that gold purchases by some central banks may have been driven by concerns about sanctions risk. This is consistent with a recent IMF study confirming that FX reserve managers tend to increase gold holdings to hedge against economic uncertainty and geopolitical including sanctions risk," Gopinath added.

Notably, the share of gold in



China's total FX reserves has increased from less than 2 per cent in 2015 to 4.3 per cent in 2023.

The Indian-origin economist further pointed out that the recalibration of trade relations, is also reshaping currency composition of trade finance, especially for China-leaning countries. The increasing use of Chinese currency renminbi (RMB) may have been supported by the Cross-Border Interbank Payments System (CIPS)—a system launched by the People's Bank of China which offers clearing and settlement services for cross-border transactions in RMB.

In July 2022, the Reserve Bank of India had also launched

a framework to trade in domestic currency. Ever since, India has been pushing for trade in domestic currency. In December 2023, India made its first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchased from the United Arab Emirates.

During her speech, Gopinath compared current trade fragmentation with that of the Cold War period stating that trade between the rival Western and Eastern blocs was significantly depressed during the Cold War, relative to trade within these blocs.

"Thus far, today's fragmentation is not significantly different from the initial years of the Cold

War. However, compared to the average 'between-bloc trade shortfall' during the entire Cold War period, fragmentation so far is an order of magnitude smaller," she said. Explaining her cause of concern during the current period, Gopinath said, trade fragmentation is much more costly this time around because unlike the start of the Cold War when goods trade to GDP was 16 per cent, now that ratio is 45 per cent. "Moreover, while back then countries within a bloc were taking off trade restrictions, now we are in an environment of growing protectionism with several countries turning inward. The potential role of non-aligned countries in the current trade frictions also makes the situation today different from the Cold War experience," she said.

The evidence suggests non-aligned countries (such as India) did not play an important role serving as connectors between rival blocs during the Cold War—likely because they had a much smaller economic footprint and global supply chains were not yet developed but today have greater economic and diplomatic heft and are much more integrated into the global economy and their role as connectors this time round can help attenuate some of the costs of fragmentation, she added.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 8

THE COST of preparing a vegetarian thali at home surged 8 per cent in April to Rs 27.4 due to rise in prices of onion, potato and tomato, according to a report.

On the other hand, the cost of a home-cooked non-vegetarian thali declined by 4 per cent to Rs 56.3 on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, in April, according to a research report by Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics.

A vegetarian thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato and potato), rice, dal, curd and salad. A non-veg thali has the same elements as the veg thali, except for dal, which is replaced by chicken (broiler).

"The cost of the vegetarian thali increased due to a surge of 41 per cent, 40 per cent and 38 per cent on-year in prices of onion, tomato and potato, respectively, on a low base of last fiscal," the report said. Lower onion arrivals due to a significant drop in Rabi acreage and damage to potato crop in West Bengal led to the price increase. Amid lower arrivals, prices of rice (accounting for 13 per cent of the veg thali cost) and pulses (9 per cent) increased 14 per cent and 20 per cent on-



File

year, respectively. Prices of cumin, chilli and vegetable oil dropped 40 per cent, 31 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, preventing further increase in the thali cost, the report said.

The decrease in the cost of the non-vegetarian thali was due to around 12 per cent on-year decline in broiler prices on a high base of last fiscal, it said.

"Since November 2023, the prices of vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis have been diverging. The vegetarian thali has become costlier on-year, while the non-vegetarian thali is cheaper. This is mainly because of declining broiler prices, while the prices of vegetables such as onions, potatoes and tomatoes have risen on a low base," said Pushan Sharma, Director- Research, Crisil Market

Intelligence and Analytics. On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, however, the cost of the vegetarian thali remained stable and non-vegetarian thali rose 3 per cent, the report said.

The vegetarian thali remained flat on-month due to a 4 per cent decline in onion prices amid new arrivals coupled with 3 per cent decline in fuel cost, while tomato and potato prices inched up. The cost of the non-veg thali rose due to an estimated 4 per cent increase in prices of broilers, which account for nearly 50 per cent of the cost, due to higher demand and rising input costs, it said.

In March, the consumer price-based inflation eased to a 10-month low of 4.85 per cent, driven by moderation in food and fuel prices, as against 5.09 per cent in the previous month.

In the April monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India's six-member Monetary Policy Committee left the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent per cent, mainly on concerns over food inflation pressures which might derail the path of disinflation.

The average cost of a thali is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east, and west India. Monthly change reflects the impact on the common man's expenditure.

16th FC invites views from public on ToR

New Delhi: The 16th Finance Commission on Wednesday invited views from the general public and organisations on its terms of reference like tax devolution formula and measures to augment the consolidated fund of states.

The 16th Finance Commission, under the Chairmanship of Arvind Panagariya, was constituted on December 31, 2023. Former expenditure secretary Ajay Narayan Jha, retired bureaucrat Annie George Mathew and economist Manoj Panda are full-time members of the commission, while SBI

Group Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh is a part-time member. The panel would submit its report to the President by October 31, 2025. The report would be for five years, commencing April 1, 2026.

"The Sixteenth Finance Commission invites suggestions from the general public, interested organisations and individuals on the terms of reference for the XV-IFC as specified below, as well as the general approach that the XV-IFC may adopt. Views are also invited on any other issue relevant to the work of the XVIFC," an official statement said. **PTI**

RBI Governor Das discusses ways to scale up UPI ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, MAY 8

AFTER THE 25-50 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday discussed with banks and other stakeholders ways to scale up the UPI ecosystem, expand products and foster innovative payment solutions.

UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate inter-bank transactions

through mobile phones. Das held a meeting on Wednesday with major stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem—banks, NPCI, third-party application providers and technology service providers—to discuss potential strategies for further expanding the reach of UPI, RBI said in a statement.

"There were wide-ranging discussions on various aspects to widen and deepen the adoption and usage of UPI. The stakeholders shared their valuable inputs and suggestions," it said.

The discussions broadly covered strategies for scaling up UPI

infrastructure and expanding product portfolio, and challenges being encountered by the ecosystem and innovative solutions for addressing the same.

The deliberations focused on innovative ideas to integrate potential users into the digital payments ecosystem.

The various suggestions received will be examined and suitable action will be initiated in due course by the Reserve Bank, the central bank said.

The meeting was also attended by RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar and other senior officials of the central bank.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 8

BANK OF Baroda (BoB) on Wednesday said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restriction imposed on it in October last year, which banned the lender from onboarding customers onto the 'bob World'.

The bank is free to onboard customers through bob World, the lender's mobile banking application, in accordance with the applicable guidelines and extant laws/regulations, BoB said in a filing to exchanges.

The lender said it will now resume onboarding new customers in the bob World application.

In October, the RBI, directed

TRANSACTIONS AFTER RBI BAN

As of September 2023 quarter, the daily transactions on bob World were 7.95 million, which reduced to 7.19 million as of December 2023

BoB to suspend any further onboarding of their customers onto the 'bob World' mobile application, with immediate effect, based on certain material supervisory concerns observed in the manner of onboarding of their customers onto this mobile application.

In July last year, a media report said that some of the bank's employees were involved in fake onboarding of customers onto bob World. The report said that a few employees of the bank's Bhopal zonal office linked some bank accounts to mobile numbers of different people and registered them on the mobile app. This was aimed at increasing the registration number of bob World.

The lender launched its mobile banking app in September 2021. As of the September 2023 quarter (before the RBI ban), the daily transactions, both financials and non-financials, on bob World were 7.95 million, which reduced to 7.19 million as of December 2023.

IPL SNIPPETS

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
KKR	11	8	3	0	16	1.453
RR	11	8	3	0	16	0.476
SRH	12	7	5	0	14	0.406
CSK	11	6	5	0	12	0.700
DC	12	6	6	0	12	-0.316
LSG	12	6	6	0	12	-0.769
RCB	11	4	7	0	8	-0.049
PK	11	4	7	0	8	-0.187
MI	12	4	8	0	8	-0.212
GT	11	4	7	0	8	-1.320

Jaiswal can break my records: Lara

Yashasvi Jaiswal's Test career is just 17 games old but the great Brian Lara feels if there is anyone who can get close to his lofty feats, including the record 400 not out, it is the 22-year-old southpaw from India. Lara's high praise for Jaiswal doesn't come out of the blue. Jaiswal's exploits in the longest format stand out as he averages close to 70 with three hundreds including two double tons in the recent home series against England. "If I feel my records are threatened, Jaiswal has got a very good chance to do so. He has got capabilities, couple of double hundreds already. He is that good," Lara told PTI editors at its headquarters in an interaction arranged by Star Sports where he is a commentator and expert for the ongoing IPL. Lara, who recently turned 55, is one of the all-time greats of the game having amassed close to 12,000 runs in Tests and over 10,000 runs in ODIs. His record of the highest individual total, 400 not out against England in 2004, still stands tall. PTI

IPL helped improve my T20 game: Warner

David Warner spoke about how the IPL helped him improve his T20 game, especially during the middle phase of the innings. In a recent chat with Ravichandran Ashwin for the Indian spinner's YouTube channel, Warner spoke of why he loves the IPL. "The number one thing that I love, love, love, love when I'm here in India is that you could practice on the center square. Because then you get a great scope of dimensions (of the stadiums). When I was in Hyderabad, that's all I did was I'd bat in the net, go out there and just face spin the whole time. Fast bowling, we're used to it. But spin was hitting pockets of the ground, trying to get the dimensions right, playing different shots. And I would have had probably six, seven, all different kinds of spin bowling," revealed Warner before adding, "I loved it. Absolutely loved it. And that's where I think my game went to another level, through the middle phase of T20 cricket." PTI

Samson fined 30 percent of match fees

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has been fined 30 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his side's 20-run loss to Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here. The offence committed by Samson, who made 86 during RR's unsuccessful run chase of 222 on Tuesday, was not specified but it could be for arguing with the umpires when he was given out after Shai Hope took a catch just near the boundary ropes in the 16th over. The question was whether Hope's feet touched the boundary ropes while taking the catch. The third umpire ruled Samson out but the RR skipper was not happy. He initially started walking towards the pavilion, only to return to the middle and have some words with the umpires. PTI

SRH VS LSG

SYNOPSIS

Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma unleash unprecedented carnage to upstage late heroics from Nicholas Pooran and Ayush Badoni.

TANISHQ VADDI

HYDERABAD, MAY 8

Dynamic duo soars

At the halfway mark, Lucknow Super Giants would have had some luck of defending 165, even though they knew their total was under par by some margin. It took all of 45 minutes for Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma to complete the chase with some unprecedented hitting, to provide a pointer to the direction T20 franchise batting is heading. Sunrisers Hyderabad made a mockery of the chase, ac-



SANDIP G
MAY 8

ONE LINE of Sanju Samson on his Instagram wall told a thousand tales.

Hours after the selectors picked him, he posted a greyscale photograph of himself staring into the distance, his eyes still and solemn, and beneath it wrote: "Viyarpu thunniyitta kuppayam". Literally translated as a shirt spun with sweat. The inference is as clear as sunlight, and situationally apt, that he had to shed considerable sweat to earn his place in the side.

But the line tells you more than just about Sanju's cricketing graph, but his organic yet carefully-woven cult-persona on social media platforms that extends beyond those that love him just for his cricketing gifts, the identity he has carved as a boy-next-door cricketer-celebrity in the Insta-scape, his proximity to the prevailing pop culture of the state, his love for music and movies.

He is delivering a cricketing statement; yet it conveys more than that. To understand further, listen to the background score that goes with the picture and the line. The one-liner is the opening line of a hip-hop chart-busting song *Kuthanthram* (literally means deceit), a collaboration of composer Shushin Shyam with rapper Vedan, for the blockbuster survival drama *Manjummal Boys*.

The song is a cluster of one-liners. Every line is relatable to Sanju. The second line: *Athinte nirangal mayukila kattayam* (the colours wouldn't fade), or the third and fourth lines: "Kinaavu kanda kottaram, athile mantri nammal thanne raajav (A castle made of dreams, wherein I am the king).

The original video of the fun song depicts a group of drunken men dancing at a friend's reception. But the meaning resonates beyond when it appears on Sanju's wall, the line already liked by 20,47,974 and commented upon by 1,33,435. The numbers soar as you watch; so does the band of followers, which has hit 9.6 million. Among them are fellow cricketers, actors, singers, politicians, and a multitude of fans.

It's normal for men of fame and fortune to gather fandom. But only a few, other than reel-masters by profession, keep their followers engaged, or make them wait anxiously for the next reel. One of them is Muhammad Shafeeq, a script-writer and vlogger.

"It happened three-four years ago when Rajasthan Royals began to aggressively churn out Sanju-centric stuff. It could have been to tap in on the massive Malayali presence on social media. They produced quirky, hilarious stuff, and Sanju pulled those off with his natural charm," he says.

Scroll down his crowded yet elegant wall, you get acquainted with off-field virtues of Sanju. His screen-presence, his knack of humour, and his cajoling of people to perform whacky acts. Like he coaxes Yuzvendra Chahal to reprise the role of a caricature-rowdy from a 90s movie; or when he makes Mohammed Shami shriek "Shammi hero aada" ala Fahad Fazil from the movie *Kumbhlangi Nights*.

In another recent reel that went viral, a snatch from an ad by the host broadcasters of the IPL, he does his version of Ranga don from the recent chart-topper, *Aavesham*. A bundle of gold chains checks his chest, with sharp, brisk movements, he picks the receiver of an old dial phone and spouts the signature two-worder from the movie with a sinister chuckle: "Eda moyne".

