



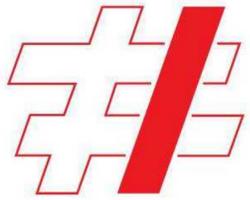
# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

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**REIMAGINEERING MOBILITY  
#RE/MAGINEERING BHARAT**



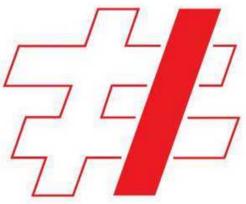
**SMARTER  
STEELS  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES**



**AM/NS  
INDIA**

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India

# REIMAGINEERING MANUFACTURING **#RE/MAGINEERING BHARAT**



SMARTER  
STEELS  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES





# Hindustan Times

## Minor's family tried to pin blame on their driver: Cops

**Shrinivas Deshpande**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**PUNE:** Attempts were made by the family of the 17-year-old suspect, who mowed down two people in a high-speed crash in a sports car over the weekend, to tamper with evidence and pin the blame for the crime on a driver in their employment, the Pune Police chief said on Friday.

Five days since the incident, which claimed the lives of two techies, new revelations further fanned outrage over the seemingly special treatment that the prime suspect, the minor son of a real-estate developer, received in the initial hours of the investigation.

Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar confirmed that there had been lapses at the police station level, as the state

police announced it suspended inspector Rahul Jagdale and assistant police inspector Vishwanath Todkar from Yerwada police station.

The two cops landed up at the spot within 15 minutes of the crash at 3am on Sunday, but seniors of the department learnt about it much after through social media.

The case has now been handed over to the Maharashtra crime branch, Kumar announced.

Kumar also confirmed attempts by the accused's family to have their driver Gangaram Pujari take the blame. "During the initial investigation, the driver claimed that he was behind the wheel. Now we are investigating if there are more people who may have influenced the driver," Kumar

continued on → 11

## What the police said

The case in which a 17-year-old drove into a bike, killing two people, was transferred to the crime branch on Friday.

### ON BLOOD REPORTS

Delay in collecting blood samples resulted in the two negative reports, but other evidence has confirmed the minor was drunk.

### ON ROLE OF THE DRIVER

Family tried to show that driver was behind the wheel, but evidence confirms the teen was driving the car.

### ON LAPSES BY THE POLICE

Internal inquiry pointed to lapses when registering the case. Two policemen have been suspended.

### FATHER IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY TILL JUNE 7

The minor's father and five others, including the owner and employees of two bars where the teenager allegedly consumed alcohol, have been remanded to judicial custody until June 7.



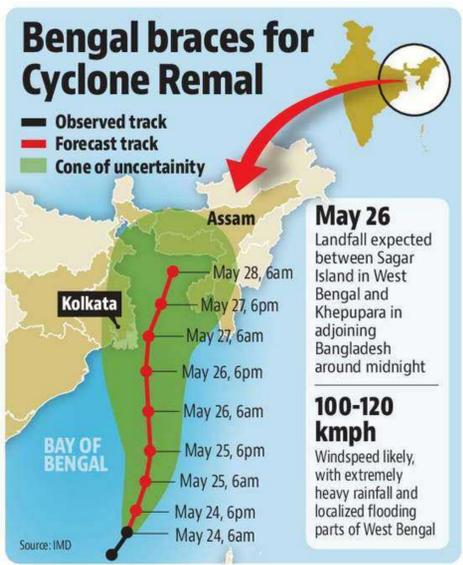
## Severe cyclone to impact Bengal, make landfall Sunday night: Met

**Jayashree Nandi**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Severe cyclone Remal is expected to make landfall between Sagar Island in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh around the midnight of May 26 with winds reaching 100-120kmph, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday, warning of extremely heavy rainfall and localised flooding in some parts of the eastern state.

On Friday, the system lay centred over central Bay of Bengal as a depression, having strengthened from a well-marked low-pressure area in the last 12 hours, when it moved northeastwards. The depression lay "about 700km south-southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh), about 660km south-southeast of Sagar Islands (West Bengal) and 710km south of Canning (West Bengal)" at 11.30am, IMD said.

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## CM AIDE SENT TO 4-DAY CUSTODY IN MALIWAL CASE

**Deepankar Malviya**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Friday sent chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar to four-day judicial custody in connection with alleged assault of Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal.

Kumar was brought before the court as his five-day police custody ended. He was taken into custody by the Delhi Police on May 18 from Kejriwal's residence, and formally arrested on May 18 while the hearing of his anticipatory bail plea was underway before a court.

During the court proceedings on Friday, the Delhi Police sought four-day custody of Kumar for further investigation into the case. →P8

## UN COURT ORDERS ISRAEL TO HALT RAFAH OFFENSIVE

**THE HAGUE:** The top United Nations court on Friday ordered Israel to halt military operations in Rafah "immediately", a landmark ruling likely to increase mounting international pressure on Israel more than seven months into the Gaza war. The International Court of Justice also ruled Israel must keep open the key Rafah crossing for "unhindered" humanitarian aid and urged the "unconditional" release of hostages taken by Hamas during its October 7 assault. ICJ rulings are legally binding but the court has no concrete means to enforce them. →P19

## COURT CONVICTS MEDHA PATKAR IN 23-YR-OLD CASE

**Deepankar Malviya**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Friday convicted Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activist Medha Patkar in a 23-year-old defamation case filed by the then president of the non-profit organisation National Council of Civil Liberties VK Saxena. Saxena, who is currently serving as the Delhi LG, accused her of issuing a press release containing false imputations intended to harm his reputation. →P8

## LUCKY ESCAPE IN KEDARNATH AFTER SNAG IN CHOPPER

**DEHRADUN:** An accident was averted early on Friday after a helicopter carrying seven people — six pilgrims and the pilot — made an emergency landing after it developed a technical snag while trying to land at the helipad at Kedarnath shrine. Rudrapur district magistrate Saurabh Gaharwar said that all the passengers on board were safe. He said the reason for the technical fault in the helicopter is being investigated. →P15

## OVER 100 KILLED AS LANDSLIDE HITS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**MELBOURNE:** Over 100 people are feared dead in a landslide Friday that buried a village in a remote, mountainous part of Papua New Guinea, and an emergency response is underway, officials in the South Pacific island nation said. The landslide struck Enga province, about 600km northwest of the capital, Port Moresby, at roughly 3am, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported. →P19

## Butcher who helped brutally chop B'desh MP's body arrested

**Joydeep Thakur**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KOLKATA:** A Bangladeshi citizen who illegally lived in Mumbai and worked as a butcher was allegedly hired to dismember the body of murdered Bangladeshi MP Mohammad Anwarul Azim, chop it into pieces, and dispose of them, police West Bengal said on Friday after it arrested the 24-year-old suspect from the state's southeastern fringes.

The grisly murder of Azim, first unearthed earlier this week, has sent shockwaves across two countries. Police in neither country have spoken out about the motive for the murder of the 56-year-old parliamentarian from Bangladesh's ruling Awami League, but hinted that it was likely to be connected to business dealings, rather than politics.

"One Jihad Hawaldar, 24, has been arrested. He was directly involved in the crime. Investigation is going on," said AK Chaturvedi, inspector general of the



The accused was arrested Bongaon in North 24 Parganas late on Thursday. PTI

state crime investigation department.

Hailing from Khulna in Bangladesh, Hawaldar was illegally staying in Mumbai and working as a butcher, officials said. He was arrested from Bongaon in North 24 Parganas late on Thursday. Azim, a three-time MP from Jharkhand, came to India on May 12 for medical treatment, and was declared missing on May 18. →P15

## { PANDEMIC IMPACT } WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS

## Covid-19 reversed decade's worth progress in life expectancy improvements: WHO report

**Rhythm Kaul**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Nearly a decade of gains in improving global life expectancy was lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization said in a report on Friday, pegging the average age that a person is expected to live at 71.4 years, the lowest since 2012.

Between 2019 and 2021, global life expectancy fell by 1.8 years to 71.4 years, while healthy life expectancy declined by 1.5 years to 61.9 years, the WHO's World Health Statistics report found. The Americas and Southeast Asia regions were hit hardest, with life expectancy dropping by about 3 years.

"In just two years, the Covid-19 pandemic erased a decade

of gains in life expectancy," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. He noted the importance of a new Pandemic Agreement "not only to strengthen global health security, but to protect long-term investments in health and promote equity".

Covid-19 emerged as a top cause of death, ranking third globally in 2020 and second in

2021, claiming nearly 13 million lives. The WHO report also mentions that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as ischaemic heart disease and stroke, cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and diabetes were the biggest killers before the pandemic, responsible for 74%

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# NUMBER THEORY

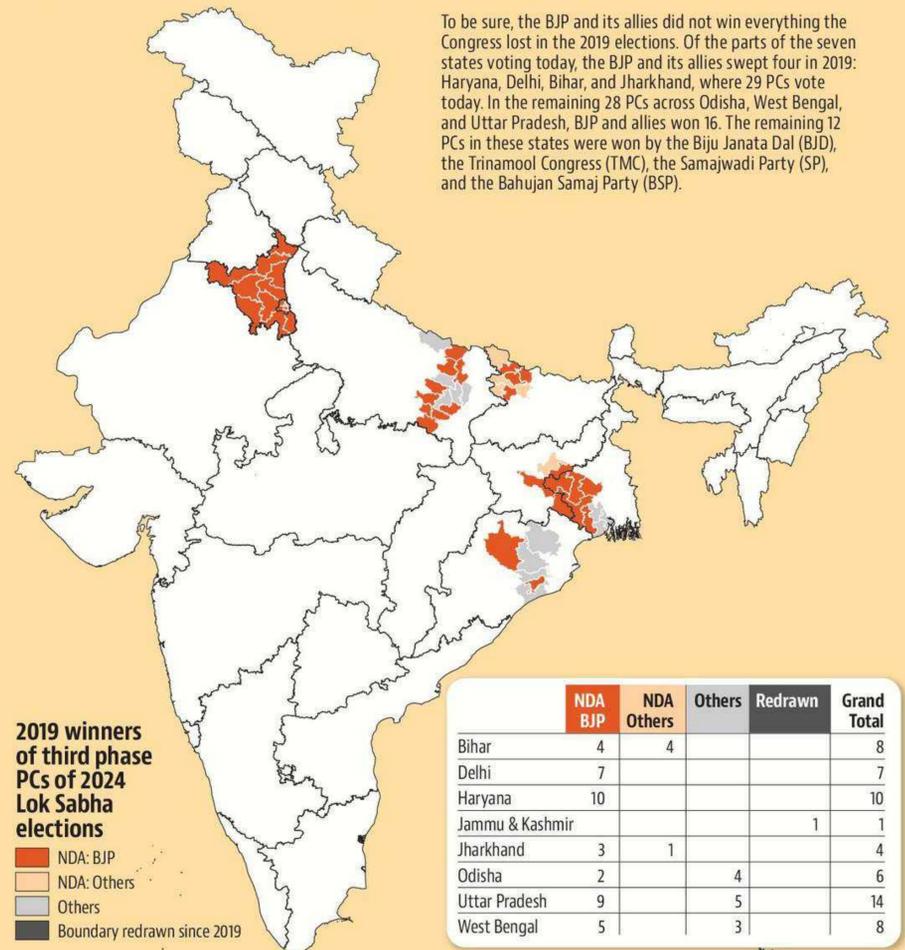
## What's at stake in the sixth phase of voting?

By Abhishek Jha

Fifty-eight parliamentary constituencies (PCs) across eight states and UTs will vote in the penultimate phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections today. This will conclude polling in 486 of India's 543 PCs. The 486 number includes Surat, where no voting took place, but an MP was elected unopposed. Voting will conclude today in the state of Haryana and UTs of Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir, taking the total number of such states and UTs to 28. Among the eight states where polling will conclude only in the last phase, six will finish polling in at least 70% of their PCs after today. Here are four charts that put today's polls in context.

### Most challenging PCs for the Congress in 2014 and 2019

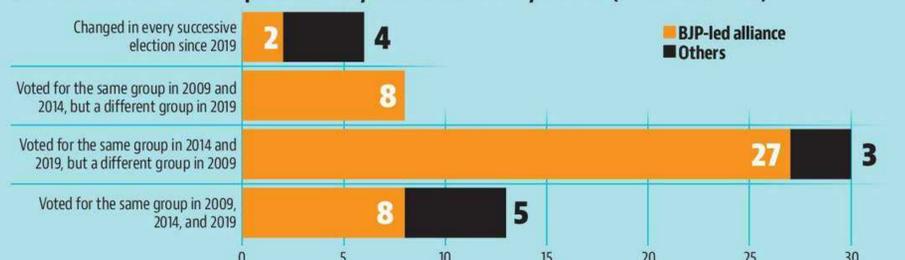
Of the 58 PCs voting today, past results are available for the 57 PCs outside Jammu & Kashmir. Past results for Jammu & Kashmir PCs voting in the 2024 elections are not available because PC boundaries have been redrawn in the region after 2019 in a delimitation exercise. Of the 57 comparable PCs, the Congress won just Rohtak in Haryana in 2014 and none in 2019. Its allies in these elections did not add anything to this tally. This makes the sixth phase the most challenging for the Congress.



### Alliance-level anti-incumbency was low between 2014 and 2019, but high between 2009 and 2014

While the BJP's performance was good in these PCs in 2014 and 2019, that was not the case in 2009. The BJP won just seven of the 57 comparable PCs in 2009 and its allies won another two. Therefore, these PCs show low anti-incumbency between 2014 and 2019, but high anti-incumbency between 2009 and 2014 if parties are grouped as BJP and allies, Congress and allies, and others. For example, only 13 of the 57 PCs consistently voted for the same group in all past three Lok Sabha elections. However, 30 PCs voted for the same group in 2014 and 2019, which was different from the group they voted for in 2009. Another 14 PCs either changed their group in 2019 (eight PCs) or voted for a different group in each successive Lok Sabha election from 2009 to 2019 (six PCs).

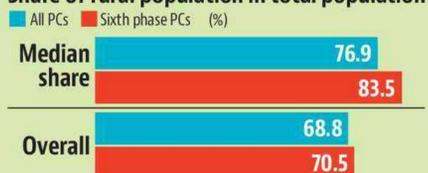
#### 2019 winners in 57 sixth phase PCs by anti-incumbency trends (Number of PCs)



### This phase has a higher-than-average share of rural PCs

70.5% of the population in the PCs voting today is rural, according to data from the 2011 census aggregated to PC-level by How India Lives, compared to the national average of 68.8%. The median (the middle value in a series) share of rural population in these PCs was 83.5%, compared to 76.9% nationally. This makes the sixth phase the third most rural of the seven phases of 2024 by overall share and the second most rural phase by the median share of rural population. To be sure, some PCs voting today – for example the PCs in Delhi or in urban centres such as Gurugram and Faridabad in Haryana; Dhanbad, Ranchi, and Jamshedpur in Jharkhand; and Bhubaneswar in Odisha – are indeed very urban. However, such urban PCs are a relatively small fraction of the PCs voting today, as the median rural share suggests.

#### Share of rural population in total population



Source: 2011 census data analysed by HIL  
Note: Assam and Jammu and Kashmir PCs excluded because their boundaries were redrawn after 2019

### The only phase where voter turnout declined between 2014 and 2019

If India's PCs are divided by the phases of the 2024 election, the PCs voting today are the only group where the overall turnout declined between 2014 and 2019. To be sure, the decline was only of 0.5 percentage points, and the 64.9% turnout in 2019 was still a big improvement compared to the 56.3% turnout in 2009.

#### Turnout in Lok Sabha elections



Note: Assam and Jammu and Kashmir PCs excluded from phase-wise data because their boundaries were redrawn after 2019  
Source: TCPD-IED



# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

## BATTLE FOR THE CAPITAL

It's a pitched fight for Delhi's seven seats today as BJP guns for a third clean sweep in a row and INDIA aims to dramatically turn the tide

Alok KN Mishra  
 letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Roughly 15.2 million voters will step into 13,641 polling booths set up across the national capital on Saturday to seal the fate of 162 candidates on seven seats in a prestige fight that will close out the penultimate phase of the general elections.

The battle for Delhi, the seat of national power, is a microcosm of the electoral contest across the nation with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which holds all seven seats, taking on an alliance of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress, both constituents of the Opposition's umbrella national coalition.

At stake are not only the seven seats after a fierce campaign — headlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah on one side, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on the other — but also bragging rights about control of the national capital that houses Parliament, the PM's residence, Rashtrapati Bhavan, and a bevy of dignitaries national and international.

P Krishnamurthy, the Delhi's chief electoral officer (CEO), said at least 28,000 balloting units and 14,000 control units of the EVMs (electronic voting machines) as well as around 14,000 VVPATs (voter verifiable paper audit trails) were likely to be used for polling and had been distributed to the various polling stations in the national capital.

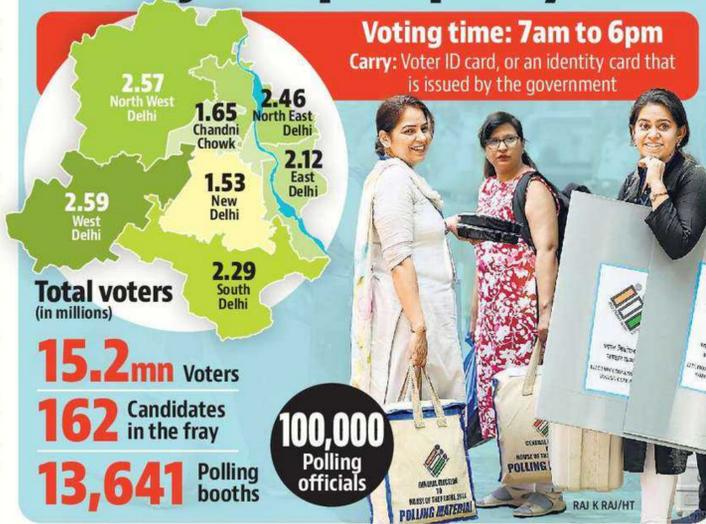
"Extensive arrangements have been made to ensure a smooth and efficient electoral process. 100,000 polling personnel and around 100,000 security personnel have also been deployed to ensure smooth, free, and fair polls," said Krishnamurthy.

Other than the seven seats in Delhi, all 10 seats in Haryana including Gurugram, eight in Bihar, four in Jharkhand, six in Odisha, 14 in Uttar Pradesh, eight in West Bengal, and one in Jammu & Kashmir will also go to the polls. The BJP won 40 of these seats in 2019, its allies five, and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties four.

To be sure, the one of 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh that INDIA member Samajwadi Party won in UP in 2019 was in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). The BSP is not part of the INDIA group in 2024.

continued on →

### Delhi joins poll party



#### WILL THE CITY REPEAT TRADITION OF GIVING CLEAR MANDATES?

Can BJP win all constituencies in Delhi for the third time in a row? Will an alliance of Congress and AAP be able to reclaim at least some of the seats? Delhi's electoral history shows that the city-state has often seen one-sided contests in the past and its verdict has almost always been in sync with the larger national mood in elections. Electoral patterns from Delhi's distant and recent past suggest that the result in 2024 could also be a one-sided affair, whichever way it goes. Four charts to explain this. →P4



#### IT'S YOUR TURN... GO OUT AND VOTE

A month after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections kicked off, it is now the chance for the Capital's residents to step out and have their say. →P2

#### RWAs, LOCAL MARKET BODIES PITCH IN TO ENCOURAGE VOTING

While some Residents Welfare Associations and traders' bodies have arranged transportation to and from polling booths for the elderly, and have been sending regular messages and alerts to members to encourage them to vote, there are some that have announced 15% discount on food bills on showing the "ink mark on the finger" at all restaurants. This is after the voter turnout of 60% in the Capital in 2019 saw a dip from the 65% in 2015. A look at how the RWAs are preparing for the voting on Saturday. →P6

### Gurugram ready for its date with history

Abhishek Behl  
 letters@hindustantimes.com

**GURUGRAM:** Voting booths will open for over 2.57 million people in Gurugram and 2.43 million in Faridabad will have voting booths open from 7am on Saturday, when the fates of parliamentarians who will represent much of the National Capital Region (NCR) is sealed during what will be the penultimate round of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Saturday's voting will cover all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, of which three — Gurugram, Sonapat and Faridabad — about the national capital. The other two main NCR satellite cities, Noida and Ghaziabad,

#### Gurgaon contest

**2.6mn voters**  
 424,000 of these are residents of Gurugram distt

**2,481**  
 Total polling stations in parliamentary constituency

#### IN GURUGRAM DISTRICT

**1,331**  
 Polling booths in Gurugram

**52**  
 Polling stations in condominiums

held at 537 locations, including in community centres in some of the city's prominent condominiums and some that have been classified as "critical", where police have deployed security reinforcements.

Gurugram deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav said that they have launched over 20 initiatives to encourage voters to cast their vote. "From offering discounts to health facilities we have come up with new ways to attract voters. This is the first time so many plans were introduced and companies were roped in. We have set up polling stations very close to the residents and this is likely to significantly improve the voting percentage," he said. →P4

In the Gurgaon parliamentary constituency, voting will be

### SC declines to issue directive to EC on voter turnout records

Utkarsh Anand  
 letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday declined to issue any directives to the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding a plea demanding the immediate disclosure of authenticated voter turnout records, emphasising the necessity of a "hands-off approach" given that the Lok Sabha elections are currently

underway.

A vacation bench of justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma highlighted the potential implications of judicial interference in the electoral process during an active election period, stressing that such actions could disrupt the ongoing procedures.

"We can't interrupt something that's already underway... In between elections, hands-off

approach has to be taken. Let the application be heard along with the main writ petition. We cannot interrupt the process. Let us have some trust in the authority," the bench remarked while deferring the plea by non-profit Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) for immediate publication of booth-wise absolute number of voter turnout on the ECI website. →FULL REPORT ON P18

**HAATH BADLEGA HALAAT**

- 30 lakh government jobs
- Legal guarantee of MSP & loan waiver
- Socio-economic & caste census
- Free healthcare of up to ₹25 lakh
- ₹1 lakh annual cash transfer to women

**VOTE FOR CONGRESS**

Congress

SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

# GET, SET, VOTE... this is your day

Over a month after the mammoth 2024 Lok Sabha elections exercise kicked off across India, it is now finally the chance for the residents of the Capital to step out and have their say. Here's all you need to know as you cast your vote today

**THE HOPEFULS** A total of 162 candidates are in the fray for the keenly awaited battle for the seven parliamentary constituencies in Delhi. Of them, 23 (14%) are women, 137 (85%) are men, while the remaining two (1%) are of the third gender

**THE ELECTORS** At 6.9 million, women make up nearly 46% of the total Delhi electorate. More than 250,000 people between the ages of 18 and 19 years will exercise their franchise for the first time, alongside 97,000 voters aged 85 years and more

**THE PREPARATIONS** Over 100,000 polling personnel will be deployed to ensure a smooth and efficient electoral process, with special preparations being made to protect voters in light of an orange alert for heatwave in place in Delhi today

**MAY 25 (Saturday)**

**15,201,936**

Total voters registered in Delhi

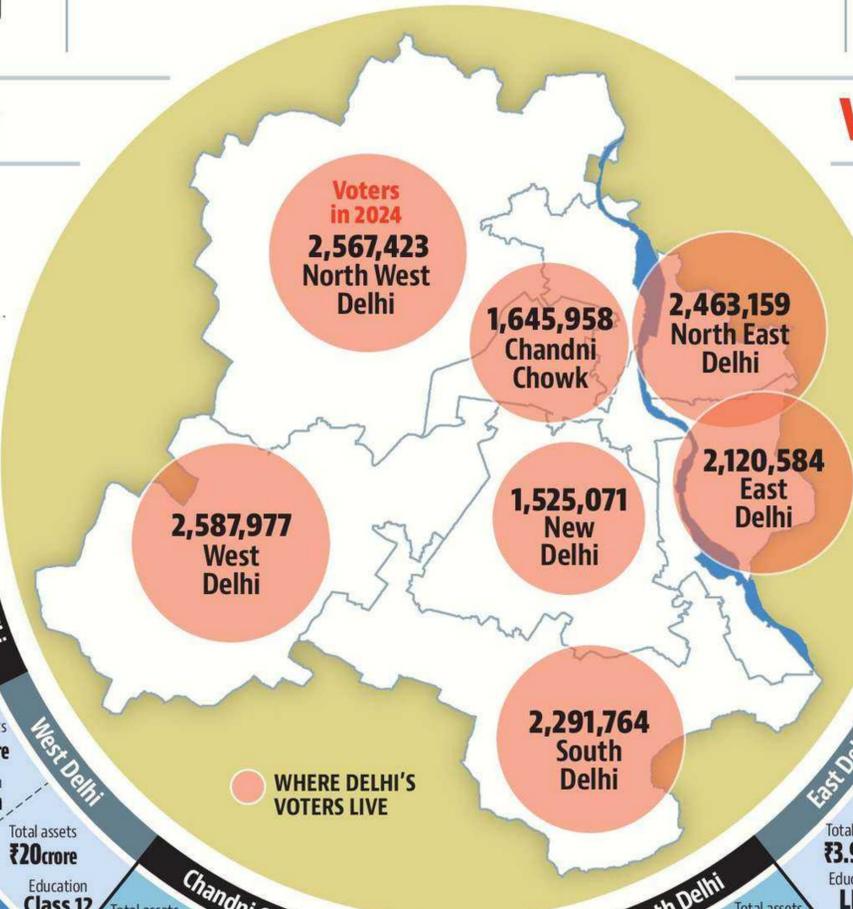
**8,212,794** Male **6,987,914** Female **1,228** Third gender

**Voting time: 7am to 6pm**

**162**

Candidates in fray (till Sunday)

**13,641** Polling booths **100,000** Polling officials



Profile	Candidates	Affidavit
North West Delhi	<b>Yogender Chandolia</b> Age: 61, BJP Chandolia, who served as mayor of the erstwhile North MCD, is currently the general secretary of Delhi BJP. Criminal cases: Two (pending)	Total assets: ₹2.4crore Education: BA
	<b>Udit Raj</b> Age: 66, Congress A former IRS officer, Raj was elected from the North West Delhi seat on a BJP ticket in 2014. He joined Congress in 2019. Criminal cases: Three (pending)	Total assets: ₹6.2crore Education: LLB
	<b>Kamaljit Sehrawat</b> Age: 51, BJP A BJP councillor from West Delhi, Sehrawat is the general secretary of the Delhi BJP. Criminal cases: None	Total assets: ₹3.6crore Education: MCom
West Delhi	<b>Mahabal Mishra</b> Age: 70, AAP Mishra is a former Congress MP from this PC and is a popular Purvanchali leader. He joined the AAP in November 2022. Criminal cases: Two (pending)	Total assets: ₹20crore Education: Class 12
	<b>Praveen Khandelwal</b> Age: 64, BJP A trade union leader who's been active for trader rights in Delhi, Khandelwal is the founder of the Confederation of All India Traders. Criminal cases: None	Total assets: ₹6.6crore Education: LLB
	<b>JP Agarwal</b> Age: 79, Congress The oldest candidate in the fray for the Delhi contest, Agarwal has won Chandni Chowk thrice — in 1984, 1989 and 1996. Criminal cases: None	Total assets: ₹2.6crore Education: BA Pass
Chandni Chowk	<b>Bansuri Swaraj</b> Age: 40, BJP A Supreme Court lawyer making her political debut, she is the daughter of former Union minister Sushma Swaraj. Criminal cases: None	Total assets: ₹19.3crore Education: Barrister-at-law
	<b>Somnath Bharti</b> Age: 49, AAP The three-time MLA from Malviya Nagar has served as the minister of law, tourism, admin reforms, culture in the first AAP government. Criminal cases: Four (pending), One (convicted)	Total assets: ₹34lakh Education: MSc
	<b>Sahi Ram</b> Age: 71, BJP The incumbent MLA from Badarpur and BJP's LoP in the Delhi House, he was a member of the city's first legislative assembly in 1993. Criminal cases: One (pending)	Total assets: ₹25.5crore Education: BA Pass
New Delhi	<b>Ramvir S Bidhuri</b> Age: 65, AAP Currently serving his second term as MLA from Tughlakabad in south Delhi, he was elected councillor in 2007 and 2012. Criminal cases: Three (pending)	Total assets: ₹1.4crore Education: Class 11
	<b>HD Malhotra</b> Age: 47, BJP Malhotra has been in active politics for nearly 34 years and is currently Delhi BJP's general secretary. Criminal cases: None	Total assets: ₹3.9crore Education: LLB
	<b>Kuldeep Kumar</b> Age: 34, AAP The incumbent MLA from Kondli, he is the son of a sanitation worker and was first elected as an MCD councillor in 2017. Criminal cases: Five (pending), One (convicted)	Total assets: ₹21.4lakh Education: BA Hons
South Delhi	<b>Kanhaiya Kumar</b> Age: 37, Congress Former president of JNU Students' Union and later a member of the Communist Party of India, Kumar joined Congress in 2021. Criminal cases: Seven (pending)	Total assets: ₹10.7lakh Education: PhD
	<b>Manoj Tiwari</b> Age: 53, BJP The actor-turned-politician and former Delhi BJP chief has been representing North East Delhi Lok Sabha seat since 2014. Criminal cases: Two (pending)	Total assets: ₹28crore Education: MPEd
	<b>Manoj Tiwari</b> Age: 53, BJP The actor-turned-politician and former Delhi BJP chief has been representing North East Delhi Lok Sabha seat since 2014. Criminal cases: Two (pending)	Total assets: ₹21.4lakh Education: BA Hons

Affidavit	Candidates	Profile
North East Delhi	<b>Kanhaiya Kumar</b> Age: 37, Congress Former president of JNU Students' Union and later a member of the Communist Party of India, Kumar joined Congress in 2021. Criminal cases: Seven (pending)	Total assets: ₹10.7lakh Education: PhD
	<b>Manoj Tiwari</b> Age: 53, BJP The actor-turned-politician and former Delhi BJP chief has been representing North East Delhi Lok Sabha seat since 2014. Criminal cases: Two (pending)	Total assets: ₹28crore Education: MPEd
	<b>Kuldeep Kumar</b> Age: 34, AAP The incumbent MLA from Kondli, he is the son of a sanitation worker and was first elected as an MCD councillor in 2017. Criminal cases: Five (pending), One (convicted)	Total assets: ₹21.4lakh Education: BA Hons
East Delhi	<b>Kuldeep Kumar</b> Age: 34, AAP The incumbent MLA from Kondli, he is the son of a sanitation worker and was first elected as an MCD councillor in 2017. Criminal cases: Five (pending), One (convicted)	Total assets: ₹3.9crore Education: LLB
	<b>HD Malhotra</b> Age: 47, BJP Malhotra has been in active politics for nearly 34 years and is currently Delhi BJP's general secretary. Criminal cases: None	Total assets: ₹25.5crore Education: BA Pass
	<b>Kuldeep Kumar</b> Age: 34, AAP The incumbent MLA from Kondli, he is the son of a sanitation worker and was first elected as an MCD councillor in 2017. Criminal cases: Five (pending), One (convicted)	Total assets: ₹21.4lakh Education: BA Hons

Delhi in 2014  
**7 out of 7 won by BJP**

Delhi in 2019  
**7 out of 7 won by BJP**

**VOTER ADVISORY**

Here's what you need to do when you step out to vote

- Once at the polling station**  
When you reach the polling station, entry will be regulated by queues. There will be separate queues for men, women and disabled persons. The staff who enforce the queues will allow 3-4 voters into the polling station at a time. Disabled voters, senior citizens and women voters with babies will be given precedence over others.
- Verify your identity**  
When you enter the polling station, you will go to the first polling officer who is in-charge of the marked copy of the electoral roll and responsible for identification of electors. You should keep your identity document ready to show the first polling officer. The officer will then call out your name and serial number so that the polling agents become aware of your presence and your identity is not challenged.
- Collect signed slip**  
Proceed to the second polling officer who will mark your left forefinger with indelible ink. Your serial number in the electoral roll will be recorded and you will sign in the appropriate column. You will get a signed voter's slip, which will record your serial number in the register of voters and your serial number in the electoral roll.
- Ballot activated**  
Give your voter's slip to the third polling officer, who will press the "Ballot" button on the control unit of the voting machine and direct you to a compartment, where you will record your vote on the voting machine.
- Cast your vote**  
Inside the voting compartment, press the blue 'candidate' button on the balloting unit against the name and symbol of the candidate of your choice. When the button is pressed, the red lamp will glow against the name and symbol of that candidate. There will be a beep to indicate that your vote has been recorded and the 'Busy' light will go off in the control unit. If your booth has a VVPAT machine, then you will see a paper slip containing the name and symbol of the candidate chosen for a few seconds.

**NOTE:** Gadgets are not allowed inside a polling booth. If you really need to carry your mobile, many polling stations have the facility of deposit counters.

**Timings**  
**07:00 AM**  
TO  
**06:00 PM**

**KEEP IN MIND**  
Having an election ID card or number does not guarantee a vote. Having your name on the electoral roll is a must.

**HOW TO CHECK ELECTORAL ROLLS**  
1. Call the Election Commission helpline: 1950  
2. Website: National Voters' Service Portal on [www.electoralsearch.in](http://www.electoralsearch.in)  
3. You can find this information from the Electoral Registration Officer of your area.  
4. To check for name of parliamentary constituency or any other detail log on to: [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in)

**DOCUMENTS REQUIRED**  
1. You need to carry your Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) and a photo voters' slip issued by the Delhi Electoral Office to cast your vote. In case you haven't got your photo voters' slip, a duplicate can be collected from Voter Assistance Booth at the polling station.  
2. In case you don't have an EPIC or photo voters' slip, but your name is on the voter list, you can produce any of the following:  
● Passport ● Driving Licence ● Service ID cards with photograph, issued to employees by central/state government/PSUs or public companies ● Passbooks with photograph, issued by a bank/post office ● PAN card ● Aadhaar card ● Smart Card by RGI under NPR ● MNREGA job card ● Health insurance smart card issued under the scheme of ministry of labour ● Pension document with photograph

# CM: No proof in liquor case, even PM acknowledged

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "acknowledged" that the Delhi excise policy case was fake as "no proof has been found" — in an apparent reference to a recent television interview given by Modi where he called Kejriwal "an experienced thief who has made evidence disappear".

Kejriwal, in a video press conference from his residence, said that the PM "admitted no money trail has been linked to the AAP or its workers".

"In an interview yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was asked about Kejriwal saying that no evidence was found in this so-called liquor scam. The Prime Minister said that 'the reason why no evidence was found, or no money was recovered is because Kejriwal is an experienced thief'. So, the Prime Minister has admitted before the country that he has no evidence in the liquor scam and not even a penny was recovered," Kejriwal said.

The Delhi BJP hit back and said that Kejriwal admitted to being "an experienced thief". "Everyone knows the role of Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor scam... by making such statements Kejriwal is trying to mislead people," said Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva.

Kejriwal also questioned why law-enforcement agencies, which he said are controlled by the BJP-led Centre, have been unable to find any money trail.

"For the last two years, they have been making noise that there is a liquor scam in Delhi. They arrested me, Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia... conducted more than 500 raids... They say we took a bribe of ₹100 crore, and there was a scam of ₹1,000 crore. A big question arises... This money must be kept somewhere... We must have spent (the money) somewhere," Kejriwal said.

Sachdeva said that Kejriwal's "theft" has been caught. "The

Kejriwal clears air on Singhvi RS seat talk in connection with Maliwal case

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Friday cleared the air about allegation that Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal was asked to quit, and said while he did offer senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi an Upper House berth in January, the senior Congress leader refused.

In a television interview, Kejriwal said he never asked any MP to resign. Singhvi had accepted the Congress ticket in Himachal Pradesh but lost after internal dissension saw some party legislators cross-vote. Singhvi on Friday said he was "thankful and blessed" to have the backing of two CMs. "CM has spoken... truly blessed & fortunate to have good wishes of not 1 but 2 CMs plus Cong... politely declined both since wanted 2b in Cong... RS is secondary," Singhvi's post said. Kejriwal also blamed the BJP for the speculation that Maliwal was asked to resign to make place for Singhvi. **HTC**

investigation is ongoing and after June 1, he [Kejriwal] will be back in judicial custody. The law will take its course. Every criminal calls himself innocent, but the people of Delhi know about Kejriwal, and that he has committed the liquor scam... This week, the high court made a strong remark while rejecting Sisodia's bail in the liquor scam, and also pointed out many irregularities along with increasing the commission of liquor contractors. The court also expressed surprise at the frequent changing of their mobile phones," Sachdeva added.




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SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

CAPITAL VOTES

# Festival of democracy enters Delhi

**Saurya Sengupta**  
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**NEW DELHI:** The unforgiving May sun slices through a sheet of haze. Its inescapable tentacles grip the dry ground. The air is a smothering 45 degrees and it feels much worse. The earth hasn't tasted a raindrop in weeks.

But the air is restless, the streets throbbing. There's chatter in the markets, the colony parks thrum after sundown, the tea stalls are packed. The bars are shut, as are the schools. But even indoors, a similar thread ripples through households. "Kya lagta hai, kaun aayega?"

From the sprawling farmlands of Najafgarh to the ghost plots of Narela, from the lush lawns of India Gate to the thick forests in Chhatarpur, from the veinny lanes of Karawal Nagar to the industrial corridors of Badarpur, Delhi is on its marks. Between Saturday morning and evening, 15 million of Delhi's 20 million residents will make their voices heard during the world's largest democratic exercise.

Its voters are spread across seven segments - New Delhi, Chandni Chowk, North West Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi, East Delhi and North East Delhi; each beset with its own electoral proclivities, each fissured with its own socio-economic cleavages, but each an unflinching strand in the eccentric mesh of the national capital.

The city of hearts, the city of monuments, the city of rallies, the city of dissent, the city of smog - each will head to a voting booth on Saturday, under the piercing gaze of the Delhi sun, and cast its ballot, either for change, or for continuity.

At hand are two distinct contenders.

The first is the incumbent, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has held all seven of the city's seats in the Lok Sabha since 2014, in lockstep with its electoral dominance on the national arena. The party has held a vise grip over the city's parliamentary presence, even amid its fledgling numbers in the Vidhan Sabha and its diminished control in the municipality.

The second is the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) coalition between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which governs the state and its civic body, and the Congress, which controlled the state for three unfettered terms between 1998 and 2013. A seemingly unlikely seat-sharing plan between the bitter rivals culminated in the AAP agreeing to contest four seats - New Delhi, South Delhi, East Delhi and West Delhi - and the Congress three - Chandni Chowk, North East Delhi and North West Delhi - in a compromise meant to fend off the might of the BJP.

Each has distinct visions for the national capital.

The BJP has pinned its campaign on its decade-long experience of administering the city's seven segments, on its success at delivering central programmes to the last mile and conjoined these with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "guarantees".

The AAP, rejuvenated by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's release

from prison just over two weeks ago, has leant on its trademark balance of delivering welfare programmes, providing concessions for various demographics groups and shoring up the Capital's basic infrastructure.

The Congress, shunned from Delhi's state assembly for nearly a decade and near-absent in the civic House, has forged its campaign around social justice, welfare and the promise of increased reservations for backward groups and women.

All BJP candidates who interacted with the media at Delhi BJP office on Friday afternoon said they did extensive campaigning. "During the 84 days of election campaign we received a lot of love from the people who are determined to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of India for the third time. The people say that under Modi borders are secure, national security is strong, rapid highways and infrastructure development took place..." said Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, BJP's candidate for South Delhi Lok Sabha seat.

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said the INDIA bloc's campaign was "extremely effective". "The people of Delhi will vote to save democracy and the Constitution. The INDIA bloc's candidates are set to win the Lok Sabha elections," said Yadav.

**High expectations**

Across the vast expanse of this centuries-old city, voters have a swathe of expectations.

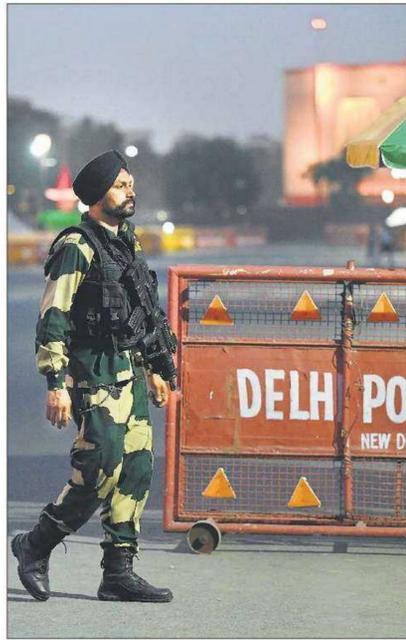
Chandni Chowk, once framed on its east by the now withered Yamuna, for instance, is crying out for a fresh infusion of life. A crippling shortage of water, unenviable traffic, skyrocketing expenses and dwindling profits among traders have together snuffed much of the vibrance that once trickled through Shahjahanabad's narrow lanes.

In the deceptively named New Delhi constituency - which comprises several of Delhi's southern neighbourhoods - voters balk at the swelling population, consequent congestion and overawed infrastructure.

Over in East Delhi, residents who live across the Yamuna point to the menace of the Ghazipur and Okhla landfills that smother all neighbouring life, a permeating absence of safety and sanitation, and the near-constant influx of migrants.

Saturday's vote will be the city's first parliamentary polls since the communal violence that consumed North East Delhi in February 2020, killing 53 and injuring more than 700. The riots left deep fissures through the diverse region, which houses a significant population from eastern Uttar Pradesh (known as Purvanchalis) and Muslims, and time has acted as scant salve. These chasms coexist with little access to education and meagre healthcare infrastructure in some pockets, even as businesspeople stare at ever-widening losses.

When the biting Saturday afternoon makes way for a stuffy Saturday evening, Delhi will have made its mark. When the crowds trickle out of the polling booths onto Sunder Nursery, Lodhi Gardens and India Gate, the centuries-old city will once again ask: "Kya lagta hai, kaun aayega?"



Polling officials and security personnel wrap up last-day preparations ahead of Saturday's voting for the seven Lok Sabha constituencies in the Capital. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO & REUTERS

## 2.6mn set to cast their vote in Ggm

**Abhishek Behl**  
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**GURUGRAM:** Voting booths will open for over 2.57 million people in Gurugram and 2.43 million in Faridabad will have voting booths open from 7am on Saturday, when the fates of parliamentarians who will represent much of the National Capital Region (NCR) is sealed during what will be the penultimate round of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Saturday's voting will cover all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, of which three - Gurugram, Sonapat and Faridabad - are the national capital. The other two main NCR satellite cities, Noida and Ghaziabad, voted in the second round of the general elections on April 26.

In the Gurugram parliamentary constituency, voting will be held at 537 locations, including in community centres in some of the city's prominent condominiums and some that have been classified as "critical", where police have deployed security reinforcements.

Gurugram deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav said they have launched over 20 initiatives to encourage voters to cast their vote. "From offering discounts to health facilities we have

come up with new ways to attract voters. This is the first time so many plans were introduced and companies were roped in. We have set up polling stations very close to the residents and this is likely to significantly improve the voting percentage," he said.

He added that the district administration has set up 52 polling booths in condominiums where around 58,000 voters are eligible to vote.

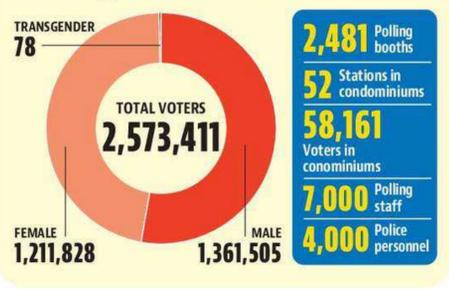
All the seven seats in Delhi and 10 in Haryana are held by BJP incumbents. In Haryana, the party's main challengers is the Congress, although its former ally Jannayak Janata Party, too, has fielded candidates despite internal dissent.

In the three core NCR seats in Haryana, unemployment, crime, consolidation among Jat communities and anger over exam paper leaks are among the key issues.

But crucial focus will also lie on whether the electorate in the more urban Gurugram and Faridabad buck the trend set by their city-dweller counterparts in rest of the country by turning up in large numbers to vote - especially amid an unforgiving summer.

In the 2019 elections, Gurugram had a 61.6% turnout and Faridabad had 64.1%.

### Gurugram elections stats



## No heatwave for now, but heat index may be worse



The HI in Delhi remained above a searing 50°C for the third day on Friday. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

**Aheli Das**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Heatwave conditions are likely to return to Delhi on Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, stressing on a yellow alert warning hours ahead of polling booths opening for the 15 million registered voters who will seal the fates of the seven representatives the national capital will send to the Lok Sabha.

The heat index (HI) in the city remained above a searing 50°C for the third day as high humidity persisted to ongoing effects of easterlies. At 41.7°C, Friday's air temperature was similar to what was recorded on Thursday.

On Saturday, the IMD said, the peak could touch 44°C in parts of

the city, while the minimum is likely to remain over 31°C. This will make this year's election day for the Capital hotter than in 2019 and 2014.

According to Met officials, the skies will remain mainly clear, leading to ample sunshine, which could likely exacerbate HI, also known as 'real feel' temperature. The IMD forecast HI to be between 51-53°C. "Heatwaves at isolated locations might be observed, along with occasional gusty winds during the day," they added.

When Delhi voted on May 12, 2019, the maximum and minimum were respectively 39°C and 25°C respectively, according to IMD data. The maximum and minimum in 2014 were 33°C and 18°C respectively on April 10, when

Delhi voted in the Lok Sabha elections. On Friday, the relative humidity of the Capital on Friday oscillated between 63% and 37%, leading to a HI of 50.8°C. The HI was 50°C on Thursday and 55.4°C on Wednesday.

Another measure, which reflects conditions someone will find outdoors is wet-bulb temperature. Once this measure crosses 32°C, people are at extreme risk of adverse health effects. The value on Friday stood close to 29.18°C, assuming humidity level of 37% and a peak temperature of 41.7°C. The measure on Thursday was 29.3°C. The maximum on Friday was one degree above normal, while the minimum was logged at 30.8°C, a four-degree positive deviation from the average.

# Will the city repeat tradition of giving clear mandates?

**Roshan Kishore and Abhishek Jha**  
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**NEW DELHI:** Can the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) win all seven parliamentary constituencies (PCs) in Delhi for the third time in a row? Will an alliance of the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) be able to reclaim at least some of the seats in the Capital from the BJP?

The arithmetic of the 2024 contest was discussed in detail in these pages yesterday. However, Delhi's electoral history shows that the city-state has often seen one-sided contests in the past and its verdict has almost always been in sync with the larger national mood in elections. Electoral patterns from Delhi's distant and recent past suggest that the result in 2024 could also be a one-sided affair, whichever way it goes. Here are four charts that explain this in detail.

