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## Wildfire claims another life in Almora, toll 6

A man died while trying to douse the wildfire that broke out near Khai Katti village in Almora on Thursday evening, sources in the forest department said on Friday. The toll from forest fires in Uttarakhand now stands at six fatalities, with five in the state's Kumaon region and one in Garhwal. **P13**

## Man held after pet bites boy in Noida

A resident of Noida's Sorkha was arrested on Friday, days after his pet dog, believed to be pit bull, bit an 8-year-old boy. The boy's father alleged the dog was never muzzled, and attacked anyone who would approach. **P7**

## WA, FB, Insta to be under regulation?

OTT services such as WhatsApp, Signal, Facebook, Instagram and X may come under a regulatory regime, with Trai looking to conduct open-house discussion and come out with recommendations. **P10**

## Alamgir quizzed amid exit rumours

ED on Friday began interrogating arrested Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam in a corruption and laundering case amid rumours of his resignation on social media. Raj Bhavan denied such claims. **P18**

# ED names CM, AAP as accused in fresh excise policy chargesheet

## 1st Party To Be Charged In A PMLA Case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a fresh chargesheet against CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) before a special court here in the capital's excise policy case, spelling out his alleged role in money laundering. Though the agency did not disclose details of the charges slapped on Kejriwal, sources said he has been accused in his "personal capacity" as well as for "vicarious

## PARTY RISKS FACING EC ACTION?

In its 7th supplementary chargesheet in the case, ED has invoked Sec 70 of PMLA, which deals with companies, to make AAP an accused. Arvind Kejriwal, as party chief and its national convener, held responsible by agency for all irregularities of AAP and for alleged kickbacks received from a liquor lobby & used for the party's Goa poll campaign. Once charges are framed in court under PMLA, AAP might risk facing action from EC. While there's no legal provision to de-recognise a party for graft, Art 324 gives EC discretionary powers to do so.



## AAP: Agency will now seize our properties, a/cs

Calling the fresh chargesheet a part of a "grand political conspiracy", AAP alleged ED was functioning like BJP's political wing and said the "in-ED: Found audio clip of CM & hawala operator, P 6

# Explain increase in voting % days after polling, SC tells EC

## Hears ADR Plea, Gives Poll Body Till May 24 To Reply

Dhananjay Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday sought Election Commission's response to the application by an NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, expressing apprehension about possible replacement of electronic voting machines citing the big increase in final voting percentage figures days after polling. A bench of CJID Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra ordered the EC to file its response to ADR's application by

## Ph 4 turnout 69.2%, highest till now; more women than men voted in all Bihar phases

The fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls on Monday saw 69.2% voter turnout, the highest among the four phases so far, latest data released by the Election Commission on Friday showed. More women than men voted in all three phases of polls in Bihar, where voting was held for 15 seats in the second, third and fourth phases, showed the data. According to EC data till 11.45 pm on Tuesday, the day after the fourth phase of polling, the turnout was estimated at 68.9%. An EC official said the poll panel expects the voting percentage to increase further in the next three phases. **P18**

May 24, when it will be heard by a vacation bench during the court's summer break, which commences from Monday. ADR has sought a direction to the EC to publish voting data within 48 hours of close of polling. When the bench asked "what is the difficulty in putting the turnout data on the website", the EC counsel said it "took time as we have to collect a lot of data". On April 26, the SC had dismissed ADR's plea for return to ballot papers and its suspension of EVMs. **P18**

## 'Fake encounter', allege kin of man killed by cops

Mystery shrouds the death of 24-year-old Ajay who was shot by some cops in northwest Delhi Thursday night. His family alleged it was a "fake encounter" and claimed he was caught days before and killed in cold blood. A magisterial inquiry has been initiated. Ajay was said to be a neighbour of gangster Himanshu alias Bhau Ritolia. Cops claimed he was involved in a murder case in Haryana and a firing incident in west Delhi. **P4**

## 'Every day counts': SC for speedy bail plea hearing

New Delhi: Observing that "every single day counts in matters concerning liberty of citizens", Supreme Court on Friday said expeditious hearing should be granted on a plea of Amandeep Singh Dhall, an accused in Delhi liquor policy case, seeking bail. The apex court disapproved of Delhi HC keeping his bail petition pending for nearly 11 months and asked it to take a decision on it before the court's summer recess. **TNN**

## Spain rejects Chennai-Haifa ship with arms

Spain has refused permission for a ship from Chennai, carrying arms to Haifa in Israel, to dock at a Spanish port. Danish-flagged Marianne Danica, with 27 tonnes of explosives according to a report, was to dock in Cartagena May 21. "The foreign ministry will systematically reject such stopovers... Middle East does not need more weapons, it needs more peace," minister Jose Albares said. In Delhi, MEA said it is looking into the issue. **P19**

## No delay in publishing polling data, says EC

There has been controversy surrounding the publication of final voter turnout data in each phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha election, with the issue now in Supreme Court. After Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge raised questions, the Election Commission sent a strong rebuttal. Dipak Dash reports on EC's explanation of final voter turnout being published days after polling and why figures change. **P18**

## No. of votes up 1.07cr after updated figures from EC for 4 phases

An analysis of turnout numbers put out by the Election Commission late night of the day of polling in each phase and the latest updated numbers shows that the difference could be approximated to 1.07 crore votes over the first four phases of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. That's an average of over 28,000 votes per constituency for the 379 that have finished polling. And it's about 2.3% of total votes cast so far. The average is roughly 73,000 for Assam, 69,000 for Andhra and 57,000 for Kerala. In Karnataka and Maharashtra, it is close to the 50,000 mark. The variation in the Hindi heartland states was on the lower side. **P18**

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SUNRISE 5.29AM (SUN) MOONRISE 2.32AM (SAT)

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**231**  
AQI IN DELHI ON FRIDAY (POOR CATEGORY)

Over 75 calls related to fire incidents on season's hottest day | 9



Gangster Kala Jathedi discharged by court in illegal arms case | 7

# Maliwal Builds Her Case, AAP Says Pack Of Lies

In FIR, She Alleges Assault And Abuse By Bibhav 'Without Provocation'; Court Statement Non-Retractable

**Cops: 'Email from Bibhav' alleges bid to frame him**

Continued from P1

Bibhav Kumar told me, "You can't spoil anything for us. We will break your bones and bury and dump you in such a place that no one will ever get to know", the FIR quotes Maliwal as saying. It claims that Maliwal pleaded she was on her periods but the assault did not stop.

Bibhav has been booked under IPC Section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) besides Section 354B (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to disrobe her). Both sections are non-bailable.

Maliwal's medical examination took place at AIIMS Trauma Centre early on Friday. A CT scan and MRI were conducted and the reports are awaited. An initial report mentions bruises on cheeks and legs, side of the head and chest. The MLC states history of "having been hit multiple times on the chest with a hard object besides injuries to thighs, neck and pelvis". Maliwal was seen walking with a limp in the court on Friday.

Police got Maliwal's statement recorded at Tis Hazari courts under 164 CrPC which is non-retractable. The person can be prosecuted for perjury if s/he goes back on the statement.

She was taken to the CM's residence around 5pm and asked to narrate the sequence of events that transpired last Monday. The scene there was videographed.

Police will now record the statements of people who were present at the CM's residence at the time of the incident. The list of people whom the cops plan to question include Kejrival, his family, staffers and security personnel, said a senior cop.

According to the FIR, Maliwal has said that she visited the residence of Kejrival at 6, Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines, around 9am on May 13. "I went inside the camp office and called up CM's PA, Bibhav Kumar, but could not get through. I then sent a message on his mobile number (through WhatsApp). However, there was no response. I then stepped through the main door of the CM's house as I have always done in the past year," she said.

<b>Date of incident</b> May 13 2024	<b>Time of incident</b> 9AM	<b>Place of incident</b> Residence of Arvind Kejrival, CM	<b>Location</b> 6, Flagstaff Road, Civil Lines
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## WHAT MALI WAL SAYS HAPPENED

**MONDAY**

### At the CM residence

Swati Maliwal goes inside camp office of Kejrival, calls CM's PA Bibhav Kumar but couldn't get through

She sent a message on his mobile number through WhatsApp, but got no response

She goes inside the residential area through the main door of the CM's house

She informs the staff present there to tell the CM that she is there to meet him

She is told that he is present in the house and is asked to wait in the drawing room

She goes to the drawing room and sits on the sofa, waiting for the CM to meet

Maliwal alleges Kumar arrives at the scene and assaults her



## Police get involved

Maliwal dials 112 and informs police about the assault

In PCR call, she claims it was on CM's behest

Takes an auto to the police station, tells what happened to the SHO verbally

She is seen on CCTV crying in front of cops, was visibly in distress

Leaves the police station without filing a complaint, goes home

## Tuesday & Wednesday | Police try to contact her, she remains unreachable

**THURSDAY**

Police approach her again at her residence, she gives her statement

An FIR is filed based on her complaint against Kumar

Cops invoke sections of molestation, attempt to commit culpable homicide and criminal intimidation

Maliwal taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre for medical examination; her MRI, CT scan and other tests conducted

Cops go to Kumar's house to serve notice to him late at night



At the Tis Hazari court



Photos: PTI

**FRIDAY**

Maliwal's statement recorded before the court under 164 CrPC

Cops visit CM's residence - with forensic officials

Maliwal taken to CM's residence in the evening for crime scene recreation

Cops start to look for Kumar, last mobile location traced to Amritsar

Cops receive a mail purportedly from Kumar's ID, alleging a frame-up

**"Bibhav Kumar told me, 'You can't spoil anything for us. We will break your bones and bury and dump you in such a place that no one will ever get to know'"**

-SWATI MALI WAL

**"BJP hatched a conspiracy under which Swati Maliwal was sent to Arvind Kejrival's house on the morning of May 13, without a prior appointment. She is the face and the pawn of this conspiracy"**

-ATISHI

## A POLICE OFFICER SAYS

Police will now record the statements of people who were present at the CM's residence at the time of the incident. The list of people whom the cops plan to question include Kejrival, his family, staffers and security personnel

stunned by this sudden misbehaviour and I reacted by telling him to stop talking to me like that and to call the CM. He kept saying "Tu hamari baat kaise nahi maanenge... Teri auaqat kya hai... Samajhti kya hai khud ko neech aurat...Tujhe to hum sabak sikhayenge."

Uttering expletives, Bibhav advanced and stood right in front of her, Maliwal has alleged. "Without any provo-

cation whatsoever on my side, he started slapping me with full force. He slapped me 7-8 times at least while I continued screaming. I felt absolutely numb and shocked and was screaming for help over and over again," she said.

She has claimed that in order to protect herself, she tried to kick him away. At this, he allegedly pounced on her. "He brutally dragged me... I landed on the floor after hitting my head on the centre table. I was constantly screaming for help but no one

came," she has told the cops. "Bibhav Kumar did not relent and kicked me repeatedly in chest, stomach and pelvic area. I was in extreme pain and kept telling him to stop," Maliwal has been quoted as saying. Somehow, she managed to extricate herself.

She has said that she then sat on the sofa and picked up her spectacles that had fallen on the ground during the assault. "I was in a terrible state of shock at this unprovoked attack. I was deeply traumatised and called 112 and re-

ported the crime against me. Bibhav threatened me, saying: 'I was free to do what I could... You can't do anything to us... Teri haddi pasli tudwa denge and aisi jagah gaadenge ki kisi ko pata bhi nahi chalega,' Maliwal is quoted as saying in the FIR.

She has said that when Bibhav realised that she had called 112, he went out of the room, only to return with security personnel from the main gate. "They asked me to leave at the behest of Bibhav. I kept telling them that I had been brutally beaten up and they should look at my condition and wait till the PCR arrived. However, they asked me to leave the premises. I was taken outside the CM's residence and I sat briefly on the floor outside his house as I was in deep pain," she claimed.

"The PCR came but I was dazed and walked towards my previous residence at Civil Lines. I was crying and somehow managed to reach my earlier residence. I sat on the ground there for some time and some police personnel who had accompanied me from the CM's house called an auto for me on my request," she told the cops.

Maliwal went to the Civil Lines police station and informed the SHO about the incident. "I was in terrible pain and was having severe cramps. I also started receiving a lot of calls from the media on my mobile. Due to extreme trauma and pain and not wanting to politicise the incident, I left the police station without filing a written complaint. I had a splitting headache and my arms, legs and abdomen were aching terribly due to the assault. The past few days since the incident have been extremely painful for me."

"It is one of the most difficult times of my life. The pain, trauma and harassment has been mind-numbing," she said. "My head and neck have been hurting constantly since the attack. My arms are very sore and my abdomen is also aching. I am also having difficulty in walking. My situation is exacerbated by the fact that having worked all my life for women issues and having helped lakhs of women get justice, I ended up being brutally beaten by a person whom I have known for a long time."

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police on Friday received an email purportedly from Bibhav Kumar, who is accused of assaulting AAP MP Swati Maliwal, in which he alleged a frame-up. "We will look into the complaint once we catch hold of Kumar and confirm if he was the one who sent the mail," said a senior police officer.

In the email, the sender, who identified himself as Kumar, claimed that he was threatened and assaulted by Maliwal on Monday. The mail alleged that Maliwal had arrived at the CM's residence without an appointment or a meeting being scheduled. When stopped, Maliwal insisted on entering the premises, insisting she had an appointment.

**In the email, the sender, who identified himself as Kumar, claimed that he was threatened and assaulted by Maliwal on Monday. The mail alleged that Maliwal had arrived at the CM's residence without an appointment**

The mail sender maintained that Maliwal forced her way into the CM's residence. "The security staff asked her to wait in the waiting area, after which she started abusing the office staff. Despite strong objections, she stormed into the main building," the mail says, adding that Kumar learnt of this and arrived to tell her that she didn't have an appointment, in reply to which she said, "How dare you stop a member of Parliament? What do you think your status is?"

The mail claims that Kumar didn't react to her abuses but politely requested her to leave. "She told me, I will see you. I will entangle you in such a false case that you will forever rot in jail," the sender said, adding that she also threatened the security staff. The mail asked police to probe Maliwal's connection with BJP, suspecting that the incident happened at that party's behest.

# Video from Kejrival's house emerges, Maliwal says shared 'without context'

Ridhima.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** On Friday morning, a video surfaced that purportedly showed Swati Maliwal at CM Arvind Kejrival's residence on the day of her alleged assault by Bibhav Kumar, the CM's aide. In it, Maliwal is heard arguing heatedly with the security staff.

In the purported video, while the security staff is requesting the MP to leave the living room where she was sitting, Maliwal is heard saying, "Mai tumhari bhi naukri khaungi agar mujhe touch kara toh (I will get you terminated from your job if you touch me)."

Maliwal says she has called the police control room and would wait till the police arrive. "I will tell everyone. Let me talk to your DCP." In a 52-second purported video, while the MP dares the security staff to "throw her outside", one of the personnel says they won't take such a step.

Several AAP functionaries later took to Twitter to share the video.

Soon after, Maliwal claimed that AAP was trying to save "the goon" by characterising her as a "BJP agent". On X, Maliwal claimed the video had been shared "without any context" by people loyal to the "political hitman" to save him. She, however, didn't name anyone in her tweet. The tweet, in Hindi, said, "Like every time, this time too, this political hitman has started the effort to save himself. By getting his people to tweet an incomplete and out-of-context video, he thinks he will be able to save himself."

The AAP MP added, "Koi kisi ki pit te hue video banana hai kya? Ghar ke andar ki or baki kamre ki CCTV footage ki jach ke baad satya sabke samne aa jayega (Does anyone make a video of someone getting beaten up? Once the CCTV footage of the CM's residence is analysed, the truth will come out into the open)." After she told police that she was slapped "seven or eight times" and "brutally grabbed" by Kumar, an FIR was registered against the CM's PA.

Subsequent to Maliwal's tweets, minister Atishi held a press conference in which she described the MP's allegations as baseless. Thereafter, Maliwal again took to X to hit back at Atishi, saying a party worker with 20-year history was "declared a BJP agent" by functionaries who only "joined the party yesterday". The tweet further read, "This goon is threatening the party. If he is arrested, he will reveal all the secrets. That is why he is in Lucknow and everywhere seeking shelter." The post charged the party with saying "the goon" by questioning her character. "No problem, I have been fighting alone for the women of the entire country and I will fight for myself too. Do character assassination as much as possible, the truth will come out when the time comes," Maliwal wrote.

**Atishi: Maliwal reached without appointment, threatened staff**

Continued from P1

Earlier on Friday, a video had surfaced on the internet, purportedly from the day of the alleged assault at Kejrival's residence. The video, captured on a mobile phone, showed Maliwal and the security staff engaged in an argument.

"BJP hatched a conspiracy under which Maliwal was sent to Kejrival's house on the morning of May 13 without a prior appointment. She is the face and pawn of this conspiracy. They intended to frame the CM but he was not available and hence saved. After that, Maliwal framed Bibhav Kumar," Atishi alleged.

The minister claimed the video had "exposed" Maliwal's "lies" before the country. Holding up a copy of Maliwal's FIR in the assault case, Atishi said the reality was totally contrary to the allegations made by Maliwal.

"In her complaint, Maliwal says she was brutally beaten up and was not able to speak. In the video, Maliwal can be seen sitting comfortably in the drawing room of the CM's residence and threatening the police personnel. She is also seen threatening and abusing Bibhav Kumar in the video. Neither are her clothes torn, nor is there any injury on her head," Atishi alleged.

Atishi claimed Maliwal had reached the CM's residence on May 13 and told the security personnel that she had an appointment. When they cross-checked and found there was no such appointment, Maliwal threatened them saying she was a Rajya Sabha member and forcefully entered the premises.

Atishi said Maliwal was initial-

ly made to sit in the waiting room, where she demanded that the CM should meet her. During this time, Bibhav also reached the CM's residence. When she was told to leave and take a proper appointment before coming to meet him, Atishi alleged that Maliwal forcibly entered the main residence building and sat in the drawing room.



The minister claimed the video had 'exposed' Maliwal's 'lies'

When asked why Sanjay Singh, senior party functionary and an MP, had at a press conference on Tuesday accepted that Bibhav had "misbehaved" with Maliwal and that the CM had taken cognisance of it and action would be taken against him, Atishi said he had gone by Maliwal's claims when he met her at her residence on Monday evening.

"But now he has heard Bibhav Kumar's side of the story, and this video has exposed all the false claims of Maliwal," Atishi said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva asked where Atishi was three days ago when Singh gave his statement. "Today, when Maliwal's case is tightening the noose and Arvind Kejrival is surrounded by suspicion, Atishi is making such statements out of disappointment and despair," Sachdeva said.



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	Artistic textiles	01
	Handmade Carpet/Rug/Durries	01
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	Miscellaneous crafts	01
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	Divyang artisan	01
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	Tribal artisan	01
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3	Start-up Ventures/ Producer Company	01
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2. For more information regarding eligibility criteria, age, experience, application form etc., details can be seen & downloaded from the website of Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) ([www.handicrafts.nic.in](http://www.handicrafts.nic.in)) followed by click on 'advertisement'. For any information/assistance, applicant may contact nearest Handicrafts Service Centre (HSC).

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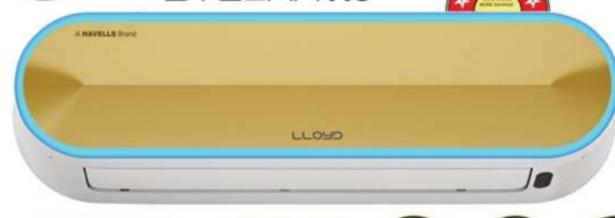


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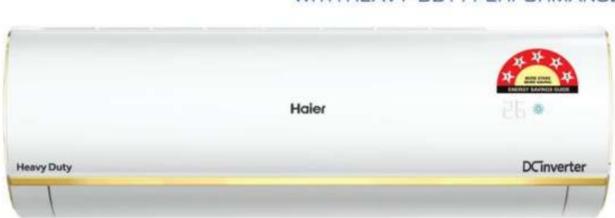


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# CM Supporting A Perpetrator, Says NCW Chief

## Commission Serves Second Summons To Bibhav Kumar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** On a day when AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal in a sharp attack on Delhi CM's trusted aide Bibhav Kumar called him a "political hitman", National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma trained her guns at Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that his silence indicated that "he has chosen his side" and "instead of supporting a woman, he is supporting a perpetrator".

The NCW chief's remarks came in response to questions at a press conference where she said Bibhav had failed to appear before the commission on Friday in connection with the alleged assault.

The commission on Friday served a second notice summoning Bibhav to appear on Saturday failing which an NCW inquiry team plans to visit his house. Both notices were not accepted by those present in Bibhav's house and, therefore, NCW was forced to stick it on the gate.

As the controversy turned into a political slugfest between BJP and AAP, Sharma attacked Kejriwal in a post on X saying, "Shame on you. Your own woman MP was beaten inside your residence in your presence and you are busy asking votes accompanied by the accused himself," Sharma said as she shared a video of Kejriwal giving a speech while campaigning in Amritsar.

On if Delhi CM is protecting Bibhav, Sharma said, "I think he (Kejriwal) has chosen his side. He does not want



Rekha Sharma

to be on Maliwal's side. He believes in Bibhav more than Swati Maliwal." She alleged, "Instead of supporting a woman, he is supporting a perpetrator. He distributes freebies in the name of women, but when a woman is being beaten in his house, he turns a blind eye and takes no action against the man responsible."

When Bibhav failed to appear on Friday morning, NCW stated in a post, "Officers of NCW, along with the assistant commissioner of police of Civil Lines, attempted to serve a notice of hearing to Bibhav Kumar at his residence. When the occupants of the house refused to accept the notice, the officers affixed it on the gate of his residence. The hearing is scheduled for Saturday at the NCW office," Sharma told reporters, "If he does not appear by tomorrow, we will go personally to inquire."

"Despite our differences, we have always stood by each other...once she feels a bit better, I will personally meet Swati. I hope she is better now, but I understand it would take time for her to come out of the trauma," Sharma asserted.

# Kejriwal must apologise for moving around with accused, says Sitharaman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Expressing concern and dismay over "brutal assault" on Aam Aadmi Party MP Swati Maliwal by the chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's trusted aide, Bibhav Kumar, BJP on Friday sought an apology from Kejriwal for moving around with the accused in Lucknow.

"Not a single word has been uttered by Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal over the attack on his party MP Swati Maliwal. It is totally unbelievable and unacceptable...Our entire party and personally are deeply saddened and concerned about the whole incident," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a press conference as she held Kejriwal personally responsible for the alleged assault that took place at the CM's official residence.

"It was deeply saddening to see that Swati Maliwal was not able to walk for medical check-up yesterday (Thursday), which showed how brutally she was assaulted. We de-



Nirmala Sitharaman

mand a clarification and apology from Kejriwal," she said. A day after Maliwal registered an FIR against Kumar, I&B minister Anurag Thakur also lashed out at Kejriwal, mocking the AAP chief and INDI Alliance as a whole for "patronising those responsible for physical violence against women".

"At the Delhi CM's residence, in front of the CM, his associate kicks and punches a woman MP of his own party, but instead of taking action on this, the entire INDI Alliance, including AAP, is maintaining deafening silence," Thakur alleged.

"These people, who pre-

tend to respect women, have been completely exposed in front of the public today. If these people cannot stand up against the atrocities committed against their own woman MP, then how will they stand up for the general public?" Thakur questioned.

Sitharaman cited charges of attack on women against several AAP functionaries to claim that it is an anti-women party. "In Lucknow, when Kejriwal was questioned about the Maliwal incident, he shamelessly turned his microphone away out of fear. Despite being a CM, he ignored the questions from the press. The women of Delhi are questioning how Kejriwal can provide security to women when such misconduct occurred with the former chairperson of the Delhi Women's Commission and a female Rajya Sabha member at the CM's residence," the minister said.

Delhi BJP president Vinendra Sachdeva said that minister Atishi was presenting a different narrative to protect Kumar. "Three days

ago, Sanjay Singh had admitted that an incident had occurred at the chief minister's residence, involving violence...Where was Atishi at that time?" he questioned.

"Today, as authorities are tightening the noose around Kejriwal, whose role is also under the scanner in the Maliwal's case, Atishi is issuing such statements out of disappointment and despair," he alleged.

Singh earlier stated that "Bibhav Kumar misbehaved with Maliwal on Monday at the CM's residence" and that "the AAP supremo would take strict action in the matter". On this, Atishi said that Singh had made his statement because he had heard only Maliwal's side of the story and not Bibhav's.

Sachdeva further said that the truth of this entire incident should come out and strict action should be taken against those found guilty in the matter. "Atishi should also answer why nothing has been said about this incident by the chief minister yet," he stated.

# Kin of youth killed in 'encounter' cry foul, probe initiated

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Mystery shrouds the death of 24-year-old Ajay who was shot by some police personnel in north-west Delhi on Thursday night. His family has alleged that it was a "fake encounter" and claimed he had been caught days before and killed in cold blood. A magisterial inquiry has been initiated.

An autopsy was conducted on Friday and a detailed report is awaited. It is suspected that Ajay was shot twice—once in the lower back and then on the right side of his chest.

Ajay, from Ritoli village in Rohtak, Haryana, was said to be a neighbour of gangster Himanshu alias Bhau Ritolia. Police claimed that he was involved in a murder case in Haryana, besides in an incident of firing at a second-hand car dealer's shop in west Delhi two weeks ago.

The encounter has courted controversy after Bhau and his associates released a statement through different social media handles and alleged that Ajay was picked up three days ago from Rajasthan's Mount Abu. "Ram Ram Bhaiyan, three days ago, our brother Ajay was arrested by Delhi Cell from Mount Abu, Rajasthan. He was not in possession of any weapon. This was a fake encounter," the gang posted. "It was your time, and you did wrong. We will surely give you an answer when the right time comes," it added.

The alleged encounter was carried out at an isolated location in Rohini's Sector 29 by the "counter-intelligence unit" comprising additional DCP Manishi Chandra, ACP Rahul Vikram, inspector Nishant Dahiya and others. The team then made a PCR call



around 11.55pm. "In the call made from 99536564\*\*", inspector Dahiya from CI unit in New Friends Colony reported that an encounter took place with a criminal in which he was injured by gunshots. The firing took place from both sides," an officer said.

"Ajay was shot at and was found unconscious at the scene. A PCR van took him to Ambekar Hospital where he was declared brought dead," said the officer, adding that the forensic team found 15 empty cartridge shells and a 9mm pistol on the spot.

"A Honda City car with registration number T012UP2024C, believed to be Ajay's, was found on the spot. Police's Scorpio SUV with registration number DL1CAD0349 was found in damaged condition with "bullet marks on the front windshield" and broken glass on the side window, the officer said.

# Case must be properly investigated: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Congress on Friday said the complaint given by AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal should be properly investigated and strict action should be taken against the accused.

Making his first statement in the case, Delhi Congress's interim president Devender Yadav said assumptions were being made during the last three days on alleged assault on Maliwal at chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence.

"The FIR was registered today and Swati Maliwal has given her statement. There

DELHI CONG PREZ SAYS

**The FIR was registered today and Maliwal has given her statement. There should be proper investigation in the case**

should be proper investigation in the case and strict action should be taken against the person responsible for it," Yadav said.

AAP and Congress have entered into an alliance in the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi with the two parties stitching a seat-sharing arrangement. Of seven Lok Sabha seats in

Delhi, AAP is contesting four seats, Congress has fielded candidates on three.

Yadav added that the Congress's stand was very clear on such issues and it stood by any woman who was subjected to atrocities and misconduct. He, however, added that there were only accusations so far in the Maliwal's case and the case required a detailed probe. "Clarity will emerge only after the investigation. But our stand is very clear. Swati Maliwal ji is a Rajya Sabha member, but even if an ordinary woman is harassed or misbehaved with, it will not be tolerated," he said.

Earlier, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, during a press conference, refused to comment on the case, saying that the meet was meant to discuss environmental issues.

On Thursday, Congress functionary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had expressed solidarity with Maliwal, with the Congress' women functionaries in Delhi echoing her.

"If any atrocity happens to any woman anywhere, we stand with the woman. I always stand with women—irrespective of which party they belong to. Secondly, AAP will discuss among themselves and make a decision. It is up to them," Vadra had told ANI.

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# HC seeks govt response over hospitals not treating minor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court on Friday sought govt's response on a plea by the kin of a minor boy denied treatment by two Delhi govt-run hospitals for want of cotton swabs and non-availability of doctors, calling the incident "shocking".

The plea seeks medical expenses' reimbursement and compensation for the boy. Justice Subramonium Prasad issued notice to Delhi govt asking it to file a status report within 10 days and added that it must also indicate the condition of other govt-run hospitals.

The petition informed court that the conduct of two Delhi govt-run hospitals - Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya - denying treatment to the petitioner, a school boy, for lack of cotton and non-availability of doctor is "illegal, arbitrary, mala fide, unethical and violates the fundamental right to health."

Represented by advocate Ashok Agarwal, the petition said it is a case of criminal negligence on the part of the hospitals and sought reimbursement of medical expenses of Rs 12,000 incurred and Rs 1 lakh as compensation to the child.

According to the plea, on April 1 when the child, a class III student, fell while playing at his school and fractured his left arm, he was rushed to Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan emergency ward where the doctors referred him to a higher centre.

The on-duty doctor wrote "Cotton NA" on the boy's emergency card and the boy was advised to buy the same, the plea said, adding that the boy's father, who works as a security guard, took him to Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya where they were told that "no doctor was available as it was already 5.30 pm" and doctors had "left the hospital at 3 pm". Left with no option, the petitioner was taken to a private clinic which then referred him to Chandra Laxmi Hospital where his left arm was plastered at midnight.

The plea said the child's mother, who works as a maid, borrowed Rs 12,000 from her employer to pay the bills. It claimed Delhi govt miserably failed to perform its constitutional obligation to provide "free and quality healthcare" to its residents.

Agarwal said they served a legal notice to the govt against denial of medical treatment at the two state-run hospitals and asked it to reimburse the expenses along with a compensation of Rs 1 lakh but no response was received.

# 4% of Ridge land diverted for construction in 9 years

Priyangi Agarwal @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Ridge Management Board (RMB) gave its approval to 39 projects to carry out work in Delhi's Ridge areas from 2015 onwards and 301.8 hectares of land was diverted for construction work, Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has informed Supreme Court.

A report on the status of Ridge, which was submitted to the apex court on May 8, said these projects were submitted to CEC for final approval. These include construction of 15 rain shelters at Buddha Jayanti Park in Central Ridge in 2015, construction of new IIMC building over 6.5 hectares in 2018, 20 hectares of "Waste To Energy" plant at Tehkhand in 2017, infrastructure development of an Army hospital over 14 hectares in 2019 and a skill centre over 5.3 hectares in Jaunapur in 2021.

The committee, in its report, said the diversion of land for non-forestry purposes was gradually increasing. "In the last five years, it was 183.8 hectares, as compared to 117.9 hectares in the earlier five-year period. The total figure from 2015 onwards stands at 301.8 hectares, which is around 4% of Delhi's Ridge area," said the report.

"The management of RMB does not seem to be up to the mark and nearly 5% is under encroachment. The rate of diversion is on the rise and around 4% land is diverted,"

RMB was constituted af-



Central Empowered Committee, in its report to the apex court, said the diversion of land for non-forestry purposes was gradually increasing

the report added.

Delhi Ridge is also called the green lungs of the city since it lowers the effects of pollution and provides a natural green belt to the city, said the report.

"Delhi Ridge is the tail end of the ancient Aravalli Hills, which are around 1,500 million years old and stretch from the state of Gujarat, through Rajasthan and Haryana; finally ending in Delhi. It is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna native to the Delhi region, preserving the ecological biodiversity of the city," stated the report, adding that the total ridge area available now in Delhi is 7,777 hectares.

RMB was constituted af-

ter a Delhi high court order in 1995. It is mandatory for any agency planning to conduct construction or development work in Delhi's Ridge areas to seek its approval. After a project is cleared by the board, the final nod is given by CEC and SC.

According to the report, RMB conducted 14 meetings since 2015 and approved 37 construction projects with an area of 263.4 hectares. Besides, two roads or wire-laying projects with a total length of 38.4 km were permitted. "For a linear stretch, if the average breadth is considered as 10 metres, then 38.4 km will be equivalent to 38.4 hectares and take the total area to 301.8 hectares," the report said.

# With 'Hawa Mein Baat', women weave real stories of bad air

Priyangi Agarwal @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Twenty women, who are homemakers from informal sector households and whose lives and vision are rarely discussed in any public space, have put up an impressive artwork using old embroidered clothes that focuses on pollution in Delhi.

The two-day exhibition, called Hawa Mein Baat, is up in a community hall in Nand Nagri till Saturday.

Help Delhi Breathe, an organisation that focuses on pollution in Delhi, collaborated with artist Niroj Satpathy and textile artist Mounmita Basak for the exhibition. With support from Mahila Housing Trust, they curated this public art event. These exhibits on discarded clothes were ready in just four workshops in April.

Hawa Mein Baat can be translated in various ways. It

could be translated to mean something of little importance. In this case, it could mean the lesser known voices.

Standing next to her tapestry titled 'Mehengi Hawa' (expensive air) on Friday, Rinki Devi said she along with other women were concerned about the lack of green spaces in Nand Nagri.

"As we want trees, rain and clean air in our neighbourhood, we showcased an ideal park using embroidery. The ideal park boasts of blueskies with a variety of trees and flowers and it is frequented by local people, including children, who can sit, walk or play there," homemaker Rinki, who worked with four other women on the exhibit, said.

She was elated with the response their artwork got. "I am a homemaker, but I am so happy that I got an opportunity to educate people about air pollution. Visitors told me



SAYING IT WITH ART: The exhibition represents the journey of the women who are largely excluded in national and local dialogues on pollution

that I don't need to explain anything as our artwork is self-explanatory," she said.

Sheila Devi (72) pointed towards her artwork which features a woman confined in her house, showcasing the lack of freedom for women.

"The woman is locked inside, and she desires to go out to enjoy nature and see birds in flight, trees, cats and clean air," Somvati (68), another participant, said.

Anita, another homemaker, said the exhibits will help

in creating awareness among people about the severe impact of air pollution. "Our artwork will make people realise that we need to take care of the environment," she said.

Apart from artwork by these women, the exhibition

featured bottles of dirty water. One bottle of greyish water was the result of washing a piece of cloth kept on a balcony for a week. Another bottle of water was collected from a hand pump.

Another set of artworks by

creased, considering it is mainly consumed at restaurants and not permitted for retail vendors or at BYOB (aha-ta) establishments."

"Delhi increased annual fee for restaurants by 10%, but Gurgaon has increased the licence fee by 25%, which might wear away investment and will impact local employment," said Singh.

Ankur Arora of Imppromptu described the new policy fees as "regressive" that "make it difficult for standalone restaurants to survive". He said it will ultimately help aha-tas, which have in recent years seen a transformation as snazzy 'BYOBs', pulling in customers who would not go to an aha-ta.

"We pay a huge licence fee, rent and taxes and comply with a number of norms, and we will have to pay a premium for operating after midnight even as aha-tas can operate till early (morning)," said Arora.

Another restaurant owner, who asked not to be named, said reduced business hours under the regular licence would put pressure on margins because the establishment costs are high in the city. "Gurgaon has high rental and operating costs for restaurants and bars. A hike in licence fee will make this business unfeasible for standalone restaurants and smaller players," said the restaurant owner, adding only big players will eventually remain in business.

Singh pointed out that to promote healthy drinking through low-alcohol beverages, excise duty had been reduced on bottled beers, "but it is perplexing why excise duty on draught beer has been in-

creased, considering it is mainly consumed at restaurants and not permitted for retail vendors or at BYOB (aha-ta) establishments."

20 women from Bhalswa will be on display on June 1 and 2. Gurpriya Singh, a campaigner with Help Delhi Breathe, said: "Women engaged in home-based work, waste picking and domestic work have found an outlet through textile art, objects and poetry, bringing forth the often intangible and unsaid parts of living under the polluted skies."

Bhavna Maheriya, a programme manager with Mahila Housing Trust, said: "The informal settlements we work in are the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change as they are exposed to multiple stress factors, including geographical disadvantages, financial susceptibility, occupational risk, and infrastructure deprivation. Our mission is to strengthen grassroots collectives so that they can advance conversations and demand action on improving housing, living and working environments."

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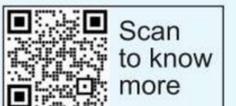


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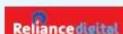
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## 3 held for stealing over 100 SUVs, gang busted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the arrest of its three members, a gang that stole over 100 SUVs from upscale areas of Delhi has been busted. After stealing the high-end vehicles, the gang would sell them cheap in many states across the country, police said.

Investigations have revealed that to bypass the SUVs' security systems, suspects Sagar (28), Ashraf Sultan (30), and Kuldeep Singh (28) employed sophisticated software to remove the settings of the engine control module (ECM) and locks, replacing them with new software, a senior police officer said. This allowed them to steal the vehicles within three to five minutes per SUV.

After receiving multiple complaints regarding the motor vehicle thefts from different areas in southwest Delhi, DCP (southwest) Rohit Meena formed a team under inspector Gautam Malik. The team analysed the trends of stealing and disposing of the vehicles.

"It was found that one man came on a scooter first to see the cars, and then later, another gang member arrived and stole the vehicles," said the DCP, adding that cops were able to identify three suspects with the help of CCTV's footage and raids were conducted in Delhi-UP, leading to their arrests.

Four SUVs stolen from Uttam Nagar, Vikaspuri, Ashok Vihar, and Rajouri Garden were recovered from their possession, DCP Meena said.

"Sagar and Ashraf were also found in possession of illicit firearms, which they had procured from one receiver in Ranchi, identified as Pintu, and one Meerut-based gang leader, Rahees, who are absconding," the DCP said.

During interrogation, Sultan disclosed that he used to steal high-end vehicles from various parts of Delhi-NCR and sell them to the receivers in Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar, and other states, police said. "Sagar helps in reconnaissance for the auto-lifter. Kuldeep delivered the stolen cars for accused Ashraf," the officer said.

An investigator claimed that the gang had been active for the past three to four years.

During probe, the suspects revealed that they operated on a demand basis, stealing cars as per the requirements of their receivers, the DCP added.

# 7th Supplementary Chargesheet By ED

## EXCISE CASE: Kejrival, Being Head Of Party, Held Responsible For 'All Irregularities'

Continued from P1

The filing of the chargesheet came on a day Supreme Court reserved its verdict in the case where Kejrival has challenged the legality of his March 21 arrest by the investigating agency. On May 10, the SC had granted him interim bail to campaign in the parliamentary elections.

This is the seventh supplementary chargesheet filed by ED in the liquor scam case in which at least 38 individuals and companies have been accused of involvement.

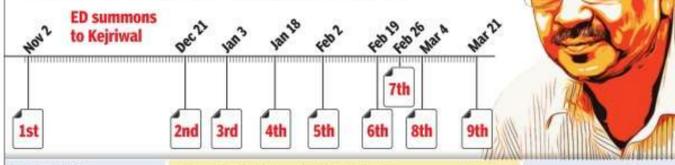
As reported by TOI earlier, ED has invoked Section 70 of PMLA which deals with companies to make AAP an accused in the money laundering case.

This particular section of PMLA says "every person who, at the time the contravention was committed, was in charge of and was responsible to the company, for the conduct of the business of the company as well as the company, shall be deemed guilty of the contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly".

