



COMMANDER
Swachata Badhao, Tandrusti Badhe

WARRANTY
5 YEARS

Slim Hide Flush Tank Kahan...?

Slimhide

• Badi Todfod + Deewaar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen

Space Saving



DECISION
2024



● Out of Indore contest, Cong pushes for NOTA vote in constituency
● Cong wants to make Hindus second-class citizens, claims Modi
PAGES 7, 8 & 9

12 Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh encounter, second in weeks



JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
RAIPUR, MAY 10

BARELY THREE weeks after 29 Maoists were killed in a gunbattle in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh, another 12 Maoists were shot dead in an encounter with security forces in the state's Bijapur district early Friday.

A jawan of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was injured in an IED explosion when the team was heading back after the operation.

The number of Maoists killed this year in Chhattisgarh is now 103 — the highest since 2019. Until April-end, 91 Maoists had been killed by security forces.

The Friday incident took place in the Gangaloor area under the jurisdiction of the Pidiya police station in Bijapur district, considered a Maoist stronghold

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INTERIM BAIL UNTIL JUNE 1: SC SAYS POLLS A LIFELINE, HE IS NOT A THREAT

Kejriwal can campaign



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses supporters outside Tihar Jail after he got interim bail on Friday. Renuka Puri

Bail conditions: Can't visit CMO, Sectt; can't sign any file unless it needs L-G nod

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

REFERRING to a ruling that described elections as "the barometer and lifeline of a parliamentary system and its setup" and underlining that Arvind Kejriwal is "the Chief Minister of Delhi and a leader of one of the national parties" who "does not have any criminal antecedents" and is "not a threat to society", the Supreme Court Friday granted him interim bail until June 1, the seventh and last phase of voting in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, with certain conditions.

Arrested in the Delhi excise

His first remarks: '140 crore people have to unite against dictatorship'

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AMID THE sound of firecrackers, surrounded by hundreds of supporters, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal walked out of Tihar Jail Friday, with a declaration that "humain sabko milke desh ko taanashahi se bache hain" (all of us have to unite to save the country from dictatorship).

"Main tann, mann, dhan se lad raha hoon, sangharsh kar raha hoon, taanashahi ke khilaaf. Lekin 140 crore logon ko taanashahi se ladna padega (I'm fighting against dictatorship with all my might, but 140 crore people will have to do that

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



policy case on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate and subsequently placed in judicial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

KEJRIWAL OUT ON BAIL, AAP TO TWEAK POLL STRATEGY

RULING COULD SET PRECEDENT FOR POLITICAL DETAINEES **PAGE 4 & 7**

too)," he said.

Kejriwal, arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, has been granted interim bail until June 1 by the Supreme Court.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Should all of Parliament security be with CISF? Panel will examine

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

SECURITY AT the Parliament complex could witness a radical overhaul with the Union Home Ministry constituting a panel to assess whether personnel of the CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) should take charge of the entire process — right from managing security arrangements to issuing passes to regulating

EXPLAINED
Home vs Secretariat

PARLIAMENT SECURITY service works under the Watch and Ward committee under the LS Secretariat. Ex-Secy General P D T Achary says any change should be under the direction of the Speaker, not MHA.

movement of MPs, VIPs, officials and the media, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

These responsibilities are currently entrusted with the Parliament Security Service, which functions under the almost century-old Watch and Ward committee.

Last month, the CISF was brought in to replace 150 personnel of the Delhi Police, who used to be deployed alongside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

PM tells Pawar better to join us; he says no, flags remarks on Muslims

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, MAY 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Friday mocked NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar's recent statement that smaller regional parties may come closer to or merge with the Congress in the coming years. Without mentioning his name, Modi called Pawar's party the "nakli (fake) NCP" and said it would be better



We admire Nehru-Gandhi ideology: NCP (SP) chief

if it joined the BJP-led coalition in Maharashtra "with pride" than merge with the Congress and "die in four days".

Pawar responded to the Prime Minister's jibe, saying he

would never ditch the Nehru-Gandhi ideology and join hands with those who adopt an anti-Muslim stand.

Speaking at a rally in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district, Modi said: "For 40-50 years, one tall leader from Maharashtra has been in politics. These days, he is making wild statements. After the Baramati election, he is frustrated and disappointed. After discussing with a lot of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Narendra Dabholkar's son Hamid and daughter Mukta outside the Pune court after the verdict Friday. Pavan Khengre

Dabholkar murder: 2 get life in prison, alleged mastermind among 3 acquitted

Court flags suspicion, but gives clean chit to three citing lack of evidence

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE & SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, MAY 10

NEARLY 11 years after rationalist Dr Narendra Dabholkar was shot dead in Pune, a special court Friday convicted his assailants, Sachin Prakashrao Andure and Sharad Bhausaheb Kalaskar, and sentenced them to life imprisonment for murder. It acquitted three others including the alleged mastermind Dr Virendrasinh Sharadchandra Tawade.

Citing lack of evidence, Special judge P P Jadhav acquitted Tawade, lawyer Sanjiv Gajanan Punalekar and activist Vikram Vinay Bhawe, all linked to the Sanatan Sanstha.

Dabholkar, founder of the



Was shot dead in Pune on August 20, 2013

Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne assailants on the V R Shinde bridge in Pune on the morning of August 20 in 2013.

While acquitting Tawade, the judge said there was a "lot of scope for suspicion" against him, but "the prosecution has failed to provide evidence for it". He also said "there is definitely suspicion" on Bhawe and Punalekar, "but due to lack of evidence they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ORDERS FRAMING OF CHARGES

Sufficient material on sexual harassment by Brij Bhushan: Court

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

A DELHI court Friday ordered framing of charges against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the case in which six women wrestlers had levelled allegations of sexual harassment against him.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot said there was sufficient material to frame charges against Bhushan in the offences of outraging the modesty of a woman and sexual harassment (sections 354 and 354A of the IPC) of five women. It said for all allegations levelled against Bhushan by victim num-



BJP MP and former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

ber 6, he has been discharged. Her charges dated back to 2012.

The court noted that it has found sufficient material against Bhushan for offences under section 506 (1) (criminal intimidation) in the allegations of two victims — number 1 and 5.

Bhushan has not been charged with the offence of stalking (354D of the IPC).

For Vinod Tomar, former WFI assistant secretary and the second accused in the case, the court

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DEEPTIMANTI WARY
BHAGALPUR, MUNGER, CHAMPARAN, MAY 10

FOR The large part of Nitish Kumar's 19-year rule in Bihar, his leadership has been identified with an efficient administration that restored law and order in the state, built road infrastructure, empowered girls, women and disadvantaged sections of society with schemes, carefully designed. Credited with identifying women as a separate constituency in the country — long before it became the flavour of many a party —

Nitish also enforced prohibition in the state in 2016.

That, too, was a hit with many women at the receiving end of abuse and distress because of their spouses' alcoholism.

However, a stagnating growth, lack of job opportunities at home, administrative corruption, poorly implemented prohibition, crumbling cities beyond the capital, and his own ideological flip-flops are dimming the halo around Bihar's Vikas Purush.

This was visible in the 2020 Assembly polls, when Nitish's JD(U) was reduced from over 70 seats in the Assembly to just 43

and now in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, it's dimmed further.

While voters, cutting across caste lines, flag his "good work," they report a sense of fatigue with his long reign, frustration with his flip-flops, and impatience with his inability to spur Bihar to the next level. Across the 16 seats JD(U) is contesting, those voting for the NDA are clear: they are voting for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, not for Nitish or his candidate.

PROHIBITION

Among voters, there is special criticism reserved for prohibition, specially from OBCs, EBCs



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar at a rally in Barh on Monday. PTI

and Dalits, the caste groups that constitute Nitish's core base.

"Look, I am a *poldaar* (daily wagers who lift weight). If I don't get a drink after the day's work, I will not be able to sleep in the night. But we are the ones facing the police crackdown, the rich get away with bribes," says Raju Mandal, a Kurmi, at Dhankaul Bazaar in Sheohar. Mandal has been arrested thrice for being found drunk.

Vijay Kumhar (EBC), a daily wager from Sitamarhi, says prohibition should not just be on paper. "Liquor is freely available,

just more expensive. The police are merely cracking down on consumers. The jails are full of poor people. Police does not go after bootleggers and smugglers as they pay them regular bribes," he says.

Kumhar adds that this time he is voting for Nitish's candidate in Sitamarhi because of Modi, but in 2025, he will vote for change.

In Machharganwa village of Valmikinagar constituency, Lallan Yadav and Ramakant, a Musahar, discuss how bootleggers have fattened on illegal payoffs.

Even women do not seem to be as positive about prohibition as they were earlier.

Says Rita Devi, a Kurmi tea-stall owner in Bettiah in West Champaran: "Prohibition is good. A few members of my family died of alcohol. But it should be total. The only good thing is people are not roaming on the roads drunk." Kavita Devi (name changed) from in Jhanjharpur is less complimentary.

"If prohibition was really implemented, I would compliment Nitish Kumar. But men are still drinking and coming home and fighting with their wives. My

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM PAGE ONE

Bail conditions: Can't visit CMO, Sectt

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

custody, Kejriwal has to surrender on June 2.

Rejecting the prosecution's argument that if politicians can be granted interim bail to campaign for elections, there is no reason why an agriculturalist or a businessman should be denied bail to attend to his work, the bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta laid down the conditions for interim bail to Kejriwal:

■ he shall furnish bail bonds in the sum of Rs 50,000 with one surety of the like amount to the satisfaction of the Jail Superintendent;

■ he shall not visit the Office of the Chief Minister and the Delhi Secretariat;

■ he shall be bound by the statement made on his behalf that he shall not sign official files unless it is required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi;

■ he will not make any comment with regard to his role in the present case;

■ he will not interact with any of the witnesses and/or have access to any official files connected with the case.

"The grant of interim bail will not be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case or the criminal appeal which is pending consideration before us," the bench said, referring to Kejriwal's plea against his arrest by the ED.

"It is no gain saying that General Elections to Lok Sabha is

the most significant and an important event this year, as it should be in a national election year. Between 650-700 million voters out of an electorate of about 970 million will cast their votes to elect the government of this country for the next five years. General Elections supply the vis viva to a democracy," it said.

"Given the prodigious importance, we reject the argument raised on behalf of the prosecution that grant of interim bail/release on this account would be giving premium of placing the politicians in a benefic position compared to ordinary citizens of this country. While examining the question of grant of interim bail/release, the courts always take into consideration the peculiarities associated with the person in question and the surrounding circumstances. In fact, to ignore the same would be iniquitous and wrong," it said.

"The prosecution has rightly pointed out that the appellant, Arvind Kejriwal, had failed to appear in spite of nine notices/summons, first of which was issued in October 2023. This is a negative factor, but there are several other facets which we are required to take into consideration. The appellant... is the Chief Minister of Delhi and a leader of one of the national parties. No doubt, serious accusations have been made, but he has not been convicted. He does not have any criminal antecedents. He is not a threat to society," the bench said.

"The investigation in the present case has remained pending since August 2022. Arvind Kejriwal was arrested... on 21.03.2024. More importantly, legality and validity of the arrest itself is under challenge before this Court and we are yet to finally pronounce on the same. The... situation cannot be compared with harvesting of crops or plea to look after business affairs. In this background, once the matter is subjudice and the questions relating to legality of arrest are under consideration, a more holistic and libertarian view is justified, in the background that the 18th Lok Sabha General Elections are being held," it said.

"At this stage, it is not possible for us to either conclude the arguments or finally pronounce the judgement. However, there is an intervening factor which has prompted us to consider and pass the present order, namely, 18th Lok Sabha General Elections, which are in progress. As the appeal is pending before us, we do not think it would be proper for us to direct the appellant - Arvind Kejriwal to approach the trial court for interim bail/release. This may not be apt in view of the legal issues and contentions that are under examination and consideration before us," it said.

Earlier, as soon as the bench took up the matter to pronounce its order, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the ED and had opposed any interim relief, said, "Now we have been ap-

proached by Amritpal Singh. That's a concern."

Amritpal Singh, leader of 'Varis Punjab De' who was held under the National Security Act, is in a jail in Dibrugarh, Assam, and wants to contest in the Lok Sabha elections.

Justice Khanna, however, said, "That's something entirely different. You can't compare."

Mehta said he "could not find any precedent to assist Your Lordships either way, that a person is released for campaigning".

Justice Khanna said, "Let's not put into a simple straightjacket like that". He said the case was registered in August 2022 and Kejriwal was arrested in March 2024 after about one-and-a-half years. "21 days... should not make any difference," he said, referring to the interim bail period.

Mehta said he should not speak about the case but the bench told him "you are entitled to counter him with equally strong statements".

Senior Advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, wondered if he could get more time and pointed out that the election results are on June 4.

But the bench declined any further extension. "No, no. We will try and conclude the arguments next week and try to pronounce the judgement, if possible," it said.

Mehta said Kejriwal should surrender at the expiry of interim bail.

"He will surrender," Justice Khanna said.

Lordships made themselves part of campaign: BJP's Vinay Sahasrabuddhe

affect the elections; BJP will win all seven seats of Delhi..."

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "What bail has he got? It says that you are a thief but you can campaign for one month. No respectable person will accept this bail. Such a person will say - I politely decline. What kind of bail is it that you can go out but have to come back on June 2?"

"We respect the decision of the Supreme Court. But the charges still stand and action will be taken on them," Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami told reporters. Said Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma: "A new chapter of corruption is being written in the country... He had come along with Anna Hazare ji to remove corruption but drowned himself in it..."

Even as the party officially said that the bail order was no relief for Kejriwal, some BJP insiders acknowledge that the interim bail comes just before Delhi goes to polls and this could pose a "political challenge."

Said a BJP leader: "Kejriwal is not Manish Sisodia, he will play the victim card to the fullest. We have been saying that the charges are serious because AAP leaders

were not getting bail, the bail for Sanjay Singh and then Kejriwal doesn't change that reality."

An RSS leader discounted the effect of Kejriwal's release saying "floating voters were very few and the lines have already been drawn on both sides". Another RSS insider said that the interim bail would send the wrong signal that politicians can "get away with anything".

PM tells Pawar better to join us; he says no, flags remarks on Muslims

people, he made a statement. He has said that if smaller regional parties have to survive in politics, they will have to merge with Congress."

"It means nakli NCP and nakli Shiv Sena have made up their minds to merge with the Congress," he said, referring to Pawar's party and Uddhav Thackeray's party, which are part of the opposition INDIA bloc.

"Chaar din baad Congress mai jakarke marne ki bajjad, seena taan karke humare Aajitada aur Shindeji ke saath aao, aapke sabhi sapne poore ho jayenge. (Instead of merging with the Congress and dying four days later, join hands with Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde with pride, all your dreams will be fulfilled)," he said.

Incidentally, in an interview to *The Indian Express* on May 4, Pawar had said: "In the next couple of years, several regional parties will associate more closely with the Congress. Or they may look at the option of merging with the Congress if they believe that is the best for their party."

Asked whether that applied to his own party, the NCP (SP), he had said, "I don't see any difference between the Congress and us.... Ideologically, we belong to the Gandhi, Nehru line of thinking."

On Friday, Pawar hit back at the Prime Minister, accusing him of "taking a stand against one particular community", and stood by

his stand that he follows the Nehru-Gandhi ideology.

"We admire the Nehru-Gandhi ideology. We will not go anywhere and will not leave the ideology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made some comments about the Muslim community in his speeches. I have heard them. If we have to take this country forward and remain united, we will have to take all communities together. We cannot sideline one community and think of moving ahead," he said.

"Prime Minister Modi is repeatedly taking a stand against one particular community. Public opinion is building up against him and that is why he is feeling un-

easy and making such statements. Modi might be feeling our need, but we will never join hands with them by leaving the ideology that we have embraced," the veteran leader said.

"Today, our parliamentary and democratic system is in danger. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren have been arrested and put in jail. These arrests cannot happen without the role of the Central government and the central leadership," Pawar said. "Prime Minister does not believe in our democratic system. We cannot join hands with any person, party or ideology that does not have faith in our parliamentary democracy."

12 Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh

and an area from where many are recruited.

This was the second major encounter in Gangaloor within weeks - 13 Maoists were killed in the area on April 2.

The Friday encounter began at 6 am at different locations in and around the Pidiya forest. Bijapur SP Jitendra Kumar Yadav said they had received information about the presence of around 150 Maoists in the Pidiya forest. He said they were from the West Bastar division, Darbha division, People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Company 2's commander Vella, platoons 12 and 13, and Gangaloor area committee secretary Dinesh Modiyam.

Acting on the information, a joint operation was undertaken at night by security forces comprising personnel of the DRG from Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma,

Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force, CoBRA and CRPF battalions.

Over 800 security personnel were part of the operation. "It was a joint effort of forces from three districts with effective coordination," Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai said. The gunfight went on for around 12 hours at more than six locations.

The encounter took place around 40 km from Bijapur district headquarters, and 8-10 km south of the April 2 encounter site.

After the encounter, the security forces destroyed the Maoist camp and seized a BGL, a 12 bore gun, a country-made rifle, explosives, medicines, Maoist uniforms, literature and daily items.

During the search operations, they came across bodies of 12 Maoists. While returning, a DRG jawan suffered injuries in an IED blast.

Sufficient material, says court

said there was sufficient material to frame charges against him for criminal intimidation in relation to the allegations of one victim. Tomar, however, was discharged of the charge of abetment.

Last month, ACMM Rajpoot had rejected Bhushan's plea seeking further investigation in the case. Earlier, the court had deferred the framing of charges against Bhushan since his advocate Rajeev Mohan sought further investigation in the case, claiming in an application that he was not in Delhi when one of the six wrestlers was allegedly molested.

In June last year, Delhi Police had filed a chargesheet against Bhushan for alleged sexual harassment, assault and stalking of six women wrestlers. In its 1,500-page chargesheet, police had mentioned statements of at least 22 witnesses from across four

states, including wrestlers, a referee, a coach and a physiotherapist, who corroborated the allegations made by the six women wrestlers against Singh.

The chargesheet was filed against Bhushan and Tomar under IPC sections 354 (assault or criminal force with intent to outrage modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking), 109 (abetment) and 506 (criminal intimidation). Around 220 WFI staffers, wrestlers, referees and coaches, along with Singh and his associates, were among those examined in the case.

The police had also filed a 550-page report in the Patiala House Courts, requesting cancellation of the POCSO Act case against Singh after a wrestler, who was a minor at the time of the alleged incident, and her father, the complainant, withdrew their allegations.

Kejriwal's first remarks

"It is a pleasure being back among you all today; didn't I tell you I would be back soon? I am back," the AAP convenor declared from atop his vehicle after being driven out of the prison complex, from where he left for his Civil Lines residence.

"With the blessings of Hanuman ji, I am back with you again. I want to thank all of you... crores of people across the country sent their love my way. I want

to thank the Supreme Court judges," he said.

He also invited people to join him in large numbers at the Hanuman Temple in Connaught Place on Saturday. "Tomorrow at 11 am, we will all go to the Hanuman Mandir in CP. Afterwards, there will be a press conference at the party office at 1 pm. I request all of you to come to the Hanuman Mandir," he said.

Dabholkar murder: 2 get life term

are being acquitted".

"There were charges under the UAPA in this case. Due to the negligent approach shown by the competent officer, the charges under the UAPA cannot be proved against any accused," the judge said.

He said the charges under IPC sections 302, 34 and sections of the Arms Act against Andure and Kalaskar have been proved "beyond doubt".

After hearing lawyers from both sides, the court sentenced the duo to rigorous life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 5 lakh each.

"There is something that needs to be pointed out here. Murder of any person is a very unfortunate incident. However, from the side of the accused, especially by their defence lawyers, in the cross examination and arguments, there were some statements made by them through which they tried to justify the act. This was extremely unfortunate. The defence lawyers should make it a point to ponder over this in the future," the judge said.

A total of 20 prosecution witnesses and two defence witnesses were examined during the trial.

CBI lawyer Prakash Suryavanshi said they will study the judgement and take a call on further course of action including filing of an appeal in the High Court.

In a statement after the verdict, Dabholkar's wife Dr Shailla, son Dr Hamid and daughter Mukta said that the conviction of Andure and Kalaskar had reaffirmed their faith in the judiciary.

"We will challenge the acquittal of Virendra Tawade, Punalekar and Bhavne in the High Court. The CBI has said in the chargesheet that the murder was part of the terrorist conspiracy. However, the main conspirators of the case have not been arrested until now. We hope that the CBI and other investigation agencies in the country will work in this regard," the statement said.

Claiming lapses in the process of the identification parade of the accused, defence lawyers Prakash Salsingikar, Virendra Ichalkaranjikar and Suvama Avhad Vast said they would challenge the conviction of the two accused in the High Court.

A statement by Sanatan Sanstha said the two convicts are not linked to the outfit and "there is possibility that they are also framed in this case".

The Pune city police, which initially probed the Dabholkar murder, arrested alleged illegal firearms dealer Manish Nagori and Vilas Khandelwal in January 2014. Police claimed a ballistic examination of one of the firearms, seized from them following their arrest by the Maharashtra ATS in October 2013, suggested that it matched the "markings" on a cartridge seized from the Dabholkar murder spot.

The CBI took over the probe in June 2014, but it never accused Nagori and Khandelwal. During its investigation, the CBI recorded the statement of Sanjay Arun Sadvilkar, a Kolhapur-based artisan, who is also a witness in the Govind Pansare murder case.

Like Dabholkar, Communist leader Govind Pansare was shot dead in Kolhapur while he was on a morning walk with his wife Uma on February 16, 2015.

Based on Sadvilkar's state-

ment, the CBI made its first arrest, that of a Sanatan Sanstha seeker and ENT surgeon Dr Tawade, in the Dabholkar case on June 10, 2016.

In September 2016, the CBI filed a chargesheet against Tawade, naming Sanatan seekers Sarang Akolkar and Vinay Pawar as the two assailants who shot Dabholkar. Later, contradicting its claim, the CBI arrested Andure and Kalaskar in August 2018 as the two men who shot dead Dabholkar.

Kalaskar was among the activists arrested by the ATS on August 10, 2018, in a Nalasopara arms haul case, following clues obtained from the Karnataka police probe into the Gauri Lankesh murder case. Their interrogation allegedly revealed Andure and Kalaskar's involvement in the Dabholkar murder.

In May 2019, the CBI arrested Mumbai-based lawyer Punalekar and Vikram Bhavne. The CBI claimed Punalekar had advised Kalaskar to destroy the firearms used in the killings of Dabholkar and Gauri Lankesh.

The CBI claimed that following Punalekar's instructions, Kalaskar dismantled four country-made pistols and threw the parts from a bridge into a creek in Thane in July 2018. The murder weapon was never recovered.

The CBI alleged Bhavne had conducted a reconnaissance before the murder. Both Bhavne and Punalekar were later released on bail. Bhavne had been convicted in the Thane auditorium blast case of 2008.

Meanwhile, in September 2021, the CBI framed charges against the five accused. Tawade, Andure, Kalaskar and Bhavne were charged with murder, conspiracy to commit murder under sections of the IPC, section 16 of the UAPA pertaining to terrorist acts, and provisions of the Arms Act. Punalekar was charged with destruction of evidence in the case.

In the Dabholkar murder case, the CBI had also arrested three more suspects - Amol Kale, Amit Digwekar and Rajesh Bangera - who are also accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case in Karnataka. But they were not charged.

The court observed that the "prosecution has not proved the offence under section 16 of the UAPA Act against any of the accused. So also, the offence of conspiracy is not at all proved against any of the accused."

The two eyewitnesses, who identified Andure and Kalaskar during the trial, were found to be "trustworthy" by the court. Even though the murder weapon was not recovered, the court observed that "it is settled law that seizure of muddled weapons is not mandatory to prove an offence".

The sisters of Kalaskar and Andure had told the court their brothers were present with them at home for Raksha Bandhan on August 20, 2013, the day when Dabholkar was killed. But the court stated from the evidence "it is crystal clear" that both fired bullets at Dabholkar.

The two convicts hail from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (then called Aurangabad district) in Maharashtra. Kalaskar is a farmer while Andure worked as an accountant in a private shop. Their family members broke down in the court premises after the conviction.

FLIP FLOPS

Having switched sides four times since 2015, voters have also begun to doubt Nitish's once "principled politics". "He did great work in his first term. But since then he has only been focused on his chair. It appears the only thing constant in Bihar these days is Nitish as CM. I do not like the RJD, but Tejashwi is in at least standing where he is," says Pushpkumar Kushwaha, an insurance agent from Bhihi village in Bhagalpur. His friend Shani Kumar, a Pasi Dalit, defends Nitish, saying the BJP and RJD are as much of a "Paltu Ram" as Nitish because they chose to align with them despite having been "cheated" earlier.

EDUCATION REFORM

One thing getting Nitish a positive buzz is the new-found discipline enforced in schools by Addi-

tional Chief Secretary of Education Department K K Pathak. While teachers complain about extra pressure and long working hours (schools have been kept open for teachers even during summer vacations to help weaker students), students and parents say this is a much-needed step to reform Bihar's education system. "Teachers can't mark attendance and go absent anymore. There is such fear that they don't even sit in chair while teaching. Some fresh batch of teachers brought through the Bihar Public Service Commission are also very knowledgeable," said a bunch of students outside a school in Ramnagar in West Champaran.

While Modi's popularity may steer JD(U)'s leaky boat in 2024 polls, Nitish may need more like Pathak's reforms to sail smoothly in the 2025 Bihar Assembly polls.

husband the other day even broke down Hanuman ji's statue in the house. Now since liquor has become expensive, whatever little money he used to bring home is also gone," she says.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Then there is anger over unemployment and corruption, for which people appear to hold Nitish responsible.

Umesh Kumar, 25, a Nai by caste and profession, and Pushparaj Kumar Sharma, 27, an unemployed Lohar - both OBC - from Rampurwa in Valmikinagar constituency say they have been Nitish voters but will change the regime in 2025.

They say Bihar's biggest problem is unemployment but the state government and local JD(U)

candidates have done nothing. "They have so much money that they can set up factories for themselves but they won't spend a penny for people," says Sharma.

Deepak Kumar, a 35-year-old Gond from the tribal village of Semara in the constituency raises similar concerns but holds both Modi and Nitish responsible.

"I am not seeking a government job. But at least the government should open a couple of factories here. All the young people in the state are forced to work in other states. I work in Bengaluru as a carpenter. We don't like working outside the state. We are not treated well and live in pitiable condition. Look at Karnataka, how developed it is. Look at Bihar, even Nepal looks better than us," he says.

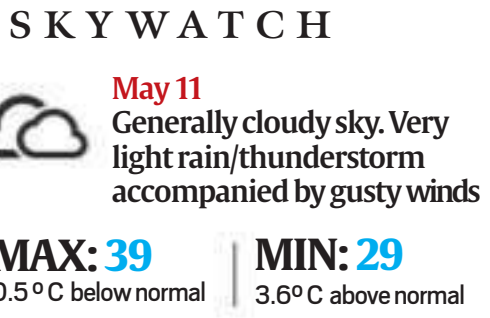
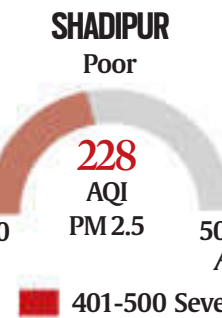
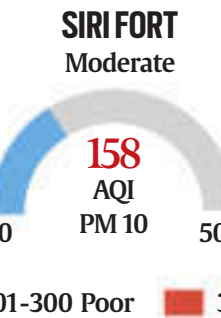
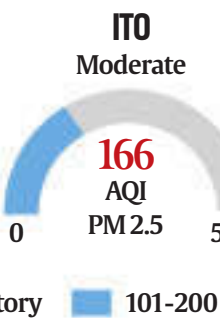
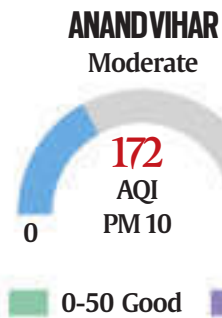
Classifieds
EXPRESS EDUCATION
P.S.I.R
by
KUMAR UJJWAL SIR
Since 2005
Innovative Pedagogy For Simplified Learning
Interactive Classes With Personal Attention
@PSIRbyUjjwalSir
Batches After Prelims Exam O.R.N Delhi,
Ph.: 9868088370, 9718388189

LAW AMBITION
LAW INSTITUTE
JUDICIARY 8800660301
OFFLINE MORNING 04 JUNE
OFFLINE EVENING 04 JUNE
ONLINE EVENING 06 MAY
WEEKEND BATCH 02 JUNE
न्यायिक सेवा 15 MAY
(हिन्दी माध्यम) 9599293900
निःशुल्क परिचर्चा : 29 अप्रैल सायं 5 बजे
आलोक सर के निर्देशन में
IAS LAW 8800662140
CLAT/LL.B. 8800660380
30 JUNE 12 MAY
ambitionlawinstitute.com

ANTHRO
WE AT VAIDS HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!
D Ananya Reddy AIR 3
Abhinav Jain AIR 35
Final Selection: 16 & counting
Live Interaction with Vaid Sir
May 15 @ 12 noon
For Details visit www.valdsics.com
Or Youtube.com/@ValdsICSDelhi | Ph: 9999946748

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service
(M): 9212665841, 9212008155

PLUTUS IAS
UPSC/PCS
PSYCHOLOGY OPTIONAL ZOOLOGY OPTIONAL
By Shalini Singh By Shivani Sharma
UPSC Mains 2019, 2020 & 2021
& also participated in UPSC Mains
in 2019 and cleared AFCAT 2015
BDS, M.Sc. in Medical
Biochemistry
✓ GS 1 Year Foundation Course
✓ GS 2 Years Foundation Course
✓ GS 3 Years (UPSC Coaching + Graduation)
TEST SERIES:
• Prelims GS Test Series (65 Tests: 20 Sectional + 20 Full Length + 25 Classic)
• Mains GS Test Series (24 Tests: 10 Sectional + 10 Full Length + 4 Essay)
• CSAT Test Series (8 Full Length)
• Optional Test Series (Paper 1: 4 Sectional + 2 Full Length, Paper 2: 4 Sectional + 2 Full Length)
OPTIONAL SUBJECTS
Psychology By Shalini Singh
Zoology By Shivani Sharma
Geography By Akshay Sanjay Gurbhaiye
PSIR By Dr. Bijendra Jha
Agriculture By Dr. Hardeep Singh
Sociology By Dr. Huma Hassan
Anthropology By Dr. Huma Hassan
Economics By Prateek Tripathi
History By Dr. Bijendra Jha
Public Adm. By Kanhaiya Jha
Mathematics By Priyanka Godara
Physics By Prateek Tripathi
91844-844-0231
Karol Bagh | Mukherjee Nagar | Chandigarh | Bilaspur
For Franchise Enquiry Contact
info@plutusias.com
Contact for Advt. Booking: thehybridz.com
(M): 9354925312



CM KEJRIWAL RELEASED, AAP PLANS CAMPAIGN OVERHAUL

Homecoming after 51 days

Kejriwal holds meeting with senior AAP leaders to chalk out the party's campaign strategy for next 22 days

MALLICA JOSHI & JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

OVER THE course of the next two days, the Aam Aadmi Party will rewrite its campaign from scratch, with two words expected to dominate the poll pitch — *taanashahi* (dictatorship) and democracy. In this script, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the tiger who has “broken out of jail” to join the fight and a martyr with a message to save the Constitution.

Back home on Friday evening, and after meeting his family members, Kejriwal got into a huddle with senior party leaders to chalk out a detailed campaign strategy.

The reverberations of the relief given to Kejriwal were felt not only in the Aam Aadmi Party, which cancelled all its rallies and programmes for the day and asked all its leaders to reach the party office near ITO, but at a Congress rally as well.

Several kilometres away, a man carrying AAP and Congress flags on his shoulders in North east Delhi's Taharpur announced during an auto-rickshaw rally in support of Congress candidate Kanhaiya Kumar, “Kejriwal has got bail.” Kumar, as soon as he got the news, announced in the midst of his campaign, “I congratulate everyone that Arvind Kejriwal ji has got bail.”

The BJP, meanwhile, which has held several deliberations on the possibility of Kejriwal's release — with one as recently as last week — will also rethink its strategy by pushing for more rallies by senior leaders, including the PM, sources said.

AAP's strategy is to make sure that Kejriwal campaigns across the country, covering as many constituencies as possible. “He will campaign wherever INDIA bloc parties ask him to and not just in constituencies where AAP

candidates are contesting. The entire strategy will now change,” a senior AAP leader said.

Where the focus of AAP's campaign so far has been Kejriwal's arrest, the poster of the first roadshow that he will hold on Saturday read, “Tiger is back”. The roadshow, in South Delhi's Mehrauli, will also have Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in attendance.

“His coming out of jail is a big leg-up for us. It is no secret that he is the best speaker we have and his connection with the people is unmatched. But that is far from the only thing that he will have an impact on. Apart from re-energising the cadre, he will have a critical look at organisational tasks assigned to different party workers and make changes wherever required. What we expected is a clear guideline to all workers to campaign for INDIA bloc alliance partners — Congress in the case of Delhi — to the best of their ability and make sure there is synergy on the ground,” a senior party leader said.

For the BJP, too, the campaign changes. Sources said that the party feels that his temporary release from jail will have a negative impact on its chances on at least three out of seven seats — Northeast Delhi, Chandni Chowk and West Delhi. “These are seats where the population in JJ colonies and slums is high and their residents have traditionally been AAP supporters, and before that, of the Congress. In 2019, we could manage just a little over 40% of the vote share from those living in such areas in these Lok Sabha seats while the rest was split between AAP and Congress,” a senior BJP leader said.

“With both parties not only in alliance with each other but also campaigning together, the chances of a split in their common vote share are getting narrower and possibility of transfer of the vote share of one onto the other is more plausible,” the leader added.



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hugs his mother after arriving at his Civil Lines residence, Friday evening. (Left) AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Gopal Rai with Kejriwal's family. *Express*

NCCSA MEETING, MCD INTERNAL POLLS, SUMMER ACTION PLAN

Will files that are stuck be cleared? Officials wait & watch

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AMONG THE conditions set by the Supreme Court when it granted interim bail to Arvind Kejriwal Friday, two speak to his role as the Delhi Chief Minister: he cannot visit his office, nor can only sign official files when “required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lt-Governor of Delhi”.

It is the second condition that is crucial, considering that several matters related to Delhi's administration — accepting the res-

ignation of social welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand, who quit the AAP following Kejriwal's arrest; a meeting of the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA); and the appointment of a presiding officer for the MCD's Mayoral polls — have faced delay due to the CM's arrest in the excise policy case.

While many of these could, government sources said, see the light of day with Kejriwal being released, some that “may trigger a tussle” between Raj Niwas and the AAP-Delhi government could be relegated to the background.

A meeting of the NCCSA —

which presides over the transfer, posting and vigilance-related issues concerning bureaucrats and has not been convened for “at least seven months” according to sources — is currently not a priority as the Model Code of Conduct is in place for the Lok Sabha polls.

Other significant matters that have been held up include water availability under the Summer Action Plan and a proposal to temporarily enhance financial powers of the MCD Commissioner owing to alleged hampering of the functioning of the civic body due to lack of funds.

“The L-G has already flagged several issues — from the lack of consumables at Delhi government hospitals and the state of the capital's health infrastructure to the Summer Action Plan, of which significant matters like water and power availability in the city during peak summer, are components. Both sides, especially Raj Niwas, may adopt a wait-and-watch approach for the time being,” a senior government official said.

