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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



PUTIN-XI MEET

P6



'INDIA BLOC AGENDA TO ELIMINATE NUKES TO PLEASE PAKISTAN'

P10



AN ODE TO M S SWAMINATHAN

P11

THAILAND OPEN: CHIRAG-SATWIK CLINCH TITLE

P12



WEATHER

Thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 36°C and 28°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 82% Min. 63%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.3°C Min: 28.5°C

SUN RISES 04:54 hrs SUN SETS 18:11 hrs

MOON RISES 15:25 hrs MOON SETS 02:35 hrs

FULL MOON on 23 May

THUMBNAILS



To make people aware about the environment, Greenpeace India depicted global warming using an ice sculpture at a mall in Saket, New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Labourer from Jharkhand shot dead, two others injured in Manipur attack: A labourer from Jharkhand was killed and two others injured in an attack by unidentified assailants in Manipur's Imphal West district, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred in the Naoremthong area on Saturday night. A police official said that the assailants pulled out the three labourers of a construction company from their rented accommodation and shot them on the spot. One of them, identified as Shree Ram Hamsada, 41, subsequently succumbed to his injuries.

BJP 'Op Jhaadu' launched to crush AAP: Kejriwal

AAP chief claimed his party leaders would be sent behind bars, the party's bank accounts seized

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Launching a fresh attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal claimed that the saffron party has launched 'Operation Jhaadu' to crush his party as the ruling dispensation at the Centre looks at it as the biggest challenge.

Mr Kejriwal alleged as part of the 'Operation Jhaadu', AAP leaders would be arrested and the party's bank accounts would also be seized while the party office would be vacated bringing the party on to streets.

The chief minister, however, asserted that no one would be able to break the party even if all the leaders are sent to jail as AAP is the party of the country's 140 crore people's dreams. "Put us in jail, and see whether it will destroy or develop the party," Mr Kejriwal said.

Recounting the 50 days he spent in jail, he said he read the Holy Gita twice



and the Ramayana once, utilising the time in a positive way. "The kind of challenges that came our way could have finished had Lord Bajrang Bali's blessings not been with us," the AAP chief said.

Conceding that AAP leaders could be arrested, he asked how they would be able to arrest the (their) thoughts.

The national convener of the AAP also claimed that every AAP leader has come up after going through the toughest challenges and passing rigorous trials, yet if any of them is found doing something wrong, the party itself would show them the door.

In his address to party

workers and leaders ahead of the AAP's proposed protest march to the BJP headquarters, Mr Kejriwal said that bigger challenges are ahead and all must be prepared to take them on. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is worried about the rise of the AAP. The party indeed has risen too fast. They (the BJP) have started 'Operation Jhaadu' to crush the party. In the coming times, our bank accounts will be frozen and we will be turned out on to the road since our office will also be taken away," he said.

Meanwhile, the AAP said the leaders and workers of the party, led by its chief, were stopped by the

police on their way to the BJP office by installing barricades on the roads.

The AAP continued their protest on the road ignoring a half-an-hour ultimatum issued to them by the police to disperse.

However, the police did not detain the party leaders.

During the protest, the party workers raised slogans like "Aam Aadmi Party Zindabad" and "Jail Ka jawab Vote Se".

Mr Kejriwal is presently out on interim bail granted by the Supreme Court till 1 June in connection with the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

Among the conditions under which the bail was granted to the CM, he cannot attend his office and cannot talk about the liquor policy case, etc.

The AAP chief has been holding road shows, and campaigning for INDIA bloc candidates for the Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, security has been stepped up outside the BJP HQ in Delhi in view of the protest call given by the AAP.

Police seize CCTV DVR from Kejriwal's residence

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

A team of Delhi Police on Sunday seized the CCTV digital video recorder (DVR) from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence in connection with the investigation into the alleged misconduct of the CM's close aide Bibhav Kumar with the party's Rajya Sabha MP, Swati Maliwal.

Police are now likely to retrieve footage from the DVR to assess the sequence of the alleged incident, sources said.

This came a day after Mr Kumar was sent to five days police custody by a Delhi Court after his arrest on Saturday.

Delhi Minister and AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj, meanwhile, lamented that false stories were being spread about missing CCTV footage.

For your motherland!



Voting for fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls today



49 Lok Sabha seats going to polls in the fifth phase, 14 are in Uttar Pradesh, 13 in Maharashtra, seven in West Bengal, five each in Bihar and Odisha, three in Jharkhand, and one each in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Some 8.95 crore voters will decide the fates of the 695 candidates who are in the fray. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has urged voters to turn out in large numbers at polling stations and exercise their franchise.

Voting for the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in 49 constituencies spread across eight states and Union territories (UTs) will be held on Monday. The polling is scheduled to commence at 7 a.m. in 94,732 polling stations, manned by 9.47 lakh polling officials amid tight security, and conclude at 6 p.m. Of the

Mamata Banerjee takes out road show in Purulia

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PURULIA, 19 MAY

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took part in a road show from the SPO Office More to Dak Bungalow More in Purulia today, campaigning in favour of former state minister and Purulia TMC candidate Shantiram Mahato in the afternoon.

Barely three hours after PM Narendra Modi addressed an election meeting today about 8 kilometres away from her venue, the Chief Minister walked with thousands of local people along the road amid the high temperature.

Law, judiciary, Labour minister Moloy Ghatak was also present during the road show. The famed Chau dancers of Purulia were the star attractions in the road show. All the top TMC leadership of Purulia were also present during her road



show. The TMC chairperson is trying her level best to win the Lok Sabha seats from the Junglemahal areas of Purulia, Bankura and Jhargram. She has announced several projects on water, roads, infrastructure and stressed about new jobs in her dream

Jungle Sundari Karmo Nagori Project in Raghunathpur of Purulia, which she feels is going to be a game changer in the economy of the district in the days to come.

The CM has already campaigned for the TMC candidates in the district in her election rally earlier.

Modi slams Mamata over comments about monks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PURULIA/ONDA/KHARAGPUR, 19 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing three election rallies in Bengal, launched a scathing attack on the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and accused her of appealing her party's vote bank at the cost of insulting the faith of Hindus and allowing infiltrators to disrupt the demographic balance of the state.

Addressing election rallies in Purulia, Onta in Bankura and Kharagpur in West Midnapore, PM Modi alleged that the ongoing infiltration in West Bengal is rapidly altering the state's demographic profile. He claimed that the TMC's appeasement policies have endangered the safety and demographic stability of Hindus in many areas. "In Bengal, TMC is synonymous with terrorism, corruption, appeasement, and nepotism. To appease its vote bank, the

TMC is insulting the faith of Hindus. The entire country is angry due to the recent derogatory statement made by the CM of West Bengal," Mr Modi stated. PM Modi's remarks were in response to Miss Banerjee's recent comments about the Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

Addressing a poll rally in Goghat under the Arambagh Lok Sabha constituency on Saturday, Miss Banerjee had said a section of monks of the Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha were working under the influence of BJP leaders in Delhi. She had also said that one monk, Kartik Maharaj of Behrampur, and one in Asansol were getting involved in politics directly. PM Modi condemned these remarks, asserting that TMC's actions against these respected socio-religious organisations were a ploy to appease their vote bank. (Details on Pg 2)

Iran President's chopper makes 'hard landing'

AGENCIES
TEHRAN, 19 MAY

Rescue teams have reached the city of Jolfa in the north-western Iranian province of East Azarbaijan and trying to locate the Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's helicopter which made a 'hard landing' amid bad weather.

Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has confirmed that a helicopter carrying President Ebrahim Raisi makes a hard landing in Jolfa, local media reported.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian was also on board the helicopter, according to reports.

Rohit Sharma accuses IPL broadcaster of recording his private conversations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 19 MAY

Mumbai Indians (MI) batter and Indian skipper Rohit Sharma on Sunday called out the broadcasters of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for allegedly recording his private conversations and playing them on air violating right to privacy.

Sharma took to X, saying that the lives of cricketers has become intrusive because of cameras recording each and every step and conversation, putting the player's privacy at risk. He also said that content creation focused on views and engagement will "break the trust" between fans, cricketers and cricket.

It is, though, not clear which conversation of Rohit's was played on air. "The lives of cricketers have become so intrusive that cameras are now recording



every step and conversation we are having in privacy with our friends and colleagues, at training or on match days. Despite asking Star Sports to not record my conversation, it was and was also then played on air, which is a breach of privacy. The need to get exclusive content and focused only on views and engagement will

one day break the trust between the fans, cricketers and cricket. Let better sense prevail," tweeted Sharma.

Notably, Rohit's team Mumbai Indians (MI) had a disappointing Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign under the leadership of new captain Hardik Pandya, who had made his return to the Blue and Gold side follow-

ing a great stint with Gujarat Titans (GT) from 2022-23, which also involved winning the title in the franchise's debut season.

MI finished at the bottom of the points table with four wins, 10 losses and eight points.

Rohit Sharma had a decent season with the bat, scoring 417 runs at an average of 32.07 and a strike rate of 150. He scored a century and a fifty, with a best score of 105 not out.

SC to hear PIL against 3 new criminal laws

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Monday a public interest litigation (PIL) against the three criminal laws replacing the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act.

As per the causelist published on the website of the apex court, a vacation bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal will hear the matter on 20 May. The plea said that Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita suffer from "many defects and discrepancies". "All three criminal laws were passed and enacted without any parliamentary debate as unfortunately most of the members were under suspension during the period," said the plea filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari.

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Modi slams Mamata over comments about monks

PM, addressing three rallies in Bengal, accuses chief minister of insulting Hindu faith and allowing infiltrators to threaten West Bengal's demography

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI, KANCHAN SIDDIQUI, DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY
PURULIA/ONDA/KHARAGPUR, 19 MAY

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He claimed that the TMC's appeasement policies have endangered the safety and demographic stability of Hindus in many areas.

"In Bengal, TMC is synonymous with terrorism, corruption, appeasement, and nepotism. To appease its vote bank, the TMC is insult-

ing the faith of Hindus. The entire country is angry due to the recent derogatory statement made by the CM of West Bengal," Mr Modi stated.

PM Modi's remarks were in response to Miss Banerjee's recent comments about the Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

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PM Modi condemned these remarks, asserting that TMC's actions against these respected socio-religious organizations were a ploy to appease their vote bank.

"The TMC has crossed the limits of decency by spreading canards against ISKCON, Ramakrishna Mission, and Bharat Sevashram Sangha.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Purulia, Jyotirmay Singh Mahato and party leaders greets the crowd during the public meeting for the Lok Sabha Polls, in Purulia on Sunday. ■ ANI

These organisations are known for their service and morality worldwide, yet the

CM of Bengal is openly threatening them," PM Modi said, repeating much the same

points at all three rallies. The Prime Minister also claimed that Miss Banerjee

was under pressure from Muslim fundamentalists, leading to her public insults

against saints and monks. "In their desperation, TMC leaders have started hurling abuses at prestigious organisations like ISKCON, Ramakrishna Mission, and Bharat Sevashram Sangha. Under pressure from Muslim fundamentalists, she has publicly insulted our faith," he added.

The PM reiterated his accusations, highlighting that infiltrators are capturing land belonging to Dalits and the underprivileged, making Hindu communities a minority in several regions. "Infiltrators are perilous to Bengal since they are disturbing the demography of the state. In many parts, the Hindus have become a minority," he said.

PM Modi further alleged that the TMC has dehumanized women from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities to protect local criminals. He referred to incidents in Sandeshkhali, accusing TMC leaders of pointing fingers at women who had suffered atrocities. "The incidents of Sandeshkhali shook the TMC

has dehumanized the women of SC and ST communities to protect Shahjahan Sheikh," he said.

The Prime Minister promised stringent action against corrupt individuals within the TMC and other opposition parties. "It is Modi's guarantee that no corrupt persons will be spared. After the new government is formed on 4 June, corrupt people will spend their lives in jail," he asserted.

At the rally in Bankura, Mr Modi told people that he's led his life like a monk and he doesn't need to take any special care for any of his family members. He said: "I don't have a nephew or a brother that needs to be taken care of. The jungle residents, the Dalits, the poor and the marginalised are my family and I only need to ensure their welfare for them."

The PM was campaigning for party candidates Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato, Soumitra Khan, Subhas Sarkar, Agnimitra Paul and Hiran Chattopadhyay, fielded from Purulia, Bishnupur, Bankura, Midnapore and Ghatal seats, respectively.

NTA completes four-day-long CUET in Siliguri



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 19 MAY

The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted a four day long Common University

Entrance Test (CUET) from 15 May 2024 in Siliguri. The online examination will be held from 21 May. Altogether 63 subjects were there for the test, out of

which each candidate had to opt for six subjects including one language and general tests as compulsory subjects. Siliguri had a total of 18 locations. The Siliguri Model

High School was designated as the City Coordination Centre, while other educational institutions such as DPS, DAV, APS Sukna, Suryasen, Hindi Balika Vidhyapith, Royal Academy, Modi Public School, Bharati Hindi School and Pranami Vidhyaniketan School were chosen to serve as centres in this area.

Stringent measures were put in place to ensure security at all locations, such as conducting thorough searches, using biometrics and holograms, and monitoring each exam room with live CCTV footage. This was implemented by Dr. SS Agarwal, the City Coordinator of NTA and Principal of Siliguri Model High School. For the offline exam 23,434 candidates were registered out of which 16,833 were present.

THE BEST ONE



Srijan Bhattacharya of CPI-M honoured as best election campaigner candidate at Press Club in Kolkata on Sunday. ■ SNS

HIGH VIGIL



Police personnel checking vehicles at Naka Point eve of Lok election in Howrah. ■ SNS

Blood donation camps in Hooghly have come to a stop due to prevailing heat wave conditions and the election code of conduct.

Political parties mostly conduct blood donation camps and they can only resume organising such camps after the completion of the election process.

Most social welfare organisations are unable to organise blood donation camps without the assistance of political parties.

Even when some of the organisations hold blood donation camps, due to excessive heat very few people are turning up to donate blood.

The assistant secretary of the Serampore Peyarapoo Shramajibhi Hospital, Mr Goutam Sarkar, said that due to shortage of blood,

Hooghly hit by shortage of blood in blood banks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HOOGHLY, 19 MAY



many surgical operations are held up. The most affected are the thalassemia affected children, Caesarean cases, critical accident victims and others.

Mr Sarkar recalled that last Wednesday, a newly wed couple passing along the road spotted the blood donation camp at Shramajibi hospital and decided on the spot to donate blood.

The groom, Bilash Hazra, bride Keya Samanta and the groom's mother Mithu Hazra all donated their blood. We urge benevolent persons to come forward to donate their valuable blood to save precious lives, he said.

A blood donation camp



was organised by Shramajibi hospital on Sunday.

Among those donated blood were the kin of a patient from Ranchi, students and many local personalities.

The Serampore IMA president, Dr Pradeep Kumar Das, advises blood donors to cool themselves in the shade or under air cooling system before venturing out into the sun after donating blood.

NHAI to allow discounts for state carriage buses

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 MAY

Also, under the provision, a complete exemption from the payment of toll fees to the local private non-transport/commercial vehicles is permissible.

In what comes as a relief to the transport operators, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is to allow discounts to state carriage buses.

The decision comes following the demand of the private and minibus operators of the state to allow relaxations in the toll to be paid by the private and minibuses using the National Highways. The demand was reiterated during a recent meeting with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and the state Transport Department.

According to the NHAI, the owners of local commercial vehicles registered within the district are supposed to be given a relaxation of 50 per cent as per rule 9 of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

The NHAI has asked the private and minibus operators to submit the list of state carriage buses to the respective Executing Authority or the Concessionaire of NHAI through the Transport Department for availing the discount.

Meanwhile, the Motor Vehicle Section of the District Magistrate and Collector Office in Howrah has written to the NHAI office in Salt Lake seeking exemption of toll fees for vehicles on poll duty at toll plazas under the latter's jurisdiction. Notably, the NHAI has also decided to provide the list of ambulances, contact persons, notified toll rates and GPS coordinates to the state Transport Department.

TENDER

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender No.: SLS-ELG-W-T-08-2024-25 Date: 16.05.2024

E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Gen) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

Description of Work: Enhancement of Freight repair facilities at wagon Repair Depot Jhansi.

Tender value (₹): 29,56,204/- only **Bid Security (₹):** 59,100/- only

Completion period: 06 months. **Closing date of tender:** 10.06.2024 (upto 15.00 Hrs.) **Tender will submit the tender online upto 10.06.2024 (upto 15.00 Hrs.)** Complete details & submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railways website. <http://www.irps.gov.in> 876/24 (ADM)

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs on 10.04.2024. 879/24 (A)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice No: 2024-May-03 Dated: 16.05.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N.C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through online (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under:-

S.No.: 1 Tender No.: 2024-May-03-01 Approx. Cost (Rs.): ₹ 32046910.80

Description of work: Provision of minimum essential amenities & facilities for divyangjan At Kiraoli, Papra & Nadbai stations.

S.No.: 2 Tender No.: 2024-May-03-02 Approx. Cost (Rs.): ₹ 22516488.32

Description of work: Provision of bore well and Over OHT for PFs with pipeline arrangements PTLI (50KL), MIQ (50KL), BR (50KL), & BIQ (50KL) stations in and provision of 04 nos. hand pumps at platform of AED, NGLT, BAMA & SNPR Halt stations in IDH-BXN section.

S.No.: 3 Tender No.: 2024-May-03-03 Approx. Cost (Rs.): ₹ 28062096.43

Description of work: Provision of bore well and Over OHT for PFs with pipeline arrangements MURD (110KL), IK (50KL), PPEA (50KL) & HK (50KL) stations in IDH-BKI section & FAB (100KL), UDMR (50KL) in BHA-ETW section and provision of 03 nos. hand pumps at platform of NHB, TBL & BUDA Halt stations in IDH-BKI section.

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.irps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs on 10.04.2024. 879/24 (A)

Talent show for specially abled people

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 MAY

Narayan Seva Sansthan, an NGO from Rajasthan, dedicated to the rehabilitation and empowerment of the disabled, hosted the Narayan Divyang Talent and Fashion Show "Divya Heroes 2024" aiming to assist the specially-abled citizens of this metropolis today.

The Danveer Samman Samaroh was organised here on Sunday.

Narayan Seva Sansthan trustee Devendra Choubisa that such shows are organized across the country and internationally with the objective of providing platform for disabled talent. Additionally, these events aimed to convey the message to society that no disabled individual is inferior to anyone else. In this talent and fashion show, about 30 individuals with disabili-

ties, referred to as Divya Heroes, today demonstrated their hidden talents, including impressive stunts like Mallakhamb, wheelchair ramp walks, and wheelchair acrobatics. Additionally, they delivered dance performances set to patriotic songs. This marked Narayan Seva Sansthan's debut event in this metropolis, promising a special and uplifting experience for both the audience and the Sansthan's donors. All participants have received training from the Sansthan, where some have undergone surgeries, while others have been provided with artificial limbs, callipers, and other assistive devices. These individuals, now empowered by the Sansthan's support, traveled to various cities to showcase their talents, inspiring others who may feel confined by their disabilities to step out, engage, and enjoy life.

Seminar on food industry at St Xavier's College

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 19 MAY

The Department of Microbiology at North Bengal St. Xavier's College organised a two-day national seminar on "Food, Industry, and Environmental Microbiology" from 17 May.