**Delhi has always been the bellwether of Indian elections**

The Trivedi Center for Political Data (TCPD) has historical results for Delhi from 1962 onwards. Except in 1967, 1989 and 1991, the party that won a

majority of PCs in Delhi always finished first in the Lok Sabha nationally. Even the three elections where Delhi did not keep to the trend in the literal sense, it adhered to it in the larger sense. 1967 were the first national elections when the Congress suffered serious losses across states, and it is taken as the end of the phase of Congress's unquestioned dominance in Indian politics. It gave way for what is referred to as the Second Party System by political scientists when the Congress retained power at the Centre but became vulnerable in states. In 1989, the BJP emerged as the new national-level Opposition party, winning 85 PCs in all. It also won four out of the seven PCs in Delhi. In 1991, Delhi voted in the first phase of elections which were held on May 20.

The subsequent elections were postponed because of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination on May 21. The Congress finished as the single largest party riding a sympathy wave but did badly in the first phase of the elections. The BJP won five out of the seven PCs in Delhi in 1991. From 1996 onwards, Delhi has

consistently and overwhelmingly voted for the party that finished first at the all-India level (See Chart 1).

**Since 1998, Delhi has never given less than six PCs to the winning party**

This shows that elections have always been a one-sided affair in the Capital the last two-and-a-half decades. The BJP won six out of the seven PCs in Delhi in 1998 and all seven PCs in 1999, 2014, and 2019 elections.

The Congress won all seven PCs in 2009 and six out of the seven PCs in the 2004 elections. In fact, in all Lok Sabha elections since 1962, the seat share of the winning party in Delhi has always been higher than 70% except in the 1989 elections when the BJP, Congress and Janata Dal won four, two and one PC (See Chart 2)

**Floating voters have played a big role in Delhi's drastic outcomes** Between the 1991 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections, when the political contest in Delhi was largely bipolar between the Congress and the BJP, both the national

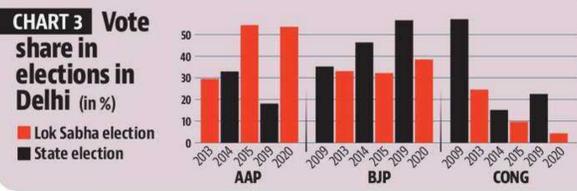
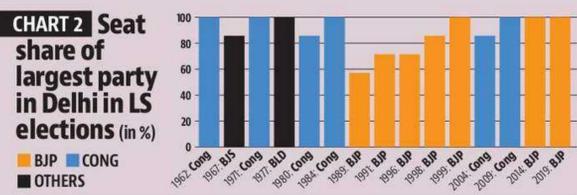
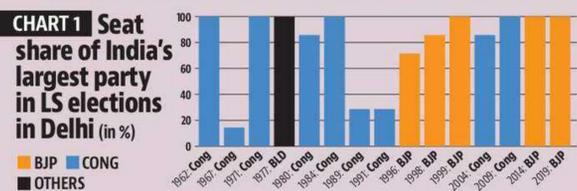
parties saw a stable vote share with respective numbers never falling below the 35% mark. The fact that both the BJP and Congress managed to cross the 50% vote share mark in different elections during this period suggests that a chunk of floating voters would move between the two parties. Things changed when the AAP made its entry in the 2014 electoral contest. A comparison of Lok Sabha and assembly election results from 2014 onwards suggests that floating voters have been supporting the BJP in national elections and the AAP in the assembly elections (See Chart 3).

**BJP's national premium after AAP's entry is pretty consistent across constituencies**

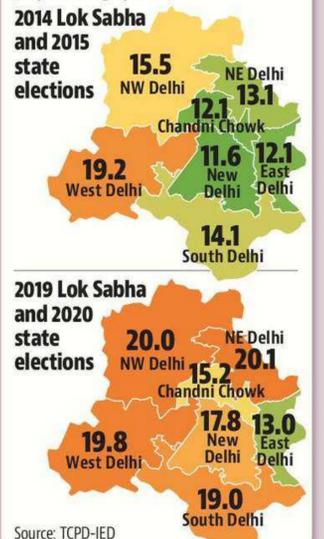
The past two cycles of national and state elections in Delhi make it clear that the BJP has a definite national elections advantage in the city. Is this advantage muted in any PC? Not really. While there is a difference across PCs, BJP had at least a 13 percentage point advantage in 2019 in each PC compared to the 2020 state election that followed. Even in the 2014-2015 cycle, this national election advantage was at least 11.6 percentage points in each PC (See Chart 4).

### Capital's electoral patterns

How the Lok Sabha results in Delhi are reflected in India's



**CHART 4** Difference in BJP's vote share between national and state elections (in percentage points)



Source: TCPD-IED

ELECTIONS 2024

# 92K personnel, drones in place as city votes today

Karn Pratap Singh  
karn.singh@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police has set up a double-layer security apparatus in some areas — including aerial surveillance with drones fitted with high-definition cameras, CCTV cameras, and on-the-spot videography — on Saturday when people across the Capital will cast their votes for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, senior officers aware of the matter said on Friday.

The officers said that more than 92,000 personnel from the Delhi Police, Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF), and home guards from Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, have been deployed at the polling centres fanning across the city to ensure a smooth electoral process.

There are 13,641 polling booths at 2,627 locations across the city, of which 429 have been declared "critical/sensitive" stations.

"We have made adequate security arrangements at the polling stations, border points, on streets and neighbourhoods, including the communally sensitive areas, to create a secure environment for voters and officials responsible for carrying out the polling. Sixty-five companies of CAPFs, 35,000 Delhi Police personnel and nearly 19,000 home guards from Delhi and other states will be deployed at the stations. Every critical polling station has been given additional deployment of security personnel," said special commissioner of police, RP Upadhyay, the state police nodal officer (SPNO) for Lok Sabha elections in Delhi.

**Double security for 429 sensitive stations**  
A senior police officer from the election cell of Delhi Police said that the double-layer security arrangement will be in place at all the 429 critical polling sta-



Police outside the polling station at Atal Adarsh Balika Vidyalaya in Gole Market. SANCHIT KHANNA/HT

tions, which have around 2,300 booths. The inner layer of the security apparatus will be taken care of by the personnel from CAPF and its Rapid Action Force (RAF), along with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and armed police of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

Delhi Police personnel will form the outer layer of security at the sensitive polling stations. Security personnel will not enter polling booths unless the presiding officers want them inside to tackle any emergencies, the officer added.

"The home guards will be deployed as queue managers to ensure the voters are waiting in proper lines. They will also assist the elderly and differently disabled voters to reach the booths," said Upadhyay.

Another officer from the election cell said that 48 drones have been procured from private vendors and will be used at the critical polling stations for aerial surveillance, especially in communally sensitive areas.

Between Wednesday and Thursday, special commissioner of police (law and order zone 2) Madhup Tiwari led flag and foot marches and area dominance exercises in some south and southeast Delhi areas such as Jamia Nagar, Shaheen Bagh, Okhla Industrial Area, Ambedkar Nagar, Sangam Vihar and Malviya Nagar.

"Our priority is to create a safe and conducive environment for all voters. The flag march and area dominance exercises are part of our comprehensive strategy to prevent untoward inci-

dents and build trust among the residents," said Tiwari.

**Border checks**  
As Delhi shares its borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, security measures have been intensified at borders, including checking vehicles for illicit liquor, firearms and ammunition. Delhi Police officers said they are working in close coordination with their counterparts in the two states.

"Joint combing operations involving the Uttar Pradesh Police are being done in the communally charged neighbourhood of Ghaziabad bordering our east, northeast and Shahdara districts. We have also intensified night vigil," said joint commissioner of police (eastern rang) Sagar Singh Kalsi.

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2024 (₹ in crore)

PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED				
	Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended		
	31.03.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	
Total Income from Operations (Net)	2,065.22	2,012.66	1,852.38	7,784.29	7,049.46	2,065.22	2,012.66	1,852.38	7,784.29
Net Profit for the Period (before tax & exceptional items)	943.12	696.09	864.31	2,843.44	2,289.41	943.12	696.13	864.26	2,843.39
Net Profit for the Period before tax (after exceptional items)	943.12	696.09	864.31	2,843.44	2,289.41	943.12	696.13	864.26	2,843.39
Net Profit for the Period after tax (after exceptional items)	700.16	519.19	639.19	2,116.74	1,701.62	700.16	519.23	639.14	2,116.69
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	713.63	523.15	658.20	2,136.52	1,726.36	713.63	523.19	658.15	2,136.47
Paid up Equity Share Capital (₹ - ₹ 10/- each)	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90
Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	14,612.40	13,443.35	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	14,610.66
Securities Premium Account	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1.26	1.26	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1.26
Net Worth	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	16,614.30	15,448.25	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	16,612.56
Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt*	-	-	-	74,032.21	62,947.90	-	-	-	74,032.21
Debt Equity Ratio	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	4.05	3.96	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	4.05
Earning per Share (₹ - ₹ 10/- each) (The EPS for quarters are not annualised)									
i) Basic	3.50	2.59	3.19	10.57	8.50	3.50	2.59	3.19	10.57
ii) Diluted	3.50	2.59	3.19	10.57	8.50	3.50	2.59	3.19	10.57
Debtenture Redemption Reserve** (as at year end)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	2,726.11	2,896.95	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	2,726.11

\* Outstanding Debt excluding Ind AS Adjustments \*\* Debtenture Redemption Reserve as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 respectively.

- NOTES:**
- The above Financial Results of the Company have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024. These Financial Results have also been audited by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
  - The Board of the Company recommended a Final Dividend @ ₹2.65, per share of ₹10 each subject to approval in the AGM. The Company also paid Interim Dividend @ ₹1.50 per share. Thus, Total Dividend for FY 2023-24 is ₹830.79 Crore i.e. 41.50% of the Face Value of the shares.
  - The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results is available on the websites of BSE Limited (URL: [www.bseindia.com/corporates](http://www.bseindia.com/corporates)), National Stock Exchange of India Limited (URL: [www.nseindia.com/corporates](http://www.nseindia.com/corporates)) and the same is also available on the company's website (URL: [www.hudco.org.in](http://www.hudco.org.in)).
  - There are changes and addition in existing accounting policies, which are only clarificatory in nature and have no financial implications on the Financial Statements of the Company.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
Sanjay Kulshrestha  
Chairman & Managing Director

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

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B.Tech (Direct Second Year)	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
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SPOTLIGHT  ELECTIONS 2024

## RWAs, mkt bodies pitch in to encourage voting

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Residents welfare associations (RWA) and trader bodies are taking initiatives to encourage people to exercise their franchise by organising pick-and-drop facilities for the elderly and offering special "vote discounts".

Chetan Sharma, chairman of Federation of GK II complex RWAs, said they have arranged transportation to and from polling booths for the elderly and have been sending regular messages and alerts to members to encourage them to vote.

"It has become extremely hot over the last few days and with Thursday being a holiday, people got a four-day weekend. Those who had plans to head to the hills have already left on Thursday. However, we are still trying to get maximum people to step out of their homes in the heat to vote," Sharma said.

Hardeep Singh, who heads Western Avenue Residents Welfare Association (WARWA), Sainik Farms, said they have made special arrangements for residents to comfortably go to the polling booths.

"We will be providing cars to ferry senior citizens, wheelchairs for medical assistance, and are putting up selfie booths. The RWA will also ensure that cold water is available and assistance points set up for giving out voting slips," he added.

Delhi recorded a voter turnout of 60% in 2019, down from 65% in 2014.

Atul Bhargava, who heads the New Delhi Traders Association (Connaught Place), said NDTA has issued appeals to all its members and their staff to vote on May 25 before coming to work.

"As a celebration of the biggest festival of democracy and to encourage the Delhites to exercise their right to vote, many shops, showrooms, cafes

## Turnout in Delhi LS polls

Election commission data shows that voter turnout in all seven LS constituencies dropped in 2019 compared to 2014

**OVERALL TURNOUT** 2014 **65.1%** | 2019 **60.6%**

Constituency	Turnout 2014	Turnout 2019 (in %)
Chandni Chowk	67.8	62.8
North East Delhi	67.3	63.8
East Delhi	65.4	61.7
New Delhi	65.1	56.9
North West Delhi	61.8	59
West Delhi	66.1	60.8
South Delhi	62.9	58.7

Many shops in Connaught Place are offering 10%-38% discounts and special offers to visitors on showing voting ink on their finger.

— **Atul Bhargava**, president, New Delhi Traders Association

Up to 15% discount will be given on food bills at all restaurants on showing voting ink on finger.

— **Sanjeev Mehra**, Khan market Traders Association

The federation has arranged transport for the elderly and has been sending regular messages and alerts to encourage members to vote.

— **Chetan Sharma**, chairman of Federation of GK II complex RWAs

and restaurants in Connaught Place are offering exclusive discounts ranging from 10% - 38% and special offers to visitors on showing their inked finger for one to three days after the polling day," he said.

Sanjeev Mehra, who heads Khan market Traders Association, said that a 15% discount will be provided on food bills on showing the "ink mark on the finger" at all restaurants.

Ashok Randhawa, who heads Sarojini Nagar mini market association, said the traders will provide facilities such as tea, cold water and refreshments in the markets located in the area. Five teams of traders will cover around 50 polling booths in the area.

"This drive will continue from 7.30am till the conclusion of the polling. The market will remain closed. On May 26 and 27, traders will offer 10-30% discounts to customers on showing the voting ink mark on the finger," he added.

Shobha Gogia, a resident of Kirti Nagar, said she plans to go for a staycation with her family on Saturday, but not before casting her vote. She plans to go to her polling booth in west Delhi at around 7am with her husband Yogesh, and return in time to leave for her hotel.

"We made all the preparations and packed our bags on Friday night. Now, we will go to vote early in the morning and leave for our staycation. A lot of

our friends have already left as we don't get much time off during our busy schedule, but we decided to stay till we cast our vote. We feel that voting is a basic right. We cannot refrain from voting and later complain of bad roads, water shortage, power cuts or poor transport," said Gogia.

The Election Commission also made several appeals to residents to vote.

"On the day of voting, May 25, I urge all voters in Delhi to come out in large numbers and cast their vote. While heatwave, cold, and rain are part of every season, our commitment to voting should remain unwavering," P Krishnamurthy, CEO Delhi, said.

## 45 SCREENS SET UP TO MONITOR 1,333 POLLING STATIONS IN GURUGRAM

Leena Dhankhar

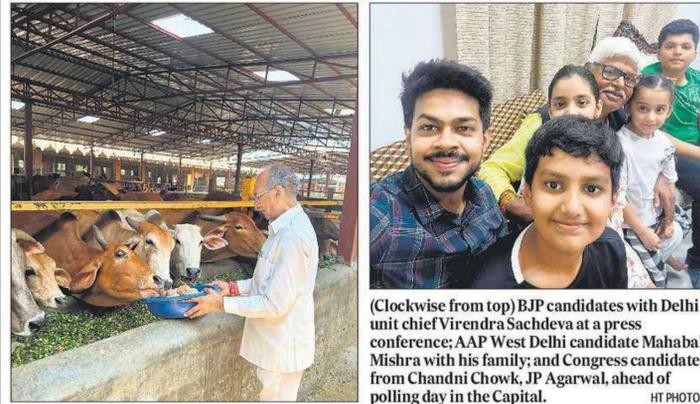
leena.dhankhar@hindustantimes.com

**GURUGRAM:** The district administration has set up a surveillance room at the mini-secretariat in the city with 45 screens to monitor 1,333 polling stations equipped with CCTV cameras. Officials will also keep a close watch on vehicular movement through an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) of the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA). A dedicated team will monitor the footage on 45 screens from 7am to 6pm on Saturday, they said.

Among the booths across 537 locations in Gurugram, 201 booths at 79 locations have been identified as critical and will have extensive security arrangements, police said.

Nearly 4,500 police personnel and home guards will be deployed at these booths. Deputy commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said a special security plan has been prepared for the critical booths. "In addition to the CCTVs, micro-observers have been appointed at all polling stations to provide real-time updates to the district headquarters," he said.

## A day before the finale



(Clockwise from top) BJP candidates with Delhi unit chief Virender Sachdeva at a press conference; AAP West Delhi candidate Mahabul Mishra with his family; and Congress candidate from Chandni Chowk, JP Agarwal, ahead of polling day in the Capital.

HT PHOTOS

## Nadda's 'wake-up call' for BJP workers

Vrinda Tulsian

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Thousands of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers across the Capital and other states are likely to wake up to a special phone call on Saturday morning — from their party president JP Nadda — encouraging them to get to work at the polling booths and get people to come out and vote. The minute-long message, scheduled to be disseminated at dawn, urges workers to do their bit and achieve the target of seats set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the party.

"Jan jan ki yahi pukaar, fir ek baar Modi sarkaar, iss baar 400 paar" (The call of every individual, once again Modi government, this time with over 400 seats) — Nadda says in the message relayed through the BJP workers' app "Saraal".

By the end of voting on June 1, the 30 million BJP workers would have received the personalised message just ahead of voting in their area.

The message on Saturday will be sent to workers in different states and Union territories, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, and Odisha.

call," said Delhi unit chief Virender Sachdeva on Saturday.

According to one official, the calls gained momentum after low voter turnouts in some of the early phases.

"Everyone I call will further make calls to 25 others. We also had meetings in at least 12,000 of the 13,400 odd booths to ensure our voters come out to vote," Sachdeva added.

"The call will only go to registered party workers," said a person aware of details, adding, "If anyone other than a worker gets a call, it will be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct. So we have taken care that it works

only through our app."

In the pre-recorded voice message, accessed by HT, Nadda introduces himself and asks party workers to urge their families and the beneficiaries in their constituencies to take people to polling booths and ensure they vote for the BJP.

"I believe that this election will change the fate of the country. This election is important to fulfill the dream of Viskit Bharat by 2047. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every party worker to contribute to giving a massive victory to the BJP," the message, recorded in Hindi, says.

## Appeal to Voters of Delhi

Your Vote is Your Power Use it!



**Delhi**  
come out and vote  
on **25<sup>th</sup>** May 2024

Polling Time: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Note: Photo voter slip can be used for guidance but not as an Identity Proof at the polling station.



## DOs

- Always be in queue and wait for your turn
- Always maintain peace in and around the polling station
- Show your photo ID card as prescribed by the Election Commission of India
- Follow instructions on "How To Vote"
- Show courtesy to the polling team which is facilitating your vote
- After casting your vote come out of the polling station quietly

## DONTs

- Do not accept bribe in favour of your vote. Bribery is an offence.
- Do not impersonate for someone else. Impersonation is an offence.
- Do not cause any disturbance in the poll process. You may land up in prison.
- Do not cause damage/tamper with poll material including EVM/VVPAT. You may land up in prison.
- Do not obstruct the polling team in performing election duty. You may land up in prison.

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# 3-year-old girl kidnapped, killed by man in SW Delhi

Hemani Bhandari

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A three-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped from outside her house and killed by her 34-year-old neighbour in Kapashera, southwest Delhi, on Wednesday. Her body was recovered from a drain. Police and the family suspect that the girl was raped before she was murdered, which will be ascertained after the autopsy reports are out, officers aware of the investigation said on Friday.

Deputy commissioner of police (south west) Rohit Meena said that the accused, identified as Anil Kumar, is a construction worker, and was arrested on the same day.

He tried to escape from police custody, following which he was shot in the leg, a second officer added.

The 26-year-old mother of the victim told HT that, at around 6pm on Wednesday, the girl was playing in courtyard of the resi-

dential complex, which has about 40 rooms, but could not be found a little while later. "When I started looking for her, people told me that the suspect took her," she said.

The mother added that she called up the suspect, but he denied that the victim was with him. "When I insisted that people saw him with my daughter, he said he'd meet us in half an hour," she said. When he did not turn up, the family continued the search and eventually went to the police at around 9pm.

Investigators scrutinised the CCTV footage and found that, at 7.05pm, the accused was seen taking the girl towards a drain in the area, but at 7.25pm, he was seen returning alone, an officer said on condition of anonymity.

A senior police officer said, "About 30-40 police personnel started searching for the accused. It was found that he was going towards Sohna. The teams started tracking his location, and at 11.55pm, he was

apprehended from inside a bus, which was going towards Kanpur, his native place," said the DCP, adding that the accused was brought back to Kapashera.

According to the second officer, the accused admitted that he killed the girl. "He said that he dumped the body in a drain, about 2km away from the complex. The body was found at around 2am on Thursday," he said. "The clothes on the body were dishevelled."

Meanwhile, when the investigators were busy trying to recover the body from the drain, the accused allegedly managed to steal the service revolver from a constable and tried to flee. "He fired on the police team, which fired back in self-defence, and in the process, he got hit by a bullet in his right foot. The suspect was taken to Indira Gandhi Hospital," Meena said.

The accused allegedly told police that after kidnapping the girl, he took her to a place near the drain where he raped her

and then strangled her to death. "A medical board was formed to conduct the post-mortem examination on Friday," he said.

The second investigator said that the accused was close to the victim's family and had even borrowed ₹200 from them on Wednesday morning.

The victim's mother also alleged that they were informed by locals on Thursday that the suspect allegedly tried to sexually assault a two-year-old girl in February. However, the matter was not reported. "We were told by his landlord that he was caught in an intoxicated state inside a room with a crying baby. The house owner heard her cries and saved her. He was left off with a warning and the girl's parents did not press any charges," she said.

Talking about her daughter, the mother said that she was a "bright and sensible girl". "She used to go to playschool since she was 18 months old," the mother said.

## 18 years after crime, man arrested for attacking his wife

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A 47-year-old man, accused of allegedly attacking his wife in 2006, was arrested in Assam by a team of Delhi Police earlier this week, an officer aware of the case said on Friday.

The man, identified as Noor Mohammad, allegedly broke into his then wife's home in Najafgarh in July 2006 and attempted to kill her with a dao (Naga sword) for asking for a divorce, they added.

Mohammad allegedly attacked her on the face and head on July 18, 2006, but she survived. As neighbours gathered at the spot, he fled. The Delhi Police at that time had no leads in the case. Mohammad was therefore termed as a fugitive with no trails of his whereabouts, said an officer who asked not to be named.

Earlier this week, the Delhi Police received a tip-off from the Assam Police about Mohammad's whereabouts, leading to

his arrest, the officer added.

Deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Amit Goel (crime) said, "It was found that he was working in a heavily forested area at Mankachar in South Salmara, Assam."

A team led by assistant commissioner of police (Punjab Bagh) Ramesh Lamba, inspectors Pankaj Malik and Rohit Kumar went to Mankachar to bring Mohammad back to Delhi. The area is close to the Bangladesh border, police said.

Senior officers said Mohammad was often seen "travelling" around the forested area in search of work. The team posed as NGO members who were in the forest to help woodcutters. "After three days of intensive searches in the jungle, they found Mohammad near his home," Goel said.

Police said they found that Mohammad was working as a woodcutter and was married again. He was living with his second wife and their two children.

## Tribunal upholds order on Jaypee

Vinod Rajput

vinod.rajput@htlive.com

**NOIDA:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Friday upheld Mumbai-based Suraksha Group's resolution plan for the debt-ridden Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL). The plan will provide relief to around 20,000 homebuyers in the Wish Town project in sectors 128, 129, 130, 131 and 132 along the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway.

However, the Suraksha Group will have to pay ₹1,335 crore to Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) over the next four years so that the authority can provide land compensation to farmers at a 64.7% hike.

NCLAT has set aside its March 7 order in which it asked Suraksha Group to pay only ₹10 lakh towards the farmers' hiked land compensation. Yeida had approached NCLAT, challenging the order, and demanded ₹1,689 crore towards farmers' land compen-

sation. NCLAT on Friday said Suraksha Group can pay 79% of ₹1,689 crore in four years.

"The impugned order passed by adjudicating authority (NCLT) insofar as it deals with claim of the appellant of ₹1,689 crore of additional farmers' compensation is set aside. The rest of the impugned order approving the resolution plan is upheld," said the order delivered on May 24 by of NCLT chairperson justice Ashok Bhusan and member technical Barun Mitra.

"On April 18, Suraksha Group offered to pay ₹1,216 crore towards farmers' compensation in instalments in four years. It offered to pay 10% upfront within 90 days, 15% by the end of the first year and 25% every year for the next three years..." said the order.

NCLAT directed the asset reconstruction company to pay an additional ₹118.31 crore aligning it with other secured creditors' payments.

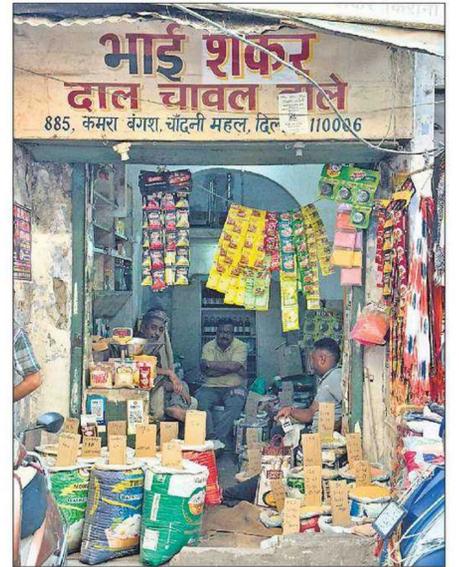
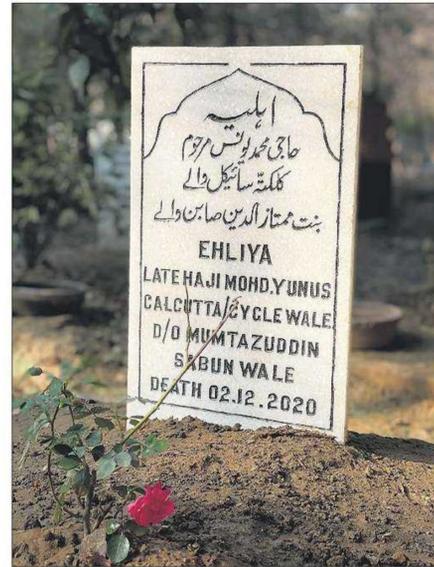
The Suraksha Group declined to comment on the order.

## Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE



Mayank Austen Soofi



## Named by association

The Walled City dictionary

**{ PUBLIC INTEREST }**

Every wedding crowd comprise of ladki wale and ladke wale—from the girl's side, and from the boy's side. The word 'wale' loosely means 'belonging to,' and very many Walled City place-names, as well as people-named, end with 'wale.'

As part of our 'Walled City Dictionary' series, that is chronicling every Old Delhi place-name.

Stroll through this extensive 'wale' walking tour.

A late Chitli Qabar Chowk butcher used to sell only chicken breasts and legs; his visiting card called him "Bhai Aijaz Chickennwale." The locality's button shop that specialises in hundreds of varieties of buttons is of course owned by the Button Wale family. A blue signage pointing to the family's Pahari Rajana residence bears the patriarch's name—Muhammad Zaheer Button Wale.

Other 'wale' landmarks in Chitli Qabar area include Al Waseem Jewellers Zam Zam Wale, Matloob Nahari Wale and Babu Bhai Kabab Wale. It goes without saying that everyone here misses the recently deceased Dr. Prem Bhuttan. His first aid clinic dressed the wounds of the local citizenry with patti, or bandage; everybody called him Prem Patti Wale.

Indeed, 'wale' is spotted on almost every Walled City lane. (And outside the Walled City too—a rajma-rice eatery in Connaught Place is called Jain

Chawal Wale.)

Meanwhile, in Chawri Bazar, a shop is named Ajay Sales Rivet Wale. In Chandni Chowk, a showroom is named Champal Jewellers Chandni Chowk Wale. In Dariba Kalan, a shop is named Hulas Rai Slate Wale (selling school slates and chalks, etc). In Kamra Bangash, a grocery is named Bhai Shankar Dal Chawal Wale—see right photo.

The street with most 'wale' surely is Gali Sui Wale. It has Bhaijan Roti Wale, Bhoore Khan Roti Wale, Abdul Ghaffar Nahari Wale, Abdul Ghaffar Chicken Biryani Wale, Bhai Kamil Paratha Wale, Kale Baba Kabab Wale... and so on.

Just as the Walled City streets are full of 'wale,' so are its graveyards. Dilli Gate and Shidipura cemeteries are home to many Old Delhi wale with names ending with 'wale'—Sheikh Mohammad Aslam Chashme (eye glasses) Wale, Mohd Aqil Khilone (toys) Wale, Sultan Ahmed Ghari (clock) Wale, Muhammad Aslam Singapur Wale, Ahsan Shah Dairy Wale... and so on. One unusual tombstone doesn't reveal its dweller's name, instead identifying her as wife of Haji Mohd. Yunus Calcutta Cycle Wale and daughter of Mumtazuddin Sabun (soap) Wale—see left photo.

Finally, lest we forget, dear Delhiwale reader, a 24-hour funeral facility in Pahari Imli (with free service for "poor people and children") is named Bhai Yaseen Gusal Wale.



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

## HT Homage



In Loving Memory of  
**Shri R. C. Jain**

Three years have passed since you left this world, but the void you left in our lives can never be filled. Though you may be no longer with us, your love and guidance will always remain in our hearts. We miss you more than any words can express.

DEEPLY MISSED BY

Veena Jain (Wife), Anu & Rohit Jain (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Ritu & Siddhartha Sachdeva (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Partha, Aadya & Krishiv (Grandchildren)

## 2 MEN DIE AFTER BEING FORCED TO CLEAN SEPTIC TANK

**NEW DELHI:** Two men died after they inhaled poisonous gases inside a septic tank and fell unconscious inside it in Old Jasola village, southeast Delhi, on Friday, police said.

Police said that a resident hired the men to clean a tank at his house and allegedly forced them to do manual scavenging after the desludging vehicle malfunctioned. The resident is at large. The victims died of asphyxia due to the poisonous gases released from the septic tank. Locals reported the incident to the Sarita Vihar police station at around 1pm. The deceased were not provided safety equipment like masks or gloves, police added. "One of the men was identified as Rajprakash Singh, 60. We are now trying to identify the other victim," DCP (south east) Rajesh Deo said. HTc

## Bibhav Kumar remanded in four-day judicial custody

Deepankar Malviya

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Friday remanded Bibhav Kumar, the aide of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, to four-day judicial custody in the alleged assault case involving Swati Maliwal, a Rajya Sabha parliamentarian and member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Kumar was brought before the court as his five-day police custody ended. He was taken to custody by the Delhi Police on May 18 from Kejriwal's residence at Flagstaff Road, Civil Lines. He was formally arrested on the evening of May 18 while the hearing of his anticipatory bail plea was underway before a court.

During the court proceedings, the Delhi Police sought four-day judicial custody of Kumar. "After receipt of the report from the experts, accused may be required for confrontation to

proceed with the investigation and to reach to a logical conclusion. Some investigation is being carried out by the members of the investigating team in Mumbai and are likely to return to Delhi soon with some evidence and the accused will be required again for confrontation. Accordingly, the accused may please be remanded to four days of judicial custody remand," the remand application stated.

The police highlighted Kumar's alleged non-cooperation during the investigation, including failure to disclose the password of his mobile phone, which the police consider to be a crucial evidence.

The row erupted after Maliwal alleged grave assault by Kumar in a police complaint. She filed a first information report (FIR) in which she alleged that Kumar slapped her seven to eight times without any provocation at the CM's residence on May 13, when she went to meet

Kejriwal. He slapped her, kicked her in the chest and pelvis, and deliberately pulled up her shirt, Maliwal alleged.

Kumar has denied the allegations and filed a counter-complaint alleging that Maliwal barged into the CM's house, misbehaved with staff, and was politely asked to leave. The AAP has alleged that Maliwal made false allegations at the behest of the BJP.

Kumar's counsel moved an application seeking disclosure of seized evidence and preservation of CCTV footage. This was opposed by additional public prosecutor Atul Srivastava, who argued that the prayers were not relevant at this stage.

The court reserved orders on this application, with a decision expected on May 28. Meanwhile, Kumar also filed an application for regular bail before the court, which issued notice to the Delhi Police and listed the plea for hearing on May 27.

## ILLEGAL B'DESHI MIGRANT HELD FOR FORGING DOCUMENTS

**NEW DELHI:** A 37-year-old Bangladeshi national, who was illegally living in West Bengal for the last 21 years, has been arrested for allegedly creating fake documents, including passport, Aadhaar and PAN cards, for a Bangladeshi citizen and sending him to Kuwait on a work visa, the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport unit of the Delhi Police said on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Rashid Sirajul, allegedly a human trafficking agent. The man for whom he forged documents was identified as Rahmat Sheikh, 32. He was caught trying to fly to Kuwait via Bahrain on an Indian passport, it added.

Sirajul was arrested from West Bengal earlier this week, said DCP (IGI airport) Usha Rangnani. "Sheikh's interrogation revealed that his documents were prepared by Sirajul, to whom he had paid ₹6.5 lakh Bangladeshi Taka in cash for arranging his travel to Kuwait," said Rangnani. HTc

## Court convicts Medha Patkar in defamation case filed by Saxena

Deepankar Malviya

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Friday convicted Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activist Medha Patkar in a 23-year-old defamation case filed against her by the then president of the non-profit organisation, National Council of Civil Liberties, VK Saxena, who is currently serving as the lieutenant governor (LG) of Delhi.

Metropolitan magistrate Raghav Sharma pronounced the verdict, saying: "It has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that the accused (Patkar) published the imputations with the intent and knowledge that they would harm the reputation of the complainant and, therefore, committed an offence punishable under Section 500 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code). She is hereby convicted of the same."

The case dates back to January 2001, when Saxena alleged that Patkar issued a press release titled, "True Face of Patriot", on November 25, 2000, containing



Medha Patkar



VK Saxena

false imputations intended to harm his reputation. Saxena was then the chief of the Ahmedabad-based NGO. He also filed two cases against Patkar for making allegedly derogatory remarks against him on a TV channel and issuing a defamatory press statement.

Saxena's organisation was actively supporting the completion of the Sardar Sarovar Project at the time. Patkar, on the other hand, was spearheading massive protests against the dam's construction, arguing that it would displace thousands of tribal people and submerge vast

stretches of forests and farmland.

Advocates Gajinder Kumar, Kiran Jai and Chandra Shekhar, representing Saxena, argued before the Delhi court that the imputations in Patkar's press note portrayed Saxena as a hypocrite and harmed his reputation.

The court, while convicting Patkar, noted that her actions were deliberate, malicious, and aimed at tarnishing Saxena's reputation. It observed that the statements made by Patkar were defamatory and incited negative perceptions about Saxena, damaging his standing in public eye.

"The statements of the accused, calling the complainant a coward, not a patriot, and alleging his involvement in hawala transactions, were not only defamatory per se, but also crafted to incite negative perceptions," the court said.

It also noted that Patkar did not present any evidence to refute Saxena's allegation, which he had made in his testimony and the depositions of two other complainant witnesses, showing that her defamatory remarks had falsely linked him to activities at odds with his public position and cast doubt on his integrity and patriotism.

"The accused (Patkar) failed to provide any evidence to counter the claims or to show that she did not intend or foresee the harm these imputations would cause," the order added.

Patkar now faces a punishment that may extend to two years of simple imprisonment, a fine, or both. The court has scheduled the sentencing hearing for May 30.

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FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

**BATTLE FOR THE CAPITAL**

Focus will be on the turnout amid searing temperatures and an orange alert sounded across the Capital. In 2019, Delhi had recorded 60.60%, 6.7 percentage points lower than the overall national figure of 67.3%.

Krishnamurthy said arrangements had also been made keeping mind the heatwave forecast. "Shaded areas have been made at all polling stations, with fully covered waiting zones equipped with coolers and fans to ensure voter comfort. We have ensured the availability of drinking water, toilets, ramps, and wheelchairs at every polling station under the Assured Minimum Facility Policy so that no voter faces any inconvenience. Additionally, paramedical staff equipped with basic medical kits will be stationed at all polling locations," Krishnamurthy said.

Since 1996, the party that has won Delhi has also triumphed nationally. The last three general elections in the Capital have seen clean sweeps – 2009 by the Congress and 2014 and 2019 by the BJP. Except in 1967, 1989 and 1991, the party which has won a majority of constituencies from Delhi has always finished first in the Lok Sabha.

The battle for Delhi holds echoes of the national contest because people from all over the country have always migrated to the Capital for employment or the aspiration of a better life, making the city a cultural melting pot. The issues at play are also largely national – Modi's popularity vs Kejriwal's rooted connect, nationalism vs federalism, BJP's welfare outreach vs AAP's focus on health care and education, and questions of Constitution, reservation and communalism.

This time, the contest is bipolar for the first time in 15 years. The AAP is fighting four seats – New Delhi (Somnath Bharti), South (Sahiram Palwal), East (Kuldeep Kumar) and West (Mahabul Mishra) – and the Congress three – Chandni Chowk (JP Aggarwal), North East (Kanhaiya Kumar) and North West (Udit Raj). They face an uphill battle against the BJP, which won 57% of the vote in 2019 and held a 16 percentage point advantage over the combined vote shares of the AAP and the Congress.

This time, the BJP has dropped six of its seven incumbent MPs to ward off anti-incumbency, repeating only the North-East Delhi parliamentarian Manoj Tiwari, who is taking on Kanhaiya Kumar of the Congress.

The BJP – which has fielded Ramvir Singh Bidhuri (South Delhi), Bansuri Swaraj (New Delhi), Praveen Khandelwal (Chandni Chowk), Kamaljeet Sehrawat (West Delhi), Harsh Malhotra (East Delhi), Yogendra Chandolia (North West Delhi) and Manoj Tiwari (North East Delhi) – modelled its campaign on the contours of its national pitch around Modi's governance record and his popularity. The PM held two rallies in the Capital, accusing the INDIA bloc of dynasty politics, appeasement and communalism and alleging that the Opposition wanted to fritter away reservations for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes to help minority communities.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said the people of Delhi want Narendra Modi to return as Prime Minister for the third time and will be voting for him. "During the election campaign, we received the love and blessings of the people. It has rattled the opposition AAP and it may try to cause power cuts in the city to disrupt the polling hours to disrupt voting. We have also requested the election commission for proper verification and cross-checking of the identity of burqa-clad voters at every polling station as per the ECI rules because there is a change of impersonation during polls. We have requested the poll panel to deploy an adequate number of women polling personnel for the purpose," said Sachdeva.

The Opposition, in contrast, focussed on local issues of governance and anti-incumbency against BJP's parliamentarians. The campaign was enthused by the release of Kejriwal, who was freed by the Supreme Court on May 10 after spending 50 days in jail over corruption charges in connection with the now-scrapped excise policy case. Since his release, Kejriwal held 17 public meetings and road shows, alleging that his imprisonment was part of a BJP conspiracy to topple his government, underlining his record of bolstering health care and education in the city, and saying that democracy and federalism were in danger.

The AAP said Delhiites will respond to Kejriwal's arrest by voting BJP out.

"For the first time, the people of Delhi witnessed that a sitting chief minister who has transformed so many aspects of their lives such as education, health, electricity, water, free bus rides for women etc, was arrested in a fake case; that too after the Lok Sabha elections were announced. This has enraged Delhiites and they felt that this is an attack on democracy itself. The people of Delhi will respond to the jail sentence of their CM by voting BJP out," said an AAP leader.

The Congress campaign was led by senior leader Rahul Gandhi, who addressed two rallies and one townhall meeting. The Congress, too, criticised Modi and the BJP's policies, spoke about unemployment, rising prices and the dangers to the Constitution.

Delhi Congress chief Devennder Yadav said its candidates put up a very effective election campaign for the Lok Sabha polls. "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's public meetings and interactions with the voters and party workers boosted their enthusiasm. Not only in the three seats where Congress is contesting, but in the four seats where our alliance partner AAP is contesting the election campaigns were very effective. The people of Delhi will be voting to save the democracy and the constitution. INDIA bloc candidates are set to win the Lok Sabha election," said Yadav.

In the final days of the campaign, allegations of assault by AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Malviwal, who said Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar attacked her at the CM's residence, sparked a row with the BJP saying that women's safety had been compromised, and the AAP dismissing the charges as a conspiracy.

Over the last decade, Delhi has developed a distinctive voting pattern, where the citizens have overwhelmingly voted for the AAP in assembly elections (67 out of 70 seats in 2015 and 62 in 2020), only to strongly back the BJP in the national polls (all seven seats in 2014 and 2019). June 4 will decide if this pattern holds or if a new political paradigm emerges.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY** of all deaths in 2019. Even during the pandemic, NCDs continued to account for 78% of non-

COVID deaths.

The report highlighted concerning trends in malnutrition and obesity. In 2022, over 1 billion people aged 5 and up had obesity, while more than half a billion were underweight. Among children under 5, 148 million faced stunting, 45 million wasting, and 37 million were overweight.

Refugees, migrants and the 1.3 billion people living with disabilities faced disproportionate health inequities, the report said, urging health systems to adapt. Access to healthcare for refugees and migrants remains limited, with only half of the 84 countries surveyed between 2018 and 2021 providing government-funded health services to these groups at levels comparable to their citizens.

Despite setbacks due to the pandemic, some progress was made toward WHO's Triple Billion targets and health-related Sustainable Development Goals, but not enough. Since 2018, 1.5 billion more people achieved better health and well-being, while universal health coverage expanded to 585 million more. However, only 777 million more are likely to have adequate protection during health emergencies by 2025.

"Without accelerating progress, it is unlikely that any of the health SDGs will be met by 2030," said Samira Asma, WHO assistant director-general for data, analytics and delivery for impact.



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# देश बदल रहा है, आप भी इस परिवर्तन में भागीदार बनें



अपने बच्चों के उज्ज्वल एवं सुरक्षित भविष्य तथा भारत के विकास के लिए चुनाव में अपने मताधिकार का अवश्य प्रयोग करें... मतदान अवश्य करें



Dr. Upasana Arora, Dr. P.N. Arora



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GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA 2024-NCT OF DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: VOTERS WITH DISABILITY

Voters with disability have equal rights at par with other voters to come out and vote. Kindly note and avail the facilities/administrative arrangements made to assist you in casting your vote:

- Voters with disability are to be given priority for entering the polling station, without having to wait in the queue.
- Seamless access for wheelchairs by providing ramps of adequate slope, wherever required and clear space for movement within the polling room till the voting compartment
- If due to disability, an elector is unable to vote on his/her own; the Presiding Officer shall permit the elector to take a companion of not less than 18 years of age to the voting compartment (preferably a relative) for recording the vote on his/her behalf and in accordance with his/her wishes. (Reference: Rule 49 N, Conduct of Election Rule, 1961).
- Staff on Polling duty including Police Personnel are trained & sensitized about the special needs of the voters with disability and for providing necessary support to them.
- Volunteers are being deployed at polling locations to assist the voters with disability.
- Wheelchairs are being provided at polling stations for convenience of PWD Electors.
- Pick & Drop Facility is being provided for PwDs and Senior Citizen (aged more than 85 years) Electors by concerned ROs, upto Polling Station and back.
- Nodal Officers have been specially appointed in all districts for assisting voter with disability.

Details of Nodal Officers for PwD and Pick & Drop facility for Seven (07) Parliamentary Constituencies in NCT of Delhi for General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024 are as under:

PC No.	PC Name	Details of PwD Nodal Officer (Name, Mobile, E-mail)	Details of Pick & Drop Nodal Officer (Name, Mobile)	Pick & Drop Control Room No.
1.	CHANDNI CHOWK	Sh. Kapil Kohli 8368079252 nodalofficerpwdpc01@gmail.com	Sh. Kapil Kohli 8368079252	011-20872028
2.	NORTH-EAST DELHI	Sh. Suresh Chand 9868282971 pwdpc02@gmail.com	Sh. Suresh Chand 9868282971	011-22132054
3.	EAST DELHI	Sh. Sunil Kumar Bhardwaj 9968854845 nodalofficerpwd03@gmail.com	Sh. Sunil Kumar Bhardwaj 9968854845	1800-11-1406 011-22010004
4.	NEW DELHI	Ms. Rashmi Manchanda 9911325330 pwd.no.is2024@gmail.com	Sh. Hom Karan 9015753972	011-23075139
5.	NORTH WEST DELHI (SC)	Sh. Rakesh Dahiya 9868810716 nodalofficerpwd05@gmail.com Sh. Dharmendra Prasad 9818184564 nodalofficerpwd05@gmail.com	Sh. Rakesh Dahiya 9868810716 Sh. Dharmendra Prasad 9818184564	1800-11-1401 011-20896360
6.	WEST DELHI	Sh. Saurabh Kumar 8982595027 nodalofficerpwd06@gmail.com	Sh. Saurabh Kumar 8982595027	011-25107440
7.	SOUTH DELHI	Sh. Piyush Kumar Mudgal 9887624255 districtelectionsouth@gmail.com	Sh. Ravi Ekka 9667517334	011-20860811

For any assistance/clarification, please contact above mentioned Nodal officer of your PC KINDELY COME OUT AND CAST YOUR VOTE IN LARGE NUMBERS ON 25.05.2024 (between 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM)

Sd/-  
(Mukesh Rajora)  
Joint Chief Electoral Officer-I, Delhi

For Voting, your name in the Electoral roll is mandatory



# PROCLAMATION U/s 67 DP ACT 1978

Now, in exercise of the power conferred upon me by the Commissioner of Police, Delhi and as envisaged vide section 67 (1) of Delhi Police Act-1978, the aforesaid vehicle/articles are notified for the information of the general public through the proclamation. Any person who may have a claim thereof may put his claim within six months of the issue of this proclamation.

The below mentioned vehicle/article have been seized U/S 66 DP Act, 1978 in the various Police Stations of North West District as per the following details.

