

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesgroup.com



DELHI POLLING RECORD (in %)
 Highest 71.3
 2019 60.5
 Lowest 43.5
 1999

HIGHEST TURNOUTS
 In 7 Delhi Seats

Chandni Chowk
 83
 In 1977
 2019: 62.8

North East Delhi
 67.3
 2014
 63.9

East Delhi
 70.1
 1977
 61.7

New Delhi
 73.2
 1967
 56.9

North West Delhi
 61.8
 2014
 59

West Delhi
 66.1
 2014
 60.8

South Delhi
 69.5
 1977
 58.8

Polling Time:
 7am-6pm
Helpline: 1950
Website:
 voters.eci.gov.in

SC refuses to hear plea on voter turnout data in midst of polls

Agrees With EC That It Doesn't Have To Upload Nos. After Each Phase

New Delhi: Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain an NGO's plea for a direction to EC to declare booth-wise voter turnout figures at the end of each phase of polling and said it was not inclined to issue any interim order amid electioneering. ("In between elections, hands-off attitude has to be there," SC told the NGO, according to a PTI report.)

SC was hearing an application filed by Association for Democratic Reforms in its PIL, pending since 2019. ADR had sought "scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part-I (account of votes recorded)" of all polling stations to be uploaded immediately after voting. SC said EC's turnout app was a voluntary step to inform public about approximate turnout percentage. "EC isn't statutorily required to upload preliminary data. Sometimes a good initiative is like 'aa hai mujhe maar' (counter-productive)," SC said, agreeing with EC it wasn't mandated to put out data after each phase. "Let's trust some of our institutions." **TNN**

► 'Why didn't you take steps...', P 16

DELHI, GURGAON & FARIDABAD VOTE TODAY



Preparations at a polling booth in Delhi Friday. EC urged voters to break trend of 'urban apathy'

DOs & DON'Ts
 ► Verify your name on electoral list and polling booth by calling 1950 (add STD code) or by visiting EC website electoralsearch.eci.gov.in. Or text ECI space EPIC (Voter ID) to 1950
 ► Carry voter card or other ID proof: passport, driving licence, PAN, Aadhaar
 ► Mobiles, cameras not allowed in poll booth, no facilities to deposit these
 ► If name not on list, check with presiding officer at booth whether it's on list of absentees, shifted or dead voters

CONTEST FOR 7 DELHI SEATS...

NEW DELHI | Bansuri Swaraj (BJP) vs Somnath Bharti (AAP) | 2019 winner: Meenakshi Lekhi (BJP) by 2.6 lakh votes
CHANDNI CHOWK | Praveen Khandelwal (BJP) vs Jai Prakash Agarwal (Congress) | 2019 winner: Harsh Vardhan (BJP) by 2.3L votes
EAST DELHI | Harsh Deep Malhotra (BJP) vs Kuldeep Kumar (AAP) | 2019 winner: Gautam Gambhir (BJP) by 3.9L votes
NORTH EAST DELHI | Manoj Tiwari (BJP) vs Kanhaiya Kumar (Cong) | 2019 winner: Manoj Tiwari (BJP) by 3.6L votes
NORTH WEST DELHI | Yogendra Chandoliya (BJP) vs Udit Raj (Cong) | 2019 winner: Hans

Raj Hans (BJP) by 5.5L votes
WEST DELHI | Kamaljeet Sehrawat (BJP) vs Mahabai Mishra (AAP) | 2019 winner: Parvesh Verma by 5.8L votes
SOUTH DELHI | Ramvir Singh Bidhuri (BJP) vs Sahi Ram (AAP) | 2019 winner: Ramesh Bidhuri by 3.7L votes
...AND IN HARYANA
GURGAON | Rao Inderjit Singh (BJP) vs Raj Babbar (Cong) | 2019 winner: Rao Inderjit Singh (BJP) by 3.9L votes
FARIDABAD | Krishan Pal Gujjar (BJP) vs Mahendra Pratap Singh (Congress) | 2019 winner: Krishan Pal Gujjar by 6.4L votes