Kejrival, being the national convener and head of the party, has been held responsible for all irregularities of the party and for the alleged kickbacks received

### DETAILS OF CHARGES NOT DISCLOSED

- 7th supplementary complaint in Delhi excise policy case by ED
- So far, 38 people and companies made accused by ED
- 18 people arrested so far; provisional attachment of property of ₹243 crore
- CM Arvind Kejriwal made accused in his personal capacity as well as that of national convener of AAP



**Feb 3** ED files complaint against Kejriwal before magisterial court for skipping summonses

**March 21:** HC refuses to grant protection from arrest to Kejriwal on his petition challenging summonses issued to him; ED arrests Kejriwal shortly after

**March 22:** Delhi court remands Kejriwal to ED custody till March 28

The agency, in its application, states CM a 'key conspirator' and 'kingpin' of the 'conspiracy'

**March 28** Kejriwal tells HC the 'purpose of entire ED investigation was to crush AAP'. He says the case has been going on for almost two years now. 'Neither any court has pronounced me guilty, nor any case filed against me in a court of law...no charges framed'

ED says 'there is sufficient material to show money trail of proceeds of crime generated in the form of kickbacks and also to show that a part of the proceeds to the tune of approximately ₹45 crore were sent through hawala and utilised by AAP in Goa assembly elections in 2021-22'

**April 1** Special court sends Kejriwal to Tihar in judicial custody

**April 9** HC rejects Kejriwal's petition against arrest by ED

**April 10** Kejriwal moves SC challenging HC order upholding

**May 3** SC says it may consider granting interim bail to Kejriwal in view of ongoing Lok Sabha elections

**May 10** SC grants interim bail to Kejriwal till June 1, says he will have to surrender and go back to jail on June

**May 16** SC refutes ED contention that granting interim bail to Kejriwal was an 'exceptional' exercise

**May 17** SC reserves judgment on petition filed by Kejriwal challenging his arrest by ED under PMLA

his arrest by ED

**April 27** Kejriwal tells SC that his 'illegal arrest' in case constitutes an unprecedented assault on tenets of democracy based on 'free and fair elections' and 'federalism'

from the South Group and used for the party's Goa

election campaign. "As per the investigation

done so far, the proceeds of crime of about Rs 45 crore,

which was part of the bribes received from the South Group, was used in the election campaign of AAP in Goa in 2021-22," the ED had earlier said in its remand note after the arrest of Kejriwal, naming him as the kingpin of the liquor scam.

"AAP is headed by Arvind Kejriwal (national convener) which functions through the members of the national executive and political affairs committee such as Manish Sisodia and Arvind Kejriwal, Sanjay Singh and other members of the party," ED had said on the involvement of the CM and his senior colleagues in decision-making of the party which is now an accused.

Once charges against AAP are framed in court under the stringent PMLA, the party risks facing actions from the Election Commission on possible de-recognition.

"Even though existing laws and rules do not have any provision for de-recognition of a party on grounds of corruption, Article 324 of the Constitution (which vests superintendence, direction and control of elections in EC) gives EC wide powers to exercise discretion and de-recognition a party for corruption," former senior legal adviser to the EC SK Mendiratta had told TOI earlier.

## Now, properties of CM and party will be attached: AAP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday alleged that the Enforcement Directorate was functioning like a political wing of Bharatiya Janata Party after the investigative agency named the party as an accused in the fresh chargesheet in the excise policy.

"It's intention from the very beginning of this fake investigation was to frame AAP, arrest all its top leaders and crush the party," said the party.

"ED's chargesheet framing AAP and CM Arvind Kejriwal is part of this grand political conspiracy. Now all properties and bank accounts of Arvind Kejriwal and AAP will be seized, which will further cause huge harassment and injustice," it added.

The party said, "This is the first case in ED's history where after over two years of investigation, after over 500 raids, after filing eight chargesheets, there is not a single rupee of recovery from any of the AAP leaders."

The entire case of ED is built on statements of accused-turned-approvers, all of whom have links to the BJP. Whenever the courts questioned ED on the veracity of these statements, the agency had no answers, it added.

"If at all there is any money trail recovered so far in the alleged Delhi liquor scam, it is the Rs 60 crore that kingpin of the scam, Shatrughan Reddy, has given to BJP," it alleged.

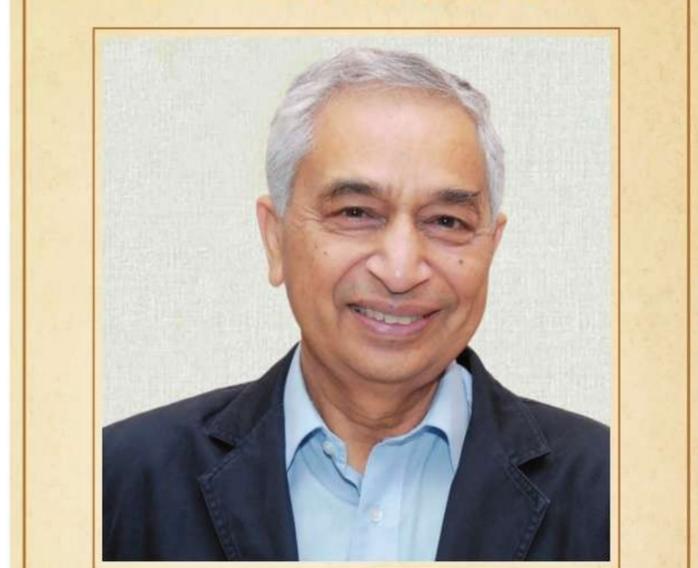
"If ED had been doing an impartial investigation, it would have made BJP the prime accused in the scam. But unfortunately, it is acting as a political wing and a mouthpiece of the BJP," it added.

**The entire case of ED is built on statements of accused-turned-approvers, all of whom have links to BJP, said AAP**

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### IN MEMORIAM



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30.11.1938 – 16.05.2024

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on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 from 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm

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Vineeta Nayyar  
Namrata & Haren Kamdar  
Nishant & Esther Nayyar

Veena Khosla  
Kavita & Nripen Vasudev  
Deepak Nayyar

## REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

**BRIG D N YADAV, SM**  
(03 Jan 1951 - 18 May 2021)

Papa, thank you for teaching us to be strong. But we are sorry, we let you down. Honestly we can never be strong enough to acknowledge the fact that you are already gone. Miss you loads!! Nidhi & Prashant, Krivi & Dhruv # 9958399844

**NARINDER RAVI JAIN (Neeru)**  
19.07.1957-18.05.2021  
at the "Same turn of Life" where u left me, I'm standing there alone without you."

"All over is the crowd" I am surrounded with, but lonely without You in the World.

My Prayers to Lord to Give Salvation to your soul.

Ravi Jain # 9810336831

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TOI-NBT (Delhi/NCR)	8,800	10x10 cm
TOI-ET (Delhi/NCR)	6,600	10x10 cm

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## OBITUARY

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### IN MEMORIAM



#### Col P K Jain (Retd)

(09 Sep 1955 - 16 May 2024)  
The Officer was commissioned in 128 Air Defence Missile Regiment in Jun 1977. He served in 502 Air Defence Group (Self Propelled), 325 Light Air Defence Regiment (Composite), 146 Light Air Defence Regiment (Self Propelled), 798 (Independent) Air Defence Brigade & 715 (Independent) Air Defence Brigade before superannuating in Sep 2009.

Senior Colonel  
Commandant & Army  
Air Defence Fraternity  
NOK: Mrs Rashmi Jain (Wife)  
Mr Naman Jain (Son)  
(8860839567)

### DEATH ANNIVERSARY

#### In loving memory...



#### Smt. Veena Bhatia

(21.11.1944 – 18.05.2023)

Your legacy of unconditional love and warmth shines bright! Your absence leaves a void that cannot be filled but the treasure of your memories helps us survive everyday since you are gone....

In Remembrance  
Deepak Bhatia (M-9811084921)  
Jyoti, Rajat & Ishita  
Chandan, Richa & Anvi

### SAD DEMISE

#### Sad Demise



#### Nitin Anand

16th May 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of loving son and brother. Prayer Meeting will be held on Saturday May 18 2024, 4-5pm at Arya Samaj Mandir, GK2

- OP Anand, Shilpa Anand, Family and Friends

## Chat records of Kejriwal with hawala operator found, claims ED; playing to gallery, says CM

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday reserved its verdict on validity of Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by Enforcement Directorate which dropped a bombshell at the end of hearing by claiming to have unearthed chat records of the chief minister with a hawala operator relating to money laundering.

Appearing before a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, additional solicitor general SV Raju submitted that the agency had in the course of investigation into the liquor 'scam' found new evidence against the accused. "Now we have found chats between Kejriwal and a hawala operator,"

he submitted.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was countering the allegation of the agency and was about to summarise his arguments, took strong exception to Raju's allegation. He submitted that it was very unfair on the part of the agency to make such a statement at a time when the hearing was about to be completed and alleged that Raju was playing to the gallery and not addressing the court. He said that it was meant to prejudice the court.

"This is for the court or the media? Why was he hiding this till today? This is to create doubt at the last minute. He is not being fair," Singhvi retorted.

The bench, however, went on with the hearing and reserved its order on Kejri-

wal's plea. It also clarified that Kejriwal can move the trial court for bail notwithstanding the fact that SC has reserved judgment and without prejudice to the contentions of the parties.

Countering ED's submission, Singhvi submitted that there was no application of mind by the ED officer before arresting the CM and cited SC's recent judgement on Prabir Purkayastha petition to emphasise that the Right to Life and Personal Liberty is the most sacrosanct fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution. He said the officer gave weight to one incriminatory statement against Kejriwal while ignoring nine exculpatory statements of witnesses.

Countering the allegation that Kejriwal demanded

bribes, he said that the CM should have been named as an accused in the predicate offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act. "Over one-and-half years, they conducted investigation. No action was taken against Kejriwal. There was no necessity to arrest him based on material that was there with ED from July-August 2023," Singhvi submitted.

Questioning the credibility of witnesses who gave statements against Kejriwal, Singhvi alleged that P Sarat Reddy made electoral bonds donations to the BJP and not trustworthy enough to put the CM behind bars.

ED had on Thursday said that their case against Kejriwal was not based on Reddy's testimony alone.

## 'Delayed bail hearing denied right to liberty'

Continued from P1

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta passed the order on a plea of Dhali, an accused in Delhi liquor policy case, complaining that his bail plea was not being decided.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the matter was adjourned after 40 postings and it had now been listed for July, and pleaded for early hearing. "Keeping the matter pending for regular bail for almost 11 months deprives the petitioner of his valuable right of liberty," the SC bench observed in the order.

The apex court has been reminding the high courts from time to time to take bail

pleas on priority basis without delay.

Earlier, SC had said delay in hearing of bail plea could not be "countenanced". "We are of the considered view that this type of indefinite adjournment in a matter relating to anticipatory bail, that too after admitting it, is detrimental to the valuable right of a person... we find it necessary to emphasise that when a person is before the court and that too in a matter involving personal liberty, least what is expected is for such a person to be given the result one way or the other, based on the merit of his case and not push him to a position of uncertainty or be condemned without being heard," the court had said.

## 4 undertrials convicted of murdering inmate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A CBI designated court on Friday convicted four undertrial prisoners in connection with the murder of another inmate. The quantum of sentence in the case will be pronounced on June 5, a CBI official said.

Srikant Rama Swami, an undertrial, was lodged in Tihar Jail's barrack number 4. He was beaten to death by Kishan Srestha, Ganpat alias Kunal, Akash alias Hunny and Arun alias Mandva in jail number 2 on May 14, 2021.

Swami was supposed to be released on the day he was murdered.

Swami's mother had filed a plea before Delhi High Court, seeking an investigation into her son's death.

CBI had re-registered a case on the court's directions through an order dated July 20, 2021. "Following this, CBI took over the case that was registered at Hari Nagar police station on the complaint of Jail Warden Lalit of central jail number 2," the official said. CBI had filed a chargesheet before the court within five months.

## Dad suspected of killing kids found dead

New Delhi: Nearly two weeks after a 32-year-old man allegedly killed his two children in northwest Delhi's Keshavpuram owing to financial problems, his body has been found in Haridwar. He is suspected to have died by suicide.

Cops had been searching for suspect Manish Saini and came to know about his last location in Haridwar. "A team went there and contacted the local police, who told them about finding a body in a river on May 10. Later, it was confirmed to be that of Saini. He was identified through the clothes and the slippers he was last seen wearing," a police officer said.

On May 4, two children, aged 11 and 13 years, were found unconscious in their father's shop on the ground floor of their house. TNN

**CINEMA OF THE WEEK**

**The Three Musketeers Part II: Milady (Action, Adventure, Drama)**  
★★★

**Cast:** Francois Civil, Vincent Cassel, Pio Marmal, Romain Duris, Lyna Khoudri, Louis Garrel, Eva Green  
**Direction:** Martin Bourboulon  
**Duration:** 1 hour 54 minutes  
**Language:** English (UA)



In the second part, the escalating tensions between Catholics and Protestants lead to the King's declaration of war. D'Artagnan, determined to find Constance, crosses paths with the mysterious Milady de Winter during his mission to rescue his beloved.

The second part of *The Three Musketeers: Milady* seamlessly continues from where the first part concluded, offering a richer and more immersive experience. With all characters firmly established, the narrative wastes no time on trivial things, plunging D'Artagnan into a thrilling mission to rescue Constance following her abduction. Enhanced by impressive production values, the film takes on the grandeur of an epic project. It skillfully captures the essence of adventure and action synonymous with Alexander Dumas' classic tale. Strengthened by credible performances and a gripping plot, this action-packed adventure promises an engaging watch.

The movie kicks off with D'Artagnan (Francois Civil), the fourth musketeer, awakening in a coffin, captured by Gaston's soldiers. Following his daring escape, he coerces Chalais (Patrick Mille) into guiding him to Constance's prison, only to find that he has rescued Milady (Eva Green) instead. As tensions escalate between Protestants and Catholics, King Louis XIII (Louis Garrel) declares war on La Rochelle, a Protestant stronghold. Dispatched to the front lines, D'Artagnan encounters Milady once more, who attempts to seduce him once again. Their intimacy unveils a shocking truth - Milady is none other than Athos' (Vincent Cassel) spouse.

Francois Civil as D'Artagnan commands your attention with every appearance, and manages

to play the character with a certain panache that's appealing. Eva Green as the daring Milady de Winter proves to be the perfect adversary to Civil's character, radiating brilliance in her performance. Despite limited screen time, Vincent Cassel in the role of Athos, one of the musketeers, manages to leave an impression with his appearances. Martin Bourboulon's direction in this installment is somewhat intricate, with a few surprising twists and turns. However, he deserves full credit for delivering delightful storytelling to viewers, making them feel fully engaged with the unfolding events.

The film maintains a dark and gritty tone reminiscent of its predecessor, delving into themes of conspiracy, betrayal, longing, and intense emotions. However, it shifts its focus to a more political narrative, centering on Milady de Winter, the assassin in the employ of Cardinal Richelieu. D'Artagnan and Milady take center stage, with the three musketeers playing a diminished role, largely relegated to the background. Despite the shortcomings, the film remains adventurous and briskly paced, embodying a sense of excitement throughout.

— Abhishek Srivastava

To review any movie and check show timings visit [etimes.in](http://etimes.in)

**RATING SCALE**

TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★ | VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

**Pit bull bites kid in Noida, owner arrested**

Advitya.Bahl@timesgroup.com

**Noida:** A 22-year-old Sorkha resident was arrested on Friday, days after his pet dog - believed to be a pit bull - bit an eight-year-old boy who was visiting a family next door.

Police said Santosh, a Noida resident, filed a complaint at Sector 113 station on May 15, alleging that on May 14, his son Shivam was visiting his aunt's house in Sorkha village when the pet dog belonging to a neighbour attacked him.

Santosh claimed that the

dog was never muzzled, and attacked any person who approached it. Shivam has five bite marks on his hands, stomach and other parts of his body, the complainant said, adding that the boy was treated at a city hospital.

An FIR was registered against Abhishek Kumar under Section 289 (negligent conduct with respect to animal) of the IPC. "Kumar was arrested, and further investigation is underway," said additional DCP (Noida) Manish Kumar Mishra.

On Friday, Kumar's family

- who live in a rented accommodation in Sorkha - said the complainant had deliberately said their pet dog was a pit-bull, a breed considered by many to be aggressive.

Police said they have asked the district veterinary officer to ascertain the pet dog's breed.

Mishra added that Kumar could not produce the registration certificate of his pet dog when asked.

Incidents of dog bites and persistent conflict between animal lovers and residents aren't uncommon in NCR,

especially in densely populated areas or in apartment complexes.

Often, residents demand stricter rules for keeping and walking pets outdoors, including muzzling the dog - a practice that isn't mandated by the Animal Welfare Board of India. Experts and animal rights activists say the solution isn't to ban any dog breeds, but to ensure that larger and high-energy dogs like pitbulls are not tied up and are kept in larger spaces to ensure they don't become aggressive.

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# INDIA bloc will form govt, prioritise air quality: Jairam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Friday said Delhi was among the most polluted cities in the world and 'INDIA bloc govt' would address the air quality issues on priority.

Addressing a press conference at Delhi Congress' office, MP Jairam Ramesh said five environment-related problems were affecting Delhi, including thermal power plants in the neighbouring areas, deforestation of Aravalis, brick kilns and dirty Yamuna, and BJP-led central govt had completely failed to solve them in the past 10 years.

"Delhi is among the most polluted metropolitan cities in the world. The city's administrative setup is such that the primary responsibility to solve pollution issues lies with Centre since multiple states are involved," Ramesh said. "If Centre does not do anything, even state govt can't do much," he claimed.

Delhi's pollution is mainly caused by 11 thermal power plants, which are violating the guidelines on pollution control, Ramesh alleged. "INDIA bloc govt's top priority will be to ensure that all guidelines set by National Green Tribunal are followed and enforced."

The Congress general secretary said chemical contamination caused by the three landfill sites, widespread deforestation, illegal mining and illegal construction in the Aravalis, and the existence of about 350 brick kilns around Delhi, mostly in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, were the other main causes.



Congress functionary Jairam Ramesh

"The pollution of Yamuna is again a big issue. During Manmohan Singh govt, Yamuna Action Plan I and II were launched to ensure clean and continuous flow of the river with the help of Japan govt, which was scrapped. Due to 10 years of negligence, the state of Yamuna is the same it was 10-12 years ago," he claimed.

Ramesh also claimed that during Sheila Dikshit govt, funds were allocated for the construction of nine sewage treatment plants, of which six were not working.

He assured that 'INDIA bloc govt' would control pollution through a time-bound action plan. Noting that a clean environment is important for public health, Ramesh said Congress guaranteed to enforce all guidelines strictly. He also alleged the effect of the efforts of the past 10 years to control air pollution was not visible.

Under a seat-share arrangement for the Lok Sabha election in Delhi, INDIA bloc constituents Congress and AAP are contesting three-four seats, respectively. The polling for the national capital's seven seats will be held in the sixth phase on May 25.

# BJP Targets INDIA Bloc In 'Political Chargesheet'

Lists 'Scams And Corruption' By AAP And Congress

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP's Delhi unit published a "political chargesheet" against rivals AAP and Congress on Friday, listing the alleged scams and corruption involving the two INDIA bloc allies over two decades. The 40-page booklet, in Hindi and English, titled "Congress and AAP: Partners in Loot", was released by Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and other party stalwarts.

"For 15 years, Delhi govt run by Congress, and now in the last nine years, by AAP, has inflicted harm on the people of Delhi," the chargesheet claims. It is unfortunate, the paper said, that Aam Aadmi Party, born of an anti-corruption movement, has its senior leadership in jail or facing charges of corruption.

Sachdeva said there was a long trail of scams of AAP govt related to the now defunct excise policy, health, education, buses and Delhi Jal Board, among others. The document was divided into sections that dealt with the excise case, the alleged irregularities in the renovation of CM's residence, charges of AAP siding with anti-national forces, the "failed" education model, the inability to clean the Yamuna and allegations of harassing bureaucrats. Vijender Gupta, BJP



Delhi BJP's Virendra Sachdeva with Vijender Gupta at a press meet

MLA and chairman of the chargesheet committee, maintained that the document was based on "facts." He said, "It is a document that exposes both Congress and AAP."

"When Delhi was struggling for oxygen, CM Arvind Kejriwal was busy revamping his official bungalow. He spent a whopping Rs 45 crore on beautification of his official home," BJP alleged in the chargesheet. It added, "In the last nine years, Arvind Kejriwal has not taken charge of any department in order to evade responsibility. He refuses to sign any file."

There are accusations in the chargesheet of scams involving DJB, school classrooms and DTC buses and the water mafia. Sachdeva claimed, "Hospital administration has worsened under AAP rule. The

are several irregularities in Delhi govt hospitals such as ghost patients, fake medical tests, spurious medicines, lack of testing facilities, etc."

Alleging that Kejriwal questioned the Indian Army on the surgical strikes on the border with Pakistan, the document also said AAP Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha was in contact with British Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill, believed to be a Khalistan sympathiser in London.

The promise to develop Yamuna like the Thames River has also proved hollow, BJP said, and the river had lost its real status in Delhi and was now flowing like a dirty drain despite the 25,600 crore spent on its cleaning, claimed the chargesheet.

BJP's paper asserted that AAP govt had proved a failure in controlling stubble burning in Punjab, even when the same party was in power in that state.

In response, Delhi Congress vice-president Abhishek Dutt asked BJP to first tell the citizens of the kind of washing machine the party had that even people whom the PM called corrupt were clean enough now to be in important posts in BJP.

Dutt said, "BJP should bring out a chargesheet on all leaders they described as corrupt and what happened to their cases after they joined BJP?"

# Kanhaiya slapped and ink thrown at him in NE Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress candidate from North East Delhi Kanhaiya Kumar was slapped and attacked with ink in New Usmanpur on Friday. The incident occurred at 6:53 pm at Swami Subramaniam Bhawan.

A video of the incident shows that Kumar was surrounded by people and was talking to someone when a person garlanded him and slapped him. The incident led to chaotic situation for a while.

The complainant, Chhaya Sharma, an AAP councillor, told the cops that Kumar was in a meeting at the party office at Swami Subramaniam Bhawan. Sharma was hosting the meeting in the constituency.

"After the meeting, when Sharma came down to see off Kumar, some persons came and put a garland around Kumar. After garlanding him, a few people threw ink on him and tried to assault him," police said.

Sharma tried to intervene, but they allegedly misbehaved with her and threatened her too. "Legal action is being taken based on Sharma's complaint. Further investigation is in progress," said DCP (north-east) Joy Tirkey.

In a speech after the incident, Kumar alleged that people associated with BJP staged the attack. He claimed that it has been found that a person associated with BJP does such things. "This is a serious thing. You can have political differences, but you are attacking a councillor. They had come to attack me. There is a decorum of politics (that needs to be followed)," he said.

Kumar further claimed that Delhi's chief minister and Congress functionaries had been saying that BJP wanted to end democracy in this country, and this incident was an example of that.

BJP functionary Neelkant Banshi alleged, "Kumar is losing the poll and his team is spreading rumours. We do not indulge in such petty things. Tukde Tukde wale Kumar is trying to create sensation by dragging name of BJP in a baseless claim."

BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said people were angry with him due to his "anti-national activities".

# Sitharaman takes metro to Laxmi Nagar to meet students

Siddhvi Singh & Purnima Krishnan | TNN

New Delhi: Emphasising the importance of 'Viksit Bharat', finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told students in east Delhi on Friday that quality education, healthcare and global recognition of Indian universities were crucial for a better life. "Your currency, your living standard, your medical facility, better roads, better housing... Jab viksit honge, wo sab apko instantly milega, system better hoga (when India is developed, you will get all these instantly)," she said in a meet-and-greet session with first-time voters in Laxmi Nagar.

A stronger Indian economy would ensure better living standards, reducing the need to go abroad, she said in

the assembly segment under East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency, a hub of competitive and professional examination coaching, especially for CA, CS and CUET aspirants.

Sitharaman boarded the metro from Mandi House to reach the venue to campaign for East Delhi BJP candidate Harsh Malhotra. On the way, she interacted with fellow commuters, BJP functionaries said.

Students and educationists, along with supporters, accompanied the Union minister as she headed to a nearby coaching centre. She took questions from the audience, mostly students, who inquire about employment opportunities, economic health and the growing role of the chartered accountant community in India.



Nirmala Sitharaman told students that quality education, healthcare and global recognition of Indian universities were key to a better life

Sitharaman said that despite producing top-quality CAs, India still lacked a globally recognised firm. "When it comes to the IT sector, we have the best of companies like Info

sys, TCS. But in chartered accountancy, there's not one firm from India which is global."

Finance minister described her five-year stint as challenging yet highly education-

marked by Covid-19 and subsequent recovery efforts. She shared her belief in perseverance and self-motivation, urging students to work hard to achieve their goals.

Malhotra encouraged the young audience, saying, "Voting is our right. You are the future of India, and only through you can we achieve a developed nation."

Inspired by their face-to-face interaction with Sitharaman, students later told TOI that they were hopeful about startup support, employment opportunities and educational infrastructure development.

In another event for South Delhi candidate Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said it was due to the strong BJP govt at Centre led

by PM Modi that Article 370 related to Kashmir was abrogated. Citizenship Act was implemented or the grand temple of Lord Ram in Ayodhya was constructed. "BJP undertook tasks that were previously considered impossible." INDIA bloc was formed only to hide corruption, promote families and advance appeasement policies, he claimed.

Bidhuri said Kejriwal govt "is mired in corruption, and the public is demanding basic facilities".

Participating in a women's conference in Wazirpur in support of Chandni Chowk candidate Praveen Khandelwal, national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargya said, "After winning the elections, BJP has a target to make 3 crore women Lakhpati Didi."

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi-Bengaluru Air India flight was forced to return to the city when in mid-air on Friday evening after a fire warning sounded from its auxiliary power unit.

The flight, with 175 passengers, made a safe emergency landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport, airport officials said.

Flight AI-807 departed from IGI airport around 5:30 pm for Bengaluru. However, the pilot contacted air traffic control (ATC) and requested an emergency landing at Delhi as a fire was suspected in the auxiliary power unit. "A full emergency was declared at 5:52 pm. The flight landed safely at 6:38 pm, and all passengers are fine. Airport ground and emergency staff were present during the landing as a precautionary measure," the official said.

A Delhi Fire Service officer said that they had got a call at 6.15 pm regarding some emergency at the airport. "We dispatched three fire tenders with 20 firefighters," the officer said. An Air India spokesperson said: "Air India flight AI-807, flying from Delhi to Bengaluru, returned to Delhi this evening after a fire warning from its auxiliary power unit. After the pilots exercised necessary protocol, the aircraft made an uneventful landing and all passengers and crew deplaned at the aerobridge safely. Air India accords top priority to the safety and well-being of its passengers. Our colleagues on the ground have made alternative arrangements for guests to proceed back to their destination at the earliest."

In July last year, a Kolkata-bound flight was forced to return to Delhi airport due to a technical glitch. In June 2023, a Delhi to Dehradun flight returned to IGI Airport because of a technical glitch.

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**COURT NOTICE**

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING OFFICER, REVENUE TRIBUNAL, MANIPUR AT LAMPHEPAT REVENUE REVISION CASE NO 230F 2024**

Donthallung Golmei aged about 40 years, S/O K. Golmei of Kakhulong, Paona Bazar, P.O. Imphal, P.S. City Imphal West District, Manipur-795001

.....Petitioner-Versus-Dalit Singh, aged about years, S/O Upakar Singh of Thangal Bazar, P.O. Imphal, P.S. Imphal City Imphal West District, Manipur-795001

.....Respondent

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF SUMMONS UNDER ORDER V OF RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908 TO, Daljit Singh, aged about years, S/O Upakar Singh of Thangal Bazar, P.O. Imphal, P.S. Imphal City Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.

Whereas the above named Petitioner filed the above mentioned Revenue Revision case before the Court challenging the Order dated 16/11/2023 passed by the Ld. Sub-Deputy Collector, Heingang Mutation Case No. 442/SDC/IMG/2023. And for causing your appearance before the Court in connection with the above case, summons was issued to your address above mentioned. And whereas, the process server of the Court submitted a report stating that you have left for Delhi along with your family about 1 years back by keeping your house under lock and key. And whereas, as you have not been found in the address mentioned above and also the place where you are now residing at Delhi as mentioned in the report of the process server has not been ascertained, summons could not be issued to you in the ordinary way and accordingly, this Court issued the summons by way of publication in the Newspaper informing you that you should appear before the Court on 25th June, 2024 at 10.30am either in person or by a Pleader duly instructed on your behalf to answer the claim. Take notice that in making default of your appearance before this Court on the aforesaid date and time, the matter will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court, this 9th day of May, 2024. SEAL: (N. Lanima) By: Presiding Officer, Revenue Tribunal, Manipur, Advocate.

**personal**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I SHEETAL** W/o Mr. JASVINDER SINGH SETH R/o 5A/2C, First Floor, Toot Sarai, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017. I have updated my surname, henceforth my name will be as SHEETAL SETH for all purposes.

**I JASVINDER / JASVINDER** S/o Lt Baljeet Singh Seth R/o 5A/2C, First Floor, Left Side, Toot Sarai, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017 have updated my surname now my name will be used for all purposes as JASVINDER SINGH SETH

**I ARUNA SUMANTHINI** THANGARAJ W/O R.Suresh Kumar, R/O 451 Cityview Apartments, sec. 35, Noida correcting my spouse name in my passport from Suresh Kumar to Suresh Kumar Ramakrishnan/R.Suresh Kumar and will be used for all future purpose.

**I, Niranjan yadav** R/o H. No 107A KH no1303 Gall No 8 Prem nagar 2 Kirari Suleman Nagar Delhi-110086 have changed my minor daughter's name from Neha to Neha Yadav for all future purposes.

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# At 47.5°C, Najafgarh Is Country's Hottest Heatwave To Continue In Several Parts Of City

**FIRST HEATWAVE IN PARTS OF CITY**

A heatwave is declared if maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius

**HEALTH IMPACTS**

Dehydration, cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke

Heat cramps may cause swelling, generally accompanied by fever

**HEAT EXHAUSTION**

Fatigue, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps and sweating

**HEAT STROKE**

Potentially fatal, causing rise in body temperature delirium, seizures or coma

**WHAT TO DO**

- Avoid going out in the sun between 12pm and 3pm
- Drink sufficient water, even if not thirsty
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose and porous cotton clothes
- Avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high
- Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks causing dehydration
- Avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food
- Use hat, umbrella and also use a damp cloth on your head, neck, face and limbs if going out in the noon



Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicles

If you feel ill, see a doctor immediately

Kushagra Dixit  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The city experienced this year's first isolated heatwave when the Najafgarh area recorded 47.5 degrees Celsius, making it the hottest spot in the country on Friday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) expects the scorching heat to continue as also the heatwave in several parts of the city on Saturday and Sunday.

The city's base station at Safdarjung recorded the highest maximum temperature of the year at 43.6 degrees Celsius, which was three notches above normal. It did not qualify as a day of heatwave, though several other places saw heatwave conditions. A day earlier, the city saw 42.5 degrees Celsius.

Some areas which saw heatwave conditions were Najafgarh (47.4 degrees), Ayanagar (46.2), Mungeshpur (46.5), Pusa in west

Delhi (45.9), Jafarpur (45.9), Palam (45.1) and Ridge (45). Neighbouring Noida too saw heatwave conditions as the maximum temperature touched 45.2 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature was 25.4 degrees Celsius in Safdarjung, a notch below normal.

The relative humidity oscillated between 21% and 66%. The Met department has predicted that the maximum temperature is likely to rise in the next two days.

"The maximum temperature may spike to 44 degrees Celsius on Saturday, while on Sunday it may hover around 45 degrees. Several parts of the city may continue suffering from the heat wave," an

official at IMD said. The IMD defines a heatwave day as one when the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees more than the normal and it is at least 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is also declared if the maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius. A severe heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is 6.5 degrees and more above the normal.

The city's air quality continued to be poor with the AQI at 231. It was 235 on Thursday. The weather department, however, expects the air quality to improve.

"The air quality is likely to be in the moderate category from 18.05.2024 to 20.05.2024. The outlook for the subsequent 6 Days indicates predominant surface winds likely from the Northwest in Delhi with speed of 14-20 kmph, "the IITM forecast said. It also predicted heatwave conditions at isolated places on Saturday.

## Over 75 calls related to fire incidents in capital

**Times News Network**

**New Delhi:** The season's hottest day kept the firefighters on their toes as they received more than 75 calls related to fires in the city.

The Delhi Fire Service received over 155 calls from different parts of the city. The calls were received from 12 pm to 8:30 pm on Friday.

According to the fire department, three major fire incidents were reported at Kirti Nagar, Bawana, and near Kalkaji Metro station.

Atul Garg, director of DFS said they received a call at 6:56 pm on Friday regarding a fire

at a banquet hall near Kalkaji metro station.

"We sent seven fire tenders to the spot, and three people were rescued from the blaze," he said.

Another fire was reported from a factory in the Bawana industrial area. They received information about a fire in a factory at 5:05 pm. As many as 17 fire tenders were pressed into service.

Another factory fire was reported at 3:37 pm at a factory in Kirti Nagar Industrial area. "As many as 25 fire tenders were sent to the spot with over 100 firefighters," the officer added.

## 2 juveniles held for killing 23-year-old

**Times News Network**

**New Delhi:** Two juveniles were apprehended on Thursday for allegedly killing a 23-year-old man who resisted a robbery at a DDA park in northeast Delhi's New Usmanpur area.

The deceased Sufian, who lived in New Usmanpur, worked as a labourer, police said, adding that he had two stab wounds on the left side of his chest.

The incident occurred at 5:30 pm on May 14. "Sufian was standing near the open gym along with his friend Dilkhush. Some boys came and started arguing with them. During the altercation, Sufian was stabbed," a police officer said.

## INDIA bloc going to win all 7 seats: AAP

**Times News Network**

**New Delhi:** With a week left until elections in Delhi, AAP candidates intensified their campaign and held several programmes across the city.

The party's Delhi state convener and minister Gopal Rai held a Sankalp Sabha in Bijwasan assembly segment of South Delhi Lok Sabha constituency and demanded the account of work of BJP MPs. Rai alleged that the BJP MPs had done nothing for Delhi and that's why they were denied ticket for re-election.

"On the other hand, (Delhi CM) Arvind Kejriwal gave people a life of dignity by providing all facilities including roads, electricity, water, sewerage in the colonies," Rai said.

"He has also provided free electricity, water, education, health, pilgrimage to the elderly and other facilities. That is why BJP put him in jail," the AAP functionary alleged and asked people to compare the work of the MLAs of BJP and AAP before casting their votes.

New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency candidate Somnath Bharti held a roadshow and sought support from the public. The roadshow started from Valmiki Mandir Narayana village and culminated at

**Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal gave people a life of dignity by providing all facilities, including roads, electricity, water, sewerage in the colonies, Gopal Rai said**

Sant Nagar. AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak, who accompanied Bharti, claimed INDIA bloc was going to win all seven seats of Delhi and people would respond to Kejriwal's incarceration by voting to end BJP's "dictatorship and to save the Constitution".

In East Delhi, Kuldeep Kumar held a townhall with traders in Gandhi Nagar Assembly segment.

During the interaction, the AAP candidate gave information about various initiatives taken by Kejriwal govt to promote businesses in Delhi. Earlier, Kumar took out a bike rally in Vishwas Nagar assembly segment and sought support from the public.

In West Delhi, candidate Mahabal Mishra interacted with people in Tilak Nagar and urged them to cast votes in favour of AAP.

## Much-delayed Barapullah Phase-III enters final lap

**Siddhanta Mishra**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Public Works Department (PWD) has commenced the process of applying bitumen on the elevated portion of the Barapullah phase III project.

Officials said that although the forest department's approval to remove approximately 200 trees was still pending, the objective was to finish the remaining tasks. "As soon as the green clearance is given to us, we plan to open a section of the flyover to the public," stated a PWD official.

Although 98% of the civil work is finished, the work on the remaining part of the flyover is delayed due to pending approvals from the forest department and a piece of land that needs to be acquired. The flyover's surface, which is currently unpaved, is being smoothed with bitumen and gaps between the extension joints are being filled. Following this, street lights and road markings will be installed.

PWD aims to ensure that the flyover becomes operational as soon as possible after receiving the necessary clear-



Although 98% of civil work is finished, the work on the remaining part is delayed due to pending approvals from the forest department

ances, officials said. This elevated corridor portion, which was supposed to be completed by 2017, is way behind the schedule. Considering this, PWD established a project monitoring unit for this project in March. The monitoring unit provides regular updates to the senior officials regarding the progress of the construction work.

The project aims to provide seamless connectivity between Mayur Vihar-1 and Sarai Kale Khan, where the corridor will join the existing Barapullah phase I and offer signal-free connectivity between east Delhi and AIMS. The third phase of the project, involving the construction of a 3.5km-long stretch, commenced in April 2015 and was scheduled for completion in Oct 2017.

The project, which has seen several deadlines over the past few years, has been affected due to construction bans, floods and delay in land acquisition. Last year, Lieutenant governor VK Saxena observed that the cost of the Barapullah project had increased over time and the work was far from completion. Govt is expected to pay Rs 1,326 crore for the project, which is higher than the estimated amount of Rs 964 crore.



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The Corrigendum of Tender No. N\_1\_HQ\_EPC\_EI\_2024-25 in connection with Tender Notice No. N\_1\_HQ\_2024-25.

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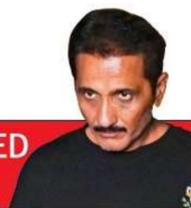
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**MUMBAI POLICE SAYS HOARDING CRASH ACCUSED BHAVESH BHINDE KNEW STRUCTURE WAS WEAK**



## Congress, BJP In Big Fight For Gandhis' 'Fief' Amethi & Rae Bareilly

# Rahul invokes family's ties to twin seats



**THE FAMILY:** Rahul with mother Sonia Gandhi and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Rae Bareilly on Friday

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**Lucknow:** Congress functionary Rahul Gandhi on Friday said he may be contesting from Rae Bareilly but his roots were in Amethi. Speaking at a public meeting to root for party candidate Kishori Lal Sharma in Amethi, Rahul said: "I am, was and shall always remain connected to Amethi."

**Rahul said an INDIA bloc govt would treat both seats equally. If Rs 10 is spent on Rae Bareilly, the same would be spent for Amethi too, he said**

Rahul recalled that he was just 12 when he first visited the constituency with his father Rajiv Gandhi. Reminiscing that he had witnessed the bond between his father and people of Amethi, Rahul said, "Whatever I have learnt in politics has its roots in Amethi." Rahul had been elected thrice as an MP from Amethi.

Rahul claimed he would accord equal treatment to

Amethi and Rae Bareilly if the INDIA bloc forms the next govt. "If Rs 10 is spent for development work in Rae Bareilly, it would be the same for Amethi too... this is my promise," he added.

He accused PM Narendra Modi of having 'looted the right of the people of Amethi' by taking away the food processing that was to come up in Salon. "That food processing unit would have given a socio-economic boost in the region," Rahul said.

At a rally in Rae Bareilly, Rahul mocked PM Narendra Modi and said he had the power to make him say anything. "I said Narendra Modi never takes the name of Ambani, Adani. After two days, he mentioned their names. Then I said we would credit money to bank accounts khata-khat. Narendra Modi repeated 'khata-khat' in his speech," Rahul said, in the presence of sister Priyanka Gandhi and SP Akhilesh Yadav on the dais.

He asked the crowd: "Tell me what you want to hear from Modi, I will make it happen in two minutes. And tell me if you don't want Modi to say something, I will make that happen as well."

## Shah to Rahul: Who willed you the two seats?



**THE PARIVAR:** Amit Shah and Smriti Irani, who is contesting from Amethi, with BJP's Rae Bareilly nominee Dinesh Pratap Singh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** Attacking Congress on Friday for referring to Rae Bareilly and Amethi as their "family seats", home minister Amit Shah asked the grand old party to state who had given them the twin Lok Sabha constituencies in a will. He also claimed that INDIA bloc had been criticising the consecration of Ram Lalla idol in Ayodhya

**Rae Bareilly and Amethi are not any parivar's seats but of the poor and the youth who live here. They will decide who will go to Delhi, Shah said**

and now planned to put a "Babri lock" on the temple gates if voted to office.