The seminar brought together experts, researchers, and students to discuss recent developments and future prospects in the field of microbiology. The opening ceremony was officiated by Fr. Dr. Lalit P Tirkey and featured resource persons who emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary research and collaboration in addressing global challenges related to food safety, industrial applications, and environmental sustainability.

Dr. Bipranth Kumar Tiwary, the organising secretary and Head of the Department, highlighted the seminar's



goal to promote knowledge sharing and skill development among young microbiologists. He also mentioned the department's commitment to providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the subject beyond traditional syllabi.

During the event, Professor Keshab Chandra Mondal from Vidyasagar University spoke about Traditional Fermented food and its significance, while lectures on various

fields of microbiology were delivered by Dr Nagendra Thakur from Sikkim University, Dr Pradeep Kumar Das Mohapatra, and Dr Saswati Parua Mondal. Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with Professor Aiyagari Ramesh from IIT Guwahati during interactive sessions that facilitated productive discussions on research opportunities and jobs in microbiology across different sectors. The seminar was well-

received by attendees for its focus on current issues and practical applications of microbiology in various sectors. Dr. Tiwary reiterated the department's vision to become a leading centre for microbiological research and education in North Bengal. The valedictory session marked the conclusion of the seminar where participants received certificates while exceptional contributions were recognised with awards.

Bengal 5th phase: 88 candidates to test their luck on Monday

7 LS constituencies are going to the polls: Hooghly, Arambagh, Serampore, Barrackpore, Bangaon, Howrah & Uluberia

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 MAY

A bevy of high-profile candidates, from ministers to actors, will test their luck at the hustings tomorrow as seven Lok Sabha constituencies in the southern part of West Bengal go for polls in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

The prominent candidates include Union Minister Shantanu Thakur from Bangaon, BJP's tough-man Arjun Singh from Barrackpore and two actor-turned-politicians Locket Chatterjee of BJP and Rachana Banerjee of Trinamul Congress, who are contesting against each other from Hooghly.

The seven Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal that are going to polls on 20 May include Hooghly, Arambagh and Serampore in Hooghly district, Barrackpore and Bangaon in North

24-Parganas district and Howrah and Uluberia in Howrah district.

A total of 1,25,23,702 voters - 63,51,320 men, 61,72,034 women and 348 third-genders - are eligible to exercise their franchise in 13,481 polling stations across the seven constituencies.

Of the 88 candidates in these seven Lok Sabha constituencies, the maximum number is from Bangaon at 15, followed by Barrackpore and Howrah at 14 each, Uluberia and Hooghly at 12 each, Serampore at 11 and Arambagh at 10.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidates got elected from Hooghly, Barrackpore and Bangaon, while Trinamul Congress candidates won in the remaining four.

In Barrackpore, BJP candidate Arjun Singh is up against Partha Bhowmick of TMC and Debdutt Ghosh from



Polling officials check electronic voting machines (EVMs) and other election-related material before they leave for poll duty on the eve of the 5th phase of general elections at Uluberia in Howrah. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

the CPI-M who enjoys the support of Congress.

After a denial of nomination by the ruling TMC, Singh

moved to the BJP five years ago, where he secured victory in the 2019 elections. Interestingly, he later returned to TMC within three years. In 2019, he won against Dinesh Trivedi.

Geographically, Barrackpore stretches from North 24-Parganas district to the northern limits of Kolkata. Historically known for its manufacturing prowess, Barrackpore was home to numerous jute and textile mills, and other industrial establishments such as the Isha-pore Metal & Steel Factory, which bolstered the local economy.

This time the BJP is confident of snatching the Arambagh constituency from Trinamul Congress where the winning margin of the ruling party candidate in 2019 was a little over 1,000 votes, in addition to retaining the three they won in 2019.

As part of the Congress-Left

Front alliance in West Bengal this time, Congress is contesting from Uluberia and Bangaon, while CPI-M has fielded candidates from the remaining five.

Over 57 per cent of the booths in these seven Lok Sabha constituencies have been identified as sensitive as against a little over 23 per cent for eight constituencies that went to the polls in the fourth phase on 13 May. In this phase, Hooghly has the highest number of sensitive booths at 87 per cent followed by Arambagh at 85 per cent. Barrackpore has the third highest number of sensitive booths at 67 per cent, followed by Serampore at 60 per cent.

Considering the higher number of sensitive booths, the Election Commission has decided to increase the Central Armed Forces deployment by around 32 per cent over the deployment in the fourth phase.

OBITUARY



DOB: 29/09/1964 DOD: 10/05/2024

MADHUMITA BHATTACHARYA

Our hearts still can't accept that you are not with us anymore. You are our strength. In these days, there's not a single moment we didn't miss you. It's not easy for us to move on from this unbearable pain.

— Deeply mourned by —

S. KRISHNA RAJU (S.K. RAJU)
ANUBHAV BHATTACHARYA
SPANDHAN BHATTACHARYA
TARU VIKRAM
UMA GANGULY

Election Commission of India removes SP of Purulia



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PURULIA, 19 MAY

The Election Commission has directed to remove the superintendent of police (SP) of Purulia, Abhijit Banerjee on a day when both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were busy campaigning for their respective parties in the district.

The Election Commission of India has directed the state Chief Secretary, B.P.Gopalika to remove the present Police superintendent of Purulia, Abhijit Banerjee by 10 AM tomorrow and submit names of three IPS officers to the ECI.

The development has created a huge stir. Abhijit Banerjee is a gallantry award winning IPS officer known for his role in fighting against and curbing the Maoist activities in the state. During his present stint he has

In Jhargram also, a few officers have been removed by the Election Commission

taken several measures for tourist's safety and created security apps for the common people of Purulia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Purulia today to campaign for an election rally in favour of BJP candidate Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato, while CM Mamata Banerjee attended a road show for TMC candidate Shantiram Mahato.

The removal of the top police officer of the district came six days before the Lok Sabha polls are due to be held in Purulia district, scheduled for 25 May.

In Jhargram also, a few officers have been removed by the Election Commission today.

BJP leaders who lie about funds should be tied up: Abhishek

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 MAY

Trinamul Congress National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee urged the people of West Midnapore to tie up BJP leaders who lie that Narendra Modi had released money for the Awas Plus scheme but the Trinamul Congress is holding up the funds.

"Like Modi, the BJP leaders are telling lies to confuse people. After their defeat in 2021 Assembly election, the BJP-led Centre has not released even 10 paise in Awas plus scheme. BJP from head to foot is full of lies and they speak lies only," he said while addressing a gathering at Keshpur.

Keshpur falls under Ghatol Lok Sabha seat where actor-turned-politician Dipak Adhikari alias Devis fighting against Hiran Chatterjee of BJP. Dev is two time MP.

Hiran Chatterjee, also an actor, had joined Trinamul and left the party after differences cropped up.

Mr Banerjee earlier held a meeting in Jhargram in support of the party's nominee, Kalipada Soren. The Trinamul in 2019 had lost the Jhargram seat to BJP.

Mr Banerjee said in Ghatol work on the Ghatol Master plan to control floods will start within six months. "Despite repeated requests the Centre did not provide funds, but we have arranged it and the

state government will take up the scheme on its own.

Mr Banerjee said the leaders of BJP had requested their bosses in Delhi to stop MGN-REGA funds for Bengal. The Mamata Banerjee government has paid the dues of 59 lakh job card holders.

"Rest assured that once the INDIA bloc government is formed in Delhi we will get our dues of Rs 1.64 lakh crore and before 31 December 2024, the first installment of money meant for Awas Plus will be given to the beneficiaries of the scheme," he said.

He said people of the country have seen Modi's Acche din. "The prices of essential commodities and fuel have gone up. There is

mounting unemployment. The youths are running from the pillar to post with the hope to get jobs. Modi is in the habit of changing the names of railway stations and cities. This time replace Modi, the most arrogant Prime Minister India has ever produced, he said.

Mr Banerjee said 11 lakh women in West Midnapore are getting the benefits of the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, 18 lakh girls are getting Kanyashree benefits and 47 lakh people are getting free rations.

"Rest assured Lakshmi Bhandar will not be stopped so long as the Ma, Mati Manush government is in power in Bengal," he said.

Bomb attack on BJP leader's house in Amdanga sparks tension ahead of election

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 MAY

Just ahead of the Lok Sabha election in Barrackpore, tension has escalated after a bomb attack on the residence of the BJP leader of BJP's minority cell, Mohammed Abu Hena in Harpara village of Beraberia Gram Panchayat, within Amdanga police station limits.

The incident took place last night when unidentified assailants hurled several bombs at Mr Hena's house.

According to local sources, the attack resulted in the shattering of window panes and caused significant damage to the property. The assailants also vandalised the house.

Upon receiving the information, police from Amdanga station arrived at the scene to bring the situation under control.

Central forces have been deployed in the area to maintain peace, and security personnel have been patrolling since Sunday morning.

The BJP has blamed the TMC for the attack, which the ruling party has denied

The BJP has squarely blamed the Trinamul Congress for the attack. Local BJP leader Sanjib Orang stated: "TMC is losing ground, which is why they are resorting to such actions. The attacked BJP leader should be provided with security."

However, the Trinamul Congress has dismissed these allegations as baseless. Anisur Rahman, a TMC leader and president of the Amdanga Panchayat Samiti, responded: "These are completely false accusations. They have created this disturbance themselves and are now blaming us. TMC has no involvement in this incident."

As the area prepares for Monday's election, this incident has heightened the already charged political atmosphere in Barrackpore.



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GENERAL ELECTIONS TO LOK SABHA, 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024, votes are being taken through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs & VVPAT) today i.e. **20th May, 2024 (Monday)** in 7 Parliamentary Constituencies.

The Schedule of Poll for Phase 5 is as follows :

No. & Name of Parliamentary Constituency	Voting Date & Timing
14 - Bangaon (SC), 15 - Barrackpur, 25 - Howrah, 26 - Uluberia, 27 - Sreerampur, 28 - Hooghly, 29 - Arambag (SC)	20th May, 2024 (Monday) 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Under instructions of Election Commission of India, all the electors shall produce Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) for the identifications. If any elector is unable to show the EPIC, any one of the 12 identification original documents with photographs mentioned below shall be shown for identification.

Alternative Photo Identity Documents

1. Aadhar card 2. MNREGA Job Card 3. Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank / Post Office 4. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour 5. Driving license 6. PAN Card 7. Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR 8. Indian Passport 9. Pension Document with photograph 10. Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/ State Govt/ Public Limited Companies 11. Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs 12. Unique Disability ID (UDID) card, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India



Voter Helpline
1950

Voter Helpline App
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SMS for information on voters' list
SMS-<E>=<space>EPIC NO.> & send to 1950

Issued in public interest by Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal

ICA- D 868(9)/2024

Poll panel imposes condition for Telangana Cabinet meeting

According to the letter sent by the ECI on Sunday, only matters 'which are of emergent nature and are to be implemented in a time-bound schedule shall be taken up'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD, 19 MAY

The Election Commission on Sunday gave permission to the Telangana government to hold its Cabinet meeting but with a rider that it can only discuss urgent matters and not issues like crop loan waiver and that of Hyderabad as common capital.

The Cabinet meeting slated yesterday was postponed after the government did not receive the requisite permission from the Election Commission till 7pm in the evening. Chief minister A Revanth Reddy had convened the Cabinet meeting yesterday afternoon in order to discuss key issues like farm loan waiver scheme, paddy procurement, action plan for the ensuing Kharif season and other key issues related to farmers.



sent by ECI today, only matters "which are of emergent nature and are to be implemented in a time bound

schedule shall be taken up". It further stated "Accordingly, the agenda items regarding issue on common

capital of Hyderabad and crop loan waiver shall be deferred till completion of Lok Sabha elections, 2024 in

Telangana." The ECI's letter also stated that no state government official involved in the conduct of elections will attend the Cabinet meeting.

As the model code of conduct was still in force even after polling got over on 13 May, the government had sought the EC's permission for the meeting.

Chief minister Reddy had also decided to discuss the state formation day celebrations on June 2 and key issues between the two states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh under the AP Reorganization act, 2014 which have been kept pending 10 years after the bifurcation in the Cabinet meeting. Hyderabad will cease to be the common capital of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on 2 June, the tenth anniversary of the bifurcation. Even after ten years there are pending issues between the two states, particularly division of assets.

Andhra 13 May violence: SIT visits police stations in Palnadu, Tirupati

AGENCIES AMARAVATI, 19 MAY

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Sunday continued its investigation into poll-related violence in Andhra Pradesh.

A group of SIT members visited Narsaraopet town of Palnadu district, one of the districts which witnessed violence on polling day (May 13) and the following days.

SIT members investigated the I Town police station and analysed the records including the CCTV footage.

Another group investigated poll-related violence in Tirupati. They visited the SUV campus police station and checked the records relating to cases registered.

The 13-member SIT, headed by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Vineet Brijlal, is probing the violent incidents that occurred in Palnadu, Anantapur and Tirupati districts.

Intensifying its efforts to prevent any further violence and also identify and arrest those involved in recent incidents, the police conducted cordon and search in Macher-



la and Gurazala Assembly constituencies in Palnadu districts. A similar operation was also conducted in the Pedakurapadu and Sattenpalli constituencies in the same district.

Acting on the directions of top officials, police personnel carried out extensive searches in villages.

The Election Commission of India has approved the state government's proposal to probe the poll-related violence by the SIT.

Chief Secretary (CS) K.S. Jawahar Reddy and the Director General of Police (DGP), Harish Kumar Gupta, appeared before the Election Commission on May 16 to personal-

ly explain the reasons for the failure of the administration to contain post-poll violence.

The Election Commission also approved the transfer of the Palnadu district Collector and the Tirupati Superintendent of Police (SP) and the suspension of Palnadu and Anantapur SPs, and 12 subordinate police officers in the three districts. A departmental inquiry has been initiated against these officers.

The poll panel directed the Chief Secretary and the DGP to take stern action against those involved in the violence.

The SIT will submit its report to the Election Commission.

CPM in a fix over memorial for party workers killed while making bombs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 19 MAY

The CPI-M in Kerala is in a tight spot after the construction of a memorial for two of its party workers who were killed in a blast while making bombs at Chettakkandy near Panoor in the Kannur district.

The memorial was built for CPI-M workers, Shaiju and Subish, who were killed in an explosion that occurred while they were making bombs in a secluded area on top of a hill in June 2015. Four others were seriously injured in the incident. It has been reported that the memorial built at AKG Nagar, Chettakkandy on the contribution from the public will be inaugurated by CPI-M State Secretary MV Govindan on May 22.



the party rejected them. Then state secretary of CPIM Kodyeri Balakrishnan said those who were killed had nothing to do with the party and are not party workers. However, despite Balakrishnan's denial, then Kannur district CPI-M Secretary P Jayarajan was in the forefront during their funeral. Incidentally, it was near

Panoor that one person was killed and three were injured when a crude bomb they were allegedly making exploded last month. The CPI-M denied that the person, Sherin, who killed in the blast, had anything to do with the party. However, local CPI-M leaders visited Sherin's house and this had come under fire from the Congress-led UDF and BJP.

Reacting to the news of the inauguration of the memorial, senior Congress leader and former state home minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan said the CPI-M is known for its hypocrisy as it says one thing and does the opposite.

"First they deny any connection with the killed and then they turn them into martyrs of the party," he said. Questioning CPI-M's dou-

ble standards, Opposition leader VD Satheesan, said, "The party had denied connections with those killed in the blast in 2015. Still, the bodies of the deceased were received by P Jayarajan, then CPI-M Kannur district secretary."

KPCC President K Sudhakaran said the incident exposes CPI-M's mentality towards terrorism. "The party had distanced itself from the deceased when the blast occurred in 2015. But later, the party observed their death anniversary as martyr's day. Now, a memorial has been set up for those involved in the criminal activity," he said.

Shaiju and Subish died on June 6, 2015, when a bomb they were making exploded in a secluded area atop a hill. Four others were injured at the time.

Think before casting vote, KTR tells voters in MLC by-election

AGENCIES HYDERABAD, 19 MAY

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday urged voters of MLC graduates' constituency to think before casting their votes.

He addressed two meetings at Bhongir and Aler as part of the party's campaign for election of Member of Legislative Council (MLC) from Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates' constituency.

The by-election is scheduled to be held on May 27. Rama Rao slammed both the Congress and BJP for not fulfilling their promises.

He said while Congress has backtracked on promises made in Assembly elections, the BJP government at the Centre has done nothing for Telangana in last 10 years.

He appealed to voters to apply their minds before choosing their candidate.



He asked voters to see not just parties but also the qualities of candidates.

The BRS leader said his party has fielded a highly educated candidate, Rakesh Reddy.

An alumnus of BITS Pilani, he had an opportunity to earn crores in the US, but he came back to serve people, said KTR -- as Rama Rao is popularly known.

"You have a highly educated candidate from BRS and a blackmailer from Con-

gress," he said referring to Chintapandu Naveen, also known as Teenmaar Malanna.

KTR said the Congress indulged in blackmailing activities in the garb of journalism but BRS did not pay attention.

There are 4.6 lakh voters in the constituency spread over 34 Assembly seats in erstwhile districts of Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda.

There are 52 candidates

in the fray but it will be mainly a triangular contest among Congress, BRS and BJP candidates.

KTR said Prime Minister Narendra Modi made many promises during the last 10 years but failed to fulfill them.

"Whenever asked what he has done, he is saying he has built temple. He had nothing else to say. If building a temple is a criteria, has KCR not built Yadadri temple?" he asked.

"Not just temple. We also built projects and reservoirs which are called modern temples," said KTR, son of BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

KTR said BRS did a lot in 10 years but in the recent Assembly elections it suffered defeat. He attributed the loss to party's failure to take to people the good works done and also the party unintentionally distancing from few sections.

Three transgenders found dead near Kurnool: Three transgenders were found dead under suspicious circumstances near Kurnool town on Sunday. Local residents found two bodies in a lake at Gargeyapuram near the town and informed the police. Police later found another body on the lake bund. No injuries were found on the bodies of the deceased. The bodies were shifted to Kurnool government hospital for autopsy. The identity of the deceased and the cause of the death are not known. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Telangana govt plans repairs at Medigadda barrage of Kaleshwaram project

AGENCIES HYDERABAD, 19 MAY

The Telangana government plans to undertake repairs at Medigadda barrage based on the recommendations made by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA).

A decision on taking up repair works in view of the upcoming monsoon season is expected to be made at the next meeting of the state Cabinet.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is believed to have asked the Irrigation Department to take necessary measures immediately to prevent further damage to the barrage during monsoon.

The repair works are expected to help in storing the water in the barrage to meet irrigation requirements.

The issue was to come up for discussion at the Cabinet meeting on Saturday but the meeting could not take place as the Election Commission



of India's nod was not received for the it.

The state government had sought the poll panel's nod in view of the Model Code of Conduct for ongoing elections to Lok Sabha.

NDSA recently submitted an interim report on the repairs and temporary restoration of the damaged Medigadda and Sundilla barrages which are considered as the most important structures in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project across Godavari river.

At least piers of Medigadda barrage sank in October last

year, prompting the NDSA to send its experts for an inspection. Following its recommendations, the barrage was emptied.

The incident had triggered a political uproar with the opposition parties blaming the then BRS government for the incident due to alleged corruption and flawed design and poor quality of works on the project, billed as the world's largest lift irrigation project.

At a review meeting, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and others on Saturday, enquired about the

recommendations made by the NDSA in the interim report on the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project and the measures needed to be taken.