The likes, comments, and shares soared through the invisible ceiling of the social-media-galaxy. There are non-movie posts and reels too, with his wife and parents, his friends and teammates. There is the couplet, posted after he was not picked for the World Cup at home last year, that brought him criticism too "It is what it is. I choose to keep moving forward." He was brutally trolled, but he took it in the spirit. "I should have explained in a

LONG READ

Sanju has just posted a story

With pop culture references on his feed, self-deprecating humour, poise during interviews and no airs, Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has developed a cult-like persona to emerge as a darling of the masses back home



bracket what it actually meant. But you have to take criticisms on your chin too," he says in a television show. But movie references dominate. Sanju had explained at a film awards show in Dubai: "In India, the two most popular things are cricket and movies. So they are inter-related naturally."

Among Sanju's friends are actors, singers and directors. He is spotted with the glitterati of movie-dom, with Mohanlal, Mammootty and Rajinikanth, whose one-liner in the movie *Baasha - oru tadavu sonna, nooru tadavu somma mathiri* - which means once 'I tell you, it's like I have told you a hundred times', is his favourite.

When he was picked for the T20 World

Cup earlier this week, almost every other actor in the Malayalam industry posted an old photograph with him; almost every other politician tried to establish a nonexistent connection, with a BJP leader even claiming that his "influential" friend sealed the deal.

In a sense, Sanju is the lone bridge between sport and film-dom in Kerala. His predecessor S Sreesanth has indeed dabbled in acting, but he has seldom looked this organic. The biggest sporting hero of the state, footballer IM Vijayan, has acted in movies, one of them, *Santham*, won critical acclaim too, but those were after his playing days.

The fast bowler and footballer lived at a



time when the on-field hero was the moustache-twirling, mundu flipping alpha-male heroes, but Sanju lives in an era of everyman heroes on the screen. "The problem with Sreesanth was that his hyper-aggressive image and antics did not sit well with the audience, at a time when there were bigger celebrities such as Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. Also, social media was not such a big thing back then," Shafeeq explains.

It's the soul of Sanju's deification in home state. Explains his ex-teammate and elder-brother-like Raiphi Vincent Gomez: "He is a grounded person, who can make you feel at ease and warm from the moment you

meet him. He is the boy next door, who can be your friend, younger or elder brother, son. He is someone everyone could relate to, no hang-ups, no pretenses, a simple boy even after all these exploits on the field."

No jaada

Or as the Malayalis say one without *jaada* (one without pretenses, or hook-ups, or one who smoothly blends with the crowd). "I think he is the most popular sportsperson to have come from the state. He is someone who I can say is the exact person as you see on the screen, or on his social media wall," adds Gomez.

Unlike most celebrities, he does not hide behind tinted glasses of a car and reclines to the anonymity of face-mask. In Thiruvananthapuram, his hometown, if you are lucky, you could spot him in a coffee shop, or on a walk along the beach. Some time ago, there was a post of him casually walking into a mobile phone shop and buying a screen guard for his phone.

His coach Biju George often talks about Sanju joining random groups of teenagers and playing tennis-ball cricket with them even after he had become a professional cricketer. "He is a relatable, accessible person," the coach says.

On the field, a thousand cameras and eyes converging, he is unflappably composed in the most vexing situations. Whether he has to defend two runs off the last ball, or hit 15 off the last over, he remains unperturbed. "Watching him bat brings a certain kind of peace, that everything is in control," says Gomez. He saw that in his eyes when they toured South Africa a decade ago. "He was just 16 or 17, the ball was seaming and bouncing wildly, we were four-five down and he came and scored a hundred, against a provincial side with mean fast bowlers. That's when I realised his potential."

He breathes the same serenity when he defuses wily questions of guileful television anchors. Like he expertly dealt with John Brittas, whose interviews often turn out to be confessional pulpits, who could be as nuanced as Karan Thapar and as cringeworthy as Karan Johar.

Cool customer

In an interview with Sanju and his wife Charulatha he probes their love-story, even asks his wife "whether she felt Sanju's was a shallow love at some points?" or "whether it was instant attraction", excavating every lurid detail, and slips them to the uneasy terrain of their different faiths. Sanju neither dead bats nor hit him over the fence, but deals with it as it should be, on the merit of the question and narrates the full story, from the day he first saw her in the college canteen to how they sustained their "fire" during their courtship and how they conveyed their decisions to their parents.

At no point does Sanju show unease, or frets and fumes, as several interviewees had in the past. With a disarming smile, he would narrate his tale as it is, and dwell on their different faiths, neither over-indulge him nor showing any visible signs of displeasure. It's a familiar trait of his on the playing field too.

On the screen, he exudes charm and poise. He is both entertaining and engaging, expressive and articulate.

The sequence when he explains the conversation between him and Sandeep Sharma during a tense last-over finish against Chennai Super Kings in a television show is such a laugh riot that the subtitles do little justice. He explains his dilemma when running to console Sandeep Sharma, who MS Dhoni had hit for a brace of sixes. "So what do I tell him? I cannot go and ask him 'tu ok hain?' I cannot even run frantically towards him." Tactics exchanged, he finally asked him: "You are okay na. Whatever you want to bowl, do it with all your heart and energy."

He self-deprecates: "I used to tell people I wanted to become an IPS officer, then later I realised it's for intelligent people." Amidst a dragging discussion with a group of doctors, he suddenly asks one: "You told he scored 200 in 56 balls. Was he playing a video game?", and broke the monotony.

All these embellish his aura as a new-age hero of the masses.

There were sporting heroes in Kerala, like Vijayan and volleyball star Jimmy George, track and field queens PT Usha and Anju Bobby George.

That Samson, like them, has become the darling of the masses, is evidence of his popularity. He owes it as much to his willow and keepers' gloves as the Insta wall. And the one-liners that tell a thousand tales.

167/0 in 9.4 overs: Head, Abhishek step on the gas in chase to make it a T10

complishing it in just 9.4 overs without losing a wicket, as KL Rahul & Co didn't have time to realise what had hit them.

The chase, on what was considered a slow surface, started in stark contrast to the LSG innings. Though the ball was skidding on better than in the first innings, when pace was taken off, it was sticking in the pitch. However, it made no difference to the SRH approach. Unlike Rahul and Quinton de Kock, who tried to play the orthodox way, Head and Abhishek looked to send every ball into the stands, which they almost did in the Powerplay which yielded 107 runs.

This is the second time this season Sunrisers have gone past 100 in the Powerplay. There was no respite no matter what was bowled at them as everything seemed destined for the stands.

Head was the more dynamic at the crease, moving away at times or going further back inside it. One of his best shots of the night came when he went on the backfoot and



Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma's 167-run unbeaten opening stand gave SRH a facile win over LSG. Sportspics/BCCI

lobbered Ravi Bishnoi into the stands over long-off. On the other hand, Abhishek stood still at the crease and hit through the line, depositing balls into the stands. Head got to his half-century in 16 balls while his opening partner got there in 19.

As had been the case many times before this season, the bowling side was shell-shocked and short of ideas. The partnership not only ensured the win but also made sure SRH's net run rate (+0.406 after the game) shot up, taking them from the mid-table jam and into third position. LSG, who suffered a heavy defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders, endured more damage to their net run rate (-0.769 after Wednesday's game).

Badoni blitz

It was the slowest surface in Hyderabad so far this season. The ball was taking an age to reach the batsmen. As a result, the Lucknow Super Giants top order struggled to score quickly. LSG batters hit only three sixes and

one boundary in the first 10 overs, captain of the slowness of the surface. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, after a slow start to the season, seems to have found his rhythm and looks close to his best. Despite there being minimal swing on offer, the 34-year-old bowled stump-to-stump and kept hitting the good length area.

Bhuvneshwar's discipline, accompanied by some electric fielding in the initial overs, contributed to LSG scoring their lowest Powerplay total of the season (27/2). First, it was Nitish Kumar Reddy who took a brilliant catch on the boundary to dismiss De Kock before Sanvir Singh at mid-on dived forward to take a low catch to dismiss dangerous Marcus Stoinis. However, young Ayush Badoni played a street-smart innings. He kept his weight on the backfoot throughout his knock, and let the ball come to him instead of trying to muscle it. With sublime wristwork, he played some cheeky shots square of the wicket to get boundaries.

Badoni found an excellent ally in Nicholas

Pooran, who played his part in their 99-run partnership. Though the wicket did not have enough pace to work with, the left-hander is blessed with one of the quickest bat-swings in world cricket which can overcome the slowness of the surface and slower balls. Both combined to take LSG to 165, a score that looked beyond them after the first 10 overs of the innings and felt like a fighting total.

The Badoni-Pooran partnership put SRH pacers, other than Bhuvneshwar, to the sword. Sri Lankan leg-spinner Vijayakanth Vijayakanth made an impressive debut. With Mayank Markande falling out of favour the performance from the 22-year-old is a confidence-booster for SRH as it provides an attacking option in the middle overs as surfaces would grip as the mercury rises.

BRIEF SCORES: LSG: 165/4 in 20 ovs (KL Rahul 29, Nicholas Pooran 48 n.o., Ayush Badoni 55 n.o., Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2/12) vs SRH: 167 for no loss in 9.4 overs (Travis Head 89 n.o., Abhishek Sharma 75 n.o.)

BRIEFLY

Neeraj to compete in India for first time in 3 yrs at Federation Cup

New Delhi: Olympic and world champion javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** will compete at home for the first time in three years after confirming participation in the National Federation Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from May 12 to 15. The 26-year-old superstar is expected to travel to India from Doha after opening his season in the first leg of the prestigious Diamond League series on May 10. "As per entries @Neeraj_chopra1 and Kishore Kumar Jena will compete in domestic competition starting May 12 in Bhubaneswar," the Athletics Federation of India tweeted. Chopra's coach Klaus Bartonietz also confirmed to PTI that his ward is taking part in the Bhubaneswar event. **PTI**

FIA's first CEO to leave after 18 months

London: Natalie Robyn is leaving Formula One's governing body after serving just 18 months as its first chief executive, the FIA said. Robyn was one of the most senior female executives in motorsport and her arrival from the auto industry was hailed by the FIA as a "transformative moment" for an organisation led by Emirati Mohammed Ben Sulayem. Ben Sulayem had also highlighted Robyn's appointment as proof of his commitment to equality and diversity after a controversy over remarks he had once made about women "who think they are smarter than men". The governing body said Robyn had decided to pursue opportunities elsewhere and was leaving at the end of May. **REUTERS**

FIA's first CEO to leave after 18 months

AIFF ExCo approves PoSH policy

New Delhi: Rocked by allegations of physical assault against its executive member Deepak Sharma, the All India Football Federation on Wednesday approved and implemented the AIFF Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Policy with immediate effect. The decision was arrived at by the AIFF executive committee, following thorough deliberations and careful consideration, the federation said in a statement. The AIFF PoSH Policy, is based on the PoSH Act 2013 and has been crafted and vetted by the AIFF legal team. **PTI**

AIFF ExCo approves PoSH policy

Shooting WC: Naruka places 20th

New Delhi: Skeet shooter Anant Jeet Singh Naruka was the best Indian on show, returning a score of 72 after three rounds of qualifying at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, which placed him 20th in the standings. The other two Indians in the men's category, Sheeraz Sheikh and Mairaj Ahmad Khan, a veteran shooter with more than 25 years of experience, shot poor scores of 67 and 63 respectively to be placed way down the pecking order. Sheeraj was 67th, while the 48-year-old Mairaj was a dismal 76th among 80 shooters. **PTI**

Shooting WC: Naruka places 20th

Return of the underdogs

Dortmund in Champions League final is reason to celebrate football

Deepak Punia, Sujit Kalkal called back for cancelled trials when duo wanted to go to Dagestan for training

Indian male wrestling pinned to the mat

After missing Asian qualifiers, Deepak Punia, Sujit Kalkal called back for cancelled trials when duo wanted to go to Dagestan for training

MIHIR VASAVDA
MAY 8

FOR A while, there's been a sense of foreboding over freestyle's freefall.

Since independence, it's been a wrestling style that's fetched India most medals at the Olympics after hockey. In three out of the last four Games, at least one male wrestler has finished on the podium despite all the administrative imperfections and governance flaws.

That record is now in danger. India is staring at the possibility of having zero representation in the event at the Paris Games, which begin on July 26. The World Olympic Qualifiers, starting in Istanbul on Thursday, is the last opportunity for the wrestlers to avoid embarrassment.

India could still win one or more quota berths this weekend, saving themselves the embarrassment of going unrepresented in men's freestyle.

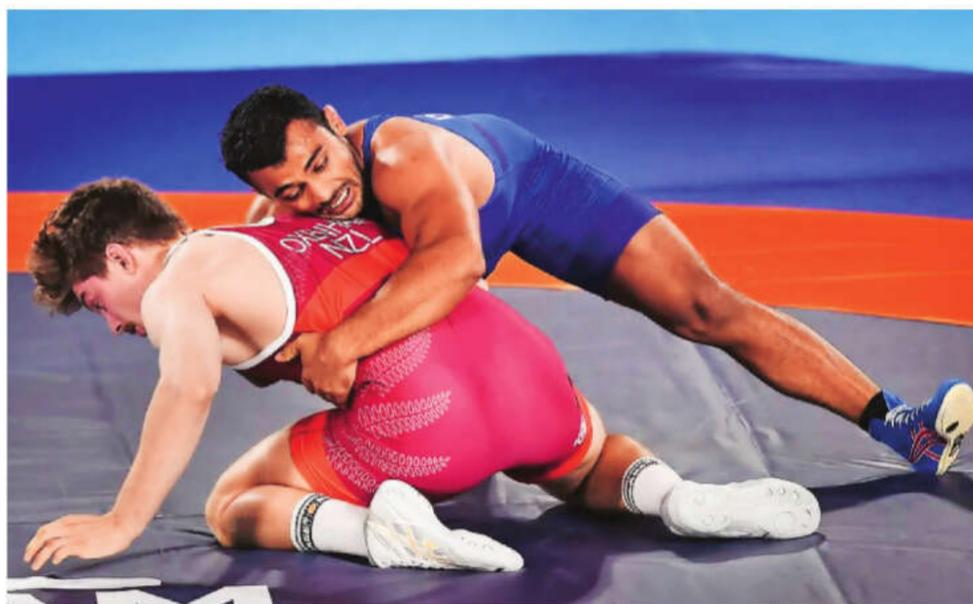
But that will be only after they'd have overcome many a hurdle - from their best-laid plans being undone due to frequent changes of mind by the federation to training by themselves because the governing body is yet to gain legitimacy domestically and has been unable to organise training camps and being starved of national and international competition.