IN THE COURTS

► U'khand HC quashes recovery notice of ₹25cr sent to Abdul Malik, dubbed by cops as mastermind of violence in Haldwani, for destruction of property | P 24
 ► Pocco court in Kerala sentences retired railway police officer to 75 years' RI for sexually abusing two 11-year-old girls | P 14
 ► SC stays U'khand HC order that had rejected a 26-acre plot in Haldwani for relocation of court complex in Nainital and sought site from state for new building with chambers for 7,000 lawyers | P 14
 ► Delhi court sends CM's aide Bibhav Kumar to 4-day judicial custody in Swati Malhiwal assault case | P 8

LG defamation case: Patkar convicted

Delhi court convicted activist Medha Patkar in a defamation case filed by LG V K Saxena. "(Her) statements, calling the complainant a coward... alleging his involvement in hawala transactions were not only defamatory per se but also crafted to incite negative perceptions." **P 11**

20 Indians enslaved, tortured in Myanmar

Twenty Indian labourers, promised jobs in Thailand, have been enslaved and tortured in Myanmar and are seeking MEA's help, some of their relatives told TOI Friday. In a video, a labourer is seen saying "a person has died and a girl is battling severe head injuries". **P 12**

Adani Ports to enter sensex, Wipro to exit

Gautam Adani-owned Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) will replace IT major Wipro in the 30-share BSE sensex from June 24, according to an official announcement on Friday. This marks the first inclusion of any Adani Group firm in sensex. **P 21**

Cops: Dad tried to frame driver in Porsche case

The father of the teen who knocked down two techies tried to show that his driver, and not his son, was behind the Porsche's wheel when the accident occurred in Pune on Sunday, police commissioner Amitesh Kumar said on Friday.
 ► No DL for minor till he turns 25: RTO, P 12

The father is a prominent builder. Late Friday, the commissioner suspended Rajendra Jagdale, officiating inspector in-charge of Yerwade police station, and assistant inspector for dereliction of duty in connection with the probe. The case is now with crime branch. **P 12**

Cong pushing sharia in name of personal law but BJP will bring UCC: PM

Kullu/Shimla: Accusing a "communal, casteist and nepotist" Congress of pushing sharia under the guise of seeking to retain Muslim personal law, PM Modi pledged Friday that BJP would implement the proposed uniform civil code (UCC) across the country. "There should be a uniform civil law for all, regardless of whether you are a Hindu, a Muslim, a Sikh, a Christian or a Buddhist. But Congress is opposing UCC. Congress also opposes Citizenship (Amendment) Act and talks about bringing back Section 370... This nation will be built by sons of the soil and not those who have received everything as inheritance,"



Modi campaigned for Kangana Ranaut, BJP's Mandi candidate

Modi said at a campaign rally in Mandi, where BJP has fielded actor Kangana Ranaut.

The PM said Congress's stand on critical issues reflected its intention to keep India wallowing in poverty and take it backwards. "Your single vote helped us frame CAA... made India the world's fifth-largest economy... helped us build the temple in Ayodhya after a wait of 500 years," he said. **TNN**
 ► 'Ensured EWS quota', P 17

After Cal HC's order, Raj govt plans to review 14 Muslim groups on OBC list

Jaipur: BJP-governed Rajasthan is considering reviewing 14 Muslim groups on its OBC list, taking the cue from Calcutta high court's recent scrapping of 77 classes, mostly Muslims, categorised as OBCs by Bengal's TMC govt. "We will examine after June 4 (results day, after which the model code will be lifted) if the inclusion of these (Muslim) communities in the OBC list from 1997 to 2013 was legal or illegal," Rajasthan social justice minister Avinash Gehlot said. He cited the Calcutta HC order and asserted religion-based quota was wrong. Rafeek Khan, chairman of Rajasthan State Commission for Minorities, accused Gehlot of undermining the Constitution, and said that the 14 Muslim groups were ad-

DANCE OF DEMOCRACY

► BJP moves SC challenging Cal HC order restraining it from issuing ads 'violative' of model code, matter listed for hearing May 27 | P 24
 ► CM Naveen Patnaik says he is in 'very good health' and has been campaigning all over Odisha, accuses BJP of spreading 'lies' about him | P 16
 ► Amit Shah attacks Lalu at Ara rally, claims 'jungle raj, abduction, gang war will return to Bihar' if INDIA bloc candidate wins | P 16

ded in the list "following a due process, including a survey, backed by rules". **TNN**