The meeting was attended by Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, J. Krishna Rao, Konda Surekha and CM's Adviser Vem Narender Reddy.

Uttam Kumar Reddy explained all the important points and recommendations made in the interim report to the Chief Minister and the Ministers. The NDSA made it clear in 2019 that danger is lurking around the barrages and the risk factor is not ruled out even after the repairs and restoration measures are taken up at the damaged structures.

In view of the beginning of the monsoon season in a month, the Chief Minister said that the measures to be taken in the meantime will have to be discussed in the Cabinet meeting. The government will make a decision to repair the

damaged structures or any alternative measures in consultation with the Irrigation Department.

The Chief Minister said that a field level visit and inspection of the Medigadda and Sundilla barrages and the pump houses needs to be conducted soon.

Last month, the judicial commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose began probe into the alleged irregularities in the construction of Kaleshwaram project.

After coming to power in December last year, the Congress government had ordered a judicial inquiry into the sinking of the piers of Medigadda barrage and leakages in Sundilla and Annaram barrages.

The commission has also been asked to look into the financial aspect of the project and technical flaws, if any, like designs, planning and execution in the irrigation project.

Manipur ministers implicated in 'sex scandal'

IMPHAL, 19 MAY

Manipuri fashion designer Laishram Kumarjit (31) was shot in the calf by members of a proscribed underground group on Saturday as a warning for his alleged involvement in a high-profile sex racket.

A resident of Takyel in Imphal West, Kumarjit was first presented to the media by the outfit, where he allegedly admitted to the charges. Kumarjit is said to have named two ministers in the state's BJP government, an MLA, a senior official in the education department and a businessman as among the clients that he had supplied women to.

He was later found near Khumbong primary health centre in Bishnupur district with a bullet wound in his left calf. He was taken to a hospital for treatment. SNS

TENDER

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

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

Description of Work: Supply, installation and commissioning of electronic type track-based rail lubricator (carry down effect of 1 Km) in Jhansi-Manikpur, Lalitpur - Khajuraho & Mahoba-Khajuraho section under sub-division of ADEN MBA. **E-Tender No.:** JHS-ENGG-E-2024-96

Approx Cost: ₹ 41477144.41 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 357400.00

Description of Work: Supply, installation and commissioning of electronic type track-based rail lubricator (carry down effect of 1 Km) in Jhansi-Manikpur, Khairar - Bhimsen, Lalitpur - Khajuraho, Mahoba - Khajuraho & Bansapahar - Ohan section under sub-division of ADEN/BNDA. **E-Tender No.:** JHS-ENGG-E-2024-99

Approx Cost: ₹ 49743939.00 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 398700.00

Date of closing of all Tenders: 14.06.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 60 Months. Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 14.06.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 878/24(DG)

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

S. N.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	70243430	PAINT ALUMINIUM BRUSHING	23501 Ltr.	24.06.2024
2	80241194	Cylindrical Roller bearing.	243 Nos.	18.06.2024
3	20243656	End Ring For Zirconium Type Shaft Mounted Design Rotor Surge Arrestor	141NOS	11.06.2024
4	20243698		50 NOS.	12.06.2024
5	20241264	LED BASED TWIN HEAD LIGHT	100 Nos.	12.06.2024
6	40241278	SET OF 12.5 WATT LED LIGHT	1180 Nos.	12.06.2024
7	20243006A	PULSE PROB COMB	69 Nos.	11.06.2024
8	20245013	MAIN TRANSFORMER 7775 KVA	06 Nos.	12.06.2024

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. For any change/corrigendum in tender, please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/change will be published in news paper. 880/24 (P)

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Blatant food safety violations found at top eateries in Hyderabad

AGENCIES HYDERABAD, 19 MAY

Maida (refined wheat flour) highly infested with black beetles, expired or unlabelled food items, food handlers without medical fitness certificates are among the glaring violations of food safety norms detected at some top eateries in Hyderabad.

Continuing its drive, the task force team of the Commissioner of Food Safety, Telangana found unhygienic conditions, improper storage practices and other violations during the inspections.

The team, during its inspection at Rayalaseema Ruchulu in Lakdikapul area on, found maida highly infested with black beetles. It destroyed 20 kg maida and two kg tamarind which was infested

with insects. The Task Force also found expired Amul gold milk and discarded the same.

The food inspectors also seized 168 bottles of Goli Soda worth Rs 16,000 for not possessing manufacturing licence. Unlabelled cashew and jowar roti worth Rs 11,000 were discarded.

They found that vegetarian and non-vegetarian food items were being stored together. There were also hygiene issues like blocked drains and open windows in the kitchen area.

At Shah Ghouse, a popular restaurant, the Task Force found unlabelled prepared/semi-prepared items in storage. Medical records of food handlers were not available. The team detected water stagnation at the hotel. The inspectors collected statutory sam-



ples and sent them to the laboratory for analysis.

At Kamat Hotel in Khairatabad, the food inspectors seized unlabelled noodles and tea powder packets worth Rs. 25,000. Food handlers were found without medical fitness certificates and haircaps/gloves

During the inspection at Sukha Sagara Veg Restau-

rant, the team found JK Button Mushroom packets without manufacturing and use by dates and destroyed the same on the spot. It also noticed plastering flakes spread over roof and wall areas while Kitchen premises had no separation from the outside environment.

Earlier, the Task Force team also conducted inspec-

tions in Ameerpet Metro Station outlets. At Ratnadeep retail store, it found 15 Cadbury Bournville Dark Chocolate leaking from sealed packs, seized the same and collected samples for analysis.

At Jumbo King Burgers, the food inspectors found the eatery operating with registration instead of applicable

License which is against FSSAI rules. It was also not using TPC Meter to check the quality of re-used oil. Unlabelled Paneer Patty was discarded. The team also found water stagnation and open dustbins.

The Task Force found improper medical fitness certificates at KFC. At Five Star Food Court, the team found that the quality of re-used oil was not being monitored with a TPC meter. Open dustbins and no hair-caps/gloves were the hygiene issues found.

Welcoming the intensified checking at eateries by the food safety authorities, many social media users have urged them not to stop till those violating the rules either fall in line or shut down the eateries.

Congress considers entrepreneurs enemies of the country: PM Modi

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Modi said, "Their 'shehzada' opposes industries, industrialists and investment every day

NIKHIL VYAS
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

In a fresh attack on Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged on Sunday that the grand old party considers entrepreneurs enemies of the country and the party's 'shehzada' (Rahul Gandhi) keeps opposing business houses, businessmen, and investors.

"The Congress considers entrepreneurs as enemies of the country. Its leaders openly say that we attack those businessmen who do not give us money. That means parties like Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) are not concerned about the industries of the country," the prime minister said while addressing a public meeting in Jamshepur.

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Modi said, "Their 'shehzada' opposes industries, industrialists and investment every day. Which industrialist will go to their state and invest capital in the coming days? What will happen to the youth of those states? Many investors told me that they were unwilling to put their money in these states as the ruling parties were opposed to their practices and wealth creation. They are being abused and insulted. Most of our investors and wealth creators assume that since the 'Shehzada' harbours such views against them, their partners would also see them in a negative light."

Calling Congress a party which caters only to a family, PM Modi said Rahul Gandhi fled Wayanad (the constituency he currently repre-



sents in the Lok Sabha) and came to Rae Bareilly playing the emotion card saying it's his mother's seat. "The shehzada of Congress fled Wayanad to contest the elections from Rae Bareilly. He is going to the people there, playing up emotions around Rae Bareilly and how it was his mother's seat. Even an eight-year-old child would know better than to call his school his father's even if the latter studied in the same school. Jharkhand has to be

saved from such parties that only serve families and not people," he said.

Slamming the Congress party and its ruling partner in the state, the JMM, Modi said both the parties 'know nothing' about development.

Renewing his attack on the grand old party and its leader Rahul Gandhi over their alleged promise to conduct a nationwide X-ray and redistribution of wealth if elected to power, Modi said the only goal of Congress and its partners in the INDIA bloc is to 'steal' public wealth and assets.

Modi said, "The Congress and the JMM know nothing about development. All that they can do is to speak aloud lies everywhere, over and over again. Their ulterior motive is to grab the humble assets of

the poor or steal them in the name of wealth redistribution. They want to snatch the reservations guaranteed for the SCs, STs and OBCs. They hurl abuses at Modi every day. Can't they think of anything beyond this? Their true faces have been unmasked before the country today."

Weighing in on the huge cash recovery from the house of the domestic help of sitting minister and Congress leader Alamgir Alam's aide, the PM said Congress and the JMM have looted Jharkhand at 'every opportunity'.

"The leaders of Congress and the JMM have amassed black money at the expense of the poor. They have pillaged Jharkhand and looted the people at every opportunity. The Congress is the mother of corruption. Sadly, when

we talk about Jharkhand these days, piles and piles of currency notes flash before our eyes," he said.

PM Modi vowed to return every cent that he alleged was looted by Opposition leaders.

"The JMM indulged in a land scam in Jharkhand. They usurped the land of poor tribals and those owned by the army. The mountains of notes being recovered from their houses are your money. Modi is retrieving the money that these dishonest people stole and hoarded. I am not doing this to put the recovered money in the government's treasury. I will return every cent of it to the people who are the rightful owners of the stolen money. This is Modi's guarantee," Prime Minister Modi said.

Was demonetization not intended to curb all black money, Cong asks

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Sunday accused the BJP of "misusing" the central agencies against opposition leaders and also slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'Ambani-Adani' remark and questioned whether demonetization was not successful in curbing black money.

"The way ED, CBI and I-T are being misused by the Modi government, this has never happened before. PM Modi made the ED arrest Hemant Soren and Arvind Kejriwal and put them in jail. PM Modi himself says that Adani and Ambani took black money in tempo to the Congress office, so why is ED not initiating a probe against them? What happened to demonetization? Was it not intended to curb all the black money?" Ramesh said.

The Congress leader's statement comes after Prime



Minister Modi attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning the party's "sudden silence" on Adani and Ambani, and questioned if the party has received a huge amount of "black money" from the industrialists.

Regarding Jammu and Kashmir, the Rajya Sabha Congress MP stressed that statehood should be restored in the erstwhile state and assembly elections should also be conducted there.

"J-K should be given state status back, as the Supreme Court has said, assembly elections should take place there.

BJP's ex-sarpanch killed, tourist couple from Jaipur injured in back-to-back terrorist attacks in south Kashmir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 MAY

A former sarpanch of BJP was killed and a tourist couple from Jaipur was seriously injured in two back-to-back terrorist attacks in south Kashmir.

The two terror strikes Saturday night took place in the Anantnag and Shopian districts that are part of the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat which is witnessing a high-pitched election campaign before going to polls on 25 May.

These attacks came shortly after the campaigning stopped for north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha seat where polling will be held tomorrow.

Condition of the injured tourist couple, Tabrez and his wife Farha, is stated serious but stable. They were fired upon by terrorists in the Yandar area near Pahalgam in the



Anantnag district.

In the second attack within 30 minutes, ex-sarpanch Aijaz Sheikh was fatally injured in Shopian's Heerpora at about 10.30 pm and later succumbed to his wounds. He is the first political killing in J&K during the ongoing Lok Sabha election.

Aijaz was targeted by terrorists within days after he described himself a former stone pelter and gave credit of his transformation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a video, he is seen saying that he used to get Rs 500 a day for throwing stones at the security forces. He was impressed with the development in the rural areas that has undergone during Modi's rule, he said.

Condemning these terrorist attacks, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that free hand has been given to the security forces to bring the perpetrators to justice. He said J&K Police, Army and Security Forces will hunt down the terrorists and those aiding and abetting them.

"I have already instructed the Administrative and Police officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured couple. Praying for their speedy recovery. I have complete faith in the bravery of our personnel and the perpetrators of this attack will be punished soon. Our security forces will also hunt down those elements who are helping the terrorists and trying to disrupt J&K's developmental journey", Sinha said in a statement.

The BJP in a statement said, "We strongly condemn the killing of Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh. He was a brave sol-

dier of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP firmly stands with the family of Aijaz Ahmad, who lost his life in this terror attack," it said.

National Conference chief and former chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah said an independent enquiry should be held into the recent killings. Such incidents were affecting tourism in Kashmir, he stated.

Former chief minister and PDP candidate Mehbooba Mufti, who is contesting the election for the Anantnag seat, condemned the killing of Aijaz and injuries to the tourist couple. "The timing of these attacks given that the South Kashmir (Anantnag-Rajouri) election was delayed without any reason is a cause of concern. Especially keeping in mind normalcy claims touted by the government of India".

NDA has already won over 270 seats in four phases of LS polls: HM Amit Shah

AGENCIES
PATNA, 19 MAY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday claimed that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has already won more than 270 seats in the first four phases of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

"NDA has already crossed 270 seats in the first four phases of elections. I also want to tell you that the parties of Tejaswini Yadav and Rahul Gandhi are not even getting 4 and 40 seats, respectively," Amit Shah said during his address to support the NDA candidates Sanjay Jaiswal and Sunil Kumar.

Sanjay Jaiswal is contesting on the BJP ticket from West Champaran and Sunil Kumar is contesting from Valmiki Nagar on the JD-U ticket.

The Home Minister said that the leaders of the INDIA bloc are misleading the people on the reservation and on changing the Constitution.

"The leaders of the INDIA alliance are saying that if NDA crosses 400 seats then we will change the Constitution and nullify the reservation. PM Modi had a complete majority in the last 10 years and still did not change the Constitution. Lalu Prasad Yadav says that he will give 100 per cent reservation to Muslims," Amit Shah said.

The Home Minister said that Lalu Prasad Yadav is sitting in the "lap" of Congress which has given reservations to Muslims in Karnataka and Telangana.

"I want to ask Lalu Prasad Yadav whose reservation will be cut Dalits, Tribals or backward class so that he give it to Muslims," Amit Shah said.

He said that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had put the Mandal Commission in cold storage while Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had opposed it as well.

Ladakh LS seat gears up for nail-biting triangular contest

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 MAY

In a nail biting triangular contest, the cold desert Lok Sabha constituency of Ladakh will go to polls on Monday.

The main candidates, Tashi Gyalson (BJP) and Tsering Namgyal (Congress) are facing a stiff challenge from an independent and National Conference (NC) rebel Haji Hanifa Jan. While Gyalson and Namgyal are Buddhists of the Leh district, Jan is a Shia Muslim of the Kargil district and as such the contest is being considered as one between the Leh and Kargil districts.

Jan is riding on the support not only from the NC but also a section of Congress in the Kargil district. Many religious and social organisations of the Muslim dominated Kargil have also come out in his support. They expect the Buddhist vote to be split



between the Congress and BJP that might benefit Jan.

The NC had left the Ladakh seat for its INDIA bloc partner Congress, but the rebel of the NC has upset the electoral calculations.

Of a total of 1.84 lakh voters, 95,926 are in the Kargil district while 88,877 are in Leh. There are 1,127 voters with disabilities (PwDs) and 1,570 elderly voters.

There are 577 polling stations in the constituency, including 298 in the Leh district and 279 in the Kargil district.

Hanle (Anle) Phu polling station in Leh is located at a height of 15,000 feet above sea level and is the world's second-highest polling station. The Warshi polling station in the Nubra area of the Leh district is the last village and only

20 km away from the Siachen Glacier base camp. This polling station has been set up for only five voters belonging to one family.

Polling staff, EVMs and security personnel were airlifted by the IAF to Jinchan and Diping polling stations in Leh and PHEMA, Ralakan and Shadye polling stations in Kargil district.

The BJP won the Ladakh seat in 2014 and 2019. However, the party did not give a ticket to sitting MP Jamyang Namgyal this time.

In 2014, BJP candidate Thupstan Chhewang won the seat in a four-cornered contest but resigned midway in support of the demands of Ladakhis.

The BJP has suffered a setback as the government has so far not accepted the demand of the striking Ladakhis for Sixth Schedule for the region and various other demands.

Ex-Raj Minister Vishwendra Singh alleges torture by wife, son; demands maintenance

AGENCIES
JAIPUR, 19 MAY

Former Rajasthan Minister and a member of the royal family of Bharatpur, Vishwendra Singh has sought maintenance from his wife and son and alleged that they beat him, do not give him sufficient food and also do not allow him to meet people.

His wife and son have, however, refuted the allegations and said that they are the real victims in the whole case. "It is nothing but pressurising tactics on the SDM. My mother and I have the highest faith in the SDM Court and on the Hon'ble Judge to handle the matter with alacrity and fairness. The matter is not new. It has been going on since 6 March 2024," posted his son Anirudh Singh on social media.

Vishwendra Singh had earlier given an application in

the Subdivision Officer Tribunal against his wife Divya Singh, a former MP, and son Anirudh Singh.

In his application, he said: "I have been forced to leave my house (Moti Mahal). I am living a nomad's life. Sometimes I have to stay in a government house and sometimes in a hotel. I have been confined to one room. When I come to Bharatpur, I am not even allowed to enter the house. It is no longer possible to live with my wife and son at home."

Singh has demanded Rs 5 lakh per month from both of

them.

In the application given to the court, Vishwendra Singh has accused his wife and son of conspiring to kill him. "Their intention is to end my life. After which they can grab all the property. I was hoping that maybe their behaviour would improve in the future, but it did not happen. My wife and son even locked one of my rooms and forcibly threw me out of the house, so I had to leave the house. I brought whatever clothes I had while leaving the house. I have been living like this since then."

Singh has written that he is a heart patient. "I cannot bear tension due to two stents inserted during treatment. Tension is fatal for my life. I got Corona twice in the years 2021 and 2022, but my son and wife did not provide any physical, mental or financial help."

LS polls: Kasab, Gabbar, ghosts, funeral pots, fake 'santaan' - Maha campaign blitz had it all

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 19 MAY

The 2024 election campaign for the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra - which concluded after two months on May 18 - was as colourful and funny as the occasional boisterous brawls erupting among the Gauls of Asterix's 'indomitable village', but the bizarre political antics and allegations left the common man bewildered and speechless.

Coming after five years, the poll campaign saw national and state leaders ranging from Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the BJP to the Congress' Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, NCP (SP)'s Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Uddhav Thackeray, Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, NCP's Ajit Pawar and many others, engag-

ing in an all-out war of words. The state campaign witnessed the unexpected entry of characters like Gabbar Singh (of 'Sholay'), terrorist Ajmal Kasab (hanged Nov. 2012), eerie 'bhakti' (wandering soul), funeral pitchers (used for the dead), duplicate political parties and 'nakli santaan' (illicit progeny), plus Bollywood dialogues and more, that recoiled as well as regaled the audiences at big and small political rallies.

PM Modi spooked the state's political spectrum when he envisioned an unidentified 'bhakti' running amok for 45 years and putting unholy obstacles in the way of Pune's progress and prosperity.

A confused and pale-faced ally Ajit Pawar wondered who

- or what - the PM was actually referring to, as he had completed nearly 45 years in politics, compared with Uncle Sharad Pawar's 56-plus years in public life, but after a furore, the 'bhakti' went poof from the poll campaign.

Early in the campaign, Ajit Pawar directed his grouse at an ex-acolyte turned Sharad Pawar loyalist, actor Dr. Amol R. Kolhe, lambasting him for ignoring the Shirur LS seat, and even grumbled why actors (he named many other big names) seek to crowd the poll scenario using their glamour quotient and nothing else...

Lashing out at the BJP's Sujay Vikhe-Patil, Kolhe said "you have gaadi, bangla, but we have peoples' support", to which Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil shot back saying "you have only goons".