Nothing exemplifies the sorry state of affairs more than the plight of Deepak Punia and Sujit Kalkal.

The duo couldn't reach the Asian Olympic qualifiers in Bishkek as they were stranded at Dubai airport for two days before the tournament began, and didn't want to leave anything to chance for the world event in Istanbul. They had decided to travel to Dagestan straight from Bishkek, and from there proceed to Istanbul.

Explaining Punia's logic to train in Dagestan, Virender Dalal, who coached him in his formative years, said: "There he could continue training with some of the world's best competitors. It would give him an opportunity to share the mat with wrestlers from different countries, remain in the same time zone and avoid unnecessary long travel."

Kalkal, the under-23 Asian champion who is eyeing his first Olympics, was to join Punia for the same reasons. The Russian hub, after all, was their base even before



Deepak Punia's plans to take part in Asian Olympic Qualifiers were laid to waste after being stranded at Dubai for two days. **File**

the Asian qualifiers.

But a vacillating federation threw a last-minute spanner. "When they were planning to leave, the federation asked them to travel to India because they were considering holding fresh selection trials for the world qualifiers," Dalal says. It was said that their presence at trials was mandatory and no exemptions would be given. Reluctantly, Punia and Kalkal ditched their Dagestan plans and travelled to New Delhi.

To their shock, days after returning, WFI announced that there would be no selection trials. "I met Deepak last Saturday and he was very disillusioned. Not just because of missing the Asian qualifiers for no fault of his own but also since he could not travel to Russia," Dalal says.

Own-goals

Also, even in the last-chance saloon, wrestlers are having to make do with a coaching staff said to be clinging on to ar-

chaic methods.

It's possible that once the Indian wrestlers take to the mat on the weekend, they might end up with one or more quota places. But huffing and puffing just to win a berth shows how Indian men's wrestling finds itself pinned to the mat.

When they step on to the mat this weekend, Punia and Kalkal will hope to brush aside the natural and man-made setbacks to their qualification hopes.

They aren't alone to have faced challenges in the build-up to qualification. The turmoil in Indian wrestling since the protests began against former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused of sexual harassment, has taken a toll on the sport.

"One of the key things that's been missing is tournaments and camps," says Arjuna-Awardee-wrestler-turned-coach Kripashakar Bishnoi. "At national camps, which were always held for a long duration,

the best four wrestlers from the country in every category trained together everyday. They pushed one another for a spot in the team and the level of competition used to be healthy. Now, that's missing."

Due to the anomalous situation with regard to the WFI - which is recognised by the international body but not the sports ministry, which sanctions domestic camps - it hasn't been able to assemble all wrestlers under one roof. Each one of them trains by themselves either at an academy or abroad.

"Training at an akhada isn't the same as a camp. You aren't always exposed to the top wrestlers and the intensity in sparring could be lacking. It shows when they compete," Bishnoi says.

No immediate target

Then again, there hasn't been a lot to compete for. Dalal, who runs an academy in Haryana that was home to a young Bajrang Punia as well as Deepak Punia, says

Due to the anomalous situation with regard to the WFI - which is recognised by the international body but not the sports ministry, which sanctions domestic camps - it hasn't been able to assemble all wrestlers under one roof.

the number of competitions since the protests began have drastically reduced.

"Earlier, there used to be national championships for all age groups, Federation Cup and ranking tournaments. All those took a hit last year," Dalal says.

India's participation in international meets also suffered. For instance, India was absent from the entry lists of Dan Kolov and Yasar Dogu tournaments, where they traditionally compete at the start of the season. They couldn't because the dates for the selection trials for the Olympic qualifiers clashed with these events and participation in the former was mandatory.

A cursory look at the world body's stats from 2022, the year before the protests, 2023, the year of protests, and the first five months of this year tells a story.

SAMPLE THIS:

■ In 2022, Deepak Punia (86 kg category) competed in 20 bouts as per UWW records. In 2023, that fell to 14 and this year, he has fought just four so far.

■ Aman Sehrawat, who competes in 57kg, wrestled in 28 matches in 2022, 20 in 2023 and only 7 so far this year.

■ Kalkal, UWW records show, had 16 matches in age-group categories in 2022. He didn't compete in a single match last year and in 2024 so far, the 21-year-old has fought only one bout, which he lost.

"Lack of matches has been an issue. Unless you fight, you don't know what level you are at," Dalal says. "That's the reason why Deepak chose to train abroad. At least he's training with some of the best in the world."

And because of the federation's indecision, Punia couldn't even do that ahead of a make-or-break tournament for India's male wrestlers.

Nadal's clay game rounding into form just in time for French Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME, MAY 8

RAFAEL NADAL'S clay-court form is slowly rounding into shape. Not that nearly invincible shape that the tennis world grew accustomed to over the past two decades. But a shape that the 22-time Grand Slam champion is starting to feel good about as he prepares to play what will likely be his final French Open.

"It's a good moment, even if the results are not what (they) used to be," Nadal said at the Italian Open on Wednesday. "But I am increasing my feeling, my level. ... I want to keep going." The 37-year-old Nadal, who has indicated that this will be his final year on tour, has played only nine matches this year after missing nearly all of 2023 due to a hip injury that required surgery.

But he's coming off his most encouraging performance of the year, having put together three straight wins at the Madrid Open last

week before losing in straight sets to 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka in the fourth round.

Before Madrid, he won only one match in Barcelona. "The line is going up, without a doubt," Nadal said, making a gesture with his hand to demonstrate his improvement. "Happy to be today where I am because one month ago for me was almost impossible to think that I will be able to play in Barcelona, then in Madrid, and now being here in Rome. ... Things are happening."

"All the matches are tough for me today and difficult and more unpredictable than what the matches used to be for me, especially on clay," Nadal added. "I accept that role. I accept that challenge. I am excited about the way that I can be able to play if I keep working the proper way and my body allows me."

Nadal is hoping to be competitive one last time at Roland Garros, where he is the record 14-time champion. Rome is his last big warmup tournament before the clay-court Grand Slam starts on May 26.



Rafael Nadal is hoping to be competitive at the French Open, a Slam he has won a record 14 times. **Reuters**

Nadal, who has indicated that this will be his final year on tour, has played only nine matches this year after missing nearly all of 2023 due to a hip injury that required surgery.

"First of all, I want to play Rome. That's the tournament that I am (at) today. I don't think after that," said Nadal, who had his 1-year-old son court-side for his practice sessions at the Foro Italico this week.

Nadal's opening match in Rome is scheduled for Thursday against Belgian qualifier Zizou Bergs, who is ranked No. 108.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic, who is also back in Rome after a month out, is on the opposite half of the draw from Nadal. But second-ranked Jannik Sinner and third-ranked Carlos Alcaraz both withdrew because of injuries.

Nadal has won the Italian Open a record 10 times and he rated his first two titles at the Foro Italico as his most memorable: five-set victories over Guillermo Coria and Roger Federer in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

Starting in 2007, the Rome final was switched to a best-of-three sets format.

"Most of (the) important moments of tennis have been playing in matches best-of-five because at the end of the day that makes the matches more emotional, more dramatic, the people get more involved," Nadal said. "Those amazing battles that are part of the history of our sport."

"It's true that I won 10 times here. But if you tell me my memories, for me I'm much more fresh the memories of the first two victories in five sets against Coria and against Roger than the other (titles). Even if I had amazing, good matches against Novak, against great players," Nadal added. "But that's what I think the people remember more."

RETURN OF THE UNDERDOGS

Dortmund in Champions League final is reason to celebrate football

RAHUL PANDEY
MAY 8

IT WAS fitting that Mats Hummels was the one who headed home the goal which eventually sealed the Champions League final spot for Borussia Dortmund. Those who have followed the club over the past decade may have preferred Marco Reus to do the honors but this was more befitting.

Ousted by Bayern Munich after just one game, it was during his eight-year stint at Dortmund that Hummels had become one of the most reliable centre-halves in the world. So much so that the serial Bundesliga winners in Munich came back calling again, this time with a five-year contract. Multiple injuries, a considerable dip in form, tensions behind the scenes with the management, and his stay was cut short in 2019. It was a bad break up that left the 31-year-old being referred to as a 'washed' defender. Which is when Dortmund took him under the cloak again.

At 35, if anything, Hummels has been Dortmund's standout performer in the Champions League this season. A confident central defensive figure, who hasn't just been brave with his tackles and astute with his markings, but has also been the unspoken leader of their stern backline. His towering header on a night even Kylian Mbappe failed

to find the target - thanks in large part to him - was further reaffirmation of the same. That's why Hummels's scoring and Dortmund winning is a modern day sporting fairytale that needs to be celebrated.

Poaching-land becomes promise-land?

Hummels wasn't the first Dortmund talent to be poached by Bayern, and he hasn't been the last. Over the years, the club has become a popular hunting ground for buyers with deeper pockets. Dortmund has provided an excellent base for players to grow but haven't been the compulsive title winners, nor a consistent contender. It has only felt like the obvious next step for their star players to move elsewhere with brighter prospects. The mind boggles at the what if scenarios that would have transpired had the club been able to keep them longer than they did: Robert Lewandowski, Ilkay Gundogan, Erling Haaland, and most recently, Jude Bellingham.

It's been pondered then, why don't Dortmund just go down the way many of their European contemporaries have in recent times to change their fortunes - invite an outside investor to pump in more funds? It's because they cannot, courtesy of the 50+1 rule. A rule that binds Bundesliga clubs from giving away majority stakes to foreign investors.

A club binded by financial constraints, often



At 35, Mats Hummels (L) has been Dortmund's best performer in the CL. **Reuters**

outmuscled and bullied by those with bigger vaults, getting the better of a multi-billion dollar project to reach the pinnacle of the sport is a feat rarely seen in modern times. It was what Dortmund achieved last night, and how.

PSG had 70 percent share of the ball possession, a total of 30 shots, and yet, didn't find the target. The xG (Expected Goals) rate of the

home side was 3.25, and yet, the ball couldn't cross the goal line. It wasn't just in Paris, Dortmund remained unpenetrated across the two legs. A comprehensive win that has put the club one win away from becoming a promise-land, rather than poaching-land.

Last year, on the cusp of a league title win, BVB sporting director Sebastian Kehl had

SCORELINE	
PSG	Dortmund
0	1
	Mats Hummels 50'

shared what winning big titles will do for the club's image.

"That means we can show the players we can not only develop them, not only produce potential to sell at some points, but we are also able to win trophies. To convince them and their families and their agents. Of course this is important because if you play only for getting fifth in the points table then you can tell them you want to be ambitious, you want to win, but at some point you need to deliver. We would be happy if that would happen this season. That will increase not only our standing in Germany but in Europe." Imagine what winning the Champions League would do for Dortmund. Whisper it though, for the club can't get too ahead of themselves just yet.

The final hurdle

On the final matchday of last season's Bundesliga title race, Dortmund were all but a win away from a first league title since 2012.

Facing them at home was Mainz, 25 points behind them in the tally. Kehl, who was a Dortmund player when they last lifted the trophy, wouldn't shy away from painting an elaborate picture of the celebrations that were to follow ahead of a big Saturday in Dortmund. "A glass of red wine on Sunday and enjoy everything" was on the agenda. "How many people could we bring in on Saturday? I would say perhaps 5,00,000. But the stadium is limited," he added of Westfalenstadion's capacity and Dortmund's passionate supporters. A party like no other was promised if Dortmund won. Neither happened.

Losing the title race deep into the season had happened before with Dortmund, but not quite like this. It is on the back of that scarring defeat that the team has scripted its road to a Champions League final - its first since 2013, which was also coincidentally played at the Wembley Stadium, as it will be this time.

A game that has all the makings of a final test for Dortmund for facing them would be either Bayern Munich - a club that has poached multiple players and titles away from them - or Real Madrid - a club that's won this competition twice more than the second best in AC Milan. It would be nothing less than a statement to best either enroute to the podium but let's not pop open the champagne just yet.

79th VICTORY DAY Russia

ADVERTORIAL

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Strengthening military brotherhood: Russia-India partnership thrives

This year, Russian cadets joined India's Republic Day celebrations, deepening bilateral ties. An upcoming reciprocal visit to Russia by Indian delegates reinforces these bonds



THE celebration of Victory Day in Russia is inextricably linked with the expression of gratitude and honouring the merits of the fraternal peoples who supported the USSR in the fight against Nazism during the Great Patriotic War and the Second World War. Moscow and Delhi are connected by the traditions of military brotherhood, established when carrying out tasks of transporting weapons and food to the Soviet Union through Iran in the period of 1941-1943.

The most distinguished servicemen of the automobile company of the logistics support corps of the royal ground forces — senior non-commissioned officer Narayan Rao Nikkam and sergeant Garjendra Singh — were awarded the Order of the Red Star in 1944, and in September 2021, a memorial in honour of the Russian-Indian military fraternity was opened and the ceremony of planting of the "Tree of Friendship" was held.



Confirmation of commitment to the spirit of victory and respect for historical dates that are significant for both sides is the repeated participation of Indian military contingents in parades on Red Square dedicated to the celebration of the Great Victory Day on May 9.