S. No.	Police station	DD No.	Date	Reg. No.	Engine No.	Chassis No.	Type of Vehicle	Make	Model	Whether checked through ZIPNET	Whether verified PCR.Auto match	Verification from CRO & SCRB NCRB	Whether information sent to Insurance Co.	Whether information sent to S.T.A.	Notice issued to the registered owner
1.	Ashok Vihar	52A	28.05.19	DL4SAG-3246	10416	14979	Two Wheeler	Hero honda	Passion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Ashok Vihar	16A	29.03.21	DL10SC-5251	86852	68360	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Ashok Vihar	48A	11.08.21	DL2SM-5583	98532	98708	Two Wheeler	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Ashok Vihar	66A	26.08.21	DL-5SBV-0174	78827	92816	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	Ashok Vihar	41A	30.07.19	DL-5SBH-1964	63050	57207	Two Wheeler	Hero honda	Passion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Ashok Vihar	43A	25.01.23	DL 5SBH-2363	16277	46338	Two Wheeler	Hero	Passion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Ashok Vihar	82A	21.04.23	UP-17K-6177	45769	88022	Two Wheeler	Yamaha	FZS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Ashok Vihar	81A	13.06.23	DL-8SBB-3465	09052	98125	Two Wheeler	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	Ashok Vihar	52A	18.01.24	DL-8SAW-0369	02901	02752	Two Wheeler	Hero	CBZ SOLO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Ashok Vihar	30A	09.08.19	DL-7SBJ-6757	98037	02978	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Ashok Vihar	45A	08.03.23	DL 8SAS-4005	16894	15887	Two Wheeler	Hero honda	Glamour drum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Ashok Vihar	34A	08.03.23	DL 9SAE-7167	64967	75727	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar 150 cc	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Ashok Vihar	04A	24.08.23	HR 26AS-9036	99168	78190	Two Wheeler	Tvs	Apache rtr	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Ashok Vihar	87A	23.06.21	DL 5SBU-3718	01410	01217	Two Wheeler	Hero honda	Splendor pro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Ashok Vihar	81A	09.06.23	DL 1SZ-1914	31551	30043	Two Wheeler	Hero	Splendor Pro Drum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Ashok Vihar	71	14.01.24	UP-14DK-5663	42376	10055	Two Wheeler	Hero	Passion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Keshav Puram	42B	14.10.17	DL 10 SC 3684	67589	49261	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Keshav Puram	29B	23.04.18	DL 8SBC 6595	039485	31659	Two Wheeler	Hero	Cd deluxe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Keshav Puram	63B	10.05.18	DL 3SBK-1308	22276	15665	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Keshav Puram	52B	25.08.18	DL 4SAL-8858	064113	07786	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Keshav Puram	45B	28.09.18	DL 8SS-8567	58217	54276	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Keshav Puram	2A	10.07.19	DL 1SQ-5836	01229	01354	Two Wheeler	Honda	Glember drem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Keshav Puram	30A	31.01.19	DL 7SBC-3505	28065	-	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Keshav Puram	40A	10.09.19	DL8SND-9460	17146	72219	Two Wheeler	Tvs	Xi super hd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Keshav Puram	9A	18.04.20	DL 7SAZ-3377	20939	-	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Keshav Puram	36A	29.05.20	DL 8SAN-1083	12672	13559	Two Wheeler	Hero honda	Super splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Keshav Puram	59A	18-Aug-20	DL 8SAD-0243	30389	28716	Two Wheeler	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Keshav Puram	67A	24.10.20	DL 8SAT-1126	31649	03636	Two Wheeler	Yamaha	Fz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Subhash Place	16B	14.07.13	DL8SZ6630	86066	83176	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Chetak	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Subhash Place	42B	06.05.18	DL8SAQ7642	67761	67791	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar 150	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Subhash Place	51B	12.05.18	DL8SBH5477	47310	37212	Two Wheeler	Suzuki	ACCESS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Subhash Place	51B	26.05.18	DL8SNA3415	01436	09436	Two Wheeler	Yamaha	Gladitir std	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Subhash Place	8B	26.06.18	DL8SAT1942	11765	11817	Two Wheeler	Yamaha	Yamaha fz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34.	Subhash Place	51B	03.07.18	DL8SAU3453	15931	15881	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
35.	Subhash Place	11A	03.10.18	DL8SBX6537	33586	03520	Two Wheeler	Hero	Hf delux	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
36.	Subhash Place	8A	05.10.18	DL8SBD3930	62202	61883	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Platina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
37.	Subhash Place	55A	20.04.19	DL8SBF9065	658888	15000	Two Wheeler	Active	Honda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
38.	Subhash Place	43A	26.08.19	DL8SBW5951	00173	98060	Two Wheeler	Yamaha	Fz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
39.	Subhash Place	65A	10.08.19	DL8SBD3085	32227	33239	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar 200	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
40.	Subhash Place	50A	27.09.19	DL8SBY8378	04614	05916	Two Wheeler	Hero	Splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
41.	Shalimar Bagh	57A	15.01.19	DL8SCB-5601	9634	9394	Two Wheeler	Aprilia sr 150	Aprilia sr 150	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
42.	Shalimar Bagh	09A	10.02.19	DL1ST-5713	13179	2503	Two Wheeler	Hero cd delux	Hero cd delux	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
43.	Shalimar Bagh	54B	04.03.19	DL4SNB-0365	53985	52087	Two Wheeler	Tvs cenera	Tvs cenera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
44.	Shalimar Bagh	14A	-	DL4SBH-9267	24883	25378	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	platina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
45.	Shalimar Bagh	17A	14.04.19	DL8SAY-4458	86304	25339	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
46.	Shalimar Bagh	05A	23.07.19	DL8SBS-5905	38713	36919	Two Wheeler	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
47.	Shalimar Bagh	15A	20.08.19	DL10SA-3009	21681	21652	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Bajaj	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
48.	Shalimar Bagh	34A	14.11.19	DL5SCD-5724	32258	17233	Two Wheeler	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
49.	Shalimar Bagh	19A	14.03.19	DL4SDC-5972	102165	26286	Two Wheeler	Activa	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
50.	Shalimar Bagh	103A	04.03.20	DL1SM-9231	19819	6790	Two Wheeler	Her honda	Her honda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
51.	Shalimar Bagh	42A	02.03.21	DL8SBV-6202	8736	23479	Two Wheeler	Tvs	phoenix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
52.	Shalimar Bagh	59A	02.03.21	DL8SAM-8132	17325	2128	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	auto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
53.	Shalimar Bagh	86A	03.03.21	DL8SBG-3160	16210	15525	Two Wheeler	Hero honda	splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
54.	Shalimar Bagh	99A	04.03.21	DL10 SR2033	43837	65975	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
55.	Shalimar Bagh	103A	05.03.21	DL8 SBW 5002	33059	32734	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	v 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
56.	Shalimar Bagh	67A	06.03.21	HR 51U 2153	41965	55875	Two Wheeler	Hero	passion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
57.	Shalimar Bagh	73A	07.03.21	DL 8SBB 6819	30222	30772	Two Wheeler	Honda	activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
58.	Shalimar Bagh	63A	09.03.21	DL 8SAF 4896	27462	26634	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	ct 100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
59.	Shalimar Bagh	84A	09.03.21	DL11SF-2292	11395	11463	Two Wheeler	Tvs	wego	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
60.	Shalimar Bagh	116A	09.03.21	DL1A2254	44430	64069	Four Wheeler	Ambulance	Ambulance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
61.	Shalimar Bagh	120A	09.03.21	DL8SBB-2314	37506	26828	Two Wheeler	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
62.	Shalimar Bagh	92A	10.03.21	DL8ST-6206	7988	8358	Two Wheeler	Hero	Splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
63.	Shalimar Bagh	119A	10.03.21	DL11SV-4829	21424	21388	Two Wheeler	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
64.	Shalimar Bagh	140A	10.03.21	DL6SAV-5118	466	434	Two Wheeler	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
65.	Shalimar Bagh	112A	21.03.21	DL-11SQ-2479	69380	69342	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
66.	Shalimar Bagh	63A	23.01.21	DL-6SAC-0880	97807	97903	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
67.	Shalimar Bagh	49A	04.02.23	DL-14SD-7421	-	22285	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Mestro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
68.	Shalimar Bagh	104A	19.02.23	DL 4SCL 2128	43192	65346	Two Wheeler	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
69.	Shalimar Bagh	116A	20.02.23	DL-1SAE-9827	-	-	Two Wheeler	Tvs	Race	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
70.	Shalimar Bagh	102A	27.02.23	DL-8SDA-7100	-	68100	Two Wheeler	Royal enfield	Bullet	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
71.	Shalimar Bagh	32A	08.03.23	DL-6SAF-1745	91520	32356	Two Wheeler	M.cy	M.cy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
72.	Shalimar Bagh	32A	08.03.23	DL-3SDA-6936	133	1818	Two Wheeler	M.cy	M.cy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
73.	Shalimar Bagh	40A	08.03.23	DL-5SCP-4778	97781	-	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
74.	Shalimar Bagh	54A	08.03.23	DL-11G-8278	24210	-	Two Wheeler	M.cy	M.cy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
75.	Shalimar Bagh	86A	11.03.23	RJ-31SN-8058	79272	679241	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
76.	Shalimar Bagh	57A	17.03.23	DL-8SCV-4389	-	81257	Two Wheeler	Hero	Passion pro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
77.	Shalimar Bagh	103A	17.03.21	DL-8SBK-3837	93764	93705	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
78.	Shalimar Bagh	04A 3	19.03.23	DL-8SCR-9144	-	18329	Two Wheeler	M.cy	M.cy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
79.	Shalimar Bagh	05A	19.03.23	DL-8SCT-8655	-	1589	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
80.	Shalimar Bagh	07A	19.03.23	MH-11CC-9335	-	43813	Two Wheeler	M.cy yamaha	M.cy yamaha	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
81.	Shalimar Bagh	108A	19.03.23	DL-8CF-0828	49022	45314	Two Wheeler	M.cy	M.cy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
82.	Shalimar Bagh	122A	21.03.23	DL-3SCC-8536	99560	-	Two Wheeler	Scooty	Scooty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
83.	Shalimar Bagh	83A	23.03.23	DL-8SBC-9771	39510	4442	Two Wheeler	Scooty jupiter	Scooty jupiter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
84.	Shalimar Bagh	106A	11.04.23	DL-1SAG-6298	23700	24461	Two Wheeler	Tvs	Tvs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
85.	Shalimar Bagh	129A	12.04.23	DL-8SBY-4128	97373	1665	Two Wheeler	M.cy	M.cy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
86.	Mukherjee Nagar	69A	14.07.2020	HR06T0780	14619	-	Two Wheeler	Yamaha	R-15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
87.	Mukherjee Nagar	07A	11.08.2020	DL8ST8118	12709	44741	Two Wheeler	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
88.	Mukherjee Nagar	75A	30.01.2021	DL2CAN2987	53638	-	Four Wheeler	Maruti Suzuki	SX4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
89.	Mukherjee Nagar	75A	30.01.2021	PB50330	-	-	Four Wheeler	Maruti	Zen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
90.	Mukherjee Nagar	107A	04.03.2021	DL7SAM0424	-	20321	Two Wheeler	Hero Honda	Passion Pro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
91.	Mukherjee Nagar	50B													

**NIA MAKES FIFTH ARREST IN B'LRUR CAFE BLAST CASE**

**Neeraj Chauhan**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday arrested a fifth accused in the March 1 Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, the agency said in a statement, adding that he was identified as Shoaib Ahmed Mirza, alias Chhotu, 35, a resident of Hubballi in Karnataka.

NIA said that Mirza was earlier convicted in a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror conspiracy case in 2012 and was taken into custody under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for assisting the mastermind of Rameshwaram Cafe blast.

He is the fifth accused to be arrested after Abdul Matheen Taha (the main accused), Musavir Hussain Shazib (the bomber), Muzammil Shareef (who provided logistics like SIMs and phones), and Maaz Muneer Ahmed, Taha, Shazib, Shareef and Ahmed are associated with ISIS "Thirahalli module", named after the town in Shivamogga from where they operated. Mirza and others were questioned over the three days.

"Three days after a massive crackdown across four states in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, the NIA on Friday arrested one more accused, identified as an ex-convict in a LeT terror conspiracy case... In 2018, he introduced... Taha to an online handler... provided an e-mail ID for encrypted communication..." an NIA spokesperson said in the statement.

**PUNE ACCIDENT**

said, and added that charges for destruction of evidence under Section 201 of the IPC will be added against those found involved in attempting to tamper evidence.

HT reported on Friday that the driver employed by the family told the 17-year-old he was too drunk to get behind the wheel and called the boy's father, who asked the chauffeur to "let him drive".

Kumar did not respond to requests on whether such a claim was made during the testimony.

At the time of the accident, four people, including Pujari were in the car, a Porsche Taycan. Police have collected the CCTV footage and seized all documentary evidence from the house of the accused till the accident spot, which showed the minor was at the wheel. "This is not a case of negligent driving but a case of 'drink and drive'. The accused was fully aware of the consequences of driving under the influence of liquor. Even then he drove at full speed through the narrow lane (in Kalyaninagar) and claimed two lives," Kumar said.

The officer added that investigators are relying on several evidences to establish that the minor was drunk, despite two blood tests showing normal blood alcohol levels.

Asked about blood samples that came up negative for alcohol, Kumar said the juvenile was sent to Sassoon Hospital around 9am on Sunday after an offence was registered.

**{ FROM PAGE 1 }**

"There was a delay in taking blood samples as they were collected at 11pm but the blood report is not the pillar of our case," he said.

"We have the CCTV footage of him (juvenile) drinking liquor in the pub," Kumar said. "He was fully in his senses. He had full knowledge that due to his conduct, such an accident, where section 304 is applicable, can happen."

Sunday night's incident triggered outrage especially since conditions said the minor was required to work with Yerwada traffic police for 15 days and write an essay on the accident.

However, once spotlight grew on the case, the law enforcement agency decided to approach the juvenile justice board (JJB) to allow the suspect to be treated as an adult.

Kumar appeared to put much of the blame on the initial police response on the Yerwada station. "Our initial investigation revealed lapses at the police station level. We have appointed an ACP-level officer to investigate it in detail, following which appropriate action will be taken on the officers." The CP added, "The officers had neither informed seniors nor the control room."

The teenager's father and five others, including the owner and employees of two liquor-serving establishments where the teenager allegedly consumed alcohol, were remanded to judicial custody until June 7.

With the magisterial custody being granted, the

accused have become eligible to obtain bail and will be lodged in Yerwada central jail instead of the police station lock up.

The police also invoked IPC Section 420 for cheating and forgery, since the father moved the registration application of the Porsche car before the RTO authorities on the day of the accident but the procedure could not be completed.

Earlier on Friday, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, who has been missing from public life since the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections, said: "The guilty should be punished as the law is equal for all regardless of social status."

Also censuring Pune police soon after the incident, Congress MLA from Kasbapeth, Ravindra Dhangekar, pointed out how the department initially invoked only Section 304 (A), which allowed the minor to get bail easily, but later invoked the more stringent Section 304, under public pressure. "This clearly shows how police are trying to save the builder's son," said Dhangekar.

**Correction**

In the story titled 'Sonia implores Delhi to vote for INDIA bloc to save democracy' published in Friday's edition, AAP's Delhi candidates for LS polls were incorrectly identified as BJP's and the BJP's candidates as AAP's. The error is regretted.

**Annexure-1**  
**NO. NFSC/ACAD-BE/111(B-1)-2024**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**  
**NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE, NAGPUR**  
**ADVERTISEMENT NO.1/TRAINING-2024**  
**B. TECH (FIRE ENGINEERING) - 10TH BATCH- 2024-25**

Application are invited for admission into B.Tech (Fire Engineering) 10th Batch, 1st Year for the Academic Year 2024-25 in the prescribed proforma uploaded in the website of [www.nfscnagpur.nic.in](http://www.nfscnagpur.nic.in)

The Admission will be purely on basis of JEE CRL Ranking for further information, details are given in the website of [www.nfscnagpur.nic.in](http://www.nfscnagpur.nic.in)

CBC 19135/11/0001/2425 **DIRECTOR**

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 06/2024** Date : 22.05.2024  
**E-Tender Notice**

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work:

Sr. No.	E-TENDER NO.	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work
1	AGRA-ST-2024-50	Sectional Telecommunication Maintenance Contract (STMC) in the section of SSE/Tele/MTJ Depot. (Period for 12 Months).	Rs. 49,81,675.10
2	AGRA-ST-2024-51	Sectional Signalling Maintenance Contract (SSMC) in the section of SSE/Sig/MTJ Depot for period of 12 Months.	Rs. 45,40,432.80
3	AGRA-ST-2024-52	Sectional Signalling Maintenance Contract (SSMC) in the section of SSE/Sig/ IDH Depot for Period of 12 Months.	Rs. 25,14,058.86
4	AGRA-ST-2024-53	Sectional Signalling Maintenance Contract (SSMC) in the section of SSE/Sig/ DHO Depot for Period of 12 Months	Rs. 35,65,271.68
5	AGRA-ST-2024-54	Provision of various number plates, warning boards, calling boards, stop boards, etc. in different sections of as per new SEM in Agra Division	Rs. 32,50,005.48
6	AGRA-ST-2024-55	Provision of CCTV at remaining LG gates and other vulnerable locations of Agra Division	Rs. 38,01,380.60
7	AGRA-ST-2024-56	Replacement of Overaged VDU with Embedded System over Agra Division.	Rs. 20,10,206.34

**Tender closing date :** for all Sr. No. (1 to 7) : 21.06.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web Portal [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) up to 15.00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

906/24 (D)

**Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited**  
A Govt. of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise  
No.HQ-HR00POU(MISC)/2/2023/25922  
**ADVT. No. 01/2024/IA**

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways invites applications from the eligible candidates for appointment on **Immediate Absorption basis** for the following posts in DFCCIL as per details given below.

S. No.	Post	Number of vacancies	Pay Scale
1	Dy General Manager (S&T)	04	E5 (Rs.80,000 - 2,20,000)

For detailed advertisement including Selection Process, eligibility criteria, etc. please see the Careers Section/Immediate Absorption tab of the official website- [www.dfccil.com](http://www.dfccil.com)

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**No.: 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/EIG/2024** Dated: 22.05.2024  
**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**  
**INDIAN RAILWAY**

**"Introduction of AC 132 KV Transmission line"**  
**"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"**

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 132 KV AC Double circuit transmission line over the section "132 KV Transmission line between tower no. 421 to 426 passing through Raja Jalapur village of Tundla-Ghaziabad section of Prayagraj division over 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 enegisation on or after 10.06.2024

**Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer [TR-D],**  
**North Central Railway, Prayagraj**

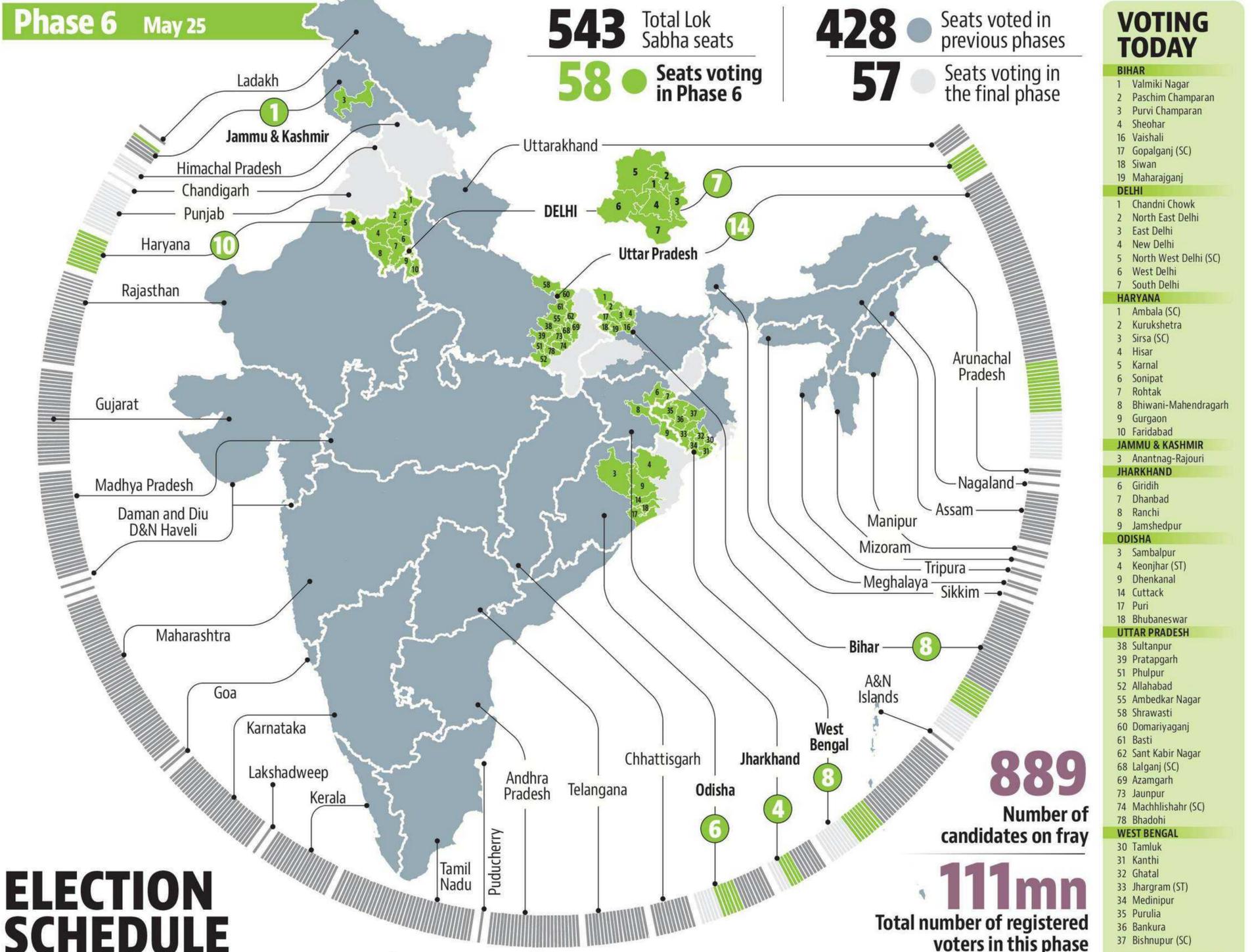
911/24(A)

S. No.	Police station	DD No.	Date	Reg. No.	Engine No.	Chassis No.	Type of Vehicle	Make	Model	Whether checked through ZIPNET	Whether verified PCR.Auto match	Verification from CRO & SCRIB NCRB	Whether information sent to Insurance Co.	Whether information sent to S.T.A.	Notice issued to the registered owner
141.	Maurya Enclave	3A	29.4.23	HR32K3892	45102	45047	SCOOTY	Honda	Activa	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
142.	Maurya Enclave	56A	14.6.23	HR05W0104	06584	06707	M/CY	Honda	Hunk	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
143.	Maurya Enclave	75A	22.6.23	UP16AL8370	03105	03253	M/CY	Hero	Splendor	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
144.	Mahendra Park	57B	26.09.17	DL 4 SBM 7521	1036	877	M/CY	Honda	Cbz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
145.	Mahendra Park	53B	14.11.17	WITHOUT NO.	NA	95870	SCOOTY	Tvs	Jupiter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
146.	Mahendra Park	92B	17.04.18	DL 4 SBG 1648	02193	2193	M/CY	Honda	Cbz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
147.	Mahendra Park	48B	12.08.18	DL 10 SA 468	2745	93034	M/CY	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
148.	Mahendra Park	61A	20.04.19	Without No. (BURINT Condition) (DL 11 SH 6910)	54262	83860	SCOOTY	Honda	Aviator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
149.	Jahangir Puri	44A	06/10/19	DL10SE 3885	85245	98037	M/CY	Bajaj	Pulsar	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
150.	Jahangir Puri	03A	14/01/20	DL9SAM5119	-	-	SCOOTY	Honda	Activa	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
151.	Jahangir Puri	54A	04/06/21	DL1SAD2320	56333	48497	M/CY	Hero	Spelender	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
152.	Jahangir Puri	88A	10/07/21	UP14DA2869	-	7289	M/CY	Tvs	XI 100	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
153.	Jahangir Puri	19A	14/07/21	DL8SAL0591	80020	-	M/CY	Tvs	Apache	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
154.	Jahangir Puri	34A	22/08/21	DL8SAP5835	86552	57149	M/CY	Tvs	Star City	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
155.	Jahangir Puri	66A	30/08/21	DL4SD8450	245189	246272	M/CY	Bajaj	Pulsar	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
156.	Jahangir Puri	14A	16/07/22	DL8SBY7602	02469	01774	SCOOTY	Hero	Maestro	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
157.	Jahangir Puri	151A	12/09/22	UP14BX9413	23886	07721	SCOOTY	Hero	Active	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
158.	Jahangir Puri	122A	29/10/22	DL6SAD8702	67705	12132	M/CY	-	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
159.	Jahangir Puri	94A	21/11/22	DL3SEP0878	-	55746	M/CY	Bajaj	Platina	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
160.	Jahangir Puri	131A	26/11/22	DL5SCM0148	33045	21354	M/CY	Hero	Splendor	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
161.	Adarsh Nagar	16A	15/05/20	DL4SCC-5021	2557156	55715223	SCOOTY	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
162.	Adarsh Nagar	93A,	11/7/20	DL8SAM-1332	26439	65946	M/CY	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
163.	Adarsh Nagar	88A	14/7/20	DL6SAQ-3566	3977	5546	M/CY	Hero	Passion Pro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
164.	Adarsh Nagar	75A	22/7/20	DL9SAM-8154	42566	41442	SCOOTY	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
165.	Adarsh Nagar	43A	26/9/20	DL4SND-7651	12607	63298	M/CY	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
166.	Adarsh Nagar	58A	22/1/21	DL1SZ-0971	1636	3879	SCOOTY	Hero	Mastero	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
167.	Adarsh Nagar	71A	3/3/21	DL11SH-9591	338929	52587	M/CY	Honda	Dream	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
168.	Adarsh Nagar	78A	18/3/21	DL8SAE-3202	42958	42976	SCOOTY	Bajaj	Eterno	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
169.	Adarsh Nagar	150A	25/3/21	DL1SS-7243	7243	95627	SCOOTY	Tvs	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
170.	Adarsh Nagar	82A	12/6/21	DL8SAP-6148	74550	71107	M/CY	Tvs	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
171.	Adarsh Nagar	78A	26/10/21	HR10AD-4635	51896	48277	M/CY	Bajaj	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
172.	Adarsh Nagar	78 DO	26/10/21	DL8SAL-3304	17097	16227	M/CY	Yamaha	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
173.	Adarsh Nagar	43A	10/11/21	DL8SBU-9303	8889	-	SCOOTY	Honda	Navi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
174.	Adarsh Nagar	123A	7/12/21	DL7SBU-8688	-	3361900	SCOOTY	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
175.	Adarsh Nagar	77A	24/12/21	DL5SAR-1702	2020	15052	SCOOTY	Hero	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
176.	Adarsh Nagar	01A	29/12/21	DL5SBA-0161	64056	64079	SCOOTY	N/A	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
177.	Adarsh Nagar	80A	18/3/22	DL2SM-8709	599327	599327	M/CY	N/A	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
178.	Adarsh Nagar	31A	30/4/22	DL6SAS-4999	4625	2004957	SCOOTY	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
179.	Adarsh Nagar	56A	24/7/22	DL8SPA-8549	27408	43207	M/CY	Hero	Splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
180.	Adarsh Nagar	58A	27/2/22	DL12SB-4902	15358	36012	M/CY	Hero	Passion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
181.	Adarsh Nagar	15A	26/7/22	CYCLE RICKSHAW	-	-	RICKSHAW	-	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
182.	Model Town	09A	20/9/20	DL4SCA0226	50045	50651	Two wheelar	Bajaj	Discover	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
183.	Model Town	56A	24/1/21	DL6SAW6479	07391	08262	Two wheelar	Activa	Mestro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
184.	Model Town	25A	18/03/22	DL12SB8457	95659	87302	Two wheelar	Tvs	Jupiter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
185.	Model Town	32A	23/04/22	DL13SH0251	67035	28499	Two wheelar	Solo	Rodio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
186.	Model Town	74A	22/11/22	DL5SCN9358	9548	15362	Two wheelar	Hero	Splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
187.	Model Town	26A	18/8/23	DL8SBM7746	Damage	52669	Two wheelar	Hero	Splendor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
188.	Model Town	73A	17/02/24	DL14SE3800	822711	29287	Two wheelar	Honda	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
189.	Model Town	30A	30/06/23	KL9AF7744	854466	37848	Four wheelar	Maruti	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
190.	Model Town	73A	11/07/20	DL6SAM9125	53087	53978	Two wheelar	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
191.	Model Town	62A	28/8/20	DL8SAL4152	16538	16682	Two wheelar	Yamaha	Alwa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
192.	Model Town	60A	31/10/20	DL8SBX5822	08221	10570	Two wheelar	Fity	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
193.	Model Town	88A	18/02/21	DL7SBZ1916	79259	91884	Two wheelar	Bajaj	Pulsar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
194.	Model Town	65A	31/08/21	DL3SBJ8279	07863	00341	Two wheelar	Hero	Pession plus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
195.	Model Town	23A	21/09/21	DL8SNB6288	11243	10041	Two wheelar	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
196.	Model Town	53A	13/04/22	DL1SAX2535	52456	16198	Two wheelar	Bajaj	Pession pro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
197.	Model Town	81A	13/05/22	DL8SBV2546	29574	25101	Two wheelar	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
198.	Model Town	74A	25/5/22	DL5SY3961	03104	05595	Two wheelar	Hero	YES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
199.	Model Town	05A	26/5/22	DL8SCM2734	81137	81047	Two wheelar	Honda	Activa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
200.	Mukherjee Nagar	55B	17.04.2010	DL7SBC 3824	25572	25248	Two wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar 150cc	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
201.	Mukherjee Nagar	10B	22.05.2013	DL 7SAX 1494	0438	04036	Two wheeler	Hero	Achiver	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
202.	Mukherjee Nagar	07B	14.10.2014	DL 4SAN 6398	17159	05325	Two wheeler	Bajaj	Ct 100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
203.	Mukherjee Nagar	34B	22.12.2015	DL 4SBK 6534	11557	11495	Two wheeler	Bajaj	Pulsar 150 cc	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
204.	Mukherjee Nagar	73B													

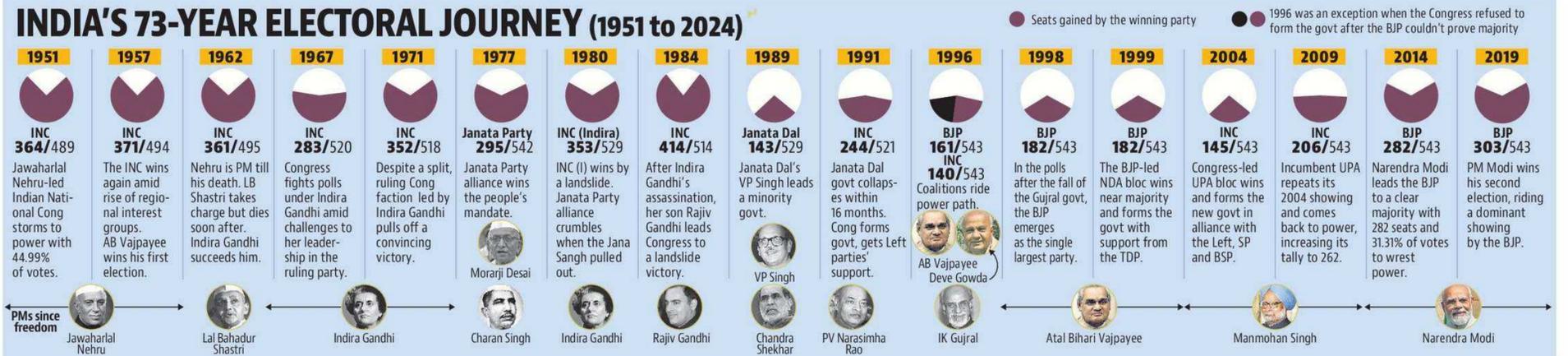
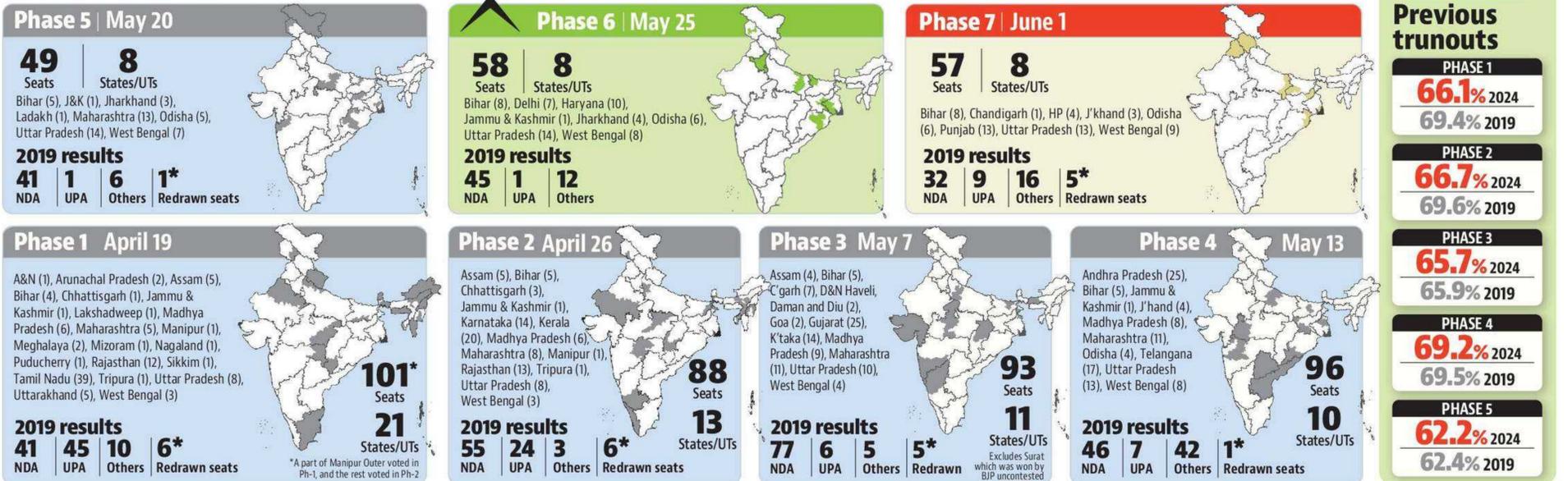
SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

# PENULTIMATE LEG KICKS OFF

A snapshot of the second last phase of the Lok Sabha elections that concludes the voting in 28 states and UTs across India



## ELECTION SCHEDULE



SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

# 58 seats up for grabs today as voters to have their say in Ph-6

**HT Correspondents**  
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**NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH:** From the agrarian swathes of Haryana where the political landscape witnessed major upheaval in the past month, to the high-octane contest in the national Capital, and from the delayed vote in the final seat in Jammu & Kashmir, to the continuation of the contest in key states such as Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, more than 110 million voters in 58 constituencies across seven states and one Union territory will exercise their franchise in the penultimate phase of the Lok Sabha elections on Saturday.

At stake are the prospects of 889 candidates, which includes PDP president and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, three family members of former deputy prime minister Devi Lal in Hisar and former Calcutta high court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay in Bengal. Voting on Saturday will also be held in 42 assembly seats in Odisha, where the state polls are being held simultaneously with the general elections.

With the conclusion of the sixth phase, 486 of India's 543 parliamentary constituencies will have voted. This means that the political fate of 90% of the nation's Lok Sabha seats will be sealed after Saturday. The final phase of the elections is slated for June 1, while votes will be counted for both the Lok Sabha and the assembly elections on June 4.

All seven seats in Delhi, all 10 seats in Haryana, 14 in Uttar Pradesh, eight in Bihar, four in Jharkhand, six in Odisha and eight in Bengal will go to polls. The voter

## All set for high-stakes battle

Voting for 58 seats across seven states and one UT will take place today in the sixth phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections

110.1mn voters  
889 candidates  
11.4mn polling stations

42 assembly constituencies in Odisha will also go to the polls simultaneously

### IN THE FRAY TODAY

 <b>DHARMENDRA PRADHAN</b> (Sambalpur, Odisha)	 <b>MANEKA GANDHI</b> (Sultanpur, UP)
 <b>MEHBOOBA MUFTI</b> (Anantnag-Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir)	 <b>DEEPENDER HOODA</b> (Rohtak, Haryana)
 <b>ML KHATTAR</b> (Karnal, Haryana)	 <b>ABHIJIT GANGOPADHYAY</b> (Tamluk, West Bengal)
 <b>DHARMENDRA YADAV</b> (Azamgarh, UP)	



The prominent Congress leaders in the fray are Kumari Selja (Sirs), Deepender Singh Hooda (Rohtak) and Raj Babbar (Gurugram).

For the BJP, which has targeted 30 of Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha segments, the seventh phase is being seen as the most crucial one in the south Bengal region. In 2019, when the BJP set a record by winning 18 seats in the eastern state, its best performance was in the south Bengal districts that go polls on Saturday. BJP won five – Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, Bishnupur and Midnapore. TMC MP Sisir Adhikari and his son Dibyendu, who retained their Tamluk and Contai seats, respectively, in East Midnapore district, have switched over to the BJP since 2019.

In Bihar, the BJP-led NDA will try to retain all eight Lok Sabha seats – Valmiki Nagar, Pashim Champaran, Purvi Champaran, Sheohar, Vaisali, Gopalganj (SC), Siwan and Maharajganj – it won in 2019. Of these, BJP won four, JD(U) three and Janshakti Party (LJP), which split into two factions in 2021, one. Of the INDIA bloc parties, Congress is contesting two, Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) and Rashtriya Janata Dal three each.

In Odisha, contest for six parliamentary constituencies – Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Puri and Sambalpur – and 42 assembly seats will take place.

In Jammu & Kashmir, voting will take place in the Anantnag-Rajouri PC. This PC was originally slated to vote in the third phase on May 7, but the contest was postponed due to "adverse weather" at the time.

## AMID ONGOING LS POLLS

# No SC directive to ECI on voter turnout data

**Utkarsh Anand**  
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**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday declined to issue any directives to the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding a plea demanding the immediate disclosure of authenticated voter turnout records, emphasising the necessity of a "hands-off approach" given that the Lok Sabha elections are currently underway.

A vacation bench of justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma highlighted the potential implications of judicial interference in the electoral process during an active election period, stressing that such actions could disrupt the ongoing procedures.

"We can't interrupt something that's already underway... In between elections, hands-off approach has to be taken. Let the application be heard along with the main writ petition. We cannot interrupt the process. Let us have some trust in the authority," the bench remarked while deferring the plea by non-profit Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) for immediate publication of booth-wise absolute number of voter turnout on the ECI website. A similar petition by former Trinamool Congress parliamentarian Mahua Moitra, who is a candidate from Krishnanagar seat in West Bengal, was also listed along with ADR's plea.

The bench, taking note of submissions by senior counsel Mandeep Singh, who appeared for ECI, said the plea was moved after the election process had already begun, and therefore, it would not be prudent, especially in the light of settled judicial precedents, to address such concerns during the election process.

"It's an election spread over seven phases. Tomorrow is the sixth phase. This particular compliance that you are asking for will require manpower and regulatory compliance," the bench told senior counsel Dushyant Dave, appearing for ADR, and senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represented Moitra.

In its order, the Supreme Court noted that the 2019 petition by ADR asked for a final relief that was akin to the interim application currently under consideration. "How can you ask for an interim relief which is prayed by you as a final relief in the petition? You filed this petition in 2019.



Polling staff check the EVMs in Prayagraj on Friday.

What steps did you take to get it listed earlier? Why did you file it in April only after the process began," the bench asked Dave.

The senior advocate responded that ADR approached the court in public interest and that delay by ECI in publishing authenticated data on the voter turnout has created anxiety among the citizens.

But the bench said that it must be circumspect about the nature of public interest litigations (PIL) and the procedure being followed. "How many PILs we see public interest, publicity interest or raise interest litigations... It is for us to keep a check. We are not saying you don't have a case on merits, what we are telling you is, you may not have approached at the appropriate stage with a proper prayer," it observed.

It also commented that ECI seemed to have invited trouble for itself by putting out provisional information through the Voter Turnout App.

"We recall that when we were hearing another petition by the same party (ADR) last month, we specifically asked Mr Singh if there is a statutory requirement to share data on the Voter Turnout App. He said 'No, we are doing it only for merit and transparency.' We will have to say that it's like 'aa baal mujhe maar' for them. They are doing something to further transparency and being questioned because of that," quipped the bench.

With the writing on the wall, Dave and Singhvi agreed to have the hearing adjourned to a date after the completion of the ongoing polls.

The bench then proceeded to record in its order: "The arguments on the interim application were heard. Prima facie we are not inclined to grant any relief on the interim application at this stage in view of similarities of the prayer (a) of the interim application with prayer (b) of the writ petition out of which the interim application arises. The grant of

relief in the interim application would amount to the grant of final relief. Re-list the application together with the writ petitions before the appropriate bench after vacations. We have not expressed any opinion on merits except the prima facie view indicated above."

During the hearing, Singh raised preliminary objections to ADR's plea, demanding its dismissal straightaway. He contended that false allegations and unfounded suspicions were the foundation for the ADR's application, adding that the May 9 application suppressed the top court's April 26 ruling in the EVM-VVPAT issue, which not only covered the issue regarding Form 17C but also condemned the NGO for attempts to create doubts over the electoral process.

ADR's plea asked ECI to upload scanned copies of voters' entries for all polling stations after each phase of polling and to provide detailed constituency and polling station-wise turnout data in both absolute numbers and percentage form. ADR also sought the disclosure of candidate-wise results contained in a separate form, prescribed by ECI after the compilation of results.

Opposition parties have also raised alarms over the alleged delay in the release of final voter turnout data, demanding the immediate publication of authenticated data by ECI.

To be sure, voting percentages typically increase in the days following the release of the provisional turnout since it takes time for the poll workers to return from remote polling places located in difficult-to-reach geographic areas, depending on a variety of factors, including the weather. Re-polling in any constituency may also be the cause of the data update delay. The third phase of the ongoing polls addressed the longer lag experienced this time around.

In its affidavit filed in response to the ADR's plea, ECI on Wednesday submitted that such a request is not maintainable at this stage of the election process and would potentially disrupt the orderly conduct of the elections. The polling body cited a series of Supreme Court rulings stating that any petition that may have the impact of either creating a suspicion or impeding the conduct of the process and conclusion of elections would deserve to be rejected at the threshold itself.

# After Partition, Modi attacks Cong over '84 anti-Sikh riots

**Surjit Singh and Navrajdeep Singh**  
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**GURDASPUR/JALANDHAR:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attacked the Congress for "allowing the massacre of Sikhs" and "protecting the rioters" in 1984, and asserted that it was him who ensured punishment for the accused.

He also hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, saying the "darbaris" of Delhi are governing the state, and alleged that chief minister Bhagwant Mann had to go to Tihar jail – when AAP convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was behind bars in an excise policy case – to take orders as he "cannot take any decision on his own".

He was addressing a series of election rallies in Gurdaspur and Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituencies in the northern state when he made the remarks.

Targeting the Congress and the INDIA bloc, of which the party is a member, Modi said nobody knows the real face of this opposition grouping better than Punjab. It was the same alliance that inflicted "maximum wounds" on the state, he said in Gurdaspur. After India's freedom, he added, the alliance first inflicted the wound of Partition and then the wound of instability for self-interest and a long period of unrest.

"They fuelled separatism in Punjab. Then they got the massacre of Sikhs done in Delhi. Till the time the Congress remained in power at the Centre, it used to protect the rioters. It was Modi who got files of the anti-Sikh riots opened. It was Modi who ensured punishment to the guilty," he told



Narendra Modi

the gathering. The Congress and the "jhadoo-wali party" – referring to AAP – have a problem with this, he said. "Therefore, they abuse Modi day and night," he added.

The riots in 1984 had broken out after the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31 that year. More than 2,700 Sikhs were killed in the national capital alone during the violence. On Thursday, Modi had blamed the Congress for the country's Partition, as he raked up the emotive issue of the gurdwara in Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan, a place sacred to Sikhs as Guru Nanak spent the last years of his life there. The Partition left Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan's Punjab, just a few kilometres away from the border with India.

In Jalandhar on Friday, Modi took a dig at Mann, saying: "Delhi ke darbari are running Punjab. The Punjab chief minister cannot take any decision on his own. His maalik went to jail and the Punjab government started shutting down."

He added: "To take new orders and run the government, the chief minister (Mann) had to go to the Tihar jail and had to present his report card to him (Kejriwal)". He said that after June 1 (when the Lok Sabha elections will con-

clude), "kattar bhrashtachari (the corrupt Kejriwal)" will again go to jail. "Will the Punjab government again be run from jail? Do you want such a government?" he asked.

Kejriwal is out on an interim bail granted by the Supreme Court earlier this month for political campaigning and has to surrender on June 2.

Modi also alleged that when former Congress leader Amarinder Singh headed the government in Punjab, the party wanted to run the administration through "remote control".

"But Captain Amarinder Singh refused to obey the orders from Delhi ke shehzada (Congress leader Rahul Gandhi)," he said. Singh was a patriot and gave priority to national security because Punjab is a border state, and refused to take "anti-national orders", he added.

"What was the result? Congress ke shahi parivar (the first family of the party) and the shehzade removed him (Singh) from the post of Punjab chief minister," he said.

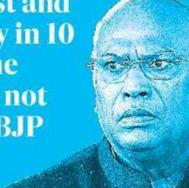
There was no immediate reaction from the Congress or the AAP on Modi's remarks.

At a separate rally in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi seat earlier in the day, Modi alleged the Congress wants to put "reverse gear" on the development of the country. "The Congress likes an India where there is poverty, crisis, and citizens surrounded by problems," he said.

Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal hit back, saying: "The Prime Minister gave step-motherly treatment to Himachal during the disaster, and now, he is coming to Himachal to ask for votes."

**{ MALLIKARJUN KHARGE } CONG CHIEF**

Like the British, the Modi govt looted water, forest and land of the country in 10 years... We faced the British and we are not afraid of the BJP



# Decoding the diverging INDIA, NDA alliance equations in latest phase

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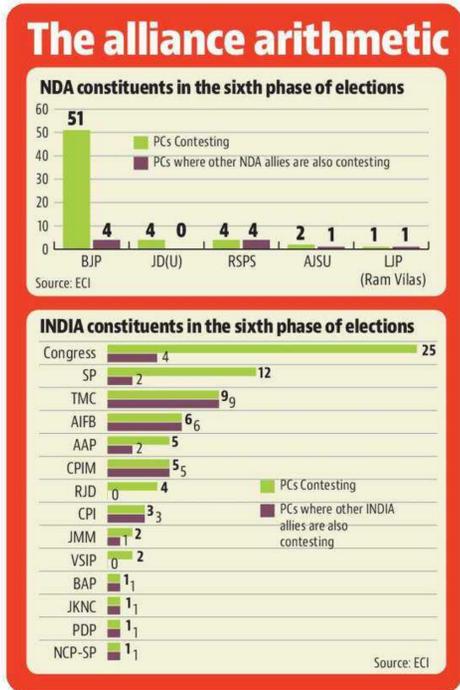
**NEW DELHI:** A total of 58 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) are going to the polls on Saturday in the penultimate phase of the seven-phase Lok Sabha election. As has been the case in the five preceding phases, the Congress-led Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is again set to witness more intra-alliance conflicts than the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The single biggest source of intra-alliance conflicts for the INDIA bloc is the lack of a formal seat-sharing arrangement between the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the local alliance of the Communist parties and the Congress. Here is how the NDA and INDIA alliances look like in this phase.

## Who are the constituents of NDA in this phase?

Five NDA parties are contesting the sixth phase of elections: the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Janata Dal (United) or JD(U), the All Jharkhand Student Union (AJSU), the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) or LJP-Ram Vilas, and the Rashtriya Samaj Paksha (RSPS). These parties have fielded 51, four, two, one, and four candidates, respectively.

## Who is contributing to the intra-alliance conflicts in the NDA?

With 62 candidates fielded in 57 PCs – no NDA party has fielded a candidate in the Anantnag-Rajouri PC in Jammu & Kashmir – there are intra-alliance conflicts in five PCs. This is because the AJSU and the RSPS have fielded their candidates in addition to the formal NDA candidate in one and four PCs, respectively. The AJSU has fielded a candidate in Keonjhar PC in Odisha, which the BJP is also contesting. The RSPS has fielded one candidate in Bihar (where the formal NDA candidate



(CPI(M) and Communist Party of India are contesting six, five, and three PCs. The remaining parties are contesting on less than three PCs each.