► Bengal OBC Act, P 16

B'desh MP murder: Butcher held, honeytrap suspected

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Mayukh Sengupta | TNN
Kolkata: An airline boarding pass bearing the name "Celesty Rahman" and the arrest of a butcher allegedly hired to mutilate the body of murdered Bangladesh MP Anwarul Azim Anar on Friday gave investigators clues to a sinister plot that possibly involved honey-trapping the victim into visiting an apartment in Kolkata's New Town on May 13 and killing him within 15 minutes of his arrival. Bengal Police deployed drones, underwater cameras and divers for over two hours in Polerhat, off Bhangar

along the city's eastern suburbs, but failed to trace the MP's mutilated body parts. What they found instead were tell-tale signs of a murder most foul at the crime scene - 600gm of plastic bags, toilet paper rolls, wet and dry tissue, gloves, the boarding pass with a Bangladeshi woman's name, and a comb with some strands of hair. Bangladeshi butcher Jihad Hawladar (24), who was arrested by Bengal Police's special task force, is the first suspect in the MP murder case to be taken into custody in India.
 ► Interpol help, P 24

Death for mom's partner in Laila murder case

Calling the elimination of an entire family of six extremely grotesque, barbaric, and "rarest of rare" offence, a Mumbai sessions court Friday sentenced 48-year-old Parvez Tak to death for the 2011 murders of his live-in partner, her four children, including actor Laila Khan, and a niece. Though motive was not clearly established, that the victims were last seen in Tak's company was clinching evidence, it said. **P 12**

SC upholds Delhi land acquisitions from 1957 to 2006

In a big fillip to residential, infra and Metro projects planned in Delhi, SC has upheld acquisition of huge tracts of land between 1957 and 2006 by DDA, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. The court, in its May 17 ruling that was uploaded on Friday, also allowed hundreds of appeals by DDA, DSI-IDC and DMRC against HC orders and upheld acquisition under the 1894 Act. **P 11**

6 of family on way to Vaishno Devi die in crash

Six members of a family, including a six-month-old infant, lost their lives and 19 others were injured when a minibus collided with a truck near Mohra village on Ambala-Delhi highway around 1:45am Friday. The family was going to Vaishno Devi before the inauguration of their new home. The driver, who is on the run, may have been drunk, police said. **P 15**

Gupta bros of SA arrested for builder's suicide

Police arrested Anil Kumar Gupta and Ajay Kumar Gupta, also referred to as the "Gupta brothers of South Africa", on charges of abetment of suicide on Friday, reports Kalyan Das. The arrest comes after a prominent Dehradun-based builder, Satinder Singh Sawhney, 52, named the two in a suicide note which he penned before he ended his life on Friday. He accused them of "coercion and interference" in his projects. Originally from Saharanpur, the Guptas gained notoriety for their business ventures in South Africa where they were accused of large-scale corruption. **P 12**

Vote First

Everything else can wait

Today, on 25th May, do participate in the sixth phase of the festival of democracy. As a responsible citizen, do not forget to cast your vote for the Nation's development and progress.

Your One Vote

Will strengthen our nation's fight against corruption, poverty and nepotism

Will move nation forward

Will make a viksit Bharat

To vote for Modi Ji

Press the Lotus button

Make BJP win

Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar



NO. OF VOTERS	18-19 age group	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-69 years	70-79 years	80+ yrs	Total
Chandni Chowk	22,517	2,50,100	4,18,315	3,75,983	2,74,975	1,71,410	95,900	36,758	16,45,958
North East Delhi	41,744	4,66,204	7,00,191	5,56,561	3,62,676	1,90,630	1,11,750	33,403	24,63,159
East Delhi	35,104	3,58,344	5,95,986	4,91,086	3,25,661	1,81,651	99,410	33,342	21,20,584
New Delhi	22,494	2,30,364	3,97,618	3,44,131	2,57,627	1,54,980	82,263	35,594	15,25,071
North West Delhi	44,346	4,52,190	7,21,240	5,93,773	3,88,063	2,06,979	1,26,639	34,193	25,67,423
West Delhi	46,987	4,53,489	7,01,177	5,82,821	3,89,074	2,28,683	1,39,701	46,045	25,87,977
South Delhi	38,846	4,08,717	6,56,114	5,46,889	3,51,310	1,72,674	89,153	28,061	22,91,764