“Under Section 45D of the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, the L-G, who is the Administrator, has the power to appoint authorities, boards, commissions; on the

other hand, any issue, irrespective of whether it is a transferred subject like health or education, has to be submitted to the L-G, under section 45 I (4), for his opinion through the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary under certain conditions,” the official added.

These matters, as per the Act, include those which affect or are likely to affect peace and tranquility of the Capital or any particular community, which affect relations of the Delhi government with the Central or any state government and the Supreme Court or Delhi High Court. These also include mat-

ters pertaining to the L-G Secretariat; those on which he is required to make an order in his sole discretion; matters specified under general or special order issued by the L-G; and any other matter of administrative importance which the Chief Minister may consider necessary.

“When it comes to it, almost every single matter needs to be routed by the CM to the L-G through the Chief Secretary; in this sense, the order is rather open-ended. Given the seeming lack of clarity around this, both sides are likely to wait for the other to blink first,” an official said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

WITH Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal walking out of Tihar Jail, hours after he was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court in the excise policy case, BJP leaders were quick to remind people that “even criminals are allowed parole” and it does not mean the CM is “guilt-free”.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, “Criminals are sometimes allowed parole... we welcome the Honourable court's verdict. Interim bail doesn't mean that you have been absolved of the charges. The charge is still the same — fraud of over Rs 100 crore has taken place in the garb of the excise policy of which Kejriwal is the kingpin.”

He also emphasised that the AAP has no local issues for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls because “the state government has done nothing in the last 10 years except to create a stir in the

name of the CM being jailed”. Northeast Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said that “conditional interim bail is a blot on Kejriwal's face, which tells the country that this man is corrupt!” He had already lost his credibility and now it has been confirmed! With what face will he face the people now?”

BJP candidate from the South Delhi Lok Sabha seat, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, said, “AAP leaders are promoting it as if Kejriwal has been acquitted or cleared by the Supreme Court... He has only been released on interim bail for 20 days for election campaigning...”

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said AAP's ‘Jail ka jawab vote se’ campaign ‘has lost steam.’ “AAP leaders should remember that Kejriwal would go back to jail on June 2... Satyendar Jain, who also got bail on medical grounds, had to ultimately go back to jail. Similarly, they should not forget that their other leader, Manish Sisodia, was denied bail yesterday,” he added.

electricity, water, education (schemes)...”

Around 6.50 -7 pm, the CM was released and workers burst into celebration and set off fire crackers as he gave a speech. By 8.30-9 pm, the CM reached his Civil Lines residence and was welcomed by his family with garlands as he entered his house and touched the feet of his parents.

Scores of party workers also reached the AAP headquarters to celebrate their chief's release.

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AROUND 5 pm on Friday, a 1-km stretch from Nangal Rai flyover to Tihar Jail's gate no. 4 was a sea of yellow and blue. AAP workers, distributing *mithai*, playing the *dhol*, holding up *jhaadus* and raising victory slogans — “*jail ke taale toot gaye, Kejriwal chhoot gaye*” — were waiting to welcome their chief and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal as he stepped

out of prison after 51 days.

They were joined by senior leaders Atishi, Saurabh Bhargava, Durgesh Pathak, Shelly Oberoi, Kailash Gahlot, Jasmine Shah and Mahabal Mishra as well as a few local Congress leaders.

Pathak said, “It's a big day today, not only for AAP but for the entire country. A lot of change will now be seen in Delhi politics.” “We welcome the SC's interim bail. Democracy is alive. Campaigning in the city is going



to see the Kejriwal wave... a storm is going to come...,” said Gahlot.

Curious passersby also stopped by their vehicles to join the crowd of AAP supporters.

Sudhir Kumar, 55, a resident of Uttam Nagar, said, “I was going home from my workplace Janakpuri when I saw the

AAP workers celebrate

Kejriwal's release from Tihar jail, Friday evening. *ANI*

news... and came here. In the past 10 years, we supported the BJP, but what have they done except *taanashahi*?... did they give anything to people?... BJP made a huge mistake by arresting him... he has got bail at a crucial time.”

Near him, 70-year-old Sushila, a domestic help, was seen arguing with police saying “*mujhe jane do, mera beta aa raha hai bahar mujhe dekhna hai usse...*” She told *The Indian Express*, “... Today, I saw that

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**
NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN : L45202DL197EG0008171



e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender No.: IRCON/IELECT/2046/NFR-SRRP/06/ISO Package Date: 10/05/2024
e-Tender for and on behalf of Northeast Frontier Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Detailed Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 25kV AC 50Hz single phase Overhead Equipment Rigid/Flexible Overhead Catenary System (ROCS/FOCS), Integrated Substation (132/25kV TSS & 132/33kV ESS), Switching Posts (SP & SSP), SCADA, and associated works on Bridges, Tunnels and Open Routes, etc. complete in all respect in connection with Railway Electrification of Sivok-Rangpo New BG Rail Line Project of Northeast Frontier Railway(OHE Package)."
Estimated Cost of the Work. Rs. 22069.63 Lakhs
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 31.05.2024 upto 15.00 hrs.
For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/e procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

**Container Corporation of India Ltd.**
Public Limited Company
NSIC New MDAP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Ind. Estate
(Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020



TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)
E-Bids are invited for Open e-Tender (in Single Packet) for Establishing of a Container Repair Facility for ISO Containers at MMLP Varnama (Gujarat).
Tender No CON/AREA-II/ISO Container Repair/VARNAMA/2024.
Estimated Cost Rs.66,01,307/- (Inclusive of GST) for Four (4) years.
Date of Sale (On Line) From 11.05.2024 at 15:00 hrs. to 03.06.2024 (upto 16:00 hrs.)
Last Date & Time of submission On 04.06.2024 up to 17:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening On 05.06.2024 at 15:30 hrs.
For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCL. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly.
Executive Director/Area-II

**Petronet LNG Limited**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR CAMC OF IESS SYSTEM FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ
Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetlmg.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.
Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and / or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated..
Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
GIDC Industrial Estate, Plot No. 7/A, Dahej, Taluka Vagra, Distt. Bharuch 392130, Dahej, Gujarat, Tel No: 02641-670232/233/235/231
E-mail id:- cpdahahej@petronetlmg.in, sumitkumar@petronetlmg.in

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**
NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN : L45202DL197EG0008171



e-Tender Notice
e-Tender (Single packet) for and on behalf of IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of Restoration, Demonstration & Commissioning of following equipment for Modern Coach Factory Project, Lalgaaj, Raebareilly (UP).
Date: 10.05.2024
1. e-Tender No.: IRCON/MECH/P&E/MCF-RBL/CTL Line Restoration, Demonstration & Commissioning of Sitter Cum Cut to Length Combination Line.
Last Date/Time of e-Bid Submission 08.06.2024/3.00 PM
2. e-Tender No.: IRCON/MECH/P&E/MCF-RBL/Turret Lathe Installation, Restoration, Commissioning & Prove out of 02 nos. of Heavy duty Turret Lathe.
Last Date/Time of e-Bid Submission 08.06.2024/3.00 PM
3. e-Tender No.: IRCON/MECH/P&E/MCF-RBL/Bogie fab Line Restoration, Demonstration & Commissioning of Bogie Fabrication line (KUKKA).
Last Date/Time of e-Bid Submission 08.06.2024/3.00 PM
For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/e procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
GM/Mechanical, IRCON International Limited, C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017


**ICMR NIRRCH**
ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health
J.M. Street, Parel, Mumbai 400012

Advt. No. ICMR-NIRRCH/PROJ/RG/337/2024
Online applications are invited up to **15th May 2024** for following Human Resource Positions viz. **Scientist 'B' (Non-Medical) [2 Nos. - OBC]; and Scientist 'C' (Non-Medical) [1 No. - UR]** for our non-institutional project at Model Rural Health Research Unit (MRHRU), Vani, Nashik, to be filled up purely on contract basis. The link for applying online is <https://project.nirrch.res.in/>. For detailed advertisement please visit our websites at www.icmr.nic.in & www.nirrch.res.in. Please note that, corrigendum / addendum / further information; and, in respect of this advertisement, will be published on our websites only.
Sd/-
Director

NORTH EASTERN POLICE ACADEMY
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
North Eastern Police Academy, Ministry of Home Affairs, Umsaw, Umiang, Meghalaya -793123 intends to construct a State of the Art Composite Firing Range. In this regard, interested parties/ companies/ firms having the requisite expertise in the field may visit the Academy on any of the working days within one (1) month from the date of publication of this EoI and may submit the detailed estimate along with structural design and other specifications etc. Interested Parties may contact to this Address: -
Director, NEPA
Umsaw, Umiang,
Meghalaya-793123.
Tele & Fax-0364-2572036
Email: nepa-meg@nic.in
CBC-19101/11/0002/2425

**Government of India**
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, (MoPNG)
Shastry Bhawan, New Delhi

Applications are invited in the prescribed format for filling up the post of **Technical Member (PNG)**, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.
1. The application form for the above post and the detailed information regarding eligibility and the terms and conditions of service is available on below mentioned website of the Ministry. <https://mopng.gov.in/>
2. The duly filled in application form along with the desired documents should reach the office of the Joint Secretary (GP Division), MoPNG, Shastry Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days from the date of advertisement in National Daily paper.
CBC 33101/11/0002/2425

**Government of India**
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, (MoPNG)
Shastry Bhawan, New Delhi

Applications are invited in the prescribed format for filling up the post of **Technical Member (PNG)**, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.
1. The application form for the above post and the detailed information regarding eligibility and the terms and conditions of service is available on below mentioned website of the Ministry. <https://mopng.gov.in/>
2. The duly filled in application form along with the desired documents should reach the office of the Joint Secretary (GP Division), MoPNG, Shastry Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days from the date of advertisement in National Daily paper.
CBC 33101/11/0002/2425

**BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.**
बिहार स्टेट मिल्क को-ऑपरेटिव फेडरेशन लिमिटेड
DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX, P.O. - BIHAR VETERINARY COLLEGE, PATNA - 800 014 (BIHAR)
देवरौ डेयरी कॉम्प्लेक्स, पो-बिहार वेटेनरी कॉलेज, पटना - 800014 (बिहार)

सं० कॉम्फेड-कोमोडिटी-निविदा 1636 दिनांक : 10.05.2024
निविदा सूचना
सूधा सफेद मखन एवं वसा युक्त दूध चूर्ण विक्री के लिए निविदा
बिहार स्टेट मिल्क को-ऑपरेटिव फेडरेशन लि. पटना अपने सम्बद्ध संसो एवं इकाई की ओर से इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से 510 मीट्रिक टन सूधा सफेद मखन (White Butter, BIS STD) एवं 100 मीट्रिक टन वसा युक्त दूध चूर्ण (WMP, ISI Marked) क्रय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण करती है। निविदा प्रपत्र कॉम्फेड के वेबसाइट www.sudha.coop पर उपलब्ध है।
इच्छुक निविदादाता (FSSAI एवं जीएनपीटी सं० के साथ) अपना दर एवं सम्बंधित दस्तावेज निम्न माध्यम से भेज सकते हैं जो इस प्रकार है:-
1. अपना दर बंद लिफाके पर निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र में दिनांक 27.05.2024 के अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक PDF फॉर्मेट में प्रोटेक्ट कर के ईमेल tendercomfed@gmail.com पर भेजें एवं पासवर्ड ईमेल securecomfed@gmail.com पर भेजें।
2. जयनित निविदादाता को आदेश प्राप्त होने के बाद सामग्री का अधिन भुगतान कर एक माह के अंदर अपने साधन से उठाव करना होगा।
उपरोक्त निविदा को आंशिक अथवा पूर्ण रूप से रद्द/संशोधन का अधिकार प्रबंध निदेशक, कॉम्फेड को सुरक्षित रहेगा।
महाप्रबंधक

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**
एकता है शक्ति A Government of India Undertaking

**Union Bank of India**

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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 provision to Rule 8 (6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder :
Name & Address of Branch Name & Address of Borrower/ Mortgage/ Guarantor Amount Due Property Details Reserve Price/ EMD/Bid Multiplier
Union Bank of India, Gopalganj-3 Branch, Ground Floor, Sareya, Ward No 13, Banjar Road, Gopalganj, BM Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Mob.8861513600 1.Borrower/Mortgag or: Mr Ashok Kumar Choubey, S/o-Late Mahant Choubey, Resident at Rewatith, P.-S.-Baikunthpur, Gopalganj, Bihar-841409 Rs. 4,13,414.17 as on 31.03.2024 plus Interest and other Expenses Land and Building in the name of Ashok Kumar Chaubey S/o-Late Mahant Chaubey Situated At Mauza-Sirsa, P.S-Baikunthpur, Dist.-Gopalganj, Bihar bearing land detail as under- Thana No.-340, Tauzi No.-3473, Khata No. 376, Plot No.-2557, Area 5 dhur 12 dhurki. Boundry: N- Binda Pathak, E- Baidar Subhnarayan Prasad, E- State of Bihar, W- Road Date and Time of e-auction 29.05.2024 at 12:00 Noon to 05:00 PM (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension) For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.com> and <https://ibapi.in> For Registration, Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auCTIONhome/ibapi/index.jsp> Date : 10.05.2024 Place : Gopalganj Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**
एकता है शक्ति A Government of India Undertaking

**Union Bank of India**

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE


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 provision to Rule 8 (6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder :
Name & Address of Branch Name & Address of Borrower/ Mortgage/ Guarantor Amount Due Property Details Reserve Price/ EMD/Bid Multiplier
Union Bank of India, Hajipur-3 Branch, Bubna Centre, Rajendra Chowk, Hajipur, BM Mr. VIKRAM KUMAR Mob.7007500681 1.Borrower: M/s CANDY BELL, Proprietor- Sri Chandan Kumar S/o Late Rambabu Paswan, 2. Borrower: Sri Chandan Kumar S/o Late Rambabu Paswan, (Prop of M/s Candy Bell & Borrower of A/C Chandan Kumar), 3.Guarantor(1): Sri Lal Babu Paswan S/o Late Parmeshwar Paswan, 4.Guarantor(2): Smt Sunita Devi W/o Late Rambabu Paswan, All at -Vill & Post Sahadullapur, PS Ganga Bridze, Hajipur, Vaishali, Bihar 844102 Rs. 88,15,167.24 as on 31.03.2024 plus Interest and other Expenses Land & building in the name of Smt Sunita Devi W/o Late Rambabu Paswan situated at Mauza Yusufpur, Rev. Thana No 157, Survey Ward No 13, Anchal Hajipur, S.R.O Hajipur, P.S Town Hajipur, Distt - Vaishali bearing land detail as under- Khata No. 1039, Khesra No.-2775, Area 2.75 Decimal (1198 sq ft). Boundry: N- Niz, S- Soni Kumari Mishra, E- Ram Bilas Chaudhary, W- 10 ft wide Nizi Rasta Date and Time of e-auction 29.05.2024 at 12:00 Noon to 05:00 PM (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension) For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.com> and <https://ibapi.in> For Registration, Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auCTIONhome/ibapi/index.jsp> Date : 10.05.2024 Place : Vaishali Authorised Officer Union Bank of India


**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक**
...आस का अंक ! ...the name you can BANK upon !

**punjabnational bank**

"SASTRA DIVISION" Line Bazar, 2nd Floor, Opposite Sadar Hospital, Purnea-854301, Email:cs8261@pnb.co.in, Mob:-9304758933.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrowers/ guarantor/ mortgagor/legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon. The borrowers attention in invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act, in the respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
SI. No. Name of the branch Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantors Location & details of the property Date of Notice u/s 13(2) Date of Notice u/s 13(4)
1 M/s Devotee Steel Fabricators & Stockist Prop. Sri Dhamu Narayan Saha S/o Late Sarju Lal Saha Sri Dhamu Narayan Saha S/o Late Sarju Lal Saha Smt Jhumki Saha W/o Sri Dhamu Narayan Saha Sri Ishan Saurav S/o Sri Dhamu Narayan Saha All Add: At -high School Para Dist Katihar Pin 854105 Bo : Katihar DRC (196800) Sale Deed No. 20715 Dated 17.12.2011 Dated 17.12.2011 Standing In The Name Of Smt Jhumki Saha W/o Sri Dhamu Narayan Saha Mauza Raghunathpur Thana No 671 Tauzi No 19 Khata No 193 Khesra 1678, 1679 Area 16 Decimal 5 Kari Boundary N- Road, S- Biplav Bose E- Shiv Paswan W- Santosh Pal 13(2)- 26.02.2020 Rs. 3860715.94 (Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen And Ninety Four Paisa Only) + Int + Other Charges & Expenses Thereon) As On 07.01.2020 13(4) (symbolic Possession) 09.05.2024 Rs. 3860715.94 (Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen And Ninety Four Paisa Only) + Int + Other Charges & Expenses Thereon) as on 07.01.2020
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank, Sastra Division, Purnea

**इंडियन बैंक**
एकता है शक्ति A Government of India Undertaking

**Indian Bank**

Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bisar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001

(Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)
Where as The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization 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 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(S) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower(S) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(S) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank) for an amount and interest thereon. Along with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred to be incurred by the bank
Name of the branch: BIHARSHARIF AMBER Name of the accounts M/s Virat Enterprises, Prop - Raj Kumar S/o Prakash Chandra, Sahokar, Sohsarai, Nalanda, Bihar Sharif, Bihar - 803118 Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor/ Mortgagor: 1) Raj Kumar S/o Prakash Chandra, Sahokar, Sohsarai, Nalanda, Bihar Sharif, Bihar - 803118. Date of Demand Notice: 20-02-2024 Date of Possession Notice: 06.05.2024 Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice: ₹ 13,27,253/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five Only) as on 20.02.2024 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank. Detailed description of the Property: Registered mortgage all that part and parcel of the land and building along with present / future construction thereon in the name of Raj Kumar S/o Prakash Chandra located at Mauza - Sohadi, Thana no - 140, ward no - 02, Holding no - 1025 -A, PS - Sohsarai, Dist- Nalanda, Bihar, Khata No- 249, Plot No-1972, Area- 0.965 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North: 08 ft. Wide Rasta, South: Basant Saa, East: Share of Ajay Kumar, West: Share of Azad Kumar Name of the branch: BIHARSHARIF AMBER Name of the accounts Mr. Awadhesh Prasad S/o Late Fakira Mahto, Plot no. 18, Ward no 30/23, Mauza- chak-Mohammad, Murarpur, Mohan Nagar, PS No.-Laheri, District- Nalanda, Bihar Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor/ Mortgagor: 1) Mr. Awadhesh Prasad S/o Late Fakira Mahto, Plot no. 18, Ward no 30/23, Mauza- chak-Mohammad, Murarpur, Mohan Nagar, PS No.-Laheri, District- Nalanda, Bihar Date of Demand Notice: 24-01-2024 Date of Possession Notice: 06.05.2024 Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice: ₹ 12,35,672/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two Only) as on 24-01-2024 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank. Detailed description of the Property: Registered mortgage of land and building along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Mr Awadhesh Prasad, S/o- Late Fakira Mahto, located at Mauza -Chak Mohammad, Moh-Murarpur, Thana No-124, Ps-Laheri, Dist- Nalanda, Ward No-30(O) 23(N), Sub-Divison & Sub-Registry - Biharsharif, District & District Registry-Nalanda, Khata No- 2, Plot No-18, Area- 3 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North: Ishwar Prasad Co-sharer, South: Bhagwat Mahto, East: Surendra Mahto, West: Indar Gop Name of the branch: BIHARSHARIF MAIN Name of the accounts M/S Akansha Telecom (Prop. Sri Rajnish Kumar Singh S/o Sri Suresh Singh), R/o- Garh Par, Dekuli Ghat, Bihar Sharif, District- Nalande, Bihar-803101 Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor/ Mortgagor: 1) Sri Rajnish Kumar Singh S/o Sri Suresh Singh, Garh Par, Dekuli Ghat, Bihar Sharif, District- Nalande, Bihar-803101, 2) Smt. Manisha Singh, W/o Nityanand Singh, Mohalla- Garh Par, Dekuli Ghat, Biharsharif, District- Nalande, Bihar-803101, 3) Smt. Nira Singh, W/o Sri Suresh Singh, Mohalla- Garh Par, Dekuli Ghat, Bihar Sharif, District- Nalande, Bihar-803101 Date of Demand Notice: 14-02-2024 Date of Possession Notice: 06.05.2024 Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice: ₹ 20,56,039/- (Rupee Twenty Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Thirty Nine Only) as on 14-02-2024 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank. Detailed description of the Property: Property 1) Equitable Mortgage of land along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Mrs Nira Singh, W/o- Sri Suresh Prasad Singh, located at Mauza-Mahikanda, Thana No-116, Tauzi No-11088, Ward No-14, Biharsharif, Nalanda, Bihar-803101, Khata No- 73, Plot No-685, Area- 1.5 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Digar Araji, South - Rasta, East - Niz Mohir Manisha Singh, West - Mohir. Property 2) Equitable Mortgage of land along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Mrs Manisha Singh, W/o- Sri Nityanand Singh, located at Mauza-Mahikanda, Ward No-14, Thana No-116, Tauzi No-11088, Biharsharif, Nalanda, Bihar-803101, Khata No- 73, Plot No-685, Area- 1.5 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Digar jayjaid, South - Rasta, East - Sri Kesho Prasad, West - Niz Mohir Nira Singh. Date: 10.05.2024 Place: GAYA. Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

Government of India Ministry of Science & Technology Department of Science & Technology Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016 VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for filling up 02 (Two) posts of **Joint Director** in National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO), a subordinate office under the Department of Science & Technology with headquarters at Kolkata on Deputation (including Short Term Contract) basis. The post of Joint Director, NATMO is a General Central Service Group ‘A’ Gazetted Non- Ministerial post in Level-12 of the pay matrix (Rs. 78800-209200). For the application format and details of qualifications, experience, age limit and other requirements etc. visit our website <https://dst.gov.in/announcement/recent-announcements>.

Sd/-
(Dinesh Chander)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele: 011-29512324
CBC 36124/11/0001/2425

CENTRE FOR HIGH ENERGY SYSTEMS AND SCIENCES (CHESS), HYDERABAD				
ADVERTISEMENT FOR ENGAGEMENT OF APPRENTICES				
(Under the provisions of Apprentices Act, 1961, as amended in 1961, 1973 & 2014)				
Centre for High Energy Systems & Sciences (CHESS), Hyderabad a premier Laboratory under Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), is in process of engagement of apprentices for one year in the following disciplines/trades:				
Sl. No.	Apprenticeship Category	Essential Qualification	Total Vacancies	Stipend (Per month)
1	Graduate (Degree) Apprentice	B.E/B.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering / Computer Science / Communication & Computer Engineering / Computer Science & Information Technology / Computer Science & System Engineering / Computer Technology & Information Technology / Information & Communication Technology / Information Science & Engineering	02	9,000/-
2	Graduate (Degree) Apprentice	B.E/B.Tech in Electronics Engineering/Electronics & Tele-Communication Engineering / Instrumentation Technology / Electrical & Electronics Engineering/ Electronics & Communication Engineering / Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering / Applied Electronics & Instrumentation/ Electronics & Instrumentations / Control Engineering / Electronics & Electrical Communication Engineering/ Electronics & Computer Engineering/Instrumentation & Electronics Engineering/ Embedded System	03	9,000/-
3	Graduate (Degree) Apprentice	B.E/B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering / Manufacturing Engineering / Manufacturing Process & Automation Engineering/Marine Engineering / Material Science & Engineering Materials Management /Mechanical & Production Engineering / Mechanical Engineering (Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning) / Mechatronics	03	9,000/-
4	Graduate (Degree) Apprentice	B.E/B.Tech in Chemical Engineering / Chemical Technology	02	9,000/-
5	Technician (Diploma) Apprentice	Diploma in Computer Science/ Information Technology/ Communication	05	8,000/-
6	Technician (Diploma) Apprentice	Diploma in Electronics / Tele-Communication / Instrumentation / Electrical & Electronics Engineering/ Electronics & Communication Engineering	04	8,000/-
7	Technician (Diploma) Apprentice	Diploma in Mechanical / Manufacturing / Production Engineering	05	8,000/-
8	Technician (Diploma) Apprentice	Diploma in Chemical Engineering / Chemical Technology	01	8,000/-

How to apply:
(1) Candidates are advised to visit <https://www.drdo.gov.in/> for detailed advertisement and to be submitted application online through the following website/link: <https://rac.gov.in>. Candidates are requested to fill up correct details against all the fields along with uploading of scanned copies of all the mandatory documents.
(2) Before applying, the candidates should ensure that they fulfil the eligibility criteria and other norms mentioned in the advertisement.
(3) B.E / B.Tech & Diploma holders must have registered their names at <http://mhrdnats.gov.in>, non-registered candidates are likely to be rejected.

Director
CBC10301/11/0027/2425
Directores of Management Services

TATA STEEL SENIOR EXEC MURDER

Suspect killed in encounter in Ghaziabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, MAY 10

AROUND A week after a senior executive of Tata Steel was killed on his way back home from the Metro station, one of the accused was killed in an encounter by Ghaziabad police while two others were arrested in another raid, on Friday. Police said the accused were drug addicts and had killed Vinay Tyagi while trying to snatch his laptop and phone.

Police said they have recovered the laptop and Tyagi's phone from the accused. Officials said a police sub-inspector was also injured during the gunfight. The accused who was killed has been identified as Daksh, a resident of Mainpuri, UP, currently residing in Sangam Vihar, Delhi. The other two accused have been identified as 20-year-old Yug Dhair, a resident of Seelampur, Delhi, and 24-year-old Luvkush alias Raghav Singh, a resident of Brahmपुरi, Delhi.

Vinay Tyagi, Tata Steel's national sales head, was killed on May 4 and his body recovered hours later by the family near Khaitan Public School in Shalimar Garden police station area. The encounter took place near Kanha Complex, said officials.



Tata Steel executive Vinay Tyagi was killed on May 4

"The police were conducting checks for the accused by blocking the road. They spotted two of them on a bike. But when the police tried to stop them, they started fleeing away and fired at the police team. A sub-inspector, Mangal Singh, was injured and a suspect, Daksh, was killed in the encounter. The other accused managed to escape," said Dinesh Kumar P, Additional Police Commissioner, Ghaziabad.

"Later, the police raided another location (Bhopura border) and arrested two more accused, from whom Tyagi's laptop and leather bag were recovered. Tyagi's One Plus phone has been recovered from the deceased accused," he added. The official said the main reason behind the murder is snatching. "All four accused are drug addicts. They saw Tyagi walking alone... They snatched his bag and stabbed him," he said.

"The bike recovered from Daksh was stolen last year. This proves that they have been involved in the world of crime...," said the official, adding the accused were unemployed.

Kanhaiya Kumar: It's an election between the people and the BJP

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

IT IS an election between the people and the BJP, said Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar, the INDIA bloc candidate for North East Delhi in the Lok Sabha election.

Stating that the main focus of his poll campaign is harmony, justice and development, Kumar, referring to his campaign programmes allegedly being scuttled, said the "BJP can do whatever they like".

Responding to a question about permissions for his campaign being rejected, he said, "This has happened but it is okay... the party in power has an advantage."

He told *The Indian Express*: "I am not too bothered."

He further said, "Initially, we had plans to file our nomination on May 1 but then he (BJP candidate Manoj Tiwari) decided to file his nomination on the same day. I do not know what exactly happened but I am not too bothered about it..."

Kumar said that Tiwari was, in fact, "campaigning" for him. "Because in every press conference, he blames me while he has been the MP here for a decade and did nothing," he added.

On why voters should choose him, Kumar said because their Parliamentarian has been absent "ever since he was elected". He said, "Talk to anyone... from any party, they will say that we haven't seen him... he hasn't worked. This is why Tiwari is apologising to people and asking for votes in (PM Narendra



Kanhaiya Kumar during a campaign rally. Express

Modiji's name."

Continuing his attack on his opponent, Kumar said, "When he (Tiwari) was first elected, he was not the richest MP. Now, he is the richest... So, his wealth is increasing in tandem with the woes of the people."

Kumar said he would be an efficient alternative to "such a bad performance". He said, "By choosing me, they will elect an MP who can fight with the government for their rights."

When asked about the frequent references to religion in his recent speeches, Kumar said, "I am not anti-religion. As far as my understanding of religion goes, it means to stand by the weak, for the truth, and stand

against the hate." He further said, "During the religious gatherings that I used to attend at my home, we would pray for kindness in our hearts and for peace. So, I carry religion with me, but not blind faith."

Stating that humanity was his religion, Kumar said, "If humanity is being divided in the name of any religion, then I do not associate myself with it."

Kumar said there has been a shift in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) campaign focus because of "desperation". "Otherwise, they had started with 'Sabka saath sab ka vikas'," he added.

Saying that BJP's emphasis on "politics of hate isn't new," Kumar said "they have been do-



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:-

1. E-Tender No.: 24-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: RHR-LBT: Provision of LHS for elimination of Trespass at Km.306/01-03 near Panjarikala between RHR-LBT. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 5,81,39,097.14

2. E-Tender No.: 25-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: RCGT-DMX: Provision of LHS for elimination of Trespass at Km.206/27-29 between RCGT-DMX. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 5,71,60,773.97

3. E-Tender No.: 26-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: RHR-LBT: Provision of LHS for elimination of Trespass near Lalgarh at Km.307/29-31 between RHR-LBT. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 5,73,88,495.49

4. E-Tender No.: 27-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division:- TRR(P)- 13.576 TKM in SSE/Pway/DHN section under ADEN/2/DHN (Balance work). 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 1,29,87,801.42

5. E-Tender No.: 28-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: GMD: Construction of septic tank at various colonies at GMD under ADEN/1/GMD. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 97,86,362.40

6. E-Tender No.: 29-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Improvement of recreational activities of swimming pool with ancillary arrangement for water circulation in officers rest house, Dhanbad. 03 (Three) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 20,91,662.84

7. E-Tender No.: 30-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Improvement of LC road surface, Gate lodge etc, at 15 Level Crossing Gates in DHN-CRP & KDS-TET link Section. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 74,57,462.91

8. E-Tender No.: 31-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Extension of PF at Phutro and Bokaro & Provision of 4 x 10000 Litres PVC Tank for water supply at Phutro. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 90,04,826.05

9. E-Tender No.: 32-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division:- Supply, installation and commissioning of track based Rail Gauge face Lubricator (hydraulic/electronic type-Total- 59 sets)) under DEN/2/DHN. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 4,22,88,840.00

10. E-Tender No.: 33-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division:- Supply, installation and commissioning of track based Rail Gauge face Lubricator (hydraulic/electronic type) under ADEN/KOR in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/5/DHN. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 4,22,88,840.00

11. E-Tender No.: 34-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division:- Supply, installation and commissioning of track based Rail Gauge face Lubricator (Hydraulic type/electronic type)- 63 sets under DEN/Estate/DHN. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 4,51,55,880.00

12. E-Tender No.: 35-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Design and Renovation in connection with FAT setup at Sr. DSTE Office, Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 52,34,642.80

Earnest Money (In Rs.): Earnest Money is applicable as shown in <http://www.irops.gov.in> portal. Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 12-00 hours on 03.06.2024. Date of opening of e-tender from 12-30 hrs. on 03.06.2024. Website particulars: <http://www.irops.gov.in>

No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.
For Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) E.C.R., Dhanbad.
PR/00254/DHN/ENG/T/24-25/124

MANUFACTURING, SUPPLYING & LOADING WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2024/APR/01

Dated: 08-04-2024. Open tender through e-Tendering System is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: SN-1, Tender No. CE/CON/K-K/BLS/2024/05.

Name of work: Manufacturing, supplying & loading of 50 mm size of Pakur variety machine crushed stone ballast of approved quality conforming to latest RDSO Specifications from quarry Pakur/ Taljhari/Bakudi/Sahibganj/Pineraria to Railway hopper/wagon and all other connected ancillary works as per requirement in between stations Katihar (including) and Sonaili (including) from Ch: Km 0.00 to Km 17.30 of Katihar-Mukuria section and Katihar (excluding) and Pranpur Road (including) from Ch: Km 1.388 to Km 19.70 of Katihar-Kumedpur section in connection with Katihar-Mukuria-Kumedpur double line project of N. F. Railway (Construction).

Approx. value : ₹8,70,09,958.80/-
Date of tender closing: 14:30 hrs. of 29-05-2024 & opening at 15:30 hrs. of 29-05-2024. For details please visit www.irops.gov.in

Chief Engineer/Con/5
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organisation
Serving Customers With A Smile

2. E-Tender No.: 28-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: GMD: Construction of septic tank at various colonies at GMD under ADEN/1/GMD. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 97,86,362.40

3. E-Tender No.: 29-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Improvement of recreational activities of swimming pool with ancillary arrangement for water circulation in officers rest house, Dhanbad. 03 (Three) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 20,91,662.84

4. E-Tender No.: 30-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Improvement of LC road surface, Gate lodge etc, at 15 Level Crossing Gates in DHN-CRP & KDS-TET link Section. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 74,57,462.91

5. E-Tender No.: 31-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Extension of PF at Phutro and Bokaro & Provision of 4 x 10000 Litres PVC Tank for water supply at Phutro. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 90,04,826.05

6. E-Tender No.: 32-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division:- Supply, installation and commissioning of track based Rail Gauge face Lubricator (hydraulic/electronic type-Total- 59 sets)) under DEN/2/DHN. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 4,22,88,840.00

7. E-Tender No.: 33-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division:- Supply, installation and commissioning of track based Rail Gauge face Lubricator (Hydraulic type/electronic type)- 63 sets under DEN/Estate/DHN. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 4,51,55,880.00

8. E-Tender No.: 34-DHN-2024-25
Name of the work with its location & completion period: Design and Renovation in connection with FAT setup at Sr. DSTE Office, Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 52,34,642.80

Earnest Money (In Rs.): Earnest Money is applicable as shown in <http://www.irops.gov.in> portal. Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 12-00 hours on 03.06.2024. Date of opening of e-tender from 12-30 hrs. on 03.06.2024. Website particulars: <http://www.irops.gov.in>

No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.
For Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) E.C.R., Dhanbad.
PR/00254/DHN/ENG/T/24-25/124

No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.
For Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) E.C.R., Dhanbad.
PR/00254/DHN/ENG/T/24-25/124

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC (FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.irops.gov.in) for the contract of Management and Operation of Cloakroom (on ROMT basis) situated at PF-1 of Hazrat Nizamuddin (HNZM) Railway Station (Area 71.79 Sq Mtrs) for 5 (five) years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	24.05.2024 at 11:00 am	The contract of Management and Operation of Cloakroom (on ROMT basis) situated at PF-1 of Hazrat Nizamuddin (HNZM) Railway Station (Area 71.79 Sq Mtrs) for 5 (five) years.

- Important notes:
- For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.irops.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html. (E-Auction leasing section).
 - Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.
 - Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the situation.

1416/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change
Advertisement

Sub: Appointment for the post of Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

2. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi was established under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi exercises functions related to prevention and control of pollution. The Chairman shall be a full-time incumbent.