Priyanka Gandhi took potshots at PM Modi, pointing out how "the PM cries like a child on his problems rather than wiping tears of the people", but none from the ruling side reacted to her statement in Nandurbar. Rahul Gandhi also locked horns with PM Modi, for 'lying

to the country, diverting attention to non-issues, or criticising the 65 years of Congress rule instead of speaking about his 10 years reign as PM.

At one point, Uddhav Thackeray challenged an Election Commission of India (ECI) diktat, and vowed to use the words 'Hindu', 'Jai Bhavani' and even added 'Har Har Mahadev' battle cry to his poll speeches, besides daring the ECI to act against PM Modi for using similar language in his campaign.

During a speech, SS (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi took a potshot at 'traitor' Shinde and his LS candidate son Dr. Shrikant Shinde, invoking a filmy dialogue ("Deewar") in which Amitabh Bachchan's left arm was etched with 'Mera Baap Chor Hai' and she said Shinde Jr. would forever carry

the cross of 'Mera Baap Gaddar Hai' written on his forehead, igniting a huge row.

Needing the opposition parties, Shinde once smiled and said that the BJP has an 'atom bomb' called Modi who can carry out a 'surgical strike' anywhere anytime, ostensibly referring to the vertical splits in the Shiv Sena (June 2022) and NCP (July 2023).

Uddhav Thackeray hit back at his bete-noire Shinde, calling him a ghost and son Aditya Thackeray termed the CM a 'blatant liar', while BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule retorted by labelling Thackeray senior a 'MahaNalayak' (super-worthless) fellow.

In Baramati, some overzealous supporters of the NCP smashed round pitchers of clay (usually broken during Hindu funeral rites), prompting furi-

ous reactions from NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule, Dr. Jitendra Awhad and Rohit R. Pawar, who asked the rival Ajit Pawar group "why these pots are being broken and to signify whose end", but the embarrassed ruling side had no answers.

At a political meet, a sad Ajit Pawar, 64, rued how he had waited for years to progress politically (as CM), but it did not happen as he "was not the son of Sharad Pawar".

Again pushing Sharad Pawar, 83, to the 'margdarshak mandal', Ajit Pawar said that "after crossing 80, you must make way for others... do 'puja-paath' at home and mentor the next generation", but his Uncle is still running 'sairat' (care-free, like the superhit Marathi film by the same title) on the political stage.

NK cyberattack threat

In what appears to be one of the biggest hacking attacks in recent years, it was belatedly known that a North Korean hacking group had continued to steal a massive amount of personal data from a South Korean court computer network over two years. The hackers, presumed to be from the notorious Lazarus Group, stole a staggering 1,014 gigabytes of data and legal documents from a Seoul court's computer network, according to the police, the prosecution and the National Intelligence Service on Saturday, citing the results of their joint probe into the first-ever breach of cybersecurity involving a local court network.

Contained in the large-scale data heist was sensitive personal information, including names, resident registration numbers and even financial records handled and collected by the court. The scale of the data theft is estimated at around 2.7 billion A4-sized pages. What is particularly chilling is that the hacking lasted from January 2021 through February 2023 without generating any warning signs or alerts to authorities as well as those who operated the court network. Regrettably, it was only late last year that the police noticed the irregularities in the court system.

This raises many questions about the fundamental problems with the nation's cybersecurity level in general and court networks in particular. For starters, the country's court networks store not only legal records about private citizens and their cases but also other detailed and potentially highly sensitive data about public institutions

The Korea Herald

and companies. The nature of the massive stolen court data means that hackers could exploit personal information for criminal purposes or attempt to compromise Korea's essential government and military networks.

The joint probe team concluded the hacking was done by North Korea based on the evidence identified so far, including the malicious codes and IP addresses. The problem, however, is that authorities have yet to uncover how the hacking was carried out in detail and through which online and offline channels. Moreover, the joint investigation team has identified only 4.7 GB worth of files, a meager 0.5 percent of the total leaked files, casting skepticism over the chance of tracking at least a meaningful portion of the stolen data. Even though the outlook is far from optimistic, those who failed to safeguard the crucial court network and related data should be held accountable for the lax cybersecurity level that invited hacking attempts, and be required to fix the apparent loopholes without delay.

But a bigger question is whether Korea's public agencies as well as private companies have access to top-notch cybersecurity solutions that can stave off continued attempts from hackers in the first place. Government officials are quick to levy cumbersome regulations and draw up obligatory audits for public institutions and companies that collect and utilize certain amounts of personal data from users. But they are slow to proactively identify and address security problems. There is another question about whether the government is taking a balanced cybersecurity approach for public agencies and private companies.

IN MEMORIAM

KUTU DASGUPTA — (Birth - 18-05-1999, Death - 20-05-1999) — Kutu sona, wherever you are stay in peace. — Baba & Ma.

Poetic Odyssey

Through this assertion of intimate communion, 'holy wedlock', we perceive that Tagore was perhaps also addressing the duality of his creative identity, by focusing firstly on the use of language for communication and secondly the use of language for creative expression — a ghare/baire, the known/unknown, familiar/unfamiliar binaries of the existential being and the tension of self-identity

As is well-known, due to unavoidable circumstances Rabindranath Tagore could not attend the Nobel Award Ceremony held in Sweden in 1913. Instead, the telegram from Rabindranath Tagore, read by Mr. Clive, British Chargé affairs, at the Nobel Banquet at Grand Hôtel, Stockholm, on 10 December 1913 stated, "I beg to convey to the Swedish Academy my grateful appreciation of the breadth of understanding which has brought the distant near, and has made a stranger a brother".

In 1913, Tagore proved that he could not only create literature in the colonizer's language, English, but even secure the western world's most coveted prize, the Nobel Prize for literature. Simultaneously Tagore untiringly continued to write in his own indigenous language, Bengali, with equal felicity.

I would urge you to notice that throughout his literary career Tagore did not compromise on the writer's vision and ideology, under either local or global coercion, irrespective of his choice of language as a medium of communication and cultural connectivity.

Eventually, in his Nobel Prize Acceptance speech delivered on 26 May 1921, eight years after he received the award in 1913, Tagore had observed with deference,

"After my Gitanjali poems had been written in Bengali I translated those poems into English, without having any desire to have them published, being diffident of my mastery of that language, but I had the manuscript with me when I came to the west... I was accepted and the heart of the West opened without delay (Tagore 294)."

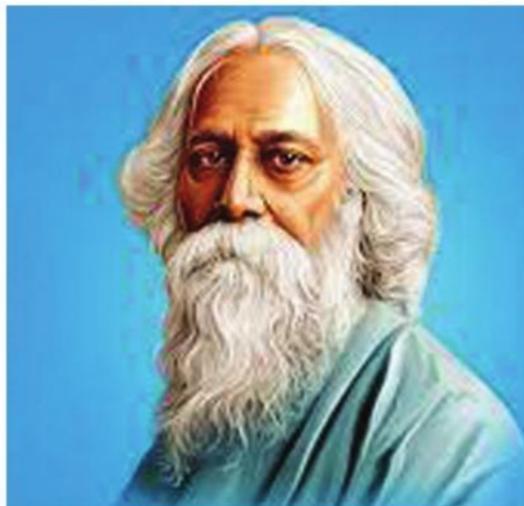
Interestingly, when the poet TS Eliot was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948, though he wrote in English, Eliot foregrounded the importance of cultural transfer through poetry and language.

So Eliot stated in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, "To enjoy poetry belonging to another language, is to enjoy an understanding of the people to whom that language belongs, an understanding we can get in no other way. ... And I take the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature, when it is given to a poet, to be primarily an assertion of the supra-national value of poetry".

So we notice that the first initiative in terms of reaching out to a global readership came from Tagore himself when in 1912, he translated his poems into English and handed over a copy of the translated poems to his friend William Rothenstein.

Soon after, Tagore and the renowned Irish poet W B Yeats met for the first time on 27 June 1912, at the home of Rothenstein. Rothenstein had previously sent Yeats the manuscripts of Tagore's partial translation of Gitanjali. On July 7, Yeats gave a reading of these poems to a group of thrilled London literary elite, including Ernest Rhys and Ezra Pound.

A member of the audience,



May Sinclair, wrote a letter of effusive appreciation to Tagore. This letter has been mentioned by Bashabi Fraser in her latest biography of Tagore published in 2019. May Sinclair stated, "You have put into English which is absolutely transparent in its perfection things it is despaired of ever seeing written in English at all or in any Western language." (Fraser 122)

Tagore's translated poems, typed and circulated by Rothenstein, were widely appreciated by the literati of London in 1912. Yeats hosted a dinner in honour of Tagore at the Trocadero restaurant in London on July 12.

While proposing a toast to honour Tagore, Yeats said, "To take part in honouring Mr Rabindranath Tagore, is one of the great events in my artistic life. (I have been carrying about with me a book of translations into English prose of a 100 of his Bengali lyrics, written within the last ten years.) I know of no man in my time who has done anything in the English language to equal these lyrics. Even as I read them in English in this literal prose translation, they are exquisite in style as in thought".

Tagore responded to Yeats by stating, "This is one of the proudest moments of my life. I have a speaking acquaintance with your glorious language; yet I can feel it in my own. My Bengali has been a jealous mistress, claiming all my homage and resenting rivals. Still I have put up with her exactions with cheerful submission; I could do no other. (I cannot do more than assure you that the unfeeling kindness with which I have been greeted in England has moved me far more than I can tell.) I have learned that, though our tongues are different and our habits dissimilar, at the bottom, our hearts are one. The monsoon clouds generated on the banks of the Nile, fertilize the far distant shores of the Ganges; ideas may have to cross from

East to Western shores to find a welcome in men's hearts and fulfil their promise. East is East and West is West — God forbid that it should be otherwise — but the twain must meet in amity, peace and understanding; their meeting will be all the more fruitful because of their differences; it must lead both to holy wedlock before the common altar of humanity"

In other words through this assertion of intimate communion, "holy wedlock", we perceive that Tagore was perhaps also addressing the duality of his creative identity, by focusing firstly on the use of language for communication and secondly the use of language for creative expression — a ghare/baire, the known/unknown, familiar/unfamiliar binaries of the existential being and the tension of self-identity.

A split creative identity between the English Tagore and the Bengali Thakur and the reception of the respective creative

texts, can be a crucial sub-text, though this aspect has not been a concern for critics and cultural commentators.

As Tagore remained a prolific bi-lingual writer throughout his life, the tension between the desi Thakur and his bhasha literature and the global Tagore and his writings in English was never regarded as an act of cultural betrayal despite the fact that English in British India was a signature language of imperialism, though in this era of globalization English is now regarded as a de-territorialized global lingua franca.

Significantly, Tagore continued to write in Bengali throughout his life along with writing in English. He realized that if he had to reach a larger readership, a global language like English would be a functional tool that would make him engage in a dialogue with the world.

According to many Tagore scholars, one compelling reason for this bid to introduce himself



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Much to do

SIR, This refers to your editorial "Srinagar's way". A 38 per cent voter turnout is not big but such has been the abysmally low participation in the valley that this year's turnout is being cheered by one and all.

This was the first election after the abrogation of article 370, so all were apprehensive how voters would behave. But voters of Srinagar have responded well with the biggest turnout in the last 26 years. This is a big message that these voters have reposed faith in the electoral process and democracy.

The BJP as expected skipped the valley and preferred Ladakh and Jammu where it has better electoral prospects.

This has once again exposed the gulf between the valley and Jammu/Ladakh. Inclusiveness is still not looked at as a key priority area, sadly.

BJP still has to walk the talk when it comes to providing job opportunities and economic

growth in the valley.

Restoration of statehood should not wait for long after 4 June and assembly elections should be announced soon.

Yours, etc., Bal Govind, Noida, 15 May.

UNHEALTHY EATING

SIR, The information provided in Shovanlal Chakraborty's letter to the editor published today that 56.4 per cent of the total disease burden in India is attributed to unhealthy dietary practices in consuming fast food by the citizens of the country is alarming.

Fast food and packaged food products might be easily available today, but not always cheap and affordable for all. I would like to correlate this reality of change in food habits with the claim of "impressive stride in reducing poverty" done in Gautam Bhattacharya's article on the Perspective page of your edition of 12 May.

Referring to results of the survey on household consumption expenditure, recently released

SUNIL CHHETRI

SIR, The news of Sunil Chhetri's retirement has hit the Indian football community hard. As the much admired Indian captain announced his decision to step away from international football after the FIFA world cup qualification match against Kuwait on June 6, emotions ran high across the country.

Chhetri was the face of Indian football in a remarkable career spanning over 20 years. With a legacy that has left an indelible mark on Indian football, the 39-year-old maestro's journey has been an inspiration to millions, reshaping perceptions of this beautiful game in the nation along the way.

Since his debut in 2005, Chhetri has amassed a multitude of accolades, including setting records for the highest number of appearances and goals scored for India. With 94 goals in 150 matches, Sunil Chhetri holds the third position in the list of most international goals, trailing behind only the two superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Yours, etc., Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai, 17 May.

ed by National Sample Survey Office, the article had said consumption of expenditure on cereals reduced from 22 per cent in 1999-2000 to 10.7 per cent in 2011-12 and to less than 5 per cent in 2022-23.

But it would be wrong to conclude that the poor today are better placed to spend on items

other than basic meals, rather it indicates the people's growing trend of dependency on fast and packaged food.

This might generate a different cycle of economy in trading of consumables, but the health factor should not be undermined. As far as environmental hazards are concerned, the un-

derstanding of the supra-national value of poetry and showcased Bengal as an outstanding cultural space in British India.

By using self-translation and transcreation as crafts of communication and cultural understanding, Tagore disseminated the supra-national value of poetry and showcased Bengal as an outstanding cultural space in British India.

Moreover in response to poet James Henry Cousins's letter about his translated poems that he had sent to Cousins for his views, Tagore wrote (5 March, 1918) -

"About the Englishness of my English I have to be careful as the language is not mine own, but about Ideas I think, it is best to have a definitely independent attitude of mind... (Paul vol 7 313).

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certainty in the fate of such huge and different types of packaging materials is also very crucial unless they can be truly recycled.

Yours, etc., Sukhendu Bhattacharjee, Hooghly, 14 May.

DINONATH DAS

SIR, The 100 Years Ago Occasional Note published today describes the initiative of a resident of erstwhile Calcutta, Mr. Girindrakrishna Mitra to set up pocket-friendly dispensaries in villages to combat malaria.

In this context, an erstwhile rags-to-riches inhabitant of Kanchannagar in Burdwan town, Dinonath Das (1847-1909) set up a charitable dispensary in 1904 in Kanchannagar for the medical treatment of many malaria patients. The charitable dispensary has stood the test of time. Many people in those times addressed Dinonath as 'Doctor' since he distributed quinine to patients, even though he was not a qualified medical practitioner.

Yours, etc., Anindya Ghosal, Burdwan, 17 May.

FOR a large number of Calcutta people, the commencement of the football season proper heralds the most enjoyable time of the year, even although attendance at the matches entails an occasional wetting. During the next two months, wet or fine, the various football grounds will be thronged three times a week with spectators drawn from every community. Sport is an admirable means for promoting inter-racial understanding, and in this respect football in Calcutta has a far-reaching effect. A great deal of the harmony of the game depends on good refereeing, and in this respect, football is in a happier position, perhaps, than certain other games played in Calcutta. The one essential, however, is good sportsmanship on the part of the players themselves, and if this is not lacking, the public can look forward to a pleasant and successful season. As to the prospects of the various clubs, it would be rash to predict another dual success for the Calcutta F. C. which last year not only won the League championship but also carried off the Shield for the eighth time. In the latter, they were fortunate in meeting Mohan Bagan in the final on waterlogged turf, when they were successful by 3 goals to nil. Their main opposition in the League will again come from the South Wales Borderers, the Cameron Highlanders, Mohan Bagan, and Dalhousie, and if they are to remain champions, they will have to produce their best form, and a little bit more.

THE ROOT TRUST

Apart from the sheer mechanical wonder of the industrial plant that lies waiting for the strangling grip of the Ruhr occupation to be loosened, Germany's effort will be the more formidable for the extraordinary and intricate interlinking of financial manufacturing? distributing and raw materials producing interests. The late Hugo Stinnes, whose sons are active and capable and imbued with his ideas, had gone a long way before his death towards the realization of the "Root Trust" that was his life's dream. He aimed at making Germany one economic unit controlled by a single will; and if this is ever realized it will give Germany at once a tremendous advantage over her foreign competitors. I have spoken with most of the great industrialists in Germany, and with the shrewd men, like Stresemann, who look after the political end for the magnates; and I found, everywhere that the trend of ideas, was in the direction of Stinnes' conception. The main idea in the minds of the men who have created and direct Germany's machine is the elimination of competition between themselves and the amalgamation of interest in every field of financial and economic activity. It is a great dream, and one which Britain may before long have to envisage if she is to retain her place among the producing and trading nations of the world. America is already thinking seriously along the Stinnes line, and at the moment Ford is battling with the Senate for control of Muscle Shoals, the potential American Ruhr - a possession which would make him master of a "Root Trust."

When I joined Prabir in his room, I asked the significance of his farewell, but Prabir said, "I have no idea. Grandpa seldom goes anywhere, and I know well he is not going to visit anybody today or tomorrow." Prabir called me on Saturday morning. "Grandfather passed away last night. This morning he hadn't come out; two of my uncles went to see him. They found him dead in his room." He added, "I went to see him. He was seated in his favorite armchair, fully dressed, even with his shoes, as if he was going someplace. His eyes were closed, but he looked happy. He had on an enigmatic Gioconda smile." Prabir said he did not know if it was a smile of satisfaction with his life, including its peaceful end, or of triumph that he had avoided the dismal exit of an aged man surrounded by lamenting relatives, urging him to make peace with the almighty.

INCIDENCE OF CHOLERA OUTBREAK

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) THERE has been an unusual amount of cholera this year in various parts of the State, notably, in the Mysore and Hassan districts. Though measures have been taken by the medical authorities to deal with every fresh outbreak with the greatest urgency, it is evident that there is lack of supervision somewhere. The District authorities have permitted the holding of jattes in several centres, and in certain instances the cases can be directly traced to these places. Wandering ascetics are responsible for the conveying, from place to place, of this disease. Some months ago there was an outbreak in the Arkulgud taluq, but effective measures were taken, and the trouble seemed to have passed. Again it has broken out in this same taluq and in the neighbouring Holenarsipur taluq, both of which are not far distant from the Mysore District where it has been prevailing for some time. In some villages the toll has been very high, and the people have become so frightened they have fled as in the case of plague. This means that the cholera is carried still farther afield. In one village there were 120 attacks and 90 deaths. The bodies were unburied by the wayside, and formed a prey for the vultures and dogs. It is one of the most serious attacks in that neighbourhood. There are many villages infected, due, mainly to scarcity of water, and the infecting of sources of water supply. The Medical department has appointed extra sub-assistant surgeons in every district, and an attempt is being made to stamp out such epidemics as this by rapid measures carried out by the incinerating staff. The reports from the Arkulgud and Holenarsipur taluqs is more reassuring though the death rate is still high. The coming of the rains will probably improve the situation.

exacerbated during the Covid period. In early 2021 there was a further 51 per cent rise in emergency department visits by adolescent girls in the USA relating to suicide attempts, compared to the similar period in 2019. In the fall of 2021, a coalition of the USA's leading experts in pediatric health asked for declaring a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health. All these are alarming facts and figures. The surgeon general stated, "Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression and thoughts of suicide - and rates have increased over the past decade." However, while the data is there, no comprehensive, credible explanation appears to have emerged yet of why, in one of the richest countries enjoying special privileges, children and adolescents are in such an extreme state of sadness, hopelessness and desperation. Of course in a country with so many capable, resourceful researchers and research institutions, several explanations have been offered. Several of these draw attention to important aspects and offer helpful insights, but not an understanding that is comprehensive and deep enough to provide an effective base for remedial action. A nationwide survey of 21,678 US high school students by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and the Yale Child Study Center found that nearly 75 per cent of the students' self-reported feelings related to schools were negative. Stressed, bored, tired - these were the most frequent expressions used by students. A Pew Research Center survey of teens in the 13-17 age group (2018) found that 57 per cent of them (64 per cent of girls) were very worried or somewhat worried that a shooting could happen in their school. Many studies of problems in high schools are more concerned about achievement levels. The Program of International Student Assessment, in

a ranking of 35 OECD or rich countries, ranked USA at 30 in terms of Math learning of 15 year olds. Other studies have noted that those high school students who make it to college very frequently need remedial education, particularly in the context of Math and English. In recent years about 60 per cent of all community college students and 40 per cent of undergraduates in four-year colleges in the USA have needed remedial education, which has been used as an indicator of inadequate learning at high school. This is despite the fact that several educationists have also criticized the high school education system for becoming increasingly obsessed with preparing students for college instead of trying to provide holistic school education that prepares students for many-sided challenges of life. Other studies have lamented that despite spending more per student compared to other OECD countries, the USA school system is recording lower performance, and that performance, in reading proficiency for example, did not improve despite the doubling of expenditure during 1970-2004.