Win Or Whine? Delhi Voters Will Decide Today

TOI Explains

HOW TO VOTE

What is voter information slip and how to download it
It contains voter's name, age, gender, constituency, polling station location and polling date
How to download
> Visit the National Voters' Service Portal

(NVSP) website (www.nvsp.in)
> Click on 'search' in the 'electoral roll' tab
> You can search by three ways (by entering the mobile number/voter ID number/name and constituency details)
> Click on the download icon on the sheet generated

Valid ID documents that you can carry to your polling station

- > Voter ID card (EPIC)
- > Aadhaar card
- > PAN card
- > Unique Disability ID (UDID) card
- > Service identity card
- > Passbook with photo by bank/post office
- > Health insurance smart card (ministry of labour)
- > Driving licence
- > Passport
- > Smart card issued by RGI under NPR
- > Pension document official identity card issued to MPs / MLAs / MLCs
- > MNREGA job card



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee, Rajesh Mehta

Congress-AAP Alliance Hopes To Gain From Lack Of Vote Split, BJP Rides On Modi Factor

Atul Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a high-stake battle of electoral supremacy in the capital, over 1.5 crore people will pick seven candidates on Saturday from 162 in the fray to send to Parliament in the ongoing 2024 general elections.

This is the first time in over 10 years that Delhi is witnessing a direct fight between two political players — BJP, which swept the last two Lok Sabha elections by winning all seven seats with comfortable margins — and the AAP-Congress combine. AAP and Congress have forged a pre-poll alliance to prevent the division of anti-BJP votes.

Delhi saw a bipolar contest between BJP and Congress till 2009. But it transitioned into a three-way fight in 2013 with the arrival of Aam Aadmi Party.

Both BJP and AAP-Congress, which are part of a larger alliance of opposition parties, have a lot at stake in this election.

While BJP is looking at underlining its political dominance across the country with a repeat performance of winning all seven Delhi seats in the two Lok Sabha elections, Congress, with the help of AAP, is trying to get a foothold in the city politics again. AAP, which propped itself atop the city's political scene by winning a record 67 out of 70 assembly seats in 2015 and 62 in 2020, but has, so far, failed to replicate the performance in general elections, is desperate to have a larger say in national politics by sending its functionaries to Lok Sabha.

In the 2019 election, BJP polled 56.7% votes. While AAP secured 18.2%, Congress managed to pocket 22.6% of the valid votes.

Though Congress supported AAP to help form its government in Delhi in 2013 by giving outside support of its eight MLAs and discussed at length the possibility of an alliance in 2019, this is the first time

the two parties have managed to stitch a pre-poll alliance. While Congress has fielded its candidates on three seats, AAP is contesting on four.

"A Congress-AAP alliance has definitely posed a formidable challenge to BJP in the capital. If the alliance was not there, BJP would have probably swept the election with a bigger margin than the last time. They are now involved in a tough battle on all seats," said political observer Ranjeet Singh.

While Congress and AAP have been talking about the rise in

work done by Modi government at Centre and alleged involvement of AAP functionaries in corruption. It is seeking votes for Narendra Modi's re-election as PM. The three political parties held a number of rallies, roadshows and corner meetings to influence voters, the outcome of which will be sealed in electronic voting machines on Saturday. The votes will be counted on June 4.