## Who is contributing to the intra-alliance conflicts in INDIA bloc?

INDIA members failed to reach a seat-sharing agreement in West Bengal. The TMC and the CPI(M)-Congress alliance have, therefore, fielded candidates against each other in each phase so far. This is also the single biggest source of intra-alliance conflict in the sixth phase. West Bengal is contributing eight of 17 PCs where there are intra-alliance conflicts in the INDIA bloc. Of the remaining nine such PCs, three are in Uttar Pradesh, two in Delhi, and one each in Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Apart from the conflict between the TMC and the CPI(M)-Congress alliance, the biggest contributor to intra-alliance conflict is the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB). The AIFB has fielded six candidates in the sixth phase, all in PCs where the performance of other INDIA members has been better historically. It has fielded two candidates in Delhi PCs that the AAP is also contesting; two in Uttar Pradesh that the SP is also contesting; and one each in West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir, where there are already multiple INDIA members contesting. To be sure, other parties have also contributed to intra-alliance conflicts, but in only one PC each.

While most of these intra-alliance conflicts are notional even in the INDIA bloc, such conflicts may be of more importance in the INDIA bloc than in the NDA. The 2019 results can be compared for 16 of 17 the PCs (all except Jammu & Kashmir) where there are such conflicts. The BJP won 12 of the 16 PCs in 2019, while the TMC and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) won three and one, respectively.

is from the LJP-Ram Vilas), one in Uttar Pradesh (where the formal NDA candidate is from the BJP), and two in Delhi (where the formal NDA candidate is from the BJP).

To be sure, these intra-alliance conflicts may not make the NDA vulnerable unless the contest with INDIA parties becomes closer in 2024 than in 2019. This is because the NDA won three of these five PCs in 2019 with a comfortable margin of more than 20% and another one with a four percent margin. It had only lost the Keonjhar PC in Odisha to the BJD.

## Who are the constituents

of INDIA? Fourteen INDIA parties are contesting this phase of elections. The Congress is contesting the most number of PCs (25 PCs) in this group, but this is half the proportion the BJP is contesting in the NDA. The other big INDIA contestants in this phase are the Samajwadi Party (SP), which is contesting 12 PCs; and the TMC, which is contesting nine PCs.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) are contesting five and four PCs, respectively.

Among the left parties, the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB), the Communist Party of India Marxist

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**NEW DELHI:** Volunteers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological front of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have intensified outreach efforts to blunt sentiments of anti-incumbency and voter fatigue that have emerged as concerns for the ruling party in states such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, people aware of the matter said.

While Haryana goes to polls in the sixth phase, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will vote in the sixth and seventh phases on May 25 and June 1.

The RSS, which helps the BJP bolster its campaign on the ground, has been organising meetings to motivate voters, particularly in urban areas, to cast their franchise. An RSS functionary, requesting anonymity, said volunteers have undertaken a series of meetings in areas where voter apathy, anger against the incumbent and resentment over issues such as price rise and lack of jobs emerged as top concerns.

"At most of these meetings we hear the concerns of the people and convey it to the political party while also putting forth the issues that should be at the front and centre," the functionary said. "Most of the time, their anger dissipates before they go out and vote..."

The outreach by Sangh volunteers comes amid Opposition's claims that RSS-BJP relation has soured.

To a question on how the RSS and its volunteers navigate questions about polarising speeches by senior BJP leaders, the functionary said, "By and large the narrative is about development and that is what the voters also want to hear. But sometimes, other parties say or do things which are not constructive and then in response, certain words are used."

## BJP moves SC against Cal HC order on ads against Trinamool

**NEW DELHI:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday approached the Supreme Court against an order of the Calcutta high court, restraining it from publishing any kind of derogatory advertisements against the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which violated the Model Code of Conduct during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a vacation bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mishra in the top court. "We will see," the bench told the party.

## Jakhar urges Election Commission to deploy central forces in Punjab

**AMRITSAR:** Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Friday wrote to Punjab chief electoral officer, seeking the deployment of the central forces in the rural and sensitive areas of the state on June 1 for the Lok Sabha election to ensure no disruption is caused on the day of the polling and no voter is stopped from exercising his right. Jakhar, in his letter, asked the poll official to deploy central forces in the rural and sensitive areas of Punjab and ensure complete videography of the entire polling process.

## Sat phones, special runners in place to oversee polls in J&K

**ANANTNAG/RAJOURI:** With the threat of cross-border shelling in some border areas and satellite phones and special runners in place to deal with contingencies, all is in readiness for polls in Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, in Jammu & Kashmir, from where PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti is contesting. Officials said, multi-layer security arrangements have been put in place in the constituency and 2,338 polling stations have been set up. In all, more than 9,000 polling staffers are being deployed, they said.

SPOTLIGHT ELECTIONS 2024

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

# Employment dreams take centre stage in poll season

Sunil Rahar and Dipankar Ghose  
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**ROHTAK:** She doesn't want to be named – the costs are too high. The costs of everything are too high. For most of the last 45 years, her husband worked as a mason, earning around ₹15,000 a month. In a narrow, open-drained bylane of Dohb village on the outskirts of Rohtak, parts of her home have no ceiling, the rusting asbestos roof struggling to keep out the searing sun. She has three children – a son in his mid-twenties who leaves home early every day to do odd jobs, and two teenage daughters, who like their mother, struggle with the heat inside the one-room house. There is no money for even a second-hand refrigerator – the costs are too high.

So in December 2023, when news swept through Dohb of job openings in another country with salaries upwards of a lakh a month, her husband applied enthusiastically. "Israel kehete hai na (It's called Israel, isn't it?)" she said haltingly, adjusting her sweat stained pallu across her forehead.

At first, she was excited. "He told me lots of people in Haryana were applying. How did it matter if he goes to another state or a country?" the 40-year-old said.

But then she heard why the other country wanted Indian workers. There was war and Israel was losing its menial workforce. Instantly, she was afraid. The thought of losing him was too much to bear. "But he told me taking care of our daughters, getting them educated and married is too expensive. No matter the risk, we need the money. He warned me

not to talk about Israel because nothing should go wrong," she said. "He had to get on that plane. The costs are too high."

They aren't the only ones. In December 2023, two months after fighting broke out in west Asia, the National Skill Development Corporation advertised close to 10,000 jobs to make up for a labour shortage in Israel. The demand was for plastering workers, ceramic tile workers, iron bending, and frame workers, to be filled by men who have passed Class 10.

By January 2024, the green lawns of Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak were teeming with people in a six-day recruitment drive. District officials said 8,199 people applied, and 530 were selected in the first tranche.

In many ways, those six days in Rohtak told a story of aspiration; of people risking the unpredictability of war to better the lives of their families. But under that veneer lurked another reason that drove this migration, a factor that is now at the centre of the campaign in Haryana, and indeed across India – jobs.

## Unemployment and the youth

One Monday morning, five friends are sitting on a bench under a tree at the MDU campus in Rohtak. Four already have MA degrees, graduating between 2019 and 2021, and one of them, Anil Kathurwal, is now pursuing a PhD in politics. What drove his decision was academic interest, he said. But a sheepish smile betrays another factor. This group of five always wanted to be teachers. That opportunity hasn't arisen in five years, and Kathurwal couldn't wait any longer.

Deepti Kumari, in her early

twenties, is the angriest. She completed a Master's degree in English in 2019, and has been waiting for the entrance test for assistant professorship, or other teaching roles.

"In every home in Haryana, there is pride when someone has a government job. But for the past five years, there have been no state government vacancies. There are private colleges, but the salaries are so low, and the quality so poor, that they are barely an option," she said.

Retired professor Anant Ram says the Haryana government has only conducted a common entrance test (CET) to recruit Class 3 and 4 employees once in five years. "The recruitment of Class 3 posts were challenged in the high court and is pending still. Trained graduate and post graduate teacher tests are either delayed or challenged in courts, and there is widespread frustration," he said.

Haryana's headline unemployment rate in the 2022-23 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was 6.1%, nearly double the all-India unemployment rate of 3.2%. But this alone does not adequately capture the problem. One of the trends in post-pandemic India, data shows, has been of the unemployed turning to unpaid work in family enterprises, considered self-employment by PLFS. But in Haryana, this has been relatively steady: 14% in 2018-19 and 14.3% in 2022-23, essentially suggesting that the jobless in the state are not turning to unpaid work.

Kathurwal, his fingers fidgeting with the keys of a motorcycle, nods in agreement, but wants to broaden the argument. Across the state, he says, there is this powerful voice of joblessness that has reared its head ahead of elections, but it is rooted not just in exam delays but the "attitude" of the government.

"If you wake up early in our villages or cities, you will find thousands of young men run-



Thousands of people in Haryana took part in the January recruitment drive held for menial jobs in Israel.

HTFILE

**Poll spotlight**

**SEAT: Rohtak**

**ELECTORS: 1,737,133**

**TURNOUT IN 2019: 70.52%**

**INCUMBENT: Arvind Kumar Sharma**

**PARTY: BJP**

**Why it is important:** Unemployment is one of the central themes of this campaign. In Rohtak, the angst of young people over jobs comes up against another strong electoral factor – caste-based allegiances

ning, training to join the police or the Army. But now, people only have the stability of four years under the Agniveer scheme. Look at all the campaign speeches of the BJP. They don't talk about employment or jobs at all," Kathurwal said.

For all five people – a mix of Scheduled Caste, Gujjar and Jat youngsters – unemployment is the primary issue in the Lok Sabha campaign. But Anant Ram has a word of caution for any political analysis that predicts a wave of anger hurting the incumbent. "The key question is how many of these peo-

ple will put unemployment over caste when they go to vote on June 25," he said.

## The politics

It's 4.30 pm, and in the village of Dighal, 25km from Rohtak, Deepender Hooda has no time to get out of the car. He has 18 small meetings scheduled, and this is only the tenth. His frame juts out from within the sunroof of a white Toyota Land Cruiser, his hands either clasped together or accepting gifts. Some bring a framed picture, some a turban; there is even an impressively large ox-

When he begins speaking, his voice carries more than a hint of urgency. A parliamentarian is known by only two things, he says, *kaam aur acharan* (work and behaviour), and Rohtak has known the Hoodas for decades. He speaks of the BJP ignoring farmers, and of insulting women wrestlers in Delhi. He lingers on the question of unemployment, promising government jobs. He says that the Congress victory in the assembly elections in late 2024, will begin from Rohtak. But most importantly, when he asks the crowd to raise their hands in support, he calls them his brothers "from all 36 communities".

In many ways, Rohtak is a microcosm of Haryana's politics. There have been 18 Lok Sabha elections in the constituency, barely a two-hour drive from Delhi, and the Congress has won 11. It is from here that Ranbir Singh Hooda won twice, and then his son Bhupinder Singh Hooda – who went on to become chief minister – beat former deputy PM Devi Lal in three consecutive polls in 1991, 1996 and 1998.

Deepender Hooda has also been MP of Rohtak three times, and is currently a Rajya Sabha member. Crucially, Jats dominate both the social and political landscape; there are 660,000 voters from that community alone. But there are also 155,000 Brahmins, 135,000 Punjabis, 305,000 scheduled castes and 500,000 backward voters.

And these non-Jat communities are key, both to Rohtak, and Haryana.

## The dynamics

In 2014, the BJP won the assembly elections, riding on both its Lok Sabha triumph and a clever caste calculus. For decades, the Jats controlled politics, resources and society, causing resentment among others. The BJP posited the elections as Jat versus non-Jat, and appointed Manohar Lal Khattar as CM, the first Punjabi

to rise to the position. When it sought to replace him earlier this year, fire-proofing themselves from ostensible anti-incumbency, it picked Nayab Singh Saini, another non-Jat. In Haryana's villages, they call the strategy, "*paitees bata ek*". (35 communities versus one).

This division permeated strongholds that the Congress once thought impenetrable. In 2019, Deepender Hooda lost Rohtak to the BJP's Arvind Sharma, a surgeon by profession, and Brahmin by caste. Congress said Hooda's biggest loss came from Kosli assembly segment, which has an abundance of Ahirs, an OBC community.

It is this cleavage that is still central to the BJP's campaign, even when responding to questions on unemployment.

"Hooda always says that he was defeated by malpractice. This time, he will suffer a defeat with an even bigger margin. I don't believe Agnipath is an issue as youngsters will get even better jobs after their four year experience. In our time, the people selected are poor and deprived, while during the Hooda regime, Congress leaders picked people. The youth of Haryana knows that if the Congress returns to power, their tactics of giving jobs to their loved ones will return," said Arvind Sharma.

Among the young men struggling to get a glimpse of Deepender Hooda, 23-year-old Amit Kumar, a Valmiki, raised his hand when the Congress scion talked of unemployment. But once the convoy left, he said the choice wasn't so sim-

**CONCERNS ABOUT JOBS WILL CLASH WITH CASTE PREFERENCES. THE BJP IS BANKING ON A COMBINATION OF NON-JAT GROUPS TO DEFUSE ANGER**

ple. "I may still vote for the Congress because I have no job. But my friends in the community will not. When the Jats come to power, they take over everything, talk like they own everything. We have no work, but under the BJP, the police or the administration treats us with some respect," he said.

But Congress's Bhajihar lawmaker Geeta Bhukkal said that unemployment is so pervasive that it will single-handedly help the Congress regain Lok Sabha seats. "Everywhere you look, deserving candidates have not made it to government jobs, also because of paper leaks. Officers have been held taking bribes," she said.

Rohtak-based political commentator Satish Tyagi said the results in Rohtak could be defining for both the Lok Sabha and assembly polls later in the year. "This is a litmus test for Modi's popularity. If Deepender wins, Hooda's stature in the party rises further. But if he loses, it will become clear that the BJP's caste-based strategy will be used in the assembly polls too," he said.

Back in Dohb, in the peeling home of the traveller to Israel, his wife waves away any questions around caste, or the elections. Her mind has not stopped swirling, her voice has become hoarse.

When India and Pakistan go to war, it's not as if there is fighting here in Haryana, she had thought. But her younger daughter, a notebook in her hand, has just explained the geography of Israel to her.

"When he comes home, I'll fight with him again. I'll get my mother to call him and forbid him," she said firmly. But immediately, there is doubt. He will ask her that one question. To which, she has no answer. "Yaha naukri hai? (Are there jobs here?)"

This is the 30th in a series of election reports from the field that look at national and local issues through an electoral lens.

**HT Hindustan Times** presents **Crick it Quiz**

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**Today's Question**

Which player has played the most IPL matches?

A. MS Dhoni      B. Virat Kohli

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**PAST WINNERS**  
17<sup>th</sup> May Kalyani Sahoo  
18<sup>th</sup> May Sayooj Pavithran  
19<sup>th</sup> May Akash Jaiswal

**24<sup>th</sup> MAY ANSWER**  
Who was the first Indian player to win the Orange Cap in the IPL?  
A. Sachin Tendulkar

Scan to participate

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**NUMBER THEORY**

**Poll math: Is Cong where Jan Sangh was in '60s-'70s?**

1 The Congress was much smaller than its prospective ally in the 2014 and 2019 elections

2 The Jan Sangh was in an even weaker situation in its initial years

3 But ideologically, opposition alliances managed to keep the Congress out of power in any state

# Butcher who helped dismember B'desh MP's body held, say cops

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**KOLKATA:** A Bangladeshi citizen who illegally lived in Mumbai and worked as a butcher was allegedly hired to dismember the body of murdered Bangladeshi MP Mohammad Anwarul Azim, chop it into pieces which were then disposed of by the assailants, police West in Bengal said on Friday after it arrested the 24-year-old suspect from Bongaon in North 24 Parganas close to the Bangladesh border.



Police search for the body parts of Bangladesh MP Anwarul Azim Anar, who was brutally murdered in Kolkata, at Bhangar area canal in South 24 Parganas on Friday.

The grisly murder of the 56-year-old parliamentarian from Bangladesh's ruling Awami League, first unearthed earlier this week, has sent shockwaves across two countries.

"One Jihad Hawaldar, 24, has been arrested. He was directly involved in the crime. Investigation is going on," said AK Chaturvedi, inspector general of the state crime investigation department.

Hailing from Khulna in Bangladesh, Hawaldar was illegally staying in Mumbai and working as a butcher, officials said. He was arrested from Bongaon in North 24 Parganas late on Thursday.

Azim, a three-time MP from Jhenaidah, came to India on May 12 for medical treatment, and was declared missing on May 18. His body was not traced but bloodstains were found during forensic analysis inside a fridge at a flat in New Town where he was last traced.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), which has arrested three people, is now probing the role of a 22-year-old woman, Celesty Rahman, and whether she was used by the killers to lure Azim for a business deal to a high-end residential society in New Town where

he was murdered.

"As per plans, on May 13, Amanullah Syed (56), Tanvir Bhuiyan (30) and Celesty Rahman (22) along with a few other absconding persons brutally murdered the victim. His flesh was separated from the bones and disposed of so as not to keep any evidence," the DMP stated in its remand application while producing the trio before the chief metropolitan magistrate in Dhaka.

After the hearing, the court sent the three to eight days in police remand. HT has a copy of the remand application.

Azim was strangled to death hours after he entered the house, it said.

"Aktaruzzaman Shahin, the brain behind the murder and a long-term business partner of Azim, had developed some grudges against the victim. Azim was, however, not aware of it. Syed, too, had a long-term political rivalry against Azim.

The duo together planned to commit the murder in Kolkata so that they don't come under the scanner of Dhaka Police," a DMP officer told HT.

Dhaka police earlier said the murder was planned two to three months ago and that those involved held multiple meetings at Shahin's houses in Gulshan and Basundhara areas in Dhaka.

On April 30, Shahin reached Kolkata along with Syed, Bhuiyan and Rahman and started living in the New Town duplex that he had taken on rent from a state government employee for Rs 1 lakh per month, Dhaka Police said. It was here that the murder plan was given the final shape, it added.

Two more accused Faisal Ali Shazi and Mostafizur Rahman were staying in a hotel on Sudder Street. They checked in on the night of May 2.

"Before leaving New Town, Aktaruzzaman gave the respon-

sibility to Syed to execute the murder plan. He told him that the opportunity shouldn't be missed under any circumstances and that no evidence should be left behind," said the DMP officer.

Shahin, a Bangladesh-born American citizen, fled to Nepal after the murder. Investigation so far has revealed that a fallout in a business partnership was the probable motive behind the murder. "The assailants brought a butcher named Jihad from Mumbai. Jihad was living in Mumbai as an illegal intruder for many years. Two months ago, he was brought to Kolkata by an American citizen of Bangladesh origin, Akhtaruzzaman Shaheen. This Shaheen is the mastermind of this planned heinous murder," the Bengal police said in a statement. Jihad confessed that, on the orders of Akhtaruzzaman, he and four other Bangladeshi nationals smothered and killed the MP in

a flat, police said.

"Then they removed all the meat from the body in the flat and minced the meat to destroy his identity and then they put everything in a polythene pack. They also chopped the bones into small pieces. Then take those packets out of the flat and dropped them around Kolkata and the surrounding areas near wetlands and canals. The trolley bags were dumped at separate locations," the police added in a statement.

Azim was reported missing on May 18 from Baranagar in North 24 Parganas in the northern fringes of Kolkata. He was staying with an old friend who raised the alarm after realising that Azim was in touch neither with him nor his family in Dhaka.

On May 13, two men and the woman picked up Azim in a rented car and brought him to the New Town premises where he was murdered.

CCTV footage of the residential campus in New Town revealed that Azim entered the society in the afternoon of May 13. There were at least three people with him, including a woman later identified as Celesty Rahman. That was the last time he was seen alive. He never came out even as the persons accompanying him were seen leaving the premises on different dates over the next few days with trolley bags.

The killers left India on different dates and reached Dhaka by flight. One was asked to enter Bangladesh via Bihar and Nepal.

"Even though Azim was murdered on May 13, the killers continued to send messages to the victim's friends over the next few days saying that he was with a VIP and travelling to Delhi," said a police officer, requesting anonymity.

{ CYCLONE REMAL }

# Bengal and Odisha on alert as cyclone nears

HT Correspondent  
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**KOLKATA:** School buildings in three coastal districts of West Bengal were earmarked as cyclone shelters, district control rooms were activated, emergency services put on standby and advisories were issued to ports in Kolkata, and Paradip in Odisha on Friday, as the eastern states braced for moderate to heavy rain expected to be caused by a severe cyclonic storm over the weekend.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, along with the army, navy and Coast Guard were kept ready, even as the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) directed authorities to ensure minimum loss due to the cyclonic storm, Cyclone Remal, which is brewing over the Bay of Bengal.

The preparations in Bengal for the impact of the cyclonic storm coincides with those for polling in eight Lok Sabha seats, including two (Kanthi and Tamruk) in East Midnapore district, in the sixth phase of ongoing general elections on Saturday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), cyclone Remal is expected to make landfall between Sagar Island in Bengal and Kheupara in Bangladesh around Sunday midnight, bringing moderate to heavy rain in the coastal districts of Bengal and areas of northern Odisha from Saturday to Monday.

While the IMD has issued a red alert for Bengal's coastal districts of North and South 24 Parganas, warning of gusty winds



West Bengal disaster management personnel alert locals ahead of the landfall of cyclone Remal, in South 24 Parganas.

accompanying by extremely heavy rainfall at one or two places on Sunday and Monday, an orange alert was issued for Kolkata, Howrah and East Midnapore, with a forecast of marginally reduced intensity for the two days. "...By the midnight of May 26, the cyclonic storm will hit coastal areas of West Bengal when the wind speed will be 110-120 kmph. The wind speed is expected to be higher in Bangladesh. In North and South 24 Parganas, wind speed will be highest," IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

"As a result, light to moderate rainfall will begin tomorrow. On May 26-27, in addition to heavy to very heavy rainfall in West Bengal, extremely heavy rainfall is also expected. Coastal areas of north Odisha can witness isolated heavy rainfall and the wind speed will be 40-50 kmph. Rainfall will lash all the northeastern states and there is extreme rainfall warning in some areas," he added.

In South 24 Parganas, around 5,000 people in vulnerable areas

across eight blocks have been identified. "We have deployed three NDRF teams in Gosaba, Sagar and Kadwip. Four SDRF teams have been deployed in Basanti, Gosaba, Sagar and Kadwip," said a disaster management official of South 24 Parganas.

"Preparations are on in full swing, particularly in the delta areas," an official of North 24 Parganas said.

"Polling teams with EVMs and VVPAT machines have already reached their destinations. As the cyclone is expected on Sunday night, we are not expecting any disruption on the polling day," said an IAS officer from Haldia in East Midnapore.

Airport authorities held a meeting on Friday afternoon with stakeholders, including meteorological officials and officers from the Air Traffic Control (ATC). "We are not expecting any disruption on May 25. The cyclone will hit the coastal areas on the night of May 26. There may be some disruptions on Sunday," said an airport official.

# MEA seeks Prajwal's response on passport cancellation request

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Suspended Janata Dal (Secular) leader Prajwal Revanna, who travelled to Germany after facing allegations of sexual abuse, has been asked to respond to the Karnataka government's request for cancelling his diplomatic passport, people aware of the matter said Friday.

After the External Affairs Ministry received the Karnataka government's formal letter on Tuesday, the process for revoking Prajwal's passport was initiated, the people cited above said on condition of anonymity. This process involves seeking his response to the Karnataka government's request, they said.

"This is part of the process under the provisions of the Passports Act. If there is a request for cancelling a passport, the person concerned has to be given an opportunity to respond," one of the people said.

However, they declined to delve into the details on how Prajwal was contacted to respond to the request. Such a communication could even be delivered by email, they said.

The 33-year-old MP from Hassan in Karnataka, who is also the



Prajwal Revanna.

grandson of JD(S) chief and former premier HD Deve Gowda, is facing charges of criminal intimidation and sexual harassment after thousands of videos emerged purportedly showing him in sexual acts with multiple women.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar acknowledged on Friday that his ministry received a request to impound Prajwal's passport on May 21. Explaining the procedural aspects of the matter, he told ANI that the impounding of a passport is governed by the Passports Act. "We need a judicial court or a police request to do so," he said.

The ministry acted promptly on receiving the request, he said. "We immediately acted on it...we have to follow a certain procedure and the procedure is initiated," he added.

# 'No live-in curbs, but parents of 18-21 yr-olds will be informed'

{ INTERVIEW } PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI, UTTARAKHAND CM

**DEHRADUN:** With the Lok Sabha poll results less than two weeks away, Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama exuded confidence of the BJP coming to power at the Centre for a third straight term. In an interview to **Chetan Chauhan**, he spoke on a range of issues including the UCC and how live-in relationships will be regulated in the Himalayan state. Edited Excerpts.



Pushkar Singh Dhama.

**You have campaigned in many states. What are the main issues in these polls?**

In 10 years of PM Narendra Modi's period, several schemes were introduced for helping the poor such as Ayushman Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission and Lakhpati Didi. Big decisions like scrapping of Article 370, introduction of CAA, surgical strikes and strengthening of armed forces have had a positive impact on voters...I have travelled across India and seen people enthusiastic to see Modi ji as PM for the third term.

**Congress has accused the BJP and Modi of making it Hindu-Muslim elections.**

The Congress and its alliance are disturbed as their truths are

being told to people. In its manifesto, Congress said it will implement personal law strictly. Personal law is only in Sharia law.

**In Hindus, too, there are personal laws such as the Hindu Marriage Act and the Hindu Succession Act.**

But we are speaking about uniform civil code (UCC). In Uttarakhand, we have passed a UCC law as promised. On one side, there is Sharia law and on the other side is the uniform personal law. There is (RJD chief) Lalu Prasad, who talks about reservation for Muslims and in Karnataka, when the Congress came to power, they introduced reservation for Muslims...They (opposition) are finishing the

Constitution by introducing religion-based reservation.

**Muslims get reservation in Gujarat as well...**

They (opposition) have made a new system of giving reservation on the basis of religion. They have done politics of polarisation.

**By when will the UCC rules be notified?**

Very soon. Most of the work has been completed and because of model code, there can be some delay.

**How will live-in relationship regulated in state?**

We will have a system to inform the parents of those living together in the age group of 18-21. We are not bringing any restriction for people in live-in relationships, we are only concerned about their security. There have been incidents of their bodies found in suit cases (referring to Shradha Walkar case). When such incidents happen, parents repent their entire life. We have formed a committee under former chief secretary Shatrughan Singh to frame the rules, and it will submit its report soon.

# NSA suggests jointness among CAPOs on the lines of defence forces

Prawesh Lama  
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**NEW DELHI:** National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Friday suggested an idea of "jointness" and "interoperability" among the central armed police organisations (CAPOs) on the lines of a joint theatre command in the country's defence forces.

Doval, who was delivering the Rustamji Memorial Lecture organised by the Border Security Force (BSF), stressed the importance of securing the borders as India works towards becoming a major economic power.

"This is just an idea. Should we think about the jointness in our CPOs — jointness where you can have interoperability. We are a huge force. We have got the same type of duties, intermingling duties at many places," he said. "In the defence forces it is being done now. We are thinking of theatre commands with a joint commander for the theatres. There could be one officer from the air force, who is probably controlling both the army and navy. It was more difficult because their equipment, doctrines, command and control system are different. Here (CPOs), it is almost similar."

He added it was not about saving money but about bringing greater homogeneity. "Whenever a requirement is there — either in war or peace. If we must deploy 30 battalions of the CAPOs, in the borders, it does



NSA Ajit Doval

not matter if BSF forces are unavailable. CRPF could do the same thing. They have same training and equipment. Even if there is one platoon of CRPF and two of BSF, it does not matter. They will march," he said, adding this was his personal idea as a former police officer and as a man of security and not as NSA.

During the function, 10 personnel were awarded police medal for gallantry and seven were awarded Jeevan Raksha Padak for saving lives.

In India, the six paramilitary forces — BSF, SSB, Assam Rifles, CRPF, ITBP and CISF — have separate charter of duties.

Doval said in the next 10 years, India would become a \$10 trillion economy and the third largest economy. "While India is on this journey, it is important to identify the retarders. Vulnerability of our borders is one of the major ones. If, presume, both of our borders with our neighbours — western and northern — had been secure, defined and not in a state of adversarial disposition, how much it would have affected nation's internal and external security..." he added.

# US-BOUND PLANE FROM MUMBAI DELAYED, FLYERS WAIT INSIDE CABIN FOR 7 HOURS

**MUMBAI:** A San Francisco-bound Air India plane was halted on the tarmac of the Mumbai airport due to technical snags, with the passengers alleging that they were made to remain seated inside the aircraft for close to seven hours while the air conditioning system stopped working.

The flight AI179 was scheduled to take off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) at 2:15 pm but the take-off was delayed due to a snag in the engine, one of the passengers said.

"The crew found a problem with the engine. At around 4:30 pm, the crew told us that they were good to go, but then there was a problem with AC. The crew did not give us food and said that soft drinks can only be opened up only after take-off," Abhishek Daga, one of the passengers said.

In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said the aircraft was held back for engineering checks.

"AI-179 from Mumbai to San Francisco, scheduled to depart at 1600 hrs, was delayed due to a technical issue arising just before departure. Giving top priority to safety issues, the aircraft was held back for engineering checks...The flight has now been rescheduled at 1030 hrs tomorrow [Saturday]. Inconvenience caused to guests is sincerely regretted," the statement said.

# KERALA EXCISE MIN DEMANDS PROBE AFTER AUDIO OF BRIBERY SURFACES

**KOCHI:** Kerala excise minister MB Rajesh wrote to state director general of police (DGP) Shaik Darvesh Saheb on Friday demanding a probe after an audio clip, where certain people can be purportedly heard asking all bar owners in the southern state to give ₹2.5 lakh each for a "favourable" liquor policy, went viral on social media.

The minister's move came after leader of opposition in assembly VD Satheesan alleged that the CPI(M)-led government was collecting bribes to the tune of ₹20 crore from 801 bar owners in the state in exchange for "favourable changes". "Money is being collected from bar owners with the assurance of a favourable liquor policy. The excise minister should resign," he alleged.

Responding to the allegations, Rajesh said, "The government has not even initiated discussions regarding this year's liquor policy. So we are looking at these reports very seriously. There will be strict action against those found guilty."

# Top court stays U'khand HC's relocation order

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**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday stayed an order issued by the Uttarakhand high court, directing the state government to find a suitable site for relocating its premises out of Nainital.

A bench comprising justices PS Narasimha and Sanjay Karol sought a response from the state government to a plea filed by the Uttarakhand High Court Bar Association challenging the high court's directive.

At the outset of the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state said that the High Court's decision is a kind of referendum.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the Dehradun Bar Association, provided the bench with historical context linked to the matter and highlighted the resolution passed by the high court in consideration of both litigants and lawyers. Luthra also requested that the stay should not impede the administrative processes.

**THE TOP COURT SOUGHT STATE'S RESPONSE TO PLEA CHALLENGING THE HIGH COURT'S DIRECTIVE**

Senior advocate PB Suresh, appearing for the Uttarakhand High Court Bar Association, contended that the high court had overstepped its bounds by directing a vote on a presidential order that had established the principal bench of the Uttarakhand High Court. Suresh, assisted by advocates Vinod Kanna, Vipin Nair and Karthik Jayshankar, asserted that only Parliament or the Centre has the authority to decide on location of a principal bench. Issuing notice on the plea, the bench sought a response from the state and scheduled the next hearing on July 8. The high court, through a full court resolution dated September 15, 2022, had resolved to relocate the high court from Nainital.

# Chopper with 6 on board makes emergency landing in Kedarnath

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**DEHRADUN:** A helicopter carrying six pilgrims made an emergency landing due to a technical snag near the helipad in Kedarnath shrine on Friday morning.

"Today around 7 am, a helicopter of Kestrel Aviation company, carrying six passengers along with one pilot, took off from Sirsi for Kedarnath Dham. Due to technical snag in the helicopter, the chopper had to make an emergency landing near the Kedarnath helipad. All the passengers on board are safe and have been sent for the darshan of the Kedarnath shrine," said Rudraprayag district magistrate Saurabh Gaharwar.

He said a major accident was averted due to the presence of mind of the pilot.

"The pilot did not lose his calm at the crisis moment and managed to make an emergency landing of the helicopter," Gaharwar said.

He said the reason for the



A helicopter make an emergency landing, 100m away from Kedarnath's helipad in Rudraprayag on Friday.

technical fault in the helicopter is being investigated.

In April 2023, a senior official of the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) died after being hit by the tail rotor of a helicopter in Kedarnath.

In October 2022, a chopper crashed in Kedarnath, killing all six devotees and a pilot on

board. After the crash, the UCADA had written to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to set up an air traffic control system in the Kedarnath area to monitor the operation of heli services in the region. Notably, during the Char Dham yatra, choppers make 400 sorties in the Kedarnath area on an average daily.

# Nainital, Mussoorie admin gear up for weekend tourist rush

HT Correspondent  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**MUSOORIE:** Anticipating heavy tourist rush over the weekend, the local administration in Mussoorie has come up with a detailed plan to manage the crowd, as part of which drones will be used to monitor the situation and one-way traffic plan will likely be in place, police said.

Amarjeet Chaudhry, Mussoorie police station in-charge said, "We have deployed additional police force to man the traffic and streamline vehicular movement. Dehradun-Mussoorie route will be monitored closely using drone services." Scores of tourists have begun arriving a day early to avoid the weekend traffic congestion. Anil Arora, a tourist from Delhi's South Extension Part 1, said, "Earlier we were planning to reach Mussoorie on Saturday morning, but with a heavy rush of tourists expected due to the

**Doon-Mussoorie route will be monitored using drones**

**AMARJEET CHAUDHRY,** Mussoorie police station in-charge

weekend, we changed our plan and reached the town by Friday evening to avoid any untoward situation." "Till Friday evening, many hotels registered 80 per cent occupancy and by Saturday morning tourist occupancy is likely to rise to 100 per cent," said Sanjay Agarwal, president of Mussoorie Hotel Association.

Meanwhile, Nainital is also witnessing a huge rush of tourists. "The holiday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on Thursday and closure of schools in Delhi and UP has led to a surge," said Alok Sah, a hotelier in Nainital.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



POONAM

General Public is hereby informed that one woman **Namely: Poonam, W/O: Somnath, R/O: H.No. 2818, Gali No.-1, Kailash Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-31 Sex: Female, Age: 25 Years, Height: 4'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Strong and Thin, Hair: Black, Face: Round, Identification: Tattoo on Right Hand (गणेश ज्ञान), Wearing: Black Colour Jeans, (कथई) Colour Top and Cream Colour Sleeper in Feet has been missing since 10.05.2024 from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Gandhi Nagar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 82A, Dated: 10.05.2024 has been registered at P.S.: Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing woman but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing woman. Please inform to the following.

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)

Fax: 011-24368639

DP/5906/SHD/2024

P.S.: Gandhi Nagar, Delhi

Ph.: 8595895116

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male (depicted in the photo) name **Unknown S/o Unknown** residence and family is **Unknown** age 30-32 years. He has found dead on 16.05.2024 on Railway Track opposite gali No. 5, Gandhi Nagar Gurudwara wali gali, DD No. 3A, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station. His physical description is as under.

**Sex: Male, Age: 30-32 years, Height: 5'7" Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red Shirt & Black Jeans Pant.** Any person having information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address of telephone number:-

Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/6151/Rly/2024

PS: Old Delhi Railway Station

Ph No.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Nadeem @ Md Nadeem, S/o: Allah Mehar @ Sha, R/O: Fatandapur Road, Samar Garden, 60 Futa Road, Lakhipur, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 251/2020, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Nadeem @ Md Nadeem** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Nadeem @ Md Nadeem** has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Nadeem @ Md Nadeem** accused of FIR No. 251/2020, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.06.2024.

By Order

M. Sayesha Chadha

Metropolitan Magistrate-08

Central, Room No. 272,

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/5411/N/2024-  
(Court Matter)

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender No.-PRYJ-Sig-006-2024-25

E-Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12.00 hrs. on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. The details of the Tender are as under:

**Name of work:** (A) S&T work in connection with construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 49A (Sp.) at Railway km 942/17-19 in Fatehpur Railway station Yard on PRYJ-CNB section, (B) Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of L-Xing No.19 at km 203/0-2 on CAR-CPU section (C) construction of FOB with stair for pedestrian (Grade separator) at km 758/5 in between JIA-GAE section and (D) Provision of 12 M wide a new FOB at km No. 168.20 at Sonbhadra (SBD) station in CAR-CPU section under Amrit Bharat Scheme of Prayagraj division.

Tender No.	Approx. cost of work	Bid Security (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)
006	₹ 14691047.40	₹ 223500	0.00

Completion period: 12 Months. Date of Opening of tender: 20.06.2024, 2. Availability of tender form: Tender forms are available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in), 3. Bid Security to be deposited: the prescribed amount of Bid Security as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form online through Internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Bid Security in any other form than specified in GCC shall be acceptable. It the Bid Security deposited by the bidder is in shape of Bank Guarantee, it should be supported by proper stamp duty, rate prescribed as per section 13 & 24 of the UP Stamp Act, 2008 and amended from time to time at the time of submission of Bank Guarantee. Tenders without Bid Security shall be summarily rejected. 4. Time & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj at or after 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. 5. Validity of offer: 60 days from the date of opening. 6. Right of Railway to deal with tender: Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons. 907/24 FA

North central railways @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](http://www.nctrailways.gov.in) @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](https://www.nctrailways.gov.in) @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](https://www.nctrailways.gov.in) @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](https://www.nctrailways.gov.in)

## BMSICL Bihar Medical Services &amp; Infrastructure Corporation Limited

2nd & 3rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Bihar, Patna- 800014  
Phone/Fax: +919006405255, +919471009193

TENDER NOTICE

Tender for Rate Contract & Supply of Glucometer Machine, Glucose Test Strips and Auto Disable Lancets for the State of Bihar  
Notice Inviting Tender Ref No.: -BMSICL/MEDICAL DEVICES/CONSUMABLES/24-04 (Only through E-Tender on website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) invites E-Bids from the interested parties for "Tender for Rate Contract & Supply of Glucometer Machine, Glucose Test Strips and Auto Disable Lancets for the State of Bihar", vide Notice Inviting Tender No.- BMSICL/MEDICAL DEVICES/CONSUMABLES/24-04. Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria, selection mechanism, other terms and conditions are available on the website [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).

Tender Schedule

Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/MEDICAL DEVICES/CONSUMABLES/24-04
Date of Pre-Bid meeting	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 14:30 Hrs. at BMSICL Conference Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Bihar, Patna - 800014
Last date and time of submission of online bids	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 by 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of EMD and Tender Fees	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 till 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of Financial Bids	To be announced later on <a href="http://www.bmsicl.gov.in">www.bmsicl.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs. 11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) Non-refundable.

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) GM (Procurement) BMSICL  
PR- 000914 (B & C) 2024-25

लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024- मतदान महात्योहार, बिहार है तैयार

## Eol for Design, Procure, Install, Operate and Maintain Public Bicycle Sharing System in Ayodhya (UP)

**AYODHYA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AYODHYA**  
Civil Lines, 14 Kosi Parikrama Marg, Ayodhya- 224001  
The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) is one of the leading district level bodies plans to implement the vision of developing Ayodhya as the Global Spiritual Capital by 2047 through promotion of green and sustainable infrastructure in Ayodhya.  
ADA cordially invites parties to participate in our mission to propel Ayodhya towards a greener, more sustainable future through Design, Procure, Install, Operate and Maintain Public Bicycle Sharing System in Ayodhya on revenue sharing basis to promote cycling as the sustainable alternative transportation systems, which will help reduce gas emissions and protect the health and quality of life of citizens. Interested parties can share their proposal on [vc@ada@gmail.com](mailto:vc@ada@gmail.com) or contact us on (7607778900) for any query. Last date of submission of proposals till 3rd June 2024.

## MADHYA PRADESH BUILDING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(An Agency of Govt. of M.P. Public Works Department)  
16 - A, CEDMAP Building, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)-462011  
Telephone No. : 0755-4853297, 0755- 4853295  
E-mail : [elnc-mpbdc@mp.gov.in](mailto:elnc-mpbdc@mp.gov.in), [ajay.nagaria@mp.gov.in](mailto:ajay.nagaria@mp.gov.in)  
No. : 5851/GMMPBDC/CW/24/NIT-52 Bhopal, Dated : 24.05.2024

## CORRIGENDUM/AMENDMENT FOR NIT No. : 4949/GM/MPBDC/CW/24/NIT-52 BHOPAL, DATED 12.03.2024

The corrigendum for the work of PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICITY IN UJJAIN, DISTRICT UJJAIN (M.P.) shown at S.No. 02 in NIT No. : 4949/GMMPBDC/CW/24/NIT-52 Bhopal, Dated 12.03.2024 is as below:-

	Original	Amendment
Start of Document Download/Sale	18.04.2024 at 18:00 hrs.	20.06.2024 at 18:00 hrs.
End of Bid Submission	28.05.2024 at 15:30 hrs.	29.07.2024 at 15:30 hrs.

Detailed NIT and tender documents can be viewed, downloaded and purchased online only from 20.06.2024 at 18:00 hrs. to 29.07.2024 at 15:30 hrs. from website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)  
Registration in MPWPD is required.  
PAC can verify at the time of uploading of tender document. Any amendment/corrigendum 'if any' will be published on website only, will not be published on newspapers.  
M.P. Madhyam/114647/2024 MANAGING DIRECTOR

## WESTERN RAILWAY- RATLAM DIVISION

VARIOUS WORKS

W/623/S/1/NIT. Date : 21/05/2024. The Divisional Railway Manager (W A) Ratlam invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) in the details are as under:-

E-Tender No. & Name of Work	Approx. Value ₹	EMD ₹
1. RTM-2024-25-45. GDA-NAD Section- Reconditioning of CMS crossings by RW-20 Translaminar Robotic welding technology complete work under the Jurisdiction of DEN/ WEST/RTM	46,26,251.00	92,600
2. RTM-2024-25-46. Dahod RSW Workshop- Provision of Safety Platform with railing for EOT Cranes bay in Wagon Shop, Yard Shop, MEMU DEMU shop and Provision of Safety platform for maintenance of locomotives MEMU Wagons, DETC and safety protection jali guard/wire machine guards for High speed machines at various shops.	3,34,47,726.65	3,17,300

Approx Quantity : For Sr. no. - 1 & 2 - As per tender schedule. Completion Period: For Sr. no. - 1 & 2 - 12 Months. Similar type of work : For Sr. no. - 1 - N.A., For Sr. no. - 2 - Any Steel fabrication work. Date of uploading on website: For Sr. no. - 1 - 20.05.2024. For Sr. no. - 2 - 21.05.2024. Date of Opening of Tender : For Sr. no. - 1 - 11.06.2024. For Sr. no. - 2 - 12.06.2024. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Divisional Railway Manager (W/A)  
Ratlam Division, Western Railway  
SNP-067  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) | Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

## Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 34 Yrs., Height: 5'7", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Place of Recovery: Found Dead at Red Light of Karni Singh Sooting Range, MB Road, Near Tughalakhabad Fort, Govindpuri, Delhi.** The dead body of deceased sent to AIIMS Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for identification.

In this regard DD No. 46A/24, Dated 19.05.2024 has been lodged at Police Station: Govindpuri, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO

P.S.: Govindpuri, Delhi

DP/6184/SE/2024

Ph.: 9643900027

## 17 die in 48 hrs; mercury touches 49°C in Raj distt

HT Correspondents

[letters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:letters@hindustantimes.com)

**JAIPUR/BARMER:** At least 17 people have died due to suspected heat-related ailments over the last 48 hours in Rajasthan, as the western state reeled under a heatwave with the mercury surging to 49 degrees Celsius in Phalodi district — the highest temperature recorded in the country this year. At least five other districts recorded a maximum temperatures in excess of 46°C.

According to the Met department, the western part of the state is in the grip of a heatwave or conditions similar to a severe heatwave, and the state as a whole is unlikely to get any relief, with high temperatures predicted for the next 72 to 96 hours. Both day and night temperatures are likely to increase by 1-2°C, the agency said, sounding a red alert for several districts for the next three days.

**THE WESTERN STATE IS UNLIKELY TO GET ANY RELIEF FROM THE UNRELENTING HEAT, MET DEPT HAS PREDICTED**

It is only on May 28 when the temperatures are expected to begin relenting. "In some parts of Eastern Rajasthan, temperatures are expected to drop by 2-3 degrees Celsius starting from May 28, while in certain areas of Western Rajasthan, this temperature decrease is anticipated to commence from May 29," it added.

Phalodi logged a maximum temperature of 49 degrees Celsius on Friday, the highest recorded so far this year, while Jaisalmer and Barmer sizzled at 48.3°C and 48.2°C, respectively. The day temperature in Jodhpur was 47.6°C, in Kota 46.7°C, in Ganganagar 46.6°C, in Bikaner 45.8°C, in

Churu 44.8°C and in Jaipur 42.8°C, according to Met centre Jaipur.

The state's disaster management department confirmed six deaths — three in Balotra and one each in Bhilwara, Bikaner and Jodhpur — however, reports from district-level health officials pegged the number of casualties at 17 for fatalities primarily due to heatstroke and other heatwave-related ailments since Thursday.

According to district health officials, seven deaths were reported in Jalore, four in Balotra, and three in Pali, all attributed to the severe heat wave.

Dr Ramshankar Bharti, the chief medical and health officer of Jalore, said at least six deaths were reported at the city's general hospital since Thursday. "Unfortunately, all individuals were brought in dead, hindering efforts to determine the precise cause of death. However, based on symptoms described by relatives and

other sources, heatstroke is suspected as a potential factor," Bharti added. His counterpart in Balotra, Dr Vakaram Choudhary, confirmed two deaths — Shinder Singh and Mantu (30) — due to heatstroke. Besides, Moola Ram (55) from Kalewa village fell ill while working in his field and died.

In Pali district, three deaths were reported and prima facie attributed to heatstroke. Among them, a labourer's body was discovered on a railway platform, while a woman and her son, aged 80 and 45 years respectively, died after falling ill at their house in Guda Mangalian village, officials said.

Authorities have urged residents to take precautions against the blistering heat, including staying hydrated and avoiding outdoor activities during peak hours. They have also stressed the importance of seeking medical attention promptly if experiencing symptoms of heat-related illnesses.

{ CHARGE AGAINST GUV }

## Calcutta HC stays probe against Raj Bhavan staff

HT Correspondent

[letters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:letters@hindustantimes.com)

**KOLKATA:** The Calcutta high court on Friday put on hold the police investigation against a Raj Bhavan employee accused of "wrongfully restraining" the women who accused West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose of molestation.

Sandeep Kumar Singh, the officer on special duty (OSD) to the governor, moved the high court after the police registered a case against him on May 7.

"The evidence i.e. CCTV footage are already in the custody of the investigating officer (IO). The offence for which the petitioner is tried of wrongful restraint and abetting an offence... Whether the

ingredients disclosed in the complaint can be treated as wrongful restraint will be decided. At this stage, it does not appear that the probe will suffer in any manner if the same is temporarily stayed till June 17," Justice Sinha said in the order, according to the legal news portal Bar and Bench.