While these studies no doubt have their own importance, in our humble opinion what is more important is the persistent feeling of sadness and hopelessness among students, and this should get more importance in terms of remedial steps. This in turn should be done in terms of a more comprehensive approach that does not hesitate to look at wider societal ills. Meanwhile, while we in developing countries like India should be willing to learn from what is genuinely good and admirable in the western educational system, for a balanced view we should also be aware of the many flaws and mistakes that have created serious and avoidable problems.

(The writer is Honorary Convener, Campaign to Save Earth Now. His recent books include Protecting Earth for Children, Planet in Peril and A Day in 2071.)



(The writer is a US-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mmandy@gmail.com)

Learning from West's mistakes

BHARAT DOGRA

In India as in most other developing countries, there is huge admiration for the prestigious universities of Western countries and it is the dream of many brilliant students (not to mention their parents) to get opportunities to study there. Of course these universities have many great teachers and superb libraries as well as other admirable facilities. However, to get a balanced view we must look at the other side also, and the present time of student protests (which have been joined by some faculty members as well) is a suitable time to do so.

Recent protests in the context of the Israeli assault on Gaza have drawn attention to the endowments of prestigious US universities having close links to weapons and war-related industrial and financial interests. In such conditions it is unlikely that universities can give the much needed emphasis to peace studies which should perhaps be getting the highest priority now.

Secondly, university administrations have not been sympathetic to students and faculty members getting mobilised to raise issues of larger social concerns, even though these are related to protecting and saving precious human life, and have acted with undue haste to bring in police and make arrests, apart from victimizing student protesters in other unjust ways.

Thirdly, even though the universities as well as governments are extremely rich, student debts have generally continued to remain at very high levels, despite sporadic efforts to provide relief. These have become a huge burden for young people starting their professional and family life. In fact debt burdens saddle even those who are unable to complete their graduation. This is not just a matter of rising university costs and other such factors.

A country as well-endowed as the USA with all sorts of riches is perfectly capable of educating its youth with-



out getting them entangled in such difficult debts. Instead these heavy debts are a reflection of an increasing tendency to try to tie up younger people in such a way with debts that they feel more and more compelled to follow the establishment path and their chances of following their ideals (related for example to creating a safe and justice-based world) are minimized by the compulsion of paying back loans.

Coming now to school education, particularly high school education, schools have often been in news due to shooting incidents, bullying and other violence. However there are several even more serious problems that are less widely known.

According to the data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Data Survey and Trends Report released by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, USA, for the years 2011-21 (an earlier version of this report was quoted by the USA Surgeon General in the advisory issued by him in 2021), in 2021 42 per cent of all high school students and 57 per cent of female students reported experiencing "persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness." What is more, within a decade (2011-2021), this had

increased in a big way, rising from 28 to 42 per cent. Why is sadness and hopelessness so widely pervasive in one of the richest countries with relatively high educational and health spending?

At the same time, this data base revealed that in 2021, 22 per cent of high school students "seriously considered" attempting suicide. This was as high as 30 per cent for female students. Most tragically, in 2021, as many as 10 per cent of all high school students (13 per cent of girl) attempted suicide.

Such alarming official data raises a very serious question - in a rich country with such a high exposure to an immense diversity of entertainment and sports, why should such high levels of distress and stress prevail among high-school students?

According to the Advisory on Mental Health issued by the US Surgeon General in 2021, there was an even higher rise in the suicide rate in the age-group 10-24 from 2007 to 2018 - 57 per cent. In 2018, suicide became the second leading cause of death in this age-group.

According to the Surgeon General Advisory as well as several other reports, the grim situation in 2019 was

repugnant. In my last moments, like Voltaire, instead of making new enemies, or nursing grudges against old enemies, I should be nourishing brighter thoughts.

My close friend in school was Prabir who would periodically invite me to his home in Maddox Square. They lived in a huge house, presided over by his grandfather, the classic wealthy paterfamilias, and his six sons, with their wives and children. Prabir once invited me to a Sunday lunch, an opulent affair. We sat with all the family members at a long table where two cooks unleashed a vast amount of food. In addition, the daughters-in-law brought special dishes they had bought or prepared.

We sat and waited until the grandfather made his grand entrance. He was a thin, wispy man in his eighties, with white hair and an erect gait, who smiled benignly at me when Prabir introduced me. He repeated my name twice to make sure that he had got it. He sat down and, to my astonishment, opened a container that had his lunch. Apparently, he believed in the ancient Indian custom that the elderly should themselves cook their special, simple food and not consume the richer food of others. However, he graciously tasted a few spoonfuls of the food two of the daughters-in-law had prepared. He listened to the general conversation but spoke very little, except to ask two grandchildren about their new school.

After that, I met the old man a couple of times and always exchanged a few words. Prabir had probably told him of my interest in literature and he invariably asked what interesting new books I had read. I felt flattered that,

when I spoke well of a novel by Tarashankar or a story by Subodh Ghosh, he always wanted to know the exact details, probably to order the book. I noticed the change when I visited Prabir after a football match one Friday and encountered his grandfather in the living room. There were four other adults in the room, all from the neighbourhood and well-known to him, and I was confused to hear him say goodbye to them though they weren't leaving. When he noticed me, he came over to me, said, "Manish, I have to say goodbye to you too."

When I joined Prabir in his room, I asked the significance of his farewell, but Prabir said, "I have no idea. Grandpa seldom goes anywhere, and I know well he is not going to visit anybody today or tomorrow."

Prabir called me on Saturday morning. "Grandfather passed away last night. This morning he hadn't come out; two of my uncles went to see him. They found him dead in his room."

He added, "I went to see him. He was seated in his favorite armchair, fully dressed, even with his shoes, as if he was going someplace. His eyes were closed, but he looked happy. He had on an enigmatic Gioconda smile." Prabir said he did not know if it was a smile of satisfaction with his life, including its peaceful end, or of triumph that he had avoided the dismal exit of an aged man surrounded by lamenting relatives, urging him to make peace with the almighty.

(The writer is a US-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mmandy@gmail.com)

IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

The grand exit

Myth prevails that skeptics and atheists turn to God on their deathbed. Out of repentance for their sinfulness or, more likely, out of fear for what lies ahead. I seem to know several who had stoutly continued in their sinful ways.

My hero, Voltaire, had a priest turn up at his bedside to urge him to repudiate Satan while he was breathing his last. Voltaire said, "Is this a time to make new enemies?"

My favourite American, Thoreau, was close to the end when his mother urged him to make peace with God. Thoreau replied, "I am not aware of had ever quarrelled."

A less known writer, Wilson Mizner, dying and just out of a coma, found a priest hovering near and waiting to counsel him. He remonstrated, "Why should I talk to you? I have just been talking to your boss."

I know I have mostly wasted my life, as most of my fellowmen do, but I cannot imagine groveling in the last minutes to an omnipotent protoplasm to escape hellfire. More than my sins, I am embarrassed about my acts of thoughtlessness, my unthinking unkindness to friends, children, acquaintances, even strangers.

I could have been far kinder to people around me: restaurant waiters, taxi drivers, glum-faced neighbours, boring professors, inept editors, unhelpful colleagues. I should have given more time to good friends, played more with my daughters, taken better care of my loving father, expressed more appreciation to people who cooked for me or drove me around.

I know these are the things I will regret on my deathbed, as I regret



Illustration by : Debabrata Chakrabarty

them even now. I would like to tell my daughters they have been a source of fathomless joy that I might have expressed with abysmal clumsiness. I would like to tell any remaining friends that they have been like a balm in my days of discomfort and like a ballast in my hours of imbalance.

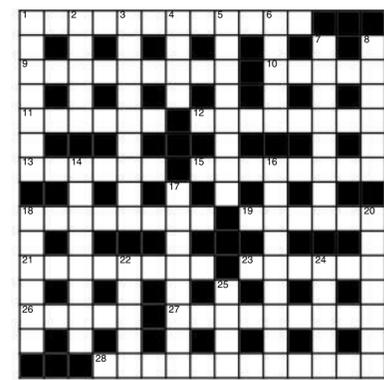
Those are my priorities. I would focus on them in my last hours rather than waste effort in expiating for my sinfulness.

Of course, sinfulness exists in an abundant measure. Not only nasty people in a religious garb who gleefully stone women, burn foreigners and slit the throats of journalists. More the everyday sinners who step

on our feet at every opportunity. All of us have encountered superiors who won't listen to us and make us feel inferior any chance they get. Or landlords who turn a deaf ear to our entreaties and tenants who are thoughtless, irresponsible and eager to deceive. Many of us have lived with spouses who have made a hell of our household when it could have been close to a paradise.

But I am getting overindulgent or senile and beginning to think that these unpleasant creatures too possibly had some excuses for their unpleasantness. Maybe they had mean parents, cruel bosses, spiteful neighbors or foul duplicitous friends. Their vile experiences turned them

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

DARWIN SHEILLA
TENNANN
INVOICE STRENGTH
GRUMCXI
BONDI BEACH ASPS
LEARNCO
WORST SOLITUDE
AOUAIE
CLAPTRAP PAIRS
LOTTIDB
HALF KOALABEARS
BAYLNRD
PITCOLO ECHIDNA
EETI EAD
SYDNEY DRONGO

ACROSS

- I start to help war veteran to swim, and provoke an emotional response (3,1,3,5)
- Isolated nurses returning, provided preparation to prevent infestation carried out quickly (5-4)
- Complains bitterly as Republican is sick (5)
- Essentially gazump wealthy financial centre (6)
- More determined European takes

- husband's place in Elizabeth Castle's Jersey Shore home (8)
- Head kissing has no boundaries (6)
- Swede's routine appropriate for adoption by wannabe teetotallers (8)
- In a little while, policeman will accept Penny not thinking for herself (5-3)
- Excited to furtively look over maintenance expenses (6)
- Man beset with problems in a low place (8)

- Head away from carnival? Just the opposite (6)
- Adult liable to finish early, overall (5)
- Curse lone working in yard (9)
- People spreading worrying rumours 50% of American Congress is corrupt (12)

DOWN

- TV programme about flying sausage shown before noon (7)
- Spill valve discovered in this place (5)

- New version of left-wing coup? (9)
- Wife in thong (4)
- Choose dodgy gold alloy (8)
- 5 Gaelic lines of poetry (5)
- Foolish duchess picked up mineral (8)
- Both sides dismissed in void court case in Balkan region (6)
- Linker accepts defeat describing list of technical terms (8)
- Instrument panel damaged by bit of butter (9)

- Dancer, possibly, almost certainly stops concerning Rambert's principal (8)
- Small group of married couples with time for midnight rendezvous (6)
- Son of God is intrinsically American (7)
- Wild fellow in charge (5)
- Critical to take steps about university strike, finally (5)
- Fiddle about during kinky sex (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

THUMBNAILS

WhatsApp working on several new features to enhance user experience: Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on several new features to enhance the user experience on the chatting platform. The feature, which the company presently working on includes - locked chats on linked devices, status updates of up to 1 minute, explore new channels, autoplay animated images, and hidden community group chats, according to WABetaInfo. Currently available to some beta testers, the "locked chats on linked devices" feature will let users protect their conversations from their linked devices. However, users will be required to create a secret code to open the locked chats folder from their linked devices. Another feature - "status updates of up to 1 minute" will allow users to share videos of up to 1 minute in length via status updates. Earlier, the limit to share videos on status updates was 30 seconds. The feature is presently available to some beta testers and will roll out to more people over the coming weeks, the report said. Further, WhatsApp introduced a new shortcut to "explore new channels", with an aim to make it promptly visible and accessible.

With a three-day week, expect momentum to break

For NIFTY, there's immediate support at the lows made over the last month of 21,800-21,900, resistance around 22,800

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Markets were on a roll during the last week and the volatility seems to have reduced. The visible change was the fact that they just rose and were moving towards a nice set-up where they could go in either direction.

With last week's moves, they are within striking distance of new lifetime highs. The broad markets more than regained the previous week's losses. BSESENSEX gained 1,341.47 points or 1.85 per cent, while NIFTY gained 446.80 points or 2.03 per cent to close at 22,502.00 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 2.40 per cent, 2.91 per cent and 3.23 per cent, respectively. BSE MIDCAP was up 4.92 per cent, while BSE SMALLCAP was up 5.65 per cent. Markets gained on five of the six trading sessions during the week. They were open on Saturday as well, with a view to testing the disaster recovery site that the exchanges have. The Indian Rupee gained



16 paise or 0.19 per cent to close at Rs 83.34 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones continued its strong showing and crossed the 40,000 mark. It gained on three of the five trading sessions and lost on two. It was up 490.95 points or 1.24 per cent to close at 40,003.59 points.

There were three listings during the week. The first was Indegene Limited, which had issued shares at Rs 452. The share made its debut on Monday at BSE at Rs 659.70, a gain of Rs 207.70 or 45.95 per cent. It then made a low of Rs 527.80 and closed at Rs 570.65. On NSE, it debuted at Rs 655, on debut day, made a low of Rs 527.10 and closed at Rs

570.90, a gain of Rs 118.90 or 26.30 per cent. By Saturday, the share lost further ground and closed at Rs 556.05, a gain of Rs 104.05 or 23.02 per cent. The second share to list was TBO TEK Limited, which had issued shares at Rs 920. The share debuted at Rs 1,380 on BSE and Rs 1,426 on NSE. It closed on Wednesday, debut day at Rs 1,404.85, a gain of Rs 484.85 or 52.70 per cent. On NSE, the close was at Rs 1,406.30. The share gained further ground and closed at Rs 1,463.90, a gain of Rs 543.90 or 59.12 per cent on Saturday. The third share to list was Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, which had issued shares at Rs 315. The debut

price was 314.30 on BSE and Rs 315 on NSE. The low the share made was Rs 293.35 on BSE and Rs 292 on NSE. The high was Rs 343.20 on BSE and Rs 343.70 on NSE. The share closed on Wednesday at Rs 329.55, a gain of 14.55 or 4.61 per cent. By Saturday, the share gained marginally and closed at Rs 348.60, a gain of Rs 33.60 or 10.67 per cent.

The issue from Go Digit General Insurance Limited, which had tapped the markets during the week, saw the issue get overall subscribed 9.6 times. The price band was Rs 258-272. The QIB portion was subscribed 12.56 times, the HNI portion was subscribed 7.24 times, and the Retail portion was subscribed 4.27 times. There were 5.85 lakh applications in all.

The week ahead has two trading holidays and, therefore, will have just three trading sessions. The week begins with a holiday on account of voting for the fifth round of elections to be held on Monday, amongst other places in Mumbai. This would be followed by a holiday on Thursday as well, breaking the momentum which one saw being built up during the previous week. Post the week, we would have entered the business end of the

general elections with just the sixth and seventh rounds left. The final round is on June 1, which is a Saturday. That evening, we would be bombarded by exit polls of all colours and hues, and markets would get a fair sense of what results would be like on Tuesday when they are finally declared.

As of the time of writing, the markets very firmly believe that the ruling dispensation would win the elections and have a consecutive third term. The ruling party, which won 303 seats in the 2019 elections, is expected to win around 330 seats, and the allies another 45-50 seats. This is what the markets believe, and that gives the strength and momentum being witnessed. This would get fine-tuned as the week ahead progresses. Coming to the markets in the short three-day period ahead, expect markets to remain volatile and choppy. We have immediate support at the lows made over the last month at 21,800-21,900 on NIFTY. While they look far away currently, a week ago, they were almost there. On the resistance side, with just a three-day week, all-time highs of 22,800 points would act as strong resistances.

BSE, NSE to remain closed on Monday due to polling in Mumbai

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

The Indian Stock Market, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) will remain closed on Monday, May 20 on account of Lok Sabha elections in Mumbai.

Due to the fifth voting phase for the Lok Sabha Election 2024, the stock market will mark the second holiday of the month.

The market was also closed on May 1 this month due to Maharashtra Day. Further, banks in Maharashtra will also remain closed on May 20.

This phase encompasses voting in 13 out of the state's 48 Lok Sabha constituencies, including Dhule, Dindori, Nashik, Kalyan, Palghar, Bhiwandi, Thane, Mumbai North, Mumbai North-West, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai North-Central, Mumbai South-Central, and Mumbai South.

The Election Commission of India in a statement has said that all arrangements are in place for Phase-5 polling. In this phase, 49 Lok Sabha seats will go to polls with 8.95 crore voters set to cast their vote across over



94,000 polling stations in 8 states/UTs.

Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal will go to polls. Some significant cities that will witness the polling are Mumbai, Thane, Lucknow in this phase, which have in the past suffered from urban apathy in voting.

Sensex and Nifty 50 concluded Saturday's trading session with upward momentum. This extends their recent three-day rally, which was buoyed by fresh foreign investments and favourable global signals.

Every sectoral index finished in positive territory, with small and mid-cap indices surpassing the benchmarks in performance.

Foreign investors pull out over ₹28,000 crore from equities so far in May

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Foreign investors have pulled out a massive Rs 28,200 crore from Indian equities so far in May owing to uncertainties about the outcome of the general elections and attractive valuations of Chinese markets.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors experienced a net outflow of Rs 28,242 crore in equities this month (till May 17).

Notably, this withdrawal was way higher than a net pull-out of over Rs 8,700 crore in April. Last month, the withdrawal was on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

It is anticipated that going forward, there is likely to be a dramatic change in foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) equity flows in response to elec-

tion results. Further, as per the data, FPIs invested Rs 178 crore in the debt market during the period under review.

In terms of inflows, the foreign investors put in Rs 13,602 crore in March, Rs 22,419 crore in February, and Rs 19,836 crore in January. This inflow was driven by the upcoming inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index.

JP Morgan Chase & Co in September last year announced that it will add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging market index from June 2024. This landmark inclusion is anticipated to benefit India by attracting around USD 20-40 billion in the subsequent 18 to 24 months.