In the 2020 assembly polls, a combination of Muslims, underprivileged residents of unauthorised colonies and slums and a section of the middle-

Piyal Bhattacharjee

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

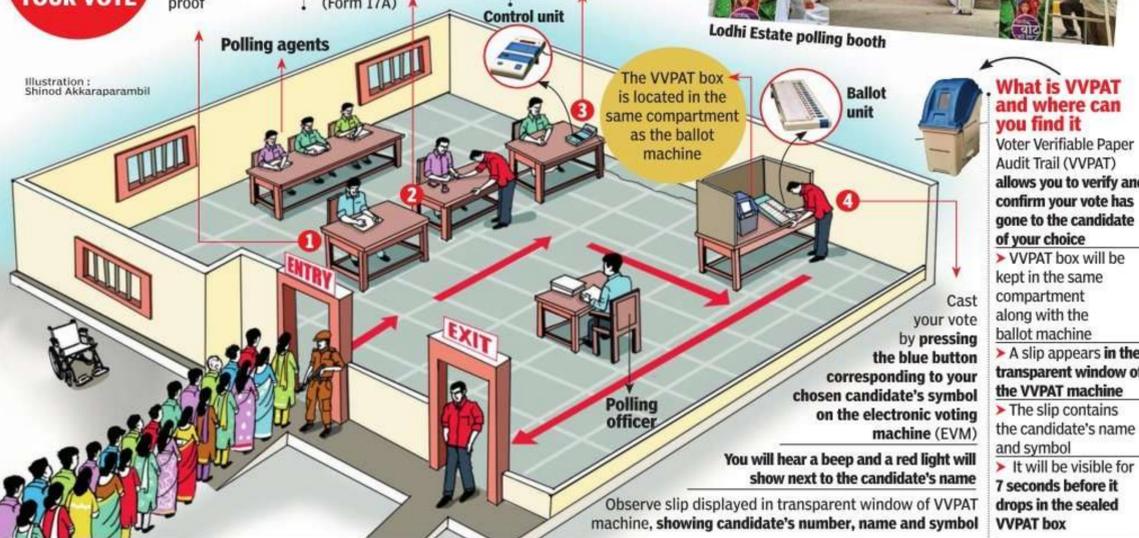
The first polling official will verify your name on the voter list and check your ID proof

The second polling official will mark your finger with ink, provide you with a slip, and require your signature on a register (Form 17A)

You must then hand over the slip to the third polling official, show your inked finger, and proceed to the polling booth



Lodhi Estate polling booth



EC PULLS OUT ALL STOPS

unemployment and inflation in the country in the last 10 years under the BJP-led NDA government, the two parties have turned this election into a fight to "save the Constitution and democracy". Top functionaries and star campaigners of both parties have alleged in each of their public meetings and rallies that BJP, if re-elected, would amend the Constitution and take away voting rights of the citizens.

AAP has also made this election a referendum against the arrest of CM Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case, which it claims is fake.

BJP, on the other hand, has based its election campaign on

the class had propelled AAP to the helm in Delhi, when it bagged nearly 54% votes while Congress could barely manage 4%. A senior AAP functionary said the party had a "focused" campaign this time to consolidate its core vote bank and ensure it got the same support and vote share as the last assembly election.

"That's why we reminded people of the benefits being provided by Delhi government, such as free power and water to the poor, free bus ride to women and free pilgrimage to the elderly and emphasised that these facilities will stop if BJP returns at Centre," said a senior AAP functionary, requesting anonymity.

Appeal to Voters of Delhi

Your Vote is Your Power Use it!



Delhi
come out and vote
on **25th May 2024**

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

Prohibited Items



No Mobile No Smoking No Fire Arms No Camera

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



Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

Old St. Stephen's College Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi - 110006
www.ceodelhi.gov.in

No Voter to be left behind

Voter Helpline No. - 1950

Log on to:

www.voters.eci.gov.in

Follow us:

f t i g
/ceodelhioffice

Citizens Form Own Groups Of Observers

Join Hands With Civil Society To Keep Eye On Poll Process



POLLING CENTRE DECKED UP FOR VOTING DAY

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Several civil society groups and more than 300 citizens of Delhi have joined hands to observe whether the elections are free, fair and peaceful. The independent election observers' team will visit polling stations in different areas and report malpractices, if they come across any, to the Election Commission of India. In a statement, the citizens group said that the election observers would also collect audio-visual evidence in case they came across any malpractice or wrongdoing and would utilise the Election Commission's safeguards such as the eVigil app and the ECI app to report incidents violating the citizen's rights. "One of the key objectives of the effort is also to safeguard people against rumours and misinformation that is circulated about elections and make sure that all citizens can take part in elections without intimidation or fear," the citizens' group stated. More than 1.5 crore voters are eligible to cast their votes for seven Lok Sabha seats in the capital today at 13,641 polling booths set up at 2,627 locations. While the office of the chief electoral officer has made a deployment of more than one lakh personnel, including vo-