At the present stage, the traditions of the military brotherhood of Russia and India, laid

down by the glorious exploits of their fathers and grandfathers, are being strengthened within the framework of multidisciplinary military cooperation, the basis of which is contacts of the high command, the exchange of experience between specialists of the branches of troops, exercises and training. In 2024, the main one is the exercise "Indra-2024" in the Russian Federation.

A worthy continuation of this activity in Moscow and Delhi is considered to be the education of the younger generation in the spirit of respect and memory for the glorious traditions of the defenders of the fatherland. For these purposes, a regular dialogue has been established between students of pre-university military educational institutions. In particular, in 2024, a delegation of Russian cadets took part in events dedicated to the Republic Day in India, and a reciprocal visit of their Indian colleagues to Russia is expected in the 2nd half of this year.

BrahMos JV: The hallmark of India-Russia defence cooperation

INDIA and Russia have continued to share strong bilateral bond based on mutual trust, common interests and strategic convergence. The mainstay of this multi-faceted relationship is joint defence cooperation which has resulted in successful development and operationalisation of world's most powerful precision strike system BRAHMOS in the Indian Armed Forces.

The supersonic cruise missile programme, jointly undertaken by India's DRDO and Russia's NPOM, has charted glorious milestones since its inception in



Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov with CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace Atul D Rane at the 'BrahMos Silver Jubilee Year' celebrations



1998. BrahMos Aerospace which designs, develops and produces the high-end weapon in various configurations for India's Tri-Services has also forayed into the global market by signing a historic export deal with the Republic of Philippines to deliver BRAHMOS shore-based anti-ship missile batteries.

Universal BRAHMOS, through continuous evolution and upgradation, has incredibly bolstered India's deterrence power from across the domains of land, sea and air. The missile's superlative performance parameters have been revalidated during successful test trials conducted from ground, ship and air platforms of Indian Armed Forces.

The missile's indigenisation efforts have also borne excellent results, fostering

domestic innovation, technological advancement and growth. The Indian defence industry including MSMEs associated with the BrahMos JV have strengthened their foothold with ever-growing demand for the weapon in both domestic and international markets.

"We have worked very closely with our Russian scientific partners to make BRAHMOS what it is today a perfect synonym for 'power, success and excellence'. As we accelerate our journey of 'Atmanirbharta' in defence, the BRAHMOS missile programme has provided all necessary impetus in this direction. Based on a unique missile industrial consortium (MIC) model, the BrahMos JV has strongly fortified and redefined India's strategic autonomy in the military-technical sphere," says Outstanding Scientist Atul D Rane, DG (BrahMos) DRDO, and CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace.

The India-Russia JV which completed 25 supersonic years of its formation in 2023, has entered yet another momentous phase of its unstoppable journey and growth. With even more robust technological collaborations and joint endeavours, the JV partners have set their sight to design and develop a more advanced, futuristic variant — BRAHMOS-NG.

The supersonic cruise missile programme has played a pivotal role in deepening the symbiotic relationship between India and Russia in all these years and it will continue to do so well into the distant future.

BrahMos Aerospace extends its greetings on 79th anniversary of Victory Day of Russia.

M E S S A G E

DENIS ALIPOV

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA



Dear friends,

Today, on May 9, we celebrate the 79th anniversary of the Victory over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). It was the culmination of WWII and the proudest moment for the Soviet people who made the decisive contribution to the crushing of Nazism in Europe at an exorbitant price of 27 million of lives.

The memory and the lessons of WWII should never be forgotten! There cannot be any statute of limitation for Holocaust and Nazi misanthropic ideology and reconciliation with these dark pages of the European past as some former Nazi collaborator countries advocate. It is both unbelievable and outrageous that Europe is amongst those who attempt to rewrite the history and ensure security at the expense of others by empowering the neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine. Some

European countries have made it a state policy to demolish monuments to Soviet soldiers and wipe out the Soviet contribution to peace. These steps are an undeniable part of the current security crisis on the continent.

It's our sacred duty to carefully preserve the historic truth of the WWII and cherish the collective will of all allied countries to prevent re-emergence of the Brown Plague and establish the United Nations frameworked inclusive international cooperation based on the universal international law and the sovereign equality of states. In order to adjust to new realities and become efficient in response to emerging challenges all nations should do away of double standards and superiority complex, unilateral approaches and confrontational policies but demonstrate common wisdom and promote balanced and fair democratisation of the global governance.

The top priority initiative of Russia in the UN is the adoption of the annual UNGA resolution against glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and contemporary forms of racism which is overwhelmingly supported by the global majority, including India.

Russians will always remember with gratitude the Indian contribution to the defeat of Nazi Germany. We proudly recall that in 1941 and 1942 friendship societies were set up in India in support of the USSR. Brave Indian contingents were engaged in providing supplies to the Red Army through Persia. In 1944, two sons of India were decorated with the highest military award of the Soviet Union - the Order of the Red Star.

To commemorate these heroic deeds a memorial monument was unveiled at the premises of the Indian Army Headquarters in New Delhi in 2021. It became one of the symbols of historically strong bonds of friendship between our nations, which form a solid base for the Russian-Indian special and privileged strategic partnership.

Russia is committed to maintain a close coordination with India and other like-minded and interested parties to strengthen just and equal multipolarity based on the central role of the UN and its Charter. We firmly believe that only respect of each other's interests and diversity can ensure global stability and mutual understanding.



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19 THE WORLD

BERLIN'S TOP ECONOMIC OFFICIAL ATTACKED AT AN EVENT

2ND GERMAN POLITICIAN ATTACKED AHEAD OF EU POLLS

A prominent Berlin politician was violently assaulted and suffered injuries to her head and neck, police said Wednesday, in the latest attack on officials raising concern over rising political violence in Germany. Franziska Giffey, the city's top economic official and an ex-federal minister, was attacked at an event in a Berlin library on Tuesday. **AP**

TOP OF THE WORLD



Gen Wei Fenghe. File

CHINA

Former defence minister appears in public after long absence

Beijing: China's former defence minister Gen. Wei Fenghe whose prolonged absence from the public view sparked speculation about his fate has resurfaced, suggesting that he was politically safe, a media report said Wednesday. A floral tribute by Wei at the funeral of a senior Chinese legislator on Monday suggests the 70-year-old general could be politically safe, the *South China Morning Post* reported. However, there is no word about the fate of Wei's successor Gen. Li Shangfu who disappeared from the public and was later sacked. **PTI**

AUSTRALIA

Hike in savings threshold for student visa

Sydney: Australia said on Wednesday it would raise the amount of savings international students will need to get a visa and warned several colleges of fraudulent student recruitment practices, as part of efforts to rein in record migration. From Friday, international students must show proof of savings of at least A\$29,710 (\$19,576) to get their visa, the second increase in about seven months. It was raised to A\$24,505 from A\$21,041 in October. The move aims to tighten the student visa rules as the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in 2022 triggered a sudden influx of migrants, exacerbating pressure on an already tight rental market. **REUTERS**

HONG KONG

Court may ban protest song

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's Court of Appeal on Wednesday granted an application by the government to ban a protest anthem called "Glory to Hong Kong", overturning a lower court judgment that had rejected such a ban because of its possible "chilling effects" on free speech. The ruling comes amid an erosion in Hong Kong's rule of law and individual rights. The case has implications for internet freedoms and operations of firms including web platform operators. **REUTERS**

U.S. DEFENCE SECY SAYS SHIPMENT PAUSED TO PREVENT CIVILIAN DEATHS

US pauses supply of some bombs to Israel as fighting rages around Rafah

Around 10,000 have left Rafah since Monday

REUTERS
CAIRO, WASHINGTON, MAY 8

HAMAS SAID it was battling Israeli troops on the outskirts of the Gaza Strip's crowded southern city of Rafah on Wednesday after a US official said Washington had halted a shipment of powerful bombs that Israel could use in a full-scale assault.

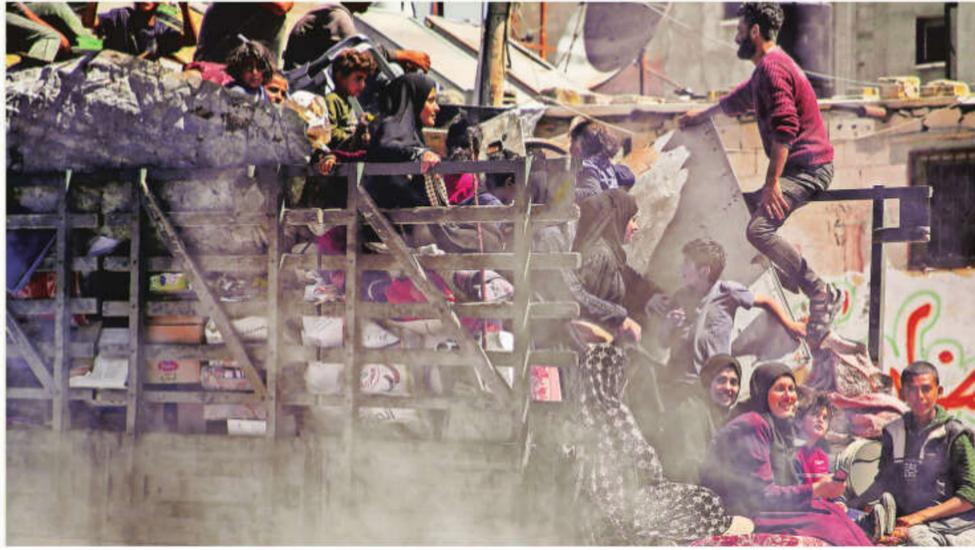
Israel has threatened a major assault on Rafah to defeat thousands of Hamas fighters it says are holed up there, but Western nations and the United Nations have warned such an attack on Rafah would be a humanitarian disaster.

Hamas said its fighters were battling Israeli forces in the east of Rafah. Around 10,000 Palestinians have left Rafah since Monday, said UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

A senior US official, requesting anonymity, said Washington had reviewed the delivery of weapons that might be used in Rafah, and paused a shipment of 1,800 2,000-pound bombs and 1,700 500-pound bombs.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the decision was taken in the context of Israel's plan to carry out an offensive in Rafah that Washington opposes without civilian safeguards.

"We've been very clear... from the very beginning that Israel shouldn't launch a major attack into the Rafah without accounting for and protecting the civilians that are in that battlespace," he told a Senate hearing.



Palestinians flee Rafah after Israeli forces launched a ground and air operation around the city on Wednesday. Reuters

Israel military says it opened major Gaza crossing, UN says no aid in yet

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, MAY 8

THE ISRAELI military said Wednesday that it has reopened its Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza after days of closure, but the UN said no humanitarian aid has yet entered and there is no one to receive it on the Palestinian side after workers fled during Israel's military incursion in the area.

The Kerem Shalom crossing between Gaza and Israel was closed over the weekend after a Hamas rocket attack killed four Israeli soldiers nearby, and on Tuesday, an Israeli tank brigade seized the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, forcing its closure.

The two facilities are the main terminals for entry of food, medicine and other supplies into Gaza. Aid officials warn that the

prolonged closure of the two crossings could cause the collapse of aid operations, worsening the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, especially in the north.

With the seizure of Rafah, Israel now controls all of Gaza's crossings for the first time since it withdrew troops and settlers from the territory nearly two decades ago, though it has maintained a blockade with Egypt's cooperation for most of that time.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN RAFAH STOPS ADMITTING PATIENTS

London: The main maternity hospital in Rafah has stopped admitting patients, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) told Reuters on Wednesday. The UNFPA told Reuters that the hospital, Emirati Maternity Hospital, had been handling some 85 out of a daily total of 180 births in Gaza prior to an escalation of fighting between Hamas and Israeli troops on Rafah's outskirts. **REUTERS**

THIRD TO JUMP SHIP SINCE 2019

Second Tory MP defects to Labour Party in two weeks

REUTERS
LONDON, MAY 8

A lawmaker in Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party defected to the opposition Labour Party on Wednesday, the second to do so in less than two weeks, criticising what she called the broken promises of a "tired and chaotic government".

Sunak's Conservatives are trailing Labour by about 20 points in opinion polls ahead of a national election expected this year, and the party suffered heavy losses in local elections last week.

"Under Rishi Sunak, the Conservatives have become a byword for incompetence and division," defector lawmaker Natalie Elphicke said in a statement. "...key pledges of the 2019 manifesto have been ditched."

Elphicke is the third Conservative lawmaker to defect to Labour since the last election in 2019. She won the south coast seat of Dover at the last election after her husband who represented the area was forced to stand down after being found guilty of sexually assaulting two women.



Defecting lawmaker Natalie Elphicke

EXPLAINED

Labour leftists raise questions

Elphicke's defection has raised eyebrows, not only within the Conservative Party. The left-wing Labour grouping, Momentum, said she has "consistently demonised refugees and aid groups" and that she "should have no place in a Labour Party committed to progressive values and working-class people."

She said Sunak's government had failed to stop the arrival of small boats carrying asylum seekers, had failed to build enough homes, and had overseen a rise in homelessness. "We need to move on from the broken promises of Rishi Sunak's tired and chaotic government," she said.



WWII REMEMBRANCE AMID UKRAINE WAR

A giant St George's Ribbon at a ceremony to mark 79 years of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, in Russian-controlled Ukraine's Donetsk region on Wednesday. Reuters

Thailand to recriminalise cannabis as PM vows to get tough on drugs

REUTERS
BANGKOK, MAY 8

THAILAND WILL re-list cannabis as a narcotic by year-end, its prime minister said on Tuesday, in a stunning U-turn just two years after becoming one of the first countries in Asia to decriminalise its recreational use.



Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin

The moves comes despite rapid growth of a domestic retail sector for marijuana, with tens of thousands of businesses spring-

ing up in Thailand in the past two years in industry projected to be worth up to \$1.2 billion by 2025.