Overall, FPIs withdrew a net amount of Rs 26,000 crore in equities in 2024 so far. However, they invested Rs 45,000 crore in the debt market.

Over \$239 mn raised by 26 Indian startups in funding last week



AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

More than \$239 million was raised by 26 Indian startups in funding last week, which includes nine growth-stage deals and 15 early-stage deals.

Two early-stage startups did not disclose the amount raised, reports Entracker. In the week of May 6-11, around 24 early and growth-stage startups collectively raised nearly \$320 million in funding.

Among the growth-stage deals, seven startups secured around \$207.2 million in funding last week. Microfinance firm Annapurna Finance secured the highest funding of \$72 million.

This was followed by battery tech startup Battery Smart, Propellid, which pro-

vides education loans to borrowers via online channels, and ambulance service provider Red.

Health and manufactures drones for applications in agriculture, defence, and enterprise sectors Dhaksha, which raised \$45 million, \$25 million, \$20 million, and \$18 million, respectively.

Moreover, 15 early-stage startups secured funding worth \$32.5 million last week.

Domestic aggregator providing end-to-end cold-chain solutions Celcius Logistics topped the list, followed by mobility and energy solutions startup Matel, authentication and access management platform OTPless, marketing SaaS (software-as-a-service) platform Highperform.ai, and sports tech company Stupa Sports.

The list of early-stage startups also includes -- Duro Green and Trezi, which kept the funding amount undisclosed.

City-wise, Bengaluru-based startups led with nine deals, followed by Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Bhubaneswar, among others.

CII appoints ITC's Sanjiv Puri as its new President



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Sunday announced the appointment of Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, as its new president for 2024-25 period.

Puri takes over from R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Sanjiv Puri is also the Chairman of ITC Infotech India Ltd, its subsidiaries in the UK and US, and Surya Nepal Private Ltd.

He heads ITC Ltd, a conglomerate with businesses in FMCG, hotels, paperboards & packaging, agribusiness, and IT. The Chamber also announced the appointment of a new President-Designate and Vice President. Rajiv Memani takes over

as President-Designate of CII for 2024-25. He is currently the Chairman of the India region of EY (Ernst & Young), a leading global professional services organisation. Memani is also a member of EY's global management body as the Chair of its Global Emerging Markets Committee.

R Mukundan, Managing Director and CEO of Tata Chemicals Limited takes over as the vice president of CII for 2024-25. Mukundan is a distinguished alumnus of IIT, Roorkee, a Fellow of Indian Chemical Society and an alumnus of Harvard Business School. Mukundan, during his 33-year career with Tata Group, has held various responsibilities across the chemical, automotive and hospitality sectors of the Tata Group.

Elon Musk launches Starlink in Indonesia

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, on Sunday, launched his satellite-based internet service provider Starlink in Indonesia, with the aim to improve access in remote parts of the archipelago.

"Honoured to launch @Starlink in Indonesia!" Musk posted on X.

The tech billionaire arrived on the Indonesian resort island of Bali by private jet on Sunday morning, before attending the launch ceremony at a community health centre in the provincial capital of Denpasar.

Indonesia's Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister Luhut Pandjaitan met Musk at the air-

port and said the two would discuss several important collaborations, including the inauguration of Starlink.

"I had the opportunity to pick up Elon at the airport this morning, then discuss some of his agendas while he's here and, of course, some important collaborations. One of them is the inauguration of Starlink internet service capable of reaching all corners of Indonesia," the Minister wrote on his official Instagram account.

"Through the availability of internet access throughout the province, the digitalisation in the implementation of healthcare and education in Indonesia can continue to improve," he added.

Cruise Tourism: MP sets out on a new voyage to lure in tourists

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, 19 MAY

The Madhya Pradesh government has mapped out an innovative strategy for 2024 to boost tourism. Besides introducing new elements, the government plans to revamp and broaden the existing schemes to add more vibrancy to the sector. Cruise tourism, all-women rides; safety of women, wellness, and rural vacations will be an integral part of the 2024 trajectory. The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Government of Gujarat to boost cruise tourism in Madhya Pradesh. Two floating jetties (pontoon) from Kolkata have been sent to Kukshi under this MoU.



Speaking to The Statesman exclusively, Bidisha Mukherjee, I.A.S., Additional Managing Director (AMD), Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, said that innovations are being made under active guidance from the Principal Secretary Mr Shukla, to promote tourism in the state and under this, cruise tourism is being started. Cruise tourism will not only give new wings to tourism, but will also give tourists an opportunity to enjoy the local culture, traditions, lifestyle and cuisine. An adventurous and comfortable journey will take place amidst the picturesque landscapes of Narmada River.

Pontoons, a floating platform installed on a pier or shore, will be installed along the ghats. It does not sink and can carry the weight of several people simultaneously. Through this, tourists will be able to travel safely and comfortably on the cruise.

Q: How is Cruise Tourism picking up in India?

Mukherjee: The GoI has taken initiatives like upgrading infrastructure, port fee rationalisation, removing existing charges, granting priority berthing to cruise ships, and providing e-visa facilities to boost the cruise tourism industry in the country. The vast coastline with major ports to accommodate large cruise ships is an advantage for the industry in India. The Mad-

hya Pradesh Tourism Board is also progressively planning to boost cruise tourism in the state.

Q: What is the MP government doing to promote cruise tourism in its state?

Mukherjee: The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Government of Gujarat to boost cruise tourism in Madhya Pradesh. Two floating jetties (pontoon) from Kolkata are sent to Kukshi in Madhya Pradesh under this MoU which will be used as a terminal for a pontoon cruise. M.P. Cruise Tourism is an MPITB initiative to promote tourism in the state.

Q: What are locations/stretches identified by the MP government to promote cruise tourism?

Mukherjee: Innovations are made to promote tourism in the state. Under this, cruise tourism is being started to attract more tourists and offer them a lifetime experience. An adventurous and comfortable journey will take place amidst the picturesque landscapes of the Narmada River. In the context of the inter-state cruise, projects lined up for 2024 and plans were afoot to link the Rajghat Dam near Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh to Deogarh in Uttar Pradesh. Also, long-distance, intra-state cruises will be a new attraction for 2024.

Among the intra-state cruises planned during the upcoming year include those from Maikhal Resort in Bargi near Jabalpur to Tindini in Mandla district, Dharaji in Dewas to Sailani Tapu east of Omkareshwar, Sanjit village to the tent city of Gandhi Sagar. The Tawa-Madhai cruise will be given a facelift by adding new experiences.

Q: What are the facilities/amenities being offered by MP Tourism to attract cruise tourists?

Mukherjee: We have a buoyant plan for cruise tourism in 2024. The main attraction will be the nearly 130 km inter-state cruise on river Narmada from the Statue of Oneness in Omkareshwar to the Statue of Unity in Gujarat. Floating jetties are put in place for this. The multi-destination cruises will be punctuated with rural experiences in between the two destinations.

Q: What was the number of inbound cruise tourists in India last year? How had the number grown?

Mukherjee: Cruise tourism in India has rebounded from the pandemic and reached an all-time high of 470,000 visitors in the 2023-24 financial year, which is higher than pre-pandemic levels. Domestic tourists account for almost 80 per cent of these visitors, around 85 per cent increases from 2019-20.

Q: What is the projected number of cruise tourists 5-10 years down the road? What needs to be done to promote cruise tourism in India?

Mukherjee: Cruise Tourism is a rising tourism experience, gaining popularity among different age groups. The travellers are keen on experiential tourism and the number of cruise tourists will increase twice at least in upcoming years. Therefore, the Ministry of Tourism has identified infrastructure and circuit enablement, market development, skill development, ease of doing business, integrated tourism, investment promotion, institutional structure and governance as key strategies to promote cruise tourism.

Classified

<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, Vineet Kumar Jhunjhunwala, S/o. Binod Kumar Jhunjhunwala, residing at CK-222, North 24 Parganas, Sec-II, Salt Lake, shall henceforth be known as Vineet Kumar Jhunjhunwala as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit NJ Paper No. AS 283764 dated: 10th May, 2024. Vineet Kumar Jhunjhunwala and Vineet Kumar Jhunjhunwala both are same and identical person.</p>	<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, REBECCA Mondal, daughter of Nirmal Mondal (Born: 20-4-1985), residing at 18/1, Kalabagan Lane, P.O.: Tollygunge, P.S.: Golf Green, Sub District Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700033, henceforth be known as Ms. Rebecca Mondal as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate Alipore, South 24 Parganas vide affidavit (29465) on dated: 10-5-2024. Rebecca Mondal and Rebecca Mondal both are same and identical person.</p>	<p>COURT NOTICE</p> <p>IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION ORIGINAL SIDE A.C.R. NO. 4 OF 2023</p> <p>In the matter of: An application under Section 7 of the Charitable and Religious Trust Act, 1920 read with Section 34 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 And In the matter of: Premises No. 52/1, Durga Charan Doctor Road (formerly known as Dr. Durga Charan Banerjee Road), Kolkata-700014 owned by the Deity Thakur Sree Sree iswar Gouri Sankar Jew having its abode at Premises No. 106, Durga Charan Doctor Road (formerly known as Dr. Durga Charan Banerjee Road); And In the matter of: Sri Tapas Coomar, son of Late Sukumar Coomar and Sri Arjan Coomar, son of Late Srinath Coomar</p> <p>.....Petitioners Notice is hereby given to the public at large on behalf of Petitioners abovenamed for claims and objections from any of the persons, who are interested in the aforesaid properties or any objection for development of the said property by the two petitioners, who are requested to appear before this Hon'ble High Court on 19th June, 2024 when the matter will be heard, in default the application shall be decided ex-parte. By an order dated 24th April, 2024 The Hon'ble Justice Krishna Rao has been pleased to direct the matter to be listed on 19th June, 2024. A copy of the application may be had from the office of Ms. Farah Anjum, Advocate, mentioned below.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sd/- 06.05.24 For Registrar (O.S.) High Court at Calcutta Original Side</p> <p>Ms. Farah Anjum (Advocate), 8/2, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, Room No. 8, 1st Floor, Kolkata 700 001 Mob: 9831035405</p>
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TENDER

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

No.92/EL/TRD/AUT/2024-25/2 Date: 17/05/2024
DRM/TRD, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work: 1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: <http://www.irops.gov.in> 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 13.06.2024 up to 15.00 hrs. 3. Date & time of opening of e-tender: After 15.00 hrs. on 13.06.2024 Tender No.: 02-TRD-JU-ETENDER-24-25 Name of Work: Annual Maintenance Contract of Cummins Make Engine with other parts of 08 Wheeler Towing Wagons over Jodhpur Division for a Period of 03 Years. Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.): 4,95,87,566.00 For detailed information visit <http://www.irops.gov.in> 578-CR/24

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The point we constantly make to Israel is it's incredibly important we have a plan - a Gaza run not by Hamas, a terrorist organisation, but by Palestinians

GRANT SHAPPS UK DEFENCE SECRETARY

WEATHER

Table with 3 columns: CITY, MAX(°C), MIN(°C). Rows include Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, Dubai, San Francisco, New York, Moscow.

Heavy rains set off flash floods in northern Afghanistan, killing at least 84 people

ISLAMABAD, 19 MAY

More heavy rains in Afghanistan have triggered flash floods, raising the death toll to 84 in the country's north following weeks of devastating torrents that had already left hundreds dead and missing, a Taliban spokesman said Sunday.

AGENCIES

Airstrike kills 20 in Gaza as fighting rages

Israel's leaders air divisions over who should govern Gaza after the war

AGENCIES DEIR AL-BALAH, 19 MAY

An Israeli airstrike killed 20 people in central Gaza, mostly women and children, and fighting raged across the north on Sunday as Israel's leaders aired divisions over who should govern Gaza after the war, now in its eighth month.



AGENCIES DEIR AL-BALAH, 19 MAY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has faced criticism from his own War Cabinet, with his main political rival, Benny Gantz, threatening to leave the government if a plan is not formulated by June 8 that includes an international administration for postwar Gaza.

The situation is very difficult," said Abdel-Kareem Radwan, a 48-year-old in Jabaliya. He said the whole eastern side has become a battle zone where the Israeli fighter jets "strike anything that moves."

US national security adviser, Saudi Arabia's crown prince meet to discuss 'semi-final' security deal

AGENCIES DUBAI, 19 MAY

President Joe Biden's national security adviser met early Sunday with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss what the kingdom described as the "semi-final" version of a wide-ranging security agreement between the countries.



AGENCIES DUBAI, 19 MAY

The announcement by the state-run Saudi Press Agency comes as the strategic deal had been pending after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage back to the Gaza Strip.

that state. The White House had acknowledged Sullivan's trip and that he would later head on to Israel, where he's scheduled to meet Netanyahu on Sunday.

Georgia's president vetoes media legislation that has provoked weeks of protests

AGENCIES TBILISI, 19 MAY

Georgia's president on Saturday vetoed the so-called "Russian law" targeting media that has sparked weeks of mass protests.



AGENCIES TBILISI, 19 MAY

ists and campaigners fiercely dispute this characterization, saying they are already subject to audit and monitoring requirements. They say that the bill's true goal is to stigmatize them and restrict debate ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for October.

Ukraine and Russia exchange drone attacks while Moscow continues its push in the east

AGENCIES KYIV, 19 MAY

Russia said it shot down some 60 drones and several missiles over its territory while Ukraine in turn said it destroyed over 30 Russian drones. At least four people were reported killed in an attack on the outskirts of Kharkiv on Sunday as Russia pushed ahead with its renewed offensive in Ukraine's war-ravaged northeast.



AGENCIES KYIV, 19 MAY

occupied Kherson region, Vladimir Saldo, said that one person died and 16 were wounded when a Ukrainian drone hit a minibus on Sunday morning.

Hot weather poses new risk as thousands remain without power after deadly Houston storm

AGENCIES HOUSTON, 19 MAY

As the Houston area works to clean up and restore power to hundreds of thousands left after deadly storms left at least seven people dead, it will do so amid a smog warning and scorching temperatures that could pose health risks.



AGENCIES HOUSTON, 19 MAY

iors, people with disabilities and caregivers of disabled children to contend with the heat.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange facing pivotal moment in long fight to stay out of US court

AGENCIES LONDON, 19 MAY

The host of a news conference about WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's extradition fight wryly welcomed journalists last week to the "millionth" press briefing on his court case.



AGENCIES LONDON, 19 MAY

computer misuse. If convicted, his lawyers say he could receive a prison term of up to 175 years, though American authorities have said any sentence is likely to be much lower.

As ethnic armed group claims to have captured a town in western Myanmar, Muslim Rohingyas flee again

AGENCIES BANGKOK, 19 MAY

A powerful ethnic armed group fighting Myanmar's military government in the country's western state of Rakhine claimed Saturday to have seized a town near the border with Bangladesh, marking the latest in a series of victories for foes of the country's military government.



AGENCIES BANGKOK, 19 MAY

residents to flee. The competing claims could not be verified independently, with access to the internet and mobile phone services in the area mostly cut off.

which seeks autonomy from Myanmar's central government. It is also a member of an armed ethnic group alliance that recently gained strategic territory in the country's northeast on the border with China.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general Public is hereby informed that undersigned intends to purchase Flat 6 F, 6th Floor, Tower 1 (Lotus), South City Garden, 61, B L Saha Road, Kolkata-700053, measuring 1220 sq. ft. approximately (super built up area) together with one open car parking space (hereinafter referred to as "said property") from Neelanjana Dasgupta alias Neelanjana Arindam Guha.



What would these people have done if Swati had been their real sister or daughter? The issue here is not about the party but about the honour of a woman.

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY CANDIDATE MADHAVI LATHA SLAMMING AAM AADMI PARTY

UP: Fates of Rahul, Rajnath, Irani to be decided in 5th phase LS polls

There are a total of 144 candidates in the fray in this phase in Uttar Pradesh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 19 MAY

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh for peaceful polling to be held on Monday in 14 constituencies.

Fate of five Union ministers along with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi (Rae Bareilly) and Gandhi family confidant K.L. Sharma (Amethi) would be decided in this phase.

Union ministers who are contesting from five out of the 14 seats in UP, are Defence Minister and MP from Lucknow, Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani from Amethi, Kaushal Kishore from Mohanlalganj,



Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma from Jalaun, and Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti from Fatehpur.

Polling will be held in these 14 Lok Sabha seats along with an assembly by-election from 7am to 6pm.

Campaigning in the phase was electrifying even in the heatwave conditions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

addressed almost eight meetings in this phase while Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached every constituency.

On the other hand, the Congress concentrated in Rae Bareilly and Amethi constituencies where all their leaders campaigned. UPA

chairperson Sonia Gandhi too appealed to the people of Rae Bareilly to support her son. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been campaigning in both the constituencies since May 6.

Priyanka Gandhi ended her campaign on Saturday by holding a road show in Amethi and praying at the Gurudwara and temple in Rae Bareilly.

Rajnath Singh wended up his campaign in Lucknow by addressing a meeting in Gudumba area in the state capital. Over 2 lakh security personnel have been deployed in this phase including around 230 companies of Central forces. All the 28,688 polling booths will be manned by central forces while 50 per cent of them will go for webcasting.

There are a total of 144 candidates in the fray in this phase. As many as 2.70 crore voters -- 1.43 crore male and 1.27 crore female -- will vote in 17,128 polling stations.

The Lucknow (East) assembly segment bypolls has 4.59 lakh voters.

The fifth phase, which is quite significant, will see one of the most important seats in UP -- Ayodhya (Lok Sabha-Faizabad) -- going to polls. Besides, polling will be held in the Kaiserganj Lok Sabha seat, whose sitting MP Brij Bhushan Singh was involved in the infamous women wrestlers sexual assault case. He has been denied a ticket though. Currently, Congress holds only one seat (Rae Bareilly) while the rest are represented by the BJP.

Amit Shah alleges INDIA bloc agenda to eliminate Nukes to please Pakistan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ, 19 MAY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleged that if the Opposition INDIA bloc has an agenda to revive Article 370 that gives special powers to Kashmir and destroy nuclear weapons to please Pakistan.

Claiming that leaders of 'Indi alliance' are openly saying that if they come to power, they would bring back Article 370 in Kashmir, he quoted Mani Shankar Iyer saying 'Pakistan should be respected because it has nuclear weapons'.

It's in this context the 'Indi alliance' wants to eliminate nuclear weapons in the country. There is no need to tell what their intentions are.

Addressing an election meeting in the Meja area of the rural Allahabad Lok Sabha seat on Sunday, Shah said this election is about creating a great, safe, and strong India. The pub-



lic has understood the politics of a leaderless coalition. It wants to see PM Modi as prime minister of India for a third time by winning more than 400 seats in this election, he said.

Paying homage to the holy land of Prayagraj, the home minister remembered national heroes like Chandrashekhar Azad, Lal Padmashankar and national builder Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. He also remembered litterateurs like Mahakavi Nirala, Sumitranandan Pant, Mahadevi Verma, and Harivansh Rai Bachchan.

Shah said the holy land has always been dedicated to harmony and love. He recalled the cultural splendour of Shringverpur Dham, Bhardwaj Muni Ashram, and said the people of this area have always made correct and strong decisions after careful consideration.

He asked the public, "Do you want a strong prime minister in the country or five prime ministers who change every year? Shah said that among the leaders of the INDIA coalition who dream of becoming the Prime Minister, can Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, Mamta Didi, Kharge, and Rahul Baba ever become the Prime Minister? The public answer was -- No. Then the public started chanting 'Jai Modi'.