On May 2, a contractual employee at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata accused Bose of molestation, a charge he vehemently denied. Days later, a crowd of 50-odd were shown a 69-minute CCTV footage at the Raj Bhavan as the governor sought to clear his name.

To be sure, Article 361 of the Constitution prevents any criminal action against an incumbent governor or the President.

**Hindustan Times**

**HT City**

I FEEL GOOD WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT MY DATING LIFE: GURU RANDHAWA

CHECK OUT TODAY'S EDITION

## M.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD.

(A Wholly owned Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)  
(CIN) : U40109MP2001SGC014880  
Block No. 3, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur, Jabalpur-482008, Telephone No. : (0761) 2702144, Fax No. : (0761) 2664141, E-mail : [ed.cra@mprtransco.nic.in](mailto:ed.cra@mprtransco.nic.in)

## TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE (3rd EXTENSION)

The tender for conduct of study to determine the power factor in respect of 5 Nos. Solar Captive Power Plants connected with MPPTCL grid were invited vide Tender Specification No. 04-01/CRA/F-177/8342 dated 14.03.2024 with due date of opening as on 04.04.2024 for qualifying bids and 05.04.2024 for price bids. The due date of opening of qualifying bids was extended to 25.04.2024 and for price bids 26.04.2024 respectively. Further, due dates as aforesaid was extended to 21.05.2024 and 22.05.2024 respectively. The due dates as aforesaid are now extended to 11.06.2024 and 12.06.2024 respectively. The tenders can be submitted up to 02:30 PM on 11.06.2024 which shall be opened on the same day at 03:30 PM (qualifying bids) and on 12.06.2024 (price bids) at 11:30 AM. All other terms & conditions of the tenders shall remain unchanged.  
M.P. Madhyam/114640/2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CRA)

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Provision of second distant Signal on ROK-BTI section of Delhi Division
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹8,69,22,727.34 only
Bid Security (₹)	₹5,84,600/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading 24.05.2024/ closing date & time 18.06.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

Tender No.: 558-51g-16-M-TENDER-1423 Dated: 24.05.2024 1567/2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No: 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/EIG/2024 Dated : 22.05.2024

## "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under-noticed section of the North Central Railway that the 132 KV, 50 Hz, AC double circuit transmission lines will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the transmission line shall be treated as live at all the times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Date of Energization : on or after 10.06.2024

Division : Prayagraj, Name of Section:- 132 KV Transmission line between tower no. 421 to 426 passing through Roja Jalalpur village of Tundla-Ghaziabad section of Prayagraj division over North Central Railway.

Issued by  
Senior Divl. Electrical Engineer (TR-D),  
North Central Railway, Prayagraj

909/24(AN)  
North central railways @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](http://www.nctrailways.gov.in) @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](https://www.nctrailways.gov.in) @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](https://www.nctrailways.gov.in) @ [www.nctrailways.gov.in](https://www.nctrailways.gov.in)

## Extension of sale period for SRM e-Tender No. T-48/2023-24

The sale period & last date of submission for following SRM e-tenders is further extended up to 08.06.2024 @ 18:00 Hrs. Date of opening (Tech. bid): 10.06.2024 at 10:00Hrs (if possible). All other terms & conditions of the e-tender will remain unchanged.

Rfx No.	E-Tender No.	Particulars
7000030893	T- 48/ 2023-24	Scheme of replacement of old existing 0.4 Deer ACSR conductor by equivalent CCC type HTLS conductor along with suitable hardware, accessories and porcelain long rod insulator for 220kV Dhule - Malegaon line (Ckt Kms = 80.5 Kms) under EHV O&M Circle, Nashik

For further details please visit to <https://srmetender.mahatransco.in>  
Chief Engineer, EHV PC (O&M), Zone, MSETCL, Nashik

## INDIAN RAILWAYS PATIALA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

PATIALA - 147003  
Tel.: 0175-2396000, 2396001, Fax: 0175-2306413

## NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

No. PLW/WWW/MA/CS/979/Vol-III Dated: 20/05/2024

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

N.I.T. No. & Name of work	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Closing date & time of tender	Opening date & time
CE/PLW/IT-2024-25/PTA DT. 20.05.2024	37568390/-	337900/-	12 Months	24.06.2024 at 15:00 hrs.	24.06.2024 at 15:00 hrs.

{ FOR COMMANDO BATTALION CAMP } WITHOUT CLEARANCE

# Assam official served notice over diversion of forest land

Jayashree Nandi  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union environment ministry has issued a show cause notice to a top Assam official for allegedly diverting forest land without proper clearance to build a police commando battalion camp, according to documents seen by HT.

The ministry's regional office in Shillong sent the notice to MK Yadava, special additional chief secretary of Assam, on May 14 under the Forest Conservation Amendment Act 2023. It alleges Yadava illegally diverted around 44 hectares inside the Inner Line Reserve Forest in Hailakandi district.

Yadava, deemed "guilty of the said offence," has 60 days to respond and explain why a complaint should not be filed in court. Failure to respond will result in legal proceedings, the notice warned.

The law, the Van (samrakshan evam samvardhan), which loosely translates to Forest (conservation) Act lays down in Section 2 the illegality in diverting forest land for non-forest purpose.

Section 3A of the Forest Con-

**MK YADAVA HAS 60 DAYS TO RESPOND AND EXPLAIN WHY A COMPLAINT SHOULD NOT BE FILED IN COURT, THE NOTICE SAID**

Documents show Yadava approved the commando battalion camp in September 2023, claiming it qualified as a forest conservation activity under the Forest Conservation Act. The letter states that the National Green Tribunal registered a suo moto application on the basis of a news report on diversion of forests for the commando battalion.

"As per the ministry's and this office's request seeking details from the state government for the alleged violation for setting of second commando battalion camp at Damchera within the Inner Line Reserve Forest the same has accordingly been submitted and on scrutiny of the said documents, it is observed that vide your letter No FG 40/14/Mizoram Border/Pt II dated September 28, 2023, you had given approval for the second commando battalion within the ILRF by referring to section 2 (b) of the forest (conservation) act 1980 that it qualifies as an activity relating to conservation of forests."

However, a March 2024 site visit by the ministry found large-scale, permanent construction covering 11.5 hectares (28 acres), which did not align

with permissible conservation activities. Yadava declined to comment on the notice, saying he would respond directly to authorities. Ministry officials in Shillong confirmed providing information under RTI but were not authorised to discuss the notice's contents.

HT reported on April 10 that a forest official in Assam allowed construction of a commando battalion unit in a protected forest to purportedly stop encroachments by Mizo people from the neighbouring state of Mizoram.

The move created a furore among local conservationists, compelling the Union ministry to take note and direct the state government, in March, to halt construction immediately.

"It's unfortunate that a person who was in service for 35 years in Assam Forest Department has no knowledge of The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan). When the government itself starts violating the law, what moral authority it has got to take action against others for similar violations?," said Rohit Choudhury, wildlife and RTI activist.

The petition said "there exists no law which bars the grant of Aadhaar Number to persons whose names didn't appear in the Final NRC List dated 31.08.2019 and therefore, such an act is not sanctioned by law." The date of hearing will be announced after the vacation, people aware of the details said.

## TOP COURT TAKES NOTE OF AADHAAR DENIAL TO 2.7MN PEOPLE IN ASSAM

Biswa Kalyan Purkayastha  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**SILCHAR:** The Supreme Court has issued a notice on a petition against denial of Aadhaar cards to nearly 2.7 million people in the absence of a final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on May 17 issued the notice to the Centre, Assam government, Registrar General of India and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on a writ petition filed by one Sahid Mahmud and others, as it clubbed the plea with a similar one filed by Trinamool Congress (TMC) lawmaker Susmita Dev in 2021.

In his petition, Mahmud highlighted the obstacles faced in obtaining Aadhaar cards by nearly 2.7 million people since the final draft of the NRC in 2019 is yet to be notified.

Advocate Shwetank Singh, who was part of a team of lawyers who drafted the writ petition, said: "The delay in notifying the NRC by the Registrar General of India has led to the withholding of biometric data and as a result, nearly 27 lakh (2.7 million) people in Assam are being denied Aadhaar cards. This includes people whose names have appeared in the final draft of NRC."

The petition said "there exists no law which bars the grant of Aadhaar Number to persons whose names didn't appear in the Final NRC List dated 31.08.2019 and therefore, such an act is not sanctioned by law." The date of hearing will be announced after the vacation, people aware of the details said.

"We are not expecting any disruption on May 25. The cyclone will hit the coastal areas on the night of May 26. There may be some disruptions on Sunday. We will hold another meeting on Saturday afternoon to discuss further developments," said an airport official.

The cyclonic storm Remal won't have a direct impact on Odisha, the regional director of IMD Bhubaneswar said on Friday. However, in its wake, most places of north Odisha are likely to experience light to moderate rainfall and districts like Balasore, Bhadrak and Kendrapara are very likely to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall.

Separately, Union cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba reviewed

## SEVERE CYCLONE

The depression is very likely to move further northeast and intensify into a cyclonic storm over east-central Bay of Bengal by the morning of May 25. It will move nearly northwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by May 25 night, the weather agency added.

By the midnight of May 26, it is very likely to cross the coasts of Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal between Sagar Island and Khepupara as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 110-120kmph gusting to 130kmph, it said.

The Met office has warned of extremely heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of West Bengal and north Odisha on May 26-27. Extremely heavy precipitation may hit parts of north-east India on May 27-28.

Buildings in three coastal districts of West Bengal have been earmarked as shelters, district control rooms have been activated, emergency services put on standby and advisories issued to ports in Kolkata and Paradip in Odisha. Adequate shelters, power supply, medicine and emergency services have been kept in readiness.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed 12 teams and five additional teams are kept on standby. Rescue and relief teams of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard along with ships and aircraft have been kept in readiness.

Airport authorities in Kolkata held a meeting on Friday afternoon with all stake holders to take stock of the situation.

"We are not expecting any disruption on May 25. The cyclone will hit the coastal areas on the night of May 26. There may be some disruptions on Sunday. We will hold another meeting on Saturday afternoon to discuss further developments," said an airport official.

The cyclonic storm Remal won't have a direct impact on Odisha, the regional director of IMD Bhubaneswar said on Friday. However, in its wake, most places of north Odisha are likely to experience light to moderate rainfall and districts like Balasore, Bhadrak and Kendrapara are very likely to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall.

Separately, Union cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba reviewed

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

the preparedness, directing authorities to ensure zero loss of lives and minimize damage to property.

"The aim should be to keep the loss of lives to zero and minimize damage to property and infrastructure such as power and telecom, and in case of damage, the essential services should be restored in the shortest possible time," Gauba directs while chairing National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) meeting.

Storm surge of up to 1.5 metre is expected to inundate low-lying areas of coastal West Bengal and Bangladesh at the time of landfall.

Fishermen out at sea have been advised to return to the coast and not venture into the Bay of Bengal until May 27.

IMD also warned of localised flooding and damage to vulnerable structures, power and communication lines, kutcha roads, crops and orchards in South and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal.

While predicting the exact impact from Remal is challenging, the Bay of Bengal cyclones have undergone rapid intensification in recent years.

"A CEEW study analysing the occurrence of tropical cyclones over the last five decades found that the districts on the eastern coast of India are highly exposed to the impacts of cyclones. However, considering these risks, the government has been strengthening the adaptive capacity of local stakeholders to reduce the degree of the loss through initiatives like the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP). Our research indicates that 100% of the population exposed to cyclones now has access to early warning systems (EWS). Building on the success of reducing cyclone-related fatalities, India needs to develop frameworks to climate-proof critical infrastructure," said Vishwas Chitale, Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW).

"The North Indian Ocean is extremely warm now. Sea surface temperatures of 30-31°C has all the potential to supercharge this cyclone. But monsoonal winds have already set in over Peninsular region and this system is still attached to that monsoon flow. In a day or two it will detach from that flow and travel towards the coast. But its travel time when it has the potential to intensify is short, about 1.5 days. We are hoping that it can intensify only up to a severe or a very severe cyclone with peak winds of around 135 to 140 kmph. But models are showing divergent projections on intensification and landfall point. We have to wait," the official said.

People in the affected areas have been asked to remain indoors and vacate vulnerable structures.

# A day after blasts, owner of Thane factory held

Anamika Gharat  
anamika.gharat@htlive.in

**THANE:** A day after multiple blasts rocked a factory in Thane, Malay Mehta, the owner of the factory was arrested by the Thane crime branch on Friday. His 70-year-old mother, the director of the firm, was also detained by police for questioning, people aware of the matter said.

The official death toll from the incident was still at eight, according to the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC), but rescue workers said they had found several body parts strewn across the site on Friday, which were collected and sent to the hospital. Officials from the Maharashtra Pollution



Rescue workers said they had found several body parts strewn across the site on Friday.

Control Board (MPCB) and the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH) also visited Dombivli on Friday to investigate the exact cause of the blasts.

Deputy commissioner of police Parag Manere said they

had arrested Malay Mehta under section 304 (culpable homicide) of the Indian Penal Code. Mehta's father Pradip had started Amudan and two other chemical factories in collaboration with his two brothers in

1979. After Pradip died in 2019, Malay Mehta took charge of Amudan. "He wanted to expand the business, but since there is stiff competition in this field, he also wanted to make some different products," said a close aide of Mehta.

On Friday, meanwhile, officials from the MPCB and the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health also visited the site and launched a probe to ascertain the cause of the blasts. "We have served closure notice to Amudan Chemicals and eight neighbouring companies, which will be effective till the investigation is complete. We also collected samples of several chemicals," said Rajendra Rajput, MPCB official.

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**SCHEDULE**  
ALL THAT PROPERTY bearing no. 4, Casurina Avenue, Westend Green, South West Delhi comprising of land admeasuring 26 Bigha, 13 Biswas, bearing Mustatil No.34, killa No.10(4-8), 11min(0-15), 12min(0-15), 13min(0-18), 8(2-11), 9(4-8), Mustatil No.33 Killa No.6/3(1-13), 15(4-16), 6/2min(2-15), 16min(3-14) along with built up Farm House thereon, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Samalkha, Tehsil Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, India-110037.

**Avinash Singh (Advocate);**  
Mob.: 9821055662  
Chamber No. 248 & 249,  
Patiala House Court, New Delhi-110001

New Delhi 25/05/2024

**Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**  
Government of India

**Notice Inviting Offers for Special DSF Bid Round-2024**

Invitation offer for three (3) Blocks under Special Discovered Small Field (DSF) Bid Round 2024.

Companies are invited to bid for development and monetization of three (3) blocks of which two (2) are discovered small fields, located in Mumbai offshore and one (1) is discovered CBM block, located in West Bengal.

Companies, either alone or in consortium of unincorporated or incorporated Joint ventures, may bid for one or more Blocks.

Booklets of Notice Inviting Offer (NIO) giving details of blocks on offer, their location, terms & conditions of offering and Model Revenue Sharing Contract (MRSC) will be made available free of cost by 28.05.2024 on websites of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India <https://mpng.gov.in/> and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) <http://dghindia.gov.in/>.

**Important Timelines:**  
Launch Date 28.05.2024  
Bid start Date 28.05.2024  
Bid closing date 15.07.2024

**Additional Secretary (Exploration)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas  
Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road  
New Delhi-110001, India.  
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## OPINION

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OUR TAKE

## In Delhi battle, national echoes

The campaign in the national Capital has been high on drama, and reflected the themes that have resonated across India in this election

**E**lections in the national capital territory (NCT) of Delhi are a prestigious battle even though it sends only seven MPs to the Lok Sabha. This is understandable since, as a seat of power, it attracts national attention. The electorate here is a slice of India, with many having migrated to the city in search of employment or education, and the outcomes tend to reflect the national trend: The winning party at the Centre is known to bag maximum seats in NCT.

What has distinguished the contest in Delhi this time is the theatre injected into the campaign ahead of nominations and thereafter. The preparations in Delhi for the polls started in the backdrop of the arrest of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the 2020-21 excise policy case. In response, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) set the tone with its "jail ka jawab vote se" (respond to jail with your vote) campaign. The Opposition INDIA bloc rallied for Kejriwal at the Ram Lila Maidan in April, which also saw his wife, Sunita, making a political pitch. Later, the Supreme Court's decision to allow bail to Kejriwal to campaign spiced up the electoral arena.

A complaint by AAP MP Swati Maliwal that she was assaulted by the CM's aide at Kejriwal's residence, complicated the campaign in its final hours, but, by and large, the narrative has revolved around the BJP's chorus for Brand Modi and the Opposition's pitch that shifted between hyper-local issues and allegations that democracy and federalism were in danger. Top leaders added heft to the campaign that battled both heat and voter disinterest. The demographic transitions and polarisation in the electorate also influenced the choice of candidates. The growing Purvanchali vote, for instance, has over the years prompted parties to field candidates whose origins are in that region.

Politically, the battle in Delhi is interesting for multiple reasons. The contest has turned bipolar for the first time since the 2009 general elections. The AAP and Congress, bitter rivals in the past, have a common goal of defeating the BJP. Delhi was swept by the BJP in the last two general elections. Now, can a bipolar contest tilt the scales?

The 2019 vote percentages offer a sobering picture for the INDIA bloc: The BJP, which comfortably crossed the halfway mark in terms of vote share, had a mammoth 16 percentage point lead over the combined vote shares of the AAP and Congress. Should that comfort the BJP, which changed six of its seven sitting MPs over fear of anti-incumbency?

The Delhi electorate is known to back horses for courses as the results of the past few Parliament, assembly and local body polls show — the BJP/Modi at the Centre and the AAP for state and local government. The preferences are so clear cut that the electorate which gave a thumping majority to the AAP in the 2015 assembly polls (67 out of 70 seats) elected only BJP MPs and gave the party 56.6% of the total votes polled in 2019. A year later, the AAP near-swept the assembly elections with 62 seats. With no wave in sight, the question now is if it will be a 7-0 scoreline for the winner, or a split verdict, as was common in the 1990s.

The voter's primary duty, however, is to make sure that she casts her vote. Turnout in Delhi has seen swings — 51.86% in 2009 to 65.10% in 2014 to 60% in 2019. Voter apathy undermines democracy. Delhi's voters, hopefully, will not let that happen but brave the heat and queue up to shape the destiny of the nation. Nothing less is expected of India's Capital.

## How the Centre should spend the bonanza from RBI

The new government would be wise to prioritise reducing fiscal deficit with the surplus dividend from the central bank. Spending, if any, from this amount should be on capex

**S**uppose you got a sudden inflow of money. A bonus at work, a tax refund or an inheritance that gives you a one-time boost. As an individual, you have three decisions in front of you — spend it, pay off your debts, or invest it. Smart people would use a mix of the three options, prioritising the paying off of debt. Governments, too, have the same choices when faced with a sudden money boost. The extra trillion of surplus that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has transferred to the government will allow the government, formed after the elections, to decide what path it wants to tread. A fiscal-prudence-plus-investment road is good for the long-term health of the country, a populist spending splurge or redistribution urge will be as harmful as a rich dad buying a Porsche and allowing an underage kid to drink and drive.

RBI recently created headlines as it announced a transfer of ₹2.11 trillion to the government, almost double the amount estimated in the 2024 interim budget. How did RBI get this extra money? While RBI has not given a reason in its May 22 press release, in which it announced the decision taken at the 608th board meeting to transfer the higher-than-anticipated amount, we can make some guesses. The biggest reason could be the rise in interest rates on United States (US) treasuries. RBI holds a mix of US government bonds and dollars as a "reserve" or safety money. The World Economic Forum lists seven reasons why countries keep foreign (mainly US) currency and bonds as reserve, including having

liquidity for international transactions, as a hedge against any domestic economic crisis, and to reassure foreign investors. This reserve is mainly held both as dollars and as US government or US treasury bonds.

As on March 31, RBI held ₹4.74 trillion of foreign currency assets. RBI's earnings from its US treasury holdings must be up on the back of rising interest rates in the US. These rates have gone up from a low of 0.52% on August 4, 2020, on the 10-year US treasury, to 4.20% on March 22, 2024, resulting in a big hike in interest income for bondholders. There has been some speculation that the government "arm-twisted" RBI into this higher transfer or forced it to take too much risk. A retired senior official of RBI rejected the idea outright and agreed with the higher-interest income line of thought.

Whatever the reason, the extra trillion of cash gives the government that comes to power in June options to spend, invest or pay off its debts — choices similar to what we face as individuals. The first impulse when faced with a sudden inflow of money is to spend. And had this infusion come a year earlier, the temptation for a freebie splurge in a pre-election year might have been high. But whichever government comes into power in June, it need not splurge this windfall for political benefit as elections will be half a decade away.

The second option will be spending on capi-

**A FISCAL-PRUDENCE-PLUS-INVESTMENT ROAD IS GOOD FOR THE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF THE COUNTRY, A POPULIST SPENDING SPLURGE WILL BE AS HARMFUL AS A RICH DAD BUYING A PORSCHE AND ALLOWING AN UNDERAGE KID TO DRINK AND DRIVE**



Monika Halan



The first impulse when faced with a sudden inflow of money is to spend. And had this infusion come a year earlier, the temptation for a freebie splurge might have been high SHUTTERSTOCK

tal expenditure — or building assets that give future revenue. This will be like you buying a flat in the anticipation of future rental income or investing in business that yields income and profit. The government has pushed the envelope on capital spends in the last few budgets and the benefits are beginning to be seen in the growth numbers. We could see some small boost to the capital spending over what was budgeted in the 2024 interim budget.

The last, and most favoured, option is to reduce the fiscal deficit (the excess of spending over income of the government) that has been projected to fall from 5.8% to 5.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY25 over the previous year. Think about it from the point of view of your own finances — a large loan makes your personal finances precarious and a sudden job loss or emergency can derail your life. While the government can always print more money and sell assets to bridge the gap, a lower deficit number has a number of positive reactions in the economy.

One, it reduces the amount that the government has to borrow putting pressure on interest rates to fall. Lower interest rates boost borrowing by both individuals and firms to fund investment. Which, in turn, is positive for growth.

Two, lower government borrowing also leaves more aggregate savings to be available for the private sector for investments. The private investment cycle is yet to take off in India and a lower interest rate regime plus availability of savings are important factors in this journey.

Three, it gives a good signal to the foreign rating agencies on fiscal prudence. India's global investment ratings are important as they affect the flow of money from foreign investors into the country. Foreign money is important as it bridges the savings gap.

Four, a lower deficit is also a dampener on inflation as the government borrows less and does not need to print money to bridge the deficit.

Of course, the spend will need to consider that this is a one-time boost and not build in recurrent expenses on the back of this infusion. The full Budget announcement in July will show us the path that the newly elected government will take. We can only hope that the road of fiscal prudence is followed rather than a short spin in a fast car.

Monika Halan is the author of the best-selling book *Let's Talk Money*. The views expressed are personal

## 'Knife' cuts through the debate on free speech

**T**o thine own self be true. And that's the essence and ironically, messianic message of Salman Rushdie's oeuvre and life. *Knife*, his latest is a sharp work of literature that cuts the flab of Joseph Anton and presents Rushdie as barebones.

But that's not why this slim book is one of the most important pieces of writing of our times. Rushdie's easiest work is probably the most difficult one for any reader with a conscience. As he lay recovering, half-blinded and handicapped, from an assassination attempt, the world around Rushdie busied itself with examining and re-examining the limits to free speech. What is hate speech? What is defamatory speech? Who ascertains what is worthy of "punishment"? Governments? Assassins? Radicalised mobs? Civil society?

With India in the throes of the general elections, these questions are more relevant than ever. Each time people exercise their right to vote, in India or elsewhere, they rally behind an idea. An idea that gets articulated in both speech and action. Like religion, politics is also a matter of faith. And as many of us end up realising, it can be equally one-sided. Devotion stays unrequited. Like love, religion, politics, devotion, and love — they all require expression for sustenance. Yet, the respective expression to each of these categories attempts to preclude or, worse,

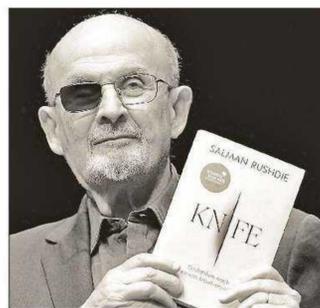
penalise expressions for all the others.

Some of the staunchest believers in the freedom of speech and expression sometimes advocate for setting limits. For the greater good. Even peace and harmony, the mirage. But let this be said, this qualified freedom is no freedom. The right to offend, the right to punch up and down through words, the right to be vulgar and hateful, are as important as "speaking truth to power".

It is time to resurrect 19th-century British political philosopher John Stuart Mill's near absolutism and 20th-century American educationist and free-speech advocate Alexander Micklejohn's principles of absolutism. Free speech does not promote democracy, it is democracy. Meiklejohnian absolutism puts the burden of proof on the challenger, not the speaker, that any speech is harmful or causes imminent danger to life or property. And this is what irks most liberals. Because hate speech has led to countless acts of violence, even the believers in free speech squirm at absolutism. But this is where Rushdie emerges as the first among equals. Freedom of speech has no twilight zone, no in-between space. It's either there or not. And a half-blind Rushdie, a victim of Imam YouTube's words and the actions of A (assassin), still upholds the freedom principle, like his compatriot Kenan Malik, the British philosopher.

Words are violence — both liberals and conservatives want to argue the same. It's high time this obfuscation ends. Words are words and acts of violence are acts. Yes, words can cause damage even when not followed up by action. But is it not worth noting that damaging words almost always invoke tangible acts of violence, in the past, present or future? Either it's a memory or a threat that those derive their power from. One doesn't need to delve into Derrida's *La Voix et Le Phenomene* to grasp that words, by and in themselves, are meaningless unless they signify something that the listener understands. Hence, explosives in a foreign language do not hit as hard as those in the mother tongue.

But is all speech innocent? Absolutely not. Unexamined statements made from pulpits of political and religious power have been wreaking havoc since the dawn of time. The damage, however, has been caused by actions that those words have demanded and entailed. A safe and successful society ought to restrict these actions.



'Knife' presents Rushdie as barebones REUTERS

Because it cannot do so, the doubling down on speech happens. Restrict speech, banish poets, incarcerate the satirist, damn the obscene, kill the blasphemous, but say nothing about acts. In fact, words are often employed to justify acts of violence. Both liberals and conservatives are guilty of condoning, or at least staying silent about, acts of violence that are committed in the name of disrespect to ideology — political, social, or religious.

If an ideologue can go on with deception, the fault lies in the calling-out and accountability mechanisms. To strengthen those, we need more freedom and not less. If we demand restrictions of any kind to "protect" any group, we are weakening the said mechanisms. Freedoms do not suit any institution or belief system, however liberal. All belief systems — even the most liberal or welfareist ones — are, at best, a few steps away from becoming a dogma. There cannot be any caveats or contexts to freedom of speech. If there's incitement to violence, the latter must be checked, punished, and made an example of. Through expression, people and ideologies expose themselves. Speech, however objectionable, therefore, is useful. When we restrict it, we plunge into speculations. Nothing good comes out of speculating, personally, politically, or phenomenologically.

Coming back to Rushdie, his championing of free speech encompasses his public and personal selves. He is as articulate about his politics as he's uninhibited about his love for Eliza, his fifth and current wife. We express therefore we are. We are lovers when we express love, and liars when our words are lies. Let the actions that follow them decide the rest.

Nishtha Gautam is an author, academic and journalist. The views expressed are personal

## Engaging with Africa calls for new thinking

**T**he new government will have its own foreign policy priorities, within which Africa must get due attention. Here are five suggestions for pursuing a "Priority Africa" agenda.

First, establish an India-African Union track 1.5 dialogue to engage on all issues of importance, including on the points regarding the Global South in the G20 communique released by the Indian presidency of the G20, which saw the African Union (AU) inducted into the grouping. This should be at the macro level, ending the pursuit of bilateral talks with African countries.

Through this, the capacity of the AU Commission (AUC) to effectively participate in G20 meetings could be augmented. As African priorities are identified through the India-Africa

dialogue, experts should be deputed with Indian funding to partner the AUC in the pursuit of its own developmental agenda, including Agenda 2063.

Second, with the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS IV) delayed, it is time now to reformulate the tenets of this partnership in view of the post-pandemic situation and the impact of the Ukraine and West Asian crisis.

The AUC is up for electing a new chairman and commissioners in February 2025 for a four-year term and would thus be hamstrung by campaigning and election processes. Since IAFS IV is already delayed, it is better to engage with the AUC after February 2025. The IAFS IV should revert to the Banjul format of 15 countries plus the AUC. This makes it manageable and practical. India's civil



Gurjit Singh

Africa policy does not need a massive show of strength or geographical spread. Since it is Africa's turn to host the IAFS IV, it is best to hold it in Addis Ababa, the seat of the AUC rather than seek a partner country that shares the burden of hosting the summit.

Third, the functioning regional economic communities (RECs) need to be consulted through a meeting — this was done before earlier summits — to map African priorities against Indian capabilities. A joint REC-AUC tour of India's development success must be conducted.

Fourth, India should adopt a private sector investment-led approach towards Africa, targeting strategically important countries and those to which Indian businesses wish to go.

India should support its entrepreneurs and banks by providing them low-cost credit, through a revolving fund. This can be lent locally to reduce the costs of expensive borrowing. India can help with feasibility studies and detailed project reports to create bankable projects that seek funding from a variety of sources rather than just India.

India's support for grant projects should be meshed with its strategic and business interests. The lines of credit (LOCs) played a useful

role earlier, but with many countries seeking debt relief and restructuring now, this has to be reconsidered. Last year, most of the LOCs approved by EXIM bank were rollovers of unpaid interest rather than new projects.

Fifth, rupee-based LOCs must replace dollar-based ones to reduce forex risk. It is important to strengthen Indian banks in Africa: allowing them to implement LOCs will strengthen their position in the African markets.

The Union government has done a lot to bring Africa into focus. It is time for more autonomous participation by Indian businesses, academic institutions and hospitals. The first Indian Institute of Technology in Africa (in Zanzibar) shows that there is a demand for high-quality Indian education, and some African countries are ready to pay for this, with Indian management. This won't cost the Union government much but will go a long way towards bringing cost-effective engagement with Africa.

Gurjit Singh is former Indian ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, ASEAN and the African Union and honorary professor, IIT Indore. The views expressed are personal

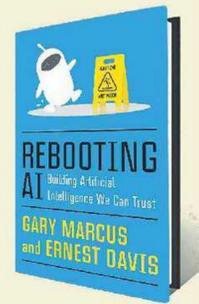
### { EDITOR'S PICK }

HT's editors offer a book recommendation every Saturday, which provides history, context, and helps understand recent news events

#### BUILDING AI RESPONSIBLY

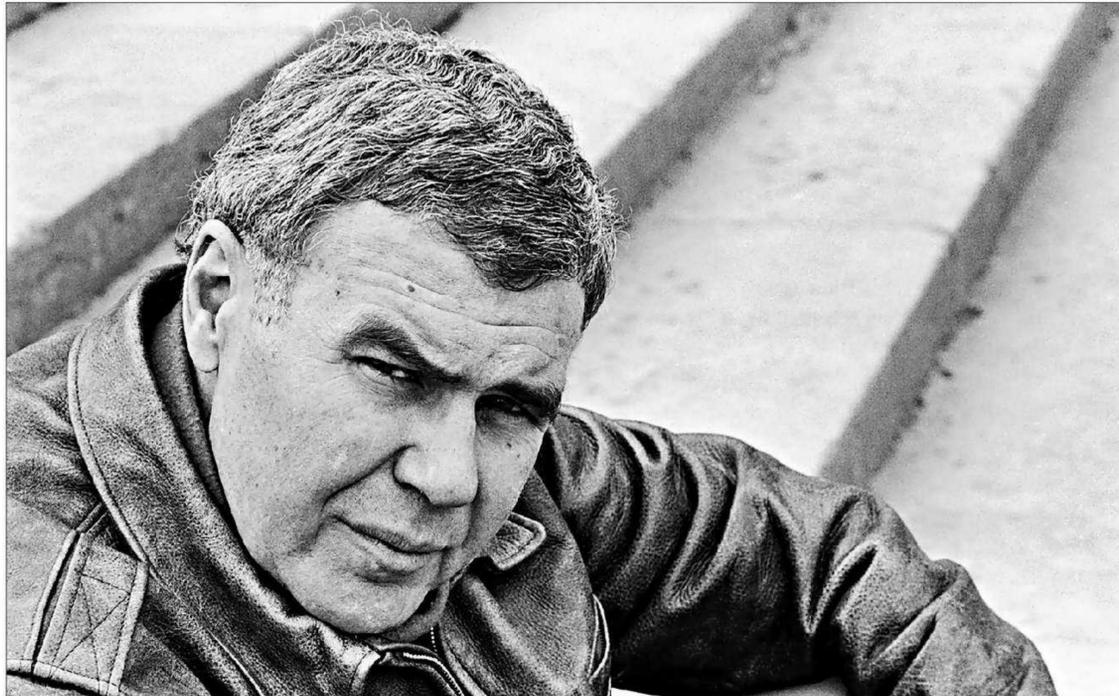
The similarity between Sky, OpenAI's "voice" iteration of its Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot, ChatGPT, and the natural voice of Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson, raises questions of ethics in AI development. Some of these have been raised by Johansson herself, concerning the ethics of use of creatives' work for AI development, deep-fakes, and the erosion of identity and ownership.

Even as allegations and counters fly, it is perhaps instructive to read *Rebooting AI: Building Artificial Intelligence We Can Trust* (2019), by New York University professors Gary Marcus and Ernest Davis. Marcus and Ernest argue for a fundamental shift, if not a reset, in AI development if trustworthy systems are to be developed. A reliance on mere deep learning will lead to a fraught system; a hybrid system that incorporates reasoning, causal understanding and contextual knowledge building is needed, they argue — a Lifelong Learning system, in their words. This way, the very human problems that creep into development can perhaps be offset.



**Rebooting AI:** Gary Marcus, Ernest Davis  
Year: 2019

## Celebrating the 86th birth anniversary of Raymond Carver



The work of American short-story writer and poet Raymond Carver (May 25, 1938–August 2, 1988) is simultaneously spare and rich in unsaid detail—a quality that sets it apart. His protagonists struggle with sadness and isolation, in prose that is breathtaking in its cleanliness. From short-story collections such as *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?* (1976) and *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981) to poetry collections such as *A New Path to the Waterfall* (1989), Carver's writing continues to inspire, enthrall and awe.

SOPHIE BASSOULS / SYGMA VIA GETTY IMAGES

{ SWAPNA LIDDLE & MADHULIKA LIDDLE }  
AUTHORS, GARDENS OF DELHI

Delhi's greenery has come with urban settlements.

On the Books & Authors podcast on [www.htsmartcast.com](http://www.htsmartcast.com)

{ INTERVIEW } SWATI NARAYAN,  
AUTHOR, UNEQUAL: WHY INDIA LAGS  
BEHIND ITS NEIGHBOURS

## 'They wonder why we think we are a superpower'

On why the nation has fallen behind neighbours such as Bangladesh, on human development indices

Syed Saad Ahmed

letters@hindustantimes.com

1 How did you begin comparing the social indicators such as health, nutrition and education, of Indian states, with those of neighbouring countries?

In 2004, Jean Dreze wrote an article about how Bangladesh was leapfrogging ahead of India in terms of these social indicators. At the time, a South Asian NGO I was working with had asked me to write a pan-South Asia report, for which he wrote the foreword. In 2014, I started my PhD, with Dreze as my co-guide at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. All this time, the data showed that our neighbours were doing better than us. With this book, I was able to culminate this analysis.

Regarding the intellectual tradition, my work draws upon the human development approach, the capabilities approach, and a comparison of entitlements. I also looked at research on other South Asian countries, such as Naomi Hossain's work on Bangladesh.

2 You write, "The adoption of low-cost, novel ideas such as 'Little Doctors' in Bangladeshi public policy is a typical trait of high achievers in human development. They pay close attention to the little details." Have you identified any reasons for certain countries exhibiting these traits?

In India, we tend to throw money at problems. But they don't have as much money and they're well aware of that, so they ensure that every *taka* is spent well.

There are two books on this trait of high-achievers: *Development with a Human Face* by Richard Jolly and Santosh Mehrotra, and *Good Health at Low Cost*. Little Doctors is an experiment in health education in classrooms without using expensive doctors—let the students do the work instead of doctors. Amazingly, Bangladeshi policymakers learnt this from Japanese classrooms because Japan is a donor. This is not a fluke; it is a social contract of Bangladeshi society where they demand a lot from governments. There's also an openness and humbleness, so they learn from others.

In India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, we give cash grants to build toilets. But in Bangladesh and Nepal, they give materials such as cement rings and doors, instead of money. They educate people on how open defecation can lead to diseases. People build toilets and use them because they understand their value. Both governments spend money on information, education and communication, and Little Doctors is part of this health promotion. In India, it's all separate ministries doing separate things.

3 What did your respondents think of the narrative of India as an ascendant superpower?

Other South Asian countries are mystified and irritated by the delusions. Even in Bangladesh, they are puzzled when they see open defecation across the border. They wonder why we think we're a superpower.



{ SHORT FICTION } AN IDEAL WORLD IN WHICH ALL CREATURES CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

## Of clever animals and human simpletons

Renuka Narayanan

letters@hindustantimes.com

I first heard Bengali folk tales in the most atmospheric way. Some years ago, I was on holiday with an older friend, a Bengali woman. We were the only guests at the Maheshkhan Forest Reserve rest house deep in a jungle in Uttarakhand. It was about 9 pm. We had dinner and were sitting on the verandah of the 19th-century house. The cook and durwan had disappeared to their village downhill. A torrential rain began to pour, curtaining our view of the lawn and the forest behind it. And suddenly, the electricity went out. "It's a perfect setting for spooky stories," I laughed. "Then I'll tell you some," said my

friend. She had the gift of storytelling and went from one charming Bengali folktale to another, in English. Some starred a foolish Bagh Mama (Tiger Uncle), some a human character called Kittu Mama who tumbled into scrapes, and some were the required ghost stories. It was a fascinating two hours on that dark verandah. We were almost sorry when the electricity came back on.

So it was with keen anticipation that I began reading *The Collected Stories of Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury* (1863-1915). He was an accomplished writer, painter, violinist, composer and publisher. He was the father of the famous writer Sukumar Ray and grandfather of that titan of Indian cinema, Satyajit Ray. This book contains 63 stories

by Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury from the original Bengali, translated into English by anthropologist-writer Lopamudra Maitra. The first 27 stories are from his work *Tuntuni Boi* (1910) and the rest from *Golpomala* (1910-12). Satyajit Ray made the film *Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne* in 1969 based on his grandfather's story from *Golpomala*, about Goopy and Bagha, two musicians, who land in all kinds of trouble.

Goopy and Bagha are driven from their villages for being bad musicians and meet in the forest. However, with their dubious skills,

they succeed in pleasing the king of ghosts, who grants them three wishes. In the film, Satyajit Ray voiced the ghost king himself.

What may strike the Indian reader is the absence of a binary moral code in many of these stories, just as in the *Panchatantra*. A few preach explicitly, as in *The Man Who Loved to Criticize*. The world, in both *Tuntuni Boi* and *Golpomala*, mainly belongs to those who can cleverly outwit others, with dark, stark shades. Tuntuni the bird takes revenge on a mean bar-



**The Collected Stories of Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury**  
Translated by Lopamudra Maitra  
360pp, ₹599, Rupa

ber who won't lance her boil, by a number of stratagems. Bagh the tiger and Sheyal the fox have an uneasy relationship, sometimes as collaborators and sometimes as adversaries. Clever animals get the better of human simpletons. Demons destroy each other through guile and cunning, as do humans and animals. The Raja of Shundi tries to burn Goopy and Bagha alive, just as Duryodhana tried to burn the Pandavas (but Goopy and Bagha get the better of him most satisfyingly, at the end of the story).

Human beings, animals, birds, fish, insects and supernatural beings mix as equals, talking to each other and being mutually understood. So, besides the operative principle of "Wit wins" in these stories, we also get to inhabit an ideal world in

which all creatures can communicate with each other.

Again, this facility seems to be very much in the tradition of ancient Indian story collections, be it the *Panchatantra* or the *Hitopadesa*, which reportedly interacted over time with the Indian mother tongues and took vibrant regional forms, each with their local colour and flavour. Or, for all we know, it may have been the other way around, that it was the mother tongues that yielded a rich harvest of themes and tropes for the *Panchatantra* and *Hitopadesa*.

You feel close to the original because Ray Chowdhury's stories follow that particular, familiar folk tale template shared across languages and cultures. Maitra wittily includes sounds from the original, such as Mosha the mosquito going "peen peen peen" and onomatopoeic sounds, which are imitations of natural sounds, like "khhawchh mawchh", the sound of someone noisily waking up.



A scene from Satyajit Ray's *Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne*, which was based on his grandfather Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury's story from *Golpomala*. HT PHOTO

Very notably, the stories are written in the simple, conversational active voice, as though someone was directly telling them to you. In my view, this makes for a good audio book. It also makes this collection ideal for read-alouds to children, elders and book clubs.

A word of warning, finally. Don't attempt to read the whole

book in one go or it may start feeling slightly repetitive. Instead, I would suggest that you read a few stories at a time to keep things fresh and lively. That said, there is a lot to enjoy, which I thoroughly did.

Renuka Narayanan is a journalist and author. Her latest book is *Learning from Loss*

## Of liminal spaces, within and without

A compilation of field notes made around Chennai's wetlands, *Intertidal* by Yuwan Aves is also a deeply insightful lesson in how nature mirrors the human consciousness

Yashodhara Sirur

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At its heart, *Intertidal* is a nature journal. A faithful documentation of the time Yuwan Aves spent in nature—sometimes studying, sometimes teaching, always observing. It is a compilation of short field notes and observations made around Chennai. From Urur Kuppam beach to Kovalam estuary to the Velachery marshlands, it records a diversity of habitats, flora and fauna. And yet, it is a book that works on many different levels. On a spiritual plane, *Intertidal* is a deeply insightful lesson in how nature mirrors the human consciousness.

Through Aves's trained eyes, the analogies between the intertidal spaces of the coast and the non-binaries of the mind reveal themselves. The space between sleep and wakefulness, calm and turmoil, self and other, female and male is but an echo of the space between ocean and land. It is a fertile zone, an overlooked area teeming with life.

Aves, a naturalist and nature educator, writes about this intertidal space on the coasts and marshlands of Chennai. He writes about the people who subsist on it, their challenges, and the learning—both scientific and philosophical—that he has gleaned from them. Undoubtedly, Aves's love for nature is the heart and soul of this book. When he describes "a mercury-slick... silvery-opaque" ocean across which shoot the "humming blue bullets" of carpenter bees, the reader feels the rightness of his words. He describes a mongoose as "A live wire of a creature, a nerve on the move". I have never read a more apt description of a mongoose.

Aves's writing is mellifluous and moving, and reminiscent of stalwarts such as Aldo Leopold and Nan Shepherd.

There is much to learn from the book, and from nature itself. Aves tells us about the incredible living architecture of coral reefs—how single-celled zooxanthellae form friendships with polyps, anemones, clams and other sea life to create magnificent reefs. They flout the rules of competition and "survival of the fittest". They work as a unit and seem to understand that cooperation is the way to flourish. "What might a coral society be like in the human world," Aves muses.

He presents many such musings, where he takes into account the lived experience of a creature and applies it to the human experience.

Through the volume, the reader learns about many interesting natural phenomena—long-shore currents that turtles and fish schools use to migrate, how grey mangroves trap sediment in their root beds and are thus "coast builders" and nurseries for fish, how sweat bees are buzz pollinators who loosen pollen from the anthers by their sonification. There is not a dull moment in the book.

As a local who has spent a childhood exploring the marshes and beaches of Chennai, Aves highlights the traditional wisdom of artisanal fisherfolk and other coast dwellers.

For instance, sand dunes protect the coast from cyclones and even act as a rainwater harvesting system. As dunescape take centuries to form, coast dwellers would plant palmyra seeds on nascent sand dunes. As the palmyra grows, it traps windblown sand particles and accelerates the shaping of the dune.

This is a practice that is slowly dying out. Sand dunes are being diminished due to the demand for sand in the construction industry. Often, the villagers too mine sand in order to earn some money.

Aves also talks about how artisanal fishing communities are in tune with nature and cause minimal damage to ecosystems. While trawling and other mechanised forms of fishing wreak havoc on aquatic life, artisanal fishermen are often more tolerant of aquatic life. In places where the waters are overstressed with illegal fishing practices, hump-

back dolphins have been known to rip fishing nets apart and steal fish. While humans and dolphins have become enemies in some areas, they seem to have a tolerant attitude towards each other where artisanal fishing practices are prevalent. The dolphins are called *sami sura* (god shark) and local fisher elders teach the newer generation that they are not to be harmed. In return, the dolphins rarely attack their fishing nets!

As an activist, Aves sheds light on how the repercussions of pollution are unequally felt by the underprivileged. He speaks to street sweepers the day after Diwali, who say that they find it hard to breathe after cleaning the streets of the toxic remnants of firecrackers. Since colonial times, North Chennai has been unequally penalised by industrialisation.

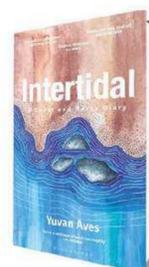
Power stations and polluting factories were built in the "Black Town" because it housed less affluent citizens. British rule may have given way to Indian democracy, and yet the oppression of these marginal communities continues in the form of evictions, exposure to

toxic chemicals and the loss of livelihoods.

*Intertidal* is also a memoir, a record of Aves's difficult childhood and the camaraderie and healing he found in nature. As William Wordsworth famously wrote: "Nature never did betray the heart that loved her." For Aves, nature has been a source of strength and an escape from tribulations. His gratitude is evident in the Acknowledgements section, where he first thanks his mother and then a banyan tree, for giving him a childhood. He further acknowledges numerous other creatures alongside his teachers, fellow naturalists, and friends.

*Intertidal* is a book to be read over and over again, with different purposes: sometimes as a nature guide; sometimes as a meditation; sometimes as the inspiring life story of a gifted naturalist; and sometimes as poetry—simply for the golden beauty of its words.

Yashodhara Sirur is a part-time writer and full-time IT professional based in Mumbai



**Intertidal: A Coast and Marsh Diary**  
Yuwan Aves  
286pp, ₹445, Bloomsbury

{ HT PICKS } NEW READS

## THE EBB AND FLOW OF A NEW WORLD ORDER

With the rise of China and the decline of US influence in Asia, India-Japan relations and foreign policies have been undergoing a significant transformation. This volume critically assesses India-Japan relations with a focus on the power shifts in the Indo-Pacific region. It brings together a diverse group of scholars from both countries, who examine aspects of bilateral relations, partnerships at the regional level, and the concrete policies that both countries can undertake for a comprehensive development of these ties.