"I want the health ministry to amend the rules and re-list cannabis as a narcotic," Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said on social media platform X. "The ministry should quickly issue a rule to allow its usage for health and medical purposes only."



A house that was hit during a Russian missile strike in Krasnyivka, Kyiv region, on Wednesday. Reuters

Russia's biggest airstrike in weeks piles pressure on Ukraine's grid

REUTERS
KYIV, MAY 8

RUSSIAN MISSILES and drones struck nearly a dozen Ukrainian energy infrastructure facilities on Wednesday, causing serious damage at three Soviet-era thermal power plants and blackouts in multiple regions, officials said.

Ukraine's air force said it shot down 39 of 55 missiles and 20 of 21 attack drones used for the attack, which piles more pressure on the energy system more than two years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

"Another massive attack on our energy industry!" Energy Minister German Galushchenko wrote on the Telegram app. Two people were injured in the Kyiv region and one was hurt in the Kirovohrad region, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said.

Galushchenko said power generation and transmission facilities in the Poltava, Kirovohrad, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Vinnytsia regions were targeted. Some 350 rescuers were racing to minimise the damage to energy facilities, 30

homes, public transport vehicles, cars, and a fire station, the interior ministry said.

Ukraine's national power grid operator Ukrenergo said it was forced to introduce electricity cut-offs in nine regions across, adding it might have to expand them nationwide during peak hours.

Officials urged Ukrainians to limit consumption.

Russia's defence ministry said it struck Ukraine's military-industrial complex and energy facilities with drones and high-precision missiles in what it described as retaliation for Kyiv's strikes on Russian energy facilities.

"As a result of the strike, Ukraine's capabilities for the output of military products, as well as the transfer of Western weapons and military equipment to the line of contact, have been significantly reduced," the ministry said.

Ukraine has also stepped up drone attacks on Russian refineries this year despite apparent objections by the United States, trying to find a pressure point against the Kremlin whose forces are slowly advancing in the eastern Donbas region.

WAS UNDER HOUSE ARREST AT RESIDENCE

Imran's wife Bushra to be shifted to same Pak jail upon request

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, MAY 8

IN A major legal victory for Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, a high court here on Wednesday ordered the former first lady's transfer from her private residence, designated as a sub-jail, to the Adiala jail where the ex-premier is incarcerated.

Bushra Bibi, 49, had been incarcerated at Banigala, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's mansion in the suburbs of Islamabad, after conviction in two cases while Khan, 71, was kept at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

She had petitioned the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the decision to keep her at Banigala while seeking repatriation to Adiala jail.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb had last week reserved his verdict in the case. In its order, the court an-



Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi at Lahore High Court. File

nounced the notification to declare Banigala, a sub-jail, "null and void" and ordered the former first lady be shifted to the Adiala Jail.

Bibi was taken to the Adiala Jail on Wednesday for a hearing in another case but it was unclear when she will be shifted.

Bibi was arrested on January 31 this year after an Islamabad accountability court sentenced her and Khan to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana corruption case.

LEAK PUT 193-YEAR-OLD CLUB'S MEN-ONLY MEMBERSHIP POLICY IN SPOTLIGHT

In a first, London's opulent Garrick club votes to accept female members

MARK LANDLER
LONDON, MAY 8

ONE OF London's oldest, most celebrated men's clubs, the Garrick, voted on Tuesday to admit women as members, according to two members. The vote ended a decades-long dispute that had divided the club, generated multiple conflicting legal arguments and made life acutely awkward for some of its most prominent members.

The vote — by a margin of roughly 60 percent to 40 percent, according to the two members — will open membership to women for the first time since the club's founding in 1831. Some

members had said they planned to swiftly nominate a slate of prominent women, including the actress Judi Dench and the classics scholar Mary Beard.

The decision came after the latest round of debate, occasionally bitter, which pitted a band of committed campaigners against mostly older members, many of whom had lamented that admitting women would forever change the character of the Garrick, a bastion of the British establishment.

The club did not comment on the meeting, which lasted almost two hours, or the results of the vote, and the members asked not to be identified. Garrick has long welcomed

women as guests, including at a communal table in the majestic dining room in the club's imposing building in Covent Garden. However, women were barred from the members' lounge, known as Under the Stairs, where men gather to smoke and drink.

While the Garrick is not the only male-only club in London, it is easily the most star-studded, with a membership roster that includes the actors Brian Cox, Benedict Cumberbatch and Stephen Fry; the musicians Sting and Mark Knopfler; the BBC world affairs editor John Simpson; and Oliver Dowden, Britain's deputy prime minister. King Charles III is an honorary member. The last time the members



London's Garrick Club. Many older members lamented that admitting women would forever change the character of the Garrick, a bastion of British establishment. Reuters

voted on whether to admit women, in 2015, a slender majority — 50.5 percent — said they supported it. But at the time, the club's bylaws required a two-thirds majority to change a club rule. On Tuesday, they voted to change that threshold to a simple majority, according to the two members.

As the debate unfolded in recent weeks, some members appeared to have been swayed by a legal opinion, written by an outside lawyer, David Pannick, which argued that nothing in the club's rules prevented it from admitting women. Pannick's conclusion hung on a legal interpretation in English law that the pronoun "he," also means "she," unless specifically stipulating otherwise.

Two club members — David Neuberger, a former president of Britain's Supreme Court, and Jonathan Sumption, a former justice on the court — wrote letters in support of Pannick's argument.

Those who opposed admitting women pointed out that London has several women-only social clubs, including the University Women's Club. There are also male-only clubs like White's, which do not even allow women to enter as guests.

The prolonged dispute over female members, however, had become an embarrassment to the members, particularly senior government officials whose status was disclosed in a list leaked to *The Guardian*, the

London newspaper.

Two senior British officials felt pressured to resign from the club: Richard Moore, the chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, and Simon Case, the cabinet secretary, who oversees nearly half a million public employees.

Mr. Case had defended his membership by telling Parliament that he was trying to reform an "antediluvian" institution from within rather "than chuck rocks from the outside."

Other members have been vocal in opposing the men-only policy, arguing that it ran counter to the spirit and values of the Garrick, which attracts prominent people from the worlds of arts and letters. **NYT**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Amit Bhatia S/o Ashok Kumar Bhatia Residence SD-A-61, Sector-45, Noida, have changed my name from Amit Bhatia to Amit Kumar Bhatia. Henceforth I would be known by name of Amit Kumar Bhatia for all purposes. 0040727413-1

I, AMERUDDIN S/O ABDUL REHMAN R/O S153 F/F PHATAK HAKIM MEHMOOD KHAN BALLIMARAN CHANDNI CHOWK DELHI-110006, have changed my name to AMIRUDDIN Permanently. 0070902218-1

I Suresh Mahto S/o Sarvjit Mahto R/o Village Basant Bigha, PO- Saratu, PS-Tandwa, Aurangabad, Bihar-824302, have changed my name to Suresh Mehta 0070902175-1

I Ravinder Singh, S/o Anavar Singh, R/o H.No-105, Tilpata Karanwas,, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306 have changed the name of my minor son Divyansh aged 11 years and he shall hereafter be known as Divyansh Singh 0070902169-1

I Ram Prakash Pal S/o Soran Singh R/o House No- 488, Railway Road, Azadpur, N S Mandi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Ram Prakash 0070902236-1

I Naresh Kumar S/o Sh.Dharam Pal Mittal R/o 121, First Floor, Ambica Vihar, Sunder Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Mittal for all purposes. 0040727392-1

I Manish Kumar Pal S/o Ram Prakash R/o House No-488, Near Railway Road, Azadpur, N S Mandi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Manish Kumar 0070902233-1

I KM.MADHU DEVI,W/O RAJ KUMAR YADAV,R/O 17/613,NEAR SHIV CHOWK,DHARAMPURA BAHADURGARH HARYANA-124507, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MADHU. 0040727447-3

I Jitendra Juyal S/o Sh.Prem Kumar Juyal R/O Flat No.9-F, Pocket-B-1, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Aalia Juyal to Shivanshee Juyal for all purposes. 0040727392-3

I Hemant Dhupper S/o Jai Gopal Dhupper residing at House No.633, Bhoor Bharat Nagar, Near old Railway Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Pincode-201001, have changed the name of my minor daughter Ishanya Dhupper aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as Nyra Dhupper 0040727391-2

I Basant Kumari Chawla D/o Sh.Kanwar Bhan Ghorwar W/o Sh.Sudarshan Kumar Chawla R/o 157, Jai Apartment, Sec-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Basant Chawla for all purposes. 0040727392-2

I Annu Alias Annu Bhati W/o Ravinder Singh, R/o H.No-105, Tilpata Karanwas, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306 have changed my name to ANURADHA 0070902170-1

I Anil Kumar Aggarwal S/o Murari Lal Aggarwal R/O Flat no 1702 Paramount Symphony Crossing Republic Ghaziabad. Have changed my daughter name Chiya Aggarwal to Riddhi Aggarwal for all purposes. 0070902254-1

I, Shruti Kurani, spouse of Kamanna Madappa Kurani, resident of at Village-Sanal, PO-Algur, PS-Jamkhandi, District-Bagalkot, State-Karnataka, Pin-587301, have changed my name from Shruti Kurani to Shruti Kamanna Kurani, vide Affidavit dated 07/05/2024 before Notary Public,Srinagar, Government Of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475671-1

I Hemant Dhupper S/o Jai Gopal Dhupper residing at House No.633, Bhoor Bharat Nagar, Near old Railway Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Pincode-201001, have changed the name of my minor son Ishaan Dhupper aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Namish Dhupper. 0040727391-1

I, Kankabati, spouse of Jiban Kumar De, resident of at Village-Narayan Pur, PO-Amliai, Tehsil-Kandi, District-Murshidabad, State-West Bengal, Pin-742301, have changed my name from Kankabati De, vide Affidavit dated 18/03/2024 before Notary Public Srinagar, Government Of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475672-1

I, Mallappa, resident of at Village-Yedlapur, PO-Basavakalyan, District-Bidar, State-Karnataka, Pin-585327, have changed my son name from Master Manish to Manish, vide Affidavit dated 07/05/2024 before Notary Public,Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475675-1

I, Dinesh Chandra Singh Rana S/o Chandra Singh Rana R/o 20, Durga-Vihar, Ballapur, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, have changed my name to Dinesh Rana. 0040727494-1

I, Jiban Kumar De, resident of at Village-Narayan Pur, PO-Amliai, Tehsil-Kandi, District-Murshidabad, State-West Bengal, PIN-742301, have changed my mother name from Vijay Laxmi De to Bijay Lakshmi De. In my service document, vide Affidavit dated 18/03/2024 before Notary Public,Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475670-1

It is for general information that I, CHANDRA SHEKHAR Son of HARI RAM, R/o Birar, Bharatpur, Rajasthan-321022, declare that name my minor son has been wrongly written as Kartika in my minor son KARTIK aged 11 Years in School Records of Kendriya Vidyalaya. The actual name my minor son is KARTIK, which may be amended accordingly. 0070902232-1

I, Vinod Kumar Souran, S/o Jaisingh, Flat-No.-E-902, Officer City-1, Rajnagar-Extension, Ghaziabad-201017, have changed my name from Vinod Kumar Souran to Vinod Kumar, for all future purposes. 0040727440-1

I, Venu Gopalan Manikoth H/o Ranjini R/o c-6/146 Sector 31 Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Have changed my name Venu Gopalan Manikoth to Venu Gopal for all purpose. 0040727438-1

I, Vasundhara, D/o Suresh Yadav, Address-1/2 old paramedical staff Qtr hindu Rao hospital Gandhi square civil-lines delhi-110007, CHANGED MY NAME TO Vasundhara Yaduvanshi. 0040727471-4

I, Tajinder Mani S/o, Prem Masih R/o. Flat.no.301, fourth-floor, Plot.no.86-A and 305-306, OM-VIHAR, phase-1-A, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to TAJINDER MANI SAHOTA, permanently 0040727409-1

I, Suresh Sharma S/o Hari Shankar Sharma R/o Flat No.C/22, Samay Vihar Apartment Sector-13, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Suresh Chand 0040727445-3

I, Sunita Devi W/o Amit Kumar, R/o VPO Bahawat Bhandu Jatasa, Rewari (Haryana), have changed my name to Sunita, for all Purposes. 0040727411-5

I, SUSHIL KUMAR, son of, LATE OMKARNATH, residing at, House No-148-A, V&P-RAJPUR, TEHSIL-SIKANDRA, DIST- KANPUR DEHAT, STATE-UTTAR PRADESH, PIN-209115, have changed my name from SUSHIL KUMAR to SUSHIL KUMAR BAJPAI. 0040727411-6

I, SUMIT KHARI, S/O VMAL KUMAR, R/O-69, NEAR SHIV MANDIR, GAON- ILLAHABAS, SECTOR-86, PHASE-2, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, have changed my name to SUMIT. 0040727409-3

I, SHUBHAM S/O SURENDER KUMAR GOEL R/O-111, Sector-18, Panipat Haryana-132103, have changed my name to Shubham Goel 0040727445-2

I, SHAHEEN W/O-SHAMSHAD AKHTAR RIZVI Address-7025, 3RD-FLOOR GALLI-KARKHANE WALI BARI WALA BAGH AZAD-MARKET, DELHI-110006, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SHAHIN RIZVI. 0040727409-6

I, SAVITA KHARI, W/O SUNIL, R/O HOUSE-NO-60 ILLAHABAS, SECTOR-86, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, have changed my name to SAVITA. 0040727409-4

I, SARLA KUMARI, W/o Satish Chandra, R/o IRIS-1505, 15th-Floor, Tower-4, Paramount Floraville, Sector-137, NOIDA, (U.P.)-201301, have changed my name from SARLA KUMARI to SARLA for all purposes. 0040727445-6