Shah said Sonia Gandhi, Kharge, and Rahul Baba were invited to the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, but they rejected the invitation.

BJP will win only one seat in UP: Rahul Gandhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ, 19 MAY

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in Mungari under the Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency in support of INDIA alliance candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh. He claimed that the BJP would be able to win only one seat in Uttar Pradesh, specifically Varanasi, which the PM wants to develop on the pattern of Kyoto city in Japan.

The Congress leader said that the fight is about safeguarding the Constitution. "The BJP and the Sangh are attacking the Constitution. Modi has made 22 people in the country billionaires. We will create crores of millionaires. One lakh rupees will be



transferred to the accounts of every young graduate and every woman from a poor family every year," he announced.

Rahul spoke strongly in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's harsh statement made three days ago in Pratapgarh.

The Congress leader initially mentioned the wrong name of the candidate, stating that INDIA alliance candidate Revati Raman Singh

should win. When Akhilesh clarified from the stage that it was Ujjwal Raman Singh, not Revati, Rahul promptly corrected the name.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav said that if the INDIA alliance comes to power, they will abolish the Agniveer scheme and ensure permanent full-time employment. He said that the BJP has conceded defeat in all four phases of the election and claimed that the people are angry with the BJP and their anger will peak in the seventh phase.

Earlier, the public meeting of Rahul and Akhilesh organised at the Padila ground in support of Samajwadi Party candidate Amarnath Singh Maurya from the Phulpur parliamentary seat could not be held due to an unruly crowd.

Rahul-Akhilesh rally cancelled

PRAYAGRAJ, 19 MAY

A joint rally of the INDIA alliance, featuring Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, was cancelled after supporters of the two parties went berserk and broke the barriers to come close to their leaders on Sunday afternoon.

The moment Rahul and Akhilesh reached the Padila ground, the crowd went out of control, breaking through barricades and reaching the stage. Many people were injured in the stampede-like situation. SNS

'INDIA alliance a union of anarchy, corruption and curfew'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE AZAMGARH, 19 MAY

In a scathing attack on the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday labelled the INDIA alliance as a union of anarchy, corruption, and curfews.

Yogi highlighted that during the seven years of BJP governance, the state has not witnessed a single riot and that those who incited violence have been penalised.

Addressing a public meeting in the Lalganj Lok Sabha constituency at Phoolpur Pawai in Azamgarh on Sunday, the UP Chief Minister said, "Festivals are now celebrated with great joy in UP, while daughters and businessmen feel completely safe. The government is also providing



free rations to the poor. When there is a government of similar ideology at the Centre and the state, it is sensitive to the needs of the people."

Seeking votes in favour of Lok Sabha candidate Neelam Sonkar, Yogi criticised the SP and the Congress governments for their lack of empathy towards the poor, Dalits,

women, and youth, accusing them of supporting the mafia and terrorists.

He claimed that these parties created an identity crisis for the people of Azamgarh. In contrast, under PM Modi's leadership, the respect for Azamgarh residents and Indians has increased worldwide, he stressed.

The Chief Minister emphasised that a unified call for 'Phir Ek Baar, Modi Sarkar' and 'Abki Baar, 400 Paar' is resonating across the country, making the Congress, SP, and BSP uncomfortable. People across the country are saying 'Jo Ram Ko Laye Hai, Hum Unko Layenge', he remarked.

Yogi further stated that before 2014, the country faced severe security issues with frequent terrorist incidents creating an atmos-

phere of fear among people, but the Congress remained a mute spectator to this. In contrast, there hasn't been a single terrorist incident in the last 10 years, he asserted. "Today, Pakistan rushes to give explanations, denying involvement even when a firecracker goes off. Once a sponsor of terrorism, Pakistan is now unable to protect itself," he stated.

Chief Minister Yogi urged the public to support Prime Minister Modi for a third term, promising that the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) would become a part of India under a strong BJP government. He appealed to people to ensure the loss of security deposits of all those who are opposed to the Ram temple and support terrorists and mafia.

Odisha all set for fierce 2nd phase LS polls in five battlefields with likely bipolar contest

MANOJ KAR BHUBANESWAR, 19 MAY

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has set its target to maintain ascendancy in five parliamentary seats going to polls on 20 May in the second phase of ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the coastal State with the Biju Janata Dal going all out to give the saffron party a tough fight.

The voters in parliamentary constituencies of Aska, Kandhamal, Balangir, Bargarh and Sundargarh will exercise their democratic rights by casting votes on Monday. And the poll battle, as analysts say, will be fiercely competitive and is likely to become a bipolar contest with anticipation of Congress relegated to distant third looming large.

The BJD had won Aska and Kandhamal LS seats while the BJP had defeated the regional party winning the remaining three - Bolangir, Bargarh and Sundargarh LS seats in 2019.

Naveen Patnaik-led BJD notched up 42.8 per cent of the total votes polled in the 2019 parliamentary polls while in 2014 its vote share stood at 44.1 per cent. The BJD which had bagged 20 out of the 21 LS seats in 2014 managed to retain 12 seats. On the other hand, BJP's votes in 2019 LS polls were marked by steady rise from 21.5 per cent in 2014 to 38.4 per cent in 2019.

The saffron party made an eight-fold increase in terms of seats in 2019 while bagging 8 Lok Sabha seats. It had remained content with one seat only in



2014. The Indian National Congress, once a powerhouse in Odisha politics, had hit rock bottom with humiliating drubbing at the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, bagging one seat only. The Congress candidates had lost security

deposits in Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jajpur and Puri Lok Sabha constituencies last time. The Congress's LS candidates could manage to bag 16.12 per cent votes in 2019 while the vote percentage was 25.71 per cent in

2014 LS elections. As against 95.35 lakh votes in 2014, it struggled to get 35.75 lakh votes in 2019 polls.

The prominent contestants in the fray for second phase of LS polls on Monday include former Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, former Indian hockey captain Dillip Tirkey and BJP's four-time Lok Sabha Sangeeta Singh Deo. Besides, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and former union minister Dilip Ray are contesting 20 May Assembly polls.

According to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), 40 candidates are contesting from five parliamentary seats while 265 candidates are trying out their electoral luck for 35 assembly

seats. Sensing distinct poll victory possibility, the BJP had embarked on a high-octane poll campaign for the second phase LS and Assembly polls lining up top heavyweights including PM Narendra Modi, National president JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and host of other national leaders sitting chief ministers of BJP-ruled States. On the other hand, BJD, apparently hit by anti-incumbency after remaining in power for 24 years is fighting the toughest election ever since the regional party was founded in the late nineties after the demise of legendary Biju Patnaik. Then, the State was a Congress bastion and an anti-Congress outfit named after Late

Biju Babu was formed to spoil the grand old party's grip over the voters.

The BJD's campaign is headed by CM Naveen Patnaik and his trusted aide VK Pandian, who is being groomed by Patnaik as his political successor.

The grooming of Tamil Nadu-born former bureaucrat-turned-politician has provided ammunition to the BJP in raking up the Odia ashmita or pride card.

The regional party is often being found on a defensive mode as the BJP has fired all cylinders in leveling allegations of the outsourced government run by Pandian at poll rallies. Right from PM Modi to State's top leaders, the BJP has played Odia pride plank as a potential hilt to oust BJD from

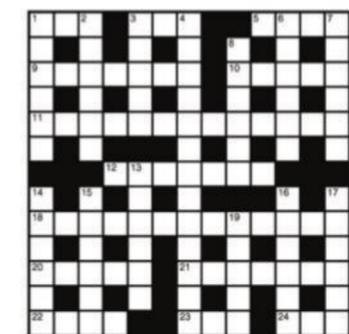
power in Odisha. The BJD however, refuted the charge and banked on Naveen's popularity and charisma to script yet another poll victory as it has been doing since 2000.

The Congress on the other hand lags behind in campaign trail despite the rallies by Rahul Gandhi, President Mallikarjun Kharge.

The grand-old-party has raked up the anti-party policies of both the BJP at the Centre and the BJD at the State by describing both the parties as two sides of a coin for pre-poll alliance bid on their part. The party think-tank hopes that the anti-incumbency of both BJD and BJP will emerge as an advantage for the Congress as people seek for an alternative.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS: 1 In favour of (3), 3 Purchase (3), 5 Gaffer's cry (4), 9 Formicary (7), 10 Curse (5), 11 Camera accessory (9,4), 12 Uprightness (7), 18 Group of stars (13), 20 Concede (5), 21 Piano keys (Slang) (7), 22 Verdant (4), 23 Owing (3), 24 Gender (3). DOWN: 1 Sumptuous meals (6), 2 Baby's toy (6), 3 Airship (5), 4 Cowardly (US slang) (6-7), 6 Pre-GCSE qualification (1,5), 7 Exit (6), 8 Accompany (6), 13 Revolve (6), 14 Untidy writing (6), 15 Hatred (6), 16 Numerals (6), 17 For males or females (6), 19 Love deeply (5).

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: ACROSS: 12 See eye to eye, 17 Achieve, 19 Torch, 21 Substance, 22 Ban, 23 Star, 24 Lungs, 11 Tutored, 9 Rude, 13 Exhibit, 14 Outmeal, 15 Mars, 16 Chunks, 18 Enter, 20 Robin. DOWN: 1 Cringe, 2 Mania, 3 Abridge, 4 Drift, 5 Orderly, 6 Smithereens, 7 Hatred, 8 Accompany, 13 Revolve, 14 Untidy writing, 15 Hatred, 16 Numerals, 17 For males or females, 19 Love deeply.

BEEBLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



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SCRABBLE BRAND G R A M S

PAR SCORE 110-120 by JUDD. FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN. SCRABBLE BRAND G R A M S. WORDS TO KNOW: N, C, T, R, S, A, E, U, G, N, N, C, O, L, F, D, T, L, R, O, I, S, S, S, M, P, A, S.

SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★. 1 5, 4 9, 4 8 1 2, 4 5, 2 4 6 8 9, 9 3 1 5 7 9 4, 5 9 3 4 1 6 2, 4 2 6 7 8 9 1 3, 1 5 4 8 9 7 3 6, 6 9 2 1 3 5 4 7, 9 7 9 4 7 6 1 5 8.

Nurturing hope for a new dawn in north-east healthcare

NAVA TRAKURIA

An ancient Indian saying, "Swasthya Param Sampad" (Health is wealth), emerges as most relevant for the entire human race in the post-Corona era. Over eight billion human beings on the planet understood the real face of life and death during the horrible Covid-19 days, where almost everyone was locked inside and counted the number of casualties from here and there. The most powerful, intelligent, and articulate community on Earth turned out to be a victim of circumstances where a small virus showed the homo sapiens a mirror to understand—it makes sense only when you are alive (Assamese wisdom says, "Deha Thakilehe Beha").

Various scientific surveys reveal that over one billion people lack access to healthcare facilities around the world. It needs a multi-dimensional effort empowering different sections of society and continuous advocacy, along with societal collaboration, to create a healthier population. International organisations, local governments, healthcare initiators, etc. can make a real difference here when each and every individual can be provided with an affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare service. Understanding the responsibility on the ground, an innovative healthcare model named Affordable Health Mission (AHM) was launched five years ago in northeast India by GNRC hospitals under the leadership of Dr Nomal Chandra Borah.

Providing value-added healthcare facilities to everyone with a reasonable expenditure can create a magical world where the prevention of epidemics, reduction of the burden from non-communicable diseases, and improvement of healthcare management for women, children, and elderly individuals will be easier. When the lack of affordable healthcare pushes millions of Indian families below the poverty line every year and thus jeopardises the government's mission to uplift the economy of poor families, initiatives like AHM can shine a light at the end of the tunnel. It may be termed a dawn of hope for those economically down-trodden families in a populous country like Bharat.

A brief biography of Dr NC Borah, who was born into a marginal farmer's family in eastern Assam and became

one of the best-known neurologists across the south Asian nation with unbelievable hard work during his childhood and the persuasion of a missionary zeal in professional life, depicts a dream to be realised with an affordable health mission for the benefit of millions of rural poor families in the alienated region. The biography, titled 'Hope Dawns in the East' and co-authored by Mumbai-based communication professionals Arnab Mukherjee and Sushmita Sarkar, guides the readers with a stunning line by Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela saying, 'It always seems impossible until it is done' and appreciating words from Mother Teresa and Bill Gates.

Published by Chennai-based Notion Press, the tiny book highlights the promise of 'Health for all, smiles for all'. It includes many photographs ranging from Dr Borah's early life to the present, along with portraits of his father, Karneswar Borah, and mother, Kanaklata Borah. His close association with legendary musicians Bharat Ratna, Dr Bhupen Hazarika, and Jnanpith awardee author Dr Indira (Mamoni Raimoni) Goswami is also reflected in the selected photographs. Former President Pranab Mukherjee, former State Chief Ministers Tarun Gogoi and Sarbananda Sonowal, and many other luminaries are also seen with Dr Borah, along with his adorable family, which includes his wife, Dr Jayshree Borah, two daughters, Priyanka and Satabdee, and his son, Madhurjya.

The book comprises a few articles, penned by Dr Borah as CMD of GNRC Hospitals, on various pertinent issues like improving the medical education system, dealing with the shortage of specialist doctors, highlighting the patient's right to have a second medical opinion, troubles created by many doctors's illegible handwriting in prescriptions, whether healthcare is a science of medicines or an art of healing, etc. Dr Borah has passionately argued in his pieces that health is a fundamental human right and that it's critical for human dignity. A healthy population is essential for socio-economic growth as it determines the average life expectancy, number of persons in the productive age bracket, employment, productivity and capacity building, contribution to social welfare, etc.

For records, the GNRC (formerly known as the Guwahati Neurological Research Centre) group of hospitals was established in 1987 at Dispur, and



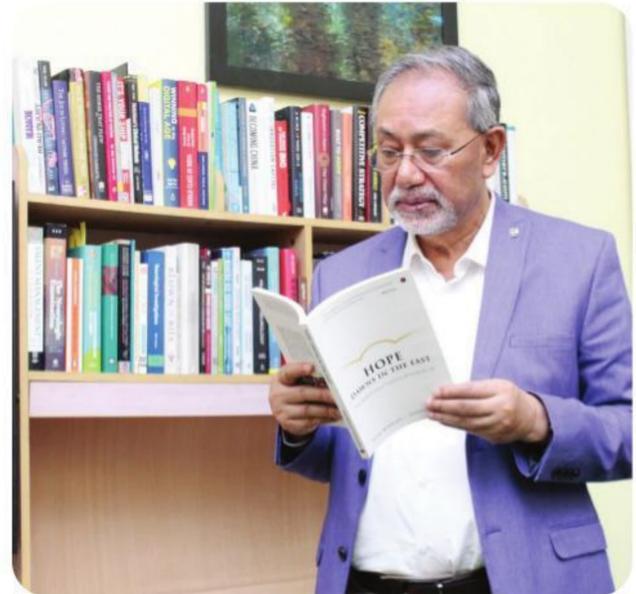
it was the first super specialty healthcare centre in the region to cater to the needs of nearly 60 million people. A pass-out from Gauhati Medical College and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi), Dr Borah later expanded its network of hospitals with a unit at Sixmile (Guwahati), another at Dispur, one more at Barasat (West Bengal), and a unique one in North Guwahati (named the GNRC Institute of Medical Sciences). Today, all five hospitals, comprising a cumulative 750 beds, take care of over 2,50,000 outpatients and 25,000 inpatients annually. Besides north-eastern residents, GNRC hospitals cater to the needs of many patients from neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

The energetic entrepreneur also added the Asian Institute of Nursing Education to his healthcare empire. An unusual concept of pharmacy cum grocery shops (titled GNRC Medishops) was also materialised in Guwahati. With an aim to spread awareness about preventive healthcare and early intervention in the community, Dr Borah also launched the Swasthya Yatra (March towards Health) and a monthly health magazine (GNRC Swasthya) in Assamese. The visionary professional started GNRC's community outreach programme titled Medireach, under which a mobile hospital unit was developed to travel among the deprived families to raise health-



care awareness, including timely and curative care. The mobile vehicle has arrangements for conducting ECGs, X-rays, ultrasounds, and other laboratory tests. A qualified and trained medical team accompanies the unit to collect, store, and transport blood and urine samples for various tests. By now, Medireach has touched over 15 million people in Assam, providing affordable and reliable diagnostic services.

Later, he created a pool of community health workers named Swasthya Mitra, who relentlessly work for preventive and promotional care in rural and semi-urban localities. Swasthya Mitras remain the frontline health friends and workers who understand the community and serve as a bridge between healthcare professionals and the people. GNRC has trained



people till date. Similarly, telehealth helps patients in distant places consult with GNRC specialists as and when needed. At GNRC hospitals, the management encourages generic medicines and India-made medical supplies at a cheaper price. Moreover, the use of high-end diagnostics for multiple deserving patients helps reduce patient spending.

The soft-spoken gentleman asserts that a large volume of patients suffer because of preventable diseases, and many can avoid hospitalisations if offered timely medical care. Most of the patients arrive at hospitals after the diseases become complicated due to delayed care. It's always a wiser decision to keep them healthy rather than treat them in hospitals, which often become so expensive. Health is a fundamental human right, and it's critical for human dignity. The GNRC tries to unite the science of medicine with the art of healing while offering treatment with trust. A healthy population is essential for socio-economic growth, which finally determines average life expectancy, productivity, capacity building, employment, etc. for an individual member, stated Dr Borah, with the firm belief that the good health of each person emerges as a priority for the peace, happiness, and prosperity of a nation.

The writer is a Guwahati-based special representative of The Statesman

An ode to M. S. Swaminathan — Architect of India's Green Revolution

RANGAN DUTTA

The passing away of Dr M. S. Swaminathan, acclaimed as the architect of India's Green Revolution and food security, on 28 September 2023, will be mourned forever by his numerous students, researchers, colleagues, and admirers across the world. Dr Swaminathan's work in India and in international organisations like the IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) in the Philippines, where he headed, and many more UN-affiliated bodies changed the global discourse on agriculture, food, nutritional security, and sustainable development. His footprints are seen in every sphere of our rural economy. As a plant geneticist, he restructured rice research in India, introduced new rice and wheat varieties such as Pusa 2-21, IR-8, and Sonalika-Mexican wheat, which led to the "green revolution" in India after rigorous field trials and adaptive research, and restructured the transfer of technology systems by integrating research and extension work by putting in place a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (agriculture science centres) in rural India linked to the Agricultural University system.

He foresaw the crucial role of state agricultural universities in modernising agriculture by providing area-specific and even location-specific research solutions to transfer technology to the farmers through the extension services of the state departments in crops, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, social forestry, soil conservation, irrigation and efficiency in water use to build and expand integrated farming systems.

As a humanist, his utmost concern has been food and nutritional security, while the scientist in him was equally concerned about sustainability, hence his call to move from "green" to "evergreen revolution" and to provide policy support for the pricing, storage, marketing, and processing of agricul-

tural produce. It is this strategy, founded on a "systems approach to agriculture, that made his role so unique and left lasting footprints.