3. The following are the terms and conditions for the post of Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi:-

1	Scale of Pay	According to the Seventh Pay Commission Pay Scale Level-15 in the pay matrix.
2	Method of Recruitment:	Deputation/on contract/direct recruitment.
3	Terms & Conditions	(A) Allowance of the Chairman of the Board, time of joining, salary, provident fund/National Pension Scheme/Employee Provident Fund, gratuity, retirement age, medical facility and other services shall be regulated with the applicable rules and orders as holding the post of equal pay scale of the officer of State Government/ Central Government. (B) Appointment to the post of Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board Chairman will be called External Services and the provisions of State Government/ Central Government for external service will be applicable.
4	Qualification & Experience	Persons from Central Government/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings having qualification mentioned below can apply- (A) Master's Degree in Environment Science, Bachelor's Degree in Environment related Management or Bachelor's in Environment Science/ Environmental Engineering Technology. 10 years of experience in the field of environmental protection and pollution control. Or Being or having been a member of an All-India Service, in the IAS/IFS cadre, holding or having held post not below the rank of Principal Secretary or equivalent post in the State Government and having Master's degree in Science or Bachelor's degree in Engineering/Technology. Also having adequate knowledge and working experience in the field of Environment protection.
5	Age limit	Maximum age limit will be 62 and minimum 55 years on the date of receipt of application in case of direct appointment.
6	Tenure	Single term of 3 years

Note: Officers working in the Central or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking shall send their application:-

- Through proper channel.
- Six sets of application should be received in the office of the undersigned.
- An advance copy of the application may be forwarded to the undersigned, but it will not be considered unless the application is received through proper channel along with following documents before the last date of submission mentioned below.
 - Annual Confidential Report dossier for last five years.
 - Integrity Certificate / Vigilance Clearance in the enclosed format to be signed by an officer not below the rank/scale of Deputy Secretary in Government or controlling office of the officer concerned.

Interested and eligible candidates are requested to send their application in the prescribed format in 6 sets within 15 days from the Published Advertisement through the Proper Channel at the Address given below.

Retired Persons are requested to send their application in the prescribed format in 6 sets within 15 days from the Published Advertisement directly at the Address given below.

Note- Application performa can be seen at departmental notice board and downloaded from www.prj.hkhand.in and <http://forest.hkhand.gov.in> and website of JSPCB.

To,
SPECIAL SECRETARY,
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND,
NEPAL HOUSE, DORANDA, RANCHI.
PIN CODE-834002 (JHARKHAND)
PR 324660 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(24-25)D
Sd/-
(Raju Ranjan Roy) Special Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Government of Jharkhand.

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

निविदा सूचना

बस्ति मण्डल यांत्रिक इंजीनियर (समम) अजमेर, भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दिनांक 30.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा (Single packet system) आमंत्रित की जाती है। E-Tender Notice No.: M-02-CW-ALL-2024-25 Reten Date 09/05/2024, कार्य का नाम: Setting up of quick watering arrangement system at Udaipur station. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 1,06,98,239.59. निविदा दस्तावेज की कीमत: नि. बयान राशि: ₹ 2,03,500/-, ई-प्रस्ताव का वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करना एम खुलना: दिनांक 09.05.2024 को अपलोड करना एम दिनांक 30.05.2024 को 15.30 बजे खुलना। Website Particulars: www.irops.gov.in 546-AR/24

संकेत: NWR/Railways, NWR/Railways, प्र फॉलो करें

ENGINEERING WORK

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 14-ENGG-RNY-2024-25. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work:

Tender No. 1: Brief Description of Item: (1) At Viswanath Charali - Construction of T-III quarters (05 units) under jurisdiction of ADEN/Viswanath Charali in connection with establishment of ADEN and SSE works Unit. (2) At Viswanath Charali - Construction of T-IV (02 unit) quarters, Transit Accommodation and other ancillary works under jurisdiction of ADEN/Viswanath Charali. Tender Value: ₹4,25,36,271.69; Earnest Money: ₹3,62,700.00. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 29-05-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 29-05-2024 at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Rangiya. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.irops.gov.in

DRM (Works), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, E.C. Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-auction only through IREPS (Indian Railway Web Portal) for awarding of contract for Multi Purpose Stall at Harinagar-01 unit, Rusera Ghat-01 unit, Saharsa-01 unit, Garh Baruari-01 unit, Khajauli-01 unit, Jhanjharpur-04 unit, Manigachi-01 unit, Panchgachia-01 unit, Sagauli-02 unit, Sitamrhi-01 unit, Lohna Road-01 unit, Sakri-01 unit, Supaul-02 unit, Bettiah-01 unit and Bagaha-01 unit for Railway Station Premises and for a period of five (05) years from the date of commencement.

S. No.	Name of Station	Type of Stall
1.	Harinagar	
2.	Rusera Ghat	
3.	Saharsa	
4.	Garh Baruari	
5.	Khajauli	
6.	Jhanjharpur	
7.	Manigachi	
8.	Panchgachia	
9.	Sagauli	
10.	Sitamrhi	
11.	Lohna Road	
12.	Sakri	
13.	Supaul	
14.	Bettiah	
15.	Bagaha	

Catalogue No.: SPJ-MPS-01. Period: 5 years from the date of commencement.

Instruction to Tenderers: 01. Availability of e-auction document: E-Auction document is available on the web site of Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System (IREPS). 02. Date and Time fixed for bidding of e-auction: 03.06.2024, 12:00 hrs. 03. Details of Website where e-auction is to be submitted: Tenderers are to be submitted online only through IREPS. For details please visit website www.irops.gov.in. No Manual tender will be accepted.

Divisional Railway Manager(C)/ ECR/Samastipur
PR/00249/SPJ/Comml./N/24-25/64

ing this since before Independence". "But there is a limit to it," he added.

Kumar, though, said it was not the divisive politics that had brought the BJP to power. "They came to power because there was anti-incumbency against the Congress in 2014," he added.

Kumar said, "When PM was campaigning then, he was talking about vikas (development), jobs, about Rs 15 lakh in every account...so, to think that this polarisation alone got the BJP to power is a political miscalculation."

He further said, "The BJP tries to polarise in its narrative while in the background, it is practising social engineering. They give different hopes to different social groups... In 2014, they campaigned to abolish Income Tax, which attracted the middle-class. But after coming to power, they brought in GST and increased the taxes. There is a limit to divisive politics in this country because a huge population believes in multiculturalism."

Regarding his shift from his ancestral Begusarai, Bihar, to North East Delhi constituency, Kumar said that each time it was the decision of the party he was associated with, and not his own. "Obviously, there is more comfort in the place where one is born," he added.

"Now, I look at it as a coincidence: That I was born on the banks of Ganga and now I am working on the banks of Yamuna, and that my name is Kanhaiya," he said, referring to Lord Krishna.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 11/2024-2025 dated 08.05.2024 S.No. 09

Tender Number 77249003RGC Opening date 07.06.2024.

Inspection Agency of above referred tender has been changed. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.irops.gov.in. Date: 10.05.2024

1424/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 02/2024-25

dt. 08.05.2024

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, Deputy Chief Material Manager, General Store Depot, North Central Railway, Kanpur, invites the E-Procurement tender for following items:-

Tender No.: 53245337 Qty.: 01 NOS Tender Opening date: 11.06.2024

Brief Description: Main Transformer for 3-Phase MEDHA make or Equivalent.

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website i.e. <https://www.irops.gov.in/>

826/24 (D)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in northcentralrailway CPRNCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 95/2023-2024 dated 21.02.2024 S. No. 07

Tender Number 77239067RGC Opening date 18.06.2024.

Item: description of above referred tender has been revised. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.irops.gov.in

Date: 10.05.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

1423/24

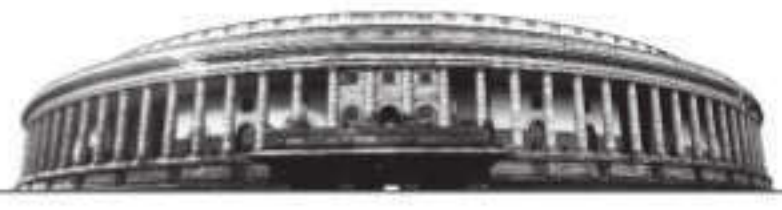
उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

ई - ऑक्शन सूचना

मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक (वाणिज्य), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से बीकानेर मण्डल पर कमर्शियल पब्लिसिटी RDN-Non digital, Vinly Wrapping, Parking & Pay & Use Toilet के ठेके के लिए ई-ऑक्शन प्रारम्भ किये गये है जिनका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

केटलॉग संख्या	कार्य का नाम व स्थान	ई ऑक्शन की दिनांक व समय
EA-PNU-5-24	Pay & Use Toilet at:- भिवानी, मंडीडबवाली, गोगामेडी	20.05.2024 समय 11:00 बजे
EA-PARK-4-24	Parking at हासी, सूरिया, लोहार, भिवानी, गोगामेडी, सूरुगढ़, बीकानेर नियर पी आर एस टू क्लीरर & फोर कोलर, पार्किंग स्टैंड	24.05

7 Govt & Politics



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



RETURN RALLY

AFTER SENIOR Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed a rally in Kannauj on Friday in support of Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, who is contesting from the constituency, it's now the turn of Akhilesh to campaign for Rahul in Rae Bareilly. This is the first time Rahul is contesting from Rae Bareilly, a seat earlier represented by his mother Sonia Gandhi. Sources in the SP said Akhilesh is likely to address a joint rally with Rahul in Rae Bareilly on May 17. The constituency will go to polls on May 20.

STANDING FIRM

A DELEGATION of the INDIA bloc met with the Election Commission on Friday to discuss, among other things, the "delay" in releasing voter turnout figures. It is learned that the Commission, which earlier in the day had issued a rebuttal to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for "doubting the sanctity of the electoral process", took a strong line in the meeting with the delegation too. The Commission members, especially Chief Election Commission Rajiv Kumar, is learned to have cited the examples of how the poll panel has acted on complaints, especially those of model code violations, of all stakeholders cutting across political affiliations.

'Defender of terror': BJP slams Aiyar's Pak remarks as Congress distances from row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE BJP on Friday attacked the Congress over a video of former Union minister and Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's comments on Pakistan, while the Congress distanced itself from the row saying it was an "attempt to deflect attention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's daily goof-ups".

In the video which has gone viral on social media, Aiyar is heard saying that "India should accord due respect to Pakistan and hold talks with it". "What if some mad person comes to power there (Pakistan), then what will happen to the country? They have an atom bomb. We also have it. If some mad person takes the atom bomb out and if it explodes at Lahore station, then within eight seconds, the radioactivity will reach Amritsar...", he is heard saying.

Reacting to the row, Aiyar noted in a statement that it is obvious from the sweater he is wearing in the video that he made the comments in winter several months ago.

Addressing a rally in Jharkhand's Khunti, Union Home Minister Amit Shah targeted the Congress and Aiyar saying, "Today Mani Shankar Aiyar is threatening



Aiyar: Made comments months ago

us, and is asking us to respect Pakistan because they have an atomic bomb. A few days ago, Farooq Abdullah, who is an INDI alliance leader, asked us to not talk about PoK because Pakistan has an atomic bomb. I want to tell the Congress and INDI alliance leaders that PoK belongs to India and no one can take it away from us... Our Parliament has passed a proposal with majority votes and it is our stand that PoK is a part of India. By talking about the atom bomb, they are questioning PoK."

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Aiyar "wants India to fear Pakistan". "The Congress under Rahul Gandhi has become an apologist and defender of Pakistan and its terrorism," he told a press conference in Delhi.

Following the row, Congress leader Pawan Khara said, "Congress dissociates itself from and disagrees totally with some remarks made by Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar few months ago, which have been revived today by the BJP in attempt to deflect attention from PM Modi's daily goof-ups."

Out of Lok Sabha contest in Indore, Congress campaigns for NOTA vote

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, MAY 10

THE CONGRESS may be out of the ballot paper in Indore, but it's very much in the contest. Left without a candidate after Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew at the last minute, with the court applications of its substitute nominee also falling through, the Congress is now aggressively pushing for NOTA.

The party is on the offensive, with its workers pasting walls and auto-rickshaws with posters, organising torch rallies and meetings, and hosting social media chats, telling voters to choose NOTA come May 13 and teach the BJP "a lesson".

The fact that Indore has been reduced to a "no-contest" may strike a chord given that it is Madhya Pradesh's biggest Lok Sabha constituency, with 25.13 lakh voters.

Plus, it has always been an easy seat for the BJP, with the party having won it since 1989, and in 2019 by 65.59% votes. The

BJP has re-fielded its sitting MP Shankar Lalwani. The Congress got 31% of the votes in 2019, and NOTA 0.31%.

But, as long as there are still candidates in the race — and there are 13 as of now — meaning Indore won't be another Surat (which the BJP won uncontested), the Congress is going with NOTA as its best bet.

The BJP, incidentally, has not scheduled meetings of any of its stalwarts in the seat. Party spokesperson Alok Dubey said that, nevertheless, they are looking at "victory with an overwhelming majority".

The BJP has also attacked the Congress's support for NOTA as "negative politics" and "an attack on democracy".

Apart from Lalwani, and now NOTA, the 13 in the contest include a former RSS worker whose agenda is "to reform politics", a young socialist leader, businessmen, property dealers, and employees of private firms. Nine of them are contesting as Independents. Several claim to have been approached by the BJP to

CONG CHIEF LETTER TO OPP LEADERS FLAGGED 'DELAY' IN TURNOUT DATA

Poll panel hits back at Kharge, says can have 'negative impact' on voters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

FOUR DAYS after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to leaders of INDIA bloc allies raising concern over the "delay" in releasing voter turnout figures for the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission (EC) Friday strongly denied his charges, saying such "utterances" can have "a negative impact on voter participation", and advised him to "exercise caution".

According to EC sources, the poll panel's strongly-worded letter in response to communication between political parties was unprecedented.

Terming Kharge's allegations as "blatant inaccuracies", the EC said there had been "no unusual delay" than what is required to collect data from a large number of polling stations.

"The very premise that voter turnout data was released late is devoid of facts as it has always been available on the Voter Turnout app... Needless to add that polling station-wise data of electors and voters is given to agent of the candidate on the day of poll itself at close of poll," the EC said. It said the records showed that no Congress candidate had raised concerns at the close of polling.

Kharge's letter, which was



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge in Hyderabad. PTI

posted on his X handle on Monday, asked whether the "delay" in releasing the number of voters was an attempt to "doctor" the results. He had expressed concern over the EC releasing turnout figures for phase one and phase two after 11 days and four days, respectively. He also raised concern over the turnout figures increasing by 5.5 percentage points and 5.74 percentage points in the first and second phases, respectively, from what was estimated on polling day and on April 30, when the EC issued a press release giving the final figures.

Responding to the points raised in his letter, the EC said political parties are involved in the process of preparation of the electoral roll and know the details of the number of electors in each constituency; the number of polling station-wise electors is available with every candidate; and there is no scope of deviation from the number of votes recorded in the Form 17C, a signed copy of which is given to each contesting candidate at the close of poll.

In response to Kharge's concern that there may be an attempt to "doctor" the results, the EC said the total votes polled in a particular EVM is tallied with the number in Form 17C. The EC reply included an annexure that showed the turnout figures for 2019 elections — as first announced and as released later — showing a 1-3 percentage point increase. The release of the final turnout took 5-7 days after each phase.

While rejecting the charges, the EC advised Kharge to "exercise caution and refrain in making such statements". "Utterances from President of National Political Party attacking the very credibility of the electoral steps and processes can have a negative impact on voter participation and can be seen as a means to deter an elector from exercising their franchise and/or demoralising the huge number of election staff and machinery which is mainly drawn from the respective State Governments..." it said.

"Commission wishes you to appreciate that your comments/observations/ allegations given in the aforesaid post borders on vitiating the constitutionally mandated work of ECI," the poll panel wrote.

SC Kejriwal bail ruling could set precedent for political detainees

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

IN GRANTING interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to campaign for elections, the Supreme Court has made an unprecedented intervention to ostensibly ensure a level playing field in elections — a move that potentially opens the door for other political detainees.

In its order Friday, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, while granting bail to Kejriwal, underlined the significance of participatory democracy saying, "General Elections supply the vis viva (force that moves) to a democracy".

"It is no gain saying that the General Elections to Lok Sabha is the most significant and an important event this year... Between 650-700 million voters out of an electorate of about 970 million will cast their votes to elect the government of this country for the next five years," the bench said.

The top court's reasoning in effect affirmed the argument made by Kejriwal's counsel, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, that a level playing field during elections was part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

"Democracy is part of basic



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

structure, free and fair elections are part of basic structure and a level-playing field is also part of basic structure," Singhvi had argued on May 7.

But the Supreme Court's order sets a new precedent for political exigencies during elections. Until now, the top court's intervention to confirm bail granted to political leaders by High Courts were in instances where regular bail was granted during the course of the trial — and not interim bail necessitated by special circumstances.

This is also evident in the cases cited by the Supreme Court itself in the Kejriwal order.

In January, the top court confirmed bail to TDP chief and former Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, and then in March to Odisha BJP leader Siba Sankar Das. In both the cases, the SC underlined the right to make political speech which, it said, cannot be fettered through bail conditions.

Last September, the Calcutta High Court held that the ED cannot take any coercive steps against TMC leader Abhishek

Banerjee until the elections were over. In March, the ED told the SC that it will abide by the "no coercive steps" refrain by the High Court.

In the Kejriwal order, the top court said interim bail is granted on the basis of the "facts of each case" and that "this case is "not an exception", although it did acknowledge the high political stakes, noting that "the appellant, Arvind Kejriwal, is the Chief Minister of Delhi and a leader of one of the national parties."

This is significant as it leaves the door open for more such interventions, vis a vis the elections. Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who was arrested on January 31 in a money laundering case, has a bail application pending in the High Court. The state will vote in the last four phases of the Lok Sabha elections starting May 13.

Apart from allowing him to campaign, the top court's order also partially ring-fences Kejriwal's role as Chief Minister.

In one of its five bail conditions, the Supreme Court allowed Kejriwal to sign official files that are "required and necessary for obtaining clearance/ approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi."

As a chief minister without a portfolio, Kejriwal's primary role in the government is to officially communicate on all matters with the L-G.

Breather for Delhi CM boosts Opp: 'Huge sign of winds of change'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AS THE Supreme Court granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the INDIA bloc partners appeared elated at the fact that one of the best-known political faces in their ranks would soon join the campaign trail, fortifying the opposition's election efforts.

The opposition parties had been arguing that his arrest was politically motivated to prevent him taking part in the campaign.

That the Narendra Modi government is "subverting institutions" and "misusing" investigative agencies to target political opponents and stifle influential voices in the opposition camp has been a major theme in the opposition campaign so far. Kejriwal being granted interim bail, opposition leaders hope, would bolster this message — that the SC has stepped in to thwart an "authoritarian government's" bid to keep an opposition leader from campaigning.

"This might impact the ongoing general elections, leading to a resounding victory of the democratic forces. It is a strong reminder that no authoritarian regime can prevail long by suppressing dissent," Kerala CM and

Constituencies) but it should have also released the voter turnout data in each polling station". It also flagged the "Prime Minister's repeated violation" of MCC, saying: "The blatant nature of these violations by Shri Narendra Modi constitutes a direct challenge to this Commission and if left unchecked will leave a deep impact on the democratic fabric of the nation."

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram slammed the poll panel for its response to Kharge. "There is much that ECI has done and has not done for which it deserves to be criticised. When RBI, C&AG, Finance Commission and other bodies can be criticised, why does ECI think it should not be criticised. Let Parliament meet and let there be a full discussion on the omissions and commissions of the ECI, and all political parties will share their experiences contesting elections under the current ECI..." he posted on X.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi wrote on X: "Now ECI is issuing threats.... this letter clearly is partisan... and seems like it was drafted by some political person rather than an autonomous body!"

Haryana Cong to Governor: Dismiss BJP's minority govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

THE CONGRESS in Haryana Friday submitted a memorandum to the Governor demanding that the "minority" BJP government in the state be dismissed, President's Rule be imposed and fresh Assembly elections are ordered.

Senior Congress leader and party chief whip BB Batra, accompanied by Deputy CLP leader Aftab Ahmed, submitted a memorandum addressed to Governor Bandaru Dattatreya regarding the present political situation in the state. Batra said that they handed over the memorandum to the Governor's secretary as Dattatreya "had left for Telangana for some work." Asked if Congress will move the court, Batra said, "Governor is the constitutional head, let him first take a decision in the matter".

Earlier this week, three Independents had withdrawn their support to the Nayab Singh Saini government. Another Independent MLA Balraj Kundu had withdrawn support a couple of years back and is opposed to the current Haryana government, the Congress had earlier said.

The 90-member House at present has an effective strength of 88 with Karnal and Rania Assembly seats being vacant.

Rana, whose 'give us 15 sec' remark sparked row, booked

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MAY 10

A CASE has been registered against BJP MP Navneet Kaur Rana for alleged violation of rules of the Election Commission of India — days after her contentious comments during an election rally.

The case was registered at Shadnagar police station under the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate based on a complaint by the Flying Squad Team of the EC on May 9 stating that portions of Rana's speech in Hyderabad were in violation of EC rules. The FST specifically referred to her statement that "if you vote for Rahul Gandhi or Congress, vote goes to Pakistan".

On May 9, a row erupted over the speech made by Rana while campaigning for the party's Hyderabad Lok Sabha candidate Madhavi Latha a day earlier. Referring to AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's 2012 speech, in which he said that if police is removed for 15 minutes his community would show 100 crore Hindus what it could do, Rana said, "I say, it may take you 15 minutes but it will take us only 15 seconds."

Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy urged the BJP leadership to expel from the party. "She should be arrested. Ask PM Modi and Amit Shah — do you support your BJP leader...", he said.



Congress workers pasting a 'press NOTA button' poster on an auto-rickshaw in Indore. Express

property dealer; and private sector employees Lavish Dalip Khandelwal and Ravi Sirwalya. Pankaj Gupta said this was his sixth election, after contesting polls for the Assembly and for Mayor and Councillor, without ever winning. He said, "I was asked to withdraw from the contest by the BJP and offered the post of a government lawyer. (But) I want to do public service."

Ali said he had previously tried fighting an Assembly elec-

tion, and added that he was under no pressure to withdraw.

The candidates of other parties in the fray include Sanjay Solanki, a businessman contesting on the BSP ticket; Basant Gehlot, a local reporter, contesting on the ticket of 'Jan Sangh Party'; Ajeet Singh, a social worker and nominee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist); and Pawan Kumar, a private sector employee who has been fielded by the Akhilesh

Bhartiya Parivar Party'.

Kumar said his party came up two years ago, in the aftermath of the Covid crisis, as a means to get the government to waive off loans of the working and middle class. "The BJP tried to get me to quit," he claimed.

Asked whether he had faced any such pressure, Gehlot said: "Nobody dared approach me to withdraw."

Among those to have expressed some concern over how the Indore contest has panned out is former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, who won the Indore seat for BJP eight times in between 1989 and 2014. She told the media recently that she had been receiving calls from prominent people in Indore who said they were mulling NOTA after Bam's shock withdrawal. She called the withdrawal by Bam "unfair" and said: "I was surprised... This should not have happened. There was no need for this as the writing on the wall was that nobody can defeat the BJP in Indore."

Asked about Mahajan's remarks, BJP spokesperson

Deepak Jain said: "Her statements have been taken out of context by the Congress."

Madhya Pradesh BJP chief V D Sharma equated the Congress's appeal for NOTA to "a crime". "The Congress leadership wants to weaken democracy."

He told *The Indian Express*: "Your (Congress) candidate voluntarily withdraws his nomination at the last moment... You are on the wrong side, and you are asking public to vote for NOTA!"

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari said this was a fair response by the party to "the political crime of kidnapping of the Indore candidate". "There could be many reasons why the Congress candidate left... I don't want to talk about them. But, this act of the BJP, despite receiving huge response from the people, is a challenge to the voters. Electors of Indore should vote for NOTA to teach the BJP a lesson," Patwari said.

Meanwhile, Bam's own fate remains uncertain. While his expected admission into the BJP hasn't yet happened, on Friday, a court

in Indore issued an arrest warrant against him and his father in an attempt to murder case.

Public prosecutor Abhijit Singh Rathore told *The Indian Express* that their lawyer moved an application seeking exemption from personal appearance, and that the application claimed that while Bam was out of town for "essential work", his father had been advised rest because of poor health. "But the court ordered the police to arrest them and present them before the court by July 8," Rathore said.

The attempt to murder charges, incidentally, had been added to a 17-year-old case against Bam and his father just days before he withdrew his nomination.

Though Bam did not appear before the court, he was seen on Friday attending events for Parashuram Jayanti with minister Kailash Vijayvargiya in Indore. Asked if and when Bam would be inducted into the BJP, party chief Sharma said: "We have purifiers and X-ray machines installed here. Nothing to worry about."



‘For us, Article 370 was the argument against separatists’

AGA RUHULLAH MEHDI is the National Conference (NC) candidate from Srinagar, which is expected to be one of the most keenly contested battles in the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory. Mehdi, an influential Shia leader, will take on Waheed Para of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The former minister who served in a government led by Omar Abdullah talks to NAVEED IQBAL about his first Lok Sabha contest, Article 370, and what this election means for the people of Kashmir. *Excerpts:*



This will be your first Lok Sabha election. How did the candidature come about?

I have been expressing my views for a while without the consideration of any election. My concern is the return of dignity and rights that were snatched from us (after Article 370 abrogation).

I wanted for us to mobilise politically and express our dissent... The way people reacted to the farmers' protests and against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), expressing their opinions and protesting democratically. They did not succumb to the decisions taken by the government.

Electoral politics was not a concern then. I continue to believe that I will not be part of the J&K Assembly. Being part of that Assembly for me is tantamount to legitimising the status of that Assembly. No one had predicted Assembly elections would be delayed so much. So then, when deliberations for Lok Sabha elections began in the party, they said the sentiment that you express is what all of India needs to hear. For that, (Parliament) is the forum.

Is Article 370 a poll issue?

People have been telling me that this is not an election for roads and development but an election for our identity and rights and that we need to express in a democratic way that we have not surrendered to this status (of a UT).

What explains the silence in J&K in the last four years?

Protests do not mean that you have to be angry and violent. Protest in a democracy is a healthy factor. The people of J&K were denied that right... This is how the state behaved. They turned J&K into an open-air prison... They created a psyche of fear. When I interact with the public... the only thing I get to hear is, 'We need you to represent us and speak for what we went through.'

Every candidate is speaking of identity and dignity. What makes the NC stand out?

The moment the communication ban was lifted (after Article 370 abrogation), I started speaking on this issue. I was still under house arrest... But since that day, I have been speaking about the rights of the people. (Political leaders) talking about this have begun to speak about this only recently.

Numerically, we cannot change anything in Parliament. But we can try to convey to the country that we are not anti-nationals and Article 370 was an article of faith. We can connect and reach out to the rest of India.

Are people still unaware of the situation in J&K?

The first sentence of the Constitution of J&K is that it is an integral part of India. People are made to believe Modi integrated J&K into India but it was always integrated. People also say terrorism in J&K was because of Article 370. Those who picked guns or had separatist tendencies had nothing to do with Article 370. They rejected the Constitution of India altogether and did not identify with it. For us, Article 370 was the argument against them (separatists). Article 370 was a pro-mainstream and pro-democracy argument.

What are national issues voters in J&K identify with?

They are concerned about the social fabric that has weakened in the rest of India. The way society is divided and the way fundamentalist ideologies are ruling the streets.

IMAGE OF THE DAY



A mural in Jalandhar featuring late actor Amrish Puri as Mogambo, urging people to vote. *ANI*

NORTH MAHARASHTRA

Reliant on Gujarat for jobs, factories most pressing demand in Nandurbar

Located on the state border, the ST seat lacks basic amenities, from health to schools

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
NAVAPUR (NANDURBAR),
MAY 10

EVERY MORNING, Sonali Gavit sets out on a rickety tempo for Umbarpada in Gujarat's Surat district where she works. The interesting aspect of the 25-year-old's journey is that she is not a resident of Gujarat. Sonali lives in the village of Panbara in the Navapur taluka of the Nandurbar district in Maharashtra.

However, Sonali's story is the norm here. Every day, thousands of locals in the tribal-dominated Nandurbar district, like those from Sonali's village, travel across the interstate border to Gujarat as they get an assured daily wage of Rs 350 there.

"In the morning, a train heading to Surat is packed with villagers from Navapur," says Sunder Gavit, a third-year BA student in Panbara. "The villagers go up and down daily." Some migrate to Gujarat for three to six months at a time on a contract basis, he adds.

Across the tribal communities in the Nandurbar Lok Sabha seat, which votes on May 13, unemployment is an issue that resonates. "With no industries, peo-



At the Navapur train station, a line running through the platform marks the Maharashtra-Gujarat border. *Express*

ple have no option but to work in Gujarat," Sunder says.

Though education is gaining prominence in the tribal belt, jobs are few in Nandurbar. Despite some improved infrastructure and better access to welfare schemes, the district has remained backward for six decades.

The Centre's Ujjwala scheme for subsidised LPG, for instance, has reached every home here but women use LPG sparingly — to make tea in a hurry, but not for rice or "bhakri (bread)", which are still cooked on chullahs. "Rs 900 for a cylinder is expensive," says Pramila Gavit, a daily wage.

Once a Congress bastion from where Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi always began their poll campaign in

Maharashtra, Nandurbar has been represented by BJP MP Heena Gavit since 2014. A doctor-turned-politician, Heena, 35, has been fielded again by the BJP. She faces the Congress's Gopal Padavi, 32, a lawyer who is the son of former Congress minister and Akkalkuwa MLA K C Padavi.

In the ST-reserved seat, Heena targeted Gopal for being an "outsider". "Gopal has always lived in Mumbai. How will he know the problems of Adivasis?" she says.

Countering his BJP rival, Gopal says, "I am originally from village Asali, taluka Akram. I went to Mumbai to study for my LLB, LL.M. But I have spent time in my village and worked in my father's constituency." Gopal says Heena herself lived in Mumbai till 2014 and



their lives," he said.

In March, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi visited Nandurbar during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. "The BJP is taking away Adivasi homes and land and destroying jungles in the name of development to favour big industrialists," he said.

The relocation of projects from Maharashtra to Gujarat is another line of attack against the BJP. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray recently said, "Unemployment is the main problem confronting the youth today. Why should Maharashtra projects shift to Gujarat?"

However, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has dismissed the Opposition's accusation, saying, "Maharashtra had inked Rs 3.53 lakh crore projects during the World Economic Forum. The state remains a preferred industry-friendly destination."

In Nandurbar though, with the majority dependent on both states for life and livelihood, the relocation of projects from Maharashtra to Gujarat is discussed in whispers.

At the Navapur railway station along the Maharashtra-Gujarat border, a thick line chalked on the platform marks the boundary that separates Maharashtra and Gujarat, with maps of the two states on display on either side. While the ticket window falls in Maharashtra, the station master's office is in Gujarat. But for the Navapur villagers who live in Maharashtra and search for work in Gujarat, the line dividing the states remains meaningless.

I HEREBY DECLARE



ABHISHEK BANERJEE, 36
TMC general secretary and
Diamond Harbour MP

TOTAL ASSETS

₹2.33 CR (2024)

₹1.38 CR (2019)

Movable assets ₹2.33 cr
Immovable assets None
Liabilities ₹36 lakh
Pending criminal 2 FIRs for cases
IPC offences
Education MBA, Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi



ABHIJIT "BOBBY" DAS, 54
BJP's Diamond Harbour candidate

TOTAL ASSETS

₹99.18 L (2024)

₹41.53 L (2014)

Movable assets ₹34.18 L
Immovable assets ₹65 L
Liabilities ₹5.53 L
Pending criminal 13 FIRs for cases
IPC offences
Education MSc, University of Calcutta



PRATIKUR RAHAMAN, 34
CPI(M)'s Diamond Harbour candidate

TOTAL ASSETS

₹8.75 L (2024)

₹1.52 L (2021)

Movable assets ₹8.75 L
Immovable assets None
Liabilities None
Pending criminal 9 FIRs for cases
IPC offences
Education LLB, North Orissa University

KEY PLAYERS

On Naveen Patnaik's turf, an ex-aide haunts BJD hopes

SUJIT BISOI

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), MAY 10

THE LAST time the Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency in south Odisha drew national attention was in 1996 when former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao contested the seat.

Known to be a Congress fortress then, Rao had won 62.57% of the votes to defeat the queen of the erstwhile Khallikote royal family and Janata Dal nominee V Sugnana Kumari Deo.

The seat, which falls within Ganjam, the home district of Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supreme Naveen Patnaik, is heading for a high-stakes battle on May 13 with expelled BJD leader Pradeep Panigrahy, once a close confidant of Patnaik, now the BJP candidate.

Even though the BJD has won the seat since 2009, Panigrahy's entry into the fray and the BJP's recent rise in the seat has made it a prestige battle for the BJD to retain the seat. Panigrahy, a former three-time MLA from Gopalpur

who also looked after Patnaik's Hinjili Assembly seat for more than a decade, understands the nitty-gritty of Ganjam's politics.

To take on Panigrahy, the BJD too has chosen a turncoat — Bhruagu Baxipatra, who had contested the seat as the BJP nominee in 2019 and finished second. Notwithstanding his "outsider" tag given he is a native of Jeypore in Koraput district, Baxipatra is banking heavily on the BJD's robust organisational strength and Patnaik's popularity in the region. "Ganjam is CM's home district. People here are emotionally connected to the BJD. There may be resentment for some reasons but, by and large, people are satisfied with the state government," said Sangram Nayak, a local BJD leader from the Chikiti Assembly segment in Berhampur.

Though the state's ruling BJD is playing up the multiple forgery and corruption charges against Panigrahy, dubbing him "anti-people", this line of attack is not catching on with voters. "Nobody can be 'anti-people' because some party termed him



PM Narendra Modi with the BJP's Berhampur candidate Pradeep Panigrahy (second from right) at a rally. *PTI*

so. I will vote for the BJP because of PM Narendra Modi and his government's work," said Niranjana Patra, who was selling ice-cream near Modi's rally ground in Berhampur on May 6.

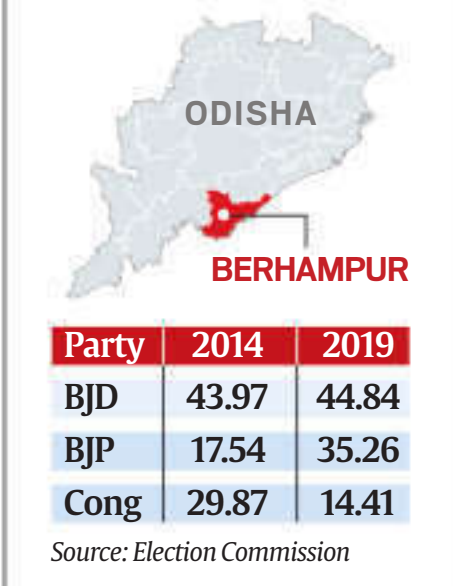
Buoyed by its growing vote share over the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, the BJP central leadership has been pushing hard to wrest the seat from the BJD.

"Whatever votes the BJP got in

2019 in Berhampur is because of the popularity of Modi since Bhruagu was a new face here. There is a strong undercurrent in favour of the BJP," a BJP leader said. Besides Modi, BJP national president J P Nadda also campaigned for Panigrahy while Union Minister Rajnath Singh had visited the seat in February.

In 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP's vote share in

VOTE SHARE (%) IN BERHAMPUR



Berhampur was 6.54% and 11.9%, respectively. In 2019, it increased to 35.25%. The BJP also turned the contest here into a bipolar fight in 2019 even though it had finished third in 2009 and 2014. The Congress's vote fell drastically between 2014 and 2019.

In the seven Assembly segments within Berhampur, the BJP has gained considerable ground over the past 10 years.