lunteers and translators, nearly one lakh security personnel – 46 coys, 19,000 home guards and over 78,000-strong police force – will also be on job to ensure a free and fair poll. "The teams of independent election observers have not been formed with any intention to replace the state agencies that are supposed to monitor elections and work for smooth conduct and citizen's rights. The effort is to aid the same process by having citizen's function as a watchdog accountability mechanism," said the citizen's group. "The teams shall follow all legally prescribed norms in order to not cause any disruption in the election process," it added. The observers will have no direct confrontations with election agents of political parties or the respective election authorities or police and their task will be to monitor and report so that such instances are documented and forwarded for action by authorities, the statement further read. The independent observers will also encourage voters, especially in areas where politically and socially vulnerable communities reside, to cast their votes. The citizens' watch group will compile reports of all members engaged in the process and publish the uniform report, the group stated.

Cops keep watch on social media to check rumours

RaoJaswantSingh@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: Haryana DGP Shatrughj Kapoor has directed cops to keep an eye on anti-social elements who indulge in spreading rumours or fake videos on social media during the Lok Sabha election. In a meeting with senior police officers on Friday, Kapoor directed officers to form teams to check such social media posts. Offenders will be dealt with strictly and face strict legal action, he said. "All preparations have been finalised to uphold law and order in the state. Nobody will be allowed to disrupt voting on Saturday. Sometimes, some mischievous elements make fake videos of polling booths, which are widely circulated on social media, disturbing law and order," Kapoor said. The DGP also appealed to people not to share such videos or posts on their social media accounts. If any person finds such content on social media, they can report it to the Haryana Police helpline 112 or the control room helpline, 0172-2570070. Stressing the importance of voting, he also urged citizens to visit polling booths on Saturday and cast their ballot. "Rumours and fake videos have the potential to disrupt the electoral process by creating a law and order situation," a senior cop told TOI.

Join Long-term Course for

CAT 2024

- Classes by expert faculty
- Online Sectional Tests
- AIMCATs - the closest tests to the actual CAT
- Guidance and doubt clearance

2805 T.I.M.E. students into the IIMs alone in CAT 2022

*Results validated by VSMB & Associates on 05/10/2023

Enrol Today!

T.I.M.E.
The foremost Institute of Management Education Pvt. Ltd.

Connaught Place: 9650008901 Dwarka: 49847205 East Delhi: 49046835
East of Kailash: 41012752 Kulu Sarai: 48014522 North Campus: 45261201
Noida Sec-16: 43010109 Noida Sec-62: 45444888 Pimpri: 45326318
Rajouri Garden: 42341132 South Campus: 9818559890
Ghaziabad: 0120-4254250

Career Launcher MBA

CAT 2024

Start your prep at **₹34000 only**

20+ study centers in Delhi-NCR

9289-911-869

www.careerlauncher.com/cat-mba

AKG It's time to upgrade your HOUSE SAFETY

Dr. A.K Garg Group of Companies

IS-694 IS-1554 (PART-1) IS-7088 (PART-1)

FR/FR-LSH/ZHFR PVC HOUSE WIRES

AKG WIRES & CABLES

- Higher current carrying capacity
- More than 99.95% bare copper conductor
- Glossy & smooth surface finish (ensures efficient & easy conduit wiring)
- Low emission of toxic gases.
- Higher flexibility (fabricated from specially developed in-house compound)
- Anti termite and anti rodent properties

LV Power & Control Cables Fire Survival Cables

CAT-6 & RG-6 Cables Flexible Single & Multicore Cables

AKG Plastics Pvt. Ltd.