"This is democracy. There is nothing like a 'parivar' seat. The one who stands with the people in times of crises and ushers in development wins from the seat. Rae Bareilly and Amethi are not the seats of any parivar but of the poor and the youth who live here. They will decide who will go to Parliament," Shah said

at an election rally in Amethi.

He said that after a 70-year wait PM Modi performed the "Pran Pratishtha" of Ram Lalla idol in Ayodhya. "Congress claims the Pran Pratishtha was not done properly. If INDI alliance comes to power, they will lock Ram Mandir and reinstate Babri Masjid," he added.

While Rae Bareilly will see a contest between Congress's Rahul Gandhi and BJP's Dinesh Pratap Singh, in Amethi, Union minister Smriti Irani will battle it out with Gandhi family loyalist KL Sharma. The two constituencies go to polls on May 20.

Shah said he was 100% confident that Dinesh Singh and Smriti Irani would win their seats. "People of Rae Bareilly and Amethi consistently considered the Gandhi family as their leaders. But they never considered the people as their own," he said.

Shah said that as many as 600 people died in various accidents in Rae Bareilly but its MP Sonia Gandhi never turned up. On the other hand, Dinesh Singh was available to people round the clock. "It will be my responsibility if he does not help people in need," Shah said.

## Gujarat ACB mounts sting op, nabs man taking ₹5 bribe

Ashish.Chauhan@timesgroup.com

**Ahmedabad:** You'd assume that Rs 5 barely has any value today, but it landed a computer operator from Morkanda village in Gujarat's Jammagar district behind bars on Friday. Navinchandra Nakum was arrested for taking a bribe of Rs 5 to issue govt revenue documents to farmers. The 46-year-old now holds the dubious honour of taking what could be the smallest bribe in Gujarat's recent history, according to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

"Despite the modest amount, this bribe highlights the pervasive nature of corruption at even the lowest levels," said K H Gohil, assistant director of ACB Rajkot unit.

Nakum, a resident of the village, used to work as a village computer entrepreneur for just two hours. Inspector M D Patel, who led the sting operation, explained that they convinced a farmer to act as the

### SETTING EXAMPLE

decoy. "Nakum has been the VCE since 2013. For each document, the applicant would pay Rs 5—Rs 3 would be Nakum's commission, while Rs 2 went to the govt. His job was to provide land revenue documents and ownership letters to farmers," said Patel. However, several people approached ACB, alleging that Nakum charged them Rs 10 per document and pocketed Rs 5. Following this, ACB set a trap for Nakum.

Nakum has now been booked under sections of Prevention of Corruption Act, and an investigation is underway. Shamsheer Singh, DGP (law and order) and the director of ACB Gujarat said, "While the bribe amount is small, it represents an effort to stop everyday corrupt practices in rural areas. Citizens often have to pay bribes for basic services like revenue documents or Ayushman cards. This needs to be stopped."

## Trai looks to bring WA, FB, X, Insta under regulation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



**New Delhi:** OTT services such as WhatsApp, Signal, Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) may come under a regulatory regime with Trai looking to come with recommendations on the matter. The development assumes significance since govt had kept OTTs out of the regulatory regime in the new telecom act, which was passed recently by the Parliament.

Telecom regulator Trai will now proceed with open house discussions on firming up a regulatory mechanism for OTT services, its chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said on Friday. Speaking at a symposium on "Strengthening Atmanirbhar: Securing domestic industry and technology", Lahoti said the

regulator will proceed with the process of holding open house discussions in "around three months or so". "I know, we have an ongoing consultation on OTT communication. It is just that in last few months we are burning the midnight oil, clearing the number of references pending with us, and OTT communication is also in the line," he said.

On whether the telecom act has rendered OTT communication consultation paper infructuous, Lahoti dis-

missed such a suggestion saying, "no, it is not like that."

"The OTT consultation was initiated after the recommendation of a parliamentary committee so this consultation will be completed, and we will give our recommendations... which Act it becomes a part of and which ministry, or which regulator deals with it, is a separate matter," he said.

Govt had dropped OTT services from the purview of the telecom act, despite earlier plans to bring the companies under a licensing regime that would have also enabled the state and law-enforcement agencies to monitor their services in line with similar checks on telecom companies. There is a view that the matter should be part of the new IT Act which is in the works currently.

## Remarks on Didi 'beyond dignity', says EC, sends notice to ex-judge

Tamaghna Banerjee, Debashis Konar & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

**Kolkata:** BJP's Tamluk candidate and former HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay received a show-cause notice from EC Friday, asking him to explain by 5pm Monday why "appropriate action" shouldn't be initiated against him for "improper, injudicious" remarks about Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee that prima facie violate model code of conduct.

Acting on TMC's plea that Gangopadhyay was barred from the election for his "misogynistic and inappropriate comments lacking all sense of dignity", EC said parts of Gangopadhyay's speech at an election campaign rally in East Midnapore's Chaitanyapur last Wednesday were "beyond dignity in every sense

of the term (and) in bad taste". "What is your price, Rs 10 lakh? Is that because you use Keya Seth make-up (a personal care products brand)?" he had purportedly asked, referring to Mamata.

Gangopadhyay, who had some infamous run-ins with fellow judges during his stint at Calcutta HC, was also quoted as saying that he sometimes wondered if the chief minister was "a woman at all".

Gangopadhyay told TOI he would respond to EC's notice, explaining that he had been "quoted out of context". "I was trying to say that TMC had alleged Patra (BJP's Sandeshkhali candidate) was bought for Rs 2,000. The reference to Rs 8-10 lakh, in this context, is actually the cost of a teacher's post. It is the price at which govt jobs were sold. I

did mention make-up but, then, everything had a context. Those were counter-arguments to certain TMC allegations on Sandeshkhali."

The two-page show-cause notice mentions that EC has repeatedly urged parties to refrain from personal attacks.

Citing a SC ruling upholding "right to reputation" as part of "right to life" under Article 21, the notice reminds Gangopadhyay that the MCC bars any remark about someone that appears "malicious or offending decency and morality". It refers to two judgments restraining politicians from character assassination and personal slander.

Bengal state women and child development minister Shashi Panja termed the ex-judge's words "utterly sexist". She branded him "Bengal's shame, India's shame, and the judiciary's shame".

**Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)  
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing Saharapur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002  
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC02675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

**E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-8**

The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Procurement of 315 MVA 400/220 KV Transformer along with NIPFES and Construction of 400 KV and 220 KV (AIS) Bays along with transformer plinth for erection, testing and commissioning of 315 MVA 400/220 KV Transformer and its associated work at 400 KV Substation Kashipur against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-09/2023-24 is hereby extended upto **06.06.2024 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit the e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) (tender id no. 2023\_PTCU4\_66529\_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000  
Ro No. : 823/HOPU/PTCUL  
Date: 16.05.2024  
**Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)**  
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation."

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
G2

**E-Tendering Tender Notice**

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

**Description of Work:** Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi-Kanpur section: Rebuilding of minor bridges in ADEN/HQ-I/JHS section of DFC feeder route by RCC Box for 25 Tonne axle load with 100 kmph speed under Mission 3000 MT.

**E-Tender No.:** JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-95, **Approx Cost:** ₹125731760.01, **Earnest Money:** ₹778700.00, **Date of closing Tender:** 10.06.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 15 Months, **Tender online can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 10.06.2024.** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **862/24(DG)**

North central railways | @CPNCR | @northcentralrailway | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**  
CASH & ACCOUNTS-II

NOTICE to nationalized banks for investment of an amount of **Rs. 19,00,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crore only) IN FIXED DEPOSIT.**

All the Nationalized Banks are informed that the above mentioned amount is to be invested in Fixed Deposit for a period of **SIX MONTHS.** Interested Nationalized Banks are requested to quote in sealed cover, the highest CALLABLE rate of interest valid till **24.05.2024**, for this deposit in accordance with the prescribed format and hand over personally to the undersigned upto **5.00 p.m. on 22.05.2024.** No offer will be accepted after **5.00 p.m.**

For more details, prescribed format and instructions, log on to [www.supremecourtofindia.nic.in](http://www.supremecourtofindia.nic.in)

**Place: New Delhi** (TAPAN KISHORE SHARMA)  
**Date: 14.05.2024** Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Supreme Court of India

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**  
(ORIGINAL COMPANY JURISDICTION)  
IN C. P. No. 536/2012  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956 AND IN THE MATTER OF ALLIANCZ POLY CHEM OVERSEAS LTD. (IN LIQ.)**  
**ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO ALL THE WORKMEN, SECURED, UNSECURED & PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 529A AND 530 OF COMPANIES ACT, 1956.**

Notice is hereby given to the Workmen, Secured Creditors, Unsecured Creditors and other creditors of the above named Company (In Liq.) in terms of order of the Hon'ble Court passed on 30.04.2024 and they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator, Delhi attached to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, to prove their respective investments/claims against the above named Company (In Liq.) by delivering the same at the Office of the Official Liquidator, Delhi on or before **25.06.2024** or sending by post to the Official Liquidator, so as to reach at the office of Official Liquidator, Delhi not later than the aforesaid date along with an affidavit in support of their investments/claims on a Non-Judicial Stamp Paper in Form No. 66 & 67 of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 along with photocopy of the original documents proving their investments/claims and any title to priority under Section 529A & 530 of the Companies Act, 1956. Any Workmen, Secured and Unsecured Creditors of the above said Company (In Liq.) who fails to submit his/her affidavit or proof of his/her debt within the aforesaid time limit will be excluded from the benefits of any entitlement before his/her investments/claims is proved, or, as the case may be, from objection to such entitlement.

Any Workmen, Secured and Unsecured Creditors of the above named Company (In Liq.), who has sent in his/her proof, if so, required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, Delhi, shall either in person or by his/her advocate attend the investigation of such debt or claim at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his/her debt as may be required.

Visit website [www.delhihc.org](http://www.delhihc.org) & [www.mca.gov.in](http://www.mca.gov.in) for downloading Form No. 66 of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2024  
**(S. MEENAKSHI)**  
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR  
ATTACHED TO THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI  
8<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN, KHAN MARKET,  
NEW DELHI - 110 003. Phone No. 011-24693393, 24693394.

**No. 10/121/2016-NCLT (Pt-IV)/361**  
**NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL**

Block No-3, 6th Floor  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 10/04/2024

**Sub: Filling up of 1 (one) post of Secretary, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**

Applications are invited to fill up, on deputation basis, the following post in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) constituted on 01.06.2016 under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013.

S/No	Name of the Post	No of Post	Pay level
1	Secretary, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)	01	Level-14 (Rs 144200-218200) of 7th CPC

The selected candidate will be required to serve in the NCLT, Principal Bench, New Delhi.  
Last date for receipt of applications through proper channel is 60 days from the publication of the notice in Employment News.  
For further details please visit [www.nclt.gov.in](http://www.nclt.gov.in) (under "Career").  
Sd/- (Naveen Kumar Kashyap) Secretary-in-Charge National Company Law Tribunal  
CBC 07118/12/0001/2425

**No. 10/121/2016-NCLT (Pt-IV)/**  
**Govt of India**  
**NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL**

6th Floor, Block-3,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 15/04/2024

**Notification**  
**Filling up posts of Joint Registrar in National Company Law Tribunal Benches on deputation basis.**

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts in National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for filling up existing/future vacancies in its benches as detailed below:

S/No	Post	Bench	Pay level	No of posts (Tentative)
1	Joint Registrar	Ahmedabad Chennai Mumbai	Level-13 (Rs 123100-215900)	1 1 1

2. The selected candidate will be required to serve at NCLT Bench for which he/she is selected.  
3. Last date for receipt of applications will be 60 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.  
4. For Further details please visit [www.nclt.gov.in](http://www.nclt.gov.in) (under "Career")  
Sd/- (Naveen Kumar Kashyap) Secretary-in-Charge National Company Law Tribunal  
CBC 07118/12/0005/2425

**No. 10/121/2016-NCLT (Pt-IV)/**  
**Govt of India**  
**NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL**

6th Floor, Block-3,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 15/04/2024

**Notification**  
**Filling up posts of Deputy Registrar in National Company Law Tribunal Bench on deputation basis.**

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts in National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for filling up existing/future vacancies in its benches as detailed below:

S/No	Post	Bench	Pay level	No of posts (Tentative)
1	Deputy Registrar	Mumbai	Level-12 (Rs 78800-209200)	1

2. The selected candidate will be required to serve at NCLT Bench for which he/she is selected.  
3. Last date for receipt of applications will be 60 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.  
4. For Further details please visit [www.nclt.gov.in](http://www.nclt.gov.in) (under "Career")  
Sd/- (Naveen Kumar Kashyap) Secretary-in-Charge National Company Law Tribunal  
CBC 07118/12/0003/2425

**UTI Infrastructure Technology And Services Limited**  
(A Government of India Company)

UTIITSL invites online Bids e-tender portal for selection of Bidders / Vendors / Agencies / Entities for Supply of Goods and Services to UTIITSL.

**1. Bid for AMC renewal of Servers, Storage, Other Equipments and Software Licenses.**

For details and bidding, please log on to: <https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTIITSL>  
All in general are requested to visit website <https://www.utiitl.com> and <https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTIITSL> regularly for details and free download of all the tender documents / RFP with terms and conditions.  
(Last date of e-bid submission is upto 3:00 PM on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

**No. 10/121/2016-NCLT (Pt-IV)/**  
**Govt of India**  
**NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL**

6th Floor, Block-3,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 01/05/2023

**Notification**  
**Subject: Filling up posts of Joint Registrar in National Company Law Tribunal Benches on deputation basis.**

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts in National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for filling up existing/future vacancies in its benches as detailed below:

S/No	Post	Bench	Pay level	No of posts (Tentative)
1	Joint Registrar	New Delhi	Level-13 (Rs 123100-215900)	1

2. The selected candidate will be required to serve at NCLT Bench for which he/she is selected.  
3. Last date for receipt of applications will be 60 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.  
4. For Further details please visit [www.nclt.gov.in](http://www.nclt.gov.in) (under "Career")  
Sd/- (Naveen Kumar Kashyap) Secretary-in-Charge National Company Law Tribunal  
CBC 07118/12/0007/2425

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Notice Inviting Open E-Tender Commercial Branch, Headquarters Office**  
**TENDER No. SR/TPAYSA/03/2024 dated 16.05.2024**

For and behalf of the President of India, acting through the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Commercial Branch, Headquarters, Southern Railway, Park Town, Chennai-3 invites e-tender for the following work.

Tender No.	SR/TPAYSA/03/2024
<b>Nature of the work</b>	Contract to an Audit Firm to conduct inspections and submit periodical reports on Passenger services provided by the Yatri Seva Anubandh Services in 6 pairs of Vande Bharat trains of Southern Railway, their related base kitchens and other services on these trains for a period of 03 (Three) years.
<b>Advertised value</b>	₹30,55,140/- (Rupees Thirty lakhs fifty five thousand one hundred and forty only) for three years for 06 pairs of Vande Bharat Trains.
<b>Earnest Money Amount</b>	₹61,100/-
<b>E-tender document available at</b>	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
<b>System of e-tendering</b>	Single-stage; two-packet system
<b>Date of Pre Bid Meeting</b>	27.05.2024 at 11.00 Hrs Sulekha meeting hall, 2nd floor at Southern Railway Headquarters office.
<b>Date and time of closing of submission of tender</b>	06.06.2024 at 15.00 Hrs
<b>Date and time of opening of tender (Technical)</b>	06.06.2024 at 15.30 Hrs
<b>Validity of offer from the date of e-tender</b>	60 days from the last date for submission of bids
<b>Contract period</b>	Three years

**Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/ Passenger Services**  
E-mail: [dccmps@sr.railnet.gov.in](mailto:dccmps@sr.railnet.gov.in)  
Mobile No.90031 60980

**उपरो लोक सेवा आयोग**  
विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त के विभिन्न विभागों में सीधी भर्ती से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न पदों के साक्षात्कार सम्बन्धित सूचना निम्नवत् है:-

क्र. संख्या	विभाग	विभाग संख्या	पद का नाम	साक्षात्कार की तिथि	पदों की संख्या
1	डिप्टी-1/ई-1/2024 कल्याण विभाग, उपरो (एनओ)	एस-8/11	डिप्टी-साहायिकी ग्रेड-2 (स्तर-2) माइक्रोबायोलाजिस्ट	28 एवं 29 मई, 2024	08
2	डिप्टी-1/ई-1/2024 कल्याण विभाग, उपरो (एनओ)	एस-8/16	डिप्टी-साहायिकी ग्रेड-2 (स्तर-2) न्यूरो सर्जन	30 मई, 2024	18
3	डिप्टी-1/ई-1/2024 विभाग कल्याण	एस-4/1	कैबरीय मद्य निषेध एवं समाजोत्थान अधिकारी	29 मई, 2024	01

नोट:- साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम की विस्तृत सूचना आयोग की वेबसाइट <https://uppsc.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।  
संख्या- 8(5)/ विज्ञापन प्रकोष्ठ / 2020-2021  
दिनांक: प्रयागराज, 16 मई, 2024  
विनोद कुमार गौड़ (उपसचिव)

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
INDIAN RAILWAY  
"Introduction of AC 25 kV Traction"  
"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of **25 KV AC electric traction over the section "Awagarh yard between KM 367 to 38/10 of Prayagraj division of North Central Railway"**, height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height of **4.78 mtr** above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (Contact Wire) which shall be at a height of minimum **5.5 m** above the rail level at level crossings. Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of Loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:-  
1) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.  
2) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.  
3) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

**Date of enagisation:- on or after 25.05.2024**  
Division:- Prayagraj, Issued by  
Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (TR-D),  
North Central Railway, Prayagraj  
865/24(K)

@CPNCR | @northcentralrailway | North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

## Overuse of pesticides on crops? SC seeks govt response

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from ministries of health, agriculture, and the food safety standards authority of India (FSSAI) on a PIL that alleged that govt have failed to stop overuse of pesticides in cultivation of food crops and that it posed a serious health hazard for people.

Arguing for petitioner Akash Vashista, senior advocate Anitha Shenoy informed a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that unchecked overuse of pesticides and other inorganic substances on food crops, vegetables, grains and cereals is a major reason for several life-threatening

### The petition also raised the issue of artificial ripening of fruits with chemicals

allments among people. "Toxic foods are, but poison, the continuous intake and consumption of which is extremely fatal for the health and survival of the people. Just as polluted air is constantly inhaled by a person, in the absence of any other choice, a person has no choice but to consume pesticide-laden food, in the absence of any other alternative," the petitioner said.

The petition also raised the issue of artificial ripening of fruits with chemicals such as calcium carbide and carbohydrate compounds, the colouring or coating of fruits, such as apples, and vegetables with wax made of materials such as paraffin, shellac and polyethylene and the polishing of pulses and rice in order to lend colour and the use of preservatives in excess of the prescribed limits.

Apart from the deleterious impact of overuse of pesticides and insecticides on food grains, "several animal deaths have taken place because of this. Despite the scale and seriousness of the issue, the central govt and its authorities have completely failed to prevent, control and abate the rising incidence of use and overuse of pesticides and other inorganic chemical substances," it said.

# HC: Attach hubby's house to recover maintenance arrears

## Woman With Disabled Son Had Filed Case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has ordered attachment of a man's properties after lapses in paying maintenance to his wife and their differently abled son, who is now 23.

In a recent order, a division bench comprising Justices Anu Sivaraman and Anant Ramanath Hegde directed the man to pay Rs 5,000 each as monthly maintenance from April 12, 2012, the date his wife filed suit. The bench said the hus-



The bench said since the first defendant (husband) is not diligent in discharging his liability under the decree, a charge must be created over (his) property to secure payment to plaintiffs

band's 1,276-sq-ft house at Uttarahalli in Bengaluru stood attached. It added that if other property details are furnished by the wife, they shall also carry a charge. A charge on a property is an interest created to secure payment.

The woman shifted out of her husband's house in 2002, alleging cruelty, and sought maintenance for her and her son. Monthly sums of Rs 2,000 and Rs 1,000 were

initially awarded to the wife and son, respectively. A decade later, the wife and her son sought an increase to Rs 5,000 each. In Sept 2018, a family court directed the husband to pay Rs 3,000 each.

In HC, the wife and son argued the amount was still less and alleged that the husband had not paid arrears. They further claimed the husband had sold some immovable properties, could pay Rs 5,000 a month

and sought attachment of his properties.

The bench then increased the maintenance to Rs 5,000 each. It noted that since the son is differently abled, the amount is modest, and the family court ought to have ordered accordingly.

"The first defendant (husband) has not discharged the liability fastened on him by the family court. Under Section 39 of the Transfer of Property Act of 1882, the arrears of maintenance can be a charge on the property. Since the first defendant is not diligent in discharging his liability under the decree, a charge must be created over (his) property to secure payment to the plaintiffs (wife and son)," Justices Sivaraman and Hegde said

## HC issues notice to Mittal on shifting of Bhushan Steel case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi high court on Friday issued notice to an accused in Bhushan Steel money laundering case. It was on the plea of the accused, Ajay S Mittal, that the case was transferred from one judge to another. The single judge bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma heard matter on Friday and issued notice to Mittal.

ED has approached Delhi HC challenging the transfer of the case from Special Judge (PC Act) Jagdish Kumar to Special Judge (PC Act) Mukesh Kumar. The district and sessions judge at Rouse Avenue Court had passed an order on May 1 for transfer of the case.

The court had observed that Mittal's apprehension of the judge's probable bias in favour of ED cannot be said to be misconceived.

ED had opposed the transfer plea before the district and sessions judge

ED had moved HC challenging the transfer of the case from one judge to another on the plea of Ajay S Mittal, an accused

and argued that Mittal had failed to demonstrate reasonable apprehension on the totality of all the facts.

Mittal stated that his bail plea was listed for hearing before Judge Jagdish Kumar on April 10. The counsel sought time to prepare for arguments and the matter was adjourned to April 25.

Mittal's wife (also an accused in the case) was watching the proceedings, and once the counsel left, the judge could be heard saying to court staff, "Lene do date, ED matters main kaun si bail hoti hai? (Let them keep getting hearing dates. Where is the question of bail in ED cases?)"

## Grant citizenship to daughter of OCI card-holders: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi high court has asked the Centre to grant citizenship to a 17-year-old girl, raised in India to parents who held Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards and US citizenship at the time of her birth.

"The petitioner, despite having been born in India to two OCI card holders, educated in India and lived in India with her family, is unable to obtain a passport. These are clearly special circumstances as contemplated under Section 5(4) of the Act," Justice Prathiba M Singh noted while referring to provisions of the Citizenship Act of 1955 and the Passports Act of 1967.

Petitioner Rachita Francis Xavier had moved court challenging rejection of her plea for a passport.

She informed the court that both her parents were earlier Indian citizens. However, they acquired US citizenship by 2005 and

hence her parents were not Indian citizens on the date she was born.

The petitioner submitted that she is not an illegal migrant and qualified as a person of Indian origin entitling her to citizenship by registration. HC saw merit in the plea and noted that her circumstances would be covered under Explanation 2, as both parents of the petitioner were Indian citizens who had later obtained US citizenship.

The court pointed out that even OCI card holders are free to stay in India and can also rear their families, noting that in Xavier's case the parents were OCI card holders when she was born and she has continuously stayed in India since birth. She has been educated in India and now sought a passport, HC said.

It allowed the plea and permitted the girl to apply for registration as a citizen under Section 5 of the Citizenship Act.

## NEET-UG paper leak: SC to hear PIL, won't stop release of results

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday agreed to entertain a PIL alleging incidents of question paper leak in the pan-India National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) conducted by National Testing Agency on May 5 but rejected plea for a fresh examination or stay on declaration of results.

Though a bench led by CJI D Y Chandrachud agreed to examine the PIL by one Vanshika Yadav, it refused to entertain senior advocate Narender Hooda's plea for a fresh examination or stay on declaration of results. "Stay on declaration of results will have huge consequences and impact more than 23 lakh students who took the test," the bench said.

The petitioner said, "Question paper leak undermines the merit-based selection process for medical colleges, affecting the future of countless aspiring doctors. The leakage skews the results in favour of those who had access to the leaked papers, disregarding the efforts of honest and meritorious candidates." Vanshika relied on newspaper reports about alleged leakage of question papers to move SC. **TNN**

# Unlike Kejriwal's, Soren's interim bail plea yet to be heard

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren will have to wait some more to get his plea of interim bail decided as Supreme Court on Friday postponed the hearing to May 21 because of paucity of time on the last day before summer recess and his fate would be decided by the apex court's vacation bench.

Soren was arrested by ED much before the arrest of Delhi CM but meanwhile Arvind Kejriwal has got interim bail by the apex court and Soren's plea is yet to be heard.

Soren was apprehended on Jan 31 after being questioned for over seven hours regarding money laundering charges linked to an alleged land scam. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21.

Both Kejriwal and Soren approached SC directly against their arrest and both were asked to approach their respective high courts. While Delhi high court decided Kejriwal's plea expeditiously paving the way for him to move SC, Jharkhand HC delayed in deciding Soren's plea.

Jharkhand HC had reserved its verdict on Feb 28 but sat on the judgement for two months, forcing Soren to approach SC on April 24 complaining against the HC's de-



SC's vacation bench will hear Soren's petition on May 21

lay. As SC took cognisance of Soren's plea, HC passed the order rejecting Soren's plea and that order was then challenged in SC.

As Kejriwal's plea was scheduled for final hearing, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said that it was not possible to hear Soren's plea and posted the hearing before vacation bench on May 21.

Soren's arrest is connected to a "huge racket of illegal change of ownership of land by the mafia" in Jharkhand. Uptil now, 14 people, including 2011-batch IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan, who served as the director of the state's social welfare department and as Ranchi deputy commissioner, have been arrested in connection with the case.

## SC stays court's gag order on ex-MP's murder

Vijayawada: Terming it a violation of the principles of natural justice, Supreme Court stayed on Friday an Andhra Pradesh court's gag order restraining anyone from speaking in public on the 2019 murder of former Congress MP Y S Vivekananda Reddy, reports Srikanth Aluri.

The bench of Justices BR Gavi and Sandeep Mehta said Kadapa district court's order doesn't stand the test as the "other side" didn't get a hearing before their right to free speech was curtailed.

Kadapa district court had passed an interim order based on a petition filed by a YSRCP district president. State Congress chief YS Sharmila and the late Vivekananda Reddy's daughter, Dr Suneetha Narreddy, challenged it in AP HC.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a male person namely Vikas Sharma S/o Lt. Sitaran Sharma R/o H No. A-75, Budh Vihar, PH-I, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from his home since 01.04.2024 at 10:00 am. In this regard, a DD No. 102A, Dt. 04.04.2024 has been registered at P.S.: Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

description of the missing male person as under.

**Age:** 41 years, **Height:** 5'3" **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Black Pant, Yellow T-shirt and wearing sports shoes in the feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out his but no clue has come to light so far. Any person is having information or clue about this missing male person may kindly inform to the following.

**Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**  
**DP/5825/RD/2024**  
**S.H.O PS: Vijay Vihar, Delhi**  
**Ph No. 011-27521294, 27521295**

## Wrong CUET-UG paper given at Kanpur centre, test rescheduled

New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct exam for CUET-UG at a centre in Kanpur on May 29 where wrong question papers were distributed, officials said on Friday. The agency also denied reports of any question paper leak at the centre.

Day 3 of the exam was conducted in approximately 620 examination centres across the country and abroad.

"The examination covered approximately 5.3 lakh test papers completing 9.3% of the total examination. On Day 1 and Day 2, NTA successfully concluded tests for 25.9 lakh (44.7%) and 15.8 lakh (27.2%) combinations completed 72% of the total tests. In total, 81.3% of CUET (UG) examination has been completed in three days (May 15, 16, and 17, 2024) with a significant increase in attendance," said NTA official.

NTA will also conduct CUET-UG exam for Delhi exam centres on May 29, as the May 15 exam was postponed a night before citing unavoidable reasons. **TNN**

## 2 sisters run over by train in Agra, third 'missing'

Agra: Two sisters, Kiran (22) and Sarita (20), were allegedly run over by the Arunachal AC Superfast Express train on Thursday, reports Deepak Lavania. Their sister, 17, who was with them is "missing", said police, adding that they have recovered a mobile phone from the railway track and are trying to locate her. The incident took place near Nagla Chabeela under Barhan limits of Agra district.

SHO of Barhan, Rajeev Raghav, said on Friday, "Two women were hit by the Arunachal express train. Locals saw their bodies on the track and alerted the police. The sisters were daughters of Mahesh Valmiki from Gohila village."

"The bodies have been sent for postmortem. CCTV cameras are being scanned. An FIR will be registered soon," the SHO added.

The victims' family said the 17-year-old had gone to Barhan, and her two sisters went to look for her when she didn't return home after over two hours.

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**60 Kms of Tunneling in FY 2023-24 in Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Project**

### Extract of Standalone/Consolidated Financial Results for period Ended March 31, 2024

Sl. No.	Particular	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Year Ended			
		31.03.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
1.	Revenue from Operations	6700.69	4675.85	5721.25	21732.58	20281.57	6714.01	4689.33	5719.83	21889.23	20281.57
2.	Other Income	279.29	326.45	261.24	1182.55	1003.94	280.30	327.64	256.05	1185.57	996.44
3.	Total Income	6979.98	5002.30	5982.49	22915.13	21285.51	6994.31	5016.97	5975.88	23074.80	21278.01
4.	Profit Before Tax (PBT)	579.27	428.94	481.51	1939.40	1644.38	624.96	462.55	496.09	2053.91	1719.28
5.	Profit After Tax (PAT)	433.32	325.98	345.28	1462.95	1267.97	478.40	358.57	359.25	1574.47	1341.75
6.	Total Comprehensive Income/(loss) for the period/year	433.75	325.92	345.33	1463.19	1268.88	478.82	358.51	359.32	1574.71	1342.68
7.	Equity Share Capital	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02	2085.02
8.	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-	5782.26	4394.13	-	-	-	6660.66	5161.18
9.	Earnings per share (EPS)*										
	Basic	2.08	1.56	1.66	7.02	6.08	2.29	1.72	1.72	7.55	6.81
	Diluted	2.08	1.56	1.66	7.02	6.08	2.29	1.72	1.72	7.55	6.81

- \* EPS not annualised for the quarters.
- The above Standalone/Consolidated financial results have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 17th May, 2024.
  - As required under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (as amended), the Statutory Auditors of the Company have conducted audit of the above financial results for the year ended 31st March, 2024.
  - The Standalone/Consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2016 and other recognized accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable. The Consolidated Financial results also include the financial information in respect of 4 (four) subsidiaries, 13 (Thirteen) Joint Ventures and 1 (One) Associate which have not been audited by their auditors.
  - The Company/Group operates in a single reportable operating segment "Development of Rail Infrastructure" as per Ind AS 108 - Operating Segments.
  - Pursuant to the introduction of Section 115BAA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 ("New Tax Regime"), the Company has an option to pay corporate income tax at a lower rate of 22% plus applicable surcharge and cess as against the currently applicable rate of 30% plus surcharge and cess. In the quarter ended 30th September, 2023, the Company has elected to adopt New Tax Regime from Financial year 2023-24 onwards. Accordingly, current tax expense is not comparable with the reported tax expense for the quarter ended 31st December, 2023 and 31st March, 2024 and year ended 31st March, 2024.
  - Balances of some of the Trade receivables, Other assets, Trade and Other payables accounts are subject to confirmations/reconciliations and consequential adjustment, if any. Reconciliations are carried out on on-going basis. Provisions wherever considered necessary have been made. However, management does not expect to have any material financial impact of such pending confirmations/reconciliations.
  - In respect of Krishnapatnam Railway Company Limited (KRCL), RVNL is entitled for departmental charges @ 5% of the total cost of work as per the detailed estimate/revised estimate/completion estimate as provided in paragraph 1137 of the Code for Engineering Department of Indian Railways. RVNL has received representation from KRCL for waiver of the aforesaid departmental charges apart from other relaxations from contractual obligations. Based on the representation made by KRCL, the management of the Company has decided to keep in abeyance the claim of the said departmental charges, pending detailed review of the subject matter by the Board of Directors of the Company.
  - The President of India, acting through and represented by the Ministry of Railways, divested 5.36% (Offer Shares) of its holdings through an Offer for Sale (OFS) to retail and non-retail investors on July 26, 2023, and July 27, 2023. The OFS was successful. Additionally, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, via a letter dated August 1, 2023 offered 5,58,785 equity shares of Rs. 10 each to employees, representing approximately 0.5% of the "Offer Shares," i.e., 5.36% of RVNL. Against the offer, employees exercised an option for 200 shares. The total holding of the Government of India as of March 31, 2024, is 72.84% (compared to 78.20% in the previous year).
  - Based on the upto date reconciliation of GST accounts as per financial books with the GST portal and considering the outcome of GST proceedings for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19, Company has reviewed its likely liability on account of GST for the pending assessments. The Company has acknowledged and duly accounted for a liability of 0.87 crores in its books of account for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19 in instances where, upon consultation with experts, the Company has deemed it necessary, appeals have been filed regarding adjudication orders issued during the assessment proceedings for the aforementioned financial years. In respect of other pending assessments, based on the experts advice, company does not foresee further GST liability for the amount not exceeding Rs. 2.60 crores. Accordingly the provision of Rs. 2.60 crores has been made in the books of account during the year in line with the concept of conservatism and as a prudent measure. This provision has been made after considering the accounting of RVNL for GST which has been strengthened on implementation of auto populated GSTR-2A/2B by the GST authority. Demands amounting to Rs. 124.38 crores raised by department which has been shown as contingent liability are, in the opinion of Management and based on the experts advice, not likely to sustain.
  - The Consolidated results for the Financial year 2022-23 have been restated, showing a decrease to the extent of Rs. 78.92 Crore. This adjustment represents the difference between the provisional and audited financials of SPVs, which were received after the finalization of the financial statement for the Financial year 2022-23.
  - The Board of Directors has recommended the final dividend of Rs. 2.11 per equity share having face value of Rs. 10 each for the financial year 2023-24, subject to the approval of the shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting.
  - Figures of last quarter are balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the whole financial year and the published year to date unaudited figures up to the third quarter of the relevant financial year.
  - The audited accounts are subject to review by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India under section 143(6) of the Companies Act, 2013.
  - Wherever necessary, figures for the previous periods/year have been regrouped, reclassified/recast to conform to the classification of the current periods/year.

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter & year ended Standalone/Consolidated Financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The complete format of the Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website [www.rvnl.org](http://www.rvnl.org).

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
Pradeep Gaur  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN: 07243986

**RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED**  
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# Poll pledges unfulfilled for 20 yrs, 2 villages in Bundelkhand to boycott LS elections

## Villagers Protest Over No Power Connection, Meagre Crop Payout

Vishwa Mohan & Arindam Ghosh | TNN

**Mauranipur (Jhansi):** Come May 20, two villages of Mauranipur assembly segment of Jhansi parliamentary constituencies will boycott Lok Sabha poll - a first for the Bundelkhand region. One village has refused to vote as electricity connections continue to elude its residents despite assurances by candidates in every election for the past 20 years. Every household of the 100 in the village has at least one mobile phone, which the villagers have to charge by visiting neighbouring electrified villages and paying Rs 10 for one full charge.

The other village, nearly 40km apart, is protesting inadequate compensation for losses incurred in a strong

hailstorm that completely destroyed standing crops on March 2.

Though together the boycott will keep just 1,200 voters away from a total voting populace of 21.6 lakh in the Jhansi LS seat of Bundelkhand region, the unanimous decision of Puraina in Bangra block and Panchampura in Mauranipur block, is a reflection of the dejection felt by many against politicians for their failed promises.

All the villagers TOI spoke to in Puraina gave vent to their frustration which has driven them to organise this boycott emphasising the impact on education of children. "We have decided to boycott the poll on May 20 as our village is not electrified despite repeated promises by local leaders and officials



UP CM Yogi Adityanath and his MP counterpart Mohan Yadav at a road show in support of BJP's candidate in Jhansi

ahead of every election - be it panchayat, assembly or parliamentary," said Arvind of Puraina, 60km from Jhansi.

A few privileged ones supported by migrant income spent Rs 14,000 to get electricity illegally from neighbouring villages 2km away from Puraina. "Even that is possible if we give extra money as bribe to local officials during checking," claimed Deepchand, a local.

Villagers here mainly survive on free ration provided by govt and money sent by younger family members who have migrated to Delhi to work as daily wagers. Farming is barely existential for them due to water scarcity.

Villagers of Panchampura, on the other hand, feel cheated because they did not get adequate compensation for crop losses despite prom-

ises by sitting BJP MP and current party candidate from Jhansi, Anurag Sharma. The MP visited them and nearby villages after the hailstorm on March 2.

Almost the entire village, mainly men, gathered around and told TOI that they will not cast vote. "We have received only partial compensation much below even under the existing norms of support during such disaster... How can we pay our debt or repay our loan or go for farming operation once monsoon arrives? Why should we vote when govt did not listen to us," said Narenda Kumar Patel, a local. The villagers directed their ire at local land revenue officials for the mess created around compensation.

The hailstorm affected 145 villages in Jhansi on March 2, damaging crops worth over Rs 83 crore on roughly 50,000 hectare farmland. Villages of Mauranipur tehsil are worst affected.

# 'People are going to show BJD the door this time'

BJP will form govt in Odisha with a majority in assembly polls & also win all 21 Lok Sabha seats, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan tells TOI's Manash Pratim Gohain. Excerpts from the interview:

**Why is everyone in BJP - from the PM, HM, JP, Narendra and you - talking about Odia Asmita on the campaign trail?**

■ That's because of the political circumstances here. Odisha was first state to be created based on language in 1936. Before that, it faced a devastating drought. Odia leadership then realised that until we have a unique identity, there will be no development. Though the state was created based on language, the reason was development and sufferings from that drought. After 88 years, we come across a dreadful reality, be it health of Odia youth, status of education of new generation or employment.

Despite being a regional party, the CM could not find one Odia from the state's 4.5 crore population whom he could trust with future (of BJD). He trusted a gang of bureaucrats who want to capture the political leadership through back door. There is anger against this in society. It is our responsibility to safeguard future of Odisha - culture, tradition, language, food and development - which is connected to Odia asmita.

**400 paar, is it really going to happen? Your assessment of Odisha poll results and how do you see INDIA bloc's challenge.**

■ 400 paar has become a social movement that has come out of the collective wisdom of the country. The country still needs strong decisions over the next few decades, which only a strong govt can



TOI INTERVIEW

deliver. A strong mandate is forthcoming for NDA and that's why we said close to 400 seats will be achieved. INDI alliance is scattered. This will fizzle out soon. People's trust in the PM is high in Odisha. We are confident of forming govt with majority in Vidhan Sabha. We are winning all 21 LS seats.

**Opposition alleges that BJP's 400 target is to change the Constitution?**

■ BJP was in govt under Atalji for six years, followed by past 10 years under Modi ji. Give one instance in these 16 years where BJP meddled with the Constitution. On the contrary, those who are making such allegations have changed the Constitution multiple times.

**You are contesting after 20 years. Why Sambalpur?**

■ I hail from this rich cultural region of Odisha and this has been part of my previous constituency. It's my fortune that the party has approved my request to contest from this 'maryada janak sthan'.

**Your thoughts on BJD's challenge to BJP in Odisha.**

■ BJD is in office here and, naturally, we have been in opposition for years now. This time, people are angry with the party, there is a strong anti-incumbency and there is a strong trust factor in Modi ji. This time, Odia people will leave BJD behind.