Though the BJP only won the Paralakhemundi segment in the 2019 Assembly polls — with the BJD winning five seats and the Congress one — it recorded an increase in its vote share from single digits in 2014 to above 25% in the Chikiti and Digapahandi segments. While the BJP already has a strong base in the Gopalpur and Mohana segments, it has improved its presence in urban pockets of the Chhatrapur and Berhampur segments.

In the constituency, voters are focusing on issues like unemployment leading to large-scale migration, corruption by local BJD leaders and poor infrastructure.

"What facilities are you talking about? (The BJD) was talking about cheap rice, which is also being sent by the Centre. Local BJD leaders are demanding bribes for everything — sanctioning a house under PM Awas Yojana, adding names for the pension scheme and issuing a ration card," said Natha Sahu of Tikarpada.

However, the BJP's weak booth-level organisation may hamper its winning prospects.

Friend who defeated Lalu back in RJD, with a thumbs-up for Misa

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, MAY 10

HE WAS once the second-in-command of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad. Then, having fallen out with him, joined the JD(U) and defeated him in a Lok Sabha poll. Now Ranjan Yadav, 79, is back in the RJD.

Ranjan joined the party on Thursday, calling his return to the RJD a "homecoming". Afterwards, he met Lalu and said, "The two of us started fighting for social justice together in the 1970s. We are still fighting, not just for social justice but also to save the Constitution."

Ranjan said Lalu's daughter Misa Bharati would win the Patliputra Lok Sabha seat. It is the seat where he defeated Lalu in 2009 and faced Misa in 2014.

After Lalu was jailed in the fodder scam in 1996, he used to be called the "proxy CM". But the two fell out when Lalu chose his wife Rabri Devi as the Bihar CM. Though Ranjan's return to the



Ranjan Yadav (left) joined the RJD on Thursday. *PTI*

RJD may not hold any electoral or political value for the party, it is still big in symbolism in Bihar's competitive caste politics dominated by parties with very similar ideologies that broke off from the Janata Dal of the 1980s.

"It shows that Nitish Kumar's style of politics is on the decline while Lalu continues to remain a key player in the state. Ranjan Yadav's return shows that the RJD is on a path of resurgence under the twin leadership of Lalu and Tejashwi," said a senior RJD leader.



JOINT RALLIES WITH AKHILESH IN KANPUR AND KANNAUJ

INDIA bloc storm is coming in UP, Modi will not be PM, says Rahul: ‘Likh ke le lo’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged that Rahul Gandhi had stopped taking the names of “Ambani and Adani” since the Lok Sabha elections were notified, the Congress leader on Friday mentioned Adani at least 27 times and Ambani 14 times during a rally in Kanpur and said that by mentioning the names of both the industrialists, the PM has accepted defeat.

Claiming that the alliance of Congress and Samajwadi Party would win no less than 50 of the 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh, Rahul said that Modi would not become Prime Minister after June 4 when the votes will be counted.

Addressing a joint rally with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in Kanpur, Rahul said: “I did not stop... Adani-Ambani, Adani-Ambani... and at the end Prime Minister Narendra Modi shivers and mentions the name of Adani-Ambani in public.”

“The day the Prime Minister mentioned the names of Adani and Ambani from the stage like this, India’s prime minister accepted the defeat. I am telling you, *aap likh ke le lo* (take it in writing)... Narendra Modi will not be the Prime Minister on June 4, 2024... It’s over,” he said.

In Kannauj from where Akhilesh is contesting, Rahul said: “In the past 10 years, Modi did not mention Adani and Ambani in thousands of his speeches... When somebody is scared, he takes the name of that person who, as per his belief, can rescue him. For the same reason, Narendra Modi ji took the names of his two friends, appealing to them to come to his rescue.”

Referring to PM Modi’s charge that *chori ka maal* (loot money) has been delivered to the Congress in tempos, Rahul said: “How does he know that? Why



HAND IN HAND: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav during a rally for the Lok Sabha polls in Kanpur on Friday. PTI

did he not order an ED or CBI inquiry against them?”

“In Uttar Pradesh, the storm of the INDIA bloc is arriving. The biggest defeat of the BJP is going to take place in Uttar Pradesh,” he said.

Akhilesh claimed that the BJP has scored low in the first three phases of the election so far. He said that the Agniveer recruit-

ment system will be abolished once they come to power.

Chidambaram attacks PM on Ambani-Adani

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said in a post on “X” that PM Modi had made a “very serious allegation” against two prominent industrialists. Chidambaram said that

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s demand for an inquiry by the CBI or ED was absolutely justified. “Why has the Hon’ble Prime Minister (the Minister for CBI) gone quiet in the last 24 hours? Why has the Hon’ble Finance Minister (the Minister for ED) not responded to the demand for an inquiry? Their silence is ominous,” Chidambaram posted.

Rahul admits: Cong made mistakes, will need to change its politics

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, MAY 10

THE CONSTITUTION is helping people to a lesser extent than the country’s founding fathers would have expected, and thus, is a success as well as a failure, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Friday in Lucknow.

He also admitted that some “mistakes” were made by the Congress, adding that his party would have to change its politics in the times to come.

“Congress will also have to change its politics in the times to come. The Congress has also made mistakes,” he said.

He also spoke about reservation, the caste system as well as alleged “attacks” on the constitution. Rahul said that the future of a large number of people in the country is decided even before birth. People are put into small segments, which decides for which work they are capable of and which work they cannot do, said Rahul.

“Crores of people of Hindustan have lived this life... where they have not decided their future but instead, society has done it for them. How much capability has been lost in this?” said Rahul, adding that many people stood up to change this, while accepting this reality.

However, Rahul pointed out, those running after power in politics for their entire lives “do not accept this reality, they never accept their own reality nor of others.”

Cong wants to make Hindus second-class citizens, says Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, MAY 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Friday alleged that the Congress is “anti-Hindu” and its track record is of “loot, appeasement and dynasty politics”.

Modi, who addressed election rallies in Hyderabad and Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituencies in Telangana, said “those who opposed CAA, UCC and those who talk of ‘vote jihad’ will be defeated on June 4” when the results of the Lok Sabha polls are declared.

He said the India is now the world’s fifth largest economy. “This is the track record of Modi. What is the track record of Congress? It is loot, appeasement, dynasty first, softness on terrorists,” he said.

Recalling that bomb blasts used to take place in the country 10 years ago, he said such terror attacks don’t take place now. He also recollected the bomb blast at Dilsukhnagar in Hyderabad in 2013. The bomb blasts stopped with the formation of a strong government in Delhi, he said.

“But, Congress and INDI alliance do not like this. Some forces want to remove Modi for the bloodshed to start again in the country,” he alleged.

Targeting the Congress on reservations, Modi termed the national party as “anti-Hindu” and said it knows religion-based reservations are unconstitutional. “Congress wants to make Hindus second-class citizens in their own country,” he claimed.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi as ‘shehzade’ (prince), he said the Congress leader started off with ‘mohabbat ki dukaan’ which lost steam as elections approached.



PM Narendra Modi at the Bhubaneswar roadshow on Friday

PM holds roadshow in Bhubaneswar, says BJD unaware of grievances

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, MAY 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi held a 2.5-km roadshow in Bhubaneswar on Friday night and later targeted the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government during his second visit to Odisha in a week.

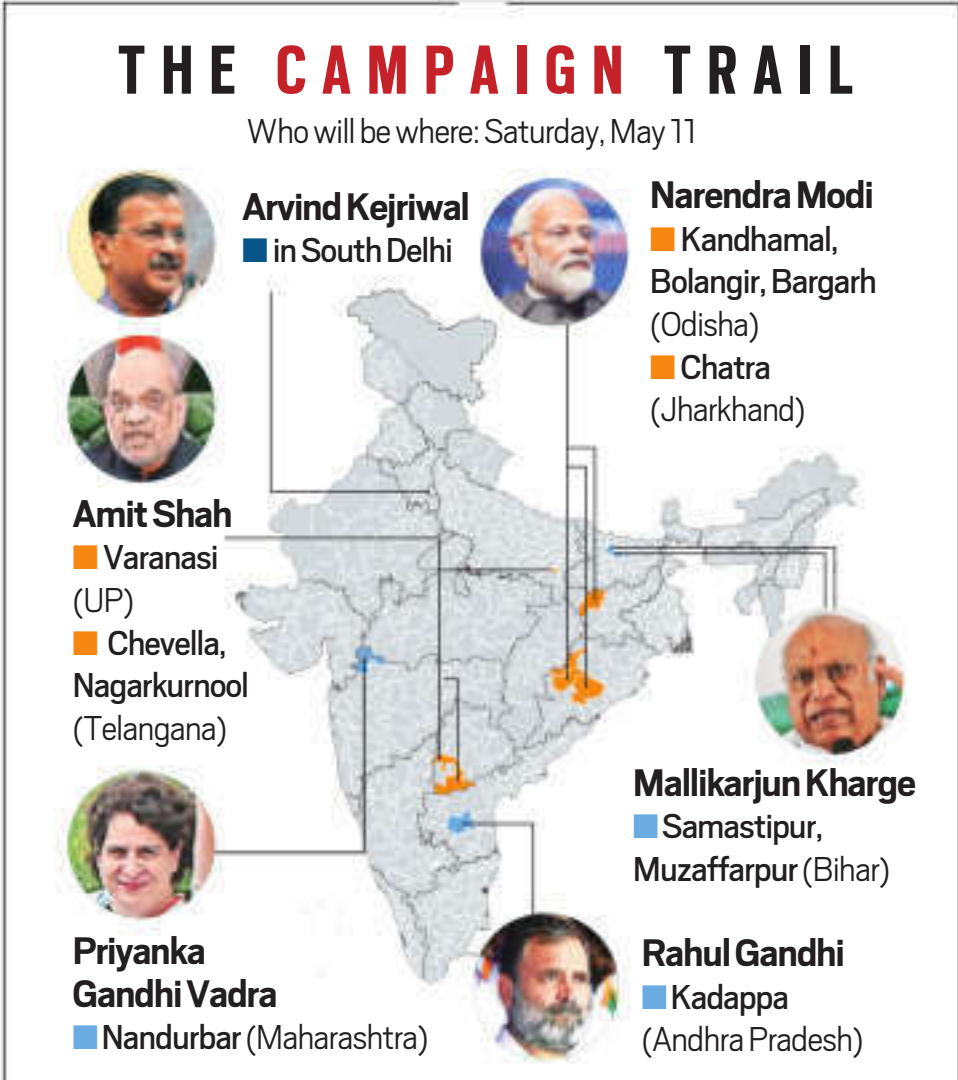
In a post on X following the roadshow, Modi accused the BJD of detaching from the ground realities, citing it a reason behind growing support for the BJP in Odisha. “While our Government has done extensive work, BJD is totally detached from the ground realities and is oblivious to people’s grievances. They have misunderstood the great culture and ethos of Odisha. No wonder

Bhubaneswar and Odisha will support the BJP in record numbers,” Modi wrote.

BJP’s Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha candidate Aparajita Sarangi and state unit BJP president Manmohan Samal were present at the roadshow, which drew huge crowds.

The Prime Minister said on X that holding the rally on Akshya Tritiya, a major festival in Odisha, has made his rally all the “more special”. He also highlighted his government’s contributions for Odisha in various sectors including upgradation of highways, introduction Vande Bharat trains and establishment of national-level educational institutions.

Modi last visited Odisha on May 6, when he held two rallies.



BALLOTIN
My own community did not vote for me, cost me seat: BSP candidate

Lucknow: The Bahujan Samaj Party’s Firozabad candidate Choudhary Basheer has said that the Muslim community did not vote for him and have lost a “golden chance” for “one of their own” to become their MP. In a video, he is purportedly heard saying that a section of the Muslim community in Firozabad is a slave to a family from Saifai, a reference to Akhilesh Yadav. “I made every effort to engage with the Muslim community. However, members of Firozabad’s Muslim community affiliated to SP worked to prevent votes in my favour,” he said. ENS

‘Modi ji rattled... no Pulwama or Balakot, no temple effect... no cakewalk this time’

CONGRESS LEADER ADHIR **RANJAN CHOWDHURY** has been winning from Baharampur in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district since 1999. This time, he is facing Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate and former India cricketer Yusuf Pathan and the BJP’s Dr Nirmal Saha. Chowdhury, whose seat votes in the fourth phase on May 13, speaks to **RAVIK BHATTACHARYA** and **ATRI MITRA** about Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Left-Congress alliance in Bengal, the TMC, and his party’s strategy. Excerpts:

What is your assessment after three phases of polling?

The national political scene is changing fast. The diminishing returns of the Modi effect have already set in across the country. Day after day, phase after phase, Modi’s fate is being challenged. He cannot say it is a cakewalk this time. Already, Modi ji is rattled by the challenge the Opposition has put forth. Nobody can say what is going to happen. There is no Pulwama, no ultra-nationalism, and people’s mood is not like it was after Balakot. Ram Mandir, which Modi expected would be a big issue, is having no effect on the ground, even in the Hindi belt. Across India, Modi’s aura, the



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
CONG LEADER

euphoria, and jingoism are withering away.

How is your campaign and your alliance with the Left in West Bengal going?

Neither the Congress nor the Left ever indulged in communal or sectarian politics. On this, there was never a fundamental ideological difference between us. Leftist thought exists within Congress ideology, and history

suggests the two can hold hands.

In Bengal, the situation warranted that we have a pragmatic alliance. Not a political alliance per se, but seat adjustment, to keep ourselves politically relevant and to emerge afresh. So far, we are progressing well. There will be surprises waiting for you.

Both Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee have blamed you for the failure of the INDIA bloc to take off in West Bengal...

I have been fighting Mamata Banerjee’s politics of violence which is intended to decimate the Congress in Bengal. For the last couple of years, we have been fighting for our existence. For my party to survive in Bengal, I had to take up cudgels against her. My stand has not changed. I have just one question for her: What triggered her exit from the INDIA bloc? She had even claimed that she conceived the name INDIA. If Adhir was the trigger, why did she agree to join the alliance in the first place?

What is the Congress strategy in West Bengal?

We are highlighting the miserable failure of the Modi government that is running the country. People are acknowledging and accepting our argument. We are

also exploiting anti-incumbency.

But the Congress joined hands with TMC in 2011 to oust the Left in West Bengal?

That was the need of the hour. The CPI(M) of 2011 is the polar opposite of the CPI(M) now. Those so-called *hamads* (miscreants) who were nurtured by the CPI(M), as was alleged by Mamata Banerjee at that time, have now become the *damaad* (son-in-law) of the TMC.

What do you have to say about your opponent Yusuf Pathan?

Anybody who is entitled to vote and above 24 years of age can fight anywhere in the country. He isn’t the issue. My fight is against Mamata Banerjee and the BJP juggernaut.

Are you confident about getting minority votes?

Minority votes have started to switch over to the Congress and the Left. But, minorities still cast votes strategically. If they think the TMC can win a seat by defeating the BJP, they will give their votes to them. But my gut feeling is that wherever the Congress and Left have any prospect of winning, the entire minority vote could switch over.

RALLYING POINT
Shah rakes up Sandeshkhali, Kharage on PM’s ‘affinity for M words’, Nadda targets INDIA bloc



Shah in West Bengal’s Nadia district on Friday. PTI

BJP LEADER AMIT SHAH IN WEST BENGAL
‘TMC: TUSHTIKARAN, MAFIA, CORRUPTION’

BJP LEADER and Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday said “not a single goon of Sandeshkhali” would be spared and alleged that TMC leaders “tortured hundreds of women” there “based on their religion”. “We will straighten the goons of Sandeshkhali by hanging them upside down. No one will be spared,” Shah said while campaigning for the BJP at Majdia in Ranaghat Lok Sabha constituency in Nadia district.

He alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee did not catch the culprits of Sandeshkhali due to the politics of “appeasement”. “TMC stands for *tushtikaran* (appeasement), mafia and corruption. Mamata ji, you accord a red carpet welcome to infiltrators because they are your vote bank,” the Union Home Minister said. ENS

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, CONG CHIEF IN TELANGANA
‘PM WORRIED AFTER THIRD PHASE OF POLLS’

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharge Friday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were worried after three phases of Lok Sabha polls and were thus talking about non-election issues and abusing the Congress.

Referring to the PM’s comments that the Congress has stopped talking about ‘Adani-Ambani’ after the announcement of polls, he said: “(If) money is going in tempo, you are just watching? Money is going from whose house, where is your CBI, where is your Income Tax.” He also said that Modi was fond of words starting with ‘M’ – Mangalsutra, mutton and Mughals. PTI

J P NADDA, BJP CHIEF IN CHANDIGARH
‘INDIA BLOC LEADERS IN JAIL OR OUT ON BAIL’

BJP CHIEF J P Nadda Friday called INDIA bloc leaders “an assembly of the corrupt” and “promoters of dynastic politics”. He said: “All of them are either in jail or out on bail.” Nadda said, “Modi ji says remove corruption. They [opposition] say, save the corrupt and make them flourish.” The BJP chief Friday campaigned for party candidates in Ambala and Chandigarh. ENS

ASSET WATCH

With ₹5,705 cr, TDP’s Guntur candidate is richest in fray so far

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MAY 10

DR **CHANDRA Sekhar Pemmasani**, 48, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate for the Guntur Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh that goes to polls on May 13, is the richest contestant in these polls so far, with his family owning assets worth ₹5,705 crore. Pemmasani is set to make his poll debut in these elections.

A medical doctor who completed his MBBS from the Dr NTR University of Health Sciences in 1999, Pemmasani went to receive an MD in internal medicine

from the Geisinger Medical Centre in Pennsylvania, USA, in 2005. While he is settled abroad, TDP leaders said that he visits his native place “regularly”.

Incidentally, in Guntur, Pemmasani replaces another rich candidate of the TDP – Galla Jayadev, the MD of Amara Raja Group who had declared assets worth ₹680 crore in 2019 and announced his retirement from politics ahead of the elections.

TDP leader Pattabhi Ram Reddy, seen as close to Pemmasani, claimed that he and his family, hailing from Burripalem village of Tenali, have been supporters of the party for



Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani

a long time, and that his father who owned a business in Narasaropet was also a TDP leader. Calling him “a very successful and renowned doctor”, the leader said: “Pemmasani has developed a curriculum for students appearing for medical entrance tests in the US and helped in developing some apps and software for students.”

Pemmasani developed UWORLD – an online learning service that helps students prepare for exams like the SAT, MCAT and United States Medical Licensing Examination – when just 25 and working at Johns Hopkins University. In 2020, he won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Pemmasani remains the CEO of UWORLD.

In Narasaropet, Pemmasani is well-known for philanthropic activities such as constructing a school and for organising social activities. According to TDP leaders, he first started taking an active interest in political and campaign work during the 2014

elections, and was also involved in 2019. He is also active in the TDP’s non-resident Indian cell.

“This is the first time he has openly expressed his desire to contest. He has a clean record and although he has declared crores worth of assets, everything is accounted for. After Galla Jayadev announced that he wants a break from politics, Dr Chandra Sekhar started preparing the ground to contest,” TDP leader N Vijay Kumar said.

As per his affidavit, Pemmasani has investments in more than 100 companies and has declared income both in India and the US. He has listed

two Mercedes cars, one Tesla and a Rolls Royce under his movable assets. He also owns land and property in Hyderabad, Tenali and the US.

Pemmasani also has liabilities amounting to ₹1,038 crore and has one pending FIR against him for IPC offences related to illegal payments in connection with an election and bribery.

Pemmasani’s main rival is the YSRCP’s Kilari Venkata Rosaiah, who is the sitting party MLA from Ponnur.

In 2019, the TDP’s Galla Jaydev defeated the YSRCP’s M Venugopal Reddy by a narrow margin of 4,205 votes.

Emails with blast threats at Ahmedabad schools traced to Pakistan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, MAY 10

EMAILS THREATENING blasts that at least 36 schools in Ahmedabad received on May 6, a day before the Lok Sabha poll in Gujarat, have been traced to Faisalabad in Pakistan, said Ahmedabad city crime branch officers Friday.

The police said that the threats were issued by a man identifying himself as Tauheed Liaquat with an intention to create “fear and panic among the people during elections”.

“While the emails were sent from a Russian domain name (mail.ru), investigation so far has revealed that the location from where the mails were sent was from the army cantonment area of Faisalabad in Pakistan. It has been found that the accused puts out anti-India propaganda on social media and operates under different names,” said Sharad Singhal, JCP Ahmedabad.

The mass emails, sent to 32 schools in Ahmedabad city and four schools in Ahmedabad rural were termed as “hoax” by the police the same day after searches were conducted by bomb detection and disposal squad, dog squad and Crime Branch teams on the premises of the schools. The mails were also received days after over 100 schools in Delhi-NCR received similar threats from the same Russian domain.

A technical surveillance was then initiated to trace the sender of the email, said the officer. The police added that the accused individual has been assuming different identities on various social media platforms. Liaquat had also assumed another identity as Hamad Javed.

Inter-Services Organisations Act notified: Defence Ministry

New Delhi: The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act has been notified in a gazette and has been enforced with effect from May 10, the Defence Ministry said Friday. The move comes amid the theatreisation plan envisioned by the government.

Under the theatreisation model, the government seeks to integrate the capabilities of the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations. The Act empowers Commanders-in-Chief and Officers-in-Command of ISOs to exercise control over service personnel, serving under them, for effective maintenance of discipline and administration, without disturbing the unique service conditions of each individual service.

“...the Act will empower the heads of ISOs and pave the way for expeditious disposal of cases, avoid multiple proceedings and will be a step towards greater integration and jointness among the armed forces,” it said. **PTI**

Ex-PFI man among 2 held for 2022 BJP leader murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, MAY 10

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday arrested two more people over the July 2022 murder of Karnataka BJP youth wing leader Praveen Nettaru.

One of them was a former office-bearer of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), Mustafa Paichar, who had been absconding. He was tracked down to

FURTHER SPELL IN STORE IN EAST, SOUTH, HILL-STATES: IMD

Rain, after scorching heat, brings relief in several states

NIKHIL GHANEKAR NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AFTER SIZZLING temperatures in April and early May, several parts of the country saw moderate to very heavy rainfall Wednesday and Thursday, and more was expected in the next few days, the India

Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. The highest rainfall — 130mm — was recorded at Sothuparai, in the foothills of the Western Ghats, in Tamil Nadu's Theni district be-

After 18-month gap, Chinese envoy in Delhi: ‘Ready to work, turn the page’

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MAY 10

AFTER A hiatus of 18 months amid the protracted border stand-off since May 2020, China has finally sent an Ambassador, Xu Feihong, who arrived in New Delhi Friday with his wife Tan Yuxiu.

China is ready to work with India to “accommodate” each other’s concerns and find a mutually acceptable solution to “specific issues” through dialogue at an early date, Xu said. Xu, 60, who has served as China’s Ambassador to Afghanistan and Romania, was appointed the 17th Chinese Ambassador to India by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Since March 2022, India has a full-time Ambassador in Beijing, Pradeep Kumar Rawat, an experienced China hand.

Xu said he regards his posting in New Delhi as an “honourable mission and a sacred duty” to im-



Xu Feihong, the new Chinese Ambassador to India

prove and advance bilateral ties. “I will do my best to deepen understanding and friendship between the two peoples, expand exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and improve and advance the bilateral relationship,” Xu told PTI and China’s CGTN-TV in a media interaction in Beijing before leaving for New Delhi.

“China is ready to work with India to accommodate each other’s concerns, find a mutually acceptable solution to specific issues through dialogue at an early date, and turn the page as soon as possible,” Xu said without elaborating further.

He added: “I noted Prime Minister Modi’s comments on

the importance of China-India ties, and the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson responded to that right afterwards.”

In his recent interview with Newsweek magazine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India’s relationship with China is important and significant.

“The Chinese side always believes that China-India ties should not be defined by any single issue or area; the boundary question is not the entirety of the relationship. Speaking at the Indian Council of World Affairs in September 2014, President Xi Jinping said that we must not focus our attention only on differences and forget about our friendship and cooperation,” Xu said.

“I look forward to, and I trust that I will have, the support and assistance from the Indian government and friends from all sectors as I work to perform my ambassadorial duties,” he said. “We face multiple global chal-

lenges such as climate change, food and energy crises, weak economic recovery and so on,” Xu said. “Closer communication and coordination on global and regional affairs will not only bring opportunities to both countries and the world but also add stability and positivity to international relations.”

In September last year, in a tit-for-tat response signalling a downgrade of the relationship, India had sent Gourangal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia), MEA, as chief guest at the Chinese National Day reception — the first in-person gathering since the start of the Covid pandemic and the Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh in 2020.

Usually, the government sends ministers, holding a Cabinet rank or a Minister of State portfolio, to National Day receptions. With no full-time Ambassador of China to India for 11 months at that time, the National Day reception was

hosted by Charge d’Affaires Ma Jia. She had been officiating as the interim envoy ever since Ambassador Sun Weidong left for Beijing in October 2022.

MEA official spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said Thursday: “We have our Ambassador in China, a new Chinese Ambassador is coming here, it’s a normal routine... so that the exchanges can be continued.”

India and China have had strained ties over the border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 2020 and the Galwan border clashes in June 2020, in which 20 Indian soldiers, including a Col-rank officer, were killed. Chinese soldiers were also killed in the clashes.

The new Ambassador will have a full plate. Over 20 rounds of military-level talks have taken place, 50-60,000 Indian and Chinese troops remain locked in a border standoff on both sides of the Line of Actual Control.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at the Kedarnath temple after its portals opened for devotees, Friday. **PTI**

- The Chardham Yatra in Uttarakhand commenced on Friday with the ceremonial opening of the gates of the Kedarnath Temple.
- Over 7,000 devotees witnessed the ceremony, which was attended by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.
- The Uttarakhand Chardham includes a journey through the state’s major pilgrim centres Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.

AFTER MEA REVISES ITS RECENT CIRCULAR

Uncertainty for Goans who took Portuguese citizenship

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, MAY 10

PEOPLE FROM erstwhile Portuguese territories in India (Goa, Daman and Diu), whose Indian passports had been revoked after acquiring Portuguese citizenship, could be stuck in limbo after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) revised its recent circular that had been expected to pave the way for them to apply for an Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card.

While a passport ‘surrender

certificate’ has so far been mandatory for those who want to apply for OCI, an April 4 office memorandum issued by the MEA had raised hopes that a ‘revocation order’ — a document the memo said would be mandatorily issued to those whose passports were revoked — would also be accepted as an alternative document.

However, a corrigendum by the MEA dated April 30 has brought uncertainty in the matter. While the MEA had said in the April 4 memorandum that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has “decided to accept ‘revoca-

tion certificate’ as an alternative document” in lieu of surrender certificate”, the April 30 corrigendum said this is only “under consideration” by the MHA.

The revocation of passports has caused considerable anxiety among people in Goa. In the past 18 months, the issue assumed significance in the state after an even earlier MEA memorandum, dated November 30, 2022, instructed authorities to revoke passports (instead of issuing a ‘surrender certificate’) of people for “suppressing material information” regarding their

KARNATAKA SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

Third rape case against Prajwal; four more held in abduction case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, MAY 10

A THIRD rape case has registered against against JD(S) MP and Lok Sabha poll candidate from Hassan Prajwal Revanna based on the complaint of a woman who was employed at the home of his father and JD(S) legislator H D Revanna.

The third FIR was registered by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on May 8 after the woman, who was rescued on May 5 from a farmhouse near Mysuru where she was allegedly confined at the behest of H D Revanna and associates, gave a statement about being attacked by Prajwal while she was employed by his family for six years.

Unlike in two other cases of rape previously registered against the MP, where Prajwal is accused of repeatedly carrying out sexual attacks on his victims (IPC section 376 (2) (n)), the third FIR accuses him of committing rape on a woman while “being in a position of control or dominance” over the woman (IPC section 376 (2) (k)).

Prajwal, against whom charges of sexual assault on several women emerged last month following the leak of explicit videos and images through pen drives distributed in Hassan ahead of the April 26 Lok Sabha polls, has been absconding. He is reported to have flown to Europe on April 27.

In the first case registered on April 28, Prajwal and H D Revanna, who is the son of the former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, were accused of sexual harassment of a woman who worked at the Revanna family home in Hassan.

A second case of rape was registered on May 1 on the basis of a complaint by a former zilla panchayat member in Hassan who accused the MP of sexually assaulting her for over three years and recording videos, which he used to threaten and blackmail her.

The SIT has arrested four more persons in connection with the alleged abduction of the woman victim. The four accused — former Yuva Janata Dal president H K

KARNATAKA BJP LEADER DEVARAJE HELD OVER PRAJWAL VIDEO ‘LEAK’

Chitradurga: BJP leader and Advocate G Devaraje Gowda was arrested Friday night in connection with an explicit video allegedly belonging to Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna. According to police, Devaraje Gowda was arrested at Gulihal toll gate by the Hiriya Police in Chitradurga district for leaking the video in a pen drive. He was arrested on a tip-off received by the Hassan Police, which wanted his presence for the case. A case of sexual harassment has been registered against him, on a complaint by a 36-year-old woman from Hassan district, who alleged that he molested her on the pretext of helping her sell her property. **PTI**

Sujay, Madhu Kappadi, Manu H and a lawyer, Thimmappa — were allegedly involved in the abduction of the victim on April 29 after the cases of sexual assault by the MP emerged, police sources said.

H D Revanna was arrested on May 4 by the SIT in connection with the abduction case. Sources said several others connected to the family of Revanna’s wife are under probe in the case. The kidnap complaint was filed on May 2 by the 20-year-old son of a victim.

No CBI probe: CM

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday ruled out the possibility of handing over the investigations into the sex assault cases against Prajwal to the CBI.

In the wake of the Opposition JD(S) seeking the intervention of Governor Thawarchand Gehlot for a CBI takeover of the investigations, Siddaramaiah said: “There is no need to hand over the Prajwal Revanna case to the CBI since we have confidence in the state police.” Siddaramaiah said on Friday in Mysuru.

HC seeks Lokpal reply to JMM plea against CBI probe order

MALAVIKA PRASAD NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE DELHI High Court on Friday sought the Lokpal’s stand in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha’s (JMM) plea pertaining to the anti-corruption body’s order directing the CBI to probe two properties allegedly linked to JMM president Shibu Soren. The HC had in an interim order on April 23 directed the Lokpal “not to take any action” against the JMM till Friday (May 10) and issued a notice to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, the complainant before the anti-corruption body.

The Lokpal’s direction in its March order had come while disposing of a complaint filed on August 5, 2020, by Dubey, who had urged the Lokpal to investigate 57 properties in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Dumka and other places allegedly belonging to Soren.

The JMM had approached the HC challenging a March 4 Lokpal order that directed the CBI to investigate within six months if the two properties mentioned in the CBI’s July 1, 2021 preliminary report, “belonged to the public servant or the political party”, under The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act. The High Court had earlier asked

Dubey to file his reply to JMM’s petition challenging the Lokpal’s March 4 order.

The counsel appearing for Dubey submitted on Friday that his client was the complainant before the Lokpal and his role ended as soon as the complaint was filed. He stated that since the Lokpal wears two hats — that of an adjudicator and a prosecutor — it should have been made a party to the petition.

A single judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad then asked the JMM to add the Office of the Lokpal of India as party to its petition and thereafter issued notice to the anti-corruption body.

Senior advocate Arunabh Chowdhury, appearing for the JMM, said they will file an amended memo of parties.

Listing the matter on July 30, the HC continued the operation of its April 23 interim order.

During the hearing Justice Prasad orally queried as to why should the “author of the order be asked to defend its order”.

On April 23 the HC had said, “The CBI is directed to give a report in a sealed cover to the Lokpal on or before 30.04.2024. Lokpal of India is directed not to take any action against the Petitioner till the next date of hearing.”

SC disposes of Hemant’s plea over HC’s delay in pronouncing order on arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE SUPREME Court on Friday disposed of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren’s plea over the High Court’s delay in pronouncing an order on his plea challenging arrest as it noted that the petition has become infructuous because the order has been delivered.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta noted that the appropriate remedy was to challenge the May 3 HC order and said his other petition challenging the same will come up for hearing next week.

“It is clarified that all pleas and contentions can be raised in the SLP filed challenging the HC order of May 3, 2024,” the bench said. Soren had approached the SC alleging that the HC was delaying in giving a decision on his petition challenging his arrest.

A hollowed out protest

Galgotias students' unawareness speaks of a system that peddles buzzwords, discourages them from speaking up against power



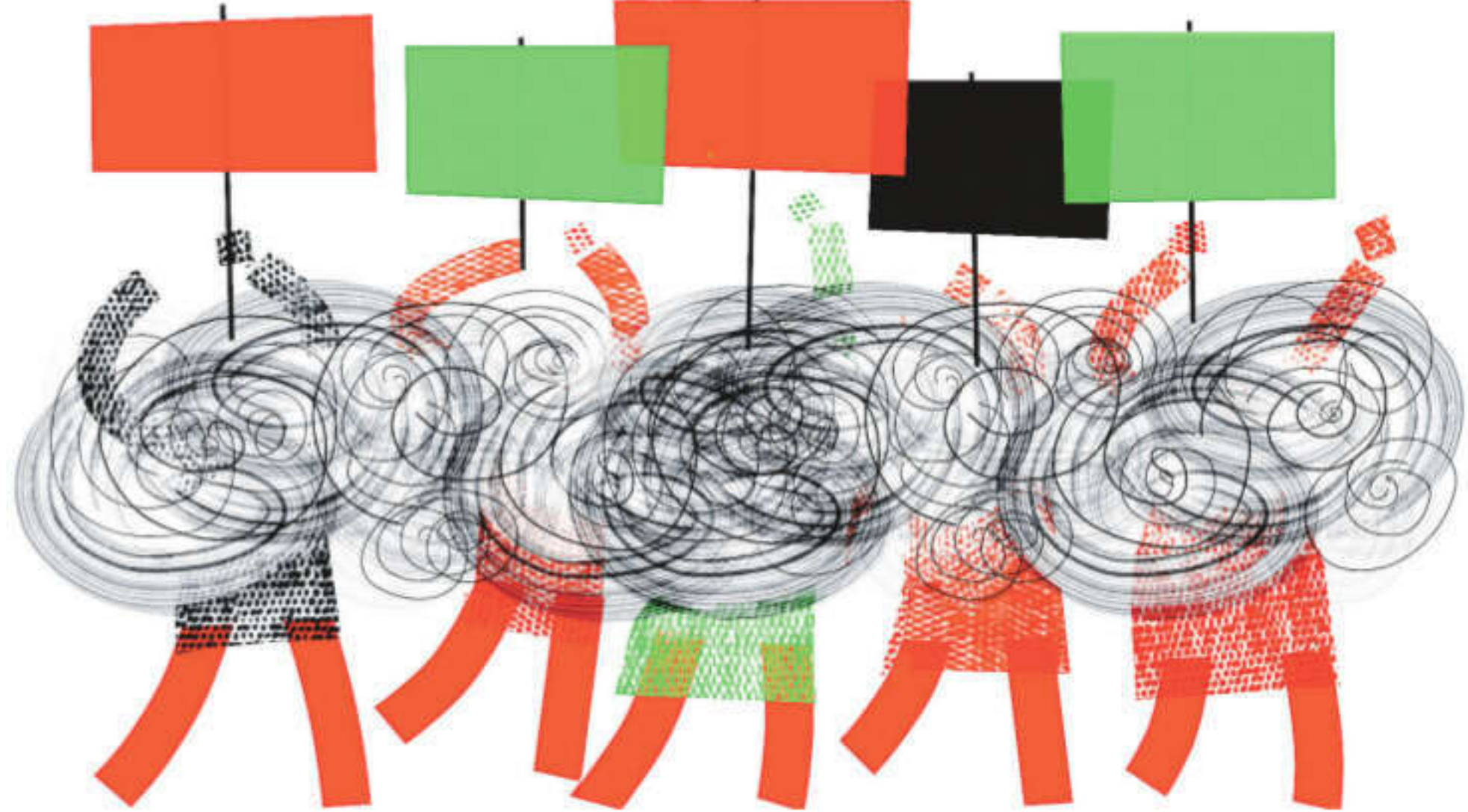
SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY in Uttar Pradesh has attracted what seems like unwelcome publicity across traditional and social media. A group of students from Galgotias University in Greater Noida was recently interviewed at a protest march. They carried posters and chanted slogans that criticised past and future policies of the Congress party. The party's election manifesto was a particular target, with students displaying placards that claimed that Congress would seek votes through false promises and redistribute wealth. These reflect recent comments by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was more specific in his comments that, were the Congress to be elected to power, wealth would move from one religious community to another. Students also carried posters with hammer and sickle images that decried "urban naxals".