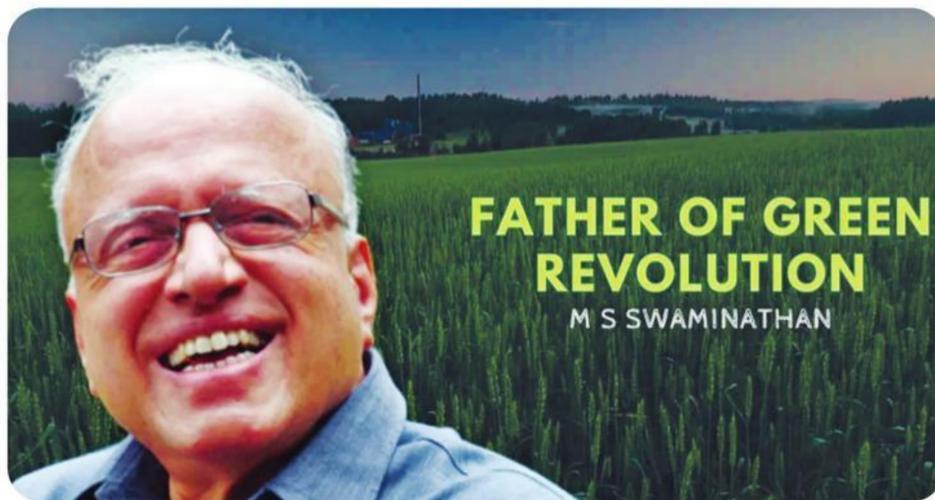
Like a 'Karma Yogi', Dr Swaminathan pursued his goal of farmer welfare through technological empowerment with policy support to ensure that the farmers receive a remunerative price of at least 50 per cent more than the cost of cultivation. His work as Chairman of the Commission on Farmers set up by the Government of India will be remembered for this policy shift towards farmer welfare. Later, as the mentor of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, which he created with his own earnings, he addressed the core issues of nutritional security and sustainable development of farming systems in Asia.

Dr Swaminathan would be remembered as one who not only raised the productivity of Asian agriculture but also made Asians aware of the imperatives of "conservation" of ecology, which is evident from his pioneering role in putting in place the Coastal Regulation Zone in India. The UN Environment Programme described him as "the father of economic ecology", as the concept of "ecological security, the framework of all development, is implicit in all his work.

It is our duty to recall how great Dr Swaminathan's pioneering role was and its impact on the development of Assam and the north-east, right from his stint in the 1950s at the Rice Research Centre at Cuttack in Odisha.

Since the footprints of Dr Swaminathan have been so many over decades, an attempt is made here to highlight only some of these that shaped and continue to shape agriculture and rural development in the north east.

Upgradation of the research and development capacity of Assam Agricultural University, which took place soon after its establishment in 1969 under a state act with World Bank assistance extended by the bank's soft



lending associate, the International Development Association, under the IDA-1973 Education Project. This was possible because of the strong recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture to the World Bank that Dr Swaminathan ensured. Implicit in it was his appreciation of the pivotal role of the first Agricultural University of the north east. His convocation address at the Assam Agricultural University soon after laid down its growth path. This paved the way for the involvement of the World Bank in agriculture and rural development in Assam under the IDA-supported Assam Agricultural Development Project in 1976-77, which introduced the Training and Visit system of agricultural extension with regular links with research developed by the distinguished Israeli scientist Dr Daniel Benor and a shallow tubed-based minor irrigation programme for raising farm productivity.

In the same way, Dr Swaminathan's guidance and support led to the establishment of the first Central Agricultural University in the north east at Imphal in Manipur in 1992. The successful introduction of wheat in the Imphal valley in the 1970s paved the way for Rabi crops in the region. These measures, plus the huge support of the ICAR system provided to state agricultural research in a broad sense, raised the regional R&D capability. Initiatives in introducing new crops such as wheat in the Rabi season in Assam and Manipur, as well as high-yielding varieties of rice, under a package of practices, brought a green revolution to Assam, Tripura, and Manipur valleys.

In Assam, this was achieved under the dynamic leadership of R. Natatarajan, the then Secretary Agriculture Department, in 1973 under an Emergency Rabi Programme to meet the shortage of food grains caused by floods, which included for the first time in Assam a "shallow tube well" programme to enable farmers to grow a Rabi crop after harvest of the Kharif crop under assured irrigation.

A most remarkable feature of the personality of Dr Swaminathan was his remarkable leadership quality. The letter I received from Dr Swaminathan soon after I took over as Secretary of Agriculture, Assam, will forever remain ingrained in my mind, as by sharing his vision of the development of agriculture in Assam, he gave us a feeling of being a part of the national efforts that he led.

There was, however, no shortage of sceptics who felt that the agro-climatic conditions of Assam would not allow a "green revolution", as fertilisers would be washed away during rains in the Kharif season and wheat would be damaged by early rains before harvest. They quoted low rice productivity—about one Mt/ha—that is, about 18-20 lakh Mt of rice annually in Assam's 20 lakh hectares of rice-growing land and 7-8 kg/ha consumption of NPK—chemical fertilisers, which was even lower in other NE states. Subsequent developments, however, proved that such negative ideas were wrong.

Perhaps the most appropriate way to pay homage to the memory of Dr M. S. Swaminathan and his work is to quote the very title of his remarkable 1999 publication, "I predict a Century of Hope, Harmony with Nature, and Freedom from Hunger" (East West Books (Madras) Pvt Ltd), as it neatly sums up the philosophy and enduring legacy of M. S. Swaminathan.

The author, a retired IAS officer had served as secretary to the govt. of Assam Agriculture etc departments and director general, Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, govt of India

'CANNOT EXPRESS MY FEELINGS IN WORDS'

Following his side's playoff qualification with a win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Royal Challengers Bengaluru, pacer Yash Dayal expressed how teammate Mohammed Siraj helped him off the field and reflected on his journey as a player with the Red and Gold franchise. In a video posted on the Indian Premier League (IPL) official X handle, Dayal said, "I cannot express my feeling in words. When I threw that last ball, I do not know what happened later. It was a roller coaster ride. I had to keep my emotions aside. I kept myself calm. Virat came to me and talked to me. I just had to execute well. This all works as a youngster." "Siraj has helped me a lot off the field. He is an inspiration. I am glad to be a part of this team," he added.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Hemant Muddappa breaks national record at 10th Vroom Drag meet:

Hemant Muddappa, a 12-time National champion, was in his element once again becoming the fastest quarter-mile in India as he broke the national record at the 10th edition of the Vroom Drag meet. On his way to winning the grand triple in the Bikes Open event which is held along with the Round 1 of the FMSCI Indian National 4w Drag Championship at the Taneja air strip, near Hosur on Sunday. Muddappa of Mantra Racing set a time of 09.264seconds in the Super Sport 4stroke 1051 to 1650cc class to break the previous record of 9.298sec set at the same Taneja track by Jordanian Fahim Zahrani in 2023. Foreign riders are allowed in the Open events by FMSCI, the Indian Federation. The Bengaluru-based champion put the 2024 Suzuki Hayabusa built by Mantra Racing to good use, touching top speeds of 270kph.

Awareness walk: An International multicity awareness walk was organised by the Abdominal Cancer Trust in Lodhi Garden on World Abdominal Cancer Day, where thousands of people walked 3 km appealing to the masses to stay healthy and fit by walking. Thousands of people in Delhi including Mumbai, Surat, Bangalore, Jaipur, Nagpur, and Bhavnagar as well as in other cities including Oxford, London, Manchester and New York also walked 3 km with the message of staying fit.

IPL: Abhishek, Klaassen power SRH to 4-wkt win over Punjab

A scintillating half-century by opener Abhishek Sharma guided Sunrisers Hyderabad to a comfortable four-wicket win over Punjab Kings in the IPL match at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, 19 MAY

A scintillating half-century by opener Abhishek Sharma guided Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to a comfortable four-wicket win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Sunday. SRH finished their league stage campaign with 17 points in 14 matches and is currently placed at second spot in the points table.

Chasing 215 on their home ground, Hyderabad suffered an early blow as they lost opener Travis Head (0) on the first ball of the innings -- Arshdeep Singh clinching the wicket for Punjab. After Rahul Tripathi joined Abhishek in the middle, the duo kept the scoring rate high, firing boundaries at regular intervals. In no time, SRH crossed the 50-run mark and went into cruise mode before Harshal Patel gave PBKS a respite with the wicket of Tripathi in the fifth over. He was dismissed for 33 runs which included four fours and two sixes.

Nitish Reddy came in next and kept the momentum going as SRH posted their third-highest power-play total, scoring 84-2 in six overs. Abhishek slammed his third fifty of the season, off 21 balls. He scored 66 runs in 28 balls including six sixes and five fours before losing his wicket to Shashank Singh in the 11th over. During



his knock, he also created history by becoming the first Indian batter to smash 39 sixes in an IPL season. Previously, Virat Kohli held the record with 38 maximums in the 2016 edition of the tournament.

Nitish and Heinrich Klaassen continued the onslaught. Reddy played a 37-run knock while Klaassen scored 42 off 26 runs to keep them ahead in the chase. Despite losing Shabaz Ahmed (3) and Klaassen (42) in the death overs, the win was a cakewalk for the home franchise. In the end, Abdul Samad (11*) and Sanvir Singh (6*) remained unbeaten as Hyderabad crossed the target with five balls to spare. For Hyderabad, Arshdeep and Harshal

bagged two scalps apiece.

Earlier, Prabhsimran Singh's half-century coupled with Rilee Rossouw's 49 powered Punjab Kings to 214/5.

Playing his second game of the season, left-handed opener Atharva Taide along with partner Prabhsimran gave PBKS a blazing start. The openers scored at the rate of over 10 runs per over to make the most of the power-play field restrictions. After six overs, Punjab were 61 for no loss. Pacer T. Natrajan finally broke the partnership in the 10th over as Taide hit the ball into the hands of Sanvir Singh at point.

Rilee Rossouw joined Prabhsimran in the middle and carried the momentum forward. Meanwhile, the latter also completed his second half-century of the season.

The batters steered Punjab to the 150-run mark and stitched a 54-run partnership for the second wicket before Prabhsimran departed after scoring a 45-ball 71 studded with seven fours and four sixes. This time, Sri Lanka spinner Vijayakanth Vijayakanth did the job for the home team.

The in-form Shashank Singh (2) failed to make his final game of the season memorable as his stay at the crease only lasted for four balls following a mix-up with Rossouw between the wickets in the 16th over. Meanwhile, SRH skipper Pat Cummins trapped

Rossouw on a slow full-toss in the 18th over and left Punjab without a set-batter for the final overs. The South African batter played a knock of 49 runs off 24 balls including four sixes and three fours.

Ashutosh Sharma (2) lost his wicket cheaply to Natrajan in pursuit of scoring at a brisk pace. In the end, stand-in captain Jitesh Sharma's cameo of 14-ball 26 not out, laced with two sixes and as many fours, enabled them to touch the 200-run mark in the final over of the innings.

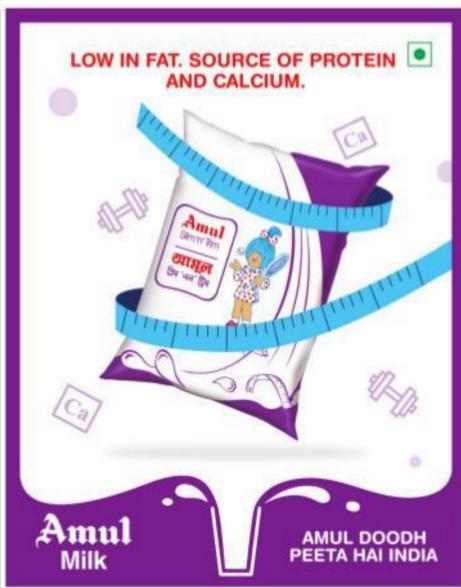
KKR-RR match called off

The final league stage match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at Guwahati was called off due to rain on Sunday, with both teams getting one point each.

With one more point in their kitty, KKR remains at the top with 20 points from nine wins, three losses and two no results. RR is at the third spot, with 17 points from eight wins, five losses and one no result.

With this, the playoff match-ups have been decided as well. KKR will take on second-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad in the first qualifier at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on 21 May.

In the other match, the eliminator on 22 May, also in Ahmedabad, RR will be taking on fourth-placed Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).



Tvesa's cards 67, rises to T21 in German Masters on Ladies European Tour

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Tvesa Malik fired an eagle on her way to a round of 5-under 67 in the third round of the Amundi German Masters Brandenburg

It was her best round in almost four years on the LET, though she had a 65 in South Africa in February. She moved from T-55 to T-21 with one round to go.

She has a multiple winner on India's Hero Women's Pro Tour, recorded her first international win on the Sunshine Ladies Tour in South Africa at the SuperSport Ladies Challenge in February this year.

Pranavi Urs (71) and Diksha Dagar (73), the other two

Indians to make the cut, were T-31 and T-43.

Four other Indian starters Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall, Sneha Singh and amateur Avani Prashanth did not make the cut.

Local star Alexandra Försterling (69) and Austrian Emma Spitz (66) were in shared lead at seven-under-par after 54 holes.

Tvesa had four birdies in the first six holes and overall she had an eagle and five birdies against two bogeys. The eagle came on the first hole, her 10th hole, as she started on the tenth.

Pranavi had seven birdies against four bogeys and a double, while Diksha had three birdies against four bogeys in her 73.

Thailand Open badminton: Chirag-Satwik win second doubles title of the year

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

World number 3 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the Thailand Open badminton doubles title outplaying China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the final on Sunday.

Playing at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok, the Indians beat their 29th-ranked opponents 21-15, 21-15 in 36 minutes.

This was the second title of the 2024 badminton season for Chirag and Satwik and the second Thailand Open title.

They lost the Malaysia Open and India Open finals earlier this year before winning the French Open in March.

The Indians first Super 500 title on the BWF World Tour came at the Thailand Open in 2019. The 2024 Thailand Open final marked the Indian duo's



fifth appearance in a BWF Super 500 summit clash and they emerged victorious in all of them. "Thailand Open has been a special tournament for us as we won our first Super 500 crown here and have won many more tournaments thereafter," Satwiksairaj Rankireddy said after winning the title. "We are hoping that this victory will start another winning run for us."

With 9200 ranking points from the tournament, the Indian badminton players

are expected to regain the world No. 1 rank next week.

Overall, this was Satwik and Chirag's eighth title on the BWF World Tour. The Indians bagged the Swiss Open, the Indonesia Open and the Korea Open last year.

In the earlier rounds at the Thailand Open the Asian Games champions defeated Malaysia's Tan Wee Kiong and Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub in their opener and China's Xie Hao Nan and Zeng Wei Han in the second round.

Junior men's team all set for Europe series

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

The Indian Junior Men's Hockey team is all set to begin their tour of Europe on Monday as part of their preparation for the upcoming international season.

With matches scheduled on 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 28th and 29th May, the players will look to make the best use of the opportunity to hone their skills.

The team, led by Rohit, with Shardanand Tiwari named as Vice-Captain, will be playing matches in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands as part of Hockey India's initiative to help the team gain exposure and build on experience.

The goalkeeping department will be commanded by Prince Deep Singh and Bikramjit Singh while Shardanand Tiwari, Yogendra Rawat, Anmol Ekka, Rohit, Manoj Yadav and Talem Priyo Barta have been picked as the



defenders.

Ankit Pal, Roshan Kujur, Bipin Billavara Ravi, Mukesh Toppo, Manmeet Singh and

Vachan H A make up the midfield.

The forwards named in the squad are Sourabh Anand

Kushwaha, Arshdeep Singh, Gurjot Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad, Dilraj Singh and Gursewak Singh.

The team will play their first match on 20th May against Belgium in Antwerp, Belgium before playing the same opponents in Breda, Netherlands on 22nd May.

They will then play the Netherlands' Club team Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push in Breda on 23rd May followed by a game against Germany on 28th May in Germany.

The Indian Colts will then return to Breda to play Germany once again on 29th May in their final match of the tour.

After a preparatory camp in Bengaluru where the players worked together on the various aspects of the game, they will look to execute their strategies come match day. The tour is of immense significance to the squad before the upcoming season.

They will look at it as a

chance to test themselves against top teams from other parts of the world and gain an understanding of what works for the team and what can be added to the repertoire.

Captain Rohit, ahead of the tour, said, "Our main goal would be to implement our strategies as a team and see how we can work on them against good opponents.

We will also look at it as an opportunity for each of us to identify how we can develop our game. It is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to gain some vital exposure heading into the season."

"All of us here have trained together for a while now. We have a really good understanding of each one's game and know what we need to do to get the best out of each other. We will use this tour to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses and see what would work best going forward," added Vice-Captain Shardanand Tiwari.

Poeple will remember this RCB team for decades: Dinesh Karthik after their sensational comeback

HARPAL SINGH BEDI
NEW DELHI, 19 MAY

Veteran wicket keeper Dinesh Karthik has asserted that sensational comeback by Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL 2024 will remain etched in the memory of cricket fans in the years to come.

"It is incredible comeback" he insisted

RCB created history at Chinnaswamy Stadium, storming into the IPL playoffs with six wins in six games and Dinesh Karthik told his teammates that people will remember this RCB team for a long time to come.

And not only people, even other teams in future will be inspired by the incredible turnaround his team have achieved this season, Karthik told the RCB dressing room.

Every year in this tournament, when you hit the seven-game mark, there will be one or two teams which would have



Hailing RCB as the best fielding unit, Karthik mentioned the catching heroics of Faf du Plessis and Swapnil Singh

probably won one or two and they will look to us and say, 'RCB did it. That was special. We are going to try and repeat what RCB did.' And that is what we all play cricket for, sport for, where people follow us and believe us that they can do something special. It is hard. It is not going to be easy, I can tell any team that. What we have achieved today is very, very special. We should be really proud of ourselves, winning six out of six," Karthik said.

Heading onto the Eliminator in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, Karthik feels RCB have given themselves the opportunity to achieve something extraordinary that their

feats will remain on people's minds for years.

"When we get on that flight to Ahmedabad, we have a job to do. We have it within our grasp to do something that people will remember us for many decades. It will be a journey where people will say, 'wow, that RCB team was special.' We are on that journey. We can do something really special if we put our minds to it. Nothing different. Just the same thing, over and over and over again. We will be the team that other teams look at," Karthik said.

What made RCB's passage to the playoffs even more special was that it came against the defending champions from Chennai, with whom RCB have had a long-standing rivalry. Adding to the challenge was the fact that RCB's batting build-up was interrupted by a rain break, and they had to contend with the turning ball in changed conditions

upon resumption.

"We have to understand the gravity of this game. This has been one of the marquee games for many, many years. It is fair to say they have found a way sometimes to get ahead of us. Coming into this game there was a sense of quiet confidence about us, playing the defending champions, and the way we played we should be really proud of ourselves, right up to the last ball," Karthik said.

Hailing RCB as the best fielding unit, Karthik mentioned the catching heroics of Faf du Plessis and Swapnil Singh.

"We can proudly say we are the best fielding team in this tournament without a doubt. That catch, Faf, was special. Swapnil's catch as well, when it mattered the most, that was serious. And my keeping, that was outstanding! Most importantly as a team we did phenomenally well, staying

there in the game," Karthik said, while also praising Yash Dayal on his excellent last over for closing out the game.

Karthik said another team could have settled for a total of 150 considering the changed conditions after the rain, but RCB had overcome them and put on a show for their 12th Man Army.

"What makes today really special according to me is that a lot of things went against what you would have ideally wanted. For a start, Faf, with the toss. But then we showed why we are so special as a team in this journey.

Even though it turned, we had a rain break, we had to go, start again, just the way Virat and Faf played the next three overs made it feel like 140-150 could be a decent total. Most teams would have thought about that and we would have thought about that for a second as well, he concluded.