**Ex-bureaucrat V K Pandian said if BJP gets 40-50 seats in Odisha Vidhan Sabha, it will break BJD.**

■ There is no need to break anything, people are going to show BJD the door this time.

**Naveen Patnaik has been saying BJP leaders are shedding crocodile tears on Odisha's problems.**

■ These are allegations to hide their incompetence. Naveen babu and his gang are not ready to face the truth, they are not in a position to answer people what they have done in past 25 years.

**Modi has said an Odia person will be CM of Odisha. Are you a contender?**

■ What the PM said is true. The issue is in whose hand does future of Odisha lie? With outsourced people or Odias? BJP will hand the mantle to an Odia.

**Your views on Arvind Kejriwal's claim that Modi will retire at 75.**

■ He is a liar, it's his habit. He should take care of his house. Amit Shahji clarified that our leader is PM Narendra Modi and there is no alternative to that.

## TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



## Wildfire claims another life in Almora, toll 6

**Almora:** A man died while trying to douse a wildfire that broke out near Khai Katti village in Hawalbagh block in the Sheshwar range under the state forest department's jurisdiction along with fellow villagers on Thursday evening, sources in the forest department said on Friday, reports Yogesh Nagarkoti.

The toll from forest fires in Uttarakhand now stands at six fatalities, with five in Kumaon region and one in Garhwal. The department dispatched a fire-fighting team to the scene upon receiving information but found the charred body of Mahendra Singh, 40, on Friday when they managed to control the blaze after night-long efforts. Ranger Manoj Kumar Lohani said the body was sent to Almora for postmortem.

## Gang-raped in moving train, alleges model

**Thane:** A 31-year-old model from MP has complained of being drugged and raped by unidentified men who also filmed the act inside a running outstation train between Kurla and Kalyan in March, said officials.

The woman, a native of Gwalior and working in Mumbai as a model, told the railway police she had boarded an early morning outstation train from Kurla LTT.

"The complainant told us she was travelling alone in the third AC coach of Tulsii Express to her native place when she got drugged and raped inside the coach. The entire act was also filmed by the accused. The incident occurred within 40 minutes of the train leaving LTT station," a police official said.

The woman approached the state railway police 39 days after the incident. TNN

**Woman, 95, dies after casting vote at Bengal home:** A 95-year-old woman passed away after suffering a heart attack minutes after casting her vote from home in West Bengal's Howrah district on Friday, reports Rupak Banerjee. Gayatri Mukherjee was a resident of Patihal in Howrah, under Serampore LS constituency, where polling is scheduled for May 20. On Friday, EC had arranged for elderly people to cast their votes from home. Shortly after casting her vote, she felt unwell and passed away.

EASTERN RAILWAY				
E-Auction Programme of Eastern Railway for the month of June '2024 is invited by Chief Materials Manager/ADMN, Eastern Railway, 17, N.S Road, Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700001.				
No. : S/AS/DAP/2024-25 Date: 16.05.2024				
SN	Depot/Division	Jurisdiction	Date	
1.	Belur Depot	Belur Depot, Howrah & Asansol Division	12.06.2024	19.06.2024
2.	Halisahar Depot	Halisahar Depot & Sealdah Division	11.06.2024	19.06.2024
3.	Jamalpur Depot	Jamalpur Depot & Malda Division	14.06.2024	21.06.2024
4.	Howrah Division	Howrah Division	12.06.2024	19.06.2024
5.	Asansol Division	Asansol Division	05.06.2024	14.06.2024
6.	Sealdah Division	Sealdah Division	20.06.2024	25.06.2024
7.	Malda Division	Malda Division	12.06.2024	26.06.2024

STORES-11/2024-25 Chief Materials Manager/ADMN  
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in  
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**No. 24011/01/2024-PP (B.I)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**  
**(Department of Personnel and Training)**

Applications are invited for Two (02) posts of Member, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) at Joint Secretary level, under this Department on deputation basis. The eligibility conditions and other details are contained in the vacancy circular displayed on the Department's website <https://dopt.gov.in/whats-new>. Interested candidates may apply in the format prescribed in the vacancy circular. Last date for receipt of applications is **12.06.2024**.

CBC 322011/0002/2425

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / ESTD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA SAMPLA ROHTAK	ESTIMATE FOR INTERNAL CLEARANCE OF KAROTHA LINK DRAIN FROM RD 0 TO 10350 FOR YEAR 2024-25 - 2 WORKS	27.05.2024	14.89 LACS	<a href="https://tenders.hry.nic.in">https://tenders.hry.nic.in</a>	984640970 xamapala@gmail.com
2	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA BHAWALGARH	INTERNAL CLEARANCE OF MUNGESPUR DRAIN RD 8050 TO 10950 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 - 4 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 21.05.2024	35.61 LACS	<a href="https://tenders.hry.nic.in">https://tenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0127629848 wdavisvishwak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) IN R 26332

Advt. No. - CEPTAM/JRF/2024/01

**Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO)**  
**Centre for Personnel Talent Management (CEPTAM)**  
**Ministry of Defence, Metcalfe House, Delhi-110054**

**INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (JRF)**

Centre for Personnel Talent Management (CEPTAM), a unit of DRDO is committed to scrutinize, actualize and recognize human potential to develop quality manpower required for DRDO. This Centre invites application for award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) as per details given below:-

S. No.	Number of fellowships	Essential Qualification Requirements (EQRs)	Subject/Discipline	Desirable Skills
01	02 (Two)*	Graduate Degree in Professional course (B.E./B.Tech.) in mentioned subject/discipline (in adjacent column) in first division with NET/GATE qualified. Or Post Graduate degree in professional course (M.E./M.Tech) in mentioned subject/discipline (in adjacent column) in first division both at Graduate and Post Graduate level. The Candidate shall hold both the degrees in any one of the subjects/disciplines mentioned in adjacent column.	• Computer Science/ Engg/ Technology • Computer Science and Engg/ Technology • Computer Science/ Engg & Info Tech • Computer Science & System Engg • Software Engg/Technology • Computer Science & Automation Engg/Tech • Information Technology • Computer Science/Technology & Informatics Engg/Tech • Information Science & Engg/ Technology • Computer & Communication Engg • Computer Networking • Information Technology & Mathematical Innovations • Any other relevant discipline with qualifying degree which mentions 'Computer Science' as the main discipline	Programming (.NET, Java, XML, PHP, Python).  Database Management (SQL server, My SQL).  AI & ML, Data Analytics, Data Science and Server & Network Administration

\*Number of vacancies may increase or decrease as per requirement.

The full advertisement regarding detailed General Information, How to apply & Selection Process etc. will be published in Employment News dated 18/05/2024 and will also be available on website [www.drdo.gov.in](http://www.drdo.gov.in).

CBC 103011/0034/2425 DIRECTOR CEPTAM

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) LT Distribution Boxes (SMC) (b) 11KV 3-Ph 500 KVA Copper Wound DTR (Star-2) (c) 11KV CPTT Sets, (d) 11KV & 33KV CTS and 11KV PTs, 0.2 class (e) Various sizes of cables (f) 8 Mtrs and 9.1 Mtrs Poles, (g) 12 V & 24 V 40 AH Batteries and Battery charges, (h) 11KV 200A TTAB Switches, (i) Stationery items, (j) Hiring of Multifunctional machines, (k) Catering service in CPTI, Hyd., (l) LT Pin Insulators (m) 11KV & 33KV feeder VCBs and (n) Auction for scrap materials on e-procurement platform and e-auction platform. The detailed description and for further details of each item above, please visit [www.tssouthernpower.com](http://www.tssouthernpower.com) and [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in).  
Sd/-  
Phone: 040-2343360, 1033, 1035, 1026 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER  
R.O. No.: 1080-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2024-25, Date: 17.05.2024 (P&MM)

**DIVISION OF NEMATOLOGY**  
**ICAR-INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
Lal Bahadur Shastri Center, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012

**Recruitment for Temporary Project Positions**

Applications are invited for two temporary project positions of Project Assistant-I (01 Position) and Skilled Field/Lab Worker (01 Position) for a contractual project (six-month duration) in the Division of Nematology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. The positions are purely temporary in nature and are co-terminus with the date of end of the project. Please visit IARI website <https://www.iari.res.in/bms/announcements/jobs.php> for further details.

AAO, Nematology

**SBI**  
Marketing & Communication Department, 9th Floor, State Bank Bhavan, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai - 400021

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

GeMID: GEM/2024/B/4947320 DATED: 16.05.2024

Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Engagement of an agency for Digital Marketing for State Bank of India. For details, please visit 'Procurement News at <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi> or visit portal and apply on GeM portal at <https://gem.gov.in> (GeMID: GEM/2024/B/4947320).

Last date and time for submission of bids: 07.06.2024 up to 15:00  
Bid Opening Date: 07.06.2024 at 15:30 hrs.

Place: Mumbai Deputy General Manager  
Date: 18.05.2024 Social Media (M&C)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Corrigendum of Tender

Due to administrative reason NIT No. 1-W-Dy.CETMCL-TB-01-24-25 dated 03.05.2024 for the under noted work to be opened on 27.05.2024 is hereby cancelled.

Work details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of work & date of completion	Description
1.	Overhauling of 17 sets of tamping banks (CSM/WST/VPR = 05 Sets, UNIMAT-2S/3S = 01 Sets, UNIMAT-4S/MPT = 02 Sets, MFI = 04 sets, CSM/DUO Modified type = 02 Sets and PCT/CRCC = 03 sets) over next two years* under jurisdiction of Dy. CE/TMCL/Line/New Delhi.	Completion period of the work :- 15 Months

No. 1-W/Dy.CE/TMCL/NDLS/Tender Corresp. Dated: 05.05.2024 1496/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**SABARMATI RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (SRFDCL)**  
Office: 2nd floor, "Riverfront House", Behind H.K.Arts College, Between Gandhi & Nehru Bridge, Puja Pramukh Swami Maharaj Marg (Riverfront-West), Ahmedabad-380009  
websites: [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com) or [www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in](http://www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in)

**Notice Inviting e-RE-TENDER**

SRFDCL invites e-Re-tender for the work: "DEVELOPMENT OF GANDHI ASHRAM SHAKSHANIK SHANKUL FOR MAHATMA GANDHI SABARMATI ASHRAM MEMORIAL TRUST AT AHMEDABAD"

Bid document is available on web site: <https://tender.nprocure.com> and Tender information is also available on [www.sabarmatiriverfront.com](http://www.sabarmatiriverfront.com)

Last date for online bid submission is 31-05-2024, Up to 16.00 Hrs. Pre bid meeting for the same will be held on Dt. 23.05.2024, 3:00 PM at above mentioned address.

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Dilshad, S/o: Sh. Babbu Ali, R/o: H. No.-E-65, Gali No.-2, Janakpuri, Shahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 293/17, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Kashmere Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Dilshad, S/o: Sh. Babbu Ali cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Dilshad, S/o: Sh. Babbu Ali has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Dilshad, S/o: Sh. Babbu Ali accused of FIR No. 293/17, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Kashmere Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.08.2024.

By Order  
Shri Chatinder Singh  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
Room No. 32, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/5762/N/2024 (Court Matter)

**SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Rakhi, D/o: Asha Ram, R/o: Near PNB Bank Girja Vali Gali, Khera Khurd, Delhi-82 has been reporting kidnapped since 02.05.2024 at about 01:15 PM from her home. In this regard FIR No. 464/2024, U/s 363 IPC, dated 10.05.2024 has been lodged at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. The description of kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Rakhi, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Oval, Wearing: Pink Colour Suit & Salwar and Lady Chapple in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi  
DP/5609/ON/2024 Ph: 011-27787596, 7065036324

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Padmesh Aggarwal S/o Sh. Subhash Garg R/o C-72, 3rd Floor, East of Kailash, New Delhi also at: H.No. 4A/12, Jawahar Nagar, Ward No. 37, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 66/2024, U/s 406/409/420/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Economic Offence Wing, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Padmesh Aggarwal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Padmesh Aggarwal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Padmesh Aggarwal of case FIR No. 66/2024, U/s 406/409/420/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Economic Offence Wing, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.06.2024.

By Order  
Ms. Devanshi Janmeja  
Metropolitan Magistrate-04  
South-East District, Court No.-10  
Saket Court Complex  
DP/5728/EOW/2024 (Court Matter) New Delhi

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on-line only (e-Tendering) for the following work.

Tender No. : AGCTRD202403 Approximate Cost : Rs. 4835577.40/-

Name of work : Modification in OHE due to modification of various Station Platforms by Engineering Department in Mathura Alwar section of Agra Division.

Earnest Money : Rs. 96700/- Period of completion : Nine months. 1. For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 2. Tender can only be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 16:00 Hrs. on date 21.05.2024 869/24 (AN)

North central railways @ [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

**Rain havoc claims two lives in TN:** A 17-year-old man died after flash floods triggered by heavy rain hit old Courtallam waterfall in Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi on Friday. In another incident in Madurai, a 44-year-old man died in a house collapse after heavy rain on Thursday. TNN

## 4-year-old's body found on campus, mob sets Patna school on fire

Patna: A mob set a private school on fire at Digha in Patna after body of a four-year-old student was found on campus on Friday, police said, reports Sheehan Nezami.

Angry protesters blocked Danapur-Ashok Rajpath road demanding immediate action against the culprits.

The school is barely 3 km from the child's home. Shailendra Rai, father of the deceased, said he got a call from a school official on Thursday evening saying his son was missing since noon. His body was found in a small drain passing by a classroom.

SP Chandra Prakash told TOI that three school officials have been detained and probe is on. "We had doubts about role of school administration after we scanned the footage."

# PM: Forced to spell out facts to expose oppn's communal mindset

## 'Cong Gearing Up To Reverse SC Verdict On Ram Mandir'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Barabanki (UP): PM Narendra Modi challenged the opposition's allegation that he was consistently pushing a "Hindu-Muslim narrative", saying he was being forced to "spell out facts to expose their communal mindset".

"SP aur Congress tushikaran ke aage ghatne tek khatke hain... Aur Modi jab inki sachai desh ko bata raha hai, unki Hindu-Muslimman karne wali soch ko be-naqaab karta hai to ye kehte hain ki Modi Hindu-Muslimman karta hai (SP and Congress have surrendered to the policy of appeasement. And when Modi exposes them, they accuse me of talking Hindu-Muslim)", he said at a rally here.

The PM said BR Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru were the staunchest opponents of reservation based on religion, but Congress turned Karnataka into a "laboratory" for this. "The entire Muslim community was declared OBC. Will you allow the same to happen in UP?"

Referring to Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said, "Opposition is so full of poison against Ram that it even turned down our invitation to the consecration ceremony." The PM said an SP-Congress dispensation will put Ram Lalla back in a tent.

"Congress is gearing up to reverse SC verdict on Ram Mandir. Don't be under any illusion... they can go to any extent," Modi said, accusing the opposition of being driven by the lure of "parivar and power".

Modi had started his speech in

## Cong: Modi must clarify if he backs Yogi on quota

With Modi saying INDIA bloc should learn from UP CM where to deploy bulldozers, Congress on Friday flagged an article from "official website" of Yogi Adityanath that rails against the system of reservations, and urged the PM to announce that he backs the UP leader's opposition to reservations for SC/ST and OBCs. In a video, AICC spokesman Jai Ram Ramesh is seen as accessing the website "yogiadityanath.in" and finding a write-up titled "Country smouldering in the fire of reservation", which is a diatribe against quotas for the weaker sections. Using the bulldozer as metaphor, Ramesh said Yogi's views on quotas show that he will destroy the Constitution that ensures the rights for SC/ST and OBCs. "PM should clearly say that he is supporting Yogi because of his views on reservation. This is the secret behind his slogan of '400 paar'. He wants 400 seats so that he can amend the Constitution," he posted on X. TNN

Awadhi, saying, "Hum aapke karja ma doob gayan (I am indebted to you). I vow to repay this debt through diligent work." He said NDA is confident of scoring a hat-trick so that it can make "many big decisions for the poor, youth, women, and farmers".

"You need MPs who will work and do good for you. We need MPs who will develop the area, not those who will abuse Modi for five years. For this, you have only one option—Lotus (BJP symbol). Can you achieve a 1,000cc performance with a 100cc engine? If you want rapid development, only a strong govt can provide it."

The PM lavished praise on CM Adityanath's "one district, one product" mission. "I no longer have to worry about purchasing gifts while going abroad," he said.

## Sonia says serving Rae Bareilly for 20 yrs her 'greatest wealth'

Continued from P 1

After keeping everyone guessing about whether he will contest from the family bastion, Rahul filed his nomination for Rae Bareilly on May 3 in the presence of Sonia and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Sonia's second appearance in Rae Bareilly in as many weeks saw her taking the mike for the first time in UP this election. "I bow my head in reverence to you all. You gave me the chance to serve you for 20 years. This is my life's biggest wealth. Rae Bareilly is my family, just as Amethi is my home."

She said some of her most cherished memories are linked to the constituency. "The pious soil of this place held the roots of my family for over 100 years. This relationship, which is as pure as Ganga Ma, began with farmers' agitation of Awadh & Rae Bareilly, and has continued to date." Sonia said she taught Rahul & Priyanka what "Indira ji & people of Rae Bareilly taught me - respect all, protect the weak, fight for rights of people with whoever you have to, & don't be scared because struggle is your legacy".

## Rebel SP MLA from Unchhahar joins BJP at Shah rally

Lucknow: Manoj Pandey, rebel Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA from Unchhahar assembly seat, formally joined BJP in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah in Rae Bareilly on Friday. He later shared dais with Shah during a rally which was called in support of party candidates from Rae Bareilly and Amethi, Dinesh Pratap Singh and Smriti Irani.

Polling in Rae Bareilly and Amethi is due on May 20. Pandey, who is the ex-chief whip of SP, had crossed voted in favour of BJP candidates during Rajya Sabha elections held in Feb this year.

Pandey, once considered close to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, has been one of the key Brahmin leaders in the party. He was also in contention to contest from Rae Bareilly as BJP candidate. However, BJP went ahead with Dinesh Pratap Singh, who is also a UP minister.

The development is learnt to have left Pandey upset and he began maintaining distance from BJP. However, two days back, Shah managed to persuade Pandey during a meeting. Dinesh was also present when Shah reached Pandey's residence. TNN

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sekh Farukh, S/o Sekh Salikh, R/o: B-222, Jasola Village, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 62/19, U/S 380/457/411 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sekh Farukh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sekh Farukh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sekh Farukh** accused of **FIR No. 62/19, U/S 380/457/411 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.07.2024**.

By Order

**Ms. Shipra Dhankar**  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
Central District, Room No. 180,  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/5816/CD/2024

## 5 militants arrested in Manipur:

Four militants of outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (People War Group) were arrested in Thoubal district on Thursday. Five phones, two pistols & 39 live rounds were seized from them. In a separate incident, a member of KCP (Taibanganba), a banned outfit, was held in Imphal West district. TNN

## Two MP kids die as wall collapses:

Two children died and a third was critically hurt when a wall collapsed on them on a road in Bhand district on Thursday. At 7.30pm, Anifa (5), Nikita Parihar (6), and Rohit Mircha (10) were on their way to attend a feast when the wall of a kuccha house fell on them, police said. Rohit is critical. TNN

## MORADABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.)

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

Ref. No. : 26/Env.Eng./NNM/2024-25 Date: 17-05-2024

Name of Work	Bid Security/ EMD	Time Limit	RFP Document Fee	EMD/Bid Security Exemption
Door to Door Waste Collection Transportation upto Secondary Collection Point, Mechanical Sweeping of Roads and User Fee Collection from 50 Wards of Moradabad Municipal Corporation.	23,00,000.00	5 Years	Rs. 11,800.00	Exemption has been granted to MSMEs (Micro and Small Enterprises) in similar nature of work.

**Key Dates:-**

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1.	Start date for Purchase of Tender (Online)	18/05/2024 at 10.00 AM
2.	Pre-bid meeting and submission of any query regarding the tender	22/05/2024 at 12.00 PM
3.	Last Date for submission of Tender (Online)	03/06/2024 at 04.00 PM
4.	Technical bid opening (Online)	03/06/2024 at 05.00 PM

**Note:-**

- Tender Document and other details shall be available on Website <https://etender.up.nic.in>
- Amendment to NIT, if any would be published only on website <https://etender.up.nic.in>
- Bank Details for online payment-  
A/C Holder Name - NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING  
A/C No - 27050100020717  
Bank Name - Bank of Baroda  
Bank IFSC code - BARB0BLYMOR (5th Character is Zero)
- Document Fee Rs. 11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) has to be paid through FDR/NSC/RTGS/NEFT during the downloading of RFP Document & payment of RFP Document fee in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Municipal Corporation".
- The RFP may be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained of this account.
- All the documents are to be submitted online.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Uttar Pradesh e-Procurement Portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 18/05/2024 at 10:00 Hours (IST) onwards. Online bids are invited for the following works up to 03/06/2024 at 16:00 hours. Technical Bid will be opened on same day at 17:00 hours at Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Pili Kothi, Moradabad.

For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above mentioned portal.

Varishth Nagar Swasthya Adhikari  
Nagar Nigam Moradabad

## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL, COURT OF R-2, GROUND FLOOR, NEW COURTS BLOCK, HIGH COURT OF DELHI, SHERSHAH ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110503

**Re: Notification bearing No. S.O. 1296 (E) dated 12th March, 2024 issued by the Central Government under Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 declaring the Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) as an 'unlawful association'.**

**To** The Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) along with its leaders, members, factions, wings and front organization as well as that of their principal Office Bearers.

WHEREAS the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") has declared the Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) as an 'unlawful association' vide Notification bearing No. S.O. 1296 (E) dated 12th March, 2024 which has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part - II Section 3, Sub-section (ii).

AND WHEREAS by Gazette Notification bearing No. S.O. 1628 (E) dated 05th April, 2024, which has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part - II Section 3, Sub-section (ii), in exercise of powers under Sub-section (1) of Section 5 read with Sub-section 4 of the Act, the Central Government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Ms. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) as an unlawful association. The Hon'ble Tribunal has considered the preliminary material placed before it in support of the Notification bearing No. S.O. 1296 (E) dated 12th March, 2024 during the course of proceedings held on 16th April, 2024 and consequent upon such consideration, has directed that a Notice be issued to you under Section 4 (2) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

NOW THEREFORE, a Notice is hereby given to you under Sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act and you are hereby called upon to show cause in writing within 30 days from the date of service of this Notice as to why your association should not be declared as unlawful and why an order should not be made confirming the declaration made in the above-mentioned Notification bearing No. S.O. 1296 (E) dated 12th March, 2024.

The Objections/Reply/Written Statement along with documents, if any, may be filed/delivered within the statutory period of 30 days from the date of service to the undersigned at His Office in the Court of Registrar-2, Ground Floor, New Courts Block, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi. In case Objections/Reply/Written Statement and accompanying documents are to be filed in regional language, their true English translations be also attached.

You are required to appear before the Tribunal on 20.05.2024 at 04.30 P.M. in Court Room No. 49, First Floor, New Courts Block, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi for further proceedings. Appearance can also be caused through a duly authorised and instructed Counsel/Advocate.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, High Court of Delhi, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi on this, the 16th day of April, 2024.

(Dr. Ajay Gulati)  
Registrar  
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 12th March, 2024

S.O. 1296(E).- Whereas, the Jammu Kashmir National Front (hereinafter referred to as the JKNF), chaired by Nayeem Ahmad Khan is indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the country;

And, whereas, members of the JKNF have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and anti-India propaganda for fuelling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir and providing logistic support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir;

And, whereas, the leaders and members of JKNF have been involved in mobilising violent protesters in various parts of Kashmir for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone-pelting on Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir;

And, whereas, JKNF has constantly asked the people of Kashmir to refrain from taking part in elections and thereby targeted and hampered the very basic constitutionally recognized fundamentals of Indian democracy;

And, whereas, the JKNF and its members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country;

And whereas, JKNF is involved in promoting, aiding and abetting secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India by involving in anti-national and subversive activities; sowing seeds of dis-affection amongst people; exhorting people to destabilise law and order; encouraging the use of arms to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India; promoting hatred against established Government and giving clarion call to boycott elections on multiple occasions in Jammu and Kashmir;

And, whereas, the Central Government is of the opinion that if there is no immediate curb or control of unlawful activities of the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), it will use this opportunity to -

- continue with the anti-national activities which are detrimental to the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of the country;
- continue advocating the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India while disputing its accession to the Union of India; and
- continue propagating false narrative and anti-national sentiments among the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the intention to cause disaffection against India and disrupt public order;

And, whereas, the Central Government for the above-mentioned reasons is firmly of the opinion that having regard to the activities of the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), it is necessary to declare the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect;

Now, Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of the section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the Central Government hereby declares the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) as an unlawful association;

The Central Government, having regard to the above circumstances is of firm opinion that it is necessary to declare the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) as an 'unlawful association' with immediate effect, and accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government hereby directs that this notification shall subject to any order that may be made under section 4 of the said Act, have effect for a period of five years from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[F. No. 14017/13/2024-NI-MFO]  
PRAVEEN VASHISTA, Addl. Secy.

DIP No. DIPJ-532/24/16.05.2024

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work:-

- Name of work and location : Overhauling of 17 sets of tamping banks (CSM/ WST/VR = 05 Sets, UNIMAT-2S/SS = 01 Sets, UNIMAT-4S/MPT = 02 Sets, MFI = 04 sets, CSM/DOU Modified type = 02 Sets and PCT/CRCC = 03 sets) under Jurisdiction of Dy. CE/TMC/Line/New Delhi.
- Completion period of the work : 15 Months
- Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 8,94,61,215.00
- Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) : Rs. 5,97,300.00
- Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online) : Rs. Nil.
- Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender : Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 17.05.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. on 07.06.2024. Tender Bids may be uploaded from 24.05.2024 & upto 15:00 hrs. on 07.06.2024 on IREPS website. The tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs. on 07.06.2024.
- Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document : The detailed tender document is available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 24.05.2024 to 07.06.2024. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. : 1-W-Dy.CETMCL-TB-03-24-25 Dated: 00.05.2024 1497/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

S. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	12241180 07.06.2024	Gangway Bridge Mounting	3574 Nos.	3,46,460/-
2.	14241076 13.06.2024	Stress Relieving, Shot Blasting, Painting and Machining & Transportation of Bogie Frame for IR-FIAT Bogies	369 Nos.	4,97,250/-
3.	12241097 18.06.2024	001) Lavatory Window with Fixed Louvers and Sealed Glass Unit for LHB Coaches 002) Fixed Window for LHB Coaches 003) Emergency Openable Window	7638 Nos. 3049 Nos. 964 Nos.	13,10,850/-
4.	17241188 10.06.2024	Set of Fully Automatic Sliding Doors with Mounting Arrangement for Entrance to Passenger Area for LHB First AC Coaches	9 Sets	80,710/-
5.	05241375 18.06.2024	Roof Flange	1770 Nos.	58,270/-
6.	01241177 17.06.2024	Set of Vertical Damper Support	724 Sets	1,05,850/-
7.	05241242 12.06.2024	End Wall Assembly	2779 Nos.	20,00,000/-
8.	01241151 20.06.2024	Security Disc	15215 Nos.	1,05,930/-
9.	01241174 13.06.2024	Set of Rubber Metal Bonded Items	1389 Sets	20,00,000/-
10.	04241037 28.06.2024	110 V, 120AH, VRLA Battery	67 Sets	2,44,830/-

- For details and making on-line bids, visit website <http://ireps.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>.
- Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and tenders will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tender at Sl. No. 1 to 4 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sl. No. 5 to 10 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

**Note:** GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in their dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. PCMM

## CORRIGENDUM

Tenderers may please note the following changes in 1. Tender No. 13245022 for Procurement Hydraulic Wheel Press as per Specification No. Mech/M&P/3700/10 Rev-03, Due Date to be read as 28.05.2024 instead of 13.05.2024. 2. Tender No. 12241024A for Procurement of Set of Retention Tank for 3-Phase MEMU/TC Coaches, Due Date to be read as 10.06.2024 instead of 08.05.2024. 3. Tender No. 17241135, Due Date to be read as 20.05.2024 instead of 13.05.2024. 4. Tender No. 17241090 for Procurement of Set of Chair Angle for LHB SCN & GS Coaches, Due Date to be read as 21.05.2024 instead of 10.05.2024. 5. Tender No. 13235423A for Procurement of Design, Manufacture, Erection, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane Cap-20 Ton As per Specification No. Mech/M&P/3800/03 Rev-04, Due Date to be read as 24.05.2024 instead of 16.05.2024. 6. Tender No. 02241056 for GPS Location based Papis for LHB AC 2T and AC 3T Coaches, Due Date to be read as 20.05.2024 instead of 15.05.2024. 7. Tender No. 01241075 for Fully Assembled Improved Bogies Compatible with IR-LHB Coaches (+1 Item), Due Date to be read as 30.05.2024 instead of 15.05.2024. 8. Tender No. 01241075 for Set of 2 Instrumented Wheel Sets, Quantity to be read as Deleted instead of 1 Set. 9. Tender No. 17241148 for Procurement of Exterior Stickers for LHB GS, SCN & AC-3T Coaches, (i) Due Date to be read as 28.05.2024 instead of 20.05.2024. (ii) Eligibility Criteria to be read as Eligibility Criteria Revised. 10. Tender No. 14241046, (i) Due Date to be read as 20.05.2024 instead of 13.05.2024. (ii) Other Conditions - Other Conditions Clause No. 9 has been revised. 11. Tender No. 14231255, Due Date to be read as 03.06.2024 instead of 17.05.2024. 12. Tender No. 17241094 for Procurement of Absorption Strip for Flooring, L = 2000 MM, Due Date to be read as 06.06.2024 instead of 24.05.2024. 13. Tender No. 14241046, Due Date to be read as 04.06.2024 instead of 20.05.2024. All other terms & conditions will remain the same. PCMM

R.O. No. 22-S/2024-25 Dated 17.05.2024

# US recognises Chabahar's key role in Af: MEA

## 'Project Aids Landlocked Central Asia, Humanitarian Supply'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The US has shown an understanding of the importance of the Chabahar Port operations for continued humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan and to provide alternatives, govtsaid Friday. The US had earlier this week, after India signed a long-term contract with Iran for development of the port,

reminded India of potential risks from sanctions.

"I would like to reiterate what EAM (Jaishankar) had earlier said that we should not take a narrow view of this issue. The project will benefit the entire region, particularly landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia. The US has in the recent past appreciated the larger relevance of the Chabahar project, particularly in the context of humani-



India has signed a long-term contract with Iran for the development of Chabahar Port, which govtsaid will benefit the entire region

tarian supplies to Afghanistan," said foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal.

The official said India's commitment towards the Chabahar Port is to realise its

potential as a connectivity hub for Afghanistan, and Central Asian countries, which are landlocked. The Indian company, India Ports Global Limited, has been operating the port since 2018 on an interim lease.

"Now, we have concluded a long-term agreement which is essential for port operation. Since then, we have provided humanitarian assistance including 85,000 metric tonnes of wheat, 200 metric tonnes of pulses and 40,000 litres of pesticide Malathion, to Afghanistan through this port," he said.

# Indigenisation catalyst for growth of domestic arms production: Army chief

New Delhi: The cumulative efforts of the armed forces in pursuing indigenous procurements has been a catalyst for the growth of domestic arms production, thereby laying the foundations of a globally competitive defence industry, Army chief General Manoj Pandey said Friday.

"From the perspective of national development, self-reliance today is critical for the nation to progress... 'swadeshi' is the edifice on which our capability-building endeavours are taking shape," General Pandey said. The 12-lakh strong Army, for instance, has 340 indigenous defence industries currently working towards conclusion of 230 contracts by 2025, which entails an outlay of around Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

Apart from the push for self-reliance in acquiring weapons and equipment, Army is also sourcing more and more ammunition and spares domestically, significantly reducing the import bill. "The aim is to stop the import of different kinds of ammunition, with only a few exceptions, within couple of years," an officer said.

Army's ammunition inventory includes 175 variants of different calibre and type, of which 134 have already been indigenised through efforts of DRDO and defense PSUs. A time-bound indigenisation plan for the currently imported ammunition with the help of the private industry has been put in place, the officer said.

# Man claims he impersonated Lava MD earlier too; cops probe

Not convinced, ED officials decided to have a word with the "patient". He turned out to be Naval Kishor Ram who had been sent to AIIMS by Vasant Health Centre with the promise that he would be treated for free if he got himself admitted as Hari Om Rai. Ram also revealed he had undergone a check up earlier too, on May 8, impersonating Rai. Police have filed a case and are probing the role of a private clinic and AIIMS officials.

Rai was granted bail by HC on medical grounds on Feb 16 for three months. On May 6, he filed a fresh plea for extension of his medical bail and was directed to undergo an examination at AIIMS.

**DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**  
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)  
(Estd. by Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)  
Shahbad Daultpur, Bawana Road, Delhi 110042

**MBA (Executive) ADMISSION NOTICE (AY 2024-25)**  
Delhi School of Management Invites Applications for Admission in Two year MBA (Executive) Weekend Programme

The industry relevant programme is designed to enable managers and entrepreneurs to become successful leaders in today's challenging business environment.

**Eligibility Criteria:**  
Graduation or its equivalent with minimum 50% marks or equivalent CGPA (10% relaxation in marks will be given to SC/ST/PwD).

**Work Experience:**  
(i) Minimum 2 years of work experience after Under Graduate (UG) degree (B.E., B.Tech., B. Arch, B.A, B.Sc., B. Com, BCA, MBBS etc.).

**Admission Criteria and Online Forms are available from 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at the University Website <http://www.dtu.ac.in>** For any query write E-mail to [emba.admission@dtu.ac.in](mailto:emba.admission@dtu.ac.in)

Sd/-  
Registrar

**Last Date of filling online application form is 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

**IIIT Bhubaneswar**  
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.  
(A University established by Government of Odisha)

**Admission Announcement**  
**B. Tech. Programme**

Applications are invited for admission to B.Tech. Programme under Odisha Category in the following disciplines.

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering
- Information Technology
- Computer Engineering

Admission shall be strictly restricted to JEE (Main) 2024 Rank holders. IIIT Bhubaneswar reserves 50% seats for Odisha category candidates and the counseling for admission shall be done by the Institute directly. The admission for the rest of the seats shall be done by JoSAA2024.

For Admission Bulletin and more details visit our website : <https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/admission>

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No.: JHS-N-W-25-24 Date: 15.05.2024

**E-TENDERING NOTICE**

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/GSU/Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-N-GSU-03-24	Rs. 42253428.40	Rs. 361300/-

Description of work: Khajuraho chord line from Mahoba line to Lalpur line (180 km) of Jhansi division.

Cost of Tender Form: Nil, Opening of tender: 07.06.2024 Time 15:00. Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 12 Months. Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 07.06.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) (JHANSI DIVISION-GATI SHAKTI, NORTH CENTRAL RLY), 864/24 (P).

North central railways @ [www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in) @ [northcentralrailway](https://twitter.com/northcentralrailway) @ [facebook.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.facebook.com/northcentralrailway) @ [youtube.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.youtube.com/northcentralrailway) @ [instagram.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.instagram.com/northcentralrailway) @ [linkedin.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.linkedin.com/northcentralrailway) @ [tiktok.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.tiktok.com/northcentralrailway) @ [snapchat.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.snapchat.com/northcentralrailway) @ [twitch.tv/northcentralrailway](https://www.twitch.tv/northcentralrailway) @ [pinterest.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.pinterest.com/northcentralrailway) @ [reddit.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.reddit.com/northcentralrailway) @ [threads.net/northcentralrailway](https://www.threads.net/northcentralrailway) @ [youtube.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.youtube.com/northcentralrailway) @ [facebook.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.facebook.com/northcentralrailway) @ [instagram.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.instagram.com/northcentralrailway) @ [linkedin.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.linkedin.com/northcentralrailway) @ [tiktok.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.tiktok.com/northcentralrailway) @ [snapchat.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.snapchat.com/northcentralrailway) @ [twitch.tv/northcentralrailway](https://www.twitch.tv/northcentralrailway) @ [pinterest.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.pinterest.com/northcentralrailway) @ [reddit.com/northcentralrailway](https://www.reddit.com/northcentralrailway) @ [threads.net/northcentralrailway](https://www.threads.net/northcentralrailway)

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
हरिद्वार  
विज्ञापन संख्या : 32/05/ई-4/सीओआर(एडोई)/2021-22 दिनांक: 16 मई, 2024

**विज्ञापित**  
'उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य अभियंत्रण सेवा परीक्षा-2021'  
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि 'उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य अभियंत्रण सेवा परीक्षा-2021' हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : A-2/E-4/A.E./2021-22 दिनांक 01.09.2021 में विज्ञापित दिव्यांगजन श्रेणी के शासन को प्रत्यावर्तित पदों के सापेक्ष प्रश्नपत्र परीक्षा का परिणाम विज्ञापित संख्या : 22/16/AE-21/G-2/2023-24 दिनांक 26.04.2024 द्वारा घोषित किया गया है।

2- उक्तविज्ञापित परीक्षा हेतु दिव्यांगजन श्रेणी के पदों के सापेक्ष साक्षात्कार हेतु औपबन्धिक रूप से सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों एवं अपनी मूल श्रेणी के आधार पर पूर्व में साक्षात्कार में सम्मिलित दिव्यांग अभ्यर्थियों का अभिलेख सत्यापन दिनांक 27 मई 2024 को परीक्षा अनुभाग-4, उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार में कराया जाना निर्धारित है। अभिलेख सत्यापन के संबंध में विस्तृत विवरण आयोग की वेबसाइट [psc.uk.gov.in](http://psc.uk.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

(गिरधारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

**U. P. Power Corporation Ltd.**  
IT Unit, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Shakti Bhawan Ext., Lucknow-226001  
Email: [etenderitunit@uppl.org](mailto:etenderitunit@uppl.org)

**Notice Inviting Tender Date: 18.05.2024**

e-Bids are invited from interested bidders against E-tender No. 04/UPPCL/RAPDRP-A/Additional EPGA/2024 Date 18.05.2024 Selection of Agency for Second and Third Electronic Payment Gateway Aggregator (EPGA) services for UPPCL and its DISCOMs (Puvvnl, Mvvnvl, Dvvnvl, Pvvnl and KESCO). Tender can be downloaded from U-P e-tender portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> for further details. Any changes, corrigendum etc. shall also be notified on the website. UPPCL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof. "Save Electricity for the Interest of the Nation" RO-21 dt. 17.05.2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Shadab S/o Rahish Khan R/o H. No. 359, Gali No. 18, Jafraabad, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 127/2024 Dated 10.03.2024 U/s 302/307/120B/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act, PS Seelampur, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Shadab can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Shadab has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Shadab of case FIR No. 127/2024 Dated 10.03.2024 U/s 302/307/120B/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act, PS Seelampur, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 05.07.2024

By Order  
Sh. Vipul Sandwar  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
N.E. Court No. 17  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/5696/NE/2024  
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 (2) II Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Durgawati, S/o: Sh. Joginder and Joginder, S/o: Sh. Bhograj R/o: B-77, Yadav Nagar, Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi and Rajesh, S/o: Sh. Ram Kishan R/o: H. No. 181, Beena Enclave, Nangloi, and Rajesh, S/o: Sh. Kallu R/o: Kamruddin Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 275/16, U/s 328/379/411/34 IPC, P.S.: South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Durgawati, Joginder and Rajesh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Durgawati, Joginder and Rajesh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Durgawati, Joginder and Rajesh accused of FIR No. 275/16, U/s 328/379/411/34 IPC, P.S.: South Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.06.2024.