The point of the media outrage over the event was that, when asked by a TV news reporter about the issues that the students claimed to be concerned about (including inheritance tax, "urban naxals" and the Congress manifesto), the protestors seemed largely clueless. They provided confused answers about what it is they were protesting about and it seemed unlikely that anyone present had actually seen the Congress manifesto, let alone read it. It was, as if, they had been handed some banners and told to look appropriately agitated. Unfortunately for them, however, they encountered an alert news reporter who decided to ask some (not very difficult) questions.

Public anger over the protestors' lack of knowledge about matters of public and private interest about which they were ostensibly protesting is entirely justified. However, this is not an episode that is necessarily about the end of critical thinking and public awareness at one particular institution whose students were found to be particularly ill-informed. The lack of meaningful engagement with (and knowledge of) critical issues that shape public and private life and affect it is part of some broader trends. And, it affects many different kinds of educational contexts, both "elite" and those where students might be first generation university goers whose primary aim is to secure gainful employment rather seek a "broadening" of horizons of thought.

It is important to note that a few days after the apparent public relations disaster, Galgotias University published full-page newspaper advertisements outlining its achievements and special character as an educational institution. The centrepiece of the advertisement was a photo of students staring at computer screens inside a well-scrubbed "laboratory" and the tagline "Galgotia's Active Learning Ecosystem". The surrounding text consists of phrases such as "Living Teach Less Learn More Pedagogy", "Cultivating Job Creators over Job Seekers", "Highly Experiential" and "Embraces



C R Sasikumar

Technological Advancements".

There is also information about the different ranking systems in which the university has excelled. It is "Top 50 in India in Innovation", "Amongst #91 in India (Management Category)", "Top 3rd...for Filling Maximum Patents" and "By NIRF Ranking 2023". The logo of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is included among others that are displayed.

The manner in which the advertisement seeks to counter any adverse publicity regarding the bleak level of its students' public awareness of current affairs and their actual interest in it is notable. It does this through a series of technocratic slogans or banners that, upon further inquiry, may be just as empty of content as the ones raised by the protestors. Bannerism is an important aspect of what now passes as a method of imparting learning skills as well as avenue for acquiring "advanced thinking". The most critical task of those who administer education is to reflect on combining education's long-term goals of producing inquiring minds with the concurrent need for producing employable graduates. Bannerism, on the other hand, substitutes this for a series of techno-jargons whose key effects are to make educational administrators look "smart" and produce unemployable graduates. Bannerism lies at the heart of the lack of knowledge displayed by the student protestors. It is something that is part of an unfolding educational strategy employed by many educational institutions.

There is a second aspect to bannerism that relates to the administrative sleight of hand where "critical thought" is reduced to a form of aesthetic activity. Here, the banners and slogans might be about "openness" and "spirit of inquiry". However, this form of bannerism translates these ideas as an inclination towards the ability to make different lifestyle choices. One might like butter chicken but should not be close-minded towards trying out a ham and pineapple pizza. Consider, for example, the statement by, Sanjeev Bikhchandani, one of the founders of Ashoka University, an institution whose reputation is built upon its "liberal arts" focus.

Bannerism is an important aspect of what now passes as a method of imparting learning skills as well as avenue for acquiring "advanced thinking". The most critical task of those who administer education is to reflect on combining education's long-term goals of producing inquiring minds with the concurrent need for producing employable graduates. Bannerism, on the other hand, substitutes this for a series of techno-jargons whose key effects are to make educational administrators look "smart" and produce unemployable graduates. Bannerism lies at the heart of the lack of knowledge displayed by the student protestors. It is something that is part of an unfolding educational strategy employed by many educational institutions.

In the wake of a controversy where one of Ashoka's faculty published a paper that suggested electoral manipulation by the BJP, Bhikchandani spoke against faculty and staff protests that sought to foreground the importance of scholarly autonomy and independent research. "Ashoka," he noted "is merely a liberal arts and sciences university. It values openness and a spirit of inquiry. It must guard against becoming an ideological ghetto and therefore not very open."

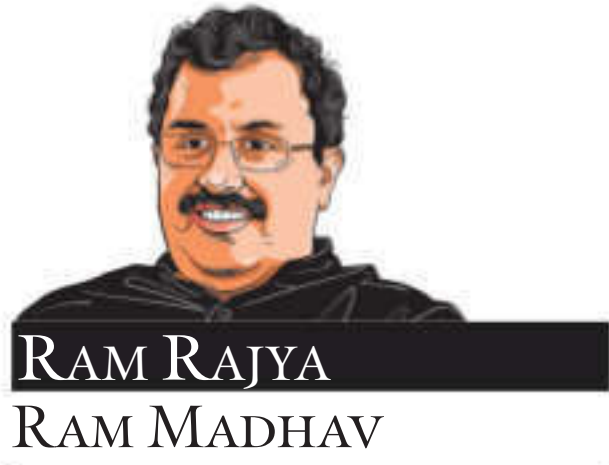
The statements by Bhikchandani are also a form of bannerism, one that lies at a different spectrum than that in the context of Galgotias University but shares something with it. This form of bannerism consists in being vocal about "fundamental" human values and simultaneously suggesting that "openness and a spirit of inquiry" do not mean a questioning of structures of power or exploring processes of change. Rather, it is about an "openness" of style and a "spirit of inquiry" that is disassociated from inquiring about why is it that things are the way they are and, instead, simply concerned with describing the world as consisting of many different things. It is an aesthetic mode of liberalism, one where everything has a purpose and where we should primarily delight in recognising this "wonderful" diversity of the world. Speaking up against existing structures of power — in order to think of a more equitable world, for example — are not part of this tradition of "openness" and "spirit of inquiry".

It is these forms of bannersim that might explain the ways in which those we might expect to have a nuanced understanding of social and political life — "university people" — deal with issues of public importance. There are ways in which, at the current time, those who oversee different kinds of universities — the "technological" and the "arts and humanities" focussed — might subscribe to a very similar way of thinking about the world, one produced through bannerism.

The writer is British Academy Global Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS University of London

At ease with diversity

PMEAC report on population indicates that all communities are close to a healthy growth mark, unlike demographic patterns elsewhere



RAM RAJYA
RAM MADHAV

EVA VLAARDINGERBROEK, A young conservative political activist from the Netherlands, has become famous after YouTube decided to pull down a video of her speech at a recent Conservative Political Action Conference in Budapest. YouTube described the video as "hate speech". In the speech, that secured more than 50 million views on Twitter, Eva asserted, supported by data, that Europeans are becoming a minority in Europe. The Great Replacement Theory is no longer just a theory, she argued, "but a reality". "Let's take Amsterdam, the capital. It currently consists of 56 per cent migrants, The Hague has 58 per cent migrants and Rotterdam has almost 60 per cent migrants. Of course, most of these immigrants come from non-Christian, Non-Western African and Middle Eastern countries. The Dutch population is already outnumbered in the majority of our cities", Vlaardingerbroek states. She adds that London has 54 per cent migrants and Brussels has 70 per cent migrants.

Vlaardingerbroek's reference to the so-called "Great Replacement Theory" is interesting. First talked about in the late 19th century, it argued that Jews and some Western elites were conspiring to replace white Americans and Europeans with people of non-European descent, particularly Asians and Africans. In France, Renaud Camus formally codified this theory through a book in 2011 *Le Grand Remplacement*. Surveys show that around 60 per cent of the French believed some aspects of this theory while not less than a third of Americans and Europeans also do so.

A recent study by three members of the PM-Economic Advisory Council in India, Shamika Ravi, Abraham Jose and Apurv Mishra, "Share of Religious Minorities – A Cross-Country Analysis," confirms this trend about the radically changing demographics of the OECD countries. Drawing data points from 1950 to 2015, a three-generation period of 65 years, this study concludes that of the 35 out of the 38 OECD countries or the "developed world" it analysed, 30 countries have witnessed a steep decline in the share of the majority religious denomination – Roman Catholics in this case. The study covers 167 countries – by far the most exhaustive, although basic – and finds that the average reduction of majority populations globally during the period was 22 per cent. However, it also shows that the decline was much steeper in the OECD countries where the average decline of the majority religious population was at 29 per cent. Data about Africa too is revealing. Animism or native religion was the dominant religion in 24 countries in Africa in 1950. By 2015, it was no longer a majority in any of these.

It is in this background that the study looks at the data sets available about India too. "In

keeping with the global trends of declining majority, India too has witnessed a reduction in the share of the majority religious denomination by 781 per cent," it states. The authors hypothesise that the increase in the population of minorities could be a "good proxy" for arriving at the conclusion that they were "flourishing" in the given country. In India's context, a 781 per cent increase in the populations of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Buddhists (Parsis and Jains saw a decline) indicated that contrary to the propaganda, especially in the Western media, the minorities enjoy relative comfort in the country.

The authors end the report by stating that "contrary to the noise in several quarters, careful analysis of the data shows that minorities are not just protected but indeed thriving in India. This is particularly remarkable given the wider context within the South Asian neighbourhood where the share of the majority religious denomination has increased and minority populations have shrunk alarmingly across countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan. India's performance suggests that there is a conducive environment to foster diversity in society. It is not possible to promote better life outcomes for the disadvantaged sections of society without providing a nurturing environment and societal support through a bottom-up approach".

Data is a double-edged weapon. It can often be deceptive too. One could see that in the media and social media debates following the publication of the study in India. Rather than understanding the purpose of the study to negate the propaganda about the status of minorities in India, the debate largely shifted to the growing numbers of the minorities and dangers to the majority community thereof.

A comprehensive study about the growing minority population in India, "Religious Demography of India", was published by JK Bajaj, M D Srinivas and A P Joshi in 2003. Going down to the district level, that near-exhaustive study warned of the unbalanced growth of minority populations in the country. It triggered a widespread debate along similar lines at that time too.

However, new data also reveals that population growth rates in India are gradually coming closer to the healthy growth mark. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) data (number of births a woman gives in her lifetime), a credible indicator to project population growth, shows that in India, against the preferred TFR of 2.19, the national average is hovering around 2. It is a decline from 2.2 in 2015 and 3.4 in 1991. This decline, according to the National Family Health Survey data, is across all religious groups. Between 1991 and 2015, this decline for Hindus was from 3.3 to 2.1, while that of Muslims was from 4.4 to 2.6. Today, the figures for Hindus and Muslims have further declined to 1.9 and 2.4 respectively.

If the trend continues, India is expected to see healthy population patterns in the coming decades. PMEAC's conclusions in a way indicate the same thing that minorities enjoy all benefits and lead a comfortable life in India, while demographic changes in the whole world continue to be a matter of concern.

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the RSS



OOPALEE OPERAJITA

CLASSICAL INDIAN MUSIC has lost one of its greats. Ustad Rashid Khan (1968-2024), of the Rampur-Sahaswan gharana, was only 55 when he was snatched away from us on January 9 this year, succumbing to prostate cancer. He had at least 20 years of singing ahead of him. His passing reminds me of the premature loss of genius Carnatic instrumentalist Mandolin Srinivas at 47; of the great G N Balasubramaniam; and, earlier, of Amir Khan, Nikhil Banerjee, and D V Paluskar.

Rashid burst on the scene after an apprenticeship in Kolkata. His gurus were his maternal uncle, Ustad Nisar Hussain Khan, and Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan of the Rampur-Sahaswan gharana, founded by Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan, his great grandfather. As in the manner of all great artists, Rashid achieved a style which was his own quite early on.

Our sense of loss is compounded by what might have been — for classical Indian musicians are at their peak in their 50s and 60s; and some perform, with vigour, well into their 70s and 80s. I valorise listening to musicians in their later years: There is no substitute for the depth accruing from the rich and varied experiences of life which impacts your art.

I first heard Rashid Khan in the late 1980s in Kolkata. I was in the city to perform at Kala Mandir, and he was featured elsewhere. I made it a point to travel across the city to listen to him, a young singer holding

His own light

Rashid Khan's music was a healing and illuminating force

out a rare promise. His rise was meteoric.

In an age when trite music goes "viral" and, for the most part, the cult of the impermanent permeates our lives — Rashid was heard quizzing a journalist: "Yeh going viral kya hota hai? (What does this 'going viral' mean)?" Again: In climes in which the hideously lightweight and fleeting is prized, the grandeur, depth, and mellifluousness of Rashid's music was both a benchmark and a beacon.

In classical dance and music, and in multiple art forms, there are no shortcuts to diligent and regular study. Once you have been through the rigours of intensive training, the music and dance simply flow, even as you continue learning — and, indeed, must. Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra taught me Odissi for 12 consecutive years, but I stayed with him for 30 years, always learning, training, and being enriched; as well as performing with him across the world.

Rashid's voice was one of his most prized natural assets — it was sonorous, vigorous, and deep, yet memorably pleasing and silken. In its timbre, it sounds very much like another favourite singer of mine, Ustad Amir Khan. The popular lexicon of Hindustani music will likely categorise this as *dard* (a yearning, where pleasure and pain are conflated) — it is similar to what the great pianist Dinu Lipatti possessed: Critics called it *el duende* or the holy spirit. *Dard* to my mind, also symbolises the simultaneous holding of — in your voice, mu-

sic, and art — the delight, mystery, and angst of existence. In absorbing art, as one critic noted: "We are carried out beyond ourselves to find ourselves."

Rashid's music does precisely that for us: It is transformative and expansive. His *aalap* and *vilambit khayal* showed him up as the master he was. When you listen to him sing Bageshri, or Bhimpalasi, the shared ecstasy ultimately leads to a heightened sense of being. All great art effortlessly effects such a transformation.

Today, some musicians use music to divide, and disrupt — through the artifices of vociferation, and feeble impertinences. Rashid Khan's music was — as all great music is — a healing, cohesive, and illuminating force. In a memorable *jugalbandi* in Bengaluru, Rashid sang the popular Kannada song by the seer Vyasaraya (1450-1539) *Krishna nee begane baro* — urging the child Krishna to swiftly appear — in the *raga* Kalyani/Yaman Kalyan. As I listened to Rashid, I thought, the infant Krishna would have crawled right up to him, owing to the lilting richness and the genuine affection in his voice.

Where is the Christian or the Hindu versus the Muslim here? Why is there a need to debate in which century, and from which creed, Hindustani music originated? Bharata's *Natyashastra* — a treatise on dance, the arts, and theatre, devotes an entire chapter to classical Indian music, and dates back to the 2nd century BCE. Where is the sense in being territorial when the very

language of music is universal and transcends barriers? Why can we not let music grant to all — rich or poor, young or old, Parsi, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, or Jewish — the aquamarine sky of the soul? Empedocles wrote about how happy the person is who has gained the wealth of divine thought. Even happier are those whose intrinsic natures have allowed them the bliss of merging into the immeasurable beyond, through music.

The *raga* Bageshri, a midnight *raga*, is a favourite of mine (it was the late great Kishori Amonkar's favourite too, as she told me decades ago). When you listen to Rashid sing Bageshri, you have scant need for much else: His melodies rise to address all of creation. Rashid always sang in perfect sur, never once deviating from the rigours of exacting pitch.

Music is illumination — *Astraya purusham swayam jyotirbhavati*: In this state, the person herself becomes the light; and she is also *svena jyotisha prasvapithi*, that is: revealing herself by her own lustre. (Brihadaranyaka Upanishad IV.iii.9.) Rashid Khan was his own light, and his music was our light too.

The writer was appointed Distinguished Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University in 1990. She is a global adviser on public policy, communication and international relations and an Odissi and Bharatanatyam artiste and choreographer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO DRAW IN YOUTH

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Parties to blame, need to do more' (IE, May 10). Young voters find it difficult to relate to political leaders whose average age is above 50. Students live with the perception that politics is a bad word and is best kept at arm's length as a profession. Many young citizens who sign up as voters end up not voting. Therefore, it is important for political parties not only to motivate young persons to register but also to cast their votes. This needs to be a year-long process instead of picking up steam before poll season.

SS Paul, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Parties to blame, need to do more' (IE, May 10). The youth are the future of our nation. Why then are young people disengaged from politics? The answer lies in contemporary political parties' relentless pursuit of power, which sidelines genuine concerns. Dissent is often silenced, attacks on Opposition only deepen the issues. The youth prioritise job security, nation-building, and trust in science over divisive politics and religious agendas. Their focus is on national development and societal unity. It's imperative for politicians to recognise these shifts, as ignoring them risks eroding the very fabric of our nation.

Ajay Corriea, Vasai

TATA MUST RETHINK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Turbulence in the air' (IE, May 10). The strike by Air India Express employees has thrown the airfare itineraries out of gear. The Tata group of companies are of repute and have an established and respected work culture. But the current developments run counter to their stature. Safeguarding the interests of human capital is paramount for any business group to make mergers seamless. These moves are invariably counter-productive.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

HOLISTIC LEARNING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The good doctors' (IE, May 8). While the idea proposed by the UGC to grant both four-year bachelor's degree holders and master's degree holders access to doctoral research opportunities is appreciable, efficacy of the entry-test, UGC-NET is questionable. Former NCERT director Krishna Kumar once called this test "notorious" and emphasised its heavy reliance on rote memorisation. In light of this, it becomes imperative for universities and UGC to reconsider their approach to admissions, ensuring that they prioritise holistic evaluation methods that encourage critical thinking, creativity, and diverse perspectives.

Mohsin Ilahi, Nasirabad

14 THE WORLD

WILL FIGHT WITH FINGERNAILS: NETANYAHU IN VEILED RESPONSE TO U.S.

Israeli tanks encircle Rafah's eastern half, 1 lakh Gazans flee city in a week

Residents say Israeli tanks, jets target all of Rafah, not only its east

REUTERS
CAIRO, MAY 10

ISRAELI TANKS captured the main road dividing the eastern and western halves of Rafah on Friday, effectively encircling the entire eastern side of the city in the southern Gaza Strip.

Residents described almost constant explosions and gunfire east and northeast of the city on Friday, with intense fighting between Israeli forces and militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Hamas said it ambushed Israeli tanks near a mosque in the east of the city, a sign the Israelis had penetrated several kilometres from the east to the outskirts of the built-up area.

Israel has ordered civilians out of the eastern half of Rafah, forcing tens of thousands of people to seek shelter outside the city. More than 100,000 people have fled Rafah in the last five days, said the UNICEF Senior Emergency Coordinator, Hamish Young.

"The army is targeting all of Rafah not only the east with tank shells and air strikes," said Abu Hassan, a resident of Tel al-Sultan.

Israeli tanks have already sealed off eastern Rafah from the south, capturing and shutting the only crossing between the enclave and Egypt. An advance on Friday to the Salahuddin road that bisects the strip completed the encirclement of the "red zone" where they have ordered residents out.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in apparent response to a US warning of halting weapons supply, said Israel would "fight with our fingernails" if it must.

In a U.S. television interview, he said he hoped Israel would overcome its disagreements with President Joe Biden.



Israeli tanks mass in south Gaza's Rafah, on Thursday. Reuters

UN General Assembly passes motion backing Palestinian statehood

THE NEW YORK TIMES
UNITED NATIONS, MAY 10

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly on Friday overwhelmingly adopted a resolution declaring that Palestinians qualify for full-member status at the United Nations, a highly symbolic move that reflects growing global solidarity with Palestinians and is a rebuke to Israel and the United States.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 143 to 9 with 25 nations abstaining. The Assembly broke into a big applause after the vote. The United States voted no.

The resolution was prepared by the United Arab Emirates, the

current chair of the UN Arab Group. The 193-member General Assembly took on the issue of Palestinian membership after the United States in April vetoed a resolution before the Security Council to recognize full membership for a Palestinian state. The majority of Council members supported the move, but the United States said recognition of Palestinian statehood should be achieved through negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, a sharp critic of the body, said voting for a Palestinian state would be inviting "a state of terror" in its midst and rewarding "terrorists" who killed Jewish civilians.

Cornell president quits amid row over action against Gaza protesters

THE NEW YORK TIMES
MAY 10

MARTHA POLLACK, Cornell University's president for the past seven years, announced in a surprise email on Thursday afternoon that she is resigning.

"I understand that there will be lots of speculation about my decision, so let me be as clear as I can: This decision is mine and mine alone," she wrote in an email, addressed to "Cornellians."

Pollack's resignation means that four of the eight Ivy League universities — Harvard, Yale, the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell — will now be in various stages of leadership transition,



Cornell president Martha Pollack

three of them with interim presidents already in charge or presidential searches underway.

Pollack leaves at a time of controversy over disciplinary action Cornell has taken against pro-Palestinian student protesters. Cornell has taken what some professors called draconian measures against six protesters. Critics have found the measures particularly disturbing coming in a year when Pollack launched a campus free-expression initiative.

KYIV OFFICIAL SAYS RUSSIAN TROOPS PUSHED 1 KM INSIDE BORDER

Russia launches ground offensive on Kharkiv, Kyiv rushes troops to new front

Zelenskyy says Ukraine forces prepared to face assault

REUTERS
KYIV, MAY 10

RUSSIAN FORCES launched an armoured ground attack on Friday near Ukraine's second city of Kharkiv in the northeast of the country and made limited gains, opening a new front in a war that has long been waged in the east and south.

Ukraine sent reinforcements as fighting raged in the border areas of the region, the defence ministry said, adding that Russia had pounded the frontier town of Vovchansk with guided aerial bombs and artillery.

A senior Ukrainian military source who declined to be named said Russian forces had pushed 1 km inside the Ukrainian border near Vovchansk. The source said Russian forces were aiming to push Ukrainian troops as far back as 10 km inside Ukraine as part of an effort to create a buffer zone, but that Kyiv's troops were trying to hold them back.

Ukraine sent reinforcements as fighting raged in the border areas of the region, the defence ministry said, adding that Russia had pounded the frontier town of Vovchansk with guided aerial bombs and artillery.

"Russia has begun a new wave of counteroffensive actions in this direction," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told a news conference in Kyiv. "Now there is a fierce battle in this direction."

Ukraine had warned of a Russian buildup in the area, potentially signaling preparations for an offensive or an effort to divert and pin down Ukraine's overstretched and outnumbered defenders. It was



The site of a Russian missile strike in Kharkiv, Friday. Reuters



unclear if Moscow would develop the attack. Zelenskyy has said Russia could be preparing a big offensive push this spring or summer.

Kyiv's forces were prepared to meet Friday's assault, but Moscow could send more troops to the area, he told reporters.

Kharkiv region's governor

said the length of the border and the settlements in it were a "grey zone" and confirmed active fighting taking place.

At least two civilians were killed and five more were injured during heavy Russian shelling of border settlements, said Governor Oleh Synehubov.

Will scrap Rwanda scheme if voted to power, says Labour leader Keir Starmer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, MAY 10

IF VOTED to power in the next election, the Labour Party will "replace gimmicks with graft" by scrapping the Rwanda scheme to partly fund a new "elite" border unit to "smash" people smuggling gangs to tackle small boats crossing the English Channel, Labour leader Keir Starmer said Friday.

On April 23, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak welcomed the passage of his government's controversial Safety of Rwanda Bill by Parliament overnight and pledged that nothing would stand in the way of illegal migrants being flown out to Rwanda.

Sunak has made stopping such boats from making dangerous journeys across the Channel one of his priorities ahead of a general election expected later this year. Starmer's announcement comes after his shadow health secretary Wes Streeting claimed more Tory MPs were considering defecting to Labour because of "division and incompetence" in Rishi Sunak's government.



Keir Starmer in Dover on Friday. Reuters

cause of "division and incompetence" in Rishi Sunak's government. In a speech at Dover, a coastal town in England's south-east, the Labour leader accused the Conservatives of operating a "Travelodge amnesty" by housing asylum-seekers in hotels rather than processing their claims.

Meanwhile, British Home Secretary, James Cleverly said, "Labour have no plan to stop the boats... They will create a haven for criminal gangs, not stop them". He said: "Labour voted over 130 times against tougher legislation to stop the boats."

Zuma in court seeking right to run in S Africa's pivotal election



Former South Africa President Jacob Zuma

REUTERS
JOHANNESBURG, MAY 10

SOUTH AFRICA'S top court began hearing legal arguments on Friday on whether ex-president Jacob Zuma can run for parliament, a case whose outcome will affect a wide open national election on May 29 and could cause security problems if he loses.

Zuma, who was forced to quit as president in 2018 and was sentenced to jail in 2021, has fallen out with African National Congress and has been campaigning for a new party, uMkhonto we Sizwe.

The case stems from a decision in March by South Africa's electoral commission to disqualify Zuma on the basis that anyone given a prison sentence of 12 months or longer cannot hold a parliamentary seat.

In 2021, Zuma was sentenced to 15 months in jail for failing to appear at a corruption inquiry.

BRIEFLY

POLAND
PM reshuffles Cabinet ahead of EU elections

Warsaw: Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Friday announced changes in his Cabinet to replace four ministers running for the European Parliament next month. The reshuffle is also seen as a chance to bring in new energy into Tusk's government that took office in December and embarked on deep reforms in many areas, including justice and the media. Tusk said that, while no one should think that his position has no time limits, the ministers have fulfilled their tasks. AP

PAKISTAN
First images from Lunar probe sent on Chinese craft

Islamabad: Pakistan's maiden lunar orbiter sent the first images of the sun and the moon, days after it was launched as part of China's moon mission, it was announced on Friday. Pakistan's mini satellite "iCube-Qamar" was launched as part of China's Chang'e-6 lunar mission on May 3 from the Hainan province. The images were unveiled at a ceremony organised at the China National Space Agency (CNSA) to mark the successful mission, Maria Tariq, spokesperson of Pakistan's national space agency Suparco, told Dawn.com. She said that pictures were officially handed over to Pakistan's ambassador to China, at the data handover ceremony in Beijing. PTI

TENSIONS ESCALATE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

China military says it 'drove away' US destroyer in South China Sea

REUTERS
BEIJING, MAY 10

CHINA'S MILITARY closely monitored and "drove away" USS Halsey that entered the territorial seas of Paracel Islands in the South China Sea on Friday, Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army said Friday.

Philippines' top security official suggests expelling China diplomats in 'leaked' call

REUTERS
MANILA, MAY 10

THE PHILIPPINES' national security adviser called on Friday for Chinese diplomats to be expelled over an alleged leak of a phone conversation with a Filipino admiral in a significant escalation of a bitter row over

The US move "seriously infringing on China's sovereignty and security," the military said. "It is yet another iron proof of its navigation hegemony and militarization of the South China Sea," it said, adding its troops would stay on high alert and safeguard national security.

The US Navy said the destroyer asserted navigational rights and

freedoms in the South China Sea near the Paracel Islands "consistent with international law."

The USS Halsey exited the area after its operation and continued on in the South China Sea, the statement said.

China's latest dispute between and US came amid its tensions in the strategic South China Sea with the Philippines.

the South China Sea.

China's embassy in Manila had orchestrated "repeated acts of engaging and dissemination of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation", with the objective of sowing discord, Eduardo Ano said in a statement.

Those actions "should not be allowed to pass unsanctioned without serious penalty", he said.

Chinese foreign ministry called the comments provocative and said Chinese diplomats in the Philippines had to be allowed to do their job. "China solemnly requests the Philippine side to effectively safeguard the normal performance of duties by Chinese diplomatic personnel, stop infringing and provoking, and refrain from denying the facts," Lin said.

ONCE-PERSECUTED FAITH GAINS MOMENTUM

Shunned for centuries, Vodou offers solace to Haitians amid gang violence

DÁNICA COTO
PORT-AU-PRINCE, MAY 10

THE VODOU faithful sing, their voices rising above the gunfire erupting miles away as frantic drumbeats drown out their troubles. They pause to swig rum out of small brown bottles, twirling in unison as they sing in Haitian Creole: "We don't care if they hate us, because they can't bury us."

Shunned publicly by politicians and intellectuals for centuries, Vodou is transforming into a more powerful and accepted religion across Haiti, where its believers were once persecuted. Increasingly, they

seek solace and protection from violent gangs that have killed, raped and kidnapped thousands in recent years.

Violence has left more than 360,000 people homeless, largely shut down Haiti's biggest seaport and closed the main international airport two months ago. Basic goods including food and life-saving medication are dwindling; nearly 2 million Haitians are on the verge of famine.

Amid the spiraling chaos, numerous Haitians are praying more or visiting Vodou priests known as "oungans" for urgent requests ranging from locating loved ones who were kidnapped to finding critical medication



Vodou pilgrims attend a Mass marking the feast day of agriculture and work in Port-au-Prince, earlier this week. AP

needed to keep someone alive.

"The spirits help you. They're always around," said Sherly Norzéus, who is initiated to become a "mambo," or Vodou priestess. In February, she invoked Papa Ogou, god of war and iron, when 20 armed men surrounded her car as she tried to flee the community of Bon Repos.

"We are going to burn you alive!" she recalled the gunmen yelling. "I prayed to Papa Ogou. He helped me get out of the situation," Norzéus said. When she opened her eyes, the gunmen signaled that she was free to leave.

Vodou was at the root of the revolution that led Haiti to become the world's first free Black

republic in 1804, a religion born in West Africa and brought across the Atlantic by enslaved people. The syncretic religion that melds Catholicism with animist beliefs has no official leader or creeds. It has a single God known as "Bondye," and more than 1,000 spirits known as the lwa.

Some experts consider it a religion of the exploited. "Vodou is the system that Haitians have developed to deal with the suffering of this life, a system whose object is to minimize pain, avoid disaster, soften losses, and strengthen the survivors as much as the survival instinct," Haitian sociologist Laënnec Hurbon wrote in a recent essay.

Even after Haiti's independence, Vodou remained oppressed. The country's new leaders condemned Vodou worship, as did the Catholic Church. The church demanded parishioners take an oath renouncing Vodou in 1941.

But Vodou persisted. By 2003, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Salesian priest who became Haiti's first democratically elected president, recognized Vodou as one of Haiti's official religions. Since 1920s, Vodou has also become a key ingredient in Haiti's rich cultural scene, inspiring music, art, writing and dance.

Despite the formal recognition, Vodou remains shunned by some Haitians. AP

15 BIG PICTURE

HALF AN hour to midnight, the wail of the engine slices through the humid air of Ernakulam Junction. What follows is a scramble to slide and squeeze supple bodies and their luggage through the crowded doorway. A policeman on the platform curses and wields his *lathi* that lands on the steel rod of a window, an overzealous vendor is still pitching his sales, sprinting like a relay runner even after the entirely unreserved train has taken off. The Ernakulam Junction-Howrah Junction Antyodaya Express brakes with a heavy grunt, as if it has forgotten something or someone, before it lumbers along its tedious 2,238-kilometre cross-country run.

The platform, where multitudes had assembled, is now deserted. There is no one to see them off, to wave a goodbye or stifle a tear. The train has swallowed the multitudes – the nameless, faceless men who are part of Kerala's 34-lakh interstate workforce and who are now on a journey back home for a price of Rs 575. It's a journey back to the familiar – to the pungent fragrance of smoking mustard oil to children climbing on to their shoulders and long evenings with brothers and uncles on endless cups of *lebu cha* (lemon tea). But this time, as they fill every inch of the train's general compartment, they do so with an added purpose. Almost all of them are men in the coach headed home to vote – to West Bengal, Odisha and Assam, states that are in different stages of elections for the Lok Sabha.

'You will end up standing till Howrah'

Among the passengers is Moosa Haq, 29, wiry and smile-ready, who works as a butcher in a meat stall in Mala, a small town an hour from Kochi, who is now headed to his village near Ranaghat in Nadia district. "Even when we leave our villages, no one comes to see us off. So why should anyone care for us here? I have friends, but they have their own things to do," he says, tucking his bag onto the wooden overhead rack. In the bag, he says, are saris for his wife, toys for his daughters and some sweet *murukku* for his mother.

He blankly scans the faces of strangers in the coach, one of the 16 compartments in the fully unreserved train. Most of them are like him, migrant labourers, or as they are called here, guest workers. Some sit upright on their seats, the skin of the cushion peeled, baring the spongy foam; others lie on the floor; a few have climbed into the luggage rack, their heads bent, brushing the ceiling. Many are standing, constantly on the lookout for a space to sit or even stand comfortably.

Moosa sympathises with them: "If you don't get a seat here, you will end up standing till Howrah." Then with a triumphant grin, he adds: "*Aaj kismet mere saath tha* (Luck was on my side today). I got a side seat, near the window." The advantages are many – he doesn't need to share his seat with anyone, he can feel the breeze on his face, even if it's skin-burning hot, and can occasionally light up a *beedi*, which, he says, is his only indulgence. "We spend all our life trying to make things easier for our family, we see them just once a year. So we need some entertainment in life," he says justifying his addiction.

It was seven years ago that Moosa travelled to Kerala for the first time. A friend had promised him work at a salon, but by the time they reached the place, the job was already taken. He ended up doing odd jobs before he got the butcher's job. "*Acha hain, sir. Mahine mein 10-15 hazaar kamathe hain* (It's good... I end up earning about Rs 15,000 a month)," he says.

He usually goes home once a year, during Ramadan, mostly late March or April. Instead, this year, he travelled in February for the birth of his second daughter, and this journey, he will club the polls and Bakrid (which falls in June).

Politics neither fascinates nor intrigues him. He does not know the name of the candidates contesting from his constituency, Ranaghat, which votes on May 13. For the record, the tussle is between incumbent Jagannath Sarkar of the BJP and TMC's Mukut Mani Adhikari. Those names hardly strike any chord, though he admires the state Chief Minister and Trinamool leader Mamata Banerjee. "For a woman to become a CM takes a lot of courage. And she is doing good for the poor, I have heard from friends," he says. But he largely stays away from politics. "I don't even watch reels of politicians, unless there is some comedy. Waste of time," he says.

But the local politicians are paying for his trip, besides giving him other "gifts" (money,



A night on the migrant express

In the midst of a high-stakes general election, as the weekly Ernakulam-Howrah Antyodaya Express sets off on a cross-country journey, every inch of its space packed with migrants making their journey from Kerala to states in the east, SANDIP G joins them for conversations on what awaits them back home – food, family and this time, a crucial franchise

a liquor bottle, *biriyani*). "Usually, they book tickets, but this time it did not happen. Don't know why, maybe because there are too many people and a few trains, so they can't book for all," he says.

There are only five trains from Ernakulam to Howrah every week. Only two trains, one weekly and another that runs five times a week, connect Kerala to Assam.

Beyond the crammed aisle, sticking out his neck, Moosa's friend Afsal Ismaili, who is from Asansol and works in a sawmill in Chalakudy in Kerala's Thrissur district, shouts, "Who cares for us?"