The volume explores how Japan has assumed key importance in India's Act East Policy. It studies India and Japan's strategic engagement with the US, and India's role as a "resident power" in the Indian Ocean Region. The Japanese perspective explores the geopolitical and geo-economic forces shaping the India-Japan relationship.



**India and Japan: A Natural Partnership in the Indo-Pacific**  
Harsh V Pant and Madhuchanda Ghosh  
304pp, ₹1,495, Orient BlackSwan

## A FRESH LOOK AT AN ANCIENT TEXT

In *From Fire to Light*, academic Arvind Sharma argues that the present understanding of the *Manusmriti*—regarded as a text designed by the higher castes, especially Brahmins, to oppress the lower castes and women—only tells one side of the story.

In his view, this perception, when examined against textual, commentarial and historical evidence, is limited to the point of being misleading (and sometimes downright wrong).

Providing an alternative reading of the *Manusmriti*, this book accepts some of the conclusions associated with the existing interpretation, but presents them in a new light, and explores other aspects of the work too. In taking the plural character of the Hindu tradition and the *Manusmriti*'s historical context more deeply into account, it brings about a paradigm shift in understanding.

The *Manusmriti* emerges as an attempt at social engineering, but of a rather different kind than imagined so far.

**From Fire to Light: Rereading the Manusmriti**  
Arvind Sharma  
392pp, ₹599, HarperCollins

## CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

For over 25 years, British actor Jassa Ahluwalia described himself as "half Indian, half English". His fluent Punjabi always prompted bewilderment, medical staff questioned the legitimacy of his name, and the world of casting taught him he wasn't "the right kind of mixed-race".

Feeling caught between two worlds, Jassa decided it was time to change how people think and talk about mixed identity. By delving into the media and legacies of empire, Ahluwalia asks: Is there anything to be learnt from Rudyard Kipling?

Why were movie stars urged to hide their mixed identities? To what extent did colonialism encourage or hinder mixed marriages? How can the politics of queer liberation inform our understanding of mixed identity? *Both Not Half* is a journey of self-discovery that unearths the historical roots of modern mixed identity. Part memoir, part manifesto, it is a campaign for belonging in a divided world.

**Both Not Half**  
Jassa Ahluwalia  
344pp, ₹499, HarperCollins

## ontheweb

READ: Set in New Delhi, *A Natural History of Violence*, a "whydunit" by Ankush Saikia, is devoted to a hunt for truth that spans generations of the Bedi family. Maintaining a fine balance between the present and the past, the novel unravels the story behind a gruesome patricide.



Scan the QR code to read the review by Percy Bharucha

# Gaza war: UN court orders Israel to halt military ops in Rafah city

Israel had argued before the court that an order to stop military activity would give free rein to Hamas extremists

**Agencies**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**THE HAGUE:** The top United Nations (UN) court on Friday ordered Israel to halt military operations in the Rafah city, a landmark ruling likely to increase mounting international pressure on Israel more than seven months into the Gaza war.

Israel must "immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part," the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said.

ICJ rulings are legally binding but the court has no concrete means to enforce them. For example, it ordered Russia to halt its invasion of Ukraine, to no avail.

Israel had argued before the court that an order to stop military activity would give free rein to Hamas extremists and prevent its army from rescuing hostages taken in the group's brutal October 7 attack.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced he would convene senior ministers after the ruling.

South Africa hailed the ruling, with foreign minister Naledi Pandor saying it was a "much stronger... set of provisional measures, very clear call for a cessation."

The ICJ ruling comes hot on the heels of another highly



**What the UN court said** Judge Nawaf Salam (third from right), presides over the ICJ, during a ruling on Israel's Rafah offensive, in The Hague, on Friday. REUTERS

It ordered Israel to keep open the Rafah crossing into Gaza for the "unhindered" provision of humanitarian aid.

Israel must ensure access for any fact-finding or investigative mission sent by the United Nations to investigate the genocide allegations.

It called for the immediate release of hostages taken by Hamas group in its October 7 assault on Israel.

charged decision on Monday by the International Criminal Court prosecutor to seek arrest warrants for top Israeli and Hamas leaders. Prosecutor Karim Khan alleged that senior Israeli leaders, including Netanyahu, plus top Hamas officials, were guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity related to the war in Gaza and the October 7 attack.

**South Africa accuses Israel of genocide**  
South Africa brought the case before the ICJ last year alleging that Israel's Gaza offensive

breached the 1948 UN Genocide Convention — a charge strongly denied by Israel.

In a ruling on January 26 that made headlines worldwide, the ICJ ordered Israel to do everything it could to prevent acts of genocide during its military operation in Gaza.

But South Africa has since returned several times to the ICJ arguing that the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza compels the court to issue further fresh emergency measures.

dered provision at scale" of humanitarian aid.

In public hearings last week, South Africa's ambassador Vusumuzi Madonsela alleged that "Israel's genocide has continued apace and has just reached a new and horrific stage". "Although the present application was triggered by the unfolding situation in Rafah, Israel's genocidal onslaught across Gaza has intensified over the past few days, also warranting the attention of this court."

South Africa argued the only way to enable humanitarian aid in to ease the crisis in Gaza was

a full halt to Israel's military operations.

The court will take months if not years to rule on the broader South African genocide case but it can order urgent measures while weighing its decision.

Israel retorted that South Africa's case was an "obscene exploitation of the most sacred convention" and the picture Pretoria paints to the court was "completely divorced from the facts and circumstances". "It makes a mockery of the heinous charge of genocide," said top Israel lawyer Gilad Noam at hearings.

## BODIES OF THREE GAZA HOSTAGES RECOVERED, SAYS ISRAELI MILITARY

**Agence France-Presse**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**JERUSALEM:** The Israeli military said on Friday its forces had retrieved the bodies of three hostages in an overnight operation in the northern Gaza Strip's Jabalia.

The remains of Israeli hostage Chanan Yablonka, Brazilian-Israeli Michel Nisenbaum and French-Mexican Orion Hernandez Radoux "were rescued" and their families had been notified after forensic identification, the military said in a statement.

Yablonka, 42, and Hernandez Radoux, 32, were abducted from a music festival with Palestinian militants stormed southern Israel from Gaza on October 7, triggering the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Nisenbaum, a 59-year-old from the Israeli city of Sderot near Gaza, was last contacted on his way to an army base on the border to pick up his granddaughter on the day of the attack.

He had been on the phone with family members when the line was cut. A person speaking Arabic then answered a call from one of his daughters.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said on social media platform X that "our broken hearts go out to the Yablonka, Hernandez, and Nisenbaum families" after the news that their bodies had been recovered.

Out of the 252 people taken hostage on October 7, 121 hostages remain inside the Gaza Strip, including 37 the army says are dead.

# PNG: Hundreds are feared dead after landslide

**Agencies**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA:** Hundreds are feared dead after a massive landslide levelled dozens of homes and buried families alive in a remote village in northern Papua New Guinea (PNG) early on Friday, a resident said. More than 50 homes, many with people still asleep inside, were buried when the landslide hit Kaokalam village around 3am, villager Ninga Role told Reuters by phone. The death toll was nearly 300, among them his brother and cousin, he said.

The Australian Broadcasting Corp and other local media reported that more than 100 people had been killed.

One man who turned back to try and save his two children was buried along with his extended family, Role said.

Social media footage posted by Role showed people clambering over rocks, uprooted trees and mounds of dirt searching for survivors. Women could be heard weeping in the background.

The village is in Enga province, about 600km north of the capital, Port Moresby.

Prime Minister James Marape said in a statement that authorities were responding to



People gather at the site of a landslide in Maip Multitaka in Papua New Guinea's Enga province on Friday. AFP

the disaster. "We are sending in disaster officials, PNG Defence Force, and the Department of Works and Highways to meet provincial and district officials in Enga and also start relief work, recovery of bodies, and reconstruction of infrastructure," Marape said.

Australia, a near neighbour and Papua New Guinea's most generous provider of foreign aid, said the government stood ready to help. "The loss of life and destruction is devastating. As friends and partners, Australia stands ready to assist in relief and recovery efforts," Australian foreign minister Penny Wong posted on social media.

## 14 killed in Vietnam building fire



The aftermath of a fire at small apartment building in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Friday. It killed 14 people and injured six others. The fire started around 12:30am and was accompanied by several explosions, the Vietnam News Agency said. It took an hour to extinguish. The building could only be accessed through an alley just 2 metres wide, preventing fire fighting vehicles from reaching it, and firefighters eventually contained the fire by using hoses, state media said. AFP

## Singapore Airlines tweaks its seatbelt sign policies after turbulence incident

**Agencies**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**SEOUL:** Singapore Airlines has tweaked its in-flight seatbelt sign policies and altered at least one flight route after a turbulence incident this week killed one person and left dozens more hospitalised, according to the airline and flight data.

The airline is adopting a more cautious approach to turbulence, including not serving hot drinks or meals when the seatbelt sign is on, it said in a statement to Singapore broadcaster Channel News Asia.

"SIA will continue to review our processes, as the safety of our passengers and crew is of utmost importance," it said.

Singapore Airlines said other existing safety measures during poor weather conditions include getting crew members to secure loose items in the cabin and galley to minimise turbulence-related injuries, advising passengers to return to their seats and buckle up, and monitoring passengers who may need assistance such as those in the toilet.

The SQ321 London-Singapore flight on a Boeing 777-300ER plane carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew diverted to Bangkok



The interior of the Singapore Airlines flight after an emergency landing at Bangkok airport, on Tuesday. REUTERS

for an emergency landing on Tuesday after the plane was buffeted by turbulence that flung passengers and crew around the cabin, slamming some into the ceiling.

The daily London to Singapore route SQ321 has completed two flights since the incident and not flown over the part of Myanmar where the sudden turbulence occurred about 3 hours before scheduled landing.

## Eight killed in China stabbing

**BEIJING:** A man killed eight people and wounded one more with a knife in central China, state media reported on Friday. The stabbing took place on Thursday morning in the city of Xiaogan in Hubei province, state broadcaster CCTV said. AFP

**45k Rohingya flee Myanmar conflict**  
**GENEVA:** The United Nations warned on Friday that escalating fighting in conflict-torn Myanmar's Rakhine State had forced around 45,000 minority Rohingya to flee, amid allegations of killings and burnings of property. AFP

**IS behind concert hall attack: Russia**  
**MOSCOW:** Russia on Friday said for the first time that the Islamic State (IS) group coordinated the March concert hall assault in Moscow, the country's deadliest terror attack in two decades. AFP

## 'Putin ready for ceasefire based on current frontlines in Ukraine'

**Reuters**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**MOSCOW/LONDON:** Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to halt the war in Ukraine with a negotiated ceasefire that recognises the current battlefield lines, four Russian sources told Reuters, saying he is prepared to fight on if Kyiv and the West do not respond.

Three of the sources, familiar with discussions in Putin's entourage, said the veteran Russian leader had expressed frustration to a small group of advisers about what he views as Western-backed attempts to stymie negotiations and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's decision to rule out talks.

"Putin can fight for as long as it takes, but Putin is also ready for a ceasefire — to freeze the war," said another of the four, a senior Russian source who has worked with Putin and has knowledge of top level conversations in the Kremlin.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in response to a request for comment, said the Kremlin chief had repeatedly made clear Russia was open to dialogue to



Vladimir Putin AFP

achieve its goals, saying the country did not want "eternal war".

The appointment last week of economist Andrei Belousov as Russia's defence minister was seen by some Western military and political analysts as placing the Russian economy on a permanent war footing in order to win a protracted conflict.

It followed sustained battlefield pressure and territorial advances by Russia in recent weeks.

However, the sources said that Putin, re-elected in March for a new six-year term, would

rather use Russia's current momentum to put the war behind him.

Based on their knowledge of conversations in the upper ranks of the Kremlin, two of the sources said Putin was of the view that gains in the war so far were enough to sell a victory to the Russian people.

Europe's biggest ground conflict since World War II has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides and led to sweeping Western sanctions on Russia's economy.

Putin's insistence on locking in any battlefield gains in a deal is non-negotiable, all of the sources suggested.

Freezing the conflict along current lines would leave Russia in possession of substantial chunks of four Ukrainian regions he formally incorporated into Russia in September 2022, but without full control of any of them. Such an arrangement would fall short of the goals Moscow set for itself at the time, when it said the four of Ukraine's regions — Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — now belonged to it in their entirety.

## { JAPANESE DOG } FACE OF \$23-BILLION DOGECOIN CRYPTOCURRENCY Kabosu, the dog who inspired 'Doge' meme, dies

**Agence France-Presse**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**TOKYO:** The Japanese dog whose photo inspired a generation of oddball online jokes and the \$23-billion Dogecoin cryptocurrency beloved by Elon Musk died on Friday, her owner said.

"She quietly passed away as if asleep while I caressed her," Atsuko Sato wrote on her blog, thanking the fans of her shiba inu called Kabosu — the face of the "Doge" meme. "I think Kabochan was the happiest dog in the world. And I was the happiest owner," Sato wrote.

As a rescue dog, Kabosu's real birthday was unknown but Sato estimated her age at 18, past the average lifespan for a shiba inu, with her birthday celebrated in November.

In 2010, two years after adopting Kabosu from a puppy mill where she would otherwise have been put down, Sato took a picture of her pet crossing her paws



Atsuko Sato and Kabosu play with children at a kindergarten in Narita, Chiba prefecture, east of Tokyo, on March 19. AFP

on the sofa. She posted that image — with the fluffy shiba inu giving the camera a beguiling look — on her blog, from where it spread to online forum Reddit and became a meme that bounced from college bedrooms to office e-mail chains. The

memes typically used goofy broken English to reveal the inner thoughts of Kabosu and other shiba inu "doge" — pronounced like pizza "dough" but with a "j" at the end.

The picture also later became an NFT digital artwork that sold

Chinese coastguard vessels are pictured while navigating at an undisclosed location in waters around Taiwan, on Thursday. REUTERS

## China warns Taiwan as warships, jets encircle the island during drills

**Agence France-Presse**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**BEIJING:** China warned on Friday of war over Taiwan and said it would ramp up countermeasures until "complete reunification" was achieved, as Chinese forces conducted military drills around the self-ruled island.

Warships and fighter jets encircled Taiwan on the second day of exercises that Beijing said were a test of its ability to seize the island, days after its new president was sworn in.

China's military kicked off the two-day war games on Thursday morning, surrounding democratic Taiwan with naval vessels and military aircraft as it vowed the blood of "independence forces" on the island would flow.

The exercises were launched three days after Lai Ching-te took office and made an inauguration speech that China denounced as a "confession of independence".

Beijing's defence ministry

spokesman Wu Qian said on Friday that Lai "has seriously challenged the one-China principle... pushing our compatriots in Taiwan into a perilous situation of war and danger".

"Every time 'Taiwan independence' provokes us, we will push our countermeasures one step further, until the complete reunification of the motherland is achieved," he said.

The drills are part of an escalating campaign of intimidation by China in which it has carried out a series of large-scale military exercises around Taiwan in recent years. Fighter jets loaded with live ammunition scrambled towards targets and bombers formed formations to combine with warships to simulate "strikes against important targets", state broadcaster CCTV reported.

On Friday night, Taiwan's defence ministry said 62 Chinese aircraft had been detected around the island since 7:14am (local time), the highest number of aircraft seen this year in a 24-hour window.

Beijing's defence ministry

## IRAN DENIES FOUL PLAY IN RAISI'S COPTER CRASH

**Agence France-Presse**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**TEHRAN:** Iran's army has so far found no evidence of criminal activity in a helicopter crash that killed the country's president Ebrahim Raisi and seven others, state media reported.

The 63-year-old died on Sunday after his helicopter went down in the country's mountainous northwest while returning from a dam inauguration on the border with Azerbaijan.

"No bullet holes or similar impacts were observed on the helicopter wreckage," said a preliminary report by the general staff of the armed forces published by the official IRNA news agency late on Thursday.

"The helicopter caught fire after hitting an elevated area," it said, adding that "no suspicious content was observed during the communications between the watch tower and the flight crew".

# Hospital chains prepare for big-bang expansion

Rising occupancies, insurance spur need for more healthcare infrastructure

Naman Suri  
naman.suri@livemint.com

**NEW DELHI:** India's creaking healthcare infrastructure is set to receive a healthy boost of capex from private hospitals. In their first meaningful expansion since the pandemic outbreak, leading hospital chains have formed up plans to cumulatively invest more than ₹14,600 crore over the next three to five years, adding about 17,800 beds nationwide.

Manipal Hospitals, Aster DM Healthcare, Apollo Hospitals and Max Healthcare, among several others, are working to add more beds in the coming years to meet the rising demand for healthcare.

"[Healthcare] is a fragmented sector," said Dilip Jose, managing director and chief executive of Bengaluru-based Manipal Hospitals. "There is a lot of opportunity to grow and consolidate, and we just want to continue our growth momentum."



Analysts expect large cities to be the main beneficiaries of the expansion plans.

Analysts attributed the scramble for new hospitals to, among other things, rising insurance penetration following the pandemic, and especially the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana, which aims to offer free health insurance to 550 million citizens.

Mehul Sheth, deputy vice president, institutional research (pharma and healthcare) at HDFC Securities, said, "There are multiple reasons for bed capacity expansion, such as increasing cases of non-communicable diseases, insurance penetration, and also because the utilization levels for some hospital chains are reaching

optimal levels of 75-80% (for example, Max Healthcare is running at 75-76% occupancy)."

Analysts expect large cities to be the main beneficiaries of the expansion plans. "Metros are expected to remain focal points for this capacity expansion," said Mythri Macherla, assistant vice-president and sector head at rating agency Ica. "Cities such as Delhi NCR, Mumbai and Bengaluru are expected to witness sizeable bed additions in the next few years."

Among the biggest upcoming investments of roughly ₹2,000 crore would be from Medicovert Hospitals, a Sweden-based multinational specialty hospital

group, which currently has 5,500 beds across in more than 21 hospitals across in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. The group plans to increase its capacity to more than 10,000 beds in the next five years, the company's chairman and MD Anil Krishna said.

"We as a country have a shortage of beds and with the population growing, there is a huge demand-supply gap," said Krishna. "But the economy is strengthening, and the middle class is also growing rapidly; so, there is a change in dietary habits leading to an increased need for healthcare." Krishna expects spending on healthcare to continue to increase over the next decade or so.

Then, CK Birla Hospitals is expanding in the Delhi National Capital Region over the next 12-18 months. "We are looking to expand beyond Delhi NCR as well, and this investment would be about ₹1,000 crore," Akshat Seth, vice-chairman of CK Birla Healthcare said. "We also have an expansion planned at our Jaipur hospital. After all this, we could have more than 1,500 beds in the country." It currently has around 1,200 beds.

# 'Stable food costs, steady rain to shield economy'

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**NEW DELHI:** The Union finance ministry on Friday exuded confidence about India's economic resilience, amid global conflicts and commodity price spikes. Positive indications in the farm sector like the prediction of a normal monsoon and stabilizing food prices will help the country "firewall against any adverse pressures" from such external factors in the coming months, the ministry's monthly economic review said.

The April review by the ministry's department of economic affairs said while a normal monsoon will stabilize food prices, strong macroeconomic buffers will help the economy navigate external headwinds smoothly and continue the growth momentum of the previous fiscal year (2023-24).

According to government estimates, India is expected to report a GDP (gross domestic product) growth of at least 7.6% during 2023-24, which would be the fastest in any major global economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects the Indian economy to register 7% growth in 2024-25.

The South Asian country's robust economic performance comes amid a slowdown in the global economy, on the back of a high-interest rate regime in



India is expected to report a GDP growth of at least 7.6% during FY24.

Plus One strategy," it added. In 2023-24, India's merchandise exports stood at \$437.06 billion, down from \$451.07 billion during the previous fiscal. During the same period, goods imports fell to \$677.24 billion from \$715.97 billion.

India's trade performance in 2024 was influenced by global events: Houthi attacks on ships on the Red Sea that led raised freight costs and disrupted supply chains; expensive crude oil on account of the continuing Russia-Ukraine war; US-China trade tensions leading to more expensive value chains; and the EU's proposed Carbon Tax and Forest regulations, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in a recent report.

In its latest economic review, the finance ministry said the ongoing recovery in the hotel and tourism industry, increased credit flow to transport and real estate segments, policy support and robust investments in physical and digital infrastructure and logistics will help the services sector.

Meanwhile, the finance ministry said the harvest for the Rabi Marketing Season for 2024-25 will temper the prices of agricultural produce like wheat and chana, which along with the prediction of a normal Southwest Monsoon augurs well for food production and easing of price pressures.

advanced economies and various geopolitical conflicts, which have impacted energy prices and trade.

"The crux of the foregoing discussion is that the industrial and service sectors of the Indian economy are performing well, backed by brisk domestic demand and partially by tentative external demand," the review said, adding domestic manufacturing is likely to receive stronger external support in the upcoming months.

"Modestly improved economic activity and consumer sentiment in Europe and a steady US economy have aided India's exports in April... This can benefit India's manufacturing firms as part of the China

India's trade performance in 2024 was influenced by global events: Houthi attacks on ships on the Red Sea that led raised freight costs and disrupted supply chains; expensive crude oil on account of the continuing Russia-Ukraine war; US-China trade tensions leading to more expensive value chains; and the EU's proposed Carbon Tax and Forest regulations, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in a recent report.

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India aims to nearly triple its green power capacity by the end of the decade and firms including Tata Power, Adani Green Energy Ltd. and Reliance Industries Ltd. are ramping up such efforts.

# TATA POWER SEEKS UP TO \$1 BILLION LOAN FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

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Indian power generation firm Tata Power Co. is planning to raise as much as \$1 billion-equivalent for clean energy projects, in what could be the country's largest local currency loan this year.

The unit of Tata Group, one of India's largest conglomerates, is in talks with lenders including State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank for the loan, people familiar with the matter said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

India's largest local currency loan so far this year was Assam Bio Refinery Pvt.'s deal of \$365 million in February. If Tata Power's planned borrowing finalizes with a size anywhere near \$1 billion, it would take that title.

The proceeds of the loan will be used to fund the company's investment of \$1.6 billion announced in August to develop some clean energy projects known as pumped hydro storage, the people familiar said.

India aims to nearly triple its green power capacity by the end of the decade and firms including Tata Power, Adani Green Energy Ltd. and Reliance Industries Ltd. are ramping up such efforts.

Tata Power is targeting a near fourfold growth in its renewable generation capacity by 2027.

The deal may be a bilateral loan or a clubbed facility. The company expects to finalize credit lines with lenders in the next three to six months, after which disbursements will take place in tranches depending on project development, the people said.

The loan may be priced over local gauges such as the Reserve Bank of India's repo rate or treasury bills, they added.

Negotiations are ongoing and details of the deal may change.

Tata Power and the banks mentioned didn't respond to requests seeking comments.

# Your next spectacles might be easy on skin, break-proof

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**NEW DELHI:** Broken and deformed spectacles? Fancy frames itching your skin? Fret not, stringent standards to manufacture eyewear are on the way, aiming to enhance consumer safety and eye health.

The new standards, on par with international guidelines, will include strict test methods to make unglazed spectacle frames, two people aware of the matter said. Frames must withstand deformation and lens dislodgement under specified test conditions, ensuring mechanical stability in daily use. They must be resistant to perspiration, show no spotting, colour change, corrosion, or surface degradation after exposure.

The distance between the tips of the sides must remain within specified limits even when tested with fitted lenses, the people said on the condition of anonymity. Manufacturers must also minimize the risk of harmful substances leaking from the frame.

Frames must retain dimensions even at elevated temperatures. They should also be designed or treated in a way that prevents them from catching fire easily and, if they do ignite, the fire should not sustain itself once the initial flame or source of ignition is taken away.

"One of the critical aspects of the new standards is the regulation of nickel release from metal parts of the frame. Parts that come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin must not release more than 0.5 microgrammes per square centimetre per week of nickel," one of the two people said. "It is crucial in preventing allergic reactions and ensuring the long-term comfort of the wearer as excessive nickel release can cause allergic reactions and skin irritation. By lim-



The measures aim to provide customers with safer and more reliable options.

iting nickel release, the standards aim to protect consumers from potential health issues and ensure safer, more comfortable eyewear," the person said.

By ensuring quality and durability, the measures aim to provide consumers with safer and more reliable eyewear options. The standards, expected by the end of the month, will be introduced by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which reports to the department of consumer affairs.

Queries emailed to spokespersons of the consumer affairs ministry and the BIS remained unanswered till press time. "Frames made from new materials must undergo a clinical evaluation in accordance with appropriate international standards. This ensures that any new material introduced in the market does not pose unforeseen risks to consumers," the second person said.

"This kind of initiative by the government is truly commendable. With the rapid growth of optical shops, there is a shortage of trained personnel to prescribe glasses. The drawbacks of prescribing non-compliant glasses cannot be overlooked, especially in children, as they can lead to a condition called 'amblyopia,'" said Dr. Rituraj Baruah, principal consultant, ophthalmology at Max Healthcare.

# Flipkart gets \$350 million cash transfer from Google

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**BENGALURU:** Google LLC has made a \$350-million investment in Flipkart but will not get a seat on its board, a person aware of the matter said, adding the transaction valued Flipkart at \$36 billion.

The Bengaluru-based e-commerce giant formally acknowledged the investment but did not disclose the amount proposed to be invested by Google. "As part of the latest funding round led by Walmart, Flipkart today announced that it will be adding

Google as a minority investor, subject to receipt of regulatory and other customary approvals by both parties," the e-commerce retailer said in a statement on Friday.

Walmart-owned Flipkart further said Google's proposed investment and its cloud collaboration will help Flipkart expand its business and advance the modernization of its digital infrastructure.

This is Flipkart's second association with a big-tech giant. In 2017, it partnered with Microsoft to adopt Azure as its exclusive public cloud computing plat-

form. At the time, Microsoft had said Flipkart will leverage artificial intelligence, machine learning and analytics capabilities on Azure—such as the Cortana Intelligence Suite and Power BI—to optimize its data for innovative merchandising, advertising, marketing and customer service.

THIS IS FLIPKART'S 2ND ASSOCIATION WITH A BIG-TECH GIANT FOLLOWING MICROSOFT DEAL

As per various reports, Flipkart is in discussions to move its domicile to India from Singapore to list in the public markets. Walmart's CEO Kathryn J. McLay also emphasised that the company is "looking and exploring when will be the right time to IPO" in a post-earnings call with analysts last week.

"Their business has grown, we've seen Mynta (Flipkart's subsidiary) get to Ebitda positive for the last two quarters. We've seen a growth in some premiumization and all of that is lifting the profile of the Flipkart business," McLay said, adding that

they are on the track to a growth trajectory. Ebitda refers to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization.

The investment from Google comes at a time when the company has been making efforts to relaunch its quick commerce vehicle as a part of its larger ambitions to sell everything and stay relevant. While Flipkart has historically not been a fast delivery company with most deliveries taking over two days, McLay said it has made same-day delivery available to millions more customers as it expanded the offering to 20 cities.

# HUL's board advances with ESG, cybersecurity mastery

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**MUMBAI:** India's largest packaged consumer goods company Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) is upgrading skills and competencies of its top leadership, the board of directors, to keep pace with evolving market demands.

The company is now requiring its board members to gain proficiency in areas such as cybersecurity, data governance and environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. This shift is designed to ensure the board is well-equipped to drive growth and improve talent retention capabilities. "In the last few years, the external environment in which the company operates in, and the regulatory framework governing it have undergone significant changes.

"With an ever-increasing focus on cyber security, artificial intelligence, ESG, risk management, the skills, capabilities required of directors in the context of business for efficient functioning of the board has also evolved," said the company in its



The shift is designed to ensure the board keeps pace with new market demands.

annual report for 2023-24. "In view of this, the board of directors based on recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee has approved and adopted the revised Board Skill Matrix of the company on 26 February," the report added.

HUL will be officially adopting new required skill sets for its board members. While earlier, key skills were essential for the board, this time it has assessed the extent of the skills required for its directors.

According to the skill-set statistics cited in the report, while 92% of its board had leadership experience, only 33% were aware about driving cybersecurity, data governance and infor-

mation technology initiatives.

The entire board was skilled in need for having a "business with a purpose", while 75% had "experience of overseeing large and complex business operations requiring proven administrative and managerial skills".

The company board currently comprises Nitin Paranjpe, Rohit Jawa, Leo Puri, Kalpana Morparia, Tarun Bajaj, and Neelam Dhawan, among others.

HUL's portfolio comprises over 50 brands, spanning 16 fast-moving consumer goods categories. In FY24, the company posted a turnover of ₹59,579 crore. Its governance structure is multi-tiered, comprising board of directors, board committees, the chief executive and managing director, as well as the management committee.

In April, the firm appointed B.P. Biddappa to its management committee as executive director of human resources, and chief people, transformation, and sustainability officer for South Asia. Biddappa will lead the company's people agenda for South Asia, besides driving transformation initiatives in business, organization and sustainability.

# How an FPI mood change fuelled stock markets on Thursday

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**MUMBAI:** With barely a fortnight left for the Lok Sabha election results on 4 June, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have significantly toned down their bearish sentiment in Indian markets.

On Thursday, they cut their cumulative net short positions on index futures contracts by a whopping 121,415 contracts to 98,351 contracts, from 219,766 a day earlier.

Along with their purchase of a provisional ₹4,670.95 crore of shares, this short-covering was a key reason why the markets tested a fresh high of 22,993.60 on Thursday.

"Markets don't fall on pessimism," Deepak Shenoy, founder of Capitalmind, a Sebi-registered portfolio manager, commented about the short-covering by FPIs. Markets typically fall when there



Aggregate net profit of 1,874 companies grew 26.4% y-o-y to ₹3.74 lakh crore in Q4FY24.

are huge longs in system, and not so many shorts. Shenoy added that the March quarter results had been "really decent" and he expects the market momentum to continue. Aggregate net profit of 1,874 companies grew 26.4% year-on-year to ₹3.74 lakh crore in the final quarter of 2023-24.

According to U.R. Bhat,

co-founder, Alphaniti Fintech, FPIs had "probably thought it expedient to tone down bearishness ahead of the election outcome, with five phases of polling having concluded."

He expects sharp movements in markets after 1 June when the exit poll results start rolling in. On Friday, markets closed on a flat note, with Nifty down by 0.05% at 22,957.10. Bank Nifty, however, was an outperformer, closing 0.42% higher at 48,971.65.

Gautam Duggad, research head-institutional equities at Motilal Oswal believes market momentum would continue as long as "there were no negative surprises on 4 June".

Rohit Srivastava, founder of IndiaCharts, said market momentum would hinge on FPIs covering their remaining shorts and initiating fresh longs on the market.

# JLR set to assemble flagship Range Rover SUVs in India

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**NEW DELHI:** For the first time in over half a century, Jaguar Land Rover Automotive Plc (JLR), the British arm of Tata Motors, will assemble its flagship luxury sports utility vehicles Range Rover and Range Rover Sport outside the UK, choosing India.

This shift underscores JLR's commitment to local manufacturing and tapping into India's growing luxury car market, a top company executive said in an interview on the sidelines of the inauguration of Range Rover House in Alibaug, Maharashtra, the first experiential centre of the brand in India.

A new assembly line for the Range Rover and Range Rover Sport will be set up in Tata Motors' manufacturing facility in Pune, Maharashtra, with a



The local assembly aims to attract a new set of buyers and expand the brand's footprint in India.

production capacity of 10,000 units annually in two shifts, said Rajan Amba, managing director and CEO of Jaguar Land Rover India.

By end-May, India-assembled Range Rovers will be available for delivery, while the Range Rover Sport will hit the market by the middle of August, Amba said.

The move is expected to

reduce prices by a significant 18%-22%, while still keeping them in the ₹1.5 crore and above category. "(We) believe customers who were hesitant will make that leap, and it should add to the growth in Range Rover and Range Rover Sport," said Amba.

"This is the first time that these flagship brands are coming out of Solihull (in the UK) and being made anywhere else,

This is a reflection of JLR's commitment to India and the power of consumerism in this country, especially at the premium end," he said.

The local assembly aims to attract a new set of buyers and expand the brand's footprint in India.

"We can produce world-class quality in India—and that's the reason we can produce the Range Rover and Range Rover Sport here as well. The team in Pune ensures really high quality. With the local manufacturing opportunity here, we can really play into the opportunity (of customers seeking premium, customised products)," said Lenard Hoonnik, chief commercial officer, JLR.

India's luxury car market, led by German carmakers Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Audi, collectively sells close to 50,000 units annually. Mercedes-Benz

holds nearly half the share of this market. However, JLR, a more niche luxury carmaker with higher average prices, is poised to capitalize on the growing ₹1.5 crore-and-above category.

For instance, Mercedes Benz derives a quarter of its sales from top-end vehicles priced over ₹1.5 crore. JLR anticipates the Indian luxury car market to double to 100,000 units in the next five years. "So, there is a lot of headroom to grow. We are seeing a slightly younger trend of customers—even if they are not the buyers, they are influencing the purchase decisions," Amba noted.

"We are putting the products in a price band that hopefully compels people sitting on the fence to buy. Over the next one year, we also hope to bring down waiting periods, which go up to 12 months."

## { SUDOKU }

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Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9x9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL  
★★

## { WEATHER }

TEMPERATURE • HIGH • LOW

SATURDAY Heatwave and warm night 44°C   31°C	SUNDAY Heatwave 45°C   31°C	MONDAY Heatwave 45°C   30°C
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ALMANAC Today is 25th May 2024 • 01: Dhul Qarab, 04:15 • 02: Jyestha, Krishna Pakha, 02 • Sunset: 20:01 • Sunrise: Saturday at 07:30 p.m. • Sunrise: Sunday at 07:25 a.m. • Moonrise: Saturday at 06:24 a.m. • Moonset: Saturday at 09:15 p.m.	TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS Delhi 44°C   31°C Mumbai 33°C   28°C Kolkata 36°C   26°C Chennai 37°C   27°C
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SPORT



Sunrisers Hyderabad players celebrate after their victory over Rajasthan Royals at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Friday.

Russell and Narine: A tag team firing for KKR, again

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CHENNAI: "When you play that number of games, you don't get excited too quickly," Andre Russell explains Sunil Narine's low-key celebrations after picking up wickets. Narine has played over 500 T20 matches, Russell will get there soon.

With a collective experience of seven Tests, the West Indian duo is out-and-out T20 trouper. They may have won T20 World Cups along the way, but their relationship with the home cricket board has been mostly frosty. If they could still excel on the world stage, live a high life and give wings to their unparalleled talent, it's because Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) happened.

There are only so many loyal player-franchise associations in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The mega auction, every fourth year, never allows them to stay the course. But KKR's bond with Russell (2014 onwards) and Narine (2012) has been shatterproof. Narine's end game was pronounced when he had troubles with his bowling action. Russell's when he had a doping suspension and troubled knee. But to KKR's credit, they saw merit in keeping faith. They play for KKR round-the-year — in IPL, MLS, ILT20 and CPL.

Year after year, the two all-rounders bring their USP to the fore. It has been no different this year. In Narine's case, it has

been his most spectacular IPL as an all-rounder.

For KKR's backroom men, their own batters are the first port of call to predict if it would be another year where Narine's bowling mystery remains intact. "They couldn't pick him in the nets," a birdie said. Nor have the opposing batters been able to.

After remodelling his bowling action, Narine hides the ball in his run-up, giving the batters a split second less to spot it from the hand — small tweaks that matter. En route to the final, Narine's wickets (16) have cost him only 6.9 runs per over. It makes him the most economical of all spinners in the league; overall, the second-best after Jasprit Bumrah — in a season which has seen the most sixes.

Quite a few of them (32 sixes) have come off Narine's bat itself — the most for KKR. With Gautam Gambhir's return to the KKR set-up, Narine was elevated as opener again. He has scored more runs (482) than his total returns from the past five seasons. If Narine's bowling is complex, his batting is uncomplicated. He still opens his right leg, gives himself room and relies heavily on his lofted pulls. But to be able to bat as aggressively (SR 179.85) and score the volume of runs is a testament to his confidence levels.

Narine's impact has become bigger as the season has dragged on, but it was Russell who set the ball rolling with his 25-ball 64 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the first outing. That end-over cameo was

laced with seven sixes; many of them monstrous, demoralising bowlers.

It's been yet another season where the Jamaican has scored his runs (222) at turbo speed (SR 185). To cap that, he has picked up as many wickets (16) as Narine and put his hand up to shoulder the death-overs burden when others including Mitch Starc took time to come into their own.

"I am just more disciplined and trying to do the things that are uncomfortable a bit... that's in terms of going to the gym and trying to do it every other day and get my legs stronger because I've been struggling with knee injuries for the last couple of years," he told Star Sports. "Sometimes you take a lot of things for granted. When thousands and millions of fans worldwide are watching games, seeing you not performing or getting injured, I think it's not good. I look into myself and I think me and the gym, we are the best friends, so I think that's why I'm more fit in this season."

Besides Narine's batting prowess, he has choked the scoring with the ball in the middle overs. Russell produces fireworks with the bat in the death overs, and then makes the most of the two-bouncer rule in the middle overs and nails those yorkers at the death. Between the two, Narine and Russell cover so much ground in a T20 encounter that no Impact player rule can dilute their all-round impact. They are a tag team in an eleven-a-side sport.

Sunrisers get the job done against RR, reach IPL final

Spinners Shahbaz and Abhishek share five wickets as SRH set up clash with KKR for a shot at the title

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CHENNAI: With three wickets to show at an economy rate of 10.71 coming into the game, few would have thought left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmad would out-bowl more illustrious names like Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal. But he did exactly that to take Sunrisers Hyderabad into the final of the 2024 season of the Indian Premier League.

Defending 175, in a three-over spell after the Powerplay, Shahbaz didn't put a foot wrong. He pulled his length back to get the rampaging Yashasvi Jaiswal 41 (2lb) to miscue a hoick. Then got the prolific Riyan Parag (6) to hole out at cow corner and finally got Ashwin caught behind for no score.

Punching the air and shouting his lungs out in celebration after each wicket, the usually under-the-radar Bengal all-rounder helped SRH set up a final date

with Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday. RR ended up being 36 runs short.

In six overs, Shahbaz combined with Abhishek Sharma to steal the match away from Rajasthan Royals, who at 56/1, were in a good position after the Powerplay. Only 25 runs came off the 36 balls and 4 wickets fell too. RR found themselves at 65/2 after 7 overs and in deep trouble.

As the pitch began to take sharp turn, SRH skipper Pat Cummins decided to go all in with spin. Even Abhishek completed his full quota and got important wickets of Sanju Samson (10) and Shimron Hetmyer (4) to finish with figures of 4-0-24-2. The combined figures of the two left-arm spinners read 8-0-47-5.

The manner in which the spinners found life easier in the second essay — with 1.8-3.3 degrees of turn — proved to be a key factor on what had, of late, been a good chasing ground. In the first innings, Chahal and Ashwin bowled 8 wicket-less overs between them for 77 runs. So much in T20 cricket is about the present and the present alone.

It foiled what seemed to be an impressive bowling performance by RR. With the bat, it wasn't

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad

T Head c Ashwin b S Sharma	34 (28)
A Sharma c Cadmore b Boult	12 (5)
R Tripathi c Chahal b Boult	37 (15)
A Markram c Chahal b Boult	1 (2)
H Klaasen b S Sharma	50 (34)
N Reddy c Chahal b Avesh	5 (10)
A Samad b Avesh Khan	0 (1)
S Ahmed c Jurel b Avesh	18 (18)
P Cummins not out	5 (5)
J Unadkat run out	5 (2)
Extras: (lb1, w7)	8
Total: (9 wkts, 20 overs):	175
FoW: 1-13, 2-55, 3-57, 4-99, 5-120, 6-120, 7-163, 8-170, 9-175	
Bowling: Boult 4-0-45-3, Ashwin 4-0-43-0, S Sharma 4-0-25-2, Avesh Khan 4-0-27-3, Chahal 4-0-34-0	

Rajasthan Royals

Y Jaiswal c Samad b Ahmed	42 (21)
T Cadmore c Tripathi b Cummins	10 (6)
S Samson c Markram b Abhishek	10 (11)
R Parag c A Sharma b Ahmed	6 (10)
D Jurel not out	56 (35)
R Ashwin c Klaasen b Ahmed	0 (3)
S Hetmyer b A Sharma	4 (10)
R Powell c A Sharma b Natarajan	6 (12)
T Boult not out	0 (3)
Extras: (lb1, nb1, w3)	5
Total: (7 wkts, 20 overs):	139
FoW: 1-24, 2-65, 3-67, 4-79, 5-79, 6-92, 7-124	
Bowling: B Kumar 3-0-33-0, Cummins 4-0-30-1, T Natarajan 3-0-13-1, Unadkat 1-0-5-0, Ahmed 4-0-23-3, A Sharma 4-0-24-2, Markram 1-0-10-0	

Abhishek Sharma's day. But two of the other destructive SRH batters of the season Travis Head and Heinrich Klaasen occupied the crease for more than half the innings — 62 balls to be precise. This time they managed only 84 runs, but they may have got a measure of why they would retain a chance to win if they posted a fighting total.

The RR pacers had decided that slow was the way to go. It was the basis of Sandeep Sharma's impressive 4-0-25-2 spell. Sandeep used his slower

bouncers liberally, checked SRH's scoring rate in the middle overs and saw the back of both Head 34 (28b) and Klaasen 50 (34b).

When the day began, RR gave the 29,225-strong Chepauk crowd a nostalgic feel by introducing Ashwin in the Powerplay. But there would not be first over wicket this time with Rahul Tripathi putting on a show against his ex-franchise. The SRH right-hander took the attack against Ashwin's bouquet of carrom balls with a flurry of boundaries.

Boult off-set most of Tripathi's gains with a 3-wicket burst in the Powerplay.

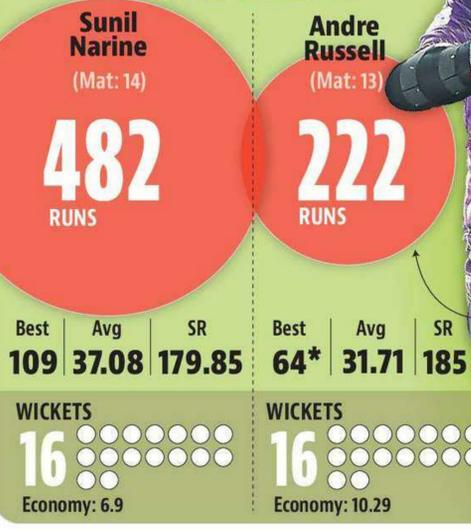
SRH's calling card all season has been their unrestrained scoring tempo. But in a knockout, crucially, they choose to step back a gear after losing 4 wickets at the half-way stage.

Samson saw an opportunity to allow Yuzvendra Chahal to challenge Klaasen, to see if he could play with the South African batter's ego. In the 13th over, a fascinating game of cat-and-mouse ensued, but Klaasen was content with a solitary six. He clearly wanted to delay upping the ante.

Avesh Khan dismissed Nitish Reddy and Abdul Samad off successive balls and restricted SRH's death overs score to 43. But SRH, the team with the least spin impact in the tournament yet, was going to put up a show with their tweekers when it mattered.

RR's campaign, which had begun with such flourish through 8 wins in the first 9 league matches, came to a disappointing end. They'll go away thinking of what might have been. SRH, though, have deservedly earned a shot at the title.

The Caribbean combo  
Andre Russell and Sunil Narine have been lynchpins for KKR for many seasons. Here's how they have fared in IPL 2024



India go down to Belgium in hockey

NEW DELHI: The Indian men's hockey team was hammered 1-4 by Olympic champions Belgium in its second match of the Antwerp leg of the FIH Pro League. For India, Abhishek (55th) scored the lone goal. The Indian women's team also went down to Belgium, losing 0-2 at the same venue.

Barcelona sack coach Xavi

BARCELONA: Barcelona sacked coach Xavi Hernandez on Friday after the Catalan giants failed to win a trophy this season but just weeks since he and club president Joan Laporta agreed he would stay in the post. Xavi will take charge of the team's final La Liga match on Sunday at Sevilla before departing.

Djokovic loses in Geneva semis

GENEVA: Novak Djokovic will defend his French Open title in Paris still without a trophy this season after losing in the Geneva Open semi-finals on Friday. The 44th-ranked Tomas Machac beat Djokovic 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 in the last event before Roland Garros.

Delhi meet: Athletes face the heat from NADA, medallist runs away

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NEW DELHI: On a scorching Friday morning, the National Anti-Doping Agency turned the heat up on dope cheats at the Delhi State Summer Athletic Meet at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here.

The early-morning presence of NADA dope testers caused a stir among the athletes. One medallist in the shot put boys' U-18 event was chased by NADA officials around the stadium but he managed to escape. Another shot putter in the girls U-18 category also evaded testers. Besides these two incidents, the NADA team was busy throughout the day collecting samples of medallists and also picking up 'random' athletes for tests.

The activities of the NADA team led to an 'unusually' high number of athletes withdrawing from their respective events. The tag of 'Did Not Start' or 'Did Not Finish' was common against the name of several athletes in almost every discipline.

The boys (U-18) 1000m run had two heats with a total of 42 athletes in the fray. The first heat saw seven not finishing the race while as many as 10 athletes 'Did Not Start' in the second heat. In the boys (U-18) 400m competition, out of 27 sprinters, nine withdrew (DNS). The men's 400m run had seven DNS while a total of 18 athletes competed. Three athletes clocked over a minute. The 3000m men's steeplechase final saw three with-



Used syringes were found at the JLN Stadium.

drawals out of a total of seven. The throwing events were witness to similar scenes. The boys U18 shot put event, where a miscreant fled, had 13 participants but only eight competed. The other five had DNS against their names. In the men's shot put, out of seven throwers, three pulled out. In men's javelin, out of nine competitors, four pulled out. In the women's shot out, four of the 10 athletes did not compete.

"These are unusually high numbers of athletes withdrawing from events," said an official, who did not wish to be named, at the venue. "Generally, you don't have so many athletes in the DNS bracket. They have paid their entry fees. It is after seeing the

dope testers that many might have decided to skip."

The result of the shot putter who ran away without giving his samples has been withheld. Syringes were seen scattered in the washrooms at the stadium. A stadium official said the syringes were not there a day earlier. "The toilets were cleaned in the evening and no syringes were spotted," he added.

The competition was being conducted to select the Delhi team for the National Youth Athletics Championships in Chhatisgarh from June 15.

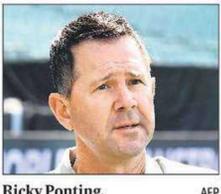
DAA asks athletes to sign undertaking  
The Delhi Athletics Association

(DAA) got the participants to give an undertaking with the names of their coaches. DAA thus became the first state federation to implement the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) new policy of asking athletes to furnish details of their coaches. AFI said it will also punish the coaches if the athletes are suspended for doping.

This comes in the backdrop of India recording the highest number of doping offenders in the world in 2022, according to a recent World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) report. India tested a total of 3,865 samples during the period beginning January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022 and 125 of them returned Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs). The 3.2% of AAF India recorded is the highest in the world among nations that tested more than 2,000 samples. India is also the second worst country in doping cases among minors as per a 10-year study conducted by the WADA. Russia tops that list.