By Order  
Ritika Kansal  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
Room No. 208, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rohini District Court, Delhi

DP/5778/RD/2024  
(Court Matter)

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E/Procurement/24/30 Dated: 15/05/2024. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following: E-Tender's items for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective likely suppliers are requested to look up the website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [143]; 14242634; Oil Cooler Radiator for Converter Transformer Cooling to CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0102/E; As per tender documents; 12/07/2024; ₹ 0.00. [144]; 14242972; Microprocessor Based Electronic Speed Indicating, Recording System and (1) (One) Evaluation Software For Every 10 (Ten) Sets of SPM (Without Memory Card Reader Unit & Communication Cable For Master To Slave) For WAG-9 / WAP-7 & WAP-5 Type 3-Phase Locomotives To RDSO Specn. No. ELRS/SPEC/SPM/0002 (REV. 4); As per tender documents; 04/07/2024; ₹ 0.00. [145]; 14242988; High Reach Pantograph For AC Electric Locomotives As Per Specn. No. RDSO/2007/EL/SPEC.0054, REV '3' Amend.; Dated 27.09.2022; As per tender documents; 28/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [146]; 14242692A; High Voltage Bushing For 3 Phase Locomotive To CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0052/D; As per tender documents; 25/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [147]; 14242510; Machine Room Blower Including Motor (Wound With Corona Resistance Wire) As Per Specn.No.1, CLW/ES/3/0020/H2, S.P.E.C./E-10/3/09 (Motor) With Amendment No.s 01 to 06. As per tender documents; 18/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [148]; 14243001; LED Based Twin Beam Head Light For WAG-9HC As Per Specn. No. 1, December 06). As per tender documents; 17/07/2024; ₹ 0.00. [153]; 14242923; Set of WAGO Type Terminal Block For WAG-9HC Locomotive To CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0644/G or latest (Set Details enclosed); As per tender documents; 12/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [154]; 14242923; Set of WAGO Type Terminal Block For WAG-9HC Locomotive To CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0644/G or latest (Set Details enclosed); As per tender documents; 12/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [155]; 14242923; Set of WAGO Type Terminal Block For WAG-9HC Locomotive To CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0644/G or latest (Set Details enclosed); As per tender documents; 12/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [156]; 14242923; Set of WAGO Type Terminal Block For WAG-9HC Locomotive To CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0644/G or latest (Set Details enclosed); As per tender documents; 12/06/2024; ₹ 0.00. [157]; 14242923; Set of WAGO Type Terminal Block For WAG-9HC Locomotive To CLW Specn. 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Humans are voracious beasts — globally, we consume 360 million tonnes of meat every year. That number comprises real beings, their earthly tenure ended by our greed — unless we count sausages or chicken wings as existential essentials, like water, it is impossible to justify these killings. Over 202 million chickens, 3.8 million pigs, 1.4 million goats and 9,00,000 cows are killed daily — but you don't hear any cries. The industrial farming industry, which is valued at \$3.3 trillion, ensures you meet these souls only as 'tastes'. Despite the delicacies prepared using them, these animals are kept in cramped, filthy cages, many unable to even stand, often neutered or debeaked with no anaesthetic, experiencing sunlight and fresh air only en route to the slaughterhouse. There, their throats are slit often while they're conscious. Many are still struggling for life as they are hacked, skinned or plunged into scalding tanks for hair removal.

Conditions aren't much better for animals imprisoned elsewhere. Over 115 million are used in laboratory experiments worldwide each year — rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, cats, monkeys and mice are forced to inhale toxic fumes, have holes drilled into their skull, their skin burned, suffering genetic manipulation and chemical injections. They are then dumped into small cages, echoing with fear, pain and callousness. We are told animal testing is for developing essential medicines — but it is also used to make life's non-essential goods, from detergent to make-up, making us lovely on the broken backs of the damned.

Life is a full circle though. Hurting animals, we hurt ourselves — Harvard Medical School finds eating meat is linked to higher rates of cancer, heart disease and diabetes. As we decay, so does Earth — industrial food farms generate 18% of global warming emissions. The entire system, snatching untold lives and masquerading these killings as 'celebrations', is an orgy of baroque consumption — two-thirds of Earth's agricultural land grows livestock feed while just 8% generates food for direct human consumption. There are solutions though. As Times Evoke's global experts emphasise, recognising two systems is vital. The first is speciesism or humans imagining other animals are inferior and their suffering irrelevant. The second is capitalism which often turns evil banal, leading to, as Karl Marx described, 'All that is sold melts into air.' Investigating this air is crucial now. Join Times Evoke in learning of the animals we damn — to save them and yourself.

# 'Humans treat animals like slaves, taking even their flesh from them — speciesism boosts this'

Peter Singer is Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das at Times Evoke, he discusses animal suffering — and why humans cause this:

**How do you define speciesism — and is this linked to the current environmental crisis?**

Speciesism is an attitude of bias or prejudice against beings who are not members of our species. This also works sometimes against some beings whom we favour over others, such as dogs and cats who we prefer over pigs or chickens. This attitude does have environmental significance because it means we give less consideration to the interests of free-living animals in their natural habitat than to members of our own species — we are far more ready to cut down forests or bulldoze land for our purposes without giving weight to the interests of animals living there.



**Why do we victimise non-human animals?**

For very long, humans have victimised those they regard as 'others' — they have made war against them, enslaved them, denied them all kinds of rights. I think a self-interested attitude drives this behaviour where we see some as 'us' and others as different and regard the latter as 'things' which we can use for our own purposes. This has happened with people of different races who have been colonised or enslaved. It also happens with other species. At least, at some level, we now recognise that slavery, colonialism and racism are wrong — but we do not yet recognise this with regard to other species. We don't have universal declarations of the rights of animals.

**Animals eat animals in nature's food chain — in 'Animal Liberation', why do you write humans eating animals is problematic?**

Firstly, we have the capacity to make choices about what we eat — humans are omnivores and can be very healthy as vegetarians or vegans. A tiger simply



**BATTERED:** Battery chickens cannot stand



**BORN FREE — BUT CRUELTY AWAITS THEM:** All animals are made to live free lives but humans ensure many non-human beings live in cages and end in slaughterhouses

cannot live without eating other animals. Also, environmentally, we have developed this immense technological ability to change the entire planet — we burn massive amounts of fossil fuels and are altering Earth's atmospheric balance. We deforest huge tracts of land — other animals don't have the ability to change planetary systems in the way we are doing. Our speciesism and preying on other animals is much more significant than predators existing in nature.

**Critics argue if eating sentient animals, who can feel suffering and enjoy life, is wrong, so is eating plants which are similar — what is your view?**

I do not believe plants are sentient in this way. Plant species do not have the same kind of nervous system or the capacities animals have, so there is no strong reason to argue they are sentient. However, even if plants were so, consider how, when we put animals into factory farms for our food, we have to feed them. This involves growing plants and animals need many times the number of plants humans would need if we were to eat plants directly. Cows up for slaughter need to be fed ten times the food value that we get out of them — so, by eating plants directly, we'd actually be destroying far fewer of their numbers than growing them to feed the animals that we then eat.

**What should we know about how animals for slaughter are treated in order to make an informed choice?**

The question here is not just slaughter where, of course, animals suffer greatly, both being transported to slaughterhouses and in the process of being killed when they go through agonising pain. But they also suffer greatly when they are raised in confinement in factory farms. Here, they are crowded indoors in sheds and cages, clogged together in huge numbers, treated as commodities and not beings with lives. There is no interest taken in whether they should be living a natural life or have any conditions which suit their well-being. The

entire system is geared towards extracting a 'product' out of them as cheaply as possible — their welfare is neglected entirely.

These animals live their entire lives indoors, bereft of sunshine or fresh air, crowded into tiny cages which are completely unsuitable and made very vulnerable to diseases, in addition to the pain and fear they undergo. We need to think about these factors linked to eating meat — nearly all the meat eaten globally now comes from these factory farms. This is as true of India as of the United States, Europe and Australia, particularly for chickens and pork.

**You used the word 'commodity' — are there parallels to slave labour in the way we treat animals today?**

Absolutely. There is no doubt that these animals are enslaved and treated as objects for our gain. In chicken produc-

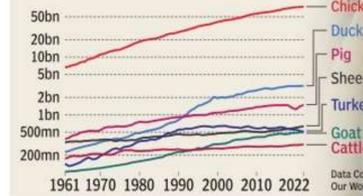


**USE YOUR CHOICE:** Animal testing is used even to make shampoo and paint

tion, if a producer has 5,00,000 birds in captivity, there is no interest paid to any individuals. If a bird falls sick, none of these producers is likely to call in a vet to help them — that would not be economical for them. They will let the bird

**SNACKS, MEALS, LIVES: AS GREED GROWS**

Billions of animals are raised and killed per annum



Data Courtesy: Our World in Data

Today, the Zanzibar red colobus faces extinction — endemic to the Zanzibar archipelago off Tanzania's coast, this species navigates branches skilfully despite not having thumbs and supplements fruits with charcoal to soothe its tummy. But humans eat these — the red colobus is the most endangered primate in Africa. Those not eaten face their coastal scrub habitat taken by humans who kill the little animals for their own 'development'

## COOLER TYPES

Some of the world's most famous people have advocated the rights of non-humans. The writer George Bernard Shaw lived for over 70 years as a vegetarian, apparently writing how, 'We are the living graves of murdered beasts' and wondering why feasts full of animal dishes don't make us think of their right to savour life. Known as an acerbic wit, Shaw also quipped, 'Animals are my friends... and I don't eat my friends.'

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, aka Mahatma Gandhi, led India's freedom movement against the British Raj. A great exponent of 'ahimsa', Gandhi, who patterned himself on millennia of sages, believed in non-violence — and vegetarianism. He joined vegetarian movements as a student in Britain and shunned meat for health and peace, saying, 'The most violent weapon on earth is the table fork.'

In 1955, Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, refused to give up her bus seat for a white person. This sparked off the US civil rights movement. Parks also advocated vegetarianism — her leadership thus united many strands of empathy, seeking human equality to animal rights

Research: Smithsonian Magazine, CNN, Encyclopaedia Britannica, BBC, London Review of Books

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## HOW WE'RE EATING UP THE WORLD...

The Steller's Sea Cow, first seen in 1741, once lived widely around the Komandor Islands in the Bering Strait. Reaching 30 feet in length and weighing 20,000 pounds, this was a gentle herbivore which ate kelp and floated quietly — as it couldn't submerge itself easily, it was spotted by Russian seal hunters who began harpooning it to use as meat over long journeys. By 1768, the Steller's Sea Cow was made extinct

The passenger pigeon was among the most populous birds of North America in the 1900s, billions living across the east — as American settlers pushed further in, the pigeons were killed yearly by the million for their meat. Hunters would raid their nesting grounds and finish entire colonies, ending the lives of these chirpy birds which once turned the American skies dark with their massive annual migration — by 1914, the last bird had passed on in captivity in an Ohio zoo



Today, the Zanzibar red colobus faces extinction — endemic to the Zanzibar archipelago off Tanzania's coast, this species navigates branches skilfully despite not having thumbs and supplements fruits with charcoal to soothe its tummy. But humans eat these — the red colobus is the most endangered primate in Africa. Those not eaten face their coastal scrub habitat taken by humans who kill the little animals for their own 'development'



# 'The British Raj had little knowledge — and even less sensitivity — towards animals used in war'

James Hevia is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Chicago. Speaking to Times Evoke, he describes the use of animals in imperial warfare — and times when the camels bit back:

Author of 'Animal Labor and Colonial Warfare', James Hevia speaks with the meticulousness of the historian, outlining facts with care to not get carried away, despite the moving quality of what he is outlining — the treatment and losses of animals in colonial warfare. Describing the difference between earlier armies' use of animals and the imperial utilisation of these, largely in transport, he says, 'Until the mid-19th century, the British did pretty much what the Mughals had done — they had a small

number of animals attached to the army and hired local groups like the Banjaras to use bullocks and move goods across India. For the campaigns in the Sikh regions though, they began to hire and sometimes impress or force camels in as they moved to the west and northwest. They also used camels, ponies and mules in the Afghan War of 1878-1880. The Second Afghan War was a massive debacle though,' Hevia pauses slightly, then resumes, 'Between 60,000 to 80,000 camels perished. There was pressure from London to reform this system — yet, in 1895, came the Chitral campaign in the northwest when large numbers of animals were again lost. The government formed a committee to investigate. Under Lord Curzon, it was decided a more professionally trained transport corps would be organised — in the early 20th century, schools were set up for training. But the use of animals continued right to Independence — even afterwards, the mule component of army transport continued in India. Not long ago though,' Hevia remarks, with a slight



**ONLY THE HUMANS KNEW WHY:** Riding horses, British soldiers battled in Africa in WWI



**INSIDE MASS DESTRUCTION:** Animals were used in war before the British — but their deployment changed dramatically as the colonising force spread around the world, capturing huge tracts. The animals now faced weapons and devastation they had never seen before

smile, 'The TOI reported the Indian Army could soon stop using mules, relying instead on drones.'

Animals were also involved in the British grab of what it termed 'the canal colonies', which had devastating ecological consequences. Hevia

describes some of these, 'The government gave land grants to people willing to raise mules or camels. Some of these in the canal colonies were directly tied to the military thus. The canals changed the ecology of Punjab. The British called the areas around the Indus 'wastelands' and the canals were meant to make them productive. But these were the grazing grounds of camels who needed wild plants around the rivers. Losing this natural resource, their health declined.'

There were even longer-lasting impacts. Canals caused waterlogging and a rise in diseases — 'More canals meant more breeding grounds for mosquitoes which damaged camels and equines,' Hevia describes. 'A blood parasite locally called 'surra' spread among the animals via biting flies — the losses were enormous. Treatments were eventually developed but this disease remains a problem. Currently found in Asia and Africa, with climate change,' Hevia predicts, 'It will move to Western locations too.'

The British colonial regime often presented itself as the model of order and

rationality, compared to what it claimed were 'disorderly' native regimes before — but, Hevia says, its treatment of animals exposed this claim. He laughs dryly on hearing 'Raj' and 'rationality' together and explains why: 'Once the British hired or forced animals into service, it was difficult to keep track of them as things were extremely chaotic. Since the British didn't have organised units for this, they relied on civilians to handle the animals — most of the people who owned camels or mules were farmers though who didn't want to go on these harsh campaigns. So, the British relied on 'sweeping up the bazaars', getting unemployed people to become animal handlers, with no experience of this. The British were not counting the animals who lost their lives in the process — they were counting how many more were needed to replace them. The effort to routinise animal use appeared and disappeared — the key element was always the cost. The point about not professionalising the transport corps was the govern-

ment's reluctance to pay for a permanent establishment, despite the large-scale perishing of animals and the costs of that. The 'rationality' of this depends on how you define that,' says Hevia, with an almost imperceptible shrug.

Often, there was deep obtuseness about the animals forced to go to war: 'The British had close ties with horses but they didn't understand camels,' Hevia explains, 'After many died in the Afghan War, the British said there was something wrong with the animals, not their handling of them, which was a classic case of blaming the victim. Only the rise of veterinary science exposed these flaws, recognising many camels had perished due to British ignorance.'

Vets became advocates for better conditions for animals, demanding more say over their treatment, often drawing from local knowledge and soldier accounts. 'By the 20th century, more humane treatment was developing alongside greater learning,' Hevia says. 'One of the biggest failures in the Afghan War was overloaded camels — no one knew the right amount they could take and arguments broke out over the load

between soldiers and veterinarians.'

At times, the harried, tired animals would try to show they had some choice. 'Camels would often refuse to move under extremely heavy loads or very difficult terrain. So did mules occasionally, although they put up with far rougher conditions,' Hevia nods. 'Memoirs of the camel corps raised in the Middle East in WWI showed ties forming between the soldiers and animals, the former noting, for instance, how the camels formed strong affinity groups and didn't like to be separated from each other. They expressed deep displeasure, with strange noises, on occasions when they were forced apart from the ones they knew. Upset by the killings or weapons or exhausted by their burdens, animals would rebel by biting or kicking. 'Such situations needed sensitive, experienced handlers and vets with the authority to decide which animals could or couldn't work — both came very slowly.'

However, the treatment of animals in these wars became an issue for groups advocating animal rights. A huge number of horses were used in WWI to move supplies. They were exposed to a hitherto-unimagined scale of bombardment and chemical warfare. Many were in foreign lands — Hevia says, 'In the Mesopotamia Campaign around 1915, Indian Army animals were taken and perished there. There was a growing sensibility about these losses which encompassed WWII. The animal war memorial in London acknowledges that. Vet guidebooks were also written about the proper care of animals. These,' Hevia says, 'Contain an echo of rights, recognising when an animal is ill-treated or overworked.'

Today, studying animal history is growing increasingly important. Hevia smiles faintly as he remarks, 'There was a report recently about orca whales attacking ships in the Mediterranean — this could be their response to the massive rise in shipping and four boats there. When you think about human impacts on Earth, we tend to do so primarily in terms of carbon emissions. That is only one part of the story though — the other part is animals who cannot survive beyond certain conditions. They present early warning systems of the problems we are creating on this planet. To understand the Anthropocene, we must heed the chronicles of animals.'

I was amazed to know that apart from giving us great dishes, the cauliflower is a very interesting plant. Its fractal properties, beautifully presented in TE, are fascinating! From now on, I shall look at cauliflowers from a totally different perspective.

## READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke, Being a serious botany student of yesteryears, I wish I had been enlightened then by your brilliant pieces intelligently crafted by Times Evoke. Reading these wonderful articles have brought me closer to nature than ever before. I fervently wait every weekend for this page!

— Brigadier Advitya Madan, Patiala

TE's feature on the fractal architecture of cauliflowers (4th May) took us on an exciting voyage of discovery! We understood how genes control plant growth. A wild weed was genetically altered by Christophe Godin's team and, hey presto, there emerged a cauliflower! We are grateful to Team TE for these precious insights on the fractal properties of plants.

— Jillian, Chennai

I was amazed to know that apart from giving us great dishes, the cauliflower is a very interesting plant. Its fractal properties, beautifully presented in TE, are fascinating! From now on, I shall look at cauliflowers from a totally different perspective.

— Shashi Aggarwal, Delhi

The wonders of nature really fascinate us when we can explore them. Special thanks to the researchers TE featured for presenting amazing facts for us readers. Times Evoke actually evokes readers to learn astonishing facts like a cauliflower's fractal architecture!

— Samina Shaikh, Nashik

I'm Siddharth, studying in Grade 2. TE on cauliflowers was a good article on fractal architecture, genes, geometry and patterns. Also, it could help us understand angles. Thank you for sharing knowledge about science and math in the same text. I can see how they are connected.

— Siddharth, Sarjapura, Bengaluru

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**BEASTS OF DEADLY BURDEN:** Horses had to carry artillery shells in Flanders in WWI



BATTLEGROUND INDIA | APRIL 19-JUNE 4, 2024

## No shadow of sex charges as son of ex-WFI chief enters poll akhara

Direct Contest With Brahmin Candidate From SP On Cards; No Sign Of Decline In Brij Bhushan's Clout In The Region

Shalabh@timesgroup.com

**H**amare maalik, hamare bhagwan, mananiya saansad Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh ko janmdin ki shubhkamnayein' — Nivedak, 'saansad bhakt' Samrat Gupta. (Heartfelt birthday wishes to our master, our god, honourable MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh — from a devotee, Samrat Gupta).

Thus reads a poster in Paska Bazaar area of Kaiserganj Lok Sabha constituency (see photo). The writing on the wall is clear enough to dispel any misgivings about the clout that the 67-year-old strongman, six-time MP wields in the Kaiserganj LS constituency comprising two assembly segments of Bahraich and three of Gonda.

The decision of a Delhi court to frame charges of sexual harassment against the former president of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) — levelled by a group of women wrestlers following a long and bitter agitation — does not find echo among voters of Kaiserganj, which goes to polls on May 20.

After maintaining suspense for days over the candidature of Brij Bhushan from Kaiserganj, BJP on May 2 named his 33-year-old younger son Karan Bhushan Singh as its candidate for the seat.

A six-time MP (his wife Ketaki has also been elected MP once),

### STRONGMAN SEEKS SON-RISE IN SANCTUARY

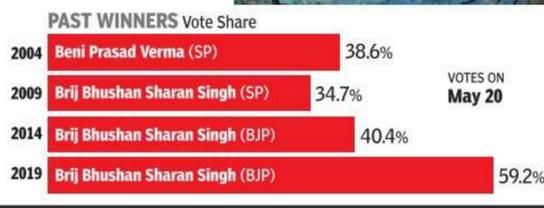
NOTES FROM THE GROUND

Charges of sexual harassment by woman wrestlers against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh don't appear to have much resonance in Kaiserganj

There's little evidence to suggest Singh's clout in the region is on the wane

However, Singh and his son Karan Bhushan, who's the BJP candidate, do seem to be battling a degree of anti-incumbency

It's a direct contest with SP candidate Bhagat Ram Mishra, who hopes to wean away a section of Brahmin votes, in addition to INDIA's traditional support base



Singh's victory margin had gone up from about 80,000 votes in 2014 (against Vinod Kumar of SP) to 2.61 lakh votes in 2019 against Chandradev Ram Yadav of BSP.

Karan is determined to carry forward his father's legacy. "Had 'netaji' (Brij Bhushan) been contesting, we would have been watching out for the final victory margin. But things could play out differently now that he is not directly in the picture," says Ram Avtar Gautam, a farmer from Kuttipur village in Colonelganj assembly segment.

Of the five assembly segments in Kaiserganj Lok Sabha constituency, three (Katra Bazar, Colonelganj and Tarabganj) are situated in Bhushan's home turf of Gonda, from where he won the LS election

in 1991 and 1999. The remaining two assembly constituencies (Payagpur and Kaiserganj) fall in neighbouring Bahraich district.

Barring Kaiserganj, BJP won the remaining four assembly seats in the 2022 state elections.

However, what could have been a cakewalk for the Singh family has become tricky, with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav fielding Bhagat Ram Mishra from the seat. Mishra, who is the elder brother of Shrawasti zila panchayat president and former BJP MP from the same seat, Daddan Mishra, is getting support from fellow Brahmins who constitute a significant chunk in the constituency. He also claims to have a strong backing from the minority community.

While Karan might come out strong in the three seats of Gonda, a sizeable presence of both Brahmins and minorities in Bahraich may see Mishra posing a tough challenge for him. In fact, when BJP's Daddan Mishra was elected unopposed as zila panchayat president in Shrawasti in June 2021, Brij Bhushan was by his side.

As Bhagat Ram Mishra, sitting atop an open truck and followed by several SUVs in a cavalcade, waves at the crowd and heads towards Tarabganj, 70-year-old Shyam Lal Rawat, who retired as a subedar major from the army in 2001, remains unimpressed. "At least a dozen villages in Tarabganj have started getting electricity in the last five years. It happened under PM

Modi's leadership. I do not think challenging Brij Bhushan's dominance in this region is easy. Moreover, the SP candidate is from Bahraich," says Rawat, who hails from Kindhaura gram sabha.

BSP candidate Narendra Pandey (47) from Indiranagar in Lucknow is seen as an outsider and is believed to have a limited impact in the constituency. Apart from the three, Independent Arunima Pandey (48), is the only woman contender in the fray but she, too, is from Gomtinagar, Lucknow. As the stage is set for a direct contest between BJP and SP the Singh family is spending 10-12 hours on the field with BJP members fanning out in different areas to reach out to maximum number of voters.

Madan Gopal Pandey (71) from Tulisiram Purva village in Sisamau says: "Brij Bhushan and his family members are putting in a lot of effort. Obviously, they have anti-incumbency working against them."

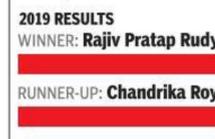
For Kalawati from Gaurwa Khurd village in Katra Bazar assembly segment, local candidates hardly matter. "It does not matter who the candidate is, I am going to support Modi and Yogi," she says.

Nanku Sharma (57), a carpenter, says: "Netaji (Brij Bhushan) has the potential and capability to swing elections in five districts (Gonda, Bahraich, Balrampur, Shrawasti and Ayodhya). Those who are undermining his strength will get a befitting reply in June."

Sagheer Ahmed (67), a mason from Ahmednagar locality in Katra Bazar, echoes similar views. "Brij Bhushan is very influential." Giving perspective, Ahmed says Singh's elder son Prateek Bhushan (36) was also elected MLA from Gonda twice. "He will leave no stone unturned to ensure the victory of the younger son as well," he says.

## Lalu's 'laadli' aims to ground pilot Rudy's flight

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



Manoj.Chaurasia@timesgroup.com

**Chhapra (Saran):** Defying the midsummer sun, all of Khalpura, a Rajput-dominated village, poured out on the streets on Monday (May 13) to welcome Rohini Acharya, daughter of RJD chief and former CM Lalu Prasad and the party's candidate from Saran. For most people in Bihar, she's the "kidney girl".

One would think that a political greenhorn like Rohini would find the going tough against a heavyweight like BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy, who is seeking a third consecutive term from the seat. But there's probably more to it than meets the eye.

Saran comprises six assembly constituencies. While Marhaura, Garkha, Parsa and Sonepur are represented by RJD, Chhapra and Amonour have BJP legislators. Given that the balance of power within this Lok Sabha constituency is currently skewed against the saffron brigade, BJP knows this may not quite be the open-and-shut case that many perceive it to be, while RJD is clearly hoping for a David vs Goliath.

As the campaign cavalcade with Rohini stops in front of a house, a happy-looking Jeevachh Devi rushes out with a garland, even as the RJD candidate rolls down the window glass. While Rohini strikes up a conversation with Jeevachh Devi, Nilam Devi standing nearby, whispers to another lady: "Dekhaaa, ihe ladki apna baap ko kidney deke jan bachauval rahe (See, this is the girl who saved her father by donating one of her kidneys)."

Even as women standing outside try hard to catch a glimpse of the candidate, Rohini explains the importance of pressing the 'lantern' (RJD poll symbol) button on the EVM come May 20.

"If you want to break the backbone of rising inflation, crave for a happy and healthy life and want a 'pucca' (concrete) home, then vote for RJD," Rohini, covering her head with a green scarf, tells the women before moving to the next door.

Rohini's kidney story has found a fair bit of traction in rural pockets of Bihar. "She is a big hit in the villages. Everyone wants to see Lalu's 'laadli' who set an example for society by donating her kidney to her father," said Arvind Rai from Chitrani village, adding: "Jahan bhi hai hai lo kahten hain ki Lalu ki laadli aayee hain" (Wherever she goes, she is referred to as 'Lalu's darling').

"If I can donate a kidney for my father, I won't hesitate to sacrifice my life for the people of my constituency," Rohini says while addressing a public meeting in this seat where of 18 lakh voters, 8.5 lakh are women.

The emotional connect of the kidney story notwithstanding, Ro-

hini's battle-hardened rival Rudy remains unfazed. "As a pilot, I know when to take off and where to land," Rudy tells the media, obliquely referring to Rohini's lack of experience in electoral politics.

While Rudy's campaign pitch in Saran is being powered by such stalwarts as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and defence minister Rajnath Singh, Rohini has been left with doing a lot of the heavy lifting by herself, with no top RJD net seen anywhere near her campaign trail.

Failing health has forced her father to stay away from the heat and dust of late, while her younger brother and the party's lone star campaigner Tejashwi Yadav is battling a severe back pain. Elder sister Misa Bharti could have added some heft to Rohini's campaign, but she herself is tied up with campaigning as the candidate from Patliputra.

So far Lalu was seen campaigning for Rohini only twice — introducing her to the voters of Saran and on the day she filed her nomination papers.

Apart from the political legacy that she has inherited by virtue of being a member of a family that has produced two chief ministers, Rohini is also banking on the significant presence of Yadavs, OBCs and Muslim voters in Saran. She would also be hoping for a split in the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) votes following Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's volte face and return back to the NDA fold.

Rudy, on the other hand, has a lot to going for him — right from the PM turning out for him to his own popularity as a two-time MP from Saran. There's also a considerable Rajput, upper caste and EBC presence in the constituency that could work for him. "Rudy ji ka palda bhari hai (Rudy has the upper hand)," says Abhishek Kumar Singh, a resident of Aami village under Dighwara assembly constituency. "Whatever you find here — roads, power, education — are gifts from Rudy. Also, he is educated, the country is progressing under PM Modi, and the (Ram) temple has been built," says Anand Kumar Singh, one of the villagers.

If that gives you the impression that Rudy is headed for a cakewalk, then sample this: "Some 40 lakh people in this constituency are directly or indirectly linked to sand-mining, but the state authorities have cracked down on them and rocked their boat big time. BJP will have to face its consequences," says Pran Yadav. The youth added: "Na job mila, na business (I neither have a job nor own a business)."

"Unemployment is a major issue among the youth. Sadly though, the poor get influenced by just 5kg of free ration," rued Dhananjay Prasad, a student.

## TMC to BJP to TMC to BJP: Turncoat tag threatens to spoil MP Arjun's party

Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay & Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

**Kolkata:** The all-too-frequent flip-flops in choosing which side of the political fence he wants to be on could come to haunt BJP Barrackpore candidate Arjun Singh in case of a close fight this time.

This despite the fact that Singh continues to be a force to reckon with in Barrackpore — something that has kept his rival Partha Bhowmick, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) nominee and a state minister, on tenterhooks.

With nearly 15 lakh eligible voters, Barrackpore is set for a high-stakes showdown on May 20 in the fifth phase of polling.

As the countdown begins, all eyes are on Singh given his political somersaults. He has the highest number of declared criminal cases among all Bengal candidates. He has also recorded the highest spike in declared assets.

Denied a ticket by TMC, Singh made a dramatic switch to the saffron party just before these elections, repeating a pattern seen five years ago when he had defected from TMC to BJP and won the Barrackpore seat — only to return to the TMC fold three

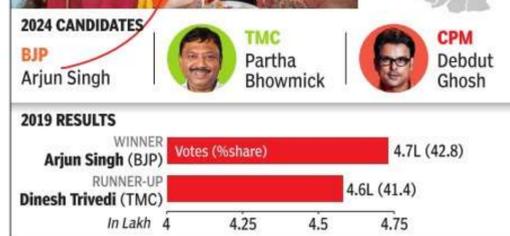
years later. This northern suburb of Kolkata stands out as an industrial hub, stretching along the eastern bank of the Hooghly. From Barrackpore to Shyamnagar, the skyline is dominated by towering chimneys. However, the once-vibrant industrial landscape now wears a sombre veil, with only a handful of those chimneys billowing smoke sporadically.

Major industrial units, such as the Empire Jute Mill, are functional only intermittently while others such as Loomtex Cotton, Naihati Jute, and Gouripore Jute remain shut. Ichapore Rifle and Metal & Steel continue to grapple with an ever thinning order book for arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, forgotten entities such as Bengal Enamel and Mahalaxmi Cotton in nearby Palta have had the land on their premises repurposed for the construction of modern apartment complexes.

Further north, the fate of Kakinada Paper Mill and Meghni Mill mirrors the broader downturn, with both having pulled their shutters down.

With the fortune of these manufacturing facilities nosediving over the years, those employed at these



places have been forced to endure a hand-to-mouth existence, a stark reflection of the economic challenges plaguing the region.

The Barrackpore electorate predominantly comprises working-class citizens, with more than half the voters hailing from here. Notably, around 35% of them are Hindi-

speaking, underscoring a diverse demographic tapestry.

In the last assembly polls in 2021, TMC won six of the seven assembly segments under the Barrackpore Lok Sabha seat.

Going by those results, one may assume there won't be too many creases for the TMC candidate to

iron out, with Bhowmick himself exuding confidence in his ability to counter Singh's influence, banking on his local support base.

However, poll dynamics do not always follow a linear logic, more so in case of Barrackpore, where the intricacies are far too deep-rooted to justify a pure arithmetic-based conclusion. With Singh's influence extending beyond party lines, particularly among Hindi-speaking voters concentrated in the constituency's jute belt, even the most hard-nosed political pundit would perhaps not hazard a guess on the outcome at this stage.

In 2019, BJP candidate Singh won by just 14,000 votes, with at least four assembly segments — Bijpur, Naihati, Jagaddal, and Noapara — going down to the wire. Among the remaining segments, while Amdanga favoured TMC, Bhatpara and Barrackpore voted decisively for BJP, ensuring Singh's victory.

With 2019 producing such a photo-finish, political analysts foresee a repeat show this time around as well. More so, with CPM's recent resurgence threatening to act as a party-pooper for the saffron brigade.

## More than roti-kapda, makaan plans spooking Mumbai slum areas

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**Mumbai:** In a city where four of every 10 people live in slums, Mumbai's elusive search for a shelter of their own may be best understood in the words of poets Gulzar and Javed Akhtar. But for a taste of ground realities, Hari Nagar-Shivaji Nagar SRA Housing Society would suffice.

In a slum enclave abutting the highway in the suburb of Jogeshwari, a govt scheme was proposed in 1994 to provide free houses. A survey by the state's Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) showed 974 families were eligible for free housing. Three decades later, the project is still to be completed and the case is in Bombay high court.

Shantaram Mankumre, 58, a bus driver on the verge of retirement, has been a resident of the Hari Nagar 'basti' since 1990. "I was allotted a tenement but someone else has occupied it. I have filed a complaint with police and SRA," he says.

Of the original beneficiaries, 591 households were finally given tenements in the six housing blocks constructed by a private builder in lieu of extra development rights that he could monetise or use on other projects. The rest appear to have been short-changed: there are allegations of under-hand deals between officials and the developer. What's more, the original slum has

spread in size to 1,572 units, as per the latest round of enumeration.

Such is the tortuous process of rehab at many locations in the city. Slum-dwellers on forest land (near Sanjay Gandhi National Park) are waiting as land is unavailable. Shanty colonies around the airport are losing hope that their projects will ever take off. In Dharavi, locals are opposing a redevelopment scheme awarded to a govt-Adani group joint venture because they suspect the private developer may ship them out to a different location.

Housing is an issue that stands out even in the LS polls. BJP Mumbai North candidate Piyush Goyal was the first to promise that he would make his seat "slum-free" and expedite use of salt pans to build affordable housing blocks. Soon, objections came from the Mumbai North-East seat, which has swathes of flat expanses in marshy areas where salt is made. Residents were not keen to have slum-dwellers relocated to their backyard. Their BJP candidate, Mihir Kotecha, has vowed to oppose any such resettlement.

Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress too waded into the controversy by selectively picking on Goyal's statement about use of salt pan lands for slum rehab. Both parties linked it to the Dharavi project and saw it as an attempt to shift residents off their

The Shivaji Nagar-Hari Nagar slum rehab project was mooted in the 1990s. Only 591 out of 974 'eligible' families have got tenements so far



Land is being acquired by a special purpose vehicle set up to implement the Dharavi scheme. "But people are afraid they will be thrown out of Dharavi. If it were a govt agency like BMC carrying out the redevelopment, there would be no opposition because people know they can approach the govt... With a private party like Adani where do you go to seek justice?" says a Dharavi resident

land for commercial benefits. "We will protect our salt pan lands from the builder lobby," said Aaditya Thackeray.

Real estate interests override all else in Mumbai. Hence, the general suspicion is that a nexus between politicians and developers has led to exorbitant property rates and an artificial shortage in housing. Pankaj Kapoor of Liasens Foras Pvt Ltd, a real estate research agency, said normally a city grows outwards in a circular way. In Mumbai, given its linear geography, affordable housing grew northwards. Between 2002 and 2012, prices shot up by 20-25%, making housing unaffordable to large sections, he said.

It was in 1997 that the then Shiv Sena-BJP govt announced the first free slum rehab scheme in Mumbai. Since then, SRA, along with private builders, has developed and allotted 2.57 lakh tenements to slum-dwellers across the city against a promised 40 lakh. The demand-supply gap has only grown with the rise in the city's population.

Advocate Raju Korde, a resident of Dharavi, who is opposed to the new scheme, said that until 2004, when one of Asia's biggest slum clusters was tagged as "a vital infrastructure project", slum redevelopment was successfully carried out but in a piecemeal fashion. "Some 102 redevelopment schemes were executed in Dharavi

between 1997 and 2004," Korde said. "Had it not been for govt interference, Dharavi would've been fully redeveloped by now. Govt opted for integrated redevelopment as against the piecemeal redevelopment that was happening under SRA," he said.

Korde said large tracts of land are now being acquired by a special purpose vehicle set up for implementation of the Dharavi scheme. "But people are afraid they will be thrown out of Dharavi. If it were a govt agency like BMC carrying out the redevelopment, there would be no opposition because people know they can approach govt and fight for their rights. With a private party like Adani, where do you go to seek justice?" he asked.

However, deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, in an interview, defended the cluster redevelopment model for Dharavi, saying given the scale on which rehab needs to be undertaken — the precinct's population is over 6 lakh — an integrated approach was needed for planning and execution. Sitting Sena MP and Mumbai South Central candidate Rahul Shewale is also at pains to dispel doubts about the master plan. He has said no one from Dharavi will be rehabilitated outside the area. In the midst of a poll campaign that has played on people's fears, the issue of housing and rehab is bound to impact the outcome, one way or the other.

# Voter turnout in fourth phase clocks 69.2%, highest till now

## More Men Than Women Voted Across 96 Seats In 4th Round

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New Delhi: The fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls on Monday saw 69.2% voter turnout, the highest among the four phases so far, latest data released by the Election Commission on Friday showed. The data also showed that more women than men voted in the second, third and fourth phases of polls in Bihar, where voting was held for 15 seats. Polling has been held in 19 constituencies in the state so far.

Compared to the 2019 elections, the fourth phase also saw the lowest gap — 40 basis points (one percentage point equals 100 basis points) — although the turnout has dipped in all four rounds. According to TOI's calculations, turnout in 2019 during the fourth phase was estimated at 69.6%, which excludes Srinagar as delimitation took place there. TOI is using all voters registered, including those



Women's phase 4 turnout beat men's in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bengal

who use postal ballots, to work out the turnout percentage for the fourth phase.

According to EC data till 11.45 pm on Tuesday, the day after the fourth phase of polling, the turnout was estimated at 68.9%.

"We expect the voting percentage to increase further in the next three phases," an EC official said.

Data released on Friday

also showed that more men cast their votes compared to women across 96 constituencies in the fourth round, with turnout of women voters being higher in the eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

The poll panel's data showed that all 15 parliamentary constituencies in Bihar, where polls were held in the second, third and fourth

phases, saw higher percentage of women turning up at polling stations. Similarly, in Jharkhand, where four out of the 13 constituencies went to polls in the fourth phase on Monday, more women electors cast their votes.

Overall, 24 parliamentary constituencies registered higher women's turnout — West Bengal (6), Bihar and Andhra Pradesh (5 each), Jharkhand (4), Odisha (2) and Telangana and Madhya Pradesh (1 each).

Four states and UTs — Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra and J&K — recorded higher voter turnout this time compared to 2019. Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal saw the steepest drop. Among constituencies, Ongole in Andhra Pradesh saw the highest voter turnout with nearly 87.1% turning up, followed by Chittoor (85.8%) and Narasaraopet (85.7%) in the same state.

## POK was and will remain a part of India, says Rajnath

Lucknow: Defence minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh on Friday said Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) was part of India and will remain a part of India.

"Following the revocation of Article 370, development has surged at an unprecedented rate in Jammu & Kashmir, prompting even the residents of POK to express their desire to integrate with India. International human rights organisations should take suo motu cognizance of the human rights violations taking place in POK, which was, is and will remain a part of India," he said at poll rallies in Deoria and Salempur.

He said that before 2014, India was perceived as a "weak and impoverished country" and was not taken seriously internationally. "But under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has become the fifth largest economy. Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee elevated India to the 11th position in the global economy in 2004. Unfortunately, in the subsequent 10 years, Congress govt failed to improve this ranking. Economy has once again surged from 11th to 5th position under PM Modi," the minister said.

He said the Indian economy is considered the fastest-growing globally, with projections indicating that India would ascend to become the world's third-largest economic superpower by 2027.