Afsal is 45, battle-hardened and well-travelled – from "Ladakh to Kanyakumari", he claims. As a youngster, he was attracted to politics, and would attend rallies of the CPI(M), before he realised it's a futile endeavour. "We are remembered only during elections," he says, adding, "The local councillor's secretary doesn't even know me, but he has been calling almost twice a week on my phone to ensure that I reach there in time for the election. I told him, '*ticket kar do, full bottle kar do*'. He didn't manage the ticket, but has promised full refund and Rs 100 extra, besides 'full bottle'. I wouldn't vote if they don't pay the amount for the ticket," he says, before quickly saying, "No, no I'm joking, I have never missed an election in my life."

The star attraction in Asansol is yesterday's actor and TMC candidate Shatrugan Sinha. He has watched his movies, but says he loves the movies of his daughter Sonakshi more. Sinha is the sitting MP, but Afsal fears whether his opponent, BJP's S S Ahluwalia, will topple him. "*Sardarji acha aadmi hain, lekin galat party mein hain* (Ahluwalia is a good man in the wrong party)," he says.

But for Afsal, all the discourse around elections isn't pleasant. "I live in a Hindu majority area. We were all like brothers. Now some of them call us Bangladeshis. It's true, our ancestors came from Chittagong (in Bangladesh), but so have most of them



(Top) The Antyodaya Express with 16 coaches, all unreserved, is almost always packed with migrants; passengers stop for a meal. Sandip G

(Hindus). All this Hindu-Muslim talk, especially by the BJP, is destroying our brotherhood," he says.

Which is why, Afsal says, he doesn't invest too much into politics. For, soon after the polls they are forgotten too, much like the promises the politicians make. "Twenty years ago, we were promised two-room houses with concrete roofs. But we still live in asbestos-roofed rooms," he says. The roofs creak in monsoon, the heat becomes intolerable in the summer months, and the toilets are in terrible shape. He is saving money so that his children needn't fear the monsoon or endure the summer's wrath. He fled home when he was 15, driven out by his own father because the family was still expanding.

His only fear is if he would lose the job back in Kerala by the time he returns. But Moosa

reassures him, "We survived the lockdown and COVID-19, so we will survive anything."

'Those who died on Coromandel were people like us'

As the train races past Coimbatore, Ansari rears his head from the adjacent seat and says, "Covid times were hard, but so is every day. So we try not to think of past struggles."

In March last year, Ansari nearly boarded the Coromandel Express – a migrant train much like this one which was on its way from Shalimar in Howrah to Chennai. At the Bahanaga railway station in Odisha's Balasore district, the Coromandel collided with a goods train and then ricocheted into a passenger train, killing nearly 300 people. "Who were the people who died? Most in the reserved compartments were saved;



Even when we leave our villages, no one comes to see us off. So why should anyone care for us here (in Kerala)? I have friends, but they have their own things to do

MOOSA HAQ
A RESIDENT OF NADIA DISTRICT

only those in the general coaches, labourers like us, died. Come to my village, there are parents who believe that their missing sons from that accident will come back," he says, his eyes seething with rage. That day, his plan was to buy a ticket from Murshidabad to Vijayawada and board another train to Thrissur, where he was working in a bakery. But the Coromandel was so crowded that he couldn't get in.

The 33-year-old is from Naoda near Berhampore in Murshidabad, a long-time bastion of the Indian National Congress. He strikes a Kerala connect – the lotus has never bloomed in his constituency, he says. Though he is critical of the sitting MP, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of the Congress who had had an undefeated run since 1999, he would rather see him win instead of the



BJP's Nirmal Kumar Saha or Trinamool's Yusuf Pathan, the former cricketer. His grandfather and father were all staunch supporters of the Revolutionary Socialist Party during the Tridib Chaudhuri years, he says. "They were honest, hardworking and spent too much time in politics. That's why we remain poor and I have to travel all the way to Kerala to support them," he says. Then he implores: "*Yeh baat chhod do, sir* (forget all this)." He then flips his mobile phone – which he ties to the lungi, lest it be stolen – and plays a Bengali melody by Arijit Singh.

'My home feels nearer'

Talks and songs fill the night, like the locomotive that blasts past a bridge over the limpid silver of the Bharathapuzha river and the inky ghats. "*Pehli raat to aisa hi hain* (The first night on the train is like this). We keep talking till the morning, watching each other settle down, seeing new people, meeting some others. It's all about the joy of reaching home soon," says Afsal.

The ceaseless rush of passengers makes their nights longer, before they twist and turn and slip subconsciously into slumber. Fatigue hits them when they wake up the next day, somewhere past Salem in Tamil Nadu, much after the first rays of sun had slithered in through the windows and the chai vendors had fully strained their vocal cords.

Dreariness displaces enthusiasm. It's to do with the scenery, says Ansari, peering his drooping eyes along the endless stretch of wastelands past Salem. "It only gets worse once you enter Andhra (Pradesh). I cannot imagine the heat," he says. Especially this May, when the heatwave has not spared any of the southern states. "40 (degree Celsius) in Kerala, 45 in Tamil Nadu, 50 in Andhra," says Ansari.

Like most others in the coach, he is only in his lungi. He wonders whether he has to tear that away by the time the train reaches Kharagpur Junction.

Around 1 am, he unpacks a tightly knot polythene bag stuffed with rotis. In another plastic tumbler is the *aloo bharta* he has cooked. The train, he says, doesn't have a pantry car and the vendors largely sell stale food. "We are poor, so they can sell us week-old food. And you know how difficult it is to find your way (through the crowds) to the toilet, which invariably wouldn't have water. So I don't want to take any risks," he says.

Just then comes along a ticket checker, who they call "*kaala jadugar*" for their black coats and the knack of popping up from nowhere. Moosa shows his ticket, which the TTE carefully studies, before almost flinging it back at him.

"He was looking to see if it's an old ticket," Moosa says later. "Everyone is suspicious of us and, of course, rude," he says. Perceptions have hardened since last month, when a TTE was pushed to the tracks from a moving train (Ernakulam-Patna Express) and eventually succumbed to his injuries. A couple of years ago, a guest worker allegedly assaulted a TTE in the same Ernakulam-Howrah train. "We are scared to travel in these trains. There is no security for our lives," says a TTE, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Ansari understands their paranoia, but says, "If you treat us with respect, we too will. At the end of the day, we are all trying to earn a livelihood."

At 10 am, the train jerks and pauses at Katpadi Junction, the last stop in Tamil Nadu, before it slithers into Andhra Pradesh. The same sequence repeats – a human torrent lashing into the coach, policemen hurling expletives, and vendors trying to sell their products, and Moosa and friends staring into their journey.

"One fourth of the journey is over, my home feels nearer," he says. The engine wails.

In Dalit man's suicide, shadows from a 2016 murder-gangrape case

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
AHMEDNAGAR

A SCUFFLE at a 'tamasha' event that ended in the suicide of a Dalit man has left a village in Ahmednagar district on the edge. What has added to the tensions are shadows of the past.

It was in the same village that a 14-year-old Maratha girl had been raped and murdered, allegedly by three persons, in July 2016, an incident that set off Maratha protests across Maharashtra. Besides, the protagonists in both cases are related.

The suicide

Of the three men arrested for the Dalit man's suicide, one is the brother of the Maratha girl in the 2016 gangrape and murder case. And the Dalit youth who died by suicide is related to one of

the convicts in the 2016 gangrape case.

On May 2, the 37-year-old Dalit man was found hanging from the ceiling at his home. Police said family members found a four-line suicide note in his pocket in which he blamed the Maratha men. Within 24 hours, the Ahmednagar Police arrested three of the accused for alleged abetment of suicide.

According to the complaint filed by the Dalit victim's father, his son had gone for the tamasha, a popular folk art form, on the night of May 1, but did not return home. The following morning, the father got to know from villagers that his son had got into a scuffle and was allegedly thrashed by upper caste men. Family members alleged that they found him lying naked at the village crematorium and brought him home on a motorcycle.

The FIR says the victim told his father that around 11.30 pm on May 1, when he started dancing at the tamasha, the three



accused made casteist remarks and assaulted him. As matters got out of hand, the tamasha was stopped. Later, as the victim was on his way home, the accused allegedly took him to the cremation ground, forced him to strip and assaulted him, the FIR stated.

Around 3.30 pm the next day, the victim allegedly hanged himself at his residence. He

is survived by his parents, wife and two sons.

Police have booked the three accused in the suicide case under relevant sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. A court has remanded them in police custody till May 8.

Superintendent of Ahmednagar Police Rakesh Ola told *The Indian Express*, "An FIR was lodged as per the complaint of the deceased's father and the accused were arrested. Further probe is on."

The father of the accused said the case was "false" and that his son had been framed in the case. "We got to know that a minor scuffle had happened since the man (the victim) was drunk and was causing a ruckus at the tamasha programme. My son was among those who intervened to stop the brawl. It is a lie to say that my son assaulted and thrashed him. We have no connection with the suicide. The case is false. We have complete faith in the law. Truth

will prevail."

Police sources said given the caste angle and the shadow of the 2016 incident, the case was being handled sensitively.

The 2016 rape-murder case

The gangrape and murder of the 14-year-old Maratha girl, allegedly by Dalit men from the village, had set off protests across Maharashtra's towns and villages.

As per police records, around 6.45 pm on July 13, 2016, the victim was returning home on a bicycle from her grandfather's house when the three accused stopped the girl and sexually assaulted her before murdering her.

A day later, police arrested three Dalit men in the case and booked them under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and IPC sections related to murder. In November 2017, the Ahmednagar district and sessions court awarded death sentences to all three. In

September last year, the main accused in the gangrape-murder case, allegedly died by suicide at Yerwada Central Prison in Pune. He is the cousin of the Dalit man who died by suicide last week.

The father of the Dalit man told *The Indian Express*, "We never supported our relative who got death sentence for the rape and murder of the minor girl. Still, my son, who worked as a peon at the gram panchayat office, lost his job. Those who are responsible for my son's death are powerful people. The main accused (the brother of the minor who was raped and killed in 2016) is an influential person and walks around with a pistol."

The father of the main accused in the suicide case says, "Owing to threats following my daughter's death, my son got a gun licence from the government. It was never misused. We have good relations with all communities in the village," he said.



@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained

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

Dabholkar murder case: Recall of twists and turns over a decade

SUSHANT KULKARNI &
CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
PUNE, MAY 10

MORE THAN a decade after rationalist Narendra Dabholkar's murder, a special court in Pune convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment his two assailants, Sachin Andure and Sharad Kalaskar. The court, however, acquitted Virendrasinh Tawade, Sanjeev Punalekar and Vikram Bhawe due to lack of evidence.

"On one level we are satisfied that the two assailants have been convicted... But the questions about the masterminds and overarching conspiracy behind the murder remain unanswered," Dr Hamid, Dabholar's son, told reporters outside the court complex.

Dabholkar's 2013 murder was followed by those of communist leader Govind Pansare, Kannada scholar M M Kalburgi

(both in 2015), and Bengaluru-based journalist Gauri Lankesh (2017). Over the years, investigating agencies examining these cases have pointed to similarities between them, and the possibility of common perpetrators.

Anti-superstition crusader

Dabholkar, a doctor by profession, revitalised Maharashtra's anti-superstition movement in the late 1980s by founding the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS). He took on *tantriks* and god-men, who he believed exploited the public by promising miracles and promoting unscientific thinking. He was also the long-time editor of *Sadhana*, a socialist Marathi weekly, and active in anti-caste movements in the state.

On August 13, 2013, Dabholkar, 67, was shot dead by two men while on a morning walk in Pune. Days later, the Maharashtra government cleared the long-pending Anti-Superstition

and Black Magic Ordinance, which went on to become law in December 2013.

Early arrests, no breakthrough

Soon after the murder, Thane Police arrested alleged firearms dealer Manish Nagori and his aide Vikas Khandelwal in an unrelated case. They were later transferred to the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), and 40 illegal firearms were allegedly recovered. A ballistic examination of one of the firearms reportedly matched with markings on a cartridge seized at Dabholkar's murder spot.

This led Pune Police to arrest the duo who were produced in court on January 21, 2014. Nagori and Khandelwal claimed that ATS chief Rakesh Maria offered them Rs 25 lakh for confessing to Dabholkar's murder — a claim they later retracted. The duo were eventually released on bail, never to be chargesheeted in the case. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

found no prosecutable evidence against them.

CBI takes over investigation

The CBI took over the probe in June 2014, following a Bombay High Court order. Based on a statement by Kolhapur-based Hindutva activist Sanjay Sadvilkar, also a witness in the Pansare murder case, the agency arrested ENT surgeon Tawade on June 10, 2016. Tawade, linked to Goa-based rightwing outfit Sanatan Sanstha, had already been arrested by the Maharashtra Police in the Pansare case.

The CBI accused Tawade of masterminding the conspiracy to kill Dabholkar, citing the "long standing enmity/ hatred" between MANS and Sanatan Sanstha as motive. In its 2016 chargesheet against Tawade, CBI said absconding Sanstha members Sarang Akolkar and Vinay Pawar had shot Dabholkar.

In August 2018, however, the agency arrested Sanstha activists Andure and Kalaskar

instead, and told the court it was they who had killed Dabholkar. Both men are also accused in the Pansare murder, and Kalaskar is an accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder as well.

In May 2019, CBI arrested Mumbai-based Sanatan Sanstha lawyer Punalekar and his aide Bhawe, alleging that Punalekar had advised Kalaskar to destroy the firearms used in multiple murders — including those of Dabholkar and Lankesh. According to the CBI, following Punalekar's instructions, Kalaskar had dismantled four country-made pistols and thrown its parts into a creek near Thane on July 7 in 2018.

The CBI claimed to have recovered the weapons in March 2020. But a CBI investigation officer later told the trial court that efforts to recover the weapon used in Dabholkar's murder were unsuccessful.

Question of larger conspiracy

A UAPA special court framed charges

against Tawade, Punalkar, Bhawe, Andure, and Kalaskar on September 15, 2021.

Tawade, Andure, Kalaskar, and Bhawe were charged under Section 302 (murder) read with Section 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC, Section 16 of the UAPA (punishment for terrorist act), and provisions of the Arms Act. Punalekar was charged under Section 201 IPC (causing disappearance of evidence). They pleaded not guilty.

Members of Dabholkar's family have claimed that higher-ups in Sanatan Sanstha (above Tawade) were involved in the murders of Dabholkar and the others, but their role was ignored in the investigation.

During the trial, however, CBI investigation officer S R Singh disputed this, saying that the agency had recorded Sanatan Sanstha founder Dr Jayant Athawale's statement in February 2016, and found nothing incriminating. The Sanstha has denied any role in the murders.

EXPLAINED LAW

CHARGES ARE FRAMED AGAINST BRIJ BHUSHAN: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

A TRIAL judge in Delhi framed charges against BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 354A (sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code on Friday. Singh has been accused of sexual harassment by several women wrestlers.

Framing of charges

After police register an FIR and conduct an investigation, they file a chargesheet in the trial court detailing the offences allegedly committed and the evidence collected during the investigation. Police filed a 1,500-page chargesheet on June 15 last year, charging Brij Bhushan with Sections 354, 354A, and 354D (stalking).

The Rouse Avenue court that framed charges under IPC Sections 354 and 354A, noted that it has found sufficient material to frame charges for the offence of criminal intimidation in the allegations of two of the complainants.

The framing of charges means the trial judge has found a *prima facie* case against the accused, based on the material in the chargesheet. This is not a determination of whether the accused has committed the alleged offences — it is only an acknowledgment that sufficient grounds exist to proceed with the trial.

After the trial judge frames the charges, if the accused pleads innocent, the next step is the summoning of witnesses for cross-examination by the defence lawyer(s). After witnesses are examined, both sides present their arguments. Upon completion of arguments, the judge may reserve judgment. If the judge decides to convict the accused, the court will also pronounce the sentence.

Sections of Penal Code

Sections 354 and 354A, along with Sections 354 B-D are often classified as

"offences against women".

Section 354 states that whoever assaults or uses criminal force against a woman "intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty" shall be punished with a term of imprisonment between 1 and 5 years and/or a fine.

The phrase "outrage her modesty" is not defined in the IPC. However, the Supreme Court in *State of Punjab v. Major Singh* (1996) held that "...the essence of a woman's modesty is her sex. The modesty of an adult female is writ large on her body. Young or old, intelligent or imbecile, awake or sleeping, the woman possesses a modesty capable of being outraged."

Section 354A deals with sexual harassment, which is defined as follows: first, "physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures"; second, "a demand or request for sexual favours"; third, "showing pornography against the will of a woman"; fourth, "making sexually coloured remarks".

The first, second, and third acts are treated more severely, and carry a punishment of up to 3 years in prison and a fine. The fourth act can be punished with a term of up to 1 year and a fine.

The trial judge has also seen fit to frame charges of criminal intimidation against Brij Bhushan, which is defined in Section 503 of the IPC. It states that anyone who threatens another person with an "injury to his person, reputation or property" with the intention to "cause alarm to that person, or to cause that person to do any act which he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do any act which that person is legally entitled to do", is guilty of criminal intimidation.

Section 506 lays down the punishment for criminal intimidation: up to 2 years' imprisonment, which can extend to 7 years if the person threatens to cause death, grievous hurt, destruction of property by fire, "impute unchastity to a woman", or commit an offence punishable with death, life imprisonment, or up to 7 years' imprisonment.

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE ELECTION Commission of India (ECI) on Monday strongly refuted allegations by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge — made in a letter to INDIA allies on May 6 — that the "delay" in the release of final voter turnouts indicated an "attempt to doctor the final results".

Kharge had asked why the first-phase turnout increased by 5.5 percentage points and the second-phase turnout by 5.74 percentage points between the close of polling and April 30, when the final voting figures for both these phases were released.

What were the initial and final turnout figures in the first two phases of polling?

In an official release issued at 7.55 pm on April 19, the ECI said turnout in the constituencies where votes were cast in the first phase was "over 60% at 7 pm". The release said the final figure was likely to be higher after reports came in from polling stations where voting continued beyond the scheduled cut-off of 6 pm to allow voters who had already entered the stations to vote.

A day later, most reports, including those in *The Indian Express*, said turnout was 65.5%, attributing it to senior officials in the ECI.

On April 26, when votes were cast in the second phase, the ECI press release, issued at 9 pm, put the turnout at 60.96% at 7 pm. News organisations subsequently reported a more-or-less final figure of 66.71%, based on unofficial confirmation from senior ECI officers.

On April 30, the ECI released the final figures for both phases through an official release, which put the phase 1 turnout at 66.14% and the phase 2 turnout at 66.71%.

After voting in the third phase on May 7, the ECI first released an estimated turnout of 61.45% at 8 pm, and then revised it some time before midnight to 64.4% for 11.40 pm. The day after, this turnout figure was updated to 67.33%.

In its first press release on May 7 evening, the ECI said it would release the final turnout data by May 11.

Why is there a difference between initial and final voter turnout numbers?

According to the ECI, the initial number is a preliminary estimate, which changes. ECI officials say the higher final figure does not mean that votes were cast even after polls closed — it could be simply due to the fact that the Returning Officers (ROs) sent in the



Opposition INDIA leaders outside the Election Commission of India's offices at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

updated data late.

According to the ECI officials, even the data released on April 30 is not final — that figure will be known only after postal ballots are counted on the day of counting (June 4) and added to the turnout.

On both April 19 and April 26, state- and constituency-wise turnouts were available in real time on the ECI's Voter Turnout mobile application. This app — which was launched by the ECI after the second phase of polling in 2019 — carries this disclaimer: "This is an approximate trend, as data from some Polling Stations (PS) takes time and this trend does not include data of postal ballot voting. Final data for each PS is shared in Form 17C with all Polling Agents."

Form 17C is made available to all candidates through their polling agents at the close of polling. Form 17C includes the total numbers of electors and voters at the seat. This information is not available on the Voter Turnout app. (*More on Form 17C below*)

Were the official turnout figures — released 11 days and 4 days after phases 1 and 2 of the voting respectively — unusually delayed?

No, says the ECI. In its response to Kharge, the ECI provided details of the release of official turnout data for the 2019 Lok Sabha election and state Assembly elections over the past few years. This data, it said, "would tes-



tify there is no unusual delay than what is required to collect data from large number of polling stations". The data provided by the ECI showed a 1-3 percentage point increase in the turnouts in the 5-7 days it took to release the phase-wise turnouts in 2019.

ECI officials say it takes time to verify and collate the data, particularly from remote polling stations. In some cases, polling parties have to make it back from these remote locations to the district headquarters, where they have a stable Internet connection to transmit the data.

In its letter to Kharge, the ECI said that after the polling parties arrive, documents are scrutinised by the Returning Officers in the presence of candidates and observers. The RO then completes data entry, and publishes the data on the Voter Turnout app.

"This process takes P+1 (polling day plus 1) or P+2 (polling day plus 2) days depending on constituencies and arrival schedule of polling parties due to geographical and weather conditions. This data may further get updated for any constituency where repoll is being conducted, on conclusion of repoll and arrival of parties which is normally on P+4 days," it said.

And what is Form 17C? To whom is it issued, and when?

As per the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, there are two forms that have data on

the number of electors and voters — Forms 17A and 17C.

The former is a register of voters, in which polling officials record the details of every voter who comes into the booth and signs the register. The latter is the account of the votes recorded.

Form 17C is issued to the polling agents of candidates at the close of polling.

It has the identification numbers of the EVMs used in the polling station; the total number of electors assigned to the polling station; the total number of voters as entered in the register for voters (Form 17A); the number of voters who decided not to record their votes after signing the register; the number of voters who were not allowed to vote; and the total number of test votes to be deducted, and total number of votes recorded per EVM.

Part-II of the same form carries the results of the counting, which are entered on counting day.

The data in Form 17C are considered final, and lie at the heart of any Election Petition that may be filed challenging the result. In a statement issued on April 30, the ECI said the "actual data of Form 17C shall prevail which is already shared with candidates".

Apart from being the record that is to be used in a possible legal challenge, the data in Form 17C are also used by candidates to verify the results on counting day. The number of electors and those who cast their votes as recorded in Form 17C can be matched with the EVM count.

Why is there a demand to make the Form 17C data public?

Activists have sought to make a case for full transparency. Also, they say, even if Form 17C is made available to the candidates' agents, given the large numbers of polling stations at each constituency, difficulties of coordination, and shortage of resources, many candidates find it impossible to collate all the figures for the constituency as a whole.

The ECI has said that it is not "legally bound to publish any voter turnout data at aggregate level". It has sought to allay concerns by reiterating that the provision of Form 17C is a statutory requirement, and no candidate or party has alleged that they have not received the form at the close of polling.

Also, on the day of counting, the counting supervisor must certify in Part-II of the form that there is no discrepancy in the votes counted and the votes recorded in Part-I on polling day. This is counter-signed by all candidates or their representatives, and discrepancies, if any, can be challenged, the ECI says.

Israel, Saudi Arabia, and churn in the Middle East: the view from India



SHUBHAJIT ROY

THE UNITED STATES is trying to forge a mutual defence treaty with Saudi Arabia, and help Israel in its conflicts with Hamas and Iran, such that "Israel and Saudi Arabia are trading places", columnist Thomas Friedman wrote in *The New York Times* last week.

According to the article, the Saudi-US deal will pivot on the specific ways in which the US will control the civilian nuclear energy programme that the kingdom will get; the precise — whether explicit or less formal — nature of the mutual defence pact; and on Saudi Arabia's commitment to not move from US dollars to the Chinese yuan in pricing oil.

However, for the deal to go through, it is critical that Saudi normalises relations with

Israel, Friedman wrote. And "that will happen only if Israel...get[s] out of Gaza, freeze[s] the building of settlements in the West Bank and embark[s] on a three- to five-year 'pathway' to establish a Palestinian state in the occupied territories."

For US President Joe Biden, heading into a difficult re-election battle in November, this scenario could bring significant benefits. Also, a successful conclusion of the US-Saudi mutual defence treaty would signal that America is back in play in the Middle East, where Beijing announced its increasing strategic clout by brokering a peace deal between Riyadh and Tehran in March 2023.

India and Saudi Arabia

For India, a US-Saudi Arabia pact and peace between Israel and Iran and Israel and Hamas could mean an opportunity to better harness the region's potential.

Especially over the past decade, India has sought to build its relationship with Saudi Arabia, where the young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has been driving a range of radical reforms to put his country in better sync with the 21st

century world.

India-Saudi trade was valued at \$52.76 billion in 2022-23. India is the second largest trade partner for Saudi, while Saudi is India's fourth largest trade partner. Energy cooperation is at the heart of the relationship; Saudi Arabia was India's third largest crude and petroleum products sourcing destination in 2022-23.

Major Saudi investment groups ARAMCO, SABIC, ZAMIL, E-holidays, and AI Batterjee Group have invested in India. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has put in approximately \$4.6 billion in Indian startups such as Delhivery, FirstCry, Grofers, Ola, OYO, Paytm, and PolicyBazaar.

More than 2.4 million strong Indian community in Saudi Arabia is seen as a living bridge between the two countries, and the Indian diaspora is widely respected in the kingdom for their contributions.

India and Israel

India's ties with Israel have become steadily more visible and significant over

the past decade or so, centred mainly on defence and security, innovation, agriculture, and water.

Trade volumes have risen from around \$200 million in 1992 (consisting primarily of diamonds) to \$10.7 billion (excluding defence) in 2022-23, of which Indian exports were around \$8.4 billion. India is Israel's second-largest trading partner in Asia, and the seventh largest globally.

Israel has been a major supplier of defence equipment, as well as of high-tech communications systems that have helped meet some of Israel's security tech challenges. Israel is an important partner to India in the innovation ecosystem — smart irrigation systems being an example of cooperation in this field.

Potential and challenge

The strengthened bilateral partnership has allowed India to delink its domestic politics from its foreign policy and strategy in the region as a whole. After more than three decades of diplomatic work on its relationships in the Middle East, New

Delhi had begun to reap some benefits.

In July 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually in the first leaders' summit under the I2U2 framework along with Israel's then Prime Minister Yair Lapid, UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and President Biden.

And in September 2023, the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor connectivity project was launched on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

But the October 7, 2023 terrorist attacks by Hamas in southern Israel, and the consequent retaliatory military response from Israel on Gaza have posed difficult challenges for India's diplomatic strategy. New Delhi will welcome a durable peace in the Middle East, with a stronger American presence in the region it considers its extended neighbourhood.

Netanyahu and MBS

Two of the most important leaders in the region, MBS and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, have undergone major reputational transformations in recent years.

MBS, who was tarnished by his war in

Yemen and alleged involvement in the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018, appears to some commentators today as the great liberaliser after decades of headline absolutist rule that had stifled Saudi society.

His sweeping reforms, including new rights for Saudi women, have given MBS a reputation that makes it easier for the leaders of many western democracies to do business with him.

On the other hand, Netanyahu has become, in the company of his far right allies, a hawk who appears to link the continuation of the war in Gaza to his own political survival. His intransigence has made the US steadily more impatient — and Biden said this week that he had told Netanyahu that he would halt weapons shipments if the Israeli military invaded Rafah, the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip.

The warning has not had an impact on Netanyahu. Halting the war is key to Biden's re-election campaign. American university campuses are in turmoil, and polls suggest that young Democratic voters are upset with the US's support for the war.

BRIEFLY

BoB Q4 profit rises marginally to ₹4,886 crore

New Delhi: Bank of Baroda on Friday reported a 2.3 per cent growth in its standalone net profit of Rs 4,886 crore for the March quarter, restricted by a hit due to its exposure to the grounded airliner Go First and also setting aside money towards pension liabilities. **PTI**

India's forex reserves up by \$3.66 billion

New Delhi: After three consecutive weeks of drop, India's forex reserves increased by \$3.668 billion to \$641.59 billion for the week ended May 3, the RBI said on Friday. The kitty dropped \$2.412 billion to \$637.922 billion for the previous week ended April 26. **PTI**

RBI appoints new Executive Director

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director. Prior to being promoted, Rao was serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Regulation. RBI said in a statement. **PTI**

Life insurers' new biz premium up 61% in Apr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 10

LIFE INSURANCE industry reported a 61.23 per cent jump in new business premium (NBP) at Rs 20,258.86 crore in April 2024, as against Rs 12,565.31 crore in the same period of last year. The growth in NBP was mainly due to group single premium which rose over 126 per cent, according to the recent data released by the Life Insurance Council. New business premium is the premium earned by issuing new insurance policies in a year. The industry showed a growth of 19 per cent in the number of policies sold in indi-

FPIs sell ₹17,083 cr of equities in May so far; 'likely to continue'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 10

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) net sold Rs 17,083 crore of Indian equities in May so far amid hardening of US bond yields and out-performance of Chinese and Hong Kong markets. According to data provided by National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), FPIs, on a gross basis, purchased Rs 108,959 crore worth of equities and sold Rs 126,042 crore till May 10. In April, overseas investors dumped Rs 8,671 crore of domestic shares. Heavy selling by FPIs also contributed to the fall in benchmark stock market indices, Sensex and the Nifty 50, which declined by 2.6 per cent each, in the current month. Geojit Financial Services Chief Investment Strategist V K

JANUARY-MARCH QUARTER RESULT

Tata Motors consolidated net profit jumps 219%

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
MUMBAI, MAY 10

TATA MOTORS' consolidated net profit for the three months to March jumped 219 per cent year-on-year to Rs 17,529 crore, driven by a superior mix, strong realisations at Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and a significant deferred tax credit. A *Bloomberg* consensus estimate had pegged the figure to come in at Rs 6,967 crore for Q4. Consolidated revenues grew by 14 per cent y-o-y to Rs 1.19 tril-

DURABLES SLOWED, NON-DURABLES REVIVED IN MARCH

Factory output eases to 4.9% in March, grows 5.8% in FY24

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

FACTORY OUTPUT, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slowed to 4.9 per cent in March from 5.6 per cent in the previous month, but was higher than 1.9 per cent growth in the year-ago period, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday showed. A favourable base effect supported growth in March even as mining slowed to a 19-month low. For the full financial year 2023-24, the factory output grew 5.8 per cent, marginally higher than 5.2 per cent in the previous year, with a pickup in manufacturing and construction goods output. In the January-March quarter, industrial output growth averaged 4.9 per cent compared with 6.2 per cent in the previous quarter that is likely to contribute to a slowdown in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Q4, data for which is slated to be released at the end of this month. Economists said the slowdown in industrial output is likely to have come on the back of a moderation in the government's capital expenditure towards the year-end. Consumption showed



File

a mixed picture in March, with a pickup in rural demand as against the urban demand. "The slowdown in March was driven by infrastructure and construction goods, reflecting moderating government capital expenditure at the end of the fiscal. Among consumer products, while durables slowed, non-durables revived this month, hinting at a moderation in urban demand and a revival in rural demand. Rural demand, which was a key drag for consumption last fiscal, could revive this fiscal. Early weather forecasts predict a normal monsoon this year. However, the lagged impact of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) rate hikes and regulatory tightening of credit could have a moderating impact, especially for urban consumption. A lower fis-

cal impulse this year is further expected to dial down the capex support to growth," Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist, CRISIL said. Manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, grew by 5.2 per cent in March as against 4.9 per cent in February and 1.5 per cent in the year-ago period. In FY24, manufacturing output grew 5.5 per cent as against 4.7 per cent in the previous year. Mining output slowed to a 19-month low of 1.2 per cent in March, down from 8.1 per cent in February and 6.8 per cent in the year-ago period. For FY24, however, mining output increased by 7.5 per cent as against 5.8 per cent in FY23. Electricity output grew 8.6 per cent in March as against 7.5 per cent in February and a con-

traction of 1.6 per cent in the year-ago period. Output of capital goods — an indicator of investment — grew 6.1 per cent in March, higher than 1 per cent in February but lower than 10 per cent in the year-ago period. For FY24, it slowed to 6.2 per cent from 13.1 per cent in the previous year. On the consumption front, consumer durables output, which reflects consumption demand, grew 9.5 per cent in March as against 12.4 per cent in February and a low base of (-)8 per cent in the year-ago period. Consumer non-durables output, which reflects fast-moving consumer goods, grew 4.9 per cent in March as against (-)3.5 per cent in the previous month and (-)1.9 per cent in the year-ago period. "Consumer durables and non-durables in FY24 recorded a much lower growth at 3.6 per cent and 4.0 per cent respectively suggesting continued weakness in consumption demand. Even in terms of output level these two segments are much more precariously placed vis-a-vis other use-based segments," a note by India Ratings' Principal Economist Sunil Kumar Sinha and Senior Analyst Paras Jasrai said. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

Hiring grew 9% in Apr led by manufacturing sector: Report

Hiring in India increased in April compared to the same month in 2023, indicating a recovery in employment opportunities, as per foundit Insights Tracker report



37% Increase in number of startups since last year
14% Rise in total no. of jobs provided by startups
Foundit Insights Tracker

The recovery in hiring was mainly driven by production and manufacturing, healthcare, chemicals and fertilisers, engineering, cement, construction, retail among other sectors
Retail, automotive, real estate, IT, and oil/gas/power industries showcased moderate growth in hiring
Sectors such as agro-based industries, shipping/marine, FMCG, printing/packaging saw a yearly downtrend in recruitment
Metro regions of Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai led the way as startup hubs
Majority of startups no longer offer remote work options
Decline in remote-work opportunities: 3% in April 2024 from 8% in April 2023
Foundit Insights Tracker

Telecom dept directs telcos to block 28,200 phones used in cybercrimes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed telecom operators to block more than 28,000 mobile handsets across the country due to their involvement in cybercrime. The department has also asked them to carry out reverification of 20 lakh mobile connections linked to these handsets. "DoT, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and State Police have joined hands for curbing the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds. This collaborative effort aims to dismantle networks of fraudsters and protect citizens from digital threats," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.



DoT has directed to carry out reverification of 20 lakh mobile connections. *File*

"Analysis carried out by MHA and State Police have revealed that 28,200 mobile handsets were misused in cybercrimes. The DoT further analysed and found that a stag-

Gold continues to glitter: What is the expectation on investment returns in 2024?

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, MAY 10

LONG BEFORE stocks, mutual funds and other financial instruments became part of the broader mix of investment options, gold has a preferred choice for parking wealth in India. The yellow metal is considered a safe haven asset, which provides a hedge against inflation or any kind of financial uncertainties. Apart from buying physical gold, the other options to invest in gold include instruments such as Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), digital gold and gold exchange traded funds (ETF).

Why has gold been a preferred investment?

Gold has been an attractive investment asset for investors across the globe, including India, due to its outstanding return of more than 50 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in the domestic market over the last two-and-a-half years, said Deveya Gaglani, Senior Research Analyst - Commodities, Axis Securities. It is universally recognized as one of the best investments to preserve value, capital, as well as purchasing power. According to World Gold Council, Regional CEO, India, Sachin Jain, gold is at the centre of celebrations on auspicious occasions in India and consumers celebrate auspicious occasions such as Akshaya Tritiya by purchasing gold, besides buying the yellow metal for marriages and family events in the form of gold coins, bars, jewellery and ticket purchases through digital gold buying platforms. "Indian households have a strong cultural affinity for gold, and the appreciation in prices has further strengthened the demand for gold as an investment asset, resulting in increased consumer interest in Gold ETFs. Given the strong cultural connect, any short-term softening of gold prices could see record gold demand this Akshaya Tritiya," Jain added. **How much have gold prices surged?** Gold prices recently reached historic levels of Rs 70,000 in India, mainly due to geopolitical tensions and Central Banks' accumulation of gold reserves, which have outweighed the hawkish stance

GOLD PRICES IN LAST 10 YEARS				
Year	Akshaya Tritiya date	Gold Price (24 Carat / ₹per 10 gram)	Returns in %	
2014	May 2	30,182	-	
2015	April 21	26,936	-12.05	
2016	May 9	29,805	9.63	
2017	April 28	28,873	-3.23	
2018	April 18	31,534	8.44	
2019	May 7	31,729	0.61	
2020	April 26	46,527	31.81	
2021	May 14	47,676	2.41	
2022	May 3	50,808	6.16	
2023	April 22	59,845	15.10	
2024	May 10	71,240	16.00	

SOURCE: PL Wealth Management

adopted by US Federal Reserve officials this year, Axis Securities' Galani said. Gold prices have witnessed a sharp rally in the month of March 2024, with prices hitting all-time highs in domestic and international markets. Gold prices in India have crossed Rs 73,000 per 10 gram while at COMEX prices have crossed \$2400 per ounce mark, said Tapan Patel, Fund Manager-Commodities, Tata Asset Management.