Earlier in January, NADA had swooped on a locality near the JLN stadium to collect samples, catching state-level athletes off-guard.

In September last year, a Delhi state meet was in news when seven athletes withdrew from the 100m final at the Delhi State Athletics Championships. Lalit Kumar, the sole competitor in the race, returned dope positive and was handed a four-year ban by NADA. AFI had launched an inquiry into the incident. The report of the AFI committee is yet to be made public.



Ricky Ponting.

BCCI HAS NOT APPROACHED ANY AUSTRALIAN FOR COACH'S JOB: SHAH

HT Correspondent  
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Friday denied claims that the Indian cricket board had approached any former Australian cricketer to become India's next head coach. On Thursday, former Australia captain Ricky Ponting had suggested that his interest for the high-profile position was sought, but that he isn't interested in becoming the coach as "it just doesn't fit into my lifestyle right now".

Shah's statement also indicated that Rahul Dravid's successor could be an Indian, saying that the next coach should have a "deep understanding" of the game's structure in the country. "Neither I nor the BCCI have approached any former Australian cricketer with a coaching offer. The reports circulating in certain media sections are completely incorrect," Shah said in a statement. "Finding the right coach for our national team is a meticulous and thorough process. We are focused on identifying individuals who possess a deep understanding of the Indian structure and have risen through the ranks," Shah said.

Delhi high court appoints ad hoc panel to run EFI

Shruti Kakkar  
shruti.kakkar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court has appointed an ad hoc administrative committee (AAC), headed by former Delhi high court judge Justice Najmi Waziri, to manage the affairs of the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) following the allegations of impropriety in its functioning.

A bench of Justice Tara Vistasa Ganju directed that the committee, also comprising former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi and advocate Rohini Musa, will take over the charge of day-to-day administration of the federation, noting EFI's functioning could not be left solely in the hand of the office bearers who were acting in a capricious manner.

"This Court is of the considered view that the prevailing circumstances exist necessitating the appointment of an administrative committee for Respondent No.1/EFI, as an interim arrangement, and that there is an urgent and immediate need to protect the interest of the equestrian sports to avoid further deterioration in its affairs, and to safeguard the larger public interest underlying the sport as well as the sports persons dependent upon it," the court said in the May 21 order, released on Thursday.

The bench added: "Pending the conduct of elections, the Respondent No.1/EFI cannot be

left without any office bearers. However, in view of what has been discussed above, this Court cannot in good conscience leave the functioning of the Respondent No.1/EFI solely in the hands of those office bearer(s) whose tenure has expired and who are acting in a capricious manner and in violation of the directives of the Court."

The bench also barred the existing office-bearers from discharging any function but directed them to render all the assistance to the AAC.

The order was issued in an application filed by the Rajasthan Equestrian Association (REA) last year, challenging EFI's September 2023 decision to allow its office-bearers to continue till fresh elections take place.

The application was moved in a pending petition by REA, which had initially approached the high court in 2019 seeking stay of the election of the executive committee that year.

It was also asserted that EFI was functioning through its erstwhile general secretary, despite his tenure coming to an end on September 29, 2023, which was contrary to the sports code.

# At French Open, Swiatek on the cusp of joining a league of legends

The Pole will bid to become first woman to win three French Open titles in a row since Henin in 2007

Rutvik Mehta

rutvik.mehta@htlive.com

**MUMBAI:** Such has been the Rafa-sized influence of one player at Roland Garros that conversations and celebrations around the others invariably go under the radar.

About time we talk Iga Swiatek. She's on the cusp of joining Justine Henin, having completed a run last ticked off by Serena Williams. Being mentioned in the same league as these legends is no mean feat, especially on clay and in the modern women's game where holding on to trophies has proven far tougher than winning them.

That's where Swiatek stands out at French Open. The two-time defending champion remains the woman to beat going for a three-peat in Paris, a testament to the world No. 1's present form and preceding grip on the clay-court Slam no woman had been able to win twice in a row in 16 years.

Until the Pole did her dance on the dirt last year, gobbling up three bagels (6-0 set victories) while littering just one set in defending her crown. Swiatek will now bid to become the first woman to walk away with three straight French Open titles since Henin in 2007. Only one other woman has done that in the Open era (Monica Seles, from 1990 to 1992), while Serena was the last woman to win three on the bounce in any Slam a decade ago (US Open, from 2012 to 2014).

Add Swiatek's first Roland Garros title in 2020 as a teen and such stranglehold on a Slam doesn't come about too often in the women's game. Certainly not in recent times.

Even rarer? A woman sweep-

## Swiatek aiming for a hat-trick in Paris

The world No.1 is the woman to beat at French Open, and keen to do that will be her rivals. A look at the top players

### IGA SWIATEK

WORLD RANKING 1

Best French Open show: Champion (x3)

Previous French Open show: Champion

TITLES IN 2024

★★★★★

WIN-LOSS RECORD

Won 38

Lost 4

The two-time defending champion is the runaway favourite, and is in red-hot form too.

### COCO GAUFF

WORLD RANKING 3

Best French Open show: Final (2022)

Previous French Open show: Quarter-final

TITLES IN 2024

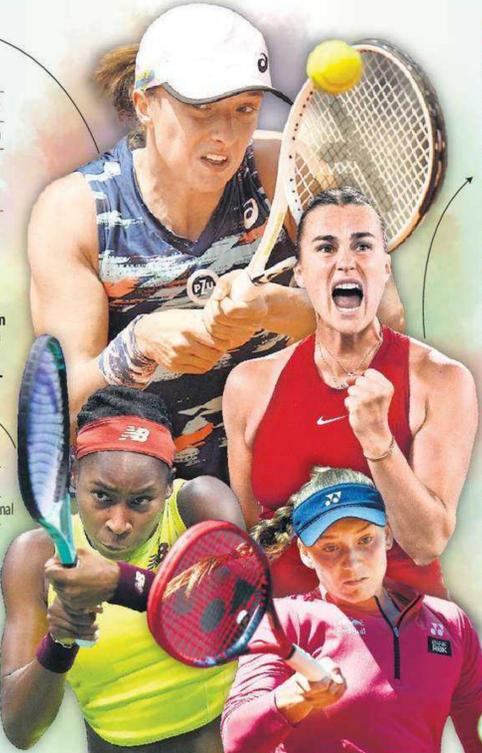
★

WIN-LOSS RECORD

Won 25

Lost 8

The US Open champion has made deep runs in Paris in the last three years, and will look to do so again.



### ARYNA SABALENKA

WORLD RANKING 2

Best French Open show: Semi-final (2023)

Previous French Open show: Semi-final

TITLES IN 2024

★

WIN-LOSS RECORD

Won 25

Lost 7

The Australian Open winner made the final of both Madrid and Rome before losing to Swiatek.

### ELENA RYBAKINA

WORLD RANKING 4

Best French Open show: QF (2021)

Previous French Open show: Third round

TITLES IN 2024

★★★★★

WIN-LOSS RECORD

Won 30

Lost 5

She hasn't had too much success in Paris, but comes in with a clay title in Stuttgart this time.

ing clay-court titles in Madrid, Rome and Paris in the same season. Only Serena has done that in 2013. Swiatek has knocked off Madrid and Rome in 2024 and, at the doorsteps of Paris, is carrying that momentum, form and belief.

After a shock third-round exit at the Australian Open, Swiatek picked herself up in no time. A hard-court title in Doha in her next tournament followed, and then the Indian

Wells trophy. Clay is where she truly comes into her own, like she did in the two major WTA tournaments leading into the French Open. She breezed through Madrid and Rome dropping just two sets (none in Rome), defeating Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka in both finals and becoming just the third woman to bag the "dirty double" after Dinara Safina (2009) and Serena (2013). Smooth and sublime in Paris,

Swiatek is 28-2 in her five appearances at French Open, the best win-loss ratio by a woman in her first 30 matches after Seles and Chris Evert. The 22-year-old's movement on clay is exceptional, her power and precision from the baseline excellent and defence efficient. She can slide and smash alike, feeling at home on clay.

No wonder Evert, a record seven-time French Open champion, told the Associated Press

she believes Swiatek can go past her. Or that Amelie Mauresmo, the former French world No. 1 and current French Open tournament director, doesn't see her "stopping any time soon".

"How she plays on clay, and how she's able to play in Roland Garros — not only her game but the pressure she now starts to face when she gets to Roland Garros and how she handles that — it shows that she can have much more," Mauresmo

told the French Open podcast.

"I love seeing her play at Roland Garros and on clay. She looks like she has a special state of mind there. So yeah, she's impressive and she's coming as a favourite once again this year."

A tricky draw, however, will test the defending champion. After the first round, four-time Slam winner Naomi Osaka, on the comeback trail with some good wins in Rome, possibly awaits. So does 2021 champion Barbora Krejickova, who has beaten Swiatek in their last two meetings, two rounds later.

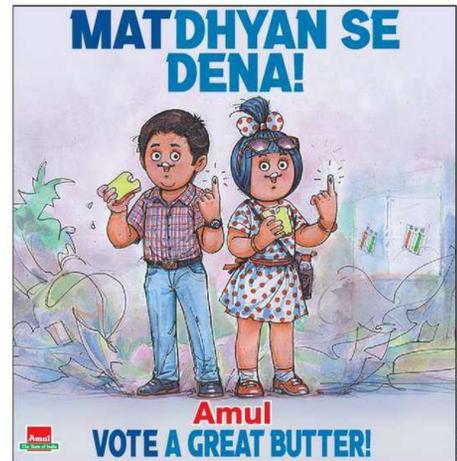
Her more familiar foes, should the seedings live up to status, could be around too. Sabalenka, dangerous on hard courts who is yet to go beyond the semi-finals at French Open, has felt better on the dirt this year. She reached the final in Madrid and Rome only to meet the Swiatek wall. US Open champion Coco Gauff has entered the second week in Paris for the last three years — she lost to Swiatek in the 2022 final — and is wiser by Slam winning experience now. Rybakina hasn't quite roared at Roland Garros but comes with a clay-court title this season.

### Eye on the Olympics

Swiatek, though, has extra incentive to excel in Paris this year. A couple of months later, she would be back on the clay courts of Roland Garros for the Olympics, which is a big goal for her. More so with her father being an Olympian — Tomasz was a member of Poland's Quadruple Sculls men's rowing team in the 1988 Seoul Games — and the Tokyo Games ending in disappointment (Swiatek lost in the second round).

"In Tokyo, I remember how stressful it was," she said on Thursday. "This year I'm trying to really keep my expectations low but really work hard to be prepared for the Olympics."

A third straight French Open triumph would be ideal preparation.



## Sindhu ousts top seed, enters last 4

Sandip Sikdar

sandip.sikdar@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** It hasn't been an easy return to the circuit for PV Sindhu. Out for nearly four months due to a left knee injury, the two-time Olympic medallist made a comeback to the tour in February.

Though she helped India win the Badminton Asia Team Championships, she faltered against the top players in individual tournaments, entering the \$420,000 Malaysia Masters with an unimpressive 10-6 win-loss record.

But in Kuala Lumpur, the former world champion is slowly beginning to find her groove and that could be seen in her win over Chinese top seed Han Yue to enter her first semi-finals in seven months.

The fifth seeded Sindhu took 55 minutes to move past the world No.6 21-13, 14-21, 21-12 to earn her sixth victory in seven meetings over Han, who last week reached the final of the Thailand Open after helping China win the Uber Cup earlier this month.

"The third game was crucial for both of us. From the first rally, I made sure I was in the game focused and didn't give away easy points. I was in control and I was confident of winning. I'm happy with how I played because I lost our last



PV Sindhu.

match. It's a shame as I was leading, but this is like a sweet revenge," world No.15 Sindhu said in the mixed zone.

The five-time world championship medallist was referring to the loss she suffered at the Badminton Asia Team Championships where Han earned her only win against the Indian.

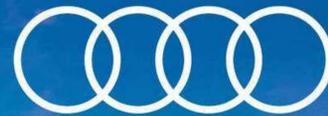
"I was prepared for three games, I was prepared for long rallies. At this level, you can't expect a straightforward match. The top 10 players are of the highest standards, you can't take it easy. It's good I've come to the semis, this gives me a lot of confidence to go much further," said the two-time former champion.

Sindhu will take on Thai Busanan Ongbamrunphan against whom the Indian has an overwhelming 17-1 record.

However, it was the end of the road for Ashmita Chaliha who lost 10-21, 15-21 to Chinese sixth seed Zhang Yi Man.

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# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

BOOK II

SPORT

## Bonding and recharging off the pitch

Fulton's unusual team-building plan hopes to put Indian men's hockey team in a good space at Paris

Sandip Sikdar

sandip.sikdar@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** "Nobody wants to go to another country and return empty handed," said India vice-captain Hardik Singh.

It was a tough pill to swallow. Five matches, five losses. The formidable Aussies had not just beaten India but ripped apart the momentum and belief that Harmanpreet Singh and Co had been building over the last few months since qualifying for the Olympics.

Chief coach Craig Fulton knew it was important to keep the mood lively. He regularly took the team to the beaches in Perth where they spent hours swimming in the sea. The South African also encouraged the team to spend time with the Indian community Down Under who had invited the players for dinner.

"These activities will not necessarily improve your hockey but what it will improve are your relationships, understanding and trust of your teammates," says Fulton. "Investing in team and individuals and doing things outside hockey are ways to refuel the process because if you just train, you'll end up running out of fuel."

India resurrected themselves by beating 2016 Rio Olympics champions Argentina in the Pro League on Wednesday in their

first match since the debacle Down Under, emphasising on the importance of keeping the mood light.

The activities in Perth were not a first but part of a process which Fulton, with the help of renowned mental health expert Paddy Upton, regularly devise to get the squad to detach itself from hockey to focus on friendship, trust and bonding within the group.

In such an outcome-based environment where the chatter continually revolves around winning and losing, it is critical to loosen the mood a bit, take the scale a few new notches lower. Otherwise, you could get a scenario like the 2023 World Cup where the Olympic bronze medalists buckled under pressure to finish a lowly ninth at home.

Take the team's tour to South Africa in January for example where the team trekked up Table Mountain, a prominent landmark overlooking the city of Cape Town.

"You don't get many chances in a programme to invest in the group from a cultural and team point of view because it is always about high performance results. The relevance of why we went to Cape Town was geared around hiking up Table Mountain which is beautiful but at the same time it is quite a tough hike; it resembles our journey from Tokyo to Paris which is having to qualify and trying to submit the mountain," said Fulton.

"That is our objective — to be very competitive and not to be too far away from our best when the



India's players relax at a beach in Cape Town; (right) goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and coach Craig Fulton in South Africa.

time comes. It is like summiting a mountain where you don't want to be too far away so you set up camp at base camp. That is what we are trying to do, have a certain level of performance and when the time comes, we are close enough to summiting the mountain and that is by playing our best hockey when it counts in Paris."

Following a climb of three-and-a-half hours where the athletes

halted multiple times to enjoy the view and take photographs, Harmanpreet's outfit stood atop the mountain to soak in the majestic view, later holding a meeting there.

During the meeting the team discussed that there were some players who climbed quickly, some were slow while some wanted to spend more time at specific spots to take in the view or just click photos. The idea was



INSTAGRAM

to realise that in a team you must look after everyone, communicate, understand and go together, that there will be differences in ideas and how to overcome them and submit together. "They were small but important things. Some had issues with the altitude, some were nervous looking at the climb, some got tired. The idea was to support, boost each other and take everyone along. That is how you win,"

said India forward Lalit Upadhyay.

Fulton also introduced the players to surfing, something most of the team had never tried. The unit had a laugh riot in both South Africa and Australia as everyone kept slipping off their boards. Harmanpreet finally seemed to get the hang of it as he stood on the board, riding the waves. Another exercise that induced

extreme hilarity was the 'Oscar night' just before the 2023 Asian Games. The entire squad, including the staff, was divided into groups who then had to make short films based on certain themes. They had to come up with their own scripts, act, film it, edit and put it all together. The entire squad then watched the films together during a special screening which turned out to be a laugh riot following which 'Oscar' awards were also handed out.

"The name of our movie was *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar*. Just think — Akashdeep (Singh) was a king who had to deliver justice. Raj (Kumar Pal) was playing a female dancer who had been teased. I was *senapati* (military chief), the movie was shot by Shamsheer (Singh). It was super fun. All teams had a director, actors, cameramen. We shot the entire day and it was screened during a team dinner. The entire campus was filled with laughter," says Hardik.

The brainchild of Upton, the point of the exercise was to remove a person from what they are good at and put them in a totally different environment and see whether they can excel there too. The task was to present an unknown situation and how the team uses presence of mind, enjoys creativity and brings out the best despite the suddenness.

A few days later, a rejuvenated Indian team climbed out from the failure of the World Cup to the top step of the podium at Hangzhou to qualify directly for Paris. One hopes these bonding exercises also help the team in Paris.

## UNITED STATES WIN SECOND T20 BY SIX RUNS TO SEAL SERIES WIN VS BANGLADESH

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

**HOUSTON:** Pakistan-origin pacer Ali Khan's three-wicket burst in his final two overs helped USA beat Bangladesh by six runs in the second T20I and register a historic series win against an ICC full member nation here.

Riding high on confidence after beating Bangladesh by five wickets in the first T20 here on Tuesday, USA continued in the same vein and stunned Bangladesh again on Thursday at the Prairie View Cricket Complex to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The third T20I will be played on Saturday.

The series serves as preparation for both teams ahead of the T20 World Cup to be co-hosted by USA and West Indies, starting June 1. With three crucial wickets in his last two overs, Khan (3/25) played a pivotal role in USA's victory. Asked to bat first, USA made a strong start with Steven Taylor (31 off 28) and skipper Monank Patel (42 off 38) sharing 44 runs in just over six overs. Patel later partnered with Aaron Jones (35) to add 60 runs for the third wicket, guiding USA to a total of 144/6.

**Brief scores:** USA 144/6 in 20 overs (Monank Patel 42, Aaron Jones 35, Rishad Hossain 2/21). Bangladesh 138 in 19.3 overs (Najmul Shanto 36, Ali Khan 3/25). **USA won by 6 runs.**

**Z-28016/19/2024-PMSSY-IV**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**  
**(PMSSY Division)**  
**Room No. 201-D, Nirman Bhawan**  
**New Delhi-110011**

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (PMSSY Division) invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up the post of Deputy Director (Administration) in Level-13 (Rs.123100-215900) (as per 7th CPC) on transfer on deputation basis in each of Vijaypur (Samba) (Jammu & Kashmir) and Guwahati (Assam).

2. For further details, please visit Website of the Ministry & this Division i.e. <https://www.mohfw.gov.in> and <https://pmssy-mohfw.gov.in>.

3. Detailed advertisement will be published in Employment News. The last date of receipt of applications will be the 45th day from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.

(Dinesh Kumar)  
**Joint Director**  
**Tele: 011-23061730**

CBC 17101/11/0005/2425

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**Noida - 201309**  
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Indian Institute of Heritage invites application for admission to two different short-term courses of five months duration namely: **Art Appreciation (English medium) & Bhattiya Kala Nidhi (Hindi medium)**. The last date for receiving applications for admission is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in Newspapers. For more details, please visit our website: [www.nmi.gov.in](http://www.nmi.gov.in)

CBC 09103/12/0003/2425 **REGISTRAR**

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. 2023/Track-III/MC/5 New Delhi, dated: 24.05.2024

**CORRIDGUM-VII**

Subject :- E-Tender No. TM-2303 for procurement of Rail Borne Maintenance Vehicle "RBMV" for Indian Railways to be opened on 28.06.2024

The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 30.05.2024 has been postponed to 28.06.2024.

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged.

(Vijay Singh)  
**Executive Director/Track (M&M)**  
**Railway Board**  
**Tele: No. 011-47845531**  
**E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in**

1562/2024 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**Corrigendum to RAC Advertisement No. 150 for Appointment of Chairperson Recruitment & Assessment Centre (RAC)**

Reference Advt. No. 150 published in Employment News dated 11-17 May 2024 (DAVP ref CBC 10301/11/0021/2425 EN 6/24) and on RAC/DRDO website on 1st May 2024.

The following amendments/corrections may please be noted:

**Eligibility:**  
**For:** Retired Scientist or Technologists or Academicians or Civil Servants retired at the level of Secretary to the Govt. of India by re-employment on contract or eminent serving scientists or officers serving at the level of Secretary to the Govt. of India are eligible to apply.

**Read:** Eminent Retired/Serving persons (Scientists, Technologists, Civil Servants and Academicians) at the level of Secretary to the Govt. of India are eligible to apply.

**Selection Process:**  
**For:** The Chairperson will be selected through a high level Search-cum-Selection Committee appointed by the Government of India for the purpose, in accordance with extant DOP&T instructions with the approval of Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC).

The Search-cum-Selection Committee will have the authority to consider any other name(s) for the appointment to the said post apart from considering bio-data received against this advertisement.

**Read:** The Chairperson will be appointed on re-employment on contract. The Chairperson will be selected through a high level Search-cum-Selection Committee appointed by the Government of India, in accordance with extant DOP&T instructions, with the approval of Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC).

The Search-cum-Selection Committee will have the authority to consider any other name(s) for the appointment to the said post apart from considering biodata received against this advertisement.

CBC 10301/11/0042/2425

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956 AND IN THE MATTER OF M/s. SVIL MINES LTD. (IN LIQN.)**  
**IN C. P. No. 484/2013**  
**ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO ALL THE CREDITORS AND WORKMEN 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 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 by delivering the same at the Office of the Official Liquidator on or before 15.06.2024 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 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 Creditors / Unsecured Creditors of the above said Company 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 Creditors / Unsecured Creditors of the above named Company, 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 or claim as may be required.

**Dated on this 21st day of May, 2024**

Sd/-  
**(S. MEENAKSHI)**  
**OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR**  
**ATTACHED TO THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN,**  
**KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI - 110 003.**

**PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE**

**Declamation Contest at Springdales School, Pusa Road**

and acclaimed independent journalist, Bhumika Saraswati, judged the contest. It was presided over by CV Srikanth, Old Springdalian, batch of 1985. The declamation covered a range of topics, from gender and society, language and art, to the effects of poverty, hunger and violence in the world.

The 56th Gowardhan Dass Declamation was held at Springdales School, Pusa Road. The contest was instituted in the year 1967 in memory of Gowardhan Dass, the founder Chairman of Springdales Education Society, Principal Dr. Mala Gupta welcomed the gathering and the event opened with a piano presentation and band performance. Sixteen teams from the leading schools of Delhi-NCR participated in the event. Prominent academics, Prof. Nidhi Gulati and Debjani Sengupta of Delhi University,

After a very close competition, the Gowardhan Dass Rolling trophy for the Best Team was awarded to Springdales School, Dhaura Kuan. The Anil Das Trophy for the Second Best team was secured by DPS Mathura Road. The K.C. Khanna Special Award for the Best Speaker was awarded to Springdales School Pusa Road and Bluebells International School. The host school did not compete for the Gowardhan Das and Anil Das trophies.

**Investiture Ceremony at St. Angel's School, Rohini**

marking the auspicious beginning of the event. Notable alumni, Shushant Jakhmola, batch 2008, a Project Manager in the Oil & Gas Industry specializing in Refinery projects, and Mr. Nishant, batch 2004, an accomplished Entrepreneur, Investor, Author, and Social Activist, graced the occasion, inspiring students with their exemplary journeys.

As the ceremony unfolded, attendees were treated to motivational anthems, badging ceremonies, commitment speeches, and captivating performances, culminating in a patriotic crescendo with the National Anthem. The Vote of Thanks, delivered by the Head of School, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants, dignitaries, and contributors, concluding a memorable evening of empowerment and promise for the future.

**Investiture and Scholar Badge Ceremony at Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony**

to confer positions to the appointees for the Academic Session 2024-2025.

Following the Investiture Ceremony, the Scholar Badge Ceremony honored academic excellence and achievement. This event celebrated the intellectual prowess of students who had distinguished themselves through diligent study and scholarly pursuits. The Chief Guest Aman Mittal, IRS graced the stage and highlighted the importance of education as a pathway to personal growth and societal progress, inspiring students to continue striving for excellence in all their endeavors. The ceremony served as a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel not only in leadership but also in academics.

**Ahlon Public School hosts Ahlon Arts- A Mega Art Fest**

Ahlon Public School, Deepak Raj Singh Bisht, Mayur Vihar played host to a vibrant celebration of creativity at the annual Ahlon Arts Festival. This Mega Art Inter School Fiesta, was organised by the Art Club of Ahlon Public School. Around 30 prestigious schools of Delhi-NCR participated and tried their creative hand in different art and craft activities. The ceremony commenced with a ceremonious stroke of colors on a blank canvas by the esteemed Principal, Dr.

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# HT brunch

RELAX. THE WEEKEND'S HERE



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## The theory of relatability

Niharika NM is working with A-listers and throwing popcorn at them. Cannes? She's been three times. She's chosen a Tamil film as a debut. But she's still just as much the girl next door. What does being "real" mean when you're at the top? We asked her



**Urvee Modwel**  
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**N**iharika NM has the secret sauce. The 27-year-old, Chennai-born, Bangalore-raised, California-educated engineer-MBA may not know what her secret sauce is. But eight years into making videos, she's found a way to turn the girl-next-door into the coolest person in the room.

She started out like everyone else, making funny sketches. Types of Eaters (the health freak, the foreigner return, the messy one, the spitter), Types of Students During an Exam (the one who wants an extra sheet, the snitch, the sign language copycat, the liar, the one with the breakdown). Then, after she moved to Instagram in the pandemic, she'd switch effortlessly between her Bangalore mannerisms and California Valley Girl phrasing. On one Reel, titled One Way Street This Is, she talks about why letting go of someone you love is neither easy nor useful. It went viral in 2020, hitting 10 million views in a week. Living Alone 101, another Reel, highlighted the expectations and reality of solo living. It hit 11 million views in under 13 days. It's clear that Niharika is witty, gets comic timing, and effortlessly makes the mundane magical. It's also clear that she knows exactly what millennials are obsessing over at the moment.

On Instagram, Niharika has 3.4 million followers. Her Reels routinely get 1 million views. She even guest-starred on S7 of the Netflix show Big Mouth. So, where do funny girls go from here? Niharika is heading south, with a Tamil-language movie under Lyca Productions. "It's a wholesome film, filled with romance, comedy, friendship, and heartbreak," she says. Frankly, it sounds like one of her Reels.

Fresh off the Cannes red carpet for the third time, Niharika sat down with Brunch to offer a glimpse of what life is like when



**Content creator Niharika NM has worked with Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Ajay Devgn, Aamir Khan and more. She makes her big-screen debut with a Tamil film soon.**  
INSTAGRAM/ @NIHARIKA\_NM

PHOTOGRAPHED BY VIVIAN AMBROSE; STYLED BY HARSHITA DAGA WITH KAJAL PATIL; STYLING INTERN: SEJAL SAPARE; LOOK BY ANTI-THESIS; JEWELLERY BY KAVYA POTLURI; MAKEUP BY SAKSHI SABHANEY

a creator leaps from the phone screen to the big screen.

**Tell us about the last time you were overwhelmed.**

When I was packing my bags for Cannes a few days ago. But I also felt when I was on the red carpet last year. I was trying my best to keep my cool against the photographers and the crowds. But then, a very young girl in the audience called my name out of nowhere. I didn't expect that to happen. She told me how my videos inspired her to express herself and make videos too. It was so humbling, it took away all my anxiety at that moment.

**You recently posted a Reel about how stupid it is to waste time on crushes, to lose sleep over them. Has anyone kept you up at night?**

All my content is based on real-life incidents. Obviously, they're dramatised. But alas, this too has occurred in my real life.

**Which celebrity would you like to swap lives with for a day and why?**

Jim Carrey. Just so I can deep dive into that brain.

**What's one unusual perk of being famous?**

The food! I love that because I travel, get to experiment with cuisines across the world. I love fish and chips in London. I love the famous black-cod with miso at Nobu in LA. I love the pizza and gelato at this one very specific restaurant which you'll know only if you're friends with me. Being famous means you also miss home food. I love coming home to my mum's pappu charu, and hot rice with a little ghee.

**Tell us which movies you turn to, when you're...**

**On your period:** I love movies that make me cry. So, Taare Zameen Par.

**Brokenhearted:** Dirty Dancing.

**In need of a pick-me-up:** Anything with Jim Carrey or Rowan Atkinson.

**Having a night-in:** Psychological thrillers such as Split, Get Out. Nobody scares me and makes me laugh like Jordan Peele.

**Looking to set the mood:** People better know that I watch a lot of animated stuff. So, Inside Out, Coco and Rick and Morty.

**Arrange in your order of importance:**



**DM, Phone Call, Voice Note, In-person Meeting, Text, Surprise Visit.**

In-person meeting. Surprise Visit. Face-Time. Phone call. Voice note. Text. DM.

**What do you hate the most about your job?**

The constant scrutiny about anything and everything that comes with being a public personality. I'm also hyper aware that it is a part of my job. I can't only enjoy the perks and not face the music.

**Which are you more embarrassed to share: Your last WhatsApp chat or your gym playlist?**

Has to be my gym playlist. If you heard it, you would assume I'm a pro-athlete representing India at the next Olympics. I'm very likely listening to Chak De India or Kar Har Maidan Fateh while lifting a 2 kg dumbbell.

**What is the exact level of fame you want? To be mobbed, or play it low-key?**

I don't think I fully know if it's fame that I'm chasing or purpose. Hopefully I figure it out along the way. I don't know if I like fame yet, so I can't tell you how much of it I'd want. Some days, I want to be Beyoncé; other days, I just want to be my mum's daughter.

**Under practically everything you post, there are comments about how gorgeous your hair is. What's going on up there?**

It's funny that so many people ask me about my hair, when I don't take care of my hair enough. The credit goes to my mum for trying out all her home-made concoctions on me. I just follow the basics: Wash my hair twice a week, towel dry, and use those overnight sock curls to avoid too much heat. Yes, I put socks in my hair, but clean ones only.

**You've worked with everyone from Shubman Gill and Priyanka Chopra to Jennifer Lopez and John Legend. Tell us the most fun BTS moment from any of these shoots.**

I chose to go off-script and throw popcorn at Ajay Devgn when we were shooting a Reel to promote his movie Runway 34 in 2022. At that point, I could hear the crew gasp. But all Ajay Devgn did was pick up that piece of popcorn, eat it, and throw some back at me.

**Give us three tips for a regular person thrust on to the red carpet.**

I just want to say I am that regular person that's shoved on to the red carpet and who's still figuring it out! If you have tips for me, let me know.

This week, we're...

### Confused for Ed Sheeran



What else did the English singer, who doesn't understand Hindi, expect while dropping in on The Great Indian Kapil Show? They made bathroom jokes, got him to sing about paneer pakoda, and talked about how everyone in India wants to be a singer. Pretty sure Sheeran didn't love how that shaped up. The script needs a kapil of tweaks.

### Objecting, Your Honour

The Legally Blonde universe is expanding! Our favourite Gemini vegetarian, Elle Woods will have her own TV show - Omigod, you guys! But it's a prequel, following Elle in high school. Isn't it more interesting to focus on her legal career? There is so much more to bend and snap at.

### Hailing a carriage

Come on, Bridgerton! The show started out smashing stereotypes: A Black Queen Charlotte, steamy sex scenes, Regency women in control of their destinies. Half-way into S3, new clichés abound. It's all love and secret identity, even the orchestral versions of contemporary tunes have dried up. Colin Bridgerton's glow-up is dull. So is he. Sigh.

### Herr for this

German dancer and TikToker Noel Robinson, who's visiting Mumbai has been the sweetest clips, roping locals into seemingly spontaneous dance challenges on Juhu Beach and Carter Road. See the dance-off in which he gets a rickshaw driver to vibe to Rema's Calm Down? Turns out the driver has smoother moves than the German. He should consider a side hustle.

{ LISTICLE }

## Mercury in the microwave

Heat wave? Wave back. On screen, summer looks gorgeous. These 10 films showcase the bright side of the season

**Christalle Fernandes**  
christalle.fernandes@hindustantimes.com

### Little Forest: Summer/Autumn (2014)

Based on a bestselling manga series, this slice-of-life movie is a story of slowing down and moving back to where it all began. Ichiko moves back to the mountains and valleys of Komori in Japan, where she picks fruit, tills the land, and regains her zest for living. So much good food. So simply enjoyed. There's also a Winter/Spring version.

### Aftersun (2022)

Because some summers are best enjoyed in retrospect. Charlotte Wells's film centres on Sophie, reflects on a 20-year-old holiday she took with her father when she was just 11. It was a rare break, she was just on the brink of adolescence, dad was loving but had a lot going on. The memories help her understand the man she only knew as a parent, perhaps they might also help her grieve and grow up.

### Along for the Ride (2022)

In the sleepy seaside town of Colby, high-school graduate Auden meets the mysterious Eli, who's as much an insomniac as she is. The two spend the summer engaged in nighttime adventures, in brightly lit shacks, laundromats, and Insta-perfect cafes. Auden has never felt so care-free. All the while, though, she's preparing for the inevitable reality: To leave Colby — and Eli — behind, and head to college.

### Someone Great (2019)

Music journalist Jenny gets dumped by her boyfriend of nine years, just as she's landed her dream job at Rolling Stone. Her best friends, Erin and Blair, convince her to shake off her blues and go on a last romp through New York before she leaves for her job in San Francisco. Along the way, she finds out that maybe, the break-up was for the best.

### The Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants (2005)

Four best friends decide to mail one pair of jeans to each other through the summer they're apart. The jeans mysteriously fit all of them — and causes each young girl to experience a series of inexplicable, serendipitous events. Summer seems safe, wholesome and, without cell phones and trolls, build up a fantasy friendship in itself.

### The Map of Tiny Perfect Things (2021)

Our hero, Mark, is stuck in kind of a Groundhog Day situation: The same day plays on repeat. He finds Margaret, and discovers that she's caught in an infinite loop of her own. They set out to create their version of a perfect summer day, frolicking by the pool and falling in love. But Mark finds out that Margaret is hiding something from him. She may know how to break the spell. Is it worth it?

### Summer with Monika (1953)



Tired of her alcoholic father's outbursts, Monika, a free-spirited young woman, asks Harry, a clerk whom she's met earlier in the day, to run away with her. They steal Harry's father's boat and end up in the idyllic Stockholm Archipelago, where they spend the summer embroiled in a passionate romance. But, like a nice summer, how long can it last, really?

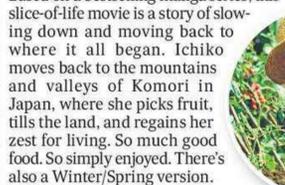


### Call Me by Your Name (2017)

What do viewers want more: A cool summer in northern Italy in 1983? A rambling old house where Nonnas do the cooking and chores? Being young and in love with a very attractive graduate student who's been invited to stay? Luca Guadagnino packs all of the above, plus languid screenplay (and a peach) in a movie that really is one big summer sigh.

### Bombay Summer (2009)

Mumbai, summer 2009. Wealthy couple Geetha and Jaidev befriend a cash-strapped charmer Madan, and in an adventurous mood, follow him deeper into the nooks and corners of the city. Director Joseph Matthew Varghese's cinematography captures the beauty of half-constructed facades and decaying buildings in the big city, against which the love triangle between the three main characters plays out.



### Before Sunrise (1995)

It's been setting Europe-vacation goals for nearly three decades. Two strangers, Frenchwoman Celine and American Jesse, meet on a train headed from Budapest to Paris. They spontaneously decide to get off at Vienna and wander the city, and end up falling for each other over 24 hours. Director Richard Linklater can make anything seem intimate, even a crowded bridge.

{ RIGHT NOW }

# All the sketchy details

Insta is full of street photography. Meet three illustrators whose works pack in more than the viewfinder can see

**Karishma Kuenzang**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**Aditya Raj, Delhi**  
@AdirajArt

Aditya Raj's policeman father was typically posted in small towns, where there wasn't much to do. So, growing up, Raj doodled cartoon characters on scraps of paper, and stuck them on the walls. By 2016, after he finished law school and was living in Delhi, he knew art was his calling. "I wanted to paint the mundane. Things one overlooks. We keep going to the same bookstore or kachoriwala, but rarely stop and look at it for its beauty," says Raj. "Delhi gave me my politics, and understanding of so many things. It's no surprise that I wanted to paint it."

In Raj's watercolour works, the city seems chaotic, but also calm. A hawker's cart full of mangoes provides a pop of yellow against a grey landscape. Generations-old shopfronts huddle companionably, overwhelming the senses just as they do when you navigate old Delhi.

Aditya Raj's artworks feature Ghibli-inspired facades (above) and shopfronts in old Delhi.  
INSTAGRAM/@ADIRAJART

Raj paints from reality, only changing the scale for effect. He captured 4S, an old queer-friendly pub in Defence Colony, which he visited through law school. "When I finally decided to paint it, I gathered all my own stories and experiences and put them in," he says. "The work is a moment in time and I like to keep it like that. It's like a small little private story."

Raj's prints start at ₹3,000 for an A4 piece.

**Paul Fernandes, Bengaluru**  
@Apalogy\_Gallery

Paul Fernandes was drawing, at age three, all over his home in Bengaluru. He graduated from The Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, moved to Bombay and worked in advertising in 1982. But by 1986, he moved back to Bengaluru and began recreating the city in watercolour. Like so many Indian cities, Bengaluru was changing – his own home was being razed to make way for a high-rise. His illustrations ended up capturing simpler times: A childhood spent climbing the 40-odd trees in compound, getting lost in a book, waving at passing trains. He also sketched the Plaza Theatre on MG Road, which was lost to the Metro line in the early 2000s. "You could feel the change in the city. The familiar was suddenly not there. These drawings were a way to get people to talk about the old days," says Fernandes.

The works pack in detail. For the Plaza, Fernandes managed 10-15 sittings at different times of the day and night at the same spot. "You wouldn't notice something like a crack in the wall or a grille during the first few visits," he says. "I have to be honest to everyone's memory." To the Bengaluru residents of today, Fernandes's works spark waves of nostalgia in a way that old photos don't.

Fernandes has revised many drawings, notably one featuring the restaurant The Only Place. A woman told him the bougainvillea creeper was missing. "She was tall and her hair got caught in it. I'm not tall nor do I have hair," says Fernandes, explaining why he missed it.

Fernandes's newest book of illustrations is called *The Great Bangalore Morph*.

Paul Fernandes' art features spots like MG Road in Bengaluru.  
INSTAGRAM/@APAULOGY\_GALLERY

In Shashank Naidu's works, the character of Mr Tiger features in paintings like the one of the Charminar (below).  
INSTAGRAM/@BROWNAID

**Shashank Naidu, Hyderabad**  
@Brown\_Naid

When he was in Class 2 in Assam, Shashank Naidu's class was tasked with drawing the national flag. Most students fit the tricolour within neat rectangles. He turned in something different – a bit of flutter, mimicking an actual flag. "That's when I knew I was good at sketching," says Naidu, 29.

But first, the tried-and-tested formula. Naidu completed his engineering in Hyderabad, earned an MBA in Bengaluru and took up a corporate job. He only sketched on the side: A black-and-white Charminar, Secunderabad Clock Tower, Falaknuma Palace and other commissioned work. But there were soon enough orders for him to paint full time.

It takes longer than composing a picture, obviously. "I sit there, observe the place, people, weather, lighting, at different times of the day, and then build on it," says Naidu. And unlike photos, he doesn't capture on site. He prefers to paint out of memory, using references he's sketched and collected.

This means the works are both real and imagined. Mr Tiger, a character, appears in several of his paintings, walking by, observing a detail or even making team for himself in a cabin in the woods. "I wanted to create something relatable but intriguing," says Naidu. "I prefer swaying away from reality. To capture reality we have cameras."

Naidu's commissioned works start at ₹10,000 for an A3 piece.

{ PERSONAL AGENDA }

# Loitongbam Ashalata Devi

Captain of the India women's national football team. @AshalataDeviOfficial

**Purnima Goswami Sharma**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**Currently, I am:**  
Spending time with my family before practice and matches start.

**High point in life:**  
Being captain of India's Women's National Football Team.

**Low point in life:**  
Injuring my

**App I check before bed:**  
My fitness tracker.

knee. All plans were halted. It took a lot of energy and time to get back to playing.

**On my playlist:**  
Music by Pink Floyd, Eminem and Imagine Dragons.

**One thing I would never buy:**  
Luxury products that are made from endangered animals.

**Today I am craving:**  
Mexican food.

**The last thing I ordered online:**  
Adidas Samba shoes.

**Advice I'd give my 18-year-old self:**  
Worry a little less!

**My favourite subject in school:**  
Geography.

**My most star-struck moment:**  
Meeting Lionel Messi in Qatar during the World Cup, and meeting French footballer N'Golo Kanté. I love his playing style. He's so calm during tense moments.

**My favourite bad habit:**  
Biting my nails.

**If I could travel back or forward in time, I would...:**  
Jump forward to take the Indian football team to the Paris Olympics.

**The best thing about fame:**  
Inspiring people.

**Worst thing about fame is:**  
Dealing with people's opinions on social media.

## column { rude food }

# Another one bites the crust

Naples may not be the real birthplace of pizza but they know how to do it right. No slicing, no fancy toppings, no textured cheese. The rest of us can only drool



**VIR SANGHVI**

In Naples, classic pizzas like Marinara have raised edges and a moist centre.  
ADOBESTOCK

I have been going to Italy — which I love — for longer than many readers of Brunch have been alive. And yet, somehow I had never been to Naples, one of Italy's most famous cities.

When I finally did go, last week, I didn't go because of Naples' beauty or because I wanted to see Mount Vesuvius. I went for the most mundane of reasons.

I went for the pizza.

Yes, really. Even if Naples was birthplace of pizza, there are now so many different kinds. Even in Italy, the Roman style of pizza is well-respected and Americans will claim, with some justification, that the pizza that most of the world knows well was invented in New York and other American cities and not in Italy.

All this is probably true. But there really

is no substitute for the pizza of Naples. So I went on a pizza pilgrimage last week. And I ate so much pizza that it got to the stage that by the end of the trip I couldn't face another pizza. Here's what I learned.

First, pizza in Naples is nothing like the pizzas you get delivered from Pizza Hut or Domino's. It is not even like the Neapolitan pizzas you get in restaurants around the world.

Most of the pizzas I ate in Naples were relatively simple affairs. They were large, typically, around the size of a dinner plate, but not sharing-pizza large. They didn't usually come pre-sliced so you had to cut them yourself. You could eat them with a knife and fork but then you could, I guess, eat even a paratha with a knife and fork. All the locals ate them with their fingers, sometimes with each slice folded up to four times. (The quadruple fold is a thing here.)

Americans like the term 'pizza pie' because their pizzas are really large pies, prized for their toppings. In Naples, pizza is not a pie. It is rarely judged by the toppings which, when they exist, are sparse and hardly predominating. Instead, it is the quality of the basic ingredients: Dough, tomatoes, cheese, buffalo mozzarella, etc.

A pizza in Naples goes into a very hot oven, after having been formed by hand (no rolling pins and flinging in the air as in America) and is baked for just one minute (or 90 seconds, at most) at around 500° C (between 850 to 910° F). Once it is out of the oven, it begins to deteriorate and must be consumed within ten minutes. Unlike American pizzas which are made for home delivery, this is less a pie and more like a soufflé.

You can, of course, put toppings into your pizza but there are two classic varieties. Margherita, long claimed to be the original, which is basically tomatoes and mozzarella; and Marinara which has no cheese. Some famous pizzerias in Naples will only serve these two basic pizzas. And even at places where other varieties are available, these will usually be among the two most popular

Pizzas in Naples are small and can be folded up (bottom), unlike American pizza pies, which are often made in pans.  
SHUTTERSTOCK



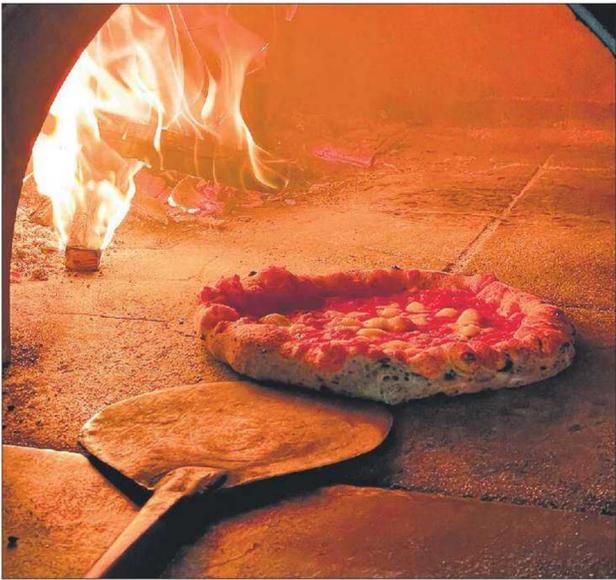
varieties.

There are many ways in which a pizza in Naples differs from what we think of as a pizza. Here are two of them:

in Naples, a pizza must have raised edges which must be blistered by the heat of the oven and most times (with a marinara, especially) the centre will still be moist or soupy from the tomato sauce even when the pizza comes to the table.

There are many styles of pizza in America because, even though Italian immigrants from the South (between 13 to 15 million Italians went to the US at the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th) introduced pizza to America, the dish had no standard recipe in Naples when they left. So they carried different versions of the pizza with them and then improvised. Italians don't usually think much of the improvisations. For instance, most Italians turn their noses up at Chicago's Deep Pan pizza.

In return, Americans argue that pizzas in Naples can be boringly similar because the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana regulates



all pizza-making in Naples and insists that pizza chefs follow a standard recipe. Italians claim that making pizza according to an authorised recipe not only maintains the tradition but also tests the chef's talents; it is more difficult to make a pizza that is better than everyone else's if you can't innovate. But yes, it can be done as anyone who has eaten at different pizzerias in Naples will attest.

When Americans do take Naples pizza seriously, the same names of pizza chefs crop up again and again: Gino Sorbillo (respected in Naples and founder of a global chain that bears his name), Antonio Starita, Enzo Coccia and of late, Franco Pepe, who appeared on Netflix Chef's Table after telling the regulators to take a flying jump and insisting on making pizzas his own way.

All of them serve very good pizzas at their restaurants. And there are the famous places like L'antica Pizzeria Da Michele (only Marinara and Margherita served) which are now overrun by tourists, don't take any reservations and take pride in the long queues.

Some places will offer historical reference points as their claims to fame. The consensus is that no one person or restaurant invented pizza.

It is an ancient flatbread, related to other flatbreads such as the Greek pita and West Asian versions of the naan. It was originally a simple peasant dish, common in the days

when people made bread at home. Yes, Naples did popularise one version of the flatbread (what we call the Naples pizza today) but there was no 'Eureka' moment or no romantic story behind its evolution, no matter what the tourist guidebooks say. It just evolved.