"BJP has never misled the people through fake promises and assurances. BJP has been bridging the gap between rhetoric and reality in politics," he said. **TNN**

## J'hkhand minister Alam quizzed as rumours swirl of his resignation



Media personnel and others outside the Ranchi zone office of ED after the arrival of Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam for questioning

Ranchi: ED on Friday started interrogation of arrested Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam in a case related to alleged corruption in his rural development department's tenders and money laundering, with the sleuths claiming the names of several senior officials have cropped up, report Jaideep Deogharia & Sanjay Sahay.

Alam's questioning continued as rumours swirled of his resignation as minister after a few posts on social media. Raj Bhavan, however, denied having received any resignation from him.

The Congress minister was held on Wednesday. ED sources said as Alam was "opening up", more new names in the illegal business of commission in tenders of his department are surfacing.

"Some senior govt functionaries who abused their positions and acquired the proceeds of crime would be called for questioning. Our officers would review their property and assets," said an ED official.

ED investigators plan to confront Alam, his personal secretary Sanjeev Lal and Lal's assistant Jehangir Khan with documents seized in searches.

# EC's updated turnouts for 4 phases up votes by 1.07 cr

State/UT	Turnout (%)				Derived number of votes based on		
	Electors	Latest	On polling night	Change (pct pts)	Final	On polling night	Difference
Andhra	413.3	80.7	76.5	4.2	333.4	316.2	17.2
Maharashtra	682.7	62.9	60.5	2.4	429.7	413	16.7
Kerala	277.5	71.3	67.2	4.1	197.8	186.3	11.4
Assam	245.1	81.6	77.4	4.2	199.9	189.6	10.3
West Bengal	326.1	79.3	76.9	2.4	258.7	250.9	7.8
Karnataka	547.3	70.6	69.3	1.3	386.6	379.5	7.1
Gujarat	479.8	60.1	59	1.2	288.5	283	5.5
Bihar	364.4	56.9	55.7	1.3	207.4	202.8	4.6
MP	566	66.9	66.1	0.8	378.5	374.2	4.3
Tamil Nadu	623.3	69.7	69.1	0.6	434.6	430.7	3.9
Rajasthan	533.7	61.5	60.8	0.7	328.4	324.5	3.8
Telangana	332.2	65.7	64.7	0.9	218.1	215	3.1
UP	748.4	57.9	57.6	0.4	433.5	430.8	2.7
Chhattisgarh	206.6	72.8	71.6	1.2	150.4	148	2.4
Uttarakhand	83.4	57.2	55.8	1.4	47.7	46.5	1.2
Manipur	20.3	78.2	72.5	5.7	15.9	14.7	1.2
Odisha	62.9	75.7	74	1.7	47.6	46.5	1.1
<b>Total*</b>	<b>6,745</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>4,516</b>	<b>4,409</b>	<b>107</b>

\*Including other states/UTs. Source: Calculated from EC data on electors and turnout

TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

An analysis of turnout numbers put out by EC late night of the day of polling in each phase and the latest updated numbers shows that the difference could be nearly 1.07 crore votes over the first four phases of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. That's an average of over 28,000 votes per constituency for the 379 that have finished polling.

How do we reach this conclusion? The EC has been putting out data on turnout in various stages in each phase, apart from what is available 'real-time' on its app. The latest data put out on polling day in each phase has been somewhere between 10.30 pm and 11.30 pm. The 'final' figures — which still do not include postal votes and which the EC app cautions are "approximate trends" — were put out 11 days after polling day for the first phase, and four days after polling for phase 2, 3 and 4.

The final figures have been only very slightly different from figures put out typically late evening on the day after polling. However, they vary considerably from the data put out on polling night in several states. Since the EC

**Difference in number of votes for the two turnout figures was about 18.6 lakh for phase 1, 32.2 lakh for phase 2, 22.1 lakh for phase 3 and 33.9 lakh for phase 4, totalling up to 1.07 crore. Biggest variations were in Andhra Pradesh**

has also put out numbers for the electorate in each constituency — though only after the first two phases and a controversy over the lack of any absolute numbers — and since the turnout data is correct to two decimal places, it is possible

to get an approximation of the votes cast by working back (see graphic).

Such calculation backward shows that the implied difference in number of votes for the two turnout figures was about 18.6 lakh for phase 1, 32.2 lakh for phase 2, 22.1 lakh for phase 3 and 33.9 lakh for phase 4, totalling up to 1.07 crore.

The biggest variations were in Andhra Pradesh, 4.2 percentage points in turnout and 17.2 lakh in derived vote numbers, Maharashtra (2.4 percentage points and 16.7 lakh), Kerala (4.1 percentage points and 11.4 lakh) and Assam (4.2 percentage points and 10.3 lakh). In Assam's case, that translates to an average difference of over 73,000 per constituency. For Andhra Pradesh, the average is 69,000 and for Kerala 57,000. Karnataka at 51,000 and Maharashtra at 48,000 have also seen significant differences. The variation in the Hindi heartland states was on the lower side.

## 2 farmers from UP booked for placing ₹2.3 lakh bet on poll result

Bareilly: Two farmers of Patei Nasir village under Rajpura limits of UP's Sambhal district were booked for betting on the outcome of the Lok Sabha election result in the constituency. An FIR under section 13 of the Public Gambling Act was lodged against the two for placing a Rs 2.3 lakh bet on their "favourite poll candidates", reports Kanwardeep Singh.

The two farmers were booked following a complaint by their neighbour, Veopal Singh. A "contract letter" on govt stamp paper was prepared on Wednesday with the signatures of two witnesses. It stated: "If the BJP candidate wins, Niresh Yadav will give Rs 2.3 lakh to Vijendra Singh Yadav and vice versa." The witnesses were their friends Dinesh Kumar and Pyare Lal.

The betting deed was attested through a notary, Veopal, in his complaint, also mentioned that "the bet placed by Vijendra and Niresh is threatening to disturb peace in the village, as people are engaging in verbal arguments about the possible winner."

He also expressed concern that promoting such practices could prompt more people to take to gambling.

## EC seeks report from Odisha DGP on violence

New Delhi: Cracking down on incidents of violence during Model Code of Conduct period, the Election Commission has sought a detailed report from Odisha director general of police (DGP) and has instructed him to take strictest action against the accused. There will also be exemplary action taken in Andhra Pradesh in the next two days, including some arrests, EC sources said.

"The poll violence in Odisha, which claimed a life, is not acceptable at any cost. The state administration has been directed to carry out investigation and take immediate action," said an EC official.

Odisha DGP has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the pre-poll violence in which a BJP worker died in Khallikote area of Ganjam district. **TNN**

## PM: Keep in mind blasts of the past when you vote

Mumbai: Urging Mumbaikars to come out on Monday and vote breaking all previous records, PM Modi at a rally at Shivaji Park on Friday said he had come "to return Mumbai's rights to her." He said the people's 2019 mandate in Maharashtra had been "stolen" and development stalled but the city, which he said "understands the importance of speed," was now getting the best infrastructure, reports Clara Lewis.

Modi asked Mumbaikars to remember, when they go out to vote, terror strikes and blasts that rocked the metropolis in the past and the change in situation after 2014. "There was no guarantee that when you stepped out, you'd return home alive. Today, your daughter returns home happily. Your one vote in the country's interest has become the support the nation needs," he said.

Attacking Uddhav, he said no other party had had such a change of heart as Thackeray's. "A party which was known for being against infiltrators is now against CAA," he said. Modi also asserted that no power in the world can bring back Article 370, adding it was not Modi but the power of people's vote which had enabled such decisions. Lauding Mumbai, Modi said, "Mumbai does not just dream; it lives dreams. Mumbai has never disappointed those determined to achieve. In this dream city I have come with the dream of 2047. It is a dream for the nation, a resolve that all of us should make a 'Viksit Bharat', and Mumbai has big role to play."

## This poll is about throwing Naveen babu out, says Shah

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Bhubaneswar: "This election is about making Modi ji Prime Minister for a third time. This election is about making India world's number three economy. It's also an election to throw Naveen babu out and begin a new era of development," Amit Shah said. He was addressing an election rally on Friday in Odisha's Sundargarh.

In a counter-attack, Patnaik said the claim by several BJP CMs and cabinet ministers that they would make Odisha the number state of India was making people of the state laugh. "What's interesting is that Assam CM came here and promised to make Odisha no.1. The per capita debt of Assam is twice as much of Odisha, so he should



Shah during a rally in Sundargarh

probably be concentrating on his own state which needs some very important work," Patnaik told ANI, referring to Himansa Biswa Sarma's recent promise in Odisha. BJD member VK Pandian said "people of Odisha will give a stern reply to those who come from outside and disrespect Naveen babu".

Expressing confidence in BJP's prospects in Odisha during the simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state, Shah said the election will see defeat for

## Modi is trying to instil a fear of Muslims: Uddhav

Mumbai: MVA top guns took potshots at PM Narendra Modi at INDIA bloc's rally at BKC's Pataka Maidan on Friday, with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray leading the barrage saying the country had seen demonetisation in 2016 and would now see "de-Modination" on June 4. He said BJP was a garbage truck picking up rotten leaves — traitors — from everywhere, and Modi was trying to instil a false fear of Muslims in people, reports Chaitanya Marpakwar.

Ahead of Monday's voting in the city, he accused Modi of insensitively holding a road show where people had died hours earlier in a hoarding crash in Ghatkopar.

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal said Modi was following in Putin's footsteps and accused the PM of not giving him insulin for 15 days in jail. NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar said people would lose their right to vote if Modi returned. Kejriwal said people should vote Modi out as otherwise he would put the entire opposition in jail. He said that if NDA won Amit Shah would soon become PM, after Modi turned 75.

Kejriwal said that people would have to give their answer to Modi's politics of jail by voting. "I am going to be in jail on June 4, from there I will see the outcome of the polls, so if democracy is to be saved, people should reject Modi. If you want to see me in jail, then vote for Modi and if you want to see me as a free man, vote for the INDIA bloc," he said.

the BJD government in Odisha and Odia pride restored.

"These elections are about re-establishing the pride of Odia language, literature and culture," he said.

Taking an indirect dig at Pandian's Tamil-origin, Shah said, "Should Odisha governance be in Odia or Tamil?"

Alleging regional imbalance in development in Odisha, Shah said "Odisha govt has meted out west motherly treatment to western region of the state."

Soon after Shah's attack, Pandian said: "Shah goes to Karnataka and says that he will make Karnataka India's number one state. He goes to Telangana and says he will make Telangana number one state. Let their parliamentary party meet and decide which state they will make the best," he said.

# It won't be a big deal if EC puts the exact data for public consumption: Experts

Continued from P 1

They have cited details to point out that this time, final voter turnout data was published four days after polling, against a gap of at least six days after voting in every phase in 2019. Also, even in 2019, the updated and final polling percentage were higher than the data put out on the day of polling at the press conference after each phase.

On the publication of final data of first phase polling after 11 days, officials said the figure of 66.1% polling was similar to 66% turnout as reported in the EC's voter turnout app on Apr 21 night. In fact, there has not been much difference in the numbers put out on the day after polling by when details have come in even from remote booths, and the "final fig-

ures" released by EC for all the four phases.

This time, the poll panel has not held press conferences, and has been issuing statements giving details of the voter turnout only in percentage terms.

The poll panel has maintained that poll data can't be manipulated, which former ECs have strongly supported. "There is no scope in the system to manipulate voter turnout data. In the past too final polling data has changed from the figures published on the day of polling as the numbers are updated," former Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa said.

He, however, added that EC should not hesitate put out the exact data in public domain with caveats. "What's wrong in sharing it and how does this do any

harm? If there is more transparency, there is more trust. Since candidates (who have exact number of votes polled) are not obliged to publish the data on voter turnout, EC should do that for public consumption," he told TOI.

Last month, SC examined in detail the entire process of recording the number of votes cast and counting them and found it to be trustworthy.

**Why does final data get published four days after polling?**

The EC's Voter Turnout App, which can be downloaded on the phone, displays the estimated voting on poll day at regular intervals till midnight. After the poll parties deployed at different booths across a constituency return on Election Day, the turnout data is updated after scrutiny



Polling officials arrive in Ladakh on Friday ahead of fifth phase of polls

of documents by returning officers. This is done in the presence of all candidates and observers, leaving no room for complaint. Almost 90% of the updates are done by midnight.

However, in some cases, the data is updated the next

day since poll parties take time to return from remote locations. So, on the second day, almost the entire data is released. Data may be get updated further, especially in constituencies where repoll is conducted. The day after the repoll data is in, EC releases

the final turnout figures.

Officials said there is full transparency in preparing the turnout data and the norms have remained the same for decades. Voter turnout is recorded at polling station level in Form 17C, which is prepared by the presiding officer and signed by polling agents of candidates. Copies of the forms are shared with polling agents and at the end of polling, all candidates or their agents get the 17C data and with this "fundamental task of disclosure" is completed. All booth agents give their reports to candidates by late evening. So, each candidate is aware of the votes polled and are matched at the time of counting. EC sources also point out that with voting over in 381 constituencies, not a single candidate has complained about any ir-

regularity in recording the number of votes cast.

**Why is EC not disclosing the exact number of votes polled?**

In a press release issued by PIB on April 13, 2019, two days after the first phase of polling, EC said the voter turnout was 69.4% and had also put the exact number of votes cast. But in the subsequent phases, only the overall percentage was provided on polling day.

EC officials said the poll body has published the exact number of electors for each constituency, excluding the service electors, and provides the polling percentage. So, people can calculate them to arrive at the exact number of votes polled instead of waiting for the poll body to publish the data. However,

experts feel that it won't be a big deal, if EC puts the exact data for public consumption.

"Since EC puts the percentage of votes polled, it knows the exact number of people voted. So, it should publish the numbers," said two former EC officials.

**Is there a pattern behind raising questions?**

Sources said some political parties have been raising questions on different aspects of the election process, from discrepancies in voter list to EVM. But these issues have been put to rest by the Supreme Court. The latest issue raised relates to polling data. "Raising questions on such issues is baseless. Had it been possible to manipulate data and the process, would we have so many regional parties doing so well?" said an official.



**MERYL STREEP'S FAVE LOVE SCENE IS ROBERT REDFORD WASHING HER HAIR IN 'OUT OF AFRICA', SAYS 'I JUST DIDN'T WANT IT TO END'**

**WHAT A PRO! OLIVIA RODRIGO SUFFERS WARDROBE MISHAP ON STAGE, CONTINUES SINGING WHILE HOLDING HER TOP AS A DANCER FIXES IT**



## Maldives talking debt restructuring with Beijing, says China ambassador

**Male:** Days after IMF warned Maldives of "high risk of external and overall debt distress", China — the largest creditor — has said discussions are being held with Male on providing some relief in debt repayment on the loans it took from Beijing.

Wang Lixin, Chinese ambassador to the Maldives, however, maintained that debt restructuring is not the solution because it would obstruct Maldives from seeking further financial aid from Beijing, according to a report in news portal Edition.mv on Friday. Wang also revealed that a technical team from both China and the Maldives was taking charge of the issue, Sun.mv portal added.

A report from the IMF on May 13 said Maldives' external public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt — which is predominantly owed to bilateral and commercial creditors — stood at \$3,072 million (or 49% of GDP) in 2022, up from \$3,046 million in 2021 in nominal terms. China is the largest creditor to the Maldives with 19% of the total (external) PPG debt.

Wang said her country does not wish for Maldives' debt to rise further and hence, China will prioritise grants and free aid. Interestingly, the remarks came days after India extended, as a goodwill gesture, budgetary support to Maldives with a roll-over of \$50 million treasury bill for another year after a special request from the Male govt. **PTI**

## After dy PM quits, Nepal PM to seek 4th confidence vote in 18 months

**Kathmandu:** Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will seek a vote of confidence in parliament on May 20, the fourth within 18 months of taking office, days after a coalition partner withdrew support. Prachanda belongs to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), the third largest party in the House of Representatives.

The decision to seek the vote came after the Upendra Yadav-led Janata Samajbadi Party Nepal on May 13 withdrew its support for the govt following a split in his party. He also resigned as deputy PM. The PM is required to take a vote of confidence within 30 days if the party he is representing splits or if a member of the coalition govt withdraws support. The govt requires at least 138 votes in the 275-member House to win the trust vote.

Last year, Prachanda faced a floor test after former PM KP Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML withdrew its support to the Prachanda-led govt following a rift over backing the main opposition party's candidate for the presidential poll. Prachanda's support has notably declined in successive confidence votes.

In Jan 2023, he obtained 268 votes, followed by 172 in March of the same year. His support further dwindled to just 157 votes in the third-floor test. **PTI**

## Taliban: 3 foreigners shot dead in Bamyan

**Kabul:** Three foreign tourists and one Afghan citizen were killed by gunmen in Afghanistan's central Bamyan province on Friday, the Taliban interior ministry said. Four foreign nationals and three Afghans were also injured in the attack when gunmen opened fire. Four people have been arrested. The nationality of the tourists and identity of the attackers was not immediately clear. Mountaineering Bamyan is home to a UNESCO world heritage site and the remains of two giant Buddha statues which were blown up by the Taliban in 2001. **REUTERS**

## Nato mulling sending trainers into Ukraine

**If It Happens, US Would Be Obligated Under Alliance's Treaty To Defend Them In Case Of Attack, Dragging America Into War**

**N**ato allies are inching closer to sending troops into Ukraine to train Ukrainian forces, a move that would be another blurring of a previous red line and could draw the US and Europe more directly into the war.

Ukraine's manpower shortage has reached a critical point, and its position on the battlefield in recent weeks has seriously worsened as Russia has accelerated its advances to take advantage of delays in shipments of US weapons. As a result, Ukrainian officials have asked their US and Nato counterparts to help train 150,000 new recruits closer to the front line for faster deployment. So far, the US has said no, but General Charles Brown Jr, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday that a Nato deployment of trainers appeared inevitable. "We'll get there eventually, over time," he said.

For now, he said, an effort inside Ukraine would put "a bunch of Nato trainers at risk" and would most likely mean deciding whether to use precision air defences to protect the trainers instead of critical Ukrainian infrastructure near the battlefield. Brown briefed reporters on his plane en route to a Nato meeting in Brussels.

As a part of Nato, the US would be obligated under the alliance's treaty to aid in the defence of any attack on the trainers, potentially dragging America into the war. The White House has been adamant that it will not put US troops, including trainers, on the ground in Ukraine, a position that an administration official reiterated Thursday. The administration has also urged Nato allies not to send its troops.



**RUSSIA CARVING OUT BUFFER ZONE?** Ukrainian servicemen fire a self-propelled howitzer towards Russian troops in Kharkiv on Friday. In China, Russian Prez Putin said that Moscow's offensive in the region aims to create a buffer zone but that there are no plans to capture the area.

## Putin questions political legitimacy of Zelensky in absence of elections

**R**ussian Prez Putin queried the political legitimacy of Ukrainian Prez Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday. Martial law imposed after Russia's invasion in Feb 2022 means Zelensky will not face an election when his term technically expires later this month. When asked whether Zelensky's political legitimacy was becoming an issue, Putin, who was re-elected for a six-year term in March, said the matter was a question for Ukraine's constitutional court and political system to decide. But he said the question mattered to Russia because if and when it signed some kind of agreement with Ukraine in future about the war it wanted to be sure it was signing a deal with the right person. Washington has said Putin's own re-election was neither free nor fair in comments which were rejected by Moscow. **REUTERS**

But in Feb, Prez Emmanuel Macron of France said that "nothing should be ruled out" when it comes to sending Western troops to Ukraine. Macron has doubled down on his comment since, including after senior American diplomats asked him to stop.

The govt of Estonia has not ruled out the possibility of sending troops to western Ukraine to take over rear roles that could free Ukrainian troops to go to the front, Estonia's national security adviser said this week. Lithuania's foreign minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis, too backed Macron's stance in an interview with "The Guardian" last week. The US military has done training for Ukrainian troops in Poland, Germany and the US, but pulling troops out of Ukraine is time-consuming. US officials now acknowledge the current training by Ukrainian forces is not sufficient and that they need better and faster training to push back on Russian drive this summer. **NYT**

## Spain denies port of call to ship carrying arms to Israel

**Brussels:** Spain has refused permission for a ship carrying arms to dock at a Spanish port, foreign minister Jose Manuel Albares said Thursday. "This is the first time we have done this because it is the first time we have detected a ship carrying a shipment of arms to Israel that wants to call at a Spanish port," he told reporters.

"This will be a consistent policy with any ship carrying arms to Israel... The Middle East does not need more weapons, it needs more peace," he added.

## El Pais newspaper said a Danish-flagged ship was carrying 27 tonnes of explosive material from Madras (Chennai) in India to the port of Haifa in Israel. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the Indian ministry is looking into the issue

He didn't give details but transport minister Oscar Puente said Danish-flagged Marianne Danica had requested permission to call at the port of Cartagena on May 21. El Pais newspaper said the ship is carrying 27 tonnes of explosive material from Madras (Chennai) in India to the port of Haifa in Israel. Spain has been one of Europe's most critical voices about Israel's Gaza offensive and is rallying other European capitals behind the idea of recognising a Palestinian state. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said last week that Spain, Ireland and Slovenia planned to symbolically recognise a Palestinian state on May 21. Spain has also halted arms sales to Israel. **AFP**

## Israeli military says recovered bodies of 3 hostages from Gaza



**AID ENTERS GAZA VIA US-BUILT PIER:** Aid trucks began moving ashore into Gaza early Friday through a temporary pier built by the US military, the first supplies to be sent into the enclave by sea in 2 months

**Jerusalem:** Israeli forces have recovered the bodies of three Israeli hostages who were taken captive during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct 7, the Israeli military announced on Friday.

Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesman, identified the bodies as those of Amit Buskila, Shani Louk, and Yitzhak Gelernter. He said Israeli troops had recovered the bodies during an operation in Gaza on Thursday night, but did not say where they were found. All three had attended the Tribe of Nova trance music festival on Oct 7, where at least 360 people were killed, Hagari said. During the attack, they fled the festival and headed toward Mefalsim, a kibbutz in southern Israel. The militants found them there, killed them and brought their corpses back to Gaza, he said.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people and abducted around 250 others in the Oct 7 attack. Around half of those hostages have since been freed, most in swaps for Palestinian prisoners held by

## Body of German-Israeli Shani Louk (23) was among those found. A photo of her twisted body in the back of a pickup truck ricocheted around the world and brought to light the scale of Hamas' Oct 7 attack

**Israel** during a weeklong ceasefire in Nov. Roughly 125 living and dead hostages abducted on Oct 7 remain in Gaza. Louk, a 23-year-old German-Israeli citizen, became a symbol of the brutality of the devastating attack. Shortly after Oct 7, Hamas released a video of a woman lying face down, mostly naked, in the back of a pickup truck in Gaza. Based on the dreadlocks and tattoos, Louk's mother said she believed it was her daughter. In late Oct, Louk's family said that the Israeli authorities had confirmed she had been killed. **NYT**

## French police kill Algerian who set fire to synagogue

**Rouen:** French police shot dead a knife-wielding Algerian man who set fire to a synagogue and threatened police in the city of Rouen on Friday in the latest antisemitic attack.

"An armed man somehow climbed up the synagogue and threw an object, a sort of Molotov cocktail, into the main praying room," said mayor Nicolas Mayer-Rossignol, adding that nobody else was harmed. Interior minister Gerald Darmanin said the attacker's bid for a residency permit had been recently rejected. He was otherwise not on the radar of police or intelligence services.

France has seen a huge spike in anti-Jewish acts amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. It recorded 366 antisemitic acts in the first three months of 2024, three times as many as the same period last year.

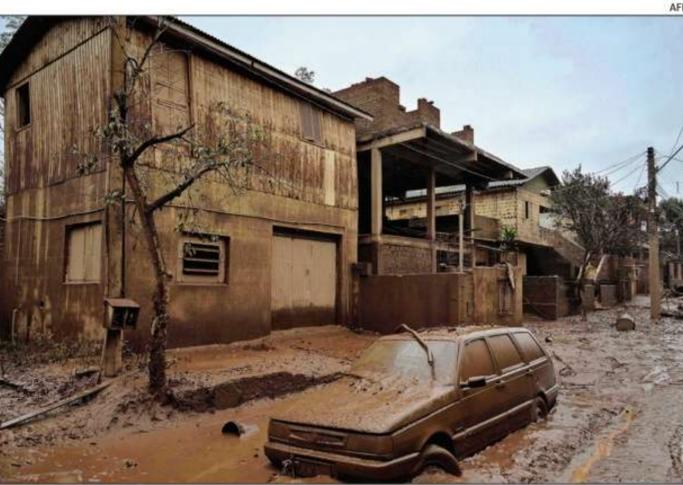
France hosts the Olympic Summer Games in two months and is on the highest level of alert given a complex geopolitical backdrop in West Asia and Europe's eastern flank. **REUTERS**

## Shooting heard near Stockholm's Israeli embassy

**Stockholm:** Swedish police launched an investigation and stepped up security around Israeli and Jewish interests in the country after a patrol heard suspected gunshots near Israel's embassy in Stockholm early on Friday, they said. It remained unclear whether there was a link between the suspected gunshots and the Israeli embassy, they added.

Police held several people in connection with the incident. A prosecutor's office spokesman later in the day said none of them remained in custody. **REUTERS**

## BRAZIL FLOODS CLAIM 147 LIVES IN 2 WEEKS



A mud-covered Sao Jose neighbourhood in Brazil. Heavy rains, flooding and mudslides have ravaged the state of Rio Grande do Sul for about two weeks and killed 147 people, displaced about 600,000, injured more than 800

## Slovak PM undergoes another surgery

**Bratislava:** Slovak PM Robert Fico has undergone another operation two days after being shot multiple times and remains in serious condition, officials said Friday. Fico, 59, was attacked as he was greeting supporters in the former coal mining town of Handlova. A suspected assailant has been arrested.

Miriama Lapunikova, director of the University F D Roosevelt hospital in Banska Bystrica, where Fico was taken by helicopter after he was shot, said Fico underwent a CT scan and is currently awake and stable in an intensive care unit. She described his condition as "very serious".

She said the surgery removed dead tissues that had remained inside Fico's body. "I think it will take several more days until we will definitely know the direction of the further development," Robert Kalinik, the defence minister and deputy PM, told reporters at the hospital. Still, Kalinik stressed that the govt continues to work. "The ministries are working on all their duties, nothing is frozen or halted, the country goes on," he told reporters.

Earlier Friday the man charged with attempting to assassinate Fico was escorted by

police to his home. Local media reported that it was part of a search for evidence. Markiza, a Slovak TV station, showed footage of the suspect being taken to his home in the town of Levice, and reported that police had seized a computer and some documents. Police did not comment. The suspect's detention will be reviewed at a hearing Saturday at Slovakia's Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok, outside the capital Bratislava.

Unconfirmed media reports suggested he was a 71-year-old retiree who was known as an amateur poet, and may have previously worked as a security guard at a mall in the country's southwest. **AP**

## US makes arrests in N Korea-tied IT job scam

**Washington:** US prosecutors on Thursday announced the arrests of an American woman and a Ukrainian man they say helped North Korea-linked IT workers posing as Americans to obtain remote-work jobs at hundreds of US companies.

The US department of justice (DoJ) said the elaborate scheme, aimed at generating revenue for North Korea in contravention of international sanctions, involved the infiltration of more than 300 US firms, including Fortune 500 companies and banks, and the theft of the identities of more than 60 Americans.

A DoJ statement said the overseas IT workers also attempted to gain employment and access to information at two US govt agencies. An earlier

state department statement said the scheme had generated at least \$6.8 million for North Korea. It said the North Koreans involved were linked to North Korea's munitions industry department, which oversees development of the country's ballistic missiles, weapons production, and research and development programmes.

An indictment filed in federal court in Washington last week and unsealed on Thursday said charges had been filed against Christina Marie Chapman, 49, of Litchfield Park, Arizona; Ukrainian Oleksandr Didenko, 27, of Kyiv; and three other foreign nationals. A justice department statement said Chapman was arrested Wednesday, while Didenko was arrested on May 7 by Po-

land at the request of US, which is seeking his extradition.

The head of the justice department's criminal division, Nicole Argentieri, said the alleged crimes "benefited the North Korean govt, giving it a revenue stream and, in some instances, proprietary information stolen by the co-conspirators." The charges "should be a wakeup call for American companies and govt agencies that employ remote IT workers," she said in the statement.

The DoJ said Didenko was accused of creating fake accounts at US IT job search platforms, selling them to overseas IT workers, some of whom he believed were North Korean. It said overseas IT workers using Didenko's services were also working with Chapman. Dide-

nko's online domain, upworksell.com, was seized Thursday by the justice department, the statement said. The DoJ statement said the FBI executed search warrants for US-based "laptop farms" — residences that hosted multiple laptops for overseas IT workers. It said that through these farms, including one Chapman hosted from her home, US-based facilitators logged onto US firm computer networks and allowed the overseas IT workers to remotely access the laptops, using US IP addresses to make it appear they were in the US.

North Korea is under UN sanctions aimed at cutting funding for its missile and nuclear weapons programmes and experts say it has sought to generate income illicitly. **REUTERS**

## Japan changes law to allow joint custody after divorce

**Tokyo:** Japanese lawmakers enacted legislation Friday that allows the option of joint custody of children after divorce.

For decades in Japan, one parent — almost always the mother — has been granted legal custody when a marriage ends, a rule seen by its supporters as a safeguard against domestic violence and child abuse. But concerns have been raised that it can cause meaningful contact to be cut off between the other parent and their child. Long-simmering frustrations of non-custodial parents — often fathers — over lack

of access to children have helped build pressure for change.

A UN committee in 2019 recommended that Japan "allow for shared custody of children when it is in the child's best interests, including for foreign parents".

The new bill stipulates that sole custody be maintained if both parents agree it is the best option, or in court-recognised cases of domestic violence or child abuse.

One parent will also be able to make decisions without consulting the other on issues like schooling or health in "emergency circumstances".

No official tallies exist for the number of minors cut off from a parent in Japan. A 2022 survey carried out by a support group for single mothers found that 80% of single parents in Japan were against or disinclined towards joint custody. **AFP**

## AROUND THE WORLD



**ART OF THE MESSAGE:** An artwork, titled 'To be, or not to be', by Palestinian street artist Taqi Spateen at a cultural festival in Leeds

## Scientists discover long-lost branch of Nile that helped in building pyramids

**S**cientists have discovered a long-buried branch of the Nile river that once flowed alongside more than 30 pyramids in Egypt, potentially solving the mystery of how ancient Egyptians transported the massive stone blocks to build the famous monuments.

The 64-km-long river branch, which ran by the iconic Giza pyramid complex among other wonders, was hidden under desert and farmland for millennia, according to a study revealing the find on Thursday. The existence of the river would explain why the 31 pyramids were built in a chain along a now inhospitable desert strip in the Nile Valley between 4,700 and 3,700 years ago. The strip near the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis includes the Great Pyramid of Giza — the only surviving structure of the seven wonders of the ancient world — as well as the Khafre,

Cheops and Mykerinos pyramids. An international team of researchers used radar satellite imagery to map the river branch, which they called Ahramat — "pyramids" in Arabic. The once mighty river was increasingly covered in sand, potentially starting during a major drought around 4,200 years ago, the scientists suggested.

## Musk confirms Twitter has officially become X.com

The social network formerly known as Twitter has fully migrated over to X.com, owner Elon Musk said on Friday. The billionaire head of Tesla, SpaceX and other companies bought Twitter for \$44 billion in late 2022 and announced the rebrand to X last July. Although the logo and branding were changed to "X", the domain name remained Twitter.com until Friday. "All core systems are now on X.com," Musk wrote on X, posting an image of a logo of a white X on a blue circle. Queries to Twitter.com redirected users to X.com on Friday morning, though the original domain name still appeared on some browsers.

## To check hoaxers in Internet age, Vatican issues rules on weeping Madonna visions

**Vatican City:** The Roman Catholic Church has long been vigilant when it comes to supernatural apparitions like professed sightings of the Virgin Mary, weeping Madonnas or bleeding crucifixes. Over the centuries, it has endorsed only a small percentage of the thousands that have been claimed, in an effort to protect the faithful from charlatans, doctrinal errors or attempts to profit.

Yet the age of social media has accelerated the spread of unverified claims, leaving the Vatican fearful that such phenomena can easily spin out of

hand and out of its control. So on Friday, the Vatican unveiled new guidelines for evaluating visions of the Virgin Mary and other supernatural faith-based phenomena in a document that offers detailed instructions to bishops, who have been responsible for evaluating the nature of reported claims. "The Church needs clear procedures," states the document, whose guidelines were approved by Pope Francis this month, adding that the intention is not to deny all new claims that emerge.

Some of the apparitions that the Vatican has endorsed,



Pilgrims praying to Virgin Mary at the Sanctuary of Lourdes, France, in 2022

like the 19th-century apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, France, and those in early-20th-century Fatima, Portugal, have become hugely popular pilgrimage destinations. The claims are not just from ages past. Last March, a local bi-

shop shut down the claims of a self-proclaimed visionary who claimed to receive regular messages from the Virgin Mary. Known as the "Madonna of Trevignano", for nearly 9 years hundreds of pilgrims gathered on the 3rd of each month on a hill above a lake near Rome to pray to a statue of the Virgin Mary, and hear her messages. A commission this month delivered conclusion that it did not have a supernatural dimension.

The new criteria envisages six main outcomes, with the most favourable being that the church issues a noncommittal

doctrinal green light, a so-called "nihil obstat." Such a declaration means there is nothing about the event that is contrary to the faith, and therefore Catholics can express devotion to it.

Giuseppe Ferrari, the secretary of an association in Bologna, Italy, that monitors socio-religious phenomena, said cases of reported apparitions "increase constantly — some finish, some begin." Social media is one factor why such phenomena spread so widely, but many people also, he said, experience fragility and the need for "certainty in the afterlife." **NYT & AP**



## A thought for today

Mathematics is what Russians teach to Chinese in American universities

SERGEI KAPITSA

## Putin-Xi Bhai-Bhai

Which means New Delhi must revise its Moscow ties

Any doubts that Russia and China have formed an inseparable strategic compact today have been put to rest by Putin's latest visit to China. The two sides inked a joint statement to deepen their "comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation entering a new era". In other words, there's no daylight between their strategic positions anymore.

**Back to Cold War?** | Russia and China criticised US for harbouring a Cold War mentality and destabilising global security. Rich, coming from a nation that is currently invading Ukraine while the other stands guilty of repeated incursions into Indian territory. The two also have a problem with democratic Taiwan – which China constantly intimidates – and feel North Korea has been wronged. Get the drift?

**New authoritarian axis** | The two countries also see themselves as a 'stabilising force' in a chaotic world. Except, it's they who are responsible for a large part of the chaos. Clearly, Putin and Xi want to create their own bloc against the West.

**India's conundrum** | Revisionist China is India's main strategic adversary today, while we have a historical defence relationship with Russia. But with Beijing and Moscow boosting their defence cooperation, New Delhi can't blindly rely on Russian platforms. Ongoing diversification in weapons systems must be speeded up. For, in case of confrontation between India and China, Russia will at best remain neutral or at worst aid Beijing. Plus, India still doesn't have the cumulative national power to go it alone. Therefore, we have to work more closely with the West. It's time to re-evaluate our strategic ties with Moscow.



## Murder Of Trees

Compensatory plantations cannot replace a forest

Supreme Court on Thursday directed Forest Survey of India to investigate how many trees have been felled in the Aravallis' outcrop – Southern Delhi Ridge sector – since Feb 16 to build an 11km road. SC was dismayed that tree-felling had started before forests ministry gave a prelim permission on March 1. Court took to task DDA's vice-chairperson – saying it was criminal contempt of court to allow the felling to continue though SC had rejected DDA permission for the same.

**No stopping them** | Daylight murder is what the felling of trees in Delhi's Ridge Area is. The abandon with which the triad of authorities in National Capital Region spanning Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana routinely sidestep SC orders, and work in cahoots with land mafia and illegal mining outfits to level the Aravallis and Delhi Ridge is well-established. In this case, DDA, the urban development planner for the dustbowl heat-island capital of a \$3.7 trillion economy, is in the dock for wilful environmental degradation. Nothing is stopping the loot.

**No saving forests** | Compensatory afforestation, 100 trees to be planted for every tree felled, that SC has directed DDA to do, is a useless measure. Compensatory afforestation simply puts a price on trees, making them a commodity. It puts forests into a business model. But reality is that chopping down forest stretches destroys entire ecosystems of microflora and fauna, multiple species and habitats of tree-dwelling creatures. Afforestation is invariably a monoculture, and no matter how many saplings are replanted, they can never replace a forest. Compensatory afforestation is a dead-end.



## The Real Skinny On Ozempic

No quick fix solves the real problem – a toxic food system

Obesity has nearly tripled globally since 1975, a first in the history of our species. It contributes to at least 200 known diseases and complications, including strokes and cancer. Now, there's a way to solve that problem with a slash. New drugs like Ozempic can cause people to lose 5-24% of their body weight. In **Magic Pill: The Extraordinary Benefits and Disturbing Risks of the New Weight Loss Drugs**, Johann Hari offers a nuanced explanation, as an overweight person who takes these meds himself.

Ozempic works by making food intake infeasible beyond small quantities. A hormone called GLP-1 in the gut and brain was found to affect insulin and blood sugar, and affect feelings of satiety. Drug companies invented 'agonists' or copies of this hormone that can last longer in the body.

In 2005, it was approved for use by diabetics. When it turned out that these patients were also losing a lot of weight, the Danish company Novo Nordic funded tests on whether it could be used on obese people. Per the official trial results of semaglutide, those who'd been given the drug lost 15% of their body-weight, making it the most successful weight-loss drug in history.

Ozempic and Wegovy are the best known, but others like Mounjaro and Triple G manipulate other hormones in combination with GLP-1 and produce even more dramatic results. Once you stop taking them, though, your weight comes right back within the year. So taking a course of these drugs doesn't cure you, it's a permanent relationship.

Obesity has become a public health issue only in the last two generations, as many people began

eating packaged and processed substances. Packed with sugar, salt and fat, this food unhinges our appetites. It undermines satiety, the feeling of fullness that makes us stop eating. Weight-loss drugs boost that lost sense of satiety, by tweaking the brain's reward and aversion systems.

In other words, one part of the market is 'solving' a problem created by another part of the market. They promise a risky quick fix to a toxic food system, the book says.

Ozempic and others are much safer than weight loss drugs in the past, but there are some risks. The most trivial one is that they can make you look gaunt. They can cause nausea, constipation, a racing heart and light-headedness. More seriously, they can mess with your thyroid and raise the chances of cancer. The benefits might outweigh this risk for severely overweight patients, but not for those considering the drugs for aesthetic reasons.

If you can have a pill for diabetes, why not for weight loss? The book explores this note of judgment that sees gluttony as a sin to be expiated through strenuous diet and exercise. Overweight people struggle with these methods. Our body adjusts to a certain 'set-point' weight, and we're constantly fighting our biology when we go far below it. Exercise has many health benefits, but it is not helpful for major weight loss.

Meanwhile, these drugs will only get more effective. By 2032, when the copyright on most of these drugs will expire, might they become plentifully available? Will they be like statins, which are used to manage heart problems without solving them? Or will there be a real reckoning with the dysfunctional food industry that created the problem in the first place?

### mindfield

SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



# How To Make Elections Civil Again

There is too much frothing and foaming about issues prior to 1947. Like Bose vs Savarkar. Political campaigning should be pulled back to our real and present lives, EC should devise a time bar

Dipankar Gupta



Politicians love making a splash when washing their opponents' dirty linen in public. They even pull out forgotten stuff from abandoned closets, especially during elections. As this obscures contemporary issues in froth and foam, the Election Commission should craft its own Statute of Limitations to time bar contestants from recalling statements or incidents beyond a cut-off date.