I, Rozy Rani W/o Mumtaj Khan R/o H.No. 9, 127, Subhash Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Rozy, permanently. 0040727409-2

I, Ritu Kumari W/o Amit Yadav R/o H.No.233, Fazilpur Jharsa, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Ritu Yadav. 0040727411-8

I, Reena Souran, W/o Vinod Kumar, Flat-No.E-902, Officer City-1, Rajnagar-Extension, Ghaziabad-201017, have changed my name from Reena Souran to Reena, for all future purposes. 0040727440-2

I, RAMNARAYAN, FATHER OF RAJ YADAV, R/O-VILL-MAULIYA POST-KHAJURA FULAICH DISTT- AZAMGARH UTTAR-PRADESH-276126, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM RAMNARAYAN TO RAM NARAYAN YADAV VIDE-AFFIDAVIT IN- DL86490138872132W DATED-08/05/2024, BEFORE, NCT-DELHI. 0040727440-8

I, Priety Kalita, W/o Aseem Rishi, R/o C-1202 157 Gurgaon, Ansul Esencia Sector-67, Gurgaon-122012, Have Changed My Name To Priety Kalita. 0040727447-2

I, Anand Srivastava S/o, Rajendra Prasad R/o, Ashiana Mulberry Flat no-209, tower 3, sector-2, Sohna Tehsil Sohna Gurugram-122103 have changed my minor son's name from Atharv Srivastava to Kanaee Srivastava for all purposes. 0040727456-1

I, Premkata, W/o Ashish Tiwari R/o 56, Vikas Nagar Extension Part -2, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Prem Lata Tiwari. 0040727411-1

I, PRANAY SWARNKAR, S/O RAM JANKI SWARNKAR, R/O HOUSE-NO-41, SECTOR-8, CHIRANJEEV VIHAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201002, have changed my name to PRANAY KUMAR SWARNKAR. 0040727445-5

I, NIMRITA KAUR SAHNI, W/O.SARABJEET SINGH, ADD-50, 3RD-FLOOR SANT-NAGAR SRINIWASPURI SOUTH DELHI-110065, CHANGED MY NAME TO NIMRITA KAUR, for all future purpose 0040727471-2

I, Monika W/o Sunny Dagar R/o H.No.470, Village Kadipur, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Monika Dagar for all Purposes. 0040727411-2

I, Manish Kumar Agarwal S/o Raj Kumar Agarwal R/o, 1/11760-A, & B, First-Floor, Panchsheel-Gurgaon, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Manish Agarwal. 0040727494-3

I, MONIKA, D/O ASHOK KUMAR, R/O SMQ-196/10, WAC QTR SUBROTO-PARK NEW-DELHI 110010, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MONIKA TO MONIKA VERMA, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT IN- DL8649170222048W DATED-08/05/2024, BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040727440-9

I, MANSI SHARMA W/O VIKAS AGGARWAL R/O H.N.-177 SANDESH VIHAR PITAM PURA DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANSI AGGARWAL. 0040727471-1

I, Kumari Reena Bai W/o Jeet Singh, R/o Fazalwas, Post Office-Pachgaon, District Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Reena for all Purposes. 0040727411-3

I, Priyanka Gaur w/o Vikas Gaur R/o-22 Sector-15, Sonipat Haryana-131001, have Changed My Name to Priyanka. 0040727445-4

I, Komal Ratti W/o Surinder Kumar R/o R/o BG-1, West House No. 11B, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Komal Sharma. 0040727445-1

I, KM VEENA W/O SACHIN KUMAR, R/O VILLAGE-POST-JATWAR ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH-202145, have changed my name to VEENA NAULAKHA. 0040727409-5

I, JUGAN EDBERG JANE FREDRICK, S/O Jane Fredrick, R/O-13-D, DDA (MIG) Flats, Motia Khan, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, have changed my name from JUGAN EDBERG JANE FREDRICK to JUGAN EDBERG, for all future purposes. 0040727411-7

I, DEEPSHIKHA SINGH, daughter of MOHAN SINGH, resident of-89, Siddharth Niketan, Sector-14, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, PIN:201010 and presently, permanently residing at-1300 Lansdowne Dr. Coquitlam, BC, V3E 1K6, Canada, do hereby change my name from DEEPSHIKHA JAIN to DEEPSHIKHA SINGH with immediate effect. 0040727409-8

I, Anushree Singh Chauhan, S/o Anurag Singh, R/o F-33, DGS, CGHS Ltd., Plot No.06, Sector-22, Opp.MTNL Office, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Anushree for all Purposes. 0040727411-4

I, Anu Bagga S/o Suriender Bagga R/o 9/15, Ashok-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Annu Bagga for all purposes. 0040727494-5

I, Akhilesh Jain, S/o Sh. Raj Kumar Jain, H.No.E-17/1, First-Floor, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051 HAVE CHANGED my name, from Akhilesh Kumar to Akhilesh Jain, for all future Purposes. 0040727416-1

I, AYSHA KHATOON W/O GHALIB KHAN, R/o 959, Mohalla Noor Mahal, Shahjahanpur, Meerut (UP) have changed my name to AISHA KHATOON, for all purposes. 0040727440-7

I, AM GUNJ DHWANI PATEL, D/O BHAGWAN JHA STAYING AT, A-30, JUTSAV BUNGLOW, SUKHAPARA-ROAD, MEHSANA-384002. MY NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED, FROM JYOTSNA JHA TO GUNJ DHWANI PATEL. 0040727409-7

I, ABHISHEK NAGAR, S/O DHARM PAL NAGAR R/O B-759 FIRST FLOOR BUNKAR COLONY ASHOK VIHAR DELHI-110054, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ABHISHEK NAAGAR. 0040727471-3

I, Vidushi Maan W/o Sunil Maan R/o Flat No-702 Tower-33 Lotus Boulevard Espacia Sector-100 Noida Distt Gautam Budh Nagar U.P.-201304 Have changed my name to Vidushi for all future purposes 0070902251-1

I, Vidushi Maan W/o Sunil Maan R/o Flat No-702 Tower-33 Lotus Boulevard Espacia Sector-100 Noida Distt Gautam Budh Nagar U.P.-201304 Declare that Vidushi maan and Vidushi both are same person. 0070902245-1

I, Gaytri Rajput W/o Joginder Pal Singh R/o B5/57D, Dhawalgiri Apartment, Sec-34, Noida have changed my name to Gaytri Chauhan. 0070902255-1

I, Suryakant Gaur S/O Satyendra Kumar Gaur, R/O D10/A, Street No.1, Sanjay Mohalla, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053 have changed my name Suryakant Gaur to Suryakant Gaur for all future purposes 0070902266-1

I, Sunita Bhatia W/o Amit Kumar Bhatia Residence SD-A1, Sector-45, Noida, have change my name from Sunita Bhatia to Savita Rani. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Savita Rani for all purposes. 0040727412-1

I, Naina Jain W/o Vishal Goel R/O C-4, C.C.Colony Delhi 110007 have changed my name to Naina Goel for all purposes. 0040727399-1

I, Shakhavat Ali S/o Shaukat Ali R/o, H.No. A-34, Ground-Floor, Thokar-No.6, Shaheen-Bagh Abulfazal Enclave-11, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Sakhawat Ali. 0040727494-2

I, Seema Sharma, wife of Anil Kumar Sharma resident of SMQ 124/2 Old Pinto Park Palam Delhi Cantt have changed my name from Seema Sharma to Seema Kumar vide Affidavit dated 06-05-2024 before Notary Public, Delhi. 0070902166-1

I, Satyendra Kumar Gaur S/O Late Heera Lal Gaur, R/O D10/A, Street No.1, Sanjay Mohalla, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053 have changed my name Satender Kumar Gaur for all future purposes 0070902265-1

I, Sangeeta W/o Rupesh Kumar Jain R/o A802 Apex Housing Society, Sector-45, Gurgaon-122003 Have changed my name to Sangeeta Jain for all future purposes. 0070902260-1

I, Rajeev Jain alias Aditya R Bhaarillya S/O Sh. Chandra Kumar Jain, R/o Tower-1, Flat 401, 4th Floor Golf Avenue 2, Sec-75, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Rajeev Jain for all future purposes. 0040727403-1

I, RUPINDER SINGH, S/O SHRI. HARDEV SINGH REEN, R/O-A-127, SECTOR-41, NOIDA, DISTT-GAUTAM-BUDDH-NAGAR, U.P.-201301, inform that the name RUPINDER SINGH REEN and RUPINDER SINGH, both names are same person. 0040727447-1

I, ROHIT DEDHA S/O GAJRAJ SINGH R/O B-3/53 JG/F, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-53 .THAT ROHIT SINGH AND ROHIT DEDHA IS ONE AND THE SAME PERSON. I AM ALSO KNOWN AS ROHIT DEDHA. 0070902215-1

I, NINNY SHARMA D/O, No.14539003H Rank HAV Late Rakesh Kumar R/O, H.No 163, Main Nathu Pura Road, Burari-110084 have changed my name to NEHA SHARMA VIDE AFFIDAVIT 8.5.24 BEFORE DELHI 0070902182-1

I, Manju W/o MD Siddu R/O US-8/126, Balmiki Camp, Begumpur, Malviya-Nagar, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Rojita Begum. 0040727494-4

I, MUDASSIR AHMED S/O MUZAMMIL AHMED ANSARI R/O 434, SHAHZADA BAGH, INDERLOK, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUDASSIR AHMED ANSARI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0070902249-1

I, Kanwal Puri S/o Iqbal Singh Puri R/o 34/8 Second Floor, East Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name from Kanwal Puri to Kanwal Nain Singh Puri permanently 0040727451-1

I, Kamanna Madappa Kurani, resident of at Village-Sanal, PO-Algur, PS-Jamkhandi, District-Bagalkot, State-Karnataka, PIN-587301, have changed my mother name from Kasthuribai to Kasturi Kurani, vide Affidavit dated 07/05/2024 before Notary Public,Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475667-1

I, KM Manisha Thakur W/o Praveen R/O M107, Samtal Enclave, Chhapraula, BG.Nagar have changed my name to Manisha. 0070902258-1

I, KAMLESH W/O, No.14539003H Rank HAV Late Rakesh Kumar R/O, H.No 163, Main Nathu Pura Road, Burari-110084 have changed my name to KAMLESH SHARMA VIDE AFFIDAVIT 8.5.24 BEFORE DELHI 0070902180-1

I, Jitender Mohan Madan S/o Ram Bhaj Madan R/O G1/G2, B-158, Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad, U.P. have changed my name to Jitender Mohan Madan permanently 0070902268-1

I, Jiban Kumar De, resident of at Village-Narayan Pur, PO-Amliai, Tehsil-Kandi, District-Murshidabad, State-West Bengal, Pin-742301, have changed my father name from Nitai Chandra De to Nitai Chandra Dey, in my service document, vide Affidavit dated 18/03/2024 before Notary Public,Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475674-1

I, JAI RAM S/O Parmanand R/O D-2/28, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name to TEJ RAM for all future purposes. 0070902167-1

I, Hemant Kumar, resident of at Village-Bhalwahiyia, PO-M Kuari, PS-Pasa, District-Chhapra (Saran), State-Bihar, PIN-841219, have changed my name from Yas Kumar to Yash Kumar, vide Affidavit dated 07/05/2024 before Notary Public,Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020475668-1

I, Preena Awana, W/o Amar Awana, H.No-43, 1ST floor Sohana market Village Naya bas sec-15, Noida Uttar Pradesh-201301 CHANGED MY NAME TO Reena. 0040726104-6

I, Hitherto known as Chandni Nagar D/o Jatinder Batra R/o B-322A, Sector-19, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chandni Batra. 0040727293-4

LOST & FOUND I, VINOD JAIN W/O - CHANDRESH KUMAR JAIN, R/O, HOUSE NUMBER-1730, SECTOR -7E, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121006 Changed my name BINOD JAIN. 0040727530-1

ORIGINAL PAPER I.E. ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, SITE POSSESSION AND PAYMENT RECEIPTS OF SHOP NO.17, DDA MARKET, RP BLOCK, PITAMPURA DELHI HAS BEEN LOST. FINDER CONTACT MANISH JINDAL AT KP-273, PITAMPURA DELHI/9811754666. 0040727445-10

I, Vipul Kumar, lost Builder Buyer Agreement & Allotment Letter of shop UG34, Cloud9 Towers, Vaishali Ghaziabad UP. Contact 9810803698 0040727437-2

I, Atul Kumar, lost Builder Buyer Agreement & Allotment Letter of shop UG19, Cloud9 Towers, Vaishali Ghaziabad UP. Contact 9810803698 0040727437-1

I, Bikas Kumar Choubey S/o Sh. Jainanadan Choubey and Bineeta Kumari W/o Sh. Bikas Kumar Choubey both R/O B5/303, Krishna Apra Garden, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, UP declares that Anshal housing receipt no.647877 of Rs. 21,04,202/- dated 04/11/2017, has been lost somewhere in Vaibhav khand, Indrapuram on dated-02/02/24. 0070902261-1

I, Pretty Arora, D/o Sardar Santokh Singh, lost my original BBA, ALLOTMENT LETTER etc. of property 2006L1 cloud 9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.201101. Finder please Contact- 9810444935 (PRINCE). 0040727471-9