What is the outlook on gold prices?

Gold prices may continue to get support from global macro headwinds, Central Banks' buying and geopolitical factors. The US Fed pivot of interest rate cycle may provide a sudden boost to the prices where market is still bracing for 'higher-for-longer' rate scenario, said Tata Asset Management's Patel. According to Geojit Financial Services' Head of Commodities Hareesh V, "Since domestic gold prices are hovering near record highs, there is a chance of a technical correction in gold price in the immediate run." But in the long run, firm overseas prices, increased physical demand, and a weak rupee would assist prices to retain their bullish outlook, he said.

What is the expectation on gold investment returns?

"We believe this year itself we are going to witness a slowdown in the returns generated by gold, compared to the last two years.

This conjecture is based on several factors, one of the key ones being the strengthening of the US dollar riding on the back of an expected relaxation of interest rates by the Fed later this year," said Shashank Pal, Chief Business Officer, PL Wealth Management. In addition, Central Banks of the world are currently on a buying spree. Such a spree will definitely taper down within the next one or two quarters, thus markedly lowering demand, Pal added.

What should investors do?

Gold is one of the best long-term assets which offers both safety and decent return to its investors. Domestic gold has more than doubled in the last 5 years, and it gained 10 times since 2003. So, investors can make use of every price correction to add the metal into their portfolio for long-term benefits, Geojit Financial Services' Hareesh said. Analysts recommend buying gold in smaller denominations rather than making large purchases. Investors should consider factors such as market trends which are a bit volatile, geopolitical events on West Asia crisis and delay in interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, and their own financial goals before investing in gold during Akha Teej or Akshaya Tritiya said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

NCLAT asks Google, CCI to file replies over Play Store billing policy

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Friday directed Google and Competition Commission of India (CCI), among other respondents, to file their responses over the petitions filed against the Play Store billing policy. A two-member bench directed them to file a reply within a week and counter reply, if any, and directed to list next hearing on May 24. The appellate tribunal's direction came over petitions filed by the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF), Indian Digital Media Industry Foundation, People Interactive India, and Kuku FM operator Mebigio Labs. They have challenged the order passed by the CCI declining to grant interim relief against the billing policy. **PTI**

IT hardware PLI: 17 cos to begin production in '24

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

MAJORITY OF the personal computer and server makers selected under the IT hardware production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme are expected to start production this year, ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) secretary, S Krishnan said on Friday. A total of 27 companies had received approval under the Rs 17,000-crore PLI scheme last year. Of these, 17 are expected to start the production this year. "Around 6-7 of them started

production last year and two have plans to start production next year," Krishnan said on the sidelines of the inauguration of a high-end computing server manufacturing unit of Netweb Technologies in Faridabad. The targets given by the secretary is significant because the government is looking to increase domestic value addition. "We are periodically reviewing the progress in IT Hardware PLI. We are quite satisfied with the way things are," Krishnan said. The government, in November 2023, approved the

application of 27 companies, including Dell, HP, Foxconn, Lenovo, Netweb Technologies, under the revised IT hardware PLI scheme. Meanwhile, on Friday, Netweb Technologies inaugurated its end-to-end, high-end computing server, storage and switch manufacturing facility. The facility includes printed circuit board (PCB) design, manufacturing and SMT (surface mount technology) line for high-end servers, storage and switches, with advanced manufacturing skills. The facility is expected to create hundreds of local jobs, the

company said. "The ability to design and manufacture high-end technology domestically is not just a matter of pride but a strategic imperative," Krishnan said, adding that it is key for India to achieve Atmanirbharta in technology areas such as high-end computing. Sanjay Lodha, CMD of Netweb Technologies said, "the new facility will significantly enhance India's capability to deliver comprehensive data centre computing solutions, covering everything from design to final product". Netweb is also a beneficiary under the IT Hardware PLI. **FE**

8 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Nirmila, daughter of, Late Shri Richpal Singh, resident of, H.No.61, Sector-21-B, Faridabad-121001, Haryana, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Nirmala in my service book. The actual name of mine is Nirmila respectively, which may be amended accordingly

0040727874-9

I, PRADEEP KUMAR, S/O- PARSHURAM, R/O. JHUGGI-K-BLOCK-A-759, JAHANGIRPURI DELHI-33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRADEEP, PERMANENTLY. 0040727871-10

I, hitherto known as Rajesh, D/o Nathi Ram W/o-Ramesh Chand, R/o S-117, S-Block, Pandav-Nagar, Shakar Pur Baramad, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vinita Verma. 0040727899-6

I, hitherto known as Amitabha Barua, S/o Adhir Kumar Barua, R/O C-12/1, Radio Colony, Kingsway Camp, Dr. Mukherjee Magar, North West-Delhi, Delhi-110009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ayush Barua. 0040727899-7

I, Yash Chaudhary, S/O-Mr. Mukesh Kumar, R/O-H.No.03, Street No.01, Shiv Shakti Enclave, Salarpur, Sector-81, Noida, U.P. 201304, inform that my mother name has been wrongly mentioned in my high School Marksheet Archana Chauhan instead of Archana Chauhan.

0040727921-2

I, Vijay Kumar, S/o Mangat Ram, R/o C N-105, Raja Pur Village, Sector-9, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed the name of my minor daughter Ritu aged-16-years and she shall hereafter be known as Ritu Sisodia.

0040727899-4

I, VIRENDER GARG, S/O SATDEV GARG, R/O B-006, Jm Florence, Tower-B, Sector Techzone-4, Greater-Noida, Gautam-Budh Nagar(UP) have changed my name to VIRENDER KUMAR GARG, for all purposes. 0040727908-5

I, VICKY ARORA S/O KASTURI LAL R/O C-125, 26, NEHRU VIHAR DELHI-110057, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MADHAV SHARAN ARORA.

0040727874-10

ASLAM S/O SAGIR AHMAD R/O A-16, MAIN SHALIMAR GARDEN, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UP-201005 CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD ASLAM 0130042001-1

I, Sunil Kumar, S/O-Late, Surpat Singh, R/O-591-A-2-B/2, Arjun-Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed the name of my minor son Aakash Aged-13 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Aakash Kumar.

0040727908-8

I, Shubham Singhal, S/o Sh. Ajit Singhal R/o Plot No.5-6, 3rd-Floor, Pocket-D-14, Rohini, Sector-7, Delhi-110085, declare that name of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as Preshu Singhal in her birth certificate, while her correct name is Shreeja Singhal.

0040727874-8

I, SUNIL KUMAR SON OF RATI RAM, R/O 48/3, FIRST-FLOOR, BASANT GAON, NEW DELHI-110057, have changed the name of my minor-Daughter VANSHIKA TO VANSHIKA YADAV, for all purposes. 0040727871-7

I, SHISHU PAL, S/O TOTARAM R/O Plot No.231, GF-II, Gyan Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, (UP) have changed my name to SHISHUPAL PRAJAPATI, for all purposes.

0040727908-3

I, SAROJ BALA, W/O RAKESH GARG, R/O E-1/10D, BUDH VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to SAROJ BALA GARG.

0040727871-4

I, SANJIV KUMAR, S/O DHAN SINGH, R/O H.No.20, Housing Complex, River Heights, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad (UP)-201017, have changed my name to SANJEEV KUMAR. 0040727908-7

I, SAHIV KISHORE BHATNAGAR, S/O-LATE SH.M.K. BHATNAGAR, R/O 64-C, POKET-A, MAYUR VIHAR, PHASE-2, DELHI-110091, have changed my name, SAHIV KISHORE BHATNAGAR, for all future purpose. 0040727899-2

I, Rohit Aggarwal, S/O Narottam Das Aggarwal, R/O G-1104, Exotica-Fresco, Sector-137, Noida, Gautam Budh-Nagar, Uttar-Pradesh-201305, have changed my name, from Rohit Aggarwal to Rohit Aggarwal, for all, future purpose. 0040727874-6

I, Rajivve munga, S/o-Radha Krishan, Addt-plot no-48, Third Floor Pocket-4A Sector-23, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Rajiv Kumar. 0040727874-1

I, Ashok Kumar Batra S/o Alam Chand Batra R/o 7/46A, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ashok Kumar for-all purposes. 0040727927-4

I, Prabjot Kaur W/o Gurpreet Singh G-1 Abchal Nagar, Chander-Vihar Nilothi Extn Delhi, have changed my name to Prabjot Kaur. 0040727908-2

I, Rajesh Kumar Singla S/o Sheeshpal Singla R/o C-122, G.F. Maharana, Pratap Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034, changed my name to Rajesh Kumar. 0040727921-3

I, RITA RANI W/O-VIRENDER KUMAR GARG R/O-B-006, Jm Florence, Tower-B, Sector Techzone-4, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar(UP) have changed my name to RITA GARG, for all purposes.

0040727908-4

I, RAKESH KUMAR, S/O SURESH KUMAR GARG, R/O E-1/10 D, BUDH VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to RAKESH GARG. 0040727871-3

I, RAJESH KUMAR, S/O KANWAR SINGH SAINI, R/O BK-1/69, SHALIMAR KAGH, DELHI-110088, have changed my name to RAJESH KUMAR SAINI.

0040727871-5

I, RAHBRE AZAM JAFRI S/O-BAHAR AHMED JAFRI, R/O-PLOT NO.B-7/35, GROUND FLOOR, SECTOR-17, ROHINI, DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHBRE AZAM. 0040727921-1

I, Pardeep S/O Nasib Singh H.No.186, VPO. Kaloi District Jhajjar (Haryana)-124103, have changed my name to Pardeep Kumar. 0040727899-1

I, PRABHA VATI W/O, KULDEEP CHANDER BEHAL, B 1/051, TOWER-12, PURVANCHAL ROYAL CITY SECTOR CHI-5, GREATER NOIDA KASANA, U.P-201310, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SNEH PRABHA.

0040727871-6

I, PHOOLBADAN YADAV, S/O LATE SURAJNATH, JHUGGI, NO-A-705 BEHIND K BLOCK JAHANGIRPURI DELHI-33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PHOOLBADAN. 0040727874-3

I, PAWAN KUMAR S/O RAKESH GARG, R/O E-1/10D, BUDH VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to PAWAN GARG. 0040727871-2

0040727921-6

I, Master Rajat, son of, Uma Shanker Singh presently, residing at, Village-Harary pur post office -sohil paty, Distt-Siwan-841406 Bihar, have changed my name, from master Rajat to Rajat Singh Rathore, vide affidavit, Dated-10.05.2024, at New-delhi 0040727899-8

I, MANOJ KUMAR CHAUDHARY, S/O NARSINGH CHOUDHRY, R/O 212, Desire Residency, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (UP)-201014, have changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR CHOUDHARY for all purposes. 0040727908-6

I, Lalita Bhati, W/o Rajesh Kumar, R/O-345, C-2 Ph-4, Gali.No.9, Ayanagar, New Delhi-110047 declare that my name has been wrongly-written as Lalita Devi in my husband's Army service records. My correct name is Lalita Devi and DOB is 20/9/1983. 0040727921-5

I, Kanika Puri, D/O Kamal Kumar, R/O H.NO.S-1/17, Tibbia Collage, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 Have Changed my Name to Kanika. 0040727874-2

I, Ishpreet Singh, Son of, Satvinder Singh, R/O House-no 10/289, DDA-flats Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have changed my Name to ISHPREET and Surname SINGH, Permanently.

0040727874-4

I, GUDDI D/O BHIKAM SINGH, R/O H.NO- E-321, BLOCK-E, MANGOL PURI, DELHI-110083, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME GUDDI TO GITIKA SINGH, FOR FUTURE.

0040727908-1

I, Ex-No-12954251X, NK Akhter Hussain Wani, S/O- Ali Mohd Wani, R/O- Shaligunj, Tehsil-Lalpura, District-Kupwara. In my service records my name has been wrongly mentioned as Akhter Hussain Wani instead of Akhter Hussain Wani as in School records. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned authorities. 0020475752-1

I, Bharat Bhushan Malhotra S/o Nand Kishore R/o NU-5B, Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Bharat Bhushan, for all purposes.

0040727899-3

I, BABLI BANJAN W/O MADHUKAR KUMAR/O.H.N.-52, GALI NO-15, A-1-BLOCK BANGALI COLONY SANT-NAGAR, BURARI DELHI-110084, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BABLI KUMARI.

0040727874-5

I, Attar Singh Yadav, Aadhar no.455884005431 S/o-Late Sh.Pahlad, R/O-H.No.58/31A, Gali.No.3, West Rajiv Nagar, Distt.-Gurugram, inform that ATTAR SINGH YADAV & ATTAR SINGH, both names are same person. 0040727921-4

I, Mrs. Kumari Korivi, W/o- No 15179695N, NAYAK (GNR) VENKATA SWAMY KORIVI Unit 29 RR BN Village Konda Peta, Giddalur, R/O: Giddalur Dist. Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh-523357 my name has been wrongly mentioned in army documents of my husband as Kumari and Correct is Kumari Korivi 0020475753-1

I, Heena W/o Md Yunus R/o 9/4928 Street-3, Old Seelampur, East Delhi have changed my name to Hina. 0070902684-1

I, Anshu Goyal, W/o-Rohit Aggarwal, R/O G-1104, Exotica-Fresco, Sector-137, Noida, Gautam Budh-Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201305, have changed my name, from Anshu Goyal to Anshu Aggarwal, for all, future purpose. 0040727874-7

I, ANIL KUMAR, S/O RATI RAM, R/O 48/3, FIRST FLOOR, BASANT GAON, NEW DELHI-110057, have changed the name of my minor-Daughter DEEKSHA TO DEEKSHA YADAV, for all purposes. 0040727871-8

I, Neha Tagra, W/o Lukesh R/O-HD-17, Pitampura Delhi-34, have changed my name from Neha Tagra to Neha Messon, permanently.

0040727871-1

I, Vineet Kumar Khattar S/o Subhash Chander R/o 784, Jheel Khuranja, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Vineet Khattar. 0040727927-2

I, Sweta Maan W/O Ankur Maan born on 09/08/1991 residing at "IRIS-1003, Paramount Floraville, Sector 137, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P.(201305)", have changed my name to Sweta Chahar vide affidavit dated (08/05/2024) before notary Renu Bala at Noida for all future purposes. 0050241765-1

I, Shivam Kumar S/O Prabhat Kumar, R/O Kaushalya Apartment, Shalimar Palace, Kn-503, Plot No-46, 2nd Floor, Shakti Enclave, Burari, North Delhi-110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shivam Singh.

0070902596-1

I, Shikha W/o Paramveer Kohli R/O H-903, Jm Florence, Tech Zone-4 Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P-201308 Have Changed my name after marriage to Shikha Kohli for all future purposes.

0070902604-1

I, Shikha Khattar D/O Ramesh Kumar Huriya R/O B-6, SF-4, Ramprastha Colony, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Shikha Huriya. 0040727927-1

I, Sanjana Singh D/O Shri. Devendra Thapa Thapa R/O 5/52C, Kalpana, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 have changed my name to Sanjana. The date of the affidavit for the name change is 07.05.2024. 0040727795-1

I, SREEKUMAR M G S/O G K NAIR R/O 22-C, POCKET-6, MIG FLATS, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-3, VASUNDHRA ENCLAVES, DELHI-110096 have changed my minor daughter's name from VAISHNAVI S NAIR to VAISHNAVI SREEKUMAR for all purposes. 0070902568-1

I, S P Garg S/O Hanuman Sahai, R/O 16A, Commissioner Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi 110054 have changed my name to Satya Prakash Garg vide notarized doc 01802/24 dt 10-05-24

0070902594-1

I, Rajesh Kumar S/o Om Prakash R/O B-51, Surajmal Vihar, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Verma.

0040727927-3

I, Pravesh Kumar S/O Kapoor Singh R/O 310, VPO-Bhadani (94), Jhajjar, Haryana-124104 have changed my name to Parvesh Kumar 0070902685-1

I, Pranali, wife of No-14840182Y, NK/MT Patel Brijeshkumar Mahendrabhai, R/O A/5, Narsinhddham Society Part-4, New VIP Road, B/H Bakor Nagar, Vadodara, Gujarat-390019, have changed my name from Pranali to Patel Pranali Brijeshkumar, vide affidavit dated 30-Apr-2024, before Notary Public, Delhi.

0040727776-1

I, Pearl Dhupar D/O Sudhir Kumar Dhupar, R/O A-2/284, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Pearl Dhoooper and Sudhir Dhoooper in my Graduation Certificate. The actual name of Mine and My Father are Pearl Dhupar and Sudhir Kumar Dhupar, which may be amended accordingly.

0070902678-1

I, No-14840182Y, NK/MT Patel Brijeshkumar Mahendrabhai, R/O A/5, Narsinhddham Society Part-4, New VIP Road, B/H Bakor Nagar, Vadodara, Gujarat-390019, have changed my minor son's name from Vishnu to Patel Vishnu Brijeshkumar, vide affidavit dated 30-Apr-2024, before Notary Public, Delhi.

0050241771-1

I, No-14840182Y, NK/MT Patel Brijeshkumar Mahendrabhai, R/O A/5, Narsinhddham Society Part-4, New VIP Road, B/H Bakor Nagar, Vadodara, Gujarat-390019, have changed my name to Bharti Yadav for all purposes.

0040727778-3

I, Renu Gaur D/o Muni Lal W/o Jai Dev Kumar Sharma R/o B-32, Eden Towers, Plot No.20, Opposite BGS International School, Dwarka, Sector-5, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Renu Sharma for all purposes.

0040727778-4

I, Neeru Shankardatta Joshi & Joshi Neeru Shankar W/o Ram Kumar Giri R/o 122/A, Gandhi Nagar Ghaziabad have changed my name to Neeru Joshi Giri. 0070902683-1

I, Neeru S/O Prakash Singh R/O 25/3, Ch. Shikarpur Compound, D M Road, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-203001 have changed my name to Dr. Naveen Lohia for all purposes in future.

0040727778-5

I, Mohd Yunus S/O Saifullah R/o 9/4928, Gali.-3, Old Seelampur, East Delhi have changed my name to Md Yunus.

0070902693-1

I, Mohammed Mubin, S/O-Mohammed Ismail, R/O:-H.No.-787, 2nd Floor, Right Side, Gali No-7, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, South Delhi-110025, have change my name to Mohd Mubeen, S/o-Mohd Ismail, for all purposes.

0040727899-5

I, Manjeet Kumar Dagar S/o Sh. Tej Singh Dagar R/O H.No. 263C, Firan Pana, Isa Pur, Delhi-110073, have declare that in my son Raghav Dagar school record mine and my wife name mentioned as MANJEET SINGH DAGAR & SEEMA instead of MANJEET KUMAR DAGAR & SEEMA RANI. In future we will be known as MANJEET KUMAR DAGAR & SEEMA RANI for all purposes, which may be amended accordingly.

0070902611-1

I, Mahendra Bhai, Father of No-14840182Y, NK/MT Patel Brijeshkumar Mahendrabhai, R/O A/5, Narsinhddham Society Part-4, New VIP Road, B/H Bakor Nagar, Vadodara, Gujarat-390019, have changed my name from Mahendra Bhai to Patel Mahendrabhai Chaturbhai, vide affidavit dated 30- Apr-2024, before Notary Public, Delhi.

0040727776-2

I, Lokeshwar Nath S/O Rana Iqbal Nath Sharma R/O H.No-103, Block-KP Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lokeshwar Nath Sharma, Permanently.

0040727865-1

I, Lakshmi Thapa W/O Shri Devendra Singh Thapa R/O 5/52C, Kalpana, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 have changed my name to Laxmi Devi. The date of the affidavit for the name change is 07.05.2024. 0040727794-1

I, Kishan Pasi Singh Narma S/O Shri Sharwan Kumar R/O Village Sehaj, Post Bahadurgarh, Distt. Hapur, (U. P.)-245208 have changed my name from Kishan Pasi Singh Narma to Kishan Pasi Singh for all purposes. 0040727777-1

I, JITENDRA S/O RISHIPAL SINGH R/O 77, GALI NO. 2, NEW KARCHERA COLONY, MOHAN NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JITENDRA DHIMAN.

0070902682-1

I, Ishu Kumar S/O Suresh Chand R/o Plot No.3, Street No.1, Block-F1, Pradhan Enclave, Burari, North-Delhi-110084 my mother name is mentioned in some documents as Devi. But correct name is Shri Mati Devi for all future purposes.

0040727797-1

I, Dharmistha Ben, Mother of No-14840182Y, NK/MT Patel Brijeshkumar Mahendrabhai, R/O A/5, Narsinhddham Society Part-4, New VIP Road, B/H Bakor Nagar, Vadodara, Gujarat-390019, have changed my name from Dharmistha Ben to Patel Dharmistha Ben, vide affidavit dated 30-Apr-2024, before Notary Public, Delhi.

0040727776-3

I, Dhanas D S/o. R. Dineshan R/o. 46-D, Pocket B-7, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096 I declare that my father's name wrongly Written in my Educational 10th certificate as Dineshan R. his actual & correct name is R. Dineshan for all purposes.

0040727854-1

I, Baljit Sarup S/O Gurudev Sarup, R/O H/o No- 141, Ground Floor, KH no -61, Village Rajpur Khurd, South Delhi-110068, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Bahrpoor aged about 17 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Bahrpoor Sarup 0070902599-1

I, Baljati Devi, spouse of Ramoo Singh resident of E- 201 Plumieria Garden Estate Omicron-3 Plot NO GH -1 Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201310, have changed my name from Baljati Devi to Soni Singh vide affidavit dated 07/05/2024 before notary Virendra Singh, Gautam Buddha Nagar

0050241771-1

I, Amit Kumar Makhija S/o Chaman Lal Makhija, R/O-M-44, First-Floor, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi-110048, have to changed my minor son name from Aryaveer Makhija to Arya Veer Makhija, for all future purposes.

0040727780-1

I, Yogesh Bharti Yadav D/O Sh. Keshri Chand Yadav R/o 5/288A, Near Old Farsh Bazar, Mohalla Sarai, Shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Bharti Yadav for all purposes.

0040727927-8

I, Sahil S/O Sh. Suresh Kumar R/O A/100, Karam Pura, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Sahil Katna for all purposes.

0040727778-2

I, Megha Kukreti D/O Sh.Vinod Kukreti W/o Sh.Sorabh Jain R/o 854/56, 1st Floor, Lekhu Nagar, Tri Nagar, Onkar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 have changed my name aafter marriage to Megha Jain for all purposes.

0040727778-1

I, Dinesh Kumar R/O C-33, Anand Niketan New Delhi-21 have changed my minor daughter name from Anya Singh to Anya for all future purposes

0070902608-1

I, Ritika Jain W/O Rajiv Kumar Jain R/O-705 L/10 Ward no.6, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030 have changed my name from Renu Jain to Ritika Jain after marriage. Renu Jain and Ritika Jain both names belong to same person. And my correct date of birth is 16/07/1972 and not 16/07/1971.

0130042002-1

I, Ashwani Kumar Arya S/o Sudarshan Kumar agarwalla, Address W-3/33 Wellington Dlf City phase 5 gurgaon haryana 122009, changed my name to Ashwani Kumar agarwalla.

0040726443-1

LOST & FOUND

I Poonam Verma W/O Sh. Ravi Verma R/O 43-B, S/F, Govind Park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have lost my Agreement to Sell & Payment Receipt executed on 03.06.1974 by Ram Parkash NARANG in favour of Ram Bhaj W/T. Plot No.12, New Gobind Nagar Extn., Delhi-110051. Finders may contact at above address. 0040727778-6

I lost my original Allotment letter & Possession letter of Flat No-A-403, Khushboo Apartment, Sector-P1 1st, Greater Noida U.P. If anyone finds them pl contact Rajender Nath Mujoo. Mob.9899718241

0070902688-1

I, Chandrani Roy Talukdar W/O Mr. J.B. Roy Talukder R/o 504A, CBIP CGHS, Nayantrata, Plot 8B, Sector-7, Dwarka, Delhi declares that the Unit No. ABDEN-0501 of Ansal Highland Park Sector-103, Gurgaon, Receipt No. 0581244, 0595762, 0599364, 0603386, 0612602, 0613201, 0634213, 0621326, 0564382, 0650624 total amounting to Rs. 70,19,647/- have been actually lost near Dwarka Delhi. Contact: 9818420547 0040727782-1

I, Amit Rani, W/o-Deepak Lather, R/O-Karsolya Pana District Jind (Haryana)-126101, Have Lost my Other-Property Registry.No.3604, Dated-05-03-1993, has been Lost Somewhere in Bahadurgarh on Dated 03.04.2024.Finder Contact- above address# 9818886309.

0040727899-10

We, Mahesh Kumar Goel and Aman Goel hereby inform that we have lost our original allotment letter dated- 08.04.2011 issued by HSICD Ltd., Haryana for our Plot- no.206, Phase-1, Udyog Vihar, Gurugram, Haryana. If any person find this document, please send the document to address C-8, Pushpanjali enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Ph.-9899026781.

0040727874-11

RECRUITMENT SITUATION VACANT OTHERS



Greenfields Public School
(Senior Secondary)
Dilshad Garden, GTB Enclave, Delhi - 110093
Tel. 22584740, 22118756
Requires

PRINCIPAL
Candidates must have minimum 10 years experience of teaching as TGT/PGT/Vice Principal. Female candidates with age not exceeding 50 years and experience of Administrative charge of a recognized Sr. Sec. School, shall be preferred. Apply within ten days on prescribed application form available at school reception from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m or send resume by Email at: info@greenfieldspublicschools.com Only short-listed candidates shall be called for interview. Manager

I have been instructed by My Client Smt. Rajwanti Devi W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O H-739 B, Palam Extension, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077 to bring to the notice of general public that she has disowned her daughter-Kusum Lata, the husband of her daughter-Bijendra Kumar and her two grandchildren-Pragun Kumar and Raghav with immediate effect. My client has severed her relationship and ties with the said persons. Kusum Lata along with her husband and children are hereby notified that they are not entitled to make any claim regarding ownership rights or any other rights over the movable and immovable properties standing in the name of my client Smt. Rajwanti Devi. Sd/- Mah



PROGRAM—VISION IAS

With an overwhelming turn around of 25000+ students, the first test of the Abyss Prelims, An All India Mock Test Series, conducted recently by VisionIAS was a huge success. Giving UPSC aspirants a common platform to test, assess and evaluate their preparation for the first step of the Prelims for the Civil Services Examination, Abhyas Prelims was simultaneously conducted in 100+ cities across the nation.

WEBINAR—AMITY

Amity Institute of Environmental Toxicology, Safety and Management, Amity University UP, Noida Campus, organized an insightful and informative Webinar on the theme, "Planet vs Plastics", on the occasion of "World Earth Day". The aim of the webinar was to sensitize Faculty members, students and stakeholders about importance of sustainable development of Earth and create awareness about the hazards caused by plastic usage.



EVENT—SHARDA UNIVERSITY

It is important to preserve the heritage of Indian culture: Padma Bhushan Prof. Kapil Kapoor launched Bharatiya Sanskriti Vaishvik Kendra at Sharda University, Greater Noida. The objective of establishing this center is to create a global platform to collect Indian related knowledge. The centre was inaugurated by retired IAS Deepak Singhal, former Chief Secretary of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

PROGRAM—DAAD

DAAD—German Academic Exchange Service is organising scholarship certificate handing over ceremonies throughout South Asia for the fresh batch of scholarship awardees. The handing over is done in cooperation with the Consulate Generals or Embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany. The DAAD has awarded 287 scholarships for India, followed by 9 for Bangladesh, 2 for Bhutan, 8 for Nepal and 10 for Sri Lanka.



PROGRAM—VAISHNAV UNIVERSITY

In Shri Rawatpura Sarakar Private Industrial Training Institute Raipur, total 18 students of the academic year 2022-23 from ITI and Diploma in Engineering has successfully completed Toyota Training Educational Programme (T-TEP) in General Training Category in which the students understand and enhance the practical knowledge of the mechanism of Diesel Engine and Petrol Engine under the edges of T-TEP.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

EDUCATION

EVENT—ASIAN BUSINESS SCHOOL

Asian Business School, Noida hosted its flagship event: The Young Asian Entrepreneur of the year 2024. Students displayed innovation & ambition, with Keshav Somani was the winner, securing a Rs 5 lakh seed fund. The event was judged by Ms. Aishwarya Biswas, founding Director- Auli Active Ayurveda. The event highlighted the potential of young minds in shaping the future of entrepreneurship.



EVENT—DELHI METROPOLITAN EDUCATION

DME college affiliated to GGSIPU hosted its 2nd Inter college sports meet, Samagrah'24 recently. The event was conducted at various venues including DME campus, Noida stadium & East Vinod Nagar Complex. The event was kick start by Prof. (Dr). Ravi Kant Swami, director, DME sharing the inspiration and journey of Samagrah.



ANNUAL DAY—SGSGCC

Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, DU, organized its 40th Annual Day recently. Principal of the college, Prof. Jatinder Bir Singh, in his address, congratulated the students for their achievements. He recounted how in its brief history of 40 years, the college has made a significant mark in the educational landscape of India. SGSGCC has been awarded A++ by NAAC and has been ranked among top 50 colleges of the country by NIRF.



PROGRAM—JAMIA HAMDARD

Hamdard Institute of International Studies at Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi has launched a flagship undergraduate programme dedicated to study and research within knowledge domain of international studies, global politics, and world affairs for the academic year of 2024-25, following the ongoing growth of its M.A. programme in International Studies. The world has now increasingly become more dynamic and interlinked, with multiple crisis occurring. From the resurgence of wars in Ukraine and Palestine, to the global threats of pandemics and climate change, it has become more necessary than ever to comprehend the political, social, economic, and technological imperatives that drive these processes.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20
No. JHS/Comm/e-Auction/24/14 Date: 08.05.2024
E-Auction Notice
On Behalf of the President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under :-

Category	Catalogue No.	Asset Details
Parcel	JHS- Leasing- 16	01. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train No. 22547.
		02. SLR 02 Comp.= F-I & F-II unit in Train no. 12198.
		03. SLR 03 Comp.= F-I, F-II & R-I unit in Train no. 22164.
		04. SLR 03 Comp.= F-I, F-II & R-I unit in Train no. 11109.
		05. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train no. 22199.
		06. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train no. 12049.
		07. SLR 02 Comp.= F-I & R-I unit in Train no. 11841.
		08. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train no. 12279.
		09. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train no. 22194.
		10. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train no. 22198.
		11. SLR 01 Comp.= F-I unit in Train no. 12320.