If such a practice exists in law, an extension of that in politics would help focus debates relevant to the present. In this, EC could take a cue or two or three from our legal codes. Indian courts admit charges of libel and slander provided the alleged act has taken place within a year. For civil suits, the usual limit is three years and for property disputes, 12 years.

There are, of course, certain clearly defined exceptions to all of this. However, bear in mind that the principle of 'karma' does not apply in law for should a person die, this brings about an abatement of that particular legal prosecution. A fine point in jurisprudence but also one that reinforces the adage of not speaking ill of the dead.

To hark back to statements made during pre-Independence days has little relevance today. Take the instance of Subhas Bose and Veer Savarkar. True, Bose valued Savarkar and wanted him to enter public life after his release from prison in 1937. True also that Bose opposed Savarkar when the latter claimed that Hindu Mahasabha represented all Hindus and that Congress should back off.

What is equally true is that Bose sought Hindu Mahasabha's help during the Kolkata municipality elections in 1940. Bose, after all, had also said that he was sympathetic to the 'real' Hindu Mahasabha and not the 'political' one. Today, even contemporary votaries of Netaji Bose would find it difficult to fathom this distinction. It might appear arcane now, but it was not so then.

Similarly, communists too have a hard time justifying CPI's surrender to Stalin in the 1940s. The world was a different place at that time. Likewise, the Partition can embarrass many of our political ancestors and reveal their feet of clay. Prevarications

and double talk in 1947 bounced off graffitied walls with cringe-worthy rapidity.

Pushing these buttons can only keep the 'he-said-and-he-said' tape going on forever. Which is why debates of this kind should be time barred for we were not part of the context in which they were first framed. It is tough passing down a language no parent speaks, or never has for a long time. To go to battle with such sepia-tinted memories distracts one from present concerns.

When we veer away from the here and now, there is



**EC could devise a bespoke Statute of Limitation, with clearly demarcated exceptions, as in law. This would, in quick time, promote the 'politics of responsibility' and reason**

the live danger that passions will take over and the heart will soon rule the head. Our real, tangible everyday lives, the great Max Weber said, should determine our political choices. If one were to sensationalise the past, of which one has no lived-in experience, then the heart takes

over the head and politics becomes unreasonable.

It is because of such lapses into pure sentiment that agitators have been able to inflame masses leading to tragic consequences. The 'politics of responsibility', which Weber advocated above the 'politics of commitment', draws its strength from what real people live through and not from an imaginary world nobody has seen.

Violence during the Partition was so frenzied that it did not once stop to think before it took countless lives. Is it even civilised to ask if there was an overall communal balance among the dead? Not only such issues prior to 1947 not bulk up our election rhetoric but dead politicians too must not be resurrected for target practice. In law, as we know, death abates legal proceeding against the person.

Even if historically accurate, when the past walks the ramp, present concerns tend to go out of fashion. On the other hand, it would be shoddy and brain-lazy to copy and paste from law books without deletions and notations on the margins. Being specific is the mother of relevance and EC is fully aware of this.

Such a proposition, obviously, needs lengthy consultations but only after the cause is seen as worthwhile. Just to get a thought process going, we could time bar for scoring political points whatever was said or done 70 years ago. The principle of non-alignment and the Panchsheel doctrine, for instance, have since faded out of history and become part of our political prehistory.

Much closer in time, the liberalisation of the Indian economy erased post-Independence Nehruvian thinking almost completely. Still, 1991 would be cutting the timeframe too fine unless the 1975 Emergency is included in the ambit as an exception. Memories of that period under draconian laws are still fresh as millions of Indians muffled their anguish fearing dreadful punishment.

Elections can be kept civil if people respond primarily to matters that impact their everyday lives. To this end, EC could devise a bespoke Statute of Limitation, with clearly demarcated exceptions, as in law. This would, in quick time, promote the 'politics of responsibility' and reason. Of course, existing laws can aid this effort, but only after careful thought.

Otherwise, this proposed elections-oriented Statute of Limitation could well become a Statute of Imitation!

The writer is a sociologist

## Is Gen Z Alright? It Has The Elders Worried

The young are lively on digital platforms but not polling booths. Many are too caught up in studies & work and their own heads to vote. Maybe their choices signify satisfaction. Maybe hopelessness

Ananya Khera

There's no bigger giveaway of middle age than worrying about the young. Whether or not this is warranted, Gen Z, born between 1997 and 2010, seems to be thoroughly baffling seniors. Adults grouse about the irresponsibility of young people, their narcissism, their wokeness and so on, while the kids clap back with OK Boomer and WhatsApp Uncle jibes. The generation gap is beginning to seem like a yawning gulf of incomprehension.

'Storm and stress' has been a popular frame for the emotional upheaval and conflict that adolescents face. But young people are divided by region and social circumstance; where you are born matters more than when you were born. It is not easy to generalise, or isolate distinctive features about a generation. Still, there are three broad ways to think about generational differences.

**Life-cycle effects** | Where you are in the life cycle obviously matters, young people obviously behave differently than retired grandparents. Teenage brains are built differently; they are far more malleable and quick-learning than adults. And the prefrontal cortex does not develop till they're firmly in their twenties, so they have a hard time planning and prioritising, and regulating their impulses. They take crazier risks. They're geared towards their peer groups, for better or for worse.

**Period effects** | Another way to think of young people today is to see the events they have lived through. Smartphones and social media, consumer capitalism, social precarity and political instability have shaped India's Gen Z, just as living on the threshold of liberalisation and globalisation moulded their parents, or the freedom struggle affected their great-grandparents.

**Cohort effects** | But people of all ages have lived through the same slice of time. So what sets Gen Z-ers apart? As

sloppy as generational analysis is, there are several 'cohort effects' that can be discerned about today's teens. They are the first generation of digital natives, to have grown up with the internet, to take smartphones and social media for granted.

While there have been moral panics around every new technology, from radio and TV to video games, studies show that this time, there are valid concerns about their well-being. Attention-spans have shortened, and become more fragmented. The link between social media and mental health problems like depression, anxiety and self-harm is also well documented now. This generation is



also more vocal about these struggles, though only the more privileged ones are likely to seek help.

Young people look towards influencers, struggle with unrealistic images, with cyberbullying and toxicity, even as they lose out on in-person interaction and play, which might give them a more grounded perspective. Online multiplayer games, hardcore porn and hyper-masculinity gurus affect boys, while girls deal with other self-image and popularity issues. Living up to cultural expectations of conformity and deference to elders, while privately bending these norms in their digital avatars, can be another source of tension.

Another event that unites them is living through the Covid pandemic at an impressionable age, having their

schooling and life upended, living through uncertainty and isolation. While their social background, financial stability and family situations make for different outcomes, the 'quaranteens' who are now adults do have this great disruption in common.

A Unicef study in 2021 showed that one in seven Indians between the ages of 15 and 24 felt depressed. Every fifth Gen-Zer is Indian. And as this vast river rolls towards college and the job market, they find themselves under crazy pressure to succeed, for their own sakes and for families that have taken expensive gambles on their education. Returns from higher education have reduced, there is little intergenerational mobility.

**Perception of personal failure vs reality** | One

in five college graduates was unemployed in 2021, many are not even looking for a job. Each govt job is sought after by thousands of overqualified people. Rural wages have flatlined. In cities, between 10 and 15 million people are gig-workers servicing the elite, with no security or chances of advancement.

Young Indians were once one of the most hopeful demographics in the world, convinced that tomorrow would be better than today. But this has been accompanied by a decline in life-chances. So far, young people seem to see this as a personal failure rather than a betrayal by a system that still hoards opportunity for the privileged.

Young people seem socially active and effervescent on digital platforms, but their political impact is dissipated. They have not united in struggle, as students did in 1968 in the West or the 70s in India. As the recent electoral data reveals, only a fraction of 18-19-year-olds are registered to vote. They're too caught up in school and work and their own heads to care about making a difference through their vote. Does this signify satisfaction or hopelessness? Who knows.

## Calvin & Hobbes



## Find Purpose And A Higher Goal In Life

Jaya Row

Where is happiness? You believe it is out there in the world. As long as a desire is unfulfilled, the mind is agitated and unhappy. When the desire is fulfilled, the agitation ceases, and you are happy. Could happiness be in the mind and not in the object? Are we chasing a mirage all our lives when the oasis is elsewhere?

You seek happiness through four avenues – sense contact, action, relationships and intellectual pursuits. When you eat the first mango of the season, it is sheer bliss, right? So, you keep eating mangoes, but the more you indulge, the less you enjoy.

We all act. What are you working for? A paycheck or profit? Then you get bored. Find purpose and a higher goal, and you regain the excitement of a child.

Emotional thrills are so fulfilling that you do not feel the pain of physical inconveniences, but the days of wine and roses soon become days of whine and neurosis. You think the partner is at fault, but could it be your attitude that needs tweaking?

Intellectual delights give far more happiness than even emotional thrills. Physical and emotional pain pale into insignificance compared to the joy of a Nobel Prize! But you always want more. As Tennyson said, "Knowledge is like the horizon. The closer you get to it, the further it recedes." You are never satisfied.

What if you moved from the world to its Creator? The Spirit? Will your search for happiness end? The young boy Dhruva tried to his mother because his stepmother did not allow

him to sit on his father's lap. The mother told him – this is the world. Sometimes, you get what you want; at other times, you do not. Dhruva said he wanted only happiness. The mother said you will only get unending happiness when you get to God. How do you get permanent happiness that is independent of the world? The Bhagavad Gita gives the formula for happiness.

**Happiness = No. of desires fulfilled / No. of desires harboured**

Using this formula, you can enhance your happiness by either increasing the number of desires fulfilled, the numerator, or reducing the number of desires you harbour, the denominator.

As you fulfil your desires, you acquire more desires. So, focus on the desires you harbour. As the desires

## Sacredspace

There is a light that shines beyond all things on earth, beyond us all, beyond the heavens, beyond the highest, the very highest heavens. This is the light that shines in your heart.

Chandogya Upanishad



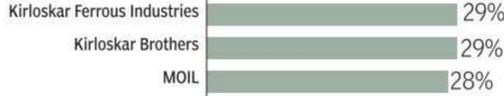
THE SPEAKING TREE  
BLISSTECH

### Sensex Rises On Local Fund Buying Amid Poll Jitters

Markets recovered from nervousness over low voter turnout to close in the green in 4 of 5 sessions this week. Lower-than-expected US inflation and sustained buying by domestic investors boosted market sentiment

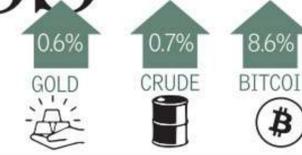
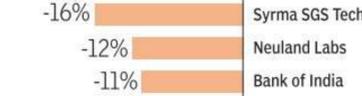


### BSE GROUP A GAINERS



THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

### LOSERS



**\$2.5Bn**  
In a rejig of the MSCI index, stocks of 13 Indian cos will be included in the index. These will potentially bring over \$2.5bn in foreign investments

Source: Refinitiv, ETIG

## Govt to work with pvt sector for development journey: FM

### Sitharaman Seeks Higher Investment In Mfg To Push Growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday pitched for higher investment in manufacturing, while seeking to position India as an economy with encouraging growth prospects and a large market.

While sounding confident of BJP's return to office, she said govt will work with the private sector to drive India's development journey.

"Much against the advice given by some economists that India should no longer be looking at manufacturing or ramping up manufacturing, I would like to highlight the fact that manufacturing must increase... We need to have greater sophistication in our product manufacturing," Sitharaman said at the CII's annual general meeting, while listing out areas where domestic manufacturing has reduced reliance on

Much against the advice given by some economists that India should no longer be looking at manufacturing or ramping up manufacturing, I would like to highlight the fact that manufacturing must increase... We need to have greater sophistication in our product manufacturing

We are confident that PM Narendra Modi is coming back with a good majority... Soon after govt is formed, we look forward to a more pointed engagement with CII to see what best can be done in July Budget, which will be full year's budget

— NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

imports. Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan is among the votaries of a services-led strategy for India. The minister said policy stability, responsiveness to issues flagged by industry and a corruption-free regime have been crucial for the economy's consistent and steady growth. "We are making sure that the facilitation, both in legislative and also the legal frameworks, are all simultaneously going

on, having heard from the industry that rapid changes are required in our compliance regime," she said. Sitharaman promised that a similar strategy will be followed. "We are confident that PM Narendra Modi is coming back with a good majority... Soon after govt is formed, we look forward to a more pointed engagement with the CII to see what best can be done in the July budget, which will be the full ye-

ar's budget," she said. FM pointed to multiple global agencies, including the International Monetary Fund and S&P, to argue that India was poised for rapid growth, especially when corporate and bank balance sheets were clean. Citing RBI and the Economic Survey, she said, India has graduated from twin balance sheet problem of the past to twin balance sheet advantage, which has led to vibrancy in market, helping propel investments by the corporate sector and creating space for banks to lend. She also said India will enjoy demographic dividend for the next 30 years and along with skill development, including in areas such as AI and big data etc, it will increase consumer demand. She also said India's transition towards green energy and a sustainable future will generate new markets and demand.

### Govt e-comm platform on-boarding unicorns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which was positioned as an UPI-type alternative to e-commerce giants, is on-boarding several unicorns including Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24 and Zerodha, as it seeks to gain traction.

While the idea was to create ONDC as a tool for small businesses, including kirana stores and democratise online commerce, govt believes the entry of large players will only give more choice to consumers and help grow demand in smaller towns and cities. Besides, the idea is to allow consumers and businesses to benefit without having to pay levies and charges to platforms.

"It has started getting traction in the last two years. Five lakh sellers have on-boarded, of which 70% are small and medium sellers. In April, ONDC facilitated 72 million transactions," Rajesh Kumar Singh, secretary in the department for promotion of industry and internal trade, told reporters.

Asked if big startups may end up overshadowing smaller players, Singh said he expected all types of players to come on board. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," he said.

Over 125 ecosystem stakeholders, including unicorns such as EaseMyTrip, Winzo and Livspace signed Letter of Intent (LoI) on Friday.

## If resolution takes long, recovery bound to drop

### 49% Recovery If Resolved Within 330 Days, 26% Rate If Delayed Beyond 600 Days: Study

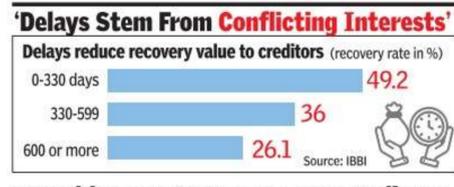
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** There is a direct correlation between the length of the resolution process and the recovery rate, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India said in a study.

According to the study, lenders recover nearly half of their funds (49.2%) in insolvency cases resolved within 330 days. In cases that take longer, the recovery rate drops to 36%, further decreasing to 26% for cases that extend beyond 600 days. Out of the 947 cases analysed, a mere 14% were resolved within the stipulated timeline of 330 days. A significant 37% took between 330 to 600 days, and the remaining 49% stretched beyond 600 days.

These delays — often triggered by litigations from multiple stakeholders with conflicting interests — not only erode the value of already distressed corporate defaulter, but also significantly reduce the recovery value to creditors, as pointed out by IBBI chairperson Ravi Mital in the board's newsletter.

According to IBBI, 269 resolutions were approved in FY24 — a 42% increase over the 189 resolutions in FY23. The ratio of cases resolved to liquidation of cases improved from 0.46 in FY23 to 0.61 in FY24. While this is the highest-ever in any year since the inception of the IBC, the amount realised has declined. In FY24, the amount realised under



Source: IBBI

### RBI addresses ARC execs on compliance

**Mumbai:** RBI has asked asset reconstruction companies to foster a culture of integrity and ethical conduct after supervisory concerns in their functioning.

Addressing senior executives of ARCs in Mumbai, RBI deputy governor J Swaminathan asked them to adopt a 'regulation plus' approach, where compliance with both the letter and spirit of the regulation is achieved.

"Boards should accord due importance to assurance functions, namely risk management, compliance and internal audit. These functions play a critical role in identifying and mitigating risks, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations as well as safeguarding the organisation's reputation," he said.

cases resolved stood at Rs 48,000 crore as compared to Rs 55,000 crore in FY23.

mitted claims of Rs 8.8 lakh crore. This means that there were only 5% assets on ground.

According to Mital, IBC's objective extends beyond the mere recovery of creditors. "It is fundamentally geared toward the preservation of business. By prioritising resolution over liquidation, the IBC endeavours to safeguard the economic fabric by ensuring the survival and sustainability of the financially distressed entities," he said. IIM Ahmedabad in a report had noted that resolved firms that went through the resolution process have significantly improved their performance in the post-resolution period.

The ratio of recovery to admitted claims also dropped to 27% from 36% last year. While the IBC saw 200 admitted cases with claims of over Rs 1,000 crore, total assets in these claims stood at Rs 44,000 crore against ad-

### Serum to buy 20% in med tech firm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Serum Institute of India (SII) announced a strategic investment to buy 20% in med tech firm IntegriMedical to advance needle-free injection system technology.

The partnership between SII and IntegriMedical aligns with SII's vision of 'health for all' and IntegriMedical's mission to 'transform healthcare globally' by providing patient comfort, ensuring increased patient compliance, reducing needle-stick injuries and enhancing efficacy of liquid medication via needle-free dispersion, says a company statement.

IntegriMedical has developed a US patented needle-free injection system (N-FIS) that utilises high-velocity jet stream, using mechanical power to effectively and consistently administer biologics and drugs. The innovative drug delivery solution aims to alleviate pain during administration, providing needle-phobic patients with a pleasant and stress-free experience. N-FIS will be available in the private market, offering patients and healthcare providers an alternative to traditional needle-based injections.

## Lower EV import duty not just for new entrants

### Govt Says Cos Like BMW & Hyundai Too Can Gain From New Policy With Fresh Investment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** As it awaits word from Tesla on its India plans, govt on Friday said companies such as Vinfast, which has announced domestic manufacturing plans, BMW and Hyundai, which are already in India, can take advantage of the lower import duty regime by investing in new production capacity to gain from new electric vehicle policy targeted at high-end cars.

Based on inputs from the auto industry, the ministry of heavy industries is expected to release a fresh set of FAQs before it invites applications from prospective investors. The ministry has already held consultations with industry representatives. The new EV policy announced by govt ahead of polls sought to target vehicles that cost upwards of \$35,000 and allowed import of up to 26,000 units annually if the company committed to invest Rs 4,150 crore in setting up a manufacturing facility. A govt official said existing

players or those who have already committed to invest in India need not set up subsidiaries to route their investment but can do so through fresh investments.

strike a balance to ensure that domestic players such as Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors, which have lined up ambitious EV plans, are not impacted by imports.

### AMID TESLA'S SILENCE

Govt on Friday said cos that are already in India (like BMW & Hyundai) and those like Vinfast that have announced mfg plans can take advantage of the lower import duty regime by investing in new production capacity

While the policy's prime focus appeared to be Tesla, its founder Elon Musk decided to postpone his India trip, which included a meeting with PM Modi. A few days later, he flew to China, raising questions about the co's intent to invest in India



"Investment has to be a green field. The company doesn't have to be greenfield," the official said.

Companies that had started investing in the EV ecosystem before the announcement of the policy are also eligible for incentives. "What matters is when they start spending money. It is not that they would have invested much so far. Whatever they invest theoretically is legit," the official added. The policy had sought to

At the same time, the focus was on seeking to get companies such as Tesla and its value chain to invest in India as localisation norms are also part of the policy.

While the prime focus appeared to be Tesla, its founder Elon Musk decided to postpone his India trip, which included a meeting with PM Narendra Modi, citing his commitments. A few days later he flew to China, raising questions about the company's intent to invest in India.

### Trai to issue consultation paper to curb pesky calls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Govt is concerned about the growing menace of pesky calls and unsolicited commercial messages, and is now looking to work out a regulation to counter the menace. The first step will involve regulator Trai issuing a consultation paper on the matter, and thereafter working out recommendations.

Trai has taken note of the problem and will bring the consultation paper as early as next month to "significantly revise regulation," chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said on Friday. "We will be revising the regulations and tighten the mechanism, to clamp down on calls being made from normal 10-digit numbers and (will also address) other forms of misuse," the Trai chief said.

The consumer affairs ministry is also working on the issue of tackling unsolicited communications, he added. "The entire govt... different departments are working in tandem and are completely conscious of the problem, and are looking at ways to address it." Govt has time and again expressed concerns over the nagging issue of unsolicited commercial communication, which refuses to ebb down, despite various warnings by the telecom ministry.

## Odisha tops in inflation, rate over 7% for 6 mths

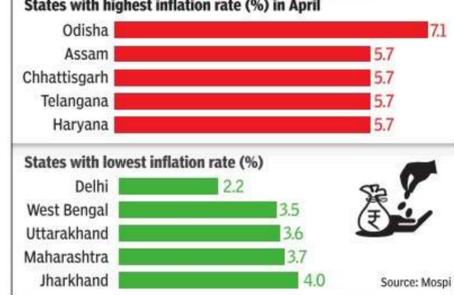
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** For six months in a row, Odisha has logged a retail inflation of over 7% — way above the overall number, while Delhi recorded the lowest rate of little over 2% for the past five months, data showed.

In April, Odisha emerged as the state with the highest inflation rate at 7.1%, while the overall rate was at an 11-month low of 4.8%. In Nov last year, the state had recorded an inflation rate of 7.7%, which shot up to 8.7% in Dec. Assam, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Haryana recorded an inflation rate of 5.7%.

Delhi emerged as the state with the lowest inflation rate of 2.2% in April. After recording a rate of 3.1% in Nov last year, it has consistently emerged as the state with the lowest inflation rate. West Bengal had a rate of 3.5%, Uttarakhand 3.6%, Maharashtra 3.7% and Jharkhand at nearly 4%. Of the 22 states and Union territories for which retail inflation data is released monthly, 13 states have recorded an inflation rate above the overall 4.8% for the month. Experts attributed the

### Delhi Records Slowest Price Rise



Source: Mospi

prevalence of high inflation rates in some states to a raft of factors, including variation in prices of some specific commodities and supply bottlenecks. Vegetable prices have remained stubborn for now, intensifying price pressures. For example, prices of tomatoes, potatoes and onions have remained high for some time now. Potato prices rose an annual 53.6% in April, Tomato 41.8% and Onion 36.6%.

Latest wholesale price inflation data showed it rose to a 13-month high of 1.3% in April, led by high food and

fuel prices. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had warned last month that food price uncertainties continue to weigh on the inflation trajectory but a record-rabi wheat production would help temper price pressure and replenish the buffer stocks. It had also said that the tight demand supply situation in certain categories of pulses and the production outcomes of key vegetables warrant close monitoring.

Experts say that above normal temperatures and heatwave conditions could push up overall inflation.

### HDFC Bank gets \$500mn push for loans to women

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** A \$500-million credit line has been extended by International Finance Corporation to HDFC Bank to provide finance to women through microloans in rural areas. IFC is an arm of the World Bank that supports private sector initiatives. The private lender will use the money to finance microloans to self-help groups and joint liability groups that are enrolled in the sustainable livelihoods initiative. According to HDFC Bank, the financing will enable beneficiaries to graduate to individual lending schemes.

## 15 People Are Worth Over \$100Bn... Ultra-Rich Club Bigger Than Ever Before

The combined net worth for the 15 richest people is up 13% this year to \$2.2 trillion, beating the pace of inflation and the broader stock market. Between them, these people hold nearly a quarter of the world's 500 richest people. If this super-rich club were a company, it would have been the 4th most valued firm behind Microsoft (\$3.1tn), Apple (\$2.9tn) and Nvidia (\$2.3tn)

1. **Adani** (\$109bn) & **Gautam Adani** (\$100bn). Adani recently returned to the elite group after a short-seller attack caused him to lose more wealth than anyone in 2023

4. **Dell founder Michael Dell** recently saw his wealth cross the \$100bn mark after demand for AI-related equipment boosted Dell stock

3. **L'Oreal heiress Francoise Bettencourt Meyers** became the first woman to amass a 12-figure fortune in Dec after shares of the luxury cosmetics co L'Oreal posted their best year since 1998

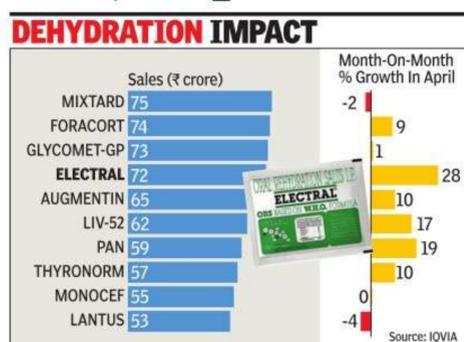
5. **Latin America's richest man Carlos Slim** is another new joiner who saw his wealth surge amid a boom in the Mexican peso that's helped boost stocks of his firms (Source: Bloomberg)

## Electral sales jump 26% as heatwaves take toll

Rupali Mukherjee @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Dehydration seems to have troubled us the most in April with the onset of dry and scorching heat. Sales of widely-sold oral electrolyte Electral jumped over 26% year-on-year in April, while its month-on-month growth was the highest among top 10 rankers, data culled from market research firm IQVIA said.

The month-on-month growth for Electral stood at 28%, with sales of Rs 72 crore in the domestic pharma retail market. The growth catapulted the brand to move up from 20th slot in March to fourth rank in April. Among therapies, cardiac, gastroenterology and dermatology managed to shake



off the sluggishness in the domestic pharma retail market, sources told TOI. The market valued over Rs 19,500 crore in April, bounced back with a 9% growth year-on-year. Poor sales of respiratory and anti-infectives had pulled down the market in March to a flat growth, with reduction in winter chill. Other growth drivers for the month include gastroenterology medicines, Pan and

Pan D, which increased by 19% and 17% respectively. Liver therapies, Liv-52 by 17%, and Udiliv 28%.

Antidiabetic therapy Mixtard topped the list, netting sales of Rs 75 crore during April, followed by respiratory medication Foracort (Rs 74 crore) and antidiabetic pill Glycomet-GP (Rs 73 crore). Among the players, Sun Pharma, Mankind, Torrent and Intas registered a strong growth month-on-month. Mumbai-based Sun Pharma maintained the top position in the market with market share of 8%.

Further, during the month, acute therapy — mainly painkillers and anti-infectives — has shown a growth of 6%. As against this, chronic medication — prescribed for long-term ailments — has grown more

than double at 13%. For past six months, chronic has outperformed acute therapy.

The month proved to be healthy for both MNCs and domestic companies, with both posting growth of 8% each. On a MAT (moving annual total) basis, the pharma retail market grew over 7% at Rs 2.2 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, EBITDA margins of companies are expected to improve from FY25, driven by cost rationalisation and benefits of operating leverage on account of higher volumes. Those with a significant presence in the API (active pharmaceutical ingredient) segment are likely to see revenue growth of 10%-11% y-o-y with operating margins of 17-20% through FY25-26, India Ratings and Research said in a note.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The UN has revised upwards India's GDP growth rate for 2024 to 6.9% from 6.2%, driven by strong public investment and robust private consumption.

The UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects report also said that although subdued external demand will continue to weigh on merchandise export growth, pharmaceuticals and chemicals exports are expected to expand strongly. In 2025, the economy is forecast to grow by 6.6%.

The report projects China's GDP growth for 2024 at 4.8% and for next year at 4.5%, which makes India the fastest growing major economy. The UN is the latest agency to raise India's economic growth for the current fiscal year after scorching 8.4% growth in Q4 of 2023-24. The

### WHAT REPORT SAYS

- Several large developing economies — Indonesia, India, and Mexico — are benefiting from strong domestic and external demand
- In India, labour market indicators have improved amid robust growth and higher labour force participation
- India's govt remains committed to gradually reduce the fiscal deficit, while seeking to increase capital investment

IMF has raised India's GDP growth to 6.8% and has termed the country as a bright spot amid the backdrop of a challenging global economy. RBI estimates GDP growth at 7% for 2024-25, while govt has projected it in the 7.5-7.7% range. Several indica-

tors have pointed to the growth momentum being sustained in the months ahead.

The report said that several large developing economies — Indonesia, India, and Mexico — are benefiting from strong domestic and external demand. It also said that in India, labour market indicators have also improved amid robust growth and higher labour force participation.

The report said India's govt remains committed to gradually reduce the fiscal deficit, while seeking to increase capital investment.

Consumer price inflation in India is projected to decelerate from 5.6% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2024, staying within RBI's 2-6% medium-term target range and added that despite some moderation, food prices remained elevated in Q1 2024, especially in Bangladesh and India.

# Paris-bound boxer Parveen banned for whereabouts failure

## India To Field A 'Reserve' At World Qualifiers To Regain 57kg Spot

Sabi Hussain  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In the wake of Olympics-bound boxer Parveen Hooda's suspension by the International Testing Agency (ITA) for whereabouts failure, India has decided to fight afresh for the women's 57kg category quota place for the Paris Games by

fielding a reserve pugilist at the upcoming World qualifiers in Bangkok. For now, Indian boxing has lost its Olympics quota in the women's 57kg class after the imposition of ban on World championships bronze medalist Parveen. She failed to file her whereabouts in the period between April 2022 and March 2023 as per World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules.

According to Wada, "any combination of three whereabouts failures (filing failure and/or missed test) within a period of 12 months constitute an anti-doping rule violation, for which the applicable

sanction is 2 years of ineligibility subject to a reduction to a minimum of 1 year depending on your degree of fault".

Parveen, who had won a quota for Paris by winning the bronze medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, has been suspended for 22 months by the ITA, which is tasked by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to carry out the anti-doping programme for the Paris Games.

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) informed on Friday that pursuant to multiple discussions and representations, ITA has proposed a sanction on Parveen, entailing the im-



CARELESS? Parveen Hooda

position of an ineligibility period of 22 months. However, the ban period has now been backdated by eight months as compared to the initial suspension period of 24 months backdated by six months. In essence, the total sanction pe-

riod will be of 14 months, starting from May 17, 2024.

It will be difficult for India to secure a Paris quota place in the women's 57kg class at the Bangkok qualifiers – the second and last qualification event – scheduled from May 25 to June 2. India can only field a boxer who is already registered as reserve for the qualifiers before April 11, 2024, which means that only two boxers – named as reserved in 60kg and 66 kg category – will be eligible to compete in Bangkok.

It's been learnt that Jasmine Lamboria, who lost in the quarters of the women's 60kg

division at the women's World boxing championships in 2022, has been asked by the BFI to prepare herself for competing in the 57kg weight class. But to drop down from her original weight division and get ready to face a highly-competitive field in Bangkok at such a short notice won't be an easy task for Jasmine.

Shedding light on the case, BFI said Parveen's legal representatives, comprising prominent sports lawyer Vidushpat Singhania, along with federation officials led by Colonel Arun Malik, had concerted talks with the Wada's Anti-Doping Ombudsman as well as ITA "to

safeguard the Olympic quota and Parveen against potential suspension".

"The failure arose on account of Parveen lacking the ability and technical know-how required for operating the Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS) platform, owing to which a gap arose in her being able to fill her whereabouts information accurately and consistently. Parveen's failure to comply in the present instance arose on account of her lack of knowledge and technical understanding of the ADAMS platform," Singhania said.

BFI's president Ajay

Singh, on his part said, "While it's regrettable that Parveen won't be able to compete and will be serving the suspension, I am happy that we were able to at least reduce the suspension period and she will be back in the ring soon." Federation's secretary general Hemanta Kalita added: "Our proactive outreach to ITA and WADA emphasised the unintentional nature of the boxer's actions, particularly given her father's terminal illness."

Currently only three Indian boxers – Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti (54kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) – have Paris quota places.

# 'NEED INDIAN NO. 9s IN ISL'

## Sunil Chhetri Bemoans The Lack Of Opportunities For Homegrown Strikers, Hopes It Will Change

Nilesh Bhattacharya @timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Sunil Chhetri is at peace with himself now. A day after announcing his retirement from international football, he woke up on Friday with 688 missed calls on his cell phone. "It isn't easy," he said with a smile. It was a decision driven by instinct. It was a decision taken in consultation with Indian cricket star and his friend, Virat Kohli. "I discussed with him (Kohli) because we both understand the ups and downs of a career and take the step of calling time on it," Chhetri said during a virtual interaction with media persons from Bhubaneswar, where Igor Stimac's India are preparing for the upcoming Fifa 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

As Chhetri gets ready for his swansong in the Blue Tigers' jersey with the clash against Kuwait at the Salt Lake Stadium on June 6, the legendary Indian of 94 goals and 150 matches got up close and personal, reflecting on his 19-year journey and more.

On when and what prompted him to ring down the curtain on his international career...

I don't know the exact date, but probably 10 to 15 days after the Afghanistan game (which India lost 1-2 in Guwahati in the World Cup qualifiers on March 26) I started thinking about retirement. I was fighting with myself, trying to think holistically. Eventually it came with an instinct and when it came it was so individualistic, so narrow that I was taking time and it wasn't easy. But now I am at peace with my decision.



THE MASTER: The sight of Sunil Chhetri breaking away from rival defenders to score at the death will be missed in Indian football

**I DID TALK TO VIRAT KOHLI BEFORE MY RETIREMENT DECISION, HE IS VERY CLOSE TO ME. I DISCUSSED WITH HIM BECAUSE WE BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT WE WOULD KNOW THIS THING EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS.**

—Sunil Chhetri

On the next Indian striker par excellence...

I'm very optimistic about the future of Indian football. There is a lot of fight for different positions. When you talk about the No. 9 one, there are a lot of candidates doing well. Unfortunately, they don't play enough games in that position in the ISL. And in due time, I hope that changes. If you take

this season's two finalists (Mumbai City and Mohun Bagan SG), Liston Colaco and Manvir Singh or Bipin Singh, Vikram Pratap (Singh) and Chhange or (Anirudh) Thapa playing as No. 10 or Sahal (Abdul Samad)... all these attacking players are really doing well.

I do understand that No. 9 is a specific one, but I'm pretty sure that with the talent we have and the structure we have, we'll get one.

On possibly missing the chance of reaching the 100-goal peak in international football...

I don't feel hollow, not reaching a hundred doesn't bother me at all. 150 goals — that's the number that I really love. Playing 150 matches will be on top of everything if I have to tell my son what I had achieved as a footballer.

On his legacy

I've never paid any heed to such things earlier. But now I may be thinking more about it. A very good-looking and hard-working player — this is how I would like to be remembered as.

On the possibility of becoming a coach...

I'll probably do coaching licenses just to be more knowledgeable (about the game). You see all these coaches who are handsome and in one year they lose hair and everything.

I don't want to lose my hair and grow older! I'll think (about my future role) during my sabbatical but coaching is not very higher on my agenda right now.

On continuing in domestic football...

One or two years maximum. I am with Bengaluru FC for another year. I don't know when I will end this journey.

## EURO 2024: KANTE BACK IN FRANCE TEAM

Paris: World champion N'Golo Kante will make a surprise return to international football as France coach Didier Deschamps announced on Thursday the 25 players that will make up the French squad at Euro 2024. Kante, currently with Saudi club Al Ittihad, has not represented France since June 2022. "He played a full season (Kante struggled with injury during his time with Chelsea), albeit not in a European league, as he is in Saudi Arabia," said Deschamps on French TV channel TF1. "He's back to full fitness. With his experience, I'm convinced that the French team will be stronger with N'Golo Kante."



FIFA orders legal review of Palestinian call to suspend Israel  
Bangkok: FIFA ordered an urgent legal evaluation on Friday of a proposal by the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) to suspend Israel over the war in Gaza.

## FREE KICKS

promising to address it at an extraordinary meeting of its council in July. FIFA president Gianni Infantino took the decision at an annual Congress in Bangkok, where the PFA president made an emotional plea to delegates to hold a vote to suspend Israel from all club and national competitions, accusing it of multiple breaches of FIFA statutes.

Brazil to host 2027 Women's World Cup  
Bangkok: Brazil was chosen to host the 2027 Women's World Cup on Friday, beating a joint Belgium-Netherlands-Germany bid at a FIFA congress. Delegates meeting in Bangkok voted by 119 votes to 78 to send the 10th edition to Brazil.

## Thiago, Matip to leave Liverpool

Liverpool: Thiago Alcantara and Joel Matip will leave Liverpool when their contracts expire at the end of the season, the Premier League club announced on Friday. Spain international Thiago, 33, joined Liverpool from Bayern Munich for £20 million (\$25 million) in 2020 but injuries have limited the midfielder to just 98 appearances, including only one this season. Central defender Matip, 32, has spent eight years at Liverpool after joining on a free transfer from Schalke, helping the club win a series of trophies including the Champions League and Premier League. The former Cameroon international, who has made 201 appearances, was one of Klopp's first signings. AGENCIES



LAPORTA (L) AND XAVI

## Tuchel confirms Bayern exit

Munich: Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel confirmed on Friday he will leave the club at the end of the season, saying he "couldn't agree on terms" to stay on.

Bayern and Tuchel agreed to part ways in February after the club lost three matches in a row and fell eight points behind eventual champions Bayer Leverkusen.

Tuchel confirmed he was in talks about continuing next season, but said would leave after Saturday's final game against Hoffenheim. "We will stick to the agreement that we had in February. We had talks, as you reported, but we couldn't agree on terms," Tuchel told reporters.

## Juve fire coach Allegri post rant

Milan: Bayern Juventus sacked coach Massimiliano Allegri over his behaviour during and after this week's Coppa Italia final in which he was sent off, the Italian Serie A club said on Friday. Juventus beat Atalanta 1-0 to win a record-extending 15th Coppa Italia on Wednesday.

Allegri was sent off towards the end of the game for his fierce protests over refereeing decisions. After the game, the 56-year-old clashed with match officials, Juventus staff and a newspaper director, Italian media reported.

"Juventus announces that it has relieved Massimiliano Allegri of his position as head coach of the men's first team."

# Satwik-Chirag, Ashwini-Tanisha enter semifinals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The doubles pairs of Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty and Ashwini Ponnappa-Tanisha Crasto made it to the semifinals of the Thailand Open in Bangkok on Friday. However, qualifier Maisnam Meiraba Luwang bowed out, losing to world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand 12-21, 5-21. Top seeds Satwik-Chirag trounced Juanidi Arif and Roy King Yap of Malaysia 21-7, 21-

14. With no top team competing in the event, Satwik-Chirag are expected to go all the way. While the Indians are ranked No. 3 in the world, the next best ranked pair is second-seeded Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana, who are world No. 9. They lost in the second round on Thursday.

In the semifinals, Satwik-Chirag will face world No. 80 pair of Ming Che Lu and Tang Kai Wei of Chinese Taipei.

Fourth seeds Ashwini-Tanisha scored a hard-fought 21-15, 21-23, 21-19 victory against sixth seeds Yu Lim Lee and Seung Chang Shin of Korea in the quarterfinals.

Trailing 6-10 and 16-18, the Indian girls kept their nerve to move to 19-18 with three straight points before winning the decider. They are up against top seeds and world No. 10 pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai of Thailand in semis.



SATWIK AND CHIRAG

# Riyadh awaits fists of Fury, but Usyk in the way

## Fight Of The Century? Winner Could Claim Equal Standing With Ali, Tyson In First Undisputed Contest Since 1999

Riyadh: Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk will face off in a historic clash billed as the fight of a generation on Saturday with the first undisputed heavyweight bout in 25 years.

The mercurial Briton and the relentless Ukrainian have both arrived undefeated in the Saudi capital Riyadh, boxing's oil-funded new cash cow, looking to be crowned the sport's first four-belt champion.

Superlatives have been lavished on an encounter where one of the fighters can join the likes of Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson by becoming the first undisputed heavyweight since Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield in 1999.

With the hype going into overdrive, there is the potential for anticlimax at the Kingdom Arena with some commentators expecting a cagey fight with Fury on the defensive.