So don't be fooled by the hype and the queues. Having eaten my way through Naples, here's my advice: seek out pizza places where the locals go; if you hear mainly English (and American) being spoken by the customers, go somewhere else. But if you hear lots of Italian voices, then step in. Eat like a local and it's hard to go wrong.

The most memorable pizza I had in Naples was not at one of the hyped places but during Sunday lunch at Pizzeria Frattelli Salvo where we may have been the only non-Italians (though the restaurant now turns up on Food and Wine's guide of the ten best pizzerias in Italy). As happy families with small children chattered away in Italian we had a fantastic pizza with Calabrian N'duja and Verzin, a goat's milk cheese with blue veins running through it, both from artisanal producers. It summed up what good Italian food should be about: traditional techniques, first rate local ingredients and a dash of culinary flair.

The views expressed by the columnist are personal





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Old House on 316 Sq Yd Plot East Face, Exce. Location, Gated

Many Options of 163,316,402,502 Plots, Houses, Floors

**Srinivasan & Co.**  
9811278164 / 9311000034

## SOUTH DELHI

**GREATER KAILASH-1**  
740 sq.yds Kothi  
Two & a half storey Built for Immediate Sale.

**PANCHSHILLA PARK**  
2nd Floor (500 yds)  
4 Bedrooms att. bath, D/D S.Qtr, Car Parking available for Immediate Sale.

**VASANT VIHAR**  
1st Floor (200 yds)  
3 Bedrooms att. bath, Drawing Dining, Servant Qtr, Car Parking

**SIDDHIQI ESTATES: 9810265671**

**SAFDARJUNG ENCL**  
First Floor (400 yds)  
4 Bedrooms attach bath, D/D, S.Qtr, Sep. Car Parking Top Builder Floor @ 8 Cr

**SARVODAYA ENCL**  
Ground Floor (238 yds)  
Park facing, 3 Bedrooms, D/D, Servant Qtr, Car Parking

**FARM HOUSE**  
VASANT KUNJ (2000 yds)  
Prime Loc, Vastu Perfect for immediate sale.  
Call: 9871000223

## SOUTH DELHI

**SOUTH DELHI LUXURY RESIDENTIAL**

**Original Booking All 3rd Floors with Terrace**

27 yds Def Col

3rd Flr Ter N/E Corner sep Gate Park 3 BHK & study

325 yds Neeti Bagh

3rd Flr Ter S/E Sep Gate Park 4 BHK

575 Sq Yds Jor Bagh

3rd Flr Ter West Sep Lift Lobby, Park Wide Road 4 BHK & study

600 Sq Yd Vasanti Vihar

3rd Ter South East Sep Lift Lobby, Park Wide Road 4 BHK & study

800 Sq Yd Westend

3rd Ter North West Sep Lift Lobby, Park Wide Road 4 BHK & study

**Rishabh Malhotra +91-9999394266**

## SOUTH DELHI

**Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES**  
7838871114

**BUNGALOW** For Sale. New Friends Colony, D Block, Area 510 Sqyd, Freehold, Owner Going Abroad, Call: 7838871114.

**WEST END** (800) second & third floor with terrace., 9810030231

**SOUTH DELHI**, Kailash Colony built up old House, 315 yard, Immediate sale, Cosmos # 981001682

**FOR SALE** 3BHK Duplex (L.G.F+U.G.F) 314 Sq yards in Green Park Main (with 3 Reserve Parking, Storage Area and Servant Quarter), Contact Owner: 9810034155

**DESIGNER FLOORS**: Saranyia Vihar 240/325 Yds, Ready/Lift/Cont B-G/FF & SF 3/4 BHK; Navjeevan/Geetanjali 300/340 Yds, Brand New B-G & FF 4 BHK, Best Locations. # 98111-91901

**FREEHOLD, CORNER**, 2 sides facing parking, excellent location. Aple of Kailash, Check payment. Offers WhatsApp 99673-70118

**FOR SALE** Greater Kailash-1, 4BHK, R. K. Second Floor, with Terrace 300Yds, large DD, Separate lobby, S.Q. No lift, Target price 6Cr. Owner Gupta # 9958382323.

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

**HOME INFRA**  
9810573247  
9712737700

**SALE/PURCHASE** Yamuna authority Residential, industrial plots and 7% plots. Home Infra 9810573247, 9712737700

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

**Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES**  
7838871119

**4500SMTR KOTHI** for sale in Noida Sector-43, North-East plus Green Belt fac., Basement with 2.5storey 8BHK, Modular kitchen, Genuine Buyer Please Contact. Call: 7838871119

**For Rent**

**DLF MAGNOLIAS**  
4 BED ROOM

**For Sale**

**DLF - 2, K9 - 9C**  
400 Sq.yd. 3rd & 4th Floor

**For Sale**

**IMT MANESAR**  
1000 MTR.

Suresh Rao | 9810095652  
Sumit Rao | 9810095653

**SHANKAR PROPERTIES**

**DLF - SUSHANT LOK**

**ANGAD REAL ESTATE**  
9930200005

**DLF NEW FLOORS** still/lt/rt 215 ft@3.25, 250 FT @3.40, 300 FT @4, 400 FT @5.10, 500 FT @6.15, 650 FT @9.25 many more call. 9930200005

**BISHI PROPERTIES PVT. LTD.**  
9811134984  
9650045100

**SHG 2800 sqft (207 sqm) Drawing +4bed +3toilet, Lift +Parking, 12 Mtr Road, H.No.44, A4, Sec-23, Rohini, 2.50Cr-UGF, 2.40Cr-FF, 2.35Cr-SF, Loan Avail 981134984, 9650045100**

**perfect estate agency**

**PARTY MEETING** DLF City-1, 300 Yds Excellent Location, Broker Excuse # 9910888735

## SOUTH DELHI

**Neelam M.Sc. B.Ed.**  
9873255806

**KOTHS / FLOOR** 330yd-1250yd Golf link / Borje / Maicha mg / Bungalow 2000 / 3800Yd / 1 & 3 acre Pritivi Raj Road / Aurangzeb Road and your requirement Lutien: 9873255806

## SOUTH DELHI

**CHIRAG ENCLAVE 500Y**  
First Floor, North Facing, GK 2, 100YD

Third Floor and Terrace with 8 Parkings.

Most Spacious Floor with Grand Specifications.

Both floors are amazingly Beautiful.

**Puneet Bhogra 9810417610**

## SOUTH DELHI

**BIG LANDS YOUR LAND, YOUR LEGACY**  
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**HOTELS & Resorts** for Sale. Resort near Kotpur, Jaipur Highway, ideal for destination wedding. Hotels in NCR, Kasauli, Mussoorie, Prime Land 10 Acres in Arodiya. Call: 9891242323

**HOT DEAL** Defence Colony- 325 sq yds, 1st flr, 4 large beds, old, F.hold, 33% land share, clear title, quiet location, prkg, sqtrs, 6+2 flrs, Contact Owner: 9811560156, 9899820048

## SOUTH DELHI

**BAHLSONS RENTED PROPERTY A BUY/SELL COMPANY**  
98100-17982  
98103-64472

**WANTED RENTED Properties** Immediately in Delhi/ Gurugram, under 10 Cr., Return @ 6% to 7% on Ready Payment, (Brokers Welcome), Call: 98100-17982, 98103-64472

## GURUGRAM

**"Titanium" New Ultra Luxury**

Best & Beautiful Flats Project, on SPR Road Sector 71 Launching Soon 1st price

Best connectivity from Dwarka Expressway/ NH8/Mumbai Delhi Expressway/Sohna road

1-2 km only on 22.50 acres land

90% open green area @ 50000 sqft Club House

11 Acres Sports Complex

2 Flats only on one floor plate

3.5 BHK and 4.5 BHK

Best price best deal for few days only

The Tree House Realty

Neeraj Garg - 9811098193, 9509594949

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**SIGNATURE GLOBAL CITY**

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3.5 BHK and 4.5 BHK

Best price best deal for few days only

The Tree House Realty

Neeraj Garg - 9811098193, 9509594949

## FOR SALE

**MODERN KOTHI Newly Built 250 sq.mtr. SECTOR-23 NOIDA**

- 18 mtr. wide road
- North East Facing
- Semi Furnished
- 15 Bedrooms (GF+FF+SF+TF)
- GF & 1st Floor Duplex
- 2nd & 3rd Floor Simplex

Call 98 10 10 10 78

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

**Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES**  
9999011116

**SECTOR-15A NOIDA**, Luxurious 200 sqmtr. Duplex house with Lift on 18mtr wide road North West Avail for Sale. In Good Location. 9999011116

**PACHAURI PROPERTIES**  
9891238004

**RESIDENTIAL / Industrial Plot** for Sale Yamuna Expressway side-300, 595, 1000 2000,5000. In Noida Near Kothi sec-41 180mtr park, 120mtr sec-36 Corner, 200mtr sec-100 180mtr, 130 mtr sec-105 4CR. call. 9911065838

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9810652416

**NEW BUILDER** Floor SL-2 Sec 56 500 sq yd FF @ 4.30cr Per backup, 450yd Corner and Park Facing FF @ 4.30 SF @ 4.15 with Fully Loaded Kitchen w/ backup 9810652416

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**ANGAD REAL ESTATE**  
9930200005

**DLF NEW FLOORS** still/lt/rt 215 ft@3.25, 250 FT @3.40, 300 FT @4, 400 FT @5.10, 500 FT @6.15, 650 FT @9.25 many more call. 9930200005

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**BISHI PROPERTIES PVT. LTD.**  
9811134984  
9650045100

**SHG 2800 sqft (207 sqm) Drawing +4bed +3toilet, Lift +Parking, 12 Mtr Road, H.No.44, A4, Sec-23, Rohini, 2.50Cr-UGF, 2.40Cr-FF, 2.35Cr-SF, Loan Avail 981134984, 9650045100**

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98100-17982  
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**WANTED RENTED Properties** Immediately in Delhi/ Gurugram, under 10 Cr., Return @ 6% to 7% on Ready Payment, (Brokers Welcome), Call: 98100-17982, 98103-64472

## GURUGRAM

**PRIME LOCATION DLF ALMEDA**  
Sec 73, Plot/Floor 538/250/150 Gaj

**TOP FLOOR WITH TERRACE**  
DLF PH-1, 270 Gaj 4BHK @3.90

**JODA PLOTS AT EMAAR HILLS**  
Sec 65, Amber Block 150 Gaj @4.25 each

**M3M BROADWAY**  
SEC 71, Shop Main Rd Facing Prime Loc @ 30k, 500/1500 sqft

**9811098193, 9509594949**

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**9811098193, 9509594949**

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

**Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES**  
9999981395

**VIP SECTOR 15 A Noida**, 220 Sqmtr Well maintained Corner Bungalow adjoining Greenbelt, only 10mtr from fly over view, Owner Kapur whatsapp 981116548, cdkapur09@gmail.com

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

**Buniyad REAL ESTATE SERVICES**  
9999981395

**SECTOR 44 Noida**, 350 Sqmtr Corner/ Park Facing Well maintained Bungalow with lift also 300sqmtr Pair Plot, Park Facing, only Genuine Buyers, Brokers excuse. # 999981395

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9958492130

**SUSHANT LOK-1 A-block** 502 yd East Facing, 270-300 418yd plots, 8-BHK 300, 502yd corner Plots, 215 to 1022y More deals also avail prime locations 9958492130

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**CONFIRM DEALS DLF-I, II BEST LOCATIONS**

500 DLF-1 12mtr A-Blk

500 C-Blk KOTHI DLF-1

500 Ashoka Crescent North

500 J-BLK Corner DLF-2 N/E

400 DLF-1 Cor./Park/N.East

500 DLF-1 B-Blk East SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES

**9811081738**

**BUILDER FLOORS**  
DLF-1,2,4 & S.LOK-1

1000y 5 BHK @ 9.99 cr.  
800y 5 BHK @ 8.25 cr.  
500y 4 BHK @ 4.99 cr.  
400y 4 BHK @ 3.99 cr.  
300y 4BHK @ 2.99 cr.

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9810099173  
9810061698

## NORTH DELHI

**Neelam M.Sc. B.Ed.**  
9873255806

**160YD KOTHI** New / Floor Hdsn Lane / 250/500/380Yds Chhilline / Kothi corner 325yd+Park & 1250 Model Town / 200-800yd Ashok Vihar & area around Neelam : 9873255806

## NORTH DELHI

**Neelam M.Sc. B.Ed.**  
9873255806

**BUILTUP / LAND** Farmhouse of size blk acre 5.5 acres Vasant Kunj / Radhe Mohan Drive / DLF / Dera Mandi / Westend Green / Brijvasan & area around Neelam: 9873255806

## GURUGRAM

**DELHI RZONE LAND**  
98110-40086

**DELHI (SOUTH W)** 5 Cr per acre, 10000 sq. yd, Sector (I-40), become builder your self, profit in crore, min investment, brokers welcome. # 98110-40086.

## GURUGRAM

**VAIKA BUSINESS Park** For Sale: 500 Sq.Ft. Pre-leased plate, Sohna Road, Sec-49. Lease to M/S Este Advisors (rent \$4 per sqft 27k rent monthly) available @ 6%. Ph: 8851035455.

**FLAT 4** Sale in Ambience Lagoon, Amb. Island-5/4/3BHK Available Mid/High Ground Floor @ 3.5Cr. - 8.5 Cr. Brkr Excuse. Call 9899486750, 9825628111

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

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9999981395

**SECTOR 44 Noida**, 350 Sqmtr Corner/ Park Facing Well maintained Bungalow with lift also 300sqmtr Pair Plot, Park Facing, only Genuine Buyers, Brokers excuse. # 999981395

## NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

**Neelam M.Sc. B.Ed.**  
9873255806

**3.5/BHK VILLA / 8000 meter Land** Asaga / 100 acre Land Near Mopa Airport Near Upcoming Electronic Casin & Hotels & more option in area around Neelam: 9873255806

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9810099171

**DLF GARDEN** City plots and Builder floors available in all sizes and prime locations, park facing, corner and 24 mtr wide road call us 9810099171

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**DLF PHASE-3** Confirm Plots 1000y @ 26 (Gated), 500y Park Facing, 500y T block gated @1.00 Cr, 400y W-9, 300y V block 2 options (North / East) 3D Buildcon 9999404040

**DLF CITY 2**, Best location 200 yard old building in O block 87 Cr. Deeparal estate 9811068621

**DLF CITY 1** Best location 300 plot on H/1 road @3L Deeparal estate 9811068621

**DWARAKA EXPRESSWAY**, Commercial Plot 1631 Yds, FSI 20000 Ft. at Reasonable Price Owner: 8076764079

## NORTH DELHI

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9873255806

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## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9910026336  
9810026076

**DLF-12 PREMIUM** plot Ashoka Crescent/ Paschim Marg 502yds Plot on 24 mtr. Road, 502sq.yd Kothi plot rate prime location, 300y North/East on 12mtr 9810026076, 9910026336

## DLF - SUSHANT LOK

**CONFIRM DEALS DLF-I, II BEST LOCATIONS**

500 DLF-1 12mtr A-Blk

500 C-Blk KOTHI DLF-1

500 Ashoka Crescent North

500 J-BLK Corner DLF-2 N/E

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**SOUTH DELHI**  
RESIDENTIAL FLOORS Available for Rent - in all Posh South Delhi Areas/Colonies. Only For MNC & Embassies. We do collaboration & Turnkey Projects. Call: +91 95 99 400 200.

**GREATER KAILASH-1** (250 yds.) Old Ground Floor 3BHK Fully Renovated Best Location Parking Rent 110,000/Office/Residence Call Sharma-981066637-9910166637

**MNC GUEST HOUSE**  
9041685815  
SAFARJUNG ENCLAVE Independent House Facing Deer Park 10 Beds, attached Bath For MNC, Embassy only. Contact Owner: 9041685815

**SAKET & Shivaji Main Road Commercial Space** 1400 Sq.Ft. Ground Floor & First Floor. High Visibility. Ample Parking. On Prime Location. Ambie For Rent. Cont. @ 971134000

**DLF CHATARPUR** Farms 5BHK Duplex D/D, 4 Ser.Otrs,6000 sq.ft. Built On 1000sq.yds.Swimming Pool, 2 Garages Generator, Gated Security Rent Rs.2.25/cr.pac.Selgah: 981056471

**COMMERCIAL SPACE** for coaching centre/office space Prime Location 80 ft wide Main Road, East of Kailash, Opp. Isckon Temple, Third Floor 3300sq.ft. Lift, power Backup 150 KVA Call Owner 9099999965

**VASANT KUNJ, D-2** Dd floor. 2bed, study,store,centrally done up. Ready for occupation. Interested parties to view call WhatsApp or call 981070908.

**J-65, SAKET, Basement** 1700Sq.Ft. (Commercial) Fully Furnished with Cabins, AC, S. Pantry, Washroom, Parking. Contact # 9818860436.

**ABHISHEK**  
99996-06901  
COMMERCIAL GROUND Floor 100 yards available on rent in Lalpat Nagar 2, Prime Location (Near Apple Store) Suits, Shop/Showroom etc. Call: 9999606901

**S-166 PANCHSHEEL Park**, 2nd Floor, Studio Apartment fully furnished open kitchen wooden/Italian flooring with AC & lift. Rent @ 65K. Contact Owner # 9811199118.

**OKHLA PHASE-2** Lease Available. First Floor (2750 sq.ft.). On freehold 600 sq.yd plot. Near C.Lal Chowk. Contact 9810899361

**KAILASH HILLS 176**, 3rd Floor 4BHK, Corner/adjoining Park, Self Newly Constructed Building N/E Facing. Lift, Silt Parking, Furni./Infrni Lotus Temple view # 98110-1520, 9999852015

**REQD. 20 to 80 Rooms/ Studios/ 1RK** on lease for Guest House & 1 to 3 BHK Flats / Service Apartments for a UK based MNC in posh locations South Delhi Area 98100 60513

**FARIDABAD**  
**LEASE PRIME** 10,000/20,000/30,000 SQFT COVERED AREA IN SECTOR 24, FARIDABAD  
Ideal for Industrial / Warehousing and Main Road access.  
Contact: 9971599466  
Inquire now!

**GURUGRAM**  
**Ajit Sahai**  
9810060315

**STAR TOWER** Fully furnished office. 2 Cabin, 7 work stations, 7 seater Conference room, reception, toilet & Pantry. MGF Megacity 946 sqft rent/office. Contact 9810060315.

**AVAILABLE FOR LEASE**  
57 K.M. Milestone, Binola Gurgaon (HR) Plot Areas - 19 Acres (CLU Land)  
Covered Area - 3 Lakh Sq. Feet ON N.H.-48, Area Front 1 Acres  
Can be given to single user or two to three users  
Contact No. - 9971773840  
Email: contact@automaxcons.com

**BASEMENTS FOR RENT**  
LAWYERS & PROFESSIONALS  
Contact owner on 9810020279  
BASEMENTS For Rent for Lawyers & Professionals Nizamuddin East-1700 Sqft and 1400 Sqft on 1200 Sqyard plot. Park Facing Ample Parking

**DIGITAL GREEN** Golf Course Road Gurgaon 2500 Sq.Ft. Two Side Open Bare Shell Office Space Available for Rent. Contact: Karan Vir: 9910001162

**UDYOG VIHAR** 9000 Ft. for lease. Brand new interiors, NH-8 Facing, Signage available, other tenants MNC. Next to Radisson Hotel. Covered car parks. # 9871098146

**NIDHI Verma W/o Ashutosh Bhan, R/o 2061, Tower 1, 11th Avenue, Gaur City-2, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201009.** Have changed my name from Nidhi Verma to Nidhi Bhan for all future purposes

**IRMS Madhu Bala W/O Satendra Kumar R/o 260 Civil Line South, Muzaffarnagar, 251001, Uttar Pradesh,** changed my name Madhu Singh to Madhu Bala for all future purpose

## GURUGRAM

**SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LEASE**  
**SAS Tower** Ground Floor, Tower-A, Medicity, Sector-38, Gurugram (HR)-122001  
**Super Area: 6774 sq ft to 10416 sq ft**  
Car parks available  
Bareshell condition  
**Contact Owner 9811227823**  
bnrn@bnrnrgroup.com

**JODHPUR**



**COMMERCIAL COMPLEX** for rent for showrooms Area GF: 3400 sqft FF: 2010 sqft. Prime market location Sardarpura Jodhpur Rajasthan Contact: 941323111, 941434111

**DWARKA**

**COMMERCIAL SPACE**  
OWNER 9910020141 9810020141  
DWARKA SEC-12A, Plot No. 8, 3rd Flr / Terr. 6000sqft on Rent, Existing Tenants-Croma & Wooden Street, Access to High Speed Elevator, Versatile space, Suits upscale Restaurants/Cafes.

**EDUCATION**  
TUITION/TUTORIAL  
ONLINE MATHS classes for grades 6-12 Contact: 9873964303 email: karttekgupta@gmail.com book free demo now.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, LAKSHMI** Narayana, Father of Krishna Nelli resident of 4-3, Saradhi, Rajam, Vizayanagaram, AP - 52127 have changed my name from Lakshmi Narayana to Nelli Lakshmi Narayana vide Affidavit No IN-DL91398153288151W dated 23 May 24 at Delhi.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, NIDHI** Verma W/o Ashutosh Bhan, R/o 2061, Tower 1, 11th Avenue, Gaur City-2, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201009. Have changed my name from Nidhi Verma to Nidhi Bhan for all future purposes

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**IRMS** Madhu Bala W/O Satendra Kumar R/o 260 Civil Line South, Muzaffarnagar, 251001, Uttar Pradesh, changed my name Madhu Singh to Madhu Bala for all future purpose

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**US CON REALTY**  
Top Property Consultant  
Residential/ Commercial premium properties  
**South Delhi**  
Hauz Khas, SDA, Green Park, Panchsheel Park, Mayfair, Sarvapriya Vihar, Sarvodaya, Gk1, Saket, South Ex  
**Kothis / Builder Floors / Villas**  
Value for Money Deals  
Expertise in Collaborations  
NRI Properties Management  
7011901987

**RENTED PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN DELHI NCR**  
GOVT. INSURANCE 61,000 RE TAIL SOUTH EX 5,00,000  
MUTHOOT 1,34,500 KFC 3,00,000  
RELAXO 1,40,000 RBL BANK 3,35,000  
DCB 2,41,000 FULL BLDG.(8%) 23,50,000  
REVOLT 4,20,000 FULL BLDG.(8%) 32,00,000  
WANTED PRE RENTED BANKS & SHOWROOMS, SPACE FOR RENT ALSO AVAILABLE  
**NARESH AGGARWAL PROP.**  
9650524789, 9810278333

**RENTED**  
INDUSIND Bank 1,45,000 Manyavar 3,50,000  
RBL Bank 2,15,000 Looks Saloon 4,00,000  
UTKARSH Bank 2,19,000 MULTIPLEX 9,00,000  
IDFC Bank 3,10,000 HALDIRAM 11,40,000  
ICICI Bank 4,25,000 MOTEL 17,75,000  
Malls / Multiplexes / MNC's / Industries  
Assured Returns - 8 to 12% (Since 1985)  
**ANAND AGGARWAL PROP.**  
9810327243, 9811257394

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, SUNIL** Kumar, D.O.B.-08.07.1978 with Pan No.- ERPS0332F and Adhar No. XXX XXX 8084 S/O Sh. Karan Singh, presently R/O C-73, Sec-100, have changed my name to Sunel Chahuan with immediate effect for all purposes. Ph. No. 9999989898

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**IRMS** Satendra Kumar s/o Ram Chandra Singh r/o 260 Civil Line South, Muzaffarnagar, 251001, Uttar Pradesh, changed my name from Satendra Kumar Singh to Satendra Kumar for all future purposes.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**IRMS** husband Army No. 3149544 rank my date of birth is wrongly recorded as 18.05.1952 in SE.Y, where as the correct date is 01.01.1948. Randhri w/o Late Dayaram is a native of village nagla post chhitawar tehsil Najibabad district Bijnor Uttar Pradesh.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I** have changed my name from Sunil Kumari Gaba to Sunil Kumari W/o Vikram Gaba, R/o Flat no. 1209 JM Royal Park, Raunaghatia Green, Vaishali, Ghaziabad. Let me be known by this name in future.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, NIPUN** Biswas, s/o Haripada Biswas, R/O B-2/413, J.J. Colony Madanpur Khadar, N/Delhi-110076. I have changed my name from Nipun Biswas to Nipun Biswas for all purposes & forever.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, GOVINDA** S/O Shyam Sunder R/o Vill & Post Office Gangath, Tehsil, Nurpur District, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, Pin Code-176304, I have changed my name from Govinda to Govinda Rastra for all Future Purposes.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**DEEP CHAND** S/O Surjit Singh R/o 619, Rajeev Colony, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, have change my name Deep Singh to Deep Chand, I shall be known as Deep Chand for all future purpose.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, KIRAN** Bala W/o Late Ashwani Verma R/o 385-B, Shakti Khand-1, Near Deepanshu Restaurant, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad (UP) 201014 have changed my name to Manisha Verma for all future purposes.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, HITHERTO** known as Ashish Kumar Srivastava S/o Late Sh. Shail Kumar Srivastava R/o 13, KSH, Khorabar, Behind Gautam Buddha Inter College, Randhila, Khorabar Ur/ Soobabazar, Gorakhpur, U.P.-273008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashish Srivastava.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, PARDEEP** Kumar S/O Shri Ganga Bishan R/o NU 77 B Pitam Pura New Delhi 110034 have changed my name from Pardeep Kumar to Pradeep Kumar vide Affidavit dated 23rd May 2024 before notary S P Tripathi, Delhi

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, KHUSHI** D/o Kiranpalsingh R/o Rehlogi 16/9, Gurugram, Haryana-222102, in my 10th class marksheet my father name was written as Kiranpalsingh, whereas his correct name is Kiranpalsingh.

**I, DIVYA** W/O, Hemant Kumar R/o 142/ 90 Lal Dora Extension Kanjhawala Delhi -110081 have changed my name to Divya Kumar for all future purposes.

**LOST & FOUND**  
**I, RABINDRA** Kumar Samal S/o Chitan Samal have Lost My Allotment Cum Demand Letter, Possession Letter, and Possession Slip of Property Bearing No. 23-A, DDA Flats, Shalpur Jai, New Delhi-110049 Finder my Contact 9810666103

**I, RENU** Khatri W/o Sh. Neeraj khatri R/o H.No-113, Sonapat Road, Vikas Nagar, Rohtak-124001, have lost my original allotment for HUDA/ HSPV Dated 12/03/2021 for my property No.1640 TF Sector-57 Gurugram, Haryana. If anyone has finder please contact-91958227576

**I, RAJESH** Roy S/o Arun Roy & Shreya Mishra W/o Kaushik Roy R/o Villa 388, Adarsh Palm Meadows Phase 2 Whitefield Main Road Bangalore 560066, have lost our Original Allotment letter in favor of G.K. Sinha & Builder Buyer Agreement in respect of 1102, 11th Floor, Block No. 5, Uniworl Garden, Gurugram Hr. Finder my contact at 998788882.

**I, VARUN** Kumar Makkar S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Makkar R/o C-99, 1st Floor, Nirman Vihar, Delhi - 110092 have lost Original Property Document Possession Letter of Unit No. D-129, Second Floor in Tower L Style in Project BTP Amstoria, Sector-102, Gurugram, Haryana. Finder may please contact at above address or Mob No. 9910385558

## PUBLIC NOTICES

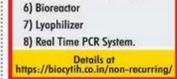
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
In respect to Property bearing No. B-2/6, Extension Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, measuring app. 145 square yards.

By way of this Public Notice the General Public, whosoever is concerned or interested (including but not limited to whosoever intending purchaser) that the above captioned property is the subject matter of an Agreement dated 04/06/2023 being executed by the Owners of the property namely: Mrs. Surjit Kaurwife and Shri Harvinder Singh residents of B-2/6, Extension, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi in favour of my Client Mr. Aditya Karan. The said agreement dated 04/06/2023 is concluded, binding, subsisting and pending performance. However, it appears that the aforesaid owners/sellers are trying to wriggle out of the aforesaid concluded and binding agreement and illegally trying to negotiate and deal with other persons in derogation of my client's concluded and binding agreement to sell. It is therefore notified that in case any other person (may it be individual, firm, company) deals with the aforesaid owners (in any manner whatsoever) in respect to the captioned property, he/she/they shall do so at his/her/their own risk, responsibility and peril and further in case the said owners deal or enter into any sort of agreement or arrangement with any other person in respect to the said property, the same shall not be binding upon my Client and he/she/they shall do so at his / her / their own risk & responsibility.

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**UDHAM SINGH, Advocate**  
D-257, T/F, Swastik Appt. Gali No. 14A/5, Sadh Nagar, Patam Colony, New Delhi-110045, Ph: 9971801216

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**Ashok Vihar** : Jain Ads, A-19/1, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, Ph: 011-47082653, 9810098228; **Prashant Vihar (Rohini)** : Paavan Advertiser, D-4, 1st Floor, Safeway House, Commercial Complex, Central Mkt., D-Block, Prashant Vihar, (Rohini), Near PVR Cinema, Delhi-85 Ph: 9311288839, 9811288839; **Shalimar Bagh** : Adage Classifieds, BN (Poorvi) 55, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, Phone: 9810065095, 9811362363; **Shakti Nagar** : Disha Marketing, 19, (GF) Chadha Bhawan, 23/4, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, Ph: 981121599, 9311874217, 011-47741183; **Mukherjee Nagar**: Make My Ad Private Limited, E-4, Gandhi Vihar, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, Ph: 9999339437, 9999889437; **Kishanganj** : Shri Narain Advertising, 205, (FF) Kishanganj Market, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-7, Ph: 23696326, 9811095804; **Wazirpur** : Delhi Classifieds Ad Agency, AL-8/B, 2nd Floor, AL Market, Shalimar Bagh, (Near Metro Station) Delhi -110088, Ph: 9810588681, 9810588680, 011-27472626.

**EAST DELHI**  
**Mayur Vihar** : The Vision Advertising, 13-A, Pocket 1 Pratap Nagar, Mayur Vihar, Phase 1, Near Mayur Vihar Metro Station New Delhi, Mob.: 9999278636, 9717557792; **Preet Vihar** : Ad-Bridge Classifieds, 305/8, Chopra Complex, (Behind McDonald), Preet Vihar, Delhi, Ph: 42421234, 22017210, 22057210; **Yamuna Vihar** : Hello East News, F-27A, Ground Floor, Gurudwara Road, Near Gurudwara, Madhu Vihar, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 Mob: 8010288833, 8010288822; **Shakarpur (V35 Mall Chowk)** : Ritika Ad, 1st Floor, Parichay Complex, 4-5 Veer Savarkar Block, Madhuban Road, Shakarpur, Delhi-92, Ph: 22449890, 9968289890, 9350309890; **Mandawali** : Bhaskar Advertising, F-11, Office No. 109, Jai Ambay Complex, Main Road, Mandawali, Near IP Extn., New Delhi - 110092, Ph: 8826693931, 9899733173; **Surajmal Vihar (Anand Vihar)** : Vidhi Advertising Pvt. Ltd, Kamal Complex, Krit Plaza, A-Block Market, L.S.C, Surajmal Vihar, (Above Chaska Restaurant), Delhi-110092, Ph: 9899701024, 9899701023; **Dilshad Garden** : Damask, 31-D, Pocket-B, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, Ph: 9810735111.

**WEST DELHI**  
**Dwarka** : Rebel Advertisers & Sales Promoters, 227, Vardhaman Plaza, (Building Adjacent to Indusind Bank, Above SUB-WAY) Plot No. 3, Sector-10 Market, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, Ph: 9811727799, 931225551; **Janakpuri** : Aero Ad Agency, D1B/2-A, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58; Ph:28520666, 9811254535; **Janakpuri Dist. Centre** : Elegant Advertising, 104, Vishal Tower Distt. Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58, Ph: 9971259928, 011-42401558, 47010215; **Uttam Nagar** : Atul Advertising Agency, D-8, Om Vihar Main Market, (Near Santoshi Mata Mandir) Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059, Ph: 9810497098, 9625908234; **Tilak Nagar** : Verma Ji Business Center, 69-D, Mukherjee Park (Gate No. 6), Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, Ph: 9891461543, 9310347796, 011-25980670; **P. S. Enterprises**, H.No. WZ-44/2D, Street No.16, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi - 110018, Mob. 9810056896, 981079269; **Ramesh Nagar** : Advertisng Hub, E-77, Double Storey, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, Ph: 9891195327, 9310006777; **Moti Nagar** : Lakshay Ads Media, Shop No. 2, 1st Floor, DLF-1, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar, (Nr. Metro Station), New Delhi-110015, Ph.: 9312272149, 8585901553; **Rajendra Place** : Connection, Shop No.144, Rajendra Bhawan, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008, Mob. 9911889108, 9899786999; **Paschim Vihar** : Berry Ads, Shop No. G-8, Ground Floor, Ansal Utility Commercial Complex, Plot No-4 & 5, Paschim Vihar, Opp. Jwala Heri Market, New Delhi-110063, Ph: 9250680913, 011-25262135, 25275947; **Peera Garhi** : Delhi Ad Media : D-181, 3rd Floor, Peera Garhi Chowk, Main Rohtak Road, Opp. Peera Garhi Metro Station, Above Pooja Tyres, New Delhi-87, Ph.: 991194013, 9871488907; **Karampura** : Shiva Ads Media, G-73, GF, Karampura, Nr. Radha Krishna Mandir, New Delhi-110015, Ph.: 9811636804, 9211122625, 25937947.

**SOUTH DELHI**  
**Alaknanda** : Libra Lehar, D7-8 1st Floor, Pushpa Bhawan, Alaknanda Commercial Complex, New Delhi-19, Ph: 011-49573333, 9910484810; **Defence Colony** : Gupta Enterprises, 160, Flyover Market, (Near SBI Bank) Defence Colony, New Delhi, Ph: 24640698, 24611788, 9810205253; **Lajpat Nagar-I**: Durga Advertising, D-218, Basement, Lajpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024, Phone: 9891297117, 41037117; **Saket** : Apex Advertising, Garage No 70-C, pkt-A-11, Surya Apt, Kalkaji Extn, New Delhi-110017 - Mob. : 9910644333, 9810786304; **Vasant Vihar** : Dee Ad & Design, B9/21, Ground Floor, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. Ph: 9873999000; **Kalkaji** : M/S Sankalp Advertising, E-8, 2nd Floor, Main Road, Kalkaji, New Delhi -110019, Ph.: 011-41020040, 40660010; **Nehru Place** : Evershine Agencies & Consultants, 106, Saraswati House, 27, Nehru Place, New Delhi-19, Ph.: 9811043482, 8700346710; **Ashram** : Hindustan Advertising, 60, Ground Floor, Hari Nagar Ashram, New Delhi-110014, Ph: 9899395929, 9810135711.

**CENTRAL DELHI**  
**Fatehpuri (Chandni Chowk)** : Ramniwas Advertising & Marketing, R-18, (F.F.), Coronation Building, Fatehpuri, Delhi-6, Ph: 011-23942577, 9810145472.

**NCR**  
**Gurugram (Sector-49)** : Key Stone, Office No. 406, The Sapphire Mall, Uppal's Southend, Sector-49, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018, Telefax: 0124-4147312, 9811242312; **Gurugram (Sector-28)** : Tarnic Advertisers, 1250 'A' Maruti Vihar, DLF-IV, Sec-28, Gurgaon. Ph.: 0124-4004264, 9990380427; **Gurugram** : Kamal Hari Advtg., Shyam Hari Bhargava Place, New Railway Road, Gurugram, Ph: 0124-4064901, 9811360969; **Faridabad** : Chatarbhuj Advertising, 207-208, 2nd Floor, Dwarka Complex, Sector-16, Near IDBI Bank, Faridabad, Ph: 0129-2412798, 981195834; **Usha Ad Media**, House No. 9, Bidhuri Colony, Agwanpur, Near Ambedkar Chowk, Sec-91, Faridabad, Ph. 9958943475, 8383031096; **Saransh Advertising & Marketing**, 55, 2nd Floor, Neelam Flyover Market N.I.T. Faridabad. Ph: 0129-4166498, 9811502088, 9818078183; **Ghaziabad (Vaishali)** : Ad Facilities, Shop No. LG-18, GDA Commercial Arcade (Behind Income Tax Office), Sec-3, Vaishali, GZB, Ph: 0120-2778298, 011-65739660, 9810074627; **Indrapuram** : Active Ad Point, Plot No. 70, Shakti Khand-IV, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad. Mob: 9311638496, 9311638497, 0120-4132275; **Vasundhara** : Yash Communication, 13/1197, Sec-13, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Ph: 9891195327, 9310006777; **Peera Garhi** : Delhi Ad Media : D-181, 3rd Floor, Peera Garhi Chowk, Main Rohtak Road, Opp. Peera Garhi Metro Station, Above Pooja Tyres, New Delhi-87, Ph.: 991194013, 9871488907; **Karampura** : Shiva Ads Media, G-73, GF, Karampura, Nr. Radha Krishna Mandir, New Delhi-110015, Ph.: 9811636804, 9211122625, 25937947.

**OUTSIDE NCR**  
**Muzaffarnagar** : Reshu Advertising Pvt. Ltd., Reshu Chowk, Reshu Vihar, Circular Road, Muzaffarnagar-251001, Mob. : 9927013166, 8899120120; **Bareilly** : Agarwal Communications, 23, Sita Kiran Plaza, Opposite Old Roadways, Rajendra Nagar, Bareilly, Ph. : 0581-3553679, 9412294199; **Rewari**: Tanya Advertising Agency, Shop No.7, First Floor, Shiv Complex, Garhi Bolni Road, Rewari-123401, Ph: 9728111777; **Karma AD Point**, G-53, Kamla Palace, Near Dharuhera Chowk, Rewari (Hr.), Ph: 01274-251333, 09416882312, 09215302430, 09416302430; **Hisar** : Verma AD Point, 1890, Ground Floor, Main Railway Road, Hisar-125001, Ph: 01662-225293; **Rohtak**: Aggarwal Advertising Agency, Shop No.1, 2nd Floor, Subhash Road, Opp. Radio Station, Near Mann Hospital, Rohtak, Ph: 0895000253, 09050449290; **Karnal** : Star Media Advertising Agency, Office No. FF-16, Second Floor, Super Mall, Sector-12, Karnal, Haryana, Ph: 0184-4023001, 08398956000; **Panipat** : Om Ad Agency, Plot no 125, Shop No 4, 1st Floor Sukhdev Nagar, Panipat, Mob. : 8708672844, 9729302322

buzz

**DST organises national brainstorming session**  
The Department of Science and Technology (DST) organised a national brainstorming session on "Transforming Science, Technology, and Innovation Ecosystems of India" at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), on May 22. The day-long discussions were hosted by the INSA and focused on critical areas like research and innovation; equity and inclusion; technology development, translation, innovation, and entrepreneurship; international cooperation; and science, technology, and innovation governance.

**TRAI convenes meeting of Joint Committee of Regulators**  
A meeting of Joint Committee of Regulators (JCoR) was convened by TRAI on May 21 at TRAI HQ, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the representatives of RBI, SEBI, MoCA and TRAI as members of JCoR and representatives from the DoT and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as special invitees. Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairperson, TRAI also addressed the meeting. The JCoR is a collaborative initiative by TRAI to study regulatory implications in the digital world and to collaboratively work on regulations.

**AIIA celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga, 2024**  
The AIIA, New Delhi organised a grand event to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of International Day of Yoga, 2024. The theme of the event on this occasion was 'Yoga for Women Empowerment'. Sister BK Shivani, a well-known motivational speaker, and the Chief Guest of this event, spoke and addressed the entire gathering as she appreciated the role of AIIA in the present era from the perspective of extending its services with respect to Ayurveda and its allied sciences in a systematic way to the society.

**Lawrence Mazlack Fellowship awarded to Jaypee University student**  
Jasmeet Kaur, MSc Biotechnology alumni from Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT), Waknaghat, Solan, Himachal Pradesh was selected through the Foreign Students' Exchange Program of JUIT and is presently working as a Graduate Research Assistant in the Department of Chemistry, Biology, and Health Sciences, SD Mines, SD, USA. She was recently awarded the prestigious Lawrence J Mazlack Fellowship in the USA. She is working with Prof Rajesh Sani of SD Mines, USA.

### NBT India's Summer Camp organises career counselling sessions for children

The National Book Trust, India (NBT) is offering a unique and invaluable experience for children through its ongoing 15-day summer camp, which includes comprehensive career counselling sessions. On May 22, renowned career counsellor Dr Shrutai Jain engaged with over 100 children aged 9 to 14, answered their career-oriented questions and guided them on building successful futures in their chosen fields.

During the session, Dr Shrutai Jain highlighted various career-



oriented courses such as Actuary, Environmental Science, User Interface (UX) Design, Banking,

Software Engineering, Epidemiology, and E-commerce, reflecting current industry demands.

### Samagam Art Fest celebrates diversity in creativity



Govind Mohan, Secretary Culture, Govt of India, inaugurated 'Samagam Art Fest 2024', organised by CanVerse Arts LLP, emphasising its role in India's

cultural journey. Praising the exhibits curated by Karuna Jain, he highlighted the festival's inclusion environment for all sorts of art forms.

### India's love for mountain biking soars at the 11<sup>th</sup> Firefox MTB

The 11<sup>th</sup> Firefox MTB Himalaya Shimla 2024, organised by Firefox Bikes LTD in collaboration with MTB Himalaya, concluded with resounding success and thrilling moments. The event witnessed an unprecedented gathering of 140 mountain bikers from 45 cities across India and 5 countries, showcasing their skills and determination on challenging terrains. Organised by the Himalayan Adventure Sports and Tourism Promotion Association (HASTPA), the competition was held in an MTB-XCM/XCO

style race, open to both amateurs and professionals. Riders embarked on a gruelling journey spanning 130 KM over two days, surmounting 3000 vertical meters through jeep roads, single tracks, and forest climbs. This edition was distinguished not just by the rugged track but also by the diverse participation, embodying the spirit of mountain biking and adventure. The race featured a completely New Route and Format, the race passed through forest trails of Kufri Wildlife Sanctuary, and the forests of Mashobra.

### DoCA hosts countdown till International Yoga Day



The DoCA organised a countdown event (pre-yoga session) at Kartavya Path, New Delhi on May 17. In this session, the Secretary, Nidhi Khare along with officers and staff of the department enthusiastically participated under the guidance of a Yoga Instructor from MDNIY.

### MoPSW celebrates Women in Maritime Day

MoPSW celebrated the International Day for Women in Maritime, on May 18, honouring the vital contributions of women seafarers. This year's theme, "Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety," underscored the importance of the safety and security of women in the maritime sector. In the event, 27 women seafarers from various marine institutes pursuing different degrees and some professionals from the field were recognised for their dedication and significant contributions to the maritime industry.

### POWERGRID posts PAT of Rs 15,573 crore for FY24

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), announced financial results for the period ending Q4FY24 and FY24. For Q4FY24, on a standalone basis company has reported a PAT of Rs 4,128 crore and a Total Income of Rs 12,254 crore. On a consolidated basis, the company has reported a PAT of Rs 4,166 crore and a Total Income of Rs 12,305 crore. For FY24, on a standalone basis, the company posted PAT and Total Income (including discontinued operations) of Rs 15,475 crore and Rs 46,215 crore respectively.

### Petronet LNG makes financial records

Petronet LNG Ltd reported record-high PBT and PAT for FY 2023-24 at Rs 4,757 crore and Rs 3,536 crore, respectively. Volume throughput grew 22 per cent year-on-year, with Q4 alone reaching 234 TBTU, a 26 per cent increase from Q4 FY 2022-23. Dahej terminal processed 865 TBTU for the year. Q4 PBT was Rs 996 crore, up 22 per cent, and PAT Rs 738 crore, up 20 per cent from Q4 FY 2022-23. The board approved a final dividend of Rs 3 per share. Robust results were due to stable LNG prices and operational efficiency.

### Lulu Group International to expand business in India

Abu Dhabi-based Lulu Group International, one of the biggest retailers spread across the Middle East, Far East and Africa is starting a Logistics and Food Processing Centre in Amritsar in Punjab. It plays a significant role in marketing Indian agricultural products on a global stage. It provides a platform for the display and promotion of Indian products and brands in all its hypermarkets. Their collaboration serves as a pivotal platform for Indian agricultural goods to gain heightened visibility and accessibility in international markets.

### NTPC secures 3<sup>rd</sup> rank at ATD BEST Award 2024

NTPC secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank globally at the ATD BEST Award 2024, the highest ranking among all Indian companies. Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years. The accolade was accepted by Rachana Singh Bhal, CGM (Strategic HR & Talent Management), at a ceremony held in New Orleans, USA, on May 21. The ATD BEST Award, established by the ATD, USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D).

### DD Kisan to launch AI anchors: Krish and Bhoomi

Doordarshan is going to achieve another milestone as after 9 years of immense success, DD Kisan is coming with a new look and a new style among the farmers of India on May 26, where the presentation of the channel is going to be in a new avatar. Doordarshan Kisan is going to launch two AI anchors (AI Krish and AI Bhoomi). They would be able to read the news 24 hours and 365 days without stopping or getting tired. The farmer viewers will be able to see these anchors in all the states of the country and gain necessary information.



Tata Power-DDL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) to collaborate on a ground-breaking Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Technology Demonstration Project on May 15. It was signed by Gajanan S Kate, CEO, Tata Power-DDL and Reji Kumar Pillai, President - ISGF in the presence of several eminent officials.



NHPC organised a Shramdaan programme for cleanliness campaign under 'Swachhata Pakhwada 2024' on May 21. RP Goyal, CMD, NHPC, Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC and RK Chaudhary, Director (Technical & Projects), NHPC, and senior NHPC officers performed Shramdaan by running a cleanliness drive in Faridabad.



For the forthcoming voting session in Delhi on May 25 under the General Lok Sabha Elections, to make special arrangements for the general people and VIPs voting in its area, NDMC made utmost efforts for a pleasant voting experience at all the designated polling stations. NDMC is the unique civic body in the nation who provides it's civic amenities to all VIPs in its area.



ICG organised a Pollution Response Seminar and Mock Drill in West Bengal. The two-day event, held from May 22 to 23, at the Headquarters Coast Guard District No 8(WB) in Haldia, brought together key stakeholders from various agencies, alongside OHAs, to address the critical challenges of combating oil spills at sea.



OIL and NRL signed a new long-term Definitive Agreement for the transportation of additional petroleum products through OIL's NSPL following the commissioning of Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project. It was signed by Pankaj Kumar Goswami, Director (Operations), OIL & Sanjay Choudhury, Director (Finance), NRL in the presence of several eminent dignitaries.



SCOPE and ILO released a joint study titled 'Skilling for future in PSEs: An ILO-SCOPE study on skills profiles in PSEs' in the presence of Michiko Miyamoto, Country Director, ILO India; Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, GAIL and other eminent dignitaries. The dignitaries emphasised on the importance of skilling, highlighting the significance of the study in addressing this imperative.

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