Auction Start: 22.05.2024 at 10:30 hrs., Auction End: 22.05.2024 at 13:40 hrs. Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 825/24(K)
CPRONCR northcentralrailway North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
ई - निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
पत्र सं- WS-74-W-O/Works/NIT/X दिनांक- 09/05/2024 मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, इंडीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निधीरित प्रयोजों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2024-25: 57. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Provision of dewatering in waterlogging prone LHS in the section of ADEN/DNA (for two year). अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 2,43,51,840.40. बयाने की राशि: ₹ 2,71,800/-। निविदा सूचना संख्या 57 of 2024-25 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 28/05/2024 को 15.00 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है- www.ireps.gov.in
543-AR/24
NWRRailways NWRRailways, पं. कीर्ति श्री

CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AT MALIGAON
Tender Notice No.: 02 of 2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: E-Tender No. N-2024-25-02-DY.CSTE-NW. Name of work: Provision of CCTV Surveillance system at Nambari officer colony and N.F. Railway Headquarter Complex, (Including AMC of CCTV system). Tender Value: ₹1,04,51,860.85. Bid Security: ₹2,02,300/- Date & time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 29-05-2024 and opening of tender 15.30 hrs. on 29-05-2024. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Network, Maligaon NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
ई - निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
पत्र सं- NWROGSU/Gen/02/2023/-O/o CPM/JU/NWR दिनांक: 09/05/2024. मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, गति भाक्ति, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निधीरित प्रयोजों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2024-25: 03. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Development of coaching maintenance facility at Jaisalmer. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 24,90,59,633.08. बयाने की राशि: ₹ 13,95,300/-। निविदा सूचना संख्या GSSU-03 of 2024-25 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 31/05/2024 को 15.00 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है- www.ireps.gov.in
544-AR/24
NWRRailways NWRRailways, पं. कीर्ति श्री

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Opened E-tender based on Single Packet system (Tender notice No. M/C&W/01/2024-25 dt. 08.05.2024) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager/Mech./C&W/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work: Description of works: Outsourcing work of surface defect detection by Eddy Current array (ECA) Technique for testing of wheel sets of LHB coaches by qualified professionals during D3 schedule for a period of one (01) year at Coaching Depot BBSB, CPR and MAU of VARANASI Division., Approx. Value (₹): ₹ 44,44,834.56 (Rs. forty four lacs forty thousand eight hundred thirty four and fifty six paise only). Bid Security/Money: 88,90,000 (Rs. Eighty eight thousand nine hundred only), Cost of Tender Paper: Nil. (Authority SGCC, Works, April 2022 issued by Railway Board vide letter no. 2022/CE-I/JCT/GCC-2022/Policy New Delhi, dated 27.04.2022). Period: 12 months from the date of issuance of LOA. Warranty Period: The Eddy current testing report shall have a warranty of 06 months from date of testing. Date and time of closing of E-Tender: 06.06.2024 at 14:30 Hrs., Date and time of opening of E-Tender: 06.06.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Note: Tenderers may submit their offers online up to 06.06.2024 at 14:30 Hrs. P.I. go to the website www.ireps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload the tender.
Sr. DME/C&W/BSB Varanasi CPRO/Mech-14
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one person Namely Mohd Rehan S/O Lt Mohd Usman R/o Jhuggi behind B-21 Dujana House Matia Mahal, Jama Masjid, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped from his house since 10.04.2024. In this regard, a case DD No. 40A on 17.04.2024 has been registered at P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under.
Age: 26 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Green colour T-Shirt, Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing then please inform P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi following TelNo./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/4927/CD/2024
Sd/- S.H.O. Jama Masjid, Delhi Tel. 011 -23261625

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, Age: 50-55 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Dark, Medium Built, Face: Long, Wearing: multi colour t-shirt and track suit, who was found dead in front of Begampur Desi Sharab ka Theka, Pocket 11 Park Sector 22 Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 29A dated 06.05.2024 has been registered at PS: Aman Vihar, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone number
Sd/- S.H.O. Aman Vihar, Rohini, Delhi Ph.9870127024 DP/5563/RD/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
Tender Notice No. 12/2024-2025 Date: 10.05.2024
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. N. No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	92430668 ANTI TRACKING FINISHING VARNISH	4811 KGS	31.05.24
02	07230459 SUPPORTING DEVICE COMPLETE FOR CBC OF LHB COACHES	292 NOS	03.06.24
03	19240810 SET OF LABYRINTH RING, BEARING CAP AND CLAMP PLATE	818 SET	04.06.24
04	19240706 BULL GEAR (72 TEETH) FOR WAP-7 LOCO	34 NOS	05.06.24
05	09243043 HIGH PERFORMANCE ANTI CORROSIVE EPOXY COATING	18692 KGS	07.06.24
06	12241701 ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR WELDING CABLE	34749 MTR	06.06.24
07	09243010 ENAMEL SYNTHETIC, EXTERIOR, FINISHING OXFORD BLUE	25315 LTR	11.06.24
08	12240029 EARTHING CABLE COMPLETE 70 SQ MM	11006 NOS	11.06.24
09	19240563 OIL COOLING RADIATOR FOR CONVERTER/TRANSFORMER OF 3-PHASE LOCOMOTIVES	42 NOS	12.06.24
10	07240118 FOOT REST MULTISTAGE ARRANGEMENT FOR LHB TYPE AC CHAIR CAR	29267 NOS	28.06.24
11	07230086 TWO PIECE GLASS SHUTTER	4696 NOS	15.07.24
12	19243517 ROLLER BEARING RB5020	724 NOS	22.07.24
13	07240059 LADDER	6379 NOS	23.07.24
14	19242711 AXLE BOX COMPLETE ASSEMBLY FOR CENTRE AXLE	61 NOS	05.08.24

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. 1419/24
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Shivangi Pandey

General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Shivangi Pandey (Deaf and Dumb), D/o: Ramnath Pandey, R/o: Village Bahgecha, Police Station Alohal, District Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh. Age: 14 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Yellow Colour Top, White Colour Lower and Barefoot, has been missing/ kidnapped since 05.07.2019 from Shelter Home, Rose Udaan, Kamla Nagar, Balak Trust in the area of Police Station Roop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 95/2019, Dated: 05.07.2019, U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S.: Roop Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl. Please inform to the following.
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368639 DP/5351/N/2024
SHO P.S.: Roop Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-23844632, 23849120, 8750870129

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Vartika

General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Vartika, D/o. Ranjeet Kumar, R/o.- H.No. 20, Ambekdar Colony, Satbari Ansal Gate, New Delhi, Permanent Address: Village Baba Gao, Bhuvanpur Kalan, P.O. Rasenta, P.S. Maharajganj, Raebareilly, U.P. has been missing/ kidnapped since 15.04.2024 at 12.00 am from Maidan Garhi Vilalge from the area of P.S. Maidan Garhi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 240/2024 dated 23.04.2024 has been registered at P. S. Maidan Garhi, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: Age: 15 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Pink colour kurti, blue colour palazzo and slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing female kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/5466/SD/2024
SHO P.S. Maidan Garhi, Delhi Mob.No. 8750870825

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Ravi

General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Ravi, S/o Balwan Singh, R/o: H.No. 20, E Block, Dichau Road, Shiv Enclave, Najafgarh, New Delhi has been missing since 05.03.2024 at 11:00 pm from the area of P.S. Baba Haridass Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 46A dated 24.03.2024 has been registered at P.S. Baba Haridass Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under:- Age: 31 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black colour jacket, black colour lower and white-black colour slipper in his feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/5451/DW/2024
SHO P.S. Baba Haridass Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25315302, 8750871028

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Pt. Ashok Ghosh, S/o Rakesh, R/o: H.No. 38, Block-15, Trilokpur, Age: About 55-57 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Grey Color Baniyan He was admitted in GTB Hospital Vide MLC No. B-1842/31/24 Date 29.04.2024 where he was

dead during treatment on 29.04.2024. In this regard DD No. 52A and 82A, Dt. 29.04.2024 has been lodged in PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about the relatives of this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about the relatives of person may kindly inform to the following.
SHO P.S., Kalyanpuri, Delhi Ph. : 011-2277 2287, 8750871830 DP/5542/ED/2024

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation
Additional City Engineer Department (1st Extension Notice)
Tender Notice No.: - NMMC/ACE/ 01 /2023-24
Name of work- Work For Collection & Transportation Of Municipal Solid Waste And Related Allied Works In Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation
Estimated Cost :- B2 Type Tender
All the tender shall take note of that, details tender of above work is available at website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Tender submission would be online only through website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> in the following manner.
Time Schedule for E-Tender

Date of submission	Dt.31/05/2024, 13.00 hrs.
Date of Opening	Dt.04/06/2024, 16.00 hrs. (If possible)

sign/- (Shirish Aradwad) Additional City Engineer NMMC PR Adv no./05/2024 Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Where as complaint has been made before me that accused Vinay S/o Sh. Surjeet Singh, R/o- H. No. K-2/5, Budh Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 26197/20 U/s 379/41/34 IPC P.S. North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Vinay can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Vinay has absconded (or is concealing myself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vinay of case FIR No. 26197/20 U/s 379/41/34 IPC P.S. North Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 27.06.2024
By Order, Sh. Ebbani Aggarwal Metropolitan Magistrate (N-W) Room No.107, 1st Floor Rohini Court, Delhi DP/4902/RD/2024 (Court Matter)

NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 19976 OF 2019
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF
WITH NEW INDIA ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED ...PETITIONER (S)/APPELLANT(S) VERSUS NARAYAN SINGH AND OTHERS ...RESPONDENT(S)
TO,
1. NARAYAN SINGH S/O SRI DEEWAN SINGH, VILLAGE PANIYA MEHTA, DISTRICT- NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND. PID: 76622/2024 FOR R[1] IN SLP(C) NO.19976/2019 (SEC X)
2. REWTI DEVI W/O NARAYAN SINGH, VILLAGE PANIYA MEHTA,, DISTRICT-NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND. PID: 76623/2024 FOR R[2] IN SLP(C) NO.19976/2019 (SEC X)
3. MOHD. USMAN S/O ALTAF HUSSAIN, RESIDENT OF C/O HARI OM VERMA MOHALLA KISROL/NAGPHANI, DISTRICT- MORADABAD, UTTAR PRADESH. PID: 76624/2024 FOR R[3] IN SLP(C) NO.19976/2019 (SEC X)
4. JAGDISH S/O LAL KARAN, R/O GADARPUR, DISTRICT UDHAM SINGH NAGAR UTTARAKHAND. PID: 76625/2024 FOR R[4] IN SLP(C) NO.19976/2019 (SEC X)
WHERE As the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the registry by MR. VIRESH B. SAHARYA, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 28th August, 2019, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-
"Issue notice."
AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned along with application for SUBSTITUTED SERVICE was listed before Ld. Registrar's Court on 22nd March, 2024, When the following order was passed:-
"Ld. Counsel for petitioner has filed application for substituted service in respect of all the respondents. The same is allowed. Registry to proceed further, as per rules. List again on 16.5.2024."
NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed. Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court in due course.
You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.
Dated: 02nd April, 2024 ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

20 REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC

Angels and Demons

MURDER IN MAHIM

★★★

Director: Rajesh Acharya
Cast: Ashutosh Rana, Vijay Raaz, Shivani Raghuvanshi, Shivaji Satam, Divya Jagdale, Bharat Ganeshpure, Sanjeev Satya Vijay, Rajesh Khattar, Nishant Khanduja, Ashutosh Gaikwad, Smrita Tambe, Sonal Jha, Sonia Balani



SHUBHRA GUPTA

FOR A jaded viewer who has almost always been invited to look at a split-level Mumbai, residing in either fancy high-rise towers, or its slummy, scummy underbelly, *Murder In Mahim* comes as a relatively fresh look at working-class stiffs, and their connection with killings that arise out of unhappy circumstances, rather than by chance.

Based on terrific Bombay chronicler Jerry Pinto's novel of the same name, the eight-part series strays somewhat from the original by some additions and subtractions and deviations but stays largely faithful to the heart of the story which focuses on regular people (and their families) to be found in modest dwellings, crowded police *thanas*, general wards in hospitals, beach shacks, through a sharp look at the LGBTQ+ community.

A young sex worker is found brutally murdered, his innards pulled inside out, in a public toilet at Mahim station. Police inspector Shivajirao Jende (Raaz) takes along newbie cop Firdaus Rabbani (Raghuvanshi) to learn on the job while they go sleuthing. As the two muddle along on the trail of bodies which pile up, a couple more cops (Ganeshpure, Satya Vijay) keep cropping up for reasons best known to themselves.

There are red herrings aplenty. Could the killer be Sunil, the son of former journalist Peter Fernandes (Rana) who has had a fall-out with Jende? And also, could Sunil be gay? What are those two other policemen doing: are they trying to help or hinder the investigation? What connection does a dead man's sister (Balani) have with the murders?

There are times when you zone out, and those are places when the writing borders on the explanatory and/or banal. The series is set in the period before the Supreme Court decision to decriminalise homosexuality, so we find a group of protestors outside the cop station going through the motions. There are stretched-out portions, along with some eye-roll sections (especially one between a secretive woman who wants publicity and Fernandes); also, the antagonism between Raaz, who settles himself into Jende's role, and Rana's retired journalist feels contrived, even if it is nice to see these two solid actors face-off, before joining forces.

The most impactful part of the series, written by Mustafa Neemuchwala and Udai Singh Pawar, and directed by Rajesh Acharya, is the portrayal of men, who like other men, and, who have to resort to drastic measures to manage crucial intimacy. Rajesh Khattar, playing an ageing roué, comes off exaggerated but alive to the challenges of finding lasting love. As his character says, with feeling, sometimes it is not about the sex alone, it is about touch and warmth, and even for that, if you have to resort to smelly restrooms, how alienating and cruel can it be?

That's when you are confronted by the stink that no deodorant can quite take away: that of prejudice, dislike and homophobia. When the show wafts those over your way, you wrinkle your nose, but before you can completely stop inhaling, you've taken them in. Can you shift your stance against men, and women, who choose their own sex to love, and to hold? Yes, says the series. But before that, there will be blood.

SRIKANTH ★★★

Director: Tushar Hiranandani **Cast:** Rajkummar Rao, Jyotika, Sharad Kelkar, Alaya F, Jameel Khan, Srinivas Beesetty, Anusha Nuthula

Touch of the Light



SHUBHRA GUPTA

SRIKANTH TELLS the story of the real-life Srikanth Bolla, the visually impaired self-made billionaire, and his extraordinary journey from a dirt-poor Andhra village to the national stage as one of India's leading industrialists.

Even as it comes with the usual disclaimer of creative liberties, the plot heaves as close as it can to real life in a feature film: the delight of the father (Beesetty) turning into dismay when he holds his sightless newborn in his arms, his mother (Nuthul) begging for his life, the bullying in the local school, his brilliance shining through, getting into MIT when IIT refuses him entrance, his return to India, and his embarking upon the untrodden path that takes him into the kind of unbelievable sunshine that most people, leave alone those with disabilities, can only dream about.

There's no doubt that Tushar Hiranandani has chosen a worthy subject. Despite the increase in advocacy and rising awareness, putting a person with disability

in the centre of the frame continues to be an act of bravery, especially now when the theatrical releases are dying by the dozens. With Rajkummar Rao playing the part of Srikanth Bolla, it's a given that you will get both skill and utmost sincerity. Touching upon the high points of a difficult life in a 2.5-hour feature leans towards broad brushstrokes, though, and this takes away complexity, the story-telling ends up being pretty basic.

Is Srikanth's portrayal life-like? This is crucial to us believing. On that score, Rao scores, though I did get distracted by his eyebrow wiggle in the film's second half, which also becomes drier. He is one of the few actors capable of fully inhabiting his role, and even more importantly, shedding all vanity in the process: when his Srikanth Bolla repeats his mantra, Sri Can, and smiles, you smile back.

As Srikanth's rock, the teacher who stood by him when all hope appears lost, Jyotika is convincing. Alaya F pops up as the young woman fascinated by this man who doesn't let anything come in the way of what he wants to do, and instantly adds a

bit of sparkle to the film. You wish she was given a bigger role: who is this girl? Sharad Kelkar is reliable as always, as the faithful friend who never turns his back on Srikanth, even when the latter becomes too full of himself and starts throwing his weight around.

Dispensing with this aspect — that disabled people need to be 'noble' and 'good' — is the strength of this film: Rao does a solid job of being disgruntled and too smart for his own good, telling us that people with deep challenges are, after all, also human. They can also behave badly. More focus on this side of Srikanth, whose endeavours in real life have had a lasting impact on visually impaired students wanting to opt for the sciences, would have lent the film a welcome interiority.

And then are the message-y parts, heavy on dialogue, laden with life lessons, which come thick and fast. While Srikanth's climactic speech telling us what we must and must not do when faced with people with disabilities is effective, it is also a lazy device, which makes the movie more tell, than, well, show. Plus, my biggest bugbear,

the background music is so blaringly loud, especially when the film kicks into gear; that it drowns even the dialogue. Why, why can't filmmakers trust us to feel those feelings ourselves?

Still, despite its limitations, I will take *Srikanth*. Because it chooses to tell the story of someone who refused to be labelled a *bechara* — no standing on the road and begging for alms or making candles — and celebrates an individual who managed to lift himself from a hole in the ground, where he was going to be buried alive, to someone who created a job for himself and countless people like him. Because it talks of *barabari*, not *bechargi*: yes it comes off as a dialogue, but it is also effective.

When Srikanth says knowingly, '*Hamaare chakkar mein mat padna, bech ke kha jayenge*', you are startled, and then you laugh out loud. You know instantly that this is a guy who has learned that self-pity is self-defeating, that he is grateful to have been supported to be able to reach a point where he can make the best of his innate abilities, that he is a winner. And everyone loves a winner, right?

Like the previous Planet of the Apes films and their incipient messages, be it about the cost of war and racial conflict, or dangers of lab experiments tinkering with genes, this one too has one: how heroes first become divinity and then myth, their stories modulated according to the one doing the telling.

This is how Proximus, who has an imprisoned, resigned human (Macy) regaling him with Roman history, has imagined himself as the new Caesar. And has got himself a captive audience, who repeats after him every morning as he stands on a podium: "What a wonderful day!"

Proximus rules by power of strength as well as the power of his words, convincing his people that it is "their time", and "my turn" to lead them to it.

It is tempting to draw parallels here to our present, and, perhaps, the filmmakers (director is behind *The Maze Runner*) intend so. While they execute the battles, this implies with much flourish, with actors as both humans and apes putting up decent performances, we have seen the ending too many times before.

Plus the film is unceasingly grim, with no moments of levity to make us pine for what is at stake.

Neither is a cavernous vault holding humanity's secrets and the key to its re-emergence at the top of the pyramid, from the primitive, speechless form it has receded into, the most attractive of the battlegrounds.

And surely, while this might be the *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, it could have had more humans.

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



MAY DECEMBER

PRIME VIDEO
Loosely inspired by the Mary Kay Letourneau scandal, the film follows the story of an actor who travels to meet and study the life of Gracie, a woman infamous for the 23-year-long relationship with her husband Joe, which began when he was 13 years old and she was 36. Directed by Todd Haynes, and based on a story by Samy Burch and Alex Mechanik, the movie features Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore in lead roles.



BODKIN

NETFLIX
This dark comedy thriller features Will Forte, Siobhán Cullen, and Robyn Cara as Gilbert, and a motley crew of podcasters investigating the nefarious goings-on swirling beneath the seemingly idyllic veneer of the titular small town in Ireland, where several mysterious disappearances occurred 25 years ago. They soon realise that Bodkin might be small, but it holds some big secrets.



8 A.M. METRO

ZEE5
Written and directed by Raj Rachakonda, *8 A.M. Metro* follows the story of two strangers who serendipitously meet on a metro ride and forge an unexpected bond. They ultimately discover themselves and each other along the way. The film, a slice-of-life tale, celebrates the beauty of human connections.



THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER

LIONSGATE PLAY
Stockholm syndrome gets real with *The Marsh King's Daughter* when Helena's kidnapper aka her father escapes prison. Starring Daisy Ridley, Ben Mendelsohn, Garrett Hedlund, Caren Pistorius and Gil Birmingham, this Neil Burger-directed mystery drama follows Helena as she fights to protect her daughter from the dangers of her forlorn past.

Power Play

KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

★★★

Director: Wes Ball
Cast: Owen Teague, Peter Macon, Freya Allan, Kevin Durand, William H Macy

SHALINI LANGER

I HAVE lived long enough to satisfy both nature and glory," said the Great Caesar.

The Caesar of the *Planet of the Apes* would agree. However, nothing is long enough to satisfy a ticking box office, even if we are more than half a century down from the first series of this franchise, and the fifth one now in the rebooted exercise — not counting the TV and the animation versions — with another sequel written into the ending of *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*.

Granted the technical finesse, which is a long way from when Charlton Heston wore the monkey suit, it is all a bit too familiar ground now. From one film to the other, we can bet that either apes will have the upper hand, or the humans, with only snatches of detente in between.

We are "many generations later" from when Caesar, the leader of the apes played to great effect and pathos by Andy Serkis, led his followers into an oasis of existence. So



much so that the new leader who will emerge from this film's journey of finding himself, Noa, has not heard or been told about Caesar.

As societies tend to do, the apes, too, have split up into groups while humans are almost non-existent. Noa's clan is a peace-loving, elder-respecting tribe that rears eagles. The most adventurous thing an adulting Noah has ever encountered is climbing to the 'Top Nest' to steal an eagle's egg. They each must have one to pass a "bonding day" ritual, with the egg eventually hatching into their very own eagle.

There is something to be said about this exercise of stealing eggs from an eagle's nest, but as Noa and his friends establish very clearly: they "always leave one" for

the poor bird.

The same day as Noa is to clear the bonding day ritual, his clan is attacked by another ape group — wearing rusted marks and carrying taser-like shafts, a species much bigger and far too menacing than Noa's.

The inevitable happens. Noa sees his father brutally killed and his clan "stolen". So now he must go looking for them, and along the way, find a wise orangutan called Raka and a scared human called Mae.

Raka tells him what Caesar truly stood for, and not what the attacking clan's leader, who also spouts his name, stands for. One of those lessons is that Caesar led with "decency, morality, strength, compassion". Another is that the same should also be extended to humans.

Come Rain, Come Shine

THE BOY AND THE HERON

★★★

Director: Hayao Miyazaki
Voices: Luca Padovan, Christian Bale, Robert Pattinson, Florence Pugh, William Dafoe, Gemma Chan, Dave Bautista, Karen Fukuhara, Mark Hamill

SHALINI LANGER

HOW DO You Live? That is the Japanese title of this return-from-retirement film by acclaimed Japanese animator, filmmaker and manga artist Hayao Miyazaki.

And how does a boy do so, carrying the grief of losing his mother, and the guilt of not having been able to save her (which he relives every night), even as he watches his fa-

ther settle into his new life and new wife? All against the backdrop of World War II and its mounting shadows over the people of Japan.

The most autobiographical of Miyazaki's films, *The Boy and the Heron* gives Mahito (Padovan) — like similar stories about grieving children — a world of vivid fantasy that merges seamlessly into his grim reality. A magical interlude that will help Mahito — and, consequently, the others around him — move on.

While *The Boy and the Heron* got this year's Best Animated Feature at the Oscars, it isn't the best of Miyazaki and the story tends to plod through the last 30 minutes of its pretty long length of 120-plus minutes. There are just too many characters, in the real world and the one Mahito has tumbled into, that Miyazaki has juggling. The birds, especially,



don't have it easy, being either menacing, vicious or man-eaters.

Which is why the film's English title is

such a misnomer, as there is really little 'and' about the boy, that is Mahito, and the heron (Pattinson). Once Mahito and his father

Shoichi (Bale) have moved from Tokyo to the countryside after his mother's death in a fire at her factory, it is clear from the start that the heron does not have good intentions.

It mocks Mahito, it pecks at both his grief and his guilt, and it leads him to the forbidden tower on the house grounds that has a not-so-nice family legend attached to it. So, of course, Mahito finds himself there, and the rest of his journey follows. Of the people he meets there, who all have some link or the other to his real world, the most impressive is Kiriko (Pugh), a daredevil sailor who hunts so that the 'dead' who can't hunt have something to feed on.

As Mahito finds himself saved by her, and others such as Himi (Fukuhara), and goes on to set free others like his great granduncle (Hamill), who is the master of that forbidden tower — and we keep rushing down corridors "whose stones are angry" — Mahito himself at one point comments: "I have come through this passage before."

So have we, so have we.

BCCI to invite applications for coach, Dravid can re-apply

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, MAY 10

THE BOARD of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah announced that the Indian board will be inviting applications for its men's team head coach soon.

Current Indian team coach Rahul Dravid's tenure as head coach ends post the T20 World Cup and the BCCI will begin to hunt for a new coach in coming days. Shah stated that current coach Dravid can re-apply if he wants to.

"Rahul Dravid's tenure is till the World Cup, we will be inviting applications soon for the post of head coach and if Dravid wants to re-apply, he can do it. We have decided the criteria. Thereafter we will invite applications for support staff in consultation with the Cricket Advisory Committee. The coach's tenure will be of three years," Shah said during an interaction in Mumbai on Thursday.

The Indian team will be travelling for the T20 World Cup to West Indies and USA next month in two batches, Shah informed.

Those whose IPL teams don't qualify for the play-offs will be leaving on May 24. "The team will be travelling in two batches, the first batch will travel on the 24th of this month while the rest after IPL gets over," Shah added.

Impact player rule

The Indian board is going to discuss the 'Impact Player' rule with all stakeholders during its meeting which will happen once the T20 World Cup gets over in the West Indies. The rule has drawn heavy debate during this season of IPL especially since it reduced the all-rounders' role to a minimum. Players like Shivam Dube headed to the World Cup, didn't get a chance to bowl for Chennai Super Kings (CSK), as he was used as an Impact player by his IPL franchise.

The rule as per Shah, was used as a 'test' during this season of IPL and it wasn't a permanent rule. The BCCI is ready to take a call for next season after consulting all stakeholders going ahead. "Impact player was used as a test (in this IPL), it was done so that two Indian players could get a chance. It's not permanent, we will have a discussion with the Indian team captain, players, franchises, coaches and then take a call on it. The meeting can happen once the World Cup is over," Shah explained. The Indian board is also going to discuss the matter of retention of players whenever they meet IPL owners next.

Meanwhile, Indian team coach Dravid, Head of NCA-VVS Laxman, chairman of selection committee Ajit Agarkar and the Indian board's general manager of cricket operations, Abey Kuruvilla have recommended few changes in domestic cricket which the board is scheduled to implement.

The board is definitely considering a relook at the timing of Ranji Trophy games played in winters that saw many games ending without any results due to fog. "We have received suggestions for domestic cricket and we will be implementing them. Like the weather in parts of North Zone needs to be considered," Shah added.

Rahul Dravid's tenure is till the World Cup, we will be inviting applications soon for the post of head coach and if Dravid wants to re-apply, he can do it. Thereafter we will invite applications for support staff in consultation with the Cricket Advisory Committee. The coach's tenure will be of three years."

JAY SHAH
BCCI SECRETARY

SWEEP SPOT

RAHUL PANDEY
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

LESS THAN a couple weeks after he went rogue and lashed his critics for delving into his strike rate, Virat Kohli on Thursday faced the camera to make the point that he was working "to keep the strike rate up." This, after having breezed to 92 off just 47 deliveries.

"I am certainly not a guy who wants to sit around saying this is the way I play and not improve on things I need to," Kohli stated in one of his typical longish post-match chats. Taking more risks was put on the agenda, especially against the spinners. It's been a particular weakness of his. In T20s, Kohli's strike rate drops when he's facing spinners (124.99) as opposed to the pacers (139.88). His discomforts against the turning ball had come at large over the past year and his defence of it had been a recurring feature of last month's live broadcast outburst. Last night though, he accepted the flaw and opened up on a solution—a particular shot he has shied away from for much of his career.

"I brought out the slog-sweep to the spinners. I just mentally put myself in that situation, never practised it at all. I know I can hit it (slog-sweep) because I have hit it in the past," he said.

It is not like Kohli didn't possess the sweep, but just that it was as not instinctive

CSK... tsk, tsk

Chennai Super Kings' playoff hopes suffer a setback after losing to Gujarat Titans



Sai Sudharsan (103) and Shubman Gill (104) recorded a 210-run opening stand to help GT beat CSK. Nirmal Harindran

SYNOPSIS

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings play-offs hopes take a big hit as they go down to Gujarat Titans by 35 runs.

VENKATA KRISHNA B
MARCH 31

Luck runs out

At a venue where they pulled off a major heist to become champions last year, Chennai Super Kings' hopes of defending their title suffered a huge blow. The defeat means they will now have to win both their remaining matches and depend on other results to go their way. That they have less than a 48-hour turnaround before they face Rajasthan Royals at home on Sunday afternoon, means the road ahead is all the more challenging. In all likelihood, given how short on confidence and thin on bowling, the fixture against Rajasthan could well be Dhoni's last home fixture.

For a team, whose starting XI has never looked settled owing to fitness, form and unavailability, Chennai's mix and match continued at Ahmedabad as well with Rachin Ravindra making a comeback to the top. But as has been the case, this was yet another move that didn't work as Rachin was run-out off the last ball of the first over and a ball later, Ajinkya Rahane too departed. Chasing 232 for a win, those twin blows strangled Chennai straight-away. And when Ruturaj Gaikwad fell for zero, at 10/3, Chennai's chase was all but killed.

However, through Daryl Mitchell and Moeen Ali, Chennai would attempt to make a comeback. As they showed in their partnership of 109 off 57 deliveries for the fourth wicket, had Chennai's top-order given the necessary start, the target wasn't as steep. On a flat deck with dew by their side, with wickets in hand, they could have

been in with a chance. But, with the required rate climbing right through the chase, Mitchell and Moeen had no choice but to keep going for high-risk shots.

From there on it was always about a couple of deliveries as in Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed, Gujarat had the bowlers to tie down two next three incoming batsmen. And as Mohit Sharma came in and removed Mitchell off his second delivery, Gujarat inched closer and off his second over, he got rid of Moeen as Chennai's fate was all but sealed.

Style meets substance

In an IPL season where openers have buried opposition attacks with sheer muscle power, Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan showed there is an alternate universe where timing could be as brutal too. This was an evening where they showed, going forward, there is still space in T20s for batsmen of their ilk, who are classical in their own ways.

From the time they walked in after being asked to bat first, they appeared liberated. Perhaps that they are barely alive in the tournament helped the duo to play more freely. But whatever it was, they put up a grand exhibition, matching each other shot for shot. And it was Sudharsan who first started it, getting down on his knee in the third over and cover-driving Shardul Thakur for a six. And just before the powerplay ended, Gill stood tall and lofted a good length delivery over mid-on for a six. Those two shots summed up their batting on the night as a whole.

Four out of the five boundaries that Sudharsan scored came in the mid-wicket and mid-on region. But four of his seven sixes came behind square, as he arched back to upper cut one and brought the pull on three other occasions. Against spinners, he went over mid-wicket twice. Simple, clear game plan as he outscored Gill. In a season where few good things have gone their way for Gujarat, Sudharsan is top of it, crossing 500 runs en route becoming the fastest Indian to 1000 IPL runs.

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	6	0	12	0.491
DC	12	6	6	0	12	-0.316
LSG	12	6	6	0	12	-0.769
RCB	12	5	7	0	10	-0.217
GT	12	5	7	0	10	-1.063
MI	12	4	8	0	8	-0.212
PK	12	4	8	0	8	-0.423

At the other end, Gill was more intent on proving a point or two. Having failed to make India's World Cup 15 cut, the fluency that has been missing in Gill's batting this IPL, was to the forefront. Those slices of either foot were back as he found three boundaries in his favoured mid-wicket region and two on the square of off-side. Those four sixes in the arc between long-off and long-on showed how he struck to his characteristics.

Only one six that he scored off Daryl Mitchell fell in the improvisation category as he quickly caught up with Sudharsan before bringing up his century in 50 deliveries. The left-hander too would get to the landmark in the same over.

In a seven-over period (9th to 15th) they scored a whopping 111 runs, which left Chennai shell shocked. Ruturaj Gaikwad's continued hesitation to trust the spinners helped a little as Chennai ran out of answers. Eventually, in the last four overs, Chennai would pull things back, conceding only 35 runs and picking three wickets as Gujarat, who looked set to cross 250 ended up with 231/3.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Titans 231/3 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 104, B Sai Sudharsan 103) bt Chennai Super Kings 196 for 8 in 20 overs (Daryl Mitchell 63, Moeen Ali 56; Mohit Sharma 3/31) by 35 runs

PLAYING TONIGHT

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

KKR vs MI, 730 pm, Live on Jio Cinema and Star Sports Network

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Fullham vs Man City 5 pm, Live on Star Sports Network



EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Sensationally straight by Shubman

Either side of a 25-ball half-century Shubman Gill hit a shot straight down the ground that couldn't have been any straighter without hitting the stumps at the non-striker's end. The second one was more modern, if you will. An opportune shot, a short ball from Simarjeet Singh and one he could have probably hit through midwicket with that signature short-arm jab of his. But somehow, he crossbatted it down the ground. Needs must. But it was the first one that you'd remember for a while. It was a perfectly alright length ball from Daryl Mitchell, the elbows were perfect from the right-handed opener, as he picked up the length so quickly. And the drive that followed was right out of any classic cricket playbook. It was the kind of shot that lived up to the cliché that the most technically gifted of cricketers, batting out of the textbook, do still have a place in this format. "A thing of beauty, you can see it time and time again. The balance was brilliant, effortless ease," said Nick



Shubman Gill hit a beautiful shot straight down the ground en route to his quick-fire century. PTI

Knight on air, adding any young batter would do well to learn just by watching that on loop.

King misses out, Prince gets there

For lovers of symmetry, both GT's openers were beautifully placed at 96 off 48 balls at the start of the 17th over. The first one to get to the three-figure mark between Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan would be scoring the 100th hundred in the history of the Indian Premier League. On Thursday night, Virat Kohli came within a couple of strikes of getting to that landmark. Of what the King missed out on, the heir apparent got there. It was a classic Shubman innings at his favourite venue in Ahmedabad, but it was a much more vocal celebration than what we have gotten used to from him. He jumped in the air and yelled out an expletive. Shortly after, Sai would get to the landmark too, scoring the 101st century in the league with a six over fine leg. A stunning opening partnership.

Mohit bowls the good old knuckle ball

This is a season where seamers have mostly used the off-cutters and split

fingers for slower deliveries. But **Mohit Sharma** still backs his back of the hand slower ball and knuckle ball to vary his speed. And both these deliveries, apart

from harder to execute, are also difficult for the batsmen to connect it, even if they are able to pick it off the hand. When Mohit came on, there was a message to Daryl Mitchell to watch out for the slower ones, but all it took was just two deliveries for Mohit to strike. He brought out the knuckle ball and banged it into the pitch, which took whatever pace it had, as Mitchell ended up early into the shot and could only find the fielder at long-off.

Rutu's 'main job'



Ruturaj Gaikwad's run at the toss has defied probability. It's a 50-50 chance when the coin goes up but the odds must have felt much heavier for the CSK captain who had won just ONE out of the 11 tosses this season. It led to CSK head coach Stephen Fleming joking that he needs a helping hand perhaps. "There has been a lot of talk about it. We are actually looking for someone to go out with him, we are really close to that point," Fleming – usually stoic – said with a hearty laugh. "Some of them (lost tosses) have been pretty crucial. Even his wife has had something to say about it. So, there is a lot of focus, and that will be one of his first main jobs."

It dominated pre-match discussions too. At the pitch report, Chris Morris and Nick Knight ran a little routine on how he could win the toss. And in Ahmedabad, walking out by himself and without any additional help as Fleming quipped, Gaikwad finally got his second toss win. The CSK-heavy crowd roared and Gaikwad had a relieved look on his face.

I brought out the slog-sweep to the spinners. I just mentally put myself in that situation, never practised it at all. I know I can hit it (slog-sweep) because I have hit it in the past."

VIRAT KOHLI

His strikes against Gujarat's Noor Ahmad though, on the day of his fiery monologue, must've felt extra sweet. For one, it came against a left-arm spinner of some nuance. The 19-year-old Afghan wrist-spinner has come across as a mirror-image of Rashid Khan. Kohli's record against his kind has been even substandard. His strike rate combating left-arm spinners in T20 reads a measly 119.32. A vulnerability that was out in the open earlier in the season.

Facing Lucknow's debutant M Siddarth, Kohli had looked a pale shadow of himself as he rushed down the track and lost his shape. The back leg hung in the air as he made contact with the ball and his eyes weren't underneath – as they generally are – before he looped the ball to backward point. The only positive to come out of the attempt was the intent to face his demons head-on off the very first ball.

It was what he had attempted to do against Punjab's Harpreet Brar as well, in the

reverse fixture between the two teams. Infact, it was against Brar, who has troubled him before, that Kohli first ventured out for slog-sweeping – twice – only to miss on both occasions.

Against Noor, a couple of weeks ago, the plan finally came to fruition. Carving runs either side of the square, Kohli looked persistent in his application of the stroke – clubbing a four and two sixes off the Afghan. The last of those came across as a welcome change. Clearing his front leg, Kohli latched onto a quicker-fuller delivery lined up on the stumps. A delivery we've usually seen him negotiate for a couple off a flick. A clear instance of taking the risk Kohli had alluded to the other night.

In contemporary T20 cricket, where even 262 has been proven to be chaseable, adopting the attacking stroke might be the need of the hour for someone as textbook as Kohli. Former SRH and Punjab head coach would zero in on the importance of it on Star Sports, "We talk about the sweep slog, how he's brought that back out against spin, and hasn't that been a really effective weapon for him in those middle overs. And when the opposition tries to bring spin in the powerplay, he brings that out and puts them under immediate pressure and that puts them under another area of scoring from the back foot."

It is what India would expect of him in the upcoming T20 World Cup too.



Against Punjab Kings, Virat Kohli deployed the slog-sweep in the latter half of his innings, with Liam Livingstone at the receiving end. PTI

It wasn't the only occasion during this season when he'd turned to the particular stroke. During his much-discussed ton against the Rajasthan Royals – for strike rate reasons – one Yuzvendra Chahal had been at the receiving end of it. Picking the ball from

the fifth stump and going down on one knee, Kohli had put his forward reach to test as he dispatched another flat six – this time over wide long-on. That he was able to tonk it clean off a good length delivery made it all the more special.

epaper.indianexpress.com

और सभी न्यूज़ पेपर मैगजीन प्राप्त करने के लिए सर्वप्रथम इस टेलीग्राम ग्रुप को ज्वाइन करें नीचे दिए लंकि पर क्लिक करके ज्वाइन टेलीग्राम

And to get all the news paper magazines, first join this Telegram group by clicking on the link given below and join Telegram

https://t.me/Backup_8890050582

HD EDITORIALS

1.The Hindu, 2.Deccan Chronicle, 3.Hans India, 4.Mint,
5.Business Line, 6.Business standard, 7.Hindusthan Times,
8.Economic Times, 9.Times of India, 10.Indian Express,
11.Financial Express, 12.Telangana Today, 13.New Indian
Express, 14.Pioneer, 15.The States Man, 16.The Tribune,
17.Free Press, 18.Avenue Mail, 19.Millennium Post, 20.Morning
India, 21.The Goan, 22.The Skin Times, 23.Western Times,
24.Daily World, 25.Asian Age _ Total papers We will update
in PDF format Every day morning 5.30am Below

Click here Telegram Channel Join

https://t.me/English_Newspaper_Banna