The 6ft 9in Mancunian, who struggled against converted MMA fighter Francis Ngannou in October, has shed excess pounds and looks lean and light

on his feet. Southpaw Usyk, a converted cruiserweight with an astonishing resume, gives up six inches in height but has triumphed against bigger opponents, beating the towering Anthony Joshua twice.

Promoter Frank Warren called it the "most important fight of the 21st century". "It's the fight we've been waiting for — the two best heavyweights in the world, both undefeated," he said on Thursday evening. "This is something special. Fights like (this) come along once in a generation."

Opinions are split over the outcome, with some tipping the rangy, street-smart "Gypsy King" Fury and others backing the supreme skills and fitness of Usyk.

"Tyson Fury should win on points," Lewis told the BBC. "The bigger guy has longer arms, great movement."

However, Tony Bellew, Usyk's final victim at cruiserweight, warned: "He is the purest and best boxer Fury will ever face in his life."

The final build-up has been as quirky as the fighters. After chaos when Fury's father headbutted a member of Usyk's entourage, the boxers have been quiet and respectful.

On Thursday, Fury refused to engage in the traditional eyeball-to-eyeball face-off, while Usyk scribbled a poem during the press conference. "Let's make history," said the Ukrainian.

Complaints about Saudi Arabian "sportswashing" have been virtually absent, with the promoters and fighters at pains to praise the conservative kingdom. Fury and Usyk, who have a rematch clause, stand to profit handsomely from



Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk pose on Thursday

"I'll say a prayer for him (Usyk) before we walk out that we both go back in one piece to our families because that's what it's all about."

—Tyson Fury

"I'm happy to be here, I'm excited. Let your (Fury's) hands talk in the ring."

—Oleksandr Usyk

the fight, with reports claiming the Briton will bank at least \$127 million.

Both fighters have impeccable records — Fury is 34-0-1 with 24 knockouts, Usyk 21-0 with 14 KOs. AFP

## THE CONTENDERS

**TYSON FURY:** Fury, who comes from a line of bare-knuckle boxing Irish Travellers, has bipolar disorder and has battled alcoholism, cocaine abuse, depression and thoughts of suicide, announcing his retirement twice. The 35-year-old famously upset another champion Wladimir Klitschko in 2015 and includes a memorable trilogy against America's Deontay Wilder in his portfolio.

**OLEKSANDR USYK:** Usyk, 37, who briefly served as a soldier after the Russian invasion, cleaned up as an amateur where he had a record of 335-15 and won 2012 Olympic gold. After then turning pro, he was the undisputed cruiserweight champion within 15 fights and claimed Anthony Joshua's belts in just his third outing at heavyweight.

**25** The first undisputed heavyweight bout in 25 years. The last time it happened was in 1999 when Lennox Lewis beat Evander Holyfield.

# 'Ban for coaches too if ward caught doping'

Sabi Hussain  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a first in Indian sports, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Friday announced that it will sanction and penalise coaches as well as those athletes are caught for doping.

The AFI took the decision at its executive council (EC) meeting after consulting various stakeholders, including the sports ministry, Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada), for more than six months.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said that from now, the athletes registered with the federation will have to mandatorily disclose the names of their coaches in dope control forms. The same set of coaches will also have to register themselves with the AFI.

"If an athlete is found doping and is given a sentence, their coach will get a similar sentence from AFI. The coach will be as responsible because this whole issue of doping has gone beyond control. It's high time that people are called out and they are named and shamed and action is taken against them. We will suspend the coaches (who have coached dope offenders), we will inform departments concerned and they will not be allowed to enter the stadiums. These people have to be removed from whatever posts they are holding," Sumariwalla said. "All coaches have to register with the AFI, including NIS diploma holders. While filling their dope forms, whenever they are called for dope control, the athletes will have to declare the name of their coach. When an athlete wins, the coaches are ready to run and take their cash awards. There can't be only carrots, there has to be a stick for them also. For one athlete there are five coaches to claim the cash reward," he added.

# POORAN POWER PROPELS LSG



**19** balls taken by Nicholas Pooran during the course of his 75 off 29 balls at a strike rate of 258.62. This is the second-quickest fifty for LSG behind 15 balls, also by Pooran, while scoring 62 off 19 balls vs RCB in Bengaluru on April 10, 2023.

**Batter's 29-Ball 75 Sets Up Lucknow's 18-Run Win Over Mumbai Indians**

**Rajesh.Pansare** @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Nicholas Pooran likes to swing his bat, as hard as he can, from the first ball. Sometimes that high-risk approach comes off in spectacular fashion. Friday was one of those days for the West Indies left-hander as he slayed the Mumbai Indians bowlers during his knock of 75 from 29 balls — laced with five fours and eight sixes — which helped Lucknow Super Giants post 214/6.

In reply, Mumbai went close but were stopped in their tracks at 190/6 as Hardik Pandya's men capped off a forgettable season with yet another defeat. Rohit Sharma stood tall with a 38-ball 68 as the rest of the batting lineup floundered around him. Once Rohit fell to

Ravi Bishnoi, after Suryakumar had fallen for a three-ball duck to Krunal Pandya, Mumbai seemed to be slipping in the chase. A valiant, unbeaten 62 off 28 balls from Naman Dhir, however, gave LSG some anxious moments.

Earlier, Pooran shared a 44-ball 109-run partnership for the fourth wicket with skipper KL Rahul (55, 41b; 3x4, 3x6), who anchored himself at one end. The West Indian left-hander walked in with LSG labouring at 69/3 after 9.3 overs and scoring at a run-rate of below seven runs per over.

Pooran looked to take on the MI bowlers from the word go and had a big swing at the first ball he faced against Pi-yush Chawla (3/29), but could only edge it. With nothing in his range, he bided his time before launching into Anshul

Khamboj (0/48) in the 13th over as he smacked him for two fours and as many sixes. Pooran was on his way and so was the LSG run-rate.

In the next over he hit two sixes off MI skipper Hardik Pandya (0/27). In the 15th bowled jointly by Arjun Tendulkar (0/22) — who was brought in for Jasprit Bumrah and had conceded just 10 in his first two overs — and Naman Dhir, LSG gathered 29 runs.

Pooran hit two sixes off the first two balls before Tendulkar limped out with cramps. He then hit another six and a boundary off Dhir before KL Rahul added a maximum to give impetus to the LSG innings. During that over, Pooran brought up his third half-century in 19 balls.

Pooran finally holed out at long-on to Suryakumar Yadav

off Nuwan Thushara (3/28) but his innings went a long way in accelerating the LSG innings and helped them score 145 runs in the last 10 overs.

Arshad Khan, who scored a fighting fifty in the last match against Delhi Capitals, was out off the next ball from Thushara. Skipper Rahul followed suit on the first ball of the next over bowled by Chawla as LSG lost three in three across two overs. It halted their progress but some lusty blows by Krunal Pandya (12; 7b, 1x4, 1x6) and Ayush Badoni (22; 10b, 1x4, 2x6) took LSG past the 200-run mark.

LSG got off to the worst of starts when Devdutt Padikkal was caught leg-before by Thushara off their third ball of the match. The Karnataka batter's below-par season continued with a duck.

## GAMBHIR IS BCCI'S CHOICE TO REPLACE DRAVID: REPORT

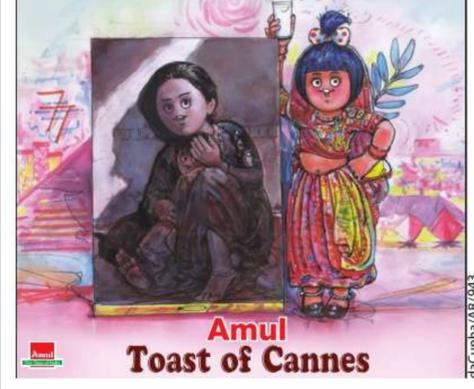
**New Delhi:** The BCCI has approached former India opener and current KKR team mentor Gautam Gambhir to replace Rahul Dravid as India's head coach, according to ESPNcricinfo. Dravid's tenure comes to an end after the T20 World Cup 2024 and he has communicated to the board that he does not want to continue in the role, according to the report. The BCCI will talk to Gambhir after the end of the IPL.

Gambhir, incidentally, was part of India's World Cup-winning teams in the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup. "Gambhir is on top of the BCCI's wishlist. While Gambhir, 42, has no experience of coaching at international or domestic level, he has been in charge of two IPL franchises," the report said. "He was mentor at LSG in 2022 and 2023 — they qualified for the playoffs in both seasons — before joining KKR for the 2024 season." Under Gambhir's mentorship, KKR have performed very well this season. They have won 9 of 13 matches and currently stand at the top of the standings. The deadline for applying for the India head coach job is May 27, a day after the IPL final. AGENCIES



**GAUTAM GAMBHIR**

## Hamara Makhan, Hamara Manthan



## All or nothing for RCB, CSK

**Manuja.Veerappa** @timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Forget passes, it is hard to lay hands on tickets for Saturday's IPL fixture between RCB and CSK at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium even if one pays a 'lottery-ticket win' premium.

The mad scramble is not unusual for IPL's annual southern derby, but interest in the game has skyrocketed this season in anticipation of this being the curtain call at the venue, at the very least, for CSK stalwart MS Dhoni. Also, it could be the final face-off between Dhoni and Kohli.

That the contest is also a knockout clash for the two sides, who are vying for the lone playoff berth up for grabs, has also made it a compelling must-watch. A win will

**90\*** Virat Kohli's unbeaten match-winning knock off 52 balls in Dubai on Oct 10, 2020 is the highest individual score by an RCB batter against CSK.

**95\*** Shivam Dube's unbeaten knock off 46 balls at DYP Mumbai on April 12, 2022 is the joint-highest for CSK vs RCB. Murali Vijay had scored 95 in Chennai on May 28, 2011.

In the event of chasing, RCB will have to achieve the target with more than 11 balls to spare. The mathematics is far more complex if it is a rain-truncated tie.

Intuitive as the contest may be on paper, for any of it to transpire, it is imperative the skies remain clear. However, the Met department suggests that is unlikely. It is almost a tradition for at least one match of the IPL to be affected by rain in the city and since that hasn't come to pass this season, Saturday's game could well be the one that keeps the tradition going.

A thunderstorm is forecast for the duration but if the rain holds up for a while, the state-of-the-art SubAir drainage system will ensure players can take the field in quick time.

**'CSK have done well with young bowlers'**

**Manuja.Veerappa** @timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Saturday's match between RCB and CSK will be played on the same strip on which RCB hosted PBKS and KKR. RCB won the first tie and went down to KKR, who chased down 182 with plenty to spare. Needless to say, death bowling on either side will be crucial. RCB have upped their game in the latter half of the season while CSK — in the absence of Matheesha Pathirana and Mustafizur Rahman — have worked around their lack of resources, with Simranjeet Singh emerging as one of the takeaways.

CSK's bowling coach Dwayne Bravo said, "I don't want to give our plans away but at the same time, I think last season and this season have been very good with a fairly youngish bowling group. Death bowling in T20 cricket is very important and most times it defines the result and outcome of the game. We prepare the same way we prepare for every team. We prepare well as a bowling group, we have very good plans. RCB will have to really try to beat us off our plans."



**DWAYNE BRAVO**

## Rain threatens to steal IPL's shine

**Sourav.M**@timesgroup.com

**Guwahati:** As the IPL nears its business end, more than the qualification scenario it's the weather forecast which seems to have kept everyone on their toes. Rain has made a late entry into the picture to keep the players off the field and spoil teams' chances of deciding their own fate.

Two matches have already been abandoned without a ball being bowled over the past week. Gujarat Titans, involved in both games, were heavily affected as sharing points meant their slim chances of making the playoffs was washed out.

Titans first shared honours with KKR, the first team to

qualify for playoffs, who ensured a top-two finish with a point from the Ahmedabad game on May 13. On Thursday evening, Shubman Gill and Co. then shared points with SRH away, which helped the home side seal the playoffs spot with 15 points from 13 games.

Two more matches are likely to be affected by rain. On Saturday, a resurgent RCB host CSK needing to win the match with certain calculations to leapfrog CSK on NRR as the No. 4 side in the playoffs. A win or shared points will be enough to seal the spot in CSK's favour. The forecast for Bengaluru says 70-90% possibility of precipitation during the match hours.

At the top of the table, the

last league clash between KKR and Rajasthan Royals here on Sunday might also see some rain as thundershowers are predicted over the weekend.

**Departure of stars adds to gloom**

Add to the rain the departure of England stars and the uncertainty over foreign players, which has led to many glum faces in stadiums. English players have already left to take part in the T20 series against Pakistan as part of the preparations for the upcoming World Cup next month.

The playoffs also collide with the schedule of the West Indies-South Africa T20 series in the last week of May, meaning some more players from those teams may leave.

- 6** times KL Rahul has scores 500-plus runs in an IPL season. Just two players have accomplished the feat 7 times each — David Warner and Virat Kohli.
- 7.14** Average registered by Lucknow Super Giants' opening pair during their last seven stands (from April 23). The sequence is 0, 8, 1, 20, 13, 7 & 1.
- 214/6** LSG's total, their first score of 200-plus vs MI. Their previous best was 199/4 at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on April 16, 2022.
- 3** Nicholas Pooran has become the third batter to hit three fifties off less than 20 balls in the IPL this season, the first two being Jake Fraser-McGurk and Travis Head.

**SCORECARD**

**LSG:** KL Rahul c Thushara b Chawla 55, D Padikkal lbw b Thushara 0, M Stoinis lbw b Chawla 28, D Hooda c Wadhera b Chawla 11, N Pooran c Yadav b Thushara 75, A Khan c Wadhera b Thushara 0, A Badoni not out 22, K Pandya not out 12; **Extras** (w11): 11; **Total** (20 ov; RR: 10.70): 214/6; **FoW:** 1-1, 2-49, 3-69, 4-178, 5-178, 6-178; **Bowling:** N Thushara 4-0-28-3, A Tendulkar 2-2-0-22-0, K Khamboj 3-0-48-0, P Chawla 4-0-29-3, N Wadhera 2-0-13-0, H Pandya 2-0-27-0, N Dhir 0-4-0-17-0, R Shepherd 2-0-30-0 (scorecard incomplete)

**HOW THEY STAND**

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
KKR*	13	9	3	1.428	19
RR	13	8	5	0.273	16
SRH*	13	7	5	0.406	15
CSK	13	7	6	0.528	14
DC	14	7	7	-0.377	14
RCB	13	6	7	0.387	12
LSG	13	6	7	-0.787	12
GT*	14	5	7	-1.063	12
PBKS	13	5	8	-0.347	10
MI	13	4	9	-0.271	8

\*KKR-GT tie on 13/05/24 was abandoned. Both teams got one point each. SRH-GT match was also washed out. Updated till Thursday.

## GALLERY

**My records not under threat for now: Bolt**

**New Delhi:** Usain Bolt is going to be back at the Olympics after eight years. He will be in Paris to merely watch the action and feel chuffed about his phenomenal records which, he believes, are "not under threat" in the foreseeable future. "I don't see anybody really break the record. So I think I still have a few more years to go. I don't think the world record will be under threat," said Bolt.

**Bekele returns to Oly after 12 years:** Ethiopian running legend Kenenisa Bekele will return to the Olympics for the first time in 12 years after he was named in a 10-member team for the Paris Games on Thursday. Bekele, 41, last competed in the Games in London in 2012 when he finished fourth in the men's 10,000m.

**Zverev in Italian Open final:** The fifth-ranked Alexander Zverev kept patient, though, and took his chance when it came as he rallied for a 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 victory on Friday over the unheralded Alejandro Tablano and a spot in the Italian Open final. TNN/AGENCIES

## ACTION TODAY

- BADMINTON:** Thailand Open semis, 10.30 am (Jiocinema; BWF youtube)
- CRICKET:** IPL, RCB vs CSK 7.30 pm (Star Sports, Jiocinema)
- FOOTBALL:** Bundesliga, 7 pm (Sony); La Liga, 12.30 am Sunday (Jiocinema)
- TENNIS:** ATP Italian Open, 4.30 pm (Sony)

# Scottie climbs up the PGA leaderboard

**Louisville:** World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler climbed within three strokes of the lead Friday after being arrested before the second round of the PGA Championship, but third-ranked Xander Schauffele remained the overall leader at Valhalla.

Schauffele, who fired a nine-under par 62 on Thursday to match the lowest major round in history, remained at the top ahead of his afternoon start at the rainy layout.

Scheffler was 2-under through nine holes in Friday's second round and shared seventh on 6-under for the tournament after being taken into custody and charged with assault of a police officer, criminal mischief, reckless driving and disregarding signals from an officer directing traffic.

He was taken into custody after driving over a curb trying to get around a traffic accident, one that resulted in the death of a pedestrian, and into the course. The accident delayed the start by 80 minutes and ensured the second round would not be completed until Saturday on a damp, receptive course.



**Mark Hubbard tees off on Friday**

Scheffler, who captured his second Masters last month and has won four of his past five starts, was cheered by spectators who lined the holes to watch him play.

Scheffler, a new father after his son arrived last week, hit his opening tee shot into the right rough at the par-5 10th hole but dropped his approach three feet from the hole and tapped in for birdie.

He missed the green and a five-foot par putt to bogey the

make the turn 2-under.

World number 81 Mark Hubbard, making only his fourth major start, birdied the par-5 10th and par-4 12th to start his round and reach 8-under, pulling within one of the lead after seven holes. The 34-year-old American, whose best PGA Tour finish in 214 career starts was a share of second at the 2019 Houston Open, moved the closest of any rival to Schauffele.

A third-place pack on 7-under included Sweden's Alex Noren and Americans Collin Morikawa, Harris English and Austin Eckroat. Two-time major winner Morikawa sank a birdie putt from 12 feet at 13 and just outside three feet at the par-5 18th to reach 7-under. Eckroat stumbled with a bogey at six then birdied the next four holes to make his charge.

English fired five birdies against a lone bogey over his first 13 holes for the low round on the course to pull within two of Schauffele while Noren overcame an early bogey with four birdies. Sweden's Sebastian Soderberg, making only his third major start, aced the 173-yard par-3 eighth hole. AGENCIES

## World No. 1 Scheffler arrested by cops before Round 2 tee off

**Louisville:** Scottie Scheffler was arrested Friday morning on his way to the PGA Championship, with stunning images showing him handcuffed as he was taken to jail for not following police orders during a pedestrian fatality investigation.

In a span of four hours, the top-ranked golfer in the world was arrested wearing gym shorts and a T-shirt, dressed in an orange jail shirt for his mug shot, returned to Valhalla Golf Club in golf clothes and made his 10:08 a.m. second-round tee time.

"This morning, I was pro-

ceeding as directed by police officers," he said in a statement released as he was warming up on the range. "It was a very chaotic situation, understandably so considering the tragic accident that had occurred earlier, and there was a big misunderstanding of what I thought I was being asked to do.

"I never intended to disregard any of the instructions," he said. "I'm hopeful to put this to the side and focus on golf today. Of course, all of us involved in the tournament express our deepest sympathies to the fam-



**Scottie Scheffler in police custody before teeing off on Friday**

His attorney, Steve Romines in Louisville, also described it as a misunderstanding and told The Associated Press. "We will litigate the case as it goes."

Traffic was backed up for about a mile in both directions on the only road that leads to Valhalla in the morning darkness with light rain, with dozens of police vehicles flashing red-and-blue lights near the entrance.

Police said a pedestrian had been struck by a bus while crossing the road in a lane that was dedicated to tournament traffic and was pronounced dead at the

scene about 5:09 a.m. The PGA of America identified the man as an employee of one of its vendors.

ESPN reporter Jeff Darlington said Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world who was to start the second round at 8:48 a.m., drove past a police officer a little after 6 a.m. in his SUV with markings on the door indicating it was a PGA Championship vehicle.

It was a surreal to see the Masters champion and top-ranked player in the world, dressed in workout clothes with his hands in cuffs behind his back amid flashing flights. AP

## After setbacks, Anjum poised to shoot in Paris Oly

**Bhopal:** Athletes often stay in denial when they don't do well. Most of the time they refuse to believe they are not good enough. For Anjum, it was the other way around.

The former world No. 1 rifle 3position shooter took a lot of time in believing she can be the best in the world. The delay in her admission somewhere cost her a few chances to be in the Indian team and win Olympic quota for the Paris Games.

It took Anjum, 30, a lot of alteration in her character and some solo time before making it to the top-2 of the Olympic shooting trials in the women's 50m rifle 3position event that concluded in Bhopal on Friday. Anjum, who became world No. 1 at the start of 2022, went through a tough phase when she was out of the Indian team for the World Championships and the Asian Games and couldn't win a quota in the event that gave her a ticket to the Tokyo Olympics.

However, the seasoned shooter was able to finish the trials behind Sift Kaur Samra. Anjum left Ashi Chouksey, Nishehal and quota winner Shriyanka Sadangi behind in the race to Paris, making it to top-2 despite not having the advantage of 2 quota points.

Relieved after her last trial, Anjum said the journey post Tokyo Games has been a roller-coaster ride. "I think not winning the quota in my World Championship (2022) and missing it by one point was something that kept me out of the next World Championship (2023). When I missed a quota in 2022, I immediately was dying to get another chance to win it and to be in the team for the World Championship in 2023," Anjum said.

However, the desperation of being in the team for a quota event only made things worse for Anjum. "That didn't work because I had put immense pressure on myself and I was not performing well and that did affect me a lot mentally. So, I had to figure out ways to get back and start liking the sport again."

She said the process of wanting to win but not able to do so tired her out. "I was just sort of tired, wanting to do better. I started training on my own, went out to train alone and then played a competition without the Indian team. It's good to have a team with you, but when you are alone, you can figure out so many ways to spot mistakes, work on them. I think I am a person who would love to stay alone and enjoy my company," she said.

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**BCCI APPROACHES KKR MENTOR GAUTAM GAMBHIR TO REPLACE RAHUL DRAVID AS TEAM INDIA'S HEAD COACH, WILL TALK TO HIM AFTER IPL: REPORT 23**

## Maliwal records statement in court, cops visit CM's house

**No CCTV Camera In Drawing Room; Cops Hunt For PS**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after Delhi Police filed an FIR following a statement by AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on her allegation that she was brutally assaulted by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's PA, Bibhav Kumar, she recorded her statement before a court. The cops also took her to the CM's residence and recreated the alleged crime scene. Forensic officials inspected the drawing room, where the alleged assault took place, and camp office of the CM and collected samples.

Police have sought CCTV footage but were told that the drawing room didn't have any cameras. They are also looking for Bibhav and a team went to his residence twice within 24 hours. His last mobile location has been traced to Mumbai.

► **Builds her case, P 2**

### 'BIBHAV KICKED ME, NO ONE HELPED'

Excerpts from Maliwal's FIR

► I entered CM's residence... was told he was at home, was asked to wait... Suddenly, Bibhav Kumar barged in, started screaming at me and abused me...

► He started slapping me... I was constantly screaming for help but no one came. He kicked me repeatedly in my chest, stomach and pelvis area

► I somehow managed to get free and called 112. Bibhav threatened me: 'You can't do anything to us. Teri haddi pasli tudwa denge'

► I was then taken outside CM residence

► I went to PS Civil Lines and informed the SHO. I started receiving calls from media on my mobile... not wanting to politicise the incident, I left the station



### After 'argument' video, Swati says bid to save 'goon'

On Friday, a video surfaced that purportedly showed Swati Maliwal at CM's residence in a heated argument with the security staff. When she dares them to "throw her outside", one of them says they won't take such a step. Several AAP functionaries shared the video on X. Soon after, Maliwal claimed that AAP was trying to save "the goon" by characterising her as a "BJP agent". P 2

### Bibhav complains to cops, says being framed by Maliwal

Police on Friday received an email, purportedly from Bibhav Kumar, alleging a frame-up. The email alleges that he was threatened and assaulted by Swati Maliwal, who forced her way into the premises to meet Kejriwal, and started abusing the staff. Bibhav said he politely requested her to leave. "She told me, 'I will entangle you in such a false case that you will rot in jail,'" he said. P 2

### MP is lying, pawn in BJP plot, says Atishi

New Delhi: AAP and MP Swati Maliwal engaged in a fierce exchange on Friday over the latter's allegation that Arvind Kejriwal's aide, Bibhav Kumar, assaulted her during her visit to the former's residence on Monday, reports Riddhima Gupta.

Reacting to the FIR registered by Maliwal, Delhi minister Atishi alleged at a press conference that her accusations were "baseless" and she was "lying." Atishi alleged that the entire incident was orchestrated by BJP as part of a conspiracy to frame the chief minister.

At a press conference held at the party headquarters, Atishi said the saffron party had got "rattled" over Kejriwal being granted interim bail by Supreme Court.



► **'Threatened staff', P 2**

### DANCE of DEMOCRACY

► EC show-cause notice to BJP's Tamluk candidate, former HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, says his remarks about Mamata 'beyond dignity', prima facie violation of model code | P 10

► This is an election to 'throw Naveen Babu (Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik) out' and begin a new era of development, Amit Shah says in Sundargarh | P 18

► EC seeks detailed report from Odisha DGP on violence during ongoing polls, asks him to take strictest action against those accused | P 18

► No shadow of sexual harassment charges made against ex-WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh as his son Karan enters poll akhara from Kaiserganj | P 17

► Two farmers booked in UP's Sambhal district for placing ₹2.3 lakh bet on candidates, drawing up 'betting deed' that was duly notarised | P 18

## SP-Cong govt will run bulldozers over Ram temple: Modi in UP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Barabanki: PM Modi said Friday that INDIA bloc allies Congress and SP would "bulldoze the Ram temple" in Ayodhya if they came to office, capping it with the ad-

► **EDIT PAGE: How to make elections civil again**

vice that the opposition "ought to take tuition from CM Yogi (Adityanath) on where to run bulldozers". "They tried to impress their vote bank by advocating the construction of a dhamshala, a school or a hospital in place of the (Ram) temple," Modi said at a campaign rally in UP's Barabanki.

► **'Expose opposition', P 14**



Modi & Yogi in Barabanki on Friday

### PM: Will return Mumbai's rights

At a rally in Shivaji Park, PM Modi said he had come "to return Mumbai's rights to her". He said the people's 2019 mandate in Maharashtra had been "stolen" but the city is now getting the best infrastructure. P 18

## Heatwave in city, Najafgarh hottest in India

Delhi experienced this year's first isolated heatwave, with Najafgarh, at 47.4°C, becoming the hottest spot in the country on Friday, reports Kushagra Dixit. Nine stations in the city and NCR recorded temperatures over 45°C. The city's base station at Safdarjung recorded the highest maximum temperature of the year at 43.6°C, three notches above normal. The heat is likely continue through the weekend. P 9

## WADA suspends Olympics-bound boxer Parveen

Olympics-bound world champion boxer Parveen Hooda has been suspended by World Anti-Doping Agency for failing to file her whereabouts between April 2022 to March 2023. India has now decided to fight afresh for the women's 57kg category quota place for the Paris Games by fielding a reserve pugilist at the upcoming World qualifiers in Bangkok. P 22

## 3 friends die as SUV hits bike in C'garh

Three friends were killed when an SUV slammed into their bike head-on and dragged them along the road for several metres in Chhatisgarh's Baloda Bazar district Thursday night. TNN

## 'Overworked' girl kills 2 step-sisters

A girl (13), frustrated by the burden of household chores, allegedly strangled her two step-sisters, aged 5 and 7, to death in Bijnor's Noorpur Thursday night. TNN

## 2 sisters run over by train, sibling missing

Two sisters in their 20s were allegedly run over by a train near Nagla Chabeela in Agra district Thursday. The 17-year-old sister, who was with them, is 'missing'. P 11

## Sonia in Rae Bareilly: Giving you my son, he won't disappoint you

Shailvee.Sharda @timesgroup.com

Lucknow/Rae Bareilly: Former Rae Bareilly MP Sonia Gandhi reached out to voters of her erstwhile constituency on Friday as a mother passing the baton to her son after 20 years with a promise: "Rahul (Gandhi) will not disappoint you."

"All my life, my hands have remained full with your love and blessings... Whatever I have in life, I owe it to you. I am now handing over my son Rahul to you... The way you accepted me like one of your own, keep Rahul with you in the same manner," she said in a two-minute speech.

Sonia was first elected to Parliament from Rae Bareilly



Sonia with Rahul & Priyanka. She made her 1st speech in these polls in 2004, marking the start of an innings that lasted until earlier this year when she vacated the seat to become a Rajya Sabha member.

► **'My biggest wealth', P 14**

## From June, night out at Ggn bar to pinch you more

Haryana's new excise policy for 2024-25 will make drinking at pubs and bars more expensive from June when it comes into effect. Bars that want to stay open for business till 2am will need to pay additional Rs 20 lakh as licence fee. Effectively, for the same business hours for which they paid Rs 16 lakh in 2023-24, owners would have to shell out Rs 40 lakh. P 4

## Top golfer held, taken to jail, freed to tee off

World's No. 1 golfer Scottie Scheffler was arrested in Kentucky Friday on his way to PGA Championship, with stunning images showing him handcuffed as he was taken to jail for not following police orders during a pedestrian fatality probe.

In a span of four hours, he was arrested wearing gym shorts and a tee shirt, dressed in an orange jail shirt (in pic) and returned to the course in golf clothes for tee time. P 23



## Lava MD sends imposter for medical bail check-up

New Delhi: Hari Om Rai, MD of Lava mobile phones, was on Thursday sent to judicial custody after Delhi high court refused to extend his medical bail when Enforcement Directorate approached the court revealing how he had allegedly arranged a dummy 'patient' at AIIMS to generate a fake medical report for himself showing he had serious cardiac problems. A fresh FIR was lodged by Delhi Police against an imposter, Naval Kishor Ram, Rai's son Pranay and three other accused.

When Rai did not turn up at AIIMS at the designated time on Thursday for the test as directed by the HC, the ED of-

### HC DIRECTED EXAM

► Rai, arrested by ED on Oct 10 last year, was granted bail by Delhi HC on medical grounds on Feb 16 for 3 mths

► On May 6, he filed for extn of medical bail. Directed to undergo examination at AIIMS cardiology dept

► At AIIMS, ED officials found imposter undergoing Echo test, arrest him & others

Official present there visited the Echo lab. The doctor there told the team that Rai (the dummy patient) had arrived and was being examined. TNN

► **Man impersonated, P 15**

## Baby found in bin 25 yrs ago clears Maha clerk exam

Twenty-five years ago, a visually challenged baby was found dumped in a dustbin at Jalgaon rail station in Maharashtra. With her parents untraceable, police took the newborn to a remand home in Jalgaon, which shifted her to a better-equipped rehab home in Amravati. The miracle child, named Mala Papalkar, has now cracked a Maharashtra Public Service Commission exam and will work in Maharashtra secretariat in Mumbai as a clerk-cum-typist. FLAP INSIDE



# Yet again, Indian sailors set to be world's most abandoned

411 Dumped So Far This Year, In 2023 Number Was 401: UK-Based Body

Naomi Canton

London: Indians are set to be the most abandoned seafarers for a second year running, with 411 Indian seafarers already having been abandoned on ships in less than six months.

A total of 116 vessels and 1,672 seafarers have been abandoned so far this year, meaning the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is on course to record an even higher number of abandoned vessels than 2023 when 129 vessels and 1,963 seafarers were abandoned, the highest on record; of the seafarers, 401 were Indian.

ITF, headquartered in London, has shared images of 16 Indian seafarers abandoned on board two vessels in the UAE, operated by the same company, UAE-based AIM Global Shipping & Fuel Supply, where they have been for months without pay, no air-conditioning, and low on provisions. Six are on board "Seashine 7", which anchored at Sharjah. They are



There are 16 Indian seafarers abandoned on board two vessels in the UAE, both operated by AIM Global Shipping & Fuel Supply, where they have been for months without pay, no AC, and are low on provisions

owed more than \$40,000 in unpaid wages. Ten Indians are on board "Sunshine 7", where they are owed \$35,000. It has a Tanzania flag and was deregistered in Sept 2022. On this ship there is no air-conditioning or refrigeration and the generator is turned on for one hour a day. The crews are sleeping on deck because it's too hot in the cabins. ITF is currently in dialogue with the owner of the vessels.

Of the 116 vessels aban-

doned so far this year, 75% are flying under so-called flags of convenience (FOC). "Seashine 7" was registered as a FOC with Palau and Tanzania has also been designated an FOC by the ITF. This is when ships fly a flag of a country other than the country of ownership to avoid being subjected to labour and tax regulations, and some do it to bypass sanctions. The latest additions to ITF's FOC registry are Gabon and Es-

tini (formerly Swaziland), both in Africa. Eswatini is a landlocked state and not a member of the international maritime organisation. Gabon saw a 675% increase in its registry in the two years after Russia invaded Ukraine.

ITF prez Paddy Crumlin said: "The business case is based on registering in country where there is no accountability and no regulation. We are hearing cases of abandonment, death, exploitation and failure to pay wages. FOC countries don't have the capacity to regulate, and all they want to do is attract revenues." ITF inspectorate coordinator Steve Trowdale said, "Indian crewing agents are among the worst for sending seafarers just to be abandoned."

National Union of Seafarers of India vice-prez Louis Gomes said Indians taking up such jobs "often have no awareness and don't even know to which ship they are going. Some pay just to get on board a ship to get a period of service to get certificates."

## World counting on India for Ukraine truce: Swiss diplomat

New Delhi: India is a 'friend of the world' and the global community expects it to contribute significantly in bringing peace to war-torn Ukraine, Swiss state secretary of foreign affairs Alexandre Fasel said on Friday as Switzerland prepares to host a major summit next month to end the conflict.

The Swiss diplomat held wide-ranging talks with Indian interlocutors and extended an invitation to the PM for the summit that is aimed at charting a course for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. Switzerland has extended invites to over 160 countries for the summit on June 15 and 16 at head of state and head of government level.

"India is a friend of the world. India is a friend of peace. India has great experience in conflict transformation and peace promotion. The expectation really is that we can work together and count on India's support," Fasel said. India has not decided on attending the summit yet in view of the ongoing elections, he added.

Fasel also referred to India's close ties with Russia as well as Ukraine and hoped that New Delhi would play a role in helping the summit chart a roadmap for peace. "India is a leader of the Global South. India, in diplomatic terms worldwide, has clout and influence which it duly demonstrated during its G20 presidency," he said.

Asked how Switzerland expects the summit to be successful in absence of Russia and China, Fasel said Beijing has not yet communicated whether it will attend or not.

"What is important to realise is that this would be a process. We cannot expect a complete peace agreement at this Swiss conference; rather it will be a process that shall lead towards a peace process and negotiated settlement of the conflict. We are very much thinking in terms of process," he said. When asked whether India would attend the summit, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "We have received an invitation from the Swiss side. We are yet to decide on our participation." PTI

## EAM to India Inc: Use 'national security filter' in China deals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar called upon Indian businesses to use what he described as a national security filter in their dealings with China, urging them to source from domestic manufacturers where possible. Addressing the CII annual summit, the minister also said it must be recognised that India's economic priorities will have to align with its strategic interests, whether speaking of market access, investments, technologies, or even education and tourism. This will be even more so as 'Make in India' gathers more steam in domains like defence, semiconductors and digital, he said.

Jaishankar said Indian firms should look at the national security sensitivities in their dealings with China, even as he acknowledged that it does not mean that nothing can be sourced from the neighbouring country.

"Where China is concerned, we will still encourage people in this country—manufacture in India, source in India, procure



Where China is concerned, we will still encourage people in this country to make in India, source from India, procure from India, Jaishankar said

from India," Jaishankar said. "We have not completely and utterly prohibited people working with China, but frankly, we would much rather you work with Indian companies if there is an Indian option available to you. That I think is good for our national security, we hope you think that it is good for your own business in the long term," he added.

Jaishankar highlighted concerns over the "weaponisation" of economic activity and how access to raw materials or even stability of tourism are being utilised to exert political pressure.

Jaishankar said the current times call for something more than business as usual.

## India needs a new set of border pacts, says Arunachal gov

New Delhi: India needs a new set of border agreements and protocols for China, which can be implemented with clarity and also "create arguments to dispel Chinese dynastic claims with our civilisational counter-claims", Arunachal Pradesh governor Lt-Gen Parinaik (retd) said on Friday.

"We have a peculiar situation with (existing) agreements and protocols mainly framed to suit the PLA, with no settlement of boundary cartographic invasions and an invisible non-designated line to defend," Lt-Gen Parinaik said. "With 'No Use of Weapons', we are disadvantaged along LAC. Frequent PLA intrusions violating the agreements is a critical and sensitive issue that needs a firm sense of reciprocity and leverage, whether (through) a 'Quad' as part of diplomatic/strategic partnership or a tactical 'QPQ' (quid pro quo) in an unmarked boundary situation," he added. TNN

## Amid POK unrest, India slams Pakistan's 'exploitative policies'

New Delhi: Amid raging protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, India hit out at Pakistan for its "exploitative policies" denying the local people rights over their own resources.

India believes that the protests are a natural consequence of Pakistan's continued policy of systemic plundering of resources from these territories which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation, said foreign ministry at a media briefing. "Such exploitative policies deny the local people rights over their own resources and the benefits thereof," said spokesman Randhir Jaiswal while reiterating that Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and shall always remain integral parts of India.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar had said earlier this week there's a ferment happening in POK. "You can see it on social media or television. The analysis of it is very complex but definitely, I have no doubt in my own mind that someone living in POK is comparing their situation with someone actually living in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that how is it that people today are actually progressing there," Jaishankar had said.



India believes that the protests are a natural consequence of Pakistan's policy of systemic plundering of resources from territories under its forcible & illegal occupation, foreign ministry said

Dawn newspaper earlier reported that all businesses, including banks, remained closed, and traffic and vendors were off the roads in three districts of Muzaffarabad in POK. A police officer was killed and more than 100 people, mostly policemen, injured in violent clashes between security forces and protesters agitating against high prices of wheat flour and electricity in POK, according to local media reports. TNN

## Abandoned 25 years ago, visually challenged girl grows up at rehab, cracks Maha job test

Anil Jadhav | TNN

Amravati: Twenty-five years ago, a visually challenged baby girl was found dumped in a dustbin at Jalgaon railway station in Maharashtra. With her parents unknown and untraceable, police took the numb, famished newborn to a remand home in Jalgaon, which fed her and shifted her to a better-equipped rehab home for the deaf and blind 270km away at Paratwada in Amravati.

Here, she was named Mala Papalkar, who over two decades later scaled heights to crack a Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) exam and is ready-



Mala is readying to set foot in Mantralaya as a clerk-cum-typist

ing to set foot in Mantralaya—the Maharashtra secretariat in Mumbai—as a clerk-cum-typist. The results were announced Thursday.

Mala's mentor and Padma

awardee Shankarbaba Papalkar, 81, did not just give her his surname, but also nurtured her talent, schooled her in Braille and made his protee a trailblazer in the world of the visually challenged and orphaned children.

Talking to TOI, Mala, 25, said: "God sent angels to rescue me and take me to where I am today. I won't stop here. I will sit for the UPSC exams and become an IAS officer."

According to Shankarbaba, Mala finished her primary education at a school for the blind and passed higher secondary with first division. "She did her graduation in 2018 from Amravati University and post-graduation

in arts from Govt Vidarbha Institute of Science and Humanities. She used braille and took the help of a writer in every exam. Prof Prakash Tople Patil of Daryapur later adopted her for her education," Shankarbaba said.

Mala found another Good Samaritan in Prof Amol Patil, director of Unique Academy, who took up the responsibility to coach Mala for MPSC exams. Mala made two failed attempts to crack an exam for tehsildar's post in Aug 2022 and Dec 2023. Later, she took the MPSC clerk (typewriting) test. The success in this test brought joy to the destitutes' centre at Paratwada, her home for 25 years.