LOST AND FOUND I, PRITI GUPTA w/o Mr. RAJAN SEPTA (Flat No 35, Pocket B-8, Sector -4, Rohini Delhi 110085 contact: 9810273117) have lost/misplace original property documents of my property (Flat No. 201, Tower 24, PARAS TIARA SECTOR-137, NOIDA, U.P. 201305) as mentioned below. 1. Builder buyer agreement. Dated: 05/03/2011 in favour of Mr. Amit Gupta issued by Imperial Housing Ventures Private Limited. 2. Possession letter Dated: 23/01/2013 in favour of Mr. Amit Gupta issued by Imperial Housing Ventures Private Limited. 3. Allotment letter Dated: 15/02/2013 in favour of Mr. Amit Gupta issued by Imperial Housing Ventures Private Limited. Please contact Present Address Flat No 35, Pocket B-8, Sector-4, Rohini Delhi 110085. E-mail: rg@prsr.com Contact no. 9810273117

PUBLIC NOTICE Reg: First Floor, (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Floor"), Built up on Property Bearing No. 3-C, area measuring 240 sq. yds. & Property Bearing No. E-3, area measuring 63 sq. yds. Out of a total No. 22/24/2, situated in the abadi of Rani Garden Shastri Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi. (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property") Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Mohd. Sajid (hereinafter called the Purchaser) intends to purchase the said floor from Mr. Mohd. Naved, Mr. Farid Ahmed, Mr. Mohd Irfan and Mr. Mohd Rizwan (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floor. The seller has further informed the Purchaser that the property No. 3-C was owned by Mr. Yashtpai vide Khataoni and he sold that property to Mrs. Shyam Kaur vide POA documents dated 19/12/1994, and 02/12/2002 and Mrs. Shyam Kaur sold that property vide POA docs dated 13/04/2023 to them. Similarly, property No. E-3 was owned by Mr. Sikander Irfan by means of Khataoni and he sold that property to Mrs. Subha Aggarwal alias Shubha Singh vide P.O.A docs dated 21/09/2002 and Mrs. Subha Aggarwal alias Shubha Singh sold that property to Mr Mohd Rizwan and Mohd. Irfan vide P.O.A docs dated 19/10/2023. Thus, the seller became joint owners of the said property including the said floor. The seller has informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response being received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Maino Sharma, Advocate M/s Intellectual Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE Reg: First Floor, (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Floor"), Built up on Property Bearing No. 3-C, area measuring 240 sq. yds. & Property Bearing No. E-3, area measuring 63 sq. yds. Out of a total No. 22/24/2, situated in the abadi of Rani Garden Shastri Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi. (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property") Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Mohd. Sajid (hereinafter called the Purchaser) intends to purchase the said floor from Mr. Mohd. Naved, Mr. Farid Ahmed, Mr. Mohd Irfan and Mr. Mohd Rizwan (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floor. The seller has further informed the Purchaser that the property No. 3-C was owned by Mr. Yashtpai vide Khataoni and he sold that property to Mrs. Shyam Kaur vide POA documents dated 19/12/1994, and 02/12/2002 and Mrs. Shyam Kaur sold that property vide POA docs dated 13/04/2023 to them. Similarly, property No. E-3 was owned by Mr. Sikander Irfan by means of Khataoni and he sold that property to Mrs. Subha Aggarwal alias Shubha Singh vide P.O.A docs dated 21/09/2002 and Mrs. Subha Aggarwal alias Shubha Singh sold that property to Mr Mohd Rizwan and Mohd. Irfan vide P.O.A docs dated 19/10/2023. Thus, the seller became joint owners of the said property including the said floor. The seller has informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response being received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Maino Sharma, Advocate M/s Intellectual Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public hereby informed that my client Chand Shekhar R/o House No. 32, Mukundpur Village, Mukundpur North West Delhi-110008 has severed his relations and disowned his son Yogerish his wife Shivani Rabbure from his all movable-immovable properties, due to their unethical acts, deeds misbehaves and neglecting to my client and his wife, he and his family are not control under my client. If anybody deals with his and his family will be doing so at their/their own risk, cost and responsibility. My client shall not be responsible for any kind of acts done by his and his family. Sd/- RAJESH KARIK ADVOCATE CLNO. 460 LAWYER CHAMBER PATIALA HOUSING SOCIETY, NEW DELHI

"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it's not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

General Public Notice is hereby informed that one person Named: Chetan Kumar, S/o: Lt. Sh. Mahender Pal Singh, R/O- F-38, Gali No. 0

HOME DEPARTMENT:: ITANAGAR

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST CHAIRPERSON OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- 1. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for recruitment for the post of Chairperson of Arunachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission.
2. Details regarding application forms, eligibility criteria, pay scale, procedure to apply etc are available on the State Portal www.arunachalpradesh.gov.in.
3. Application complete in all respects must be addressed to the Principal Secretary to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Home, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, A. P. Civil Secretariat, Block No.2, Itanagar and should reach latest by 5.00 PM on 24.05.2024.

Sd/-(Kaling Tayeng)IAS Principal Secretary to the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER, 03-EDPC GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI L.M. BUNDH, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI - 110031 TEL. NO.21210845: E-mail: sdmelectioneast@gmail.com PUBLIC NOTICE In pursuance of the ECT's instructions, the following schedule for inspection of Election Expenditure Registers of the Contesting Candidates is brought to the notice of all concerned and the general public of the 03-EAST DELHI PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY (EDPC).

Bank of India ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE 1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-800001 (Tel. 0612-2506639/2506932) [Appendix-IV, Rule 8 (1)], Possession Notice (for Immovable Property) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA, PIRO BRANCH, BHOJPUR under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) Whereas, The Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE E-Tender notice no.: CRW-HRT-M-CMTLAB-ECA-2 Date: 04.05.2024 For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e-tender for the following works as detailed:-

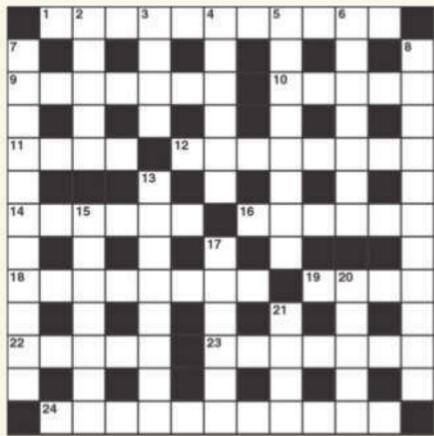
Prakriti International Documentary Film Festival inviting entries 16th Prakriti International Documentary film festival (South East Asia Region) ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT HUMAN RIGHTS SWACHH BHARAT अंतिम तिथि / Last Date: 10 June 2024 अधिक जानकारी के लिए लॉग ऑन करें / For more information Log on to: https://cec.nic.in अथवा मेल करें / or mail us on: prakritifest18@gmail.com

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank भारत सरकार का उपक्रम Recovery & Legal Section, Regional Office, Dumri Road, Gobarsahi, Muzaffarpur, Dist- Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842002, Mob: 7260812024 PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank ...भरोसे का प्रतीक! (A Govt of India Undertaking) Sastra Division, Line Bazar, 2nd Floor, Opposite Sadar Hospital, Purnea-854301 Email-cs8261@pnb.co.in, Mob No-9304758933 SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule (8) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

TATA TATA POWER The Tata Power Company Limited Bombay House, 24 Horni Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001 Website: www.tatapower.com CIN : L28920MH1919PLC000567 EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024

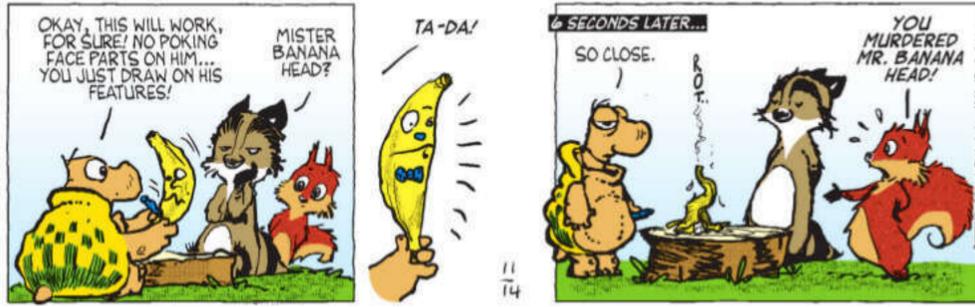
CROSSWORD 5359



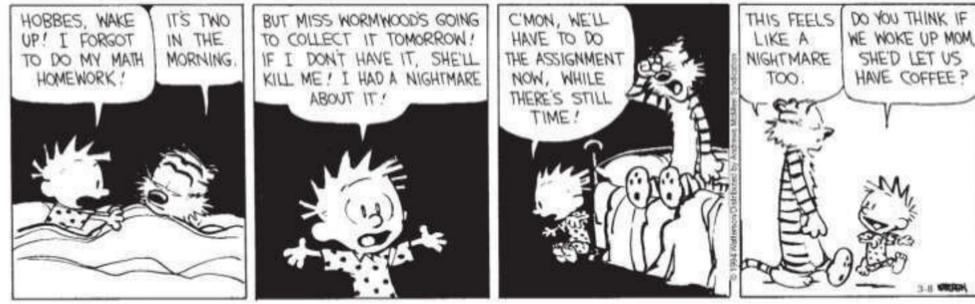
- ACROSS**
- 1 Pretence at being in love? (11)
 - 9 Excel getting gold in some sort of sports (7)
 - 10 One may be attached to a dog because of it (5)
 - 11 Charge for a ring (4)
 - 12 Think it's deliberate (8)
 - 14 He attacks the copper with acid (6)
 - 16 Craft project (6)
 - 18 A dangerous revolutionary (8)
 - 19 In addition a number's coming to zero (4)
 - 22 Precise demand (5)
 - 23 Vessel not the same as a cutter (7)
 - 24 Band that is an essential feature of the match (7,4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Can an obese man have such an attraction? (5)
 - 3 His victims lose heart (4)
 - 4 Note fresh trout surrounding another fish (6)
 - 5 It may work wonders in Malta's new constitution (8)
 - 6 Fellow supporting Judah's son continuously (2,3,2)
 - 7 Dark glass shade (6,5)
 - 8 Regulars in the services (11)
 - 13 Felt dead bewildered and humiliated (8)
 - 15 It's consumed expensively and out of avarice (7)
 - 17 Find company in one churchman or another (6)
 - 20 Nothing turning up in the border (5)
 - 21 We hear there's equal support (4)

Solutions Crossword 5358 Across: 1 Lessee, 4 Agnostic, 9 Scampi, 10 Ringside, 12 Take, 13 Chess, 14 Port, 17 Man overboard, 20 Anthropology, 23 Avid, 24 Cadge, 25 Nash, 28 Proceeds, 29 Window, 30 Emotions, 31 Betray Down: 1 Lose time, 2 Spanking, 3 Espy, 5 Gainsborough, 6 Orgy, 7 Tailor, 8 Create, 11 Churchwarden, 15 Evens, 16 Groom, 18 Colander, 19 By the way, 21 Sample, 22 Kimono, 26 Yetti, 27 Time

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
There are no excuses for slacking. You must accept your commitments and complete your promises with a good grace, even if you are feeling somewhat tired and emotional. Perhaps you need some time by yourself, just to restore your energy.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
This is very much a time to broaden your horizons, realising that certain people whom you have ignored have things to offer which you should now take up. In the past, you have been too ready to turn down help. There's no point in struggling alone if you don't get where you want.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
You really should consider keeping certain facts private. There is no reason why other people should know exactly what you're up to and, even less, for you to tell them. Raise your mystical interests a notch, for you need to understand not only what is happening - but why.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
Relationships need to be worked at. This is less a time for passion, more one to realise that the best way to get on with friends is to join in their activities and show an interest in their hobbies. You might have to put your own desires to one side for a while, but that's a noble thing to do.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
Bearing in mind that this is essentially a sociable day, even at work you should make teamwork your priority. One thing you must be clear about is that if you want your plans to succeed you will have to convince other people that you are in the right.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
Romantic passions could flare, but oh so briefly. If it's the adventure of the heart you're after, you will therefore have to move quickly to seize the moment. At work, bide your time just a little longer. And, at home, throw out all that clutter and dump some of that emotional baggage.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
It's not just that you've had a few knocks that matters, it's that you're more sensitive to them. You should now be on the mend, although there still seems to be one or two surprises in store. Be careful about how you pursue professional ambitions, for there are banana skins in view.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
Think about your dream home. What exactly would you prefer? Where would you like to live? And who with? These are the sort of questions which can be answered now, even if putting them into practice is a different matter! Financial questions can be answered later.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
Take a break from profound moral questions and turn your attention to travel plans. It might be a spiritual voyage which matters most, though, so keep an open mind. Also, realise that someone close who is chasing an educational qualification needs your support.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
It's a good day for dialogue, which means that everyone attending interviews or important meetings should do well. You will have to rely more on your grasp of the facts and your ability to express yourself, and less on style, image or appearance.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
The focus still seems to be on financial affairs, not necessarily because of what is happening now, but because of what is due to take place some way down the line. There does seem to be scope for you to make a number of wise investments. You may still rely on your innate charm, but only just.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
You know that money isn't everything, but shopping trips are often a good form of therapy, and there are few things calculated to raise your morale so much as a spot of extravagance. If you have any important meetings coming up, prepare your story now.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
The first step toward change is _____. The second step is acceptance.
- Nathaniel Branden (9)

IRAEE **IKTYNS**

BHSAR **EERVSUW**

SOLUTION: ARIE, IRVISH, BRAVESH, STINKY, SWEETNESS. The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance. - Nathaniel Branden (9)

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SUDOKU 5556

3	4	8	7					
			5					
5	2			6		4	7	
7	8	4		9				
	3		8		5	4		
	5		2	7				
9	3		8					
		6	1	9	5			

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5555

2	4	7	6	3	5	9	1	8
3	8	6	9	7	1	5	2	4
9	1	5	8	2	4	6	3	7
7	5	3	2	6	8	1	4	9
8	2	9	4	1	3	7	5	6
1	6	4	7	5	9	3	8	2
5	7	2	3	8	6	4	9	1
6	9	1	5	4	2	8	7	3
4	3	8	1	9	7	2	6	5

कार्यालय-सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचलदल इकाई, आशारोड़ी, देहरादून।

पत्रांक : 38 / सहा0आशर0क0 / स0द0ई0 / आशर0 / र0द0न / 2024-25 दिनांक : 06 / 05 / 2024

नीलामी सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा माल एवं सेवा कर अधिनियम 2017 की विभिन्न धाराओं में माल और/या वाहनों पर की गयी कार्यवाही में जब किए गए माल और/या वाहन, जिन पर आरोपित अर्थदण्ड/जुर्माना निर्धारित समय के भीतर जमा नहीं किया गया है, तथा जिनकी नीलामी किया जाना प्रस्तावित है, जिससे सम्बन्धित नीलामी की प्रक्रिया तथा शर्तों का विवरण निम्नलिखित है:-
नीलामी की शर्तें
1- जब माल या/तथा वाहन कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आशारोड़ी देहरादून में भंडारित रखा गया है। इच्छुक बोलीदाता द्वारा सम्बन्धित माल या/तथा वाहन को निम्न विवरण के अनुसार उसके सम्मुख दर्शाये गये स्थान एवं दिनांक 10.05.2024 तथा दिनांक 24.05.2024 के मध्य सुबह 10:00 बजे से सायं 05:00 बजे तक देखा जा सकता है, एवं इस हेतु सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आशारोड़ी देहरादून के दूरभाष नं० 7055602908 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

01	नीलामी की तिथि, समय तथा स्थान	25.05.2024 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे स्थान- कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आशारोड़ी देहरादून
02	मुहरबंद लिफाफे में बोली जमा किये जाना प्रारम्भ करने की तारीख	10-05-2024
03	मुहरबंद लिफाफे में बोली जमा किये की अंतिम तारीख	दिनांक 25-05-2024 मध्यह्न 12:00 बजे तक
04	पूर्व बोली निक्षेप (Pre bid deposit) की रकम जमा करने की तारीख	दिनांक 10-05-2024 से दिनांक 25-05-2024 मध्यह्न 12:00 बजे तक
05	मुहरबंद लिफाफे खोलने की तारीख, समय तथा स्थान	25-05-2024 / अपराह्न 02:00 बजे स्थान- कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आशारोड़ी देहरादून
06	सफल बोलीदाता की घोषणा की तारीख तथा समय	25-05-2024 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे या उसके पश्चात बोली पूर्ण होने पर।

- नीलामी जहां है, जैसा है, के आधार पर की जायेगी।
- बोलीदाता का जीएसटी के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत होना आवश्यक है।
- नीलामी हेतु माल का न्यूनतम मूल्य निम्न प्रकार निर्धारित किया गया है।

क्र०सं०	माल का विवरण	निर्धारित न्यूनतम बोली मूल्य (कर रहित)
01	पेन्ट- 10 नग (572 ली०)	₹ 88660.00
02	बैग - 150 पीस	₹ 15000.00
03	कपड़े - 426 Pair	₹ 10650.00
04	टोपी, मोचे इत्यादि - 1091 Piece	₹ 27275.00
05	कुल	₹ 141585.00

5- ऐसे व्यक्ति, जो नीलामी में प्रतिभाग करने के इच्छुक हैं, पूर्व बोली निक्षेप (Pre bid deposit) की रकम (निर्धारित न्यूनतम बोली मूल्य के 5 प्रतिशत के बराबर) ₹ 7080.00 डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में "सहायक आयुक्त, राज्य कर, सचल दल इकाई-आशारोड़ी देहरादून" के पक्ष में दिनांक 10.05.2024 दिनांक 24.05.2024 तक (सुबह 10:00 बजे से सायं 05:00 बजे तक) एवं दिनांक 25.05.2024 को मध्यह्न 12:00 बजे तक जमा करेंगे।
6- जहां कोई बोली प्राप्त नहीं होती है या प्रयाप्त सहभागिता की कमी के कारण या निम्न बोलियों के कारण नीलामी को अप्रतिस्पर्धात्मक समझा जाता है, यहां नीलामी की प्रक्रिया को रद्द किया जायेगा।
7- सफल बोलीदाता द्वारा नीलामी की कार्यवाही समाप्त होने पर बोली की घनराशि 15 दिन के भीतर जमा करनी होगी अथवा पूर्व बोली निक्षेप (Pre bid deposit) की रकम जमा की गयी हो, को उनके मोबाईल नं० एवं ई-मेल के माध्यम से, यदि हो, पर दी जायेगी।
10- असफल बोलीदाताओं को पूर्व बोली निक्षेप (Pre bid deposit) की रकम, नीलामी की तारीख को नीलामी प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होने के पश्चात वापस कर दी जायेगी।
11- बोलीदाता से संपर्क किये जाने के उद्देश्य से बोलीदाता द्वारा अपना पूर्ण पता, मोबाईल नंबर तथा ई-मेल आई०डी०, यदि है दाखिल की जानी होगी।
12- नीलामी के संबंध में किसी भी प्रकार के स्पष्टीकरण तथा जानकारी के लिये मोबाईल नंबर 7055602908 तथा ई-मेल आई०डी० awanish27.gst@gmail.com पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है। (अवनीश कुमार रूप से कार्यालय में उपस्थित होकर भी जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है।)
सहायक आयुक्त राज्य कर (प्रभारी) सचल दल इकाई आशारोड़ी देहरादून

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

GeM Bid No.: GEM/2024/B/4901203 Dated: 06.05.2024

- Name of work with its location:** Hiring of 01 no. of taxi vehicle (SUV) for bridge line officer AXEN/BL/UMB for official use on monthly basis upto 3000 km; outstation 24x7 for a period of 03 years through GeM portal.
- Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 16,18,200.00
- Earnest Money:** NA
- Completion period of Work:** (03) Three Year
- Date for Submission of tender and opening of tender:** Up-to 17:00 hrs on 27.05.2024. Opening of tender after 17:00 hrs on same day.
- Website particulars 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 GeM site i.e. www.GeM.gov.in

Bid No.: GEM/2024/B/4901203 Dated: 06.05.2024 1392/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. ELS_SRE_T-47 dtd. 08/05/2024

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter :-

Open Tender No.	ELS_SRE_T-47		
Name of work :	Fabrication & erection of stands for stacking of loco equipment at ELS/KJGY Saharanpur		
Date of Closing/Opening	30.05.2024	Approx. Cost.	Rs. 12,02,375/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 24,100/-	Completion period	06 Months
Validity period	45 days.		
Cost of tender form	*Free of cost* for downloading from IREPS & ₹ 2000/- for obtaining from Sr. DDE/TRS/SRE office.		

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E Tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in 1398/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. NO	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	19240931	MOTOR FOR COMPRESSOR	50 NOS	31-05-24
02	19245031	BLOWER FOR OIL COOLING UNIT WITH CASING	50 NOS	03-06-24
03	19245033	OIL PUMP WITH MOTOR TRANSFORMER	52 NOS	03-06-24
04	07240472	EMERGENCY BRAKE ACCELERATOR EB3 (S/L)	286 NOS	03-06-24
05	15245057B	AJTB (BG) TRACK GAUGE 1676 MM	02 NOS	05-06-24
06	15235238B	AIR COMPRESSOR ROTARY SCREW ELECTRIC DRIVEN (CAPACITY 300 CFM)	02 NOS	05-06-24
07	08245077A	PROCUREMENT OF SMPS BASED 48V 50A BATTERY CHARGER	43 NOS	06-06-24
08	77249006	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR ELASTIC RAIL CLIP TYPE MK-V	5281840 NOS	06-06-24
09	77249003	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF METAL LINERS	22119800 NOS/PAIR	07-06-24
10	02240098	4.5 KW UNDER SLUNG TYPE CONSTANT VOLTAGE REGULATED CUM EMERGENCY BATTERY CHARGER	232 NOS	10-06-24
11	19241414	DOUBLE POLE BUSHING	25 NOS	10-06-24
12	15235260A	CNC AXLE TURNING LATHE INDIGENOUS	01 NOS	11-06-24
13	07230299A	DUMP VALVE GV12-ESRA FOR WSP	272 NOS	28-06-24
14	19240622	SET OF DAMPER FOR WAP-5 LOCOMS	13 SET	01-07-24

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice NO. 11/2024-2025 Dated : 08.05.2024 1394/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/ E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:-

Tender Notice No. : TC-84-2024-SPJ.
Name of work : Supplying of Stone Boulder and Stone dust for Monsoon Reserve stock for the year 2024-25 and loading the same into any type of wagon at Sakrigali/Pakur or any other quarry of sahebganj loop line for Samastipur division. Tender value (In ₹) : ₹1,91,82,838.00, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,45,900.00. Completion period of the work: 12 Months.

- Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode on IREPS web portal : 28.05.2024 upto 12.00 hours.
- Opening Date & time for E-Tender : 28.05.2024 after 12.00 hours.
- Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on website : www.ireps.gov.in. Amendments/modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website.

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord/ ECR/Samastipur
PR/00241/SPJ/Engg./IT/24-25/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender notice no. : CRW-HRT-M-LHB-TEJAS-FUR Date : 08.05.2024. For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e-tender for the following works as detailed :-

- Name of work with its location : "POH of Tejas Rakes at Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut".
- Approx. cost of the work : ₹4,93,26,549.73 (Rupees Four Crore Ninety-Three Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Nine and Paise Seventy-Three Only).
- Cost of Tender Form : Nil.
- Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹3,96,600.00 (Rupees Three Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Only).
- Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender : The tender have to be submitted online on https://www.ireps.gov.in website up to 11:00 hrs. on 28.05.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 11:15 hrs.
- Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : https://www.ireps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board in the office of Chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar-803110. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/ CRW/ECR/Harnaut
PR/00247/HRT/Mech./IT/24-25/44

"IMPORTANT"
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SALUTE THE SOLDIER

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) 09 May 2024

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Mukesh Kumar of 49th Battalion, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Arunachal Pradesh in 2020.

Constable Mukesh Kumar **Resident of :** Vill. & Post- Meham, Distt.- Rohtak, State- Haryana.

ITBP salutes its braveheart Head Constable Ganga Prasad of 4th Battalion, who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in Arunachal Pradesh in 2019.

Head Constable Ganga Prasad **Resident of :** Vill.- Gotha Hasanpur, Post- Jhanrautha, Distt.- Mathura, State- Uttar Pradesh.

ITBP salutes its brave hearts Lance Naik Rajender Mohan Bhandari, Constable Omkar Singh & Constable Subhash Singh of 11th Bn, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Punjab in 1991.

Lance Naik Rajender Mohan Bhandari **Constable Omkar Singh** **Constable Subhash Singh**

Shri A. C. Kumar **Naik(GD)**
Deputy Inspector General **L. Ranjan Singh**

"Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the bravehearts Shri A. C. Kumar, Deputy Inspector General and Naik(GD) L. Ranjan Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation.

On this day, they attained martyrdom during the attack by unidentified assailants in the Divisional Headquarter campus of Manipur and Nagaland Division in Imphal. They will always be remembered for their courage, valour and supreme sacrifice for the Nation.

"SASHASTRA SEEMA BAI"

Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the braveheart SI(GD) Amal Sarkar, who made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation. On this day, he attained martyrdom while fighting bravely in an operation against NDFB militants at Manas forest of Assam. In recognition of supreme sacrifice, Sub Inspector(GD) Amal Sarkar was posthumously awarded Police Medal for Gallantry on Independence Day- 2023. He will always be remembered for his courage, valour and supreme sacrifice for the Nation.

"SASHASTRA SEEMA BAI"

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दैनिक जागरण, दैनिक भास्कर, दिव्य भास्कर, हिंदुस्तान, नवभारत टाइम्स, अमर उजाला, पंजाब केसरी, लोकमत, जनसत्ता, लोकसत्ता, दैनिक ट्रिब्यून, राष्ट्रीय सहारा, इंडिया न्यूज, दिल्ली राजस्थान पत्रिका, मुंबई समाचार, पुढारी, रोजगार समाचार, हिंदी एडिटरियल

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मॅच वर्तु, पंजाबी ट्रिब्यून

 हरियाणा न्यूजपेपर 

 हरियाणा मुख्य ट्रिब्यून, सच कहूं, उत्तम हिंदू, एक्शन इंडिया, पायनियर, देश रोजाना, जागरण, भास्कर, पंजाब केसरी, हरिभूमि, जगत क्रांति, दैनिक सवेरा, आज समाज, Hindustan Times, The Tribune,

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समय पत्रिका,साधना पथ,गृहलक्ष्मी,उदय इंडिया,निरोगधाम,मॉडर्न खेती ,इंडिया टुडे,देवपुत्र,क्रिकेट टुडे,गृहशोभा,अनोखी हिन्दुस्तान,मुक्ता,सरिता,चंपक,प्रतियोगिता दर्पण,सक्सेस मिरर,सामान्य ज्ञान दर्पण,फार्म एवं फूड,मनोहर कहानियां,सत्यकथा,सरस सलिल,स्वतंत्र वार्ता लाजवाब,आउटलुक,सच्ची शिक्षा,वनिता,मायापुरी,इंडिया हेल्थ,रूपायन उजाला,ऋषि प्रसाद,जोश रोजगार समाचार,जोश करेंट अफेयर्स,जोश सामान्य ज्ञान,जोश बैंकिंग और एसएससी,इंडिया बुक ऑफ रिकॉर्ड्स,राजस्थान रोजगार संदेश,राजस्थान सूजस,सखी जागरण,अहा! जिंदगी,बाल भास्कर,योजना,कुरुक्षेत्र,हिन्दुस्तान जॉब्स

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