Tel: 0120-2973706, Mobile: +91-9760148265 +91-8448793165
e: electrical@akggroupindia.com | w: www.akggroupindia.com

Exchange your old car, SUV and bike tyres with the brand-new Apollo Tyres and **save up to ₹2400/-***

SAVINGS UP TO

Inch	Amazer 4G Life+, Amazer XP, Altrust, Amazer XL	Alnac, Amperion & Apterra Cross	Apterra- All except Cross	Aspire	Pattern	Discount per tyre
12"-13"	₹240	₹240	-	-	2 Wheeler Tyres	Up to ₹600
14"	₹480	₹680	₹1000	-		
15"-16"	₹680	₹1280	₹1800	₹2000		
17"+	-	₹2000	₹2400	₹2000		

Starts from **10th May** - till stock lasts

*Terms and Conditions apply

www.shop.apollotyres.com

TO KNOW MORE CALL TOLL FREE **1800 212 7070**

For all other sizes: *T&C - Limited period offer. Valid till stocks last. Up to ₹2400/- off on the best buy of 4 car/SUV tyres and ₹600/- off on the best buy of 2 tyres of 2 Wheeler. The exchange discount value will become half on the purchase of 2 car/SUV tyres and 1 tyre of 2 Wheeler. No two different offers can be clubbed. Old car/SUV or 2 Wheeler tyres of any type and size can be exchanged. For detailed offer T&C, please log on to www.shop.apollotyres.com **Disclaimer:** Apollo is the proprietor of the trademarks ALNAC, AMAZER 4G LIFE+, AMAZER XP, ALTRUST, AMAZER XL, APTERRA, ASPIRE, APTERRA CROSS, ALPHA, TRAMPLR, AMPERION, ACTISERIES (actiGRIP, actiSTEER, actiTUBE, actiZIP) and all associated Apollo trademarks, trade names, service marks, logo, tyre tread designs. Copyright © 2018 APOLLO TYRES LTD.

India, vote today!

And unlock a special playlist made just for you.



Place your marked finger in the outline



Scan the code on Spotify



Unlock a playlist made for you

PLAY YOUR PART



Mark of Democracy

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

The polling booth awaits young Indians

The youth plays a pivotal role in India's democratic process. Here's why its participation in the election process is not only important, but also game-changing

■ Pooja.Mahimkar
@timesgroup.com

The largest democracy in the world has begun the world's largest electoral process. Over 97 crore eligible voters would exercise their right to vote, out of which around 19.74 crore are young voters. But the ground reality is that historically, the youth turnout has been low. Why is this a matter of concern? Why should we encourage the youth to vote? Surely, it's not to just put their civics knowledge to some use.

SECURE FUTURE

"The decisions made today profoundly impact the opportunities available to the youth tomorrow. Questions about job availability, income stability, and overall quality of life should motivate them to engage in the democratic process," says Harshada S, a political science professor. "Voting day is often considered as a holiday, especially by people of my age group; however, I think we should also be active participants in deciding not only our future, but also the country's," says Sanya Khemani, a 23-year-old student. Voting also fosters a sense of civic duty and empower-

ment, instilling in the youth a sense of responsibility towards nation-building.

LIVEABILITY QUOTIENT

Policies play a huge role when it comes to making a country carbon-neutral or environment-friendly. Clean air, potable water, and ample open spaces with thriving green cover are essential to lead a healthy life. And to ensure this, one needs a government that prioritises these issues. "Delhi often struggles with bad air quality, Mumbai too has its bouts with bad AQI, Bengaluru is struggling with acute water crisis, and several other cities have their own issues to deal with. As citizens, addressing these issues is imperative, and elections offer us a platform to voice our concerns," says 25-year-old Sashank Mehra who recently started his first job.

MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD

The low youth turnout often puts youth-centric issues on the back-burner and the same-old rhetoric continues.

"Young voters inject fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. In a nation as diverse as India, where people span various age groups, the youth's vote holds the key to balancing intergenerational interests and promoting a fairer allocation of resources and policies," states Anuja Sawant, a first-time voter enthusiastically looking forward to voting day.

The youth has its own personal struggles and aspirations, and aligning those with the vote would make a powerful impact. So, this is not just the time to elect a people's representative, but also to introspect and plan your goal for the next five years.

DID YOU KNOW?

Less than 40 per cent of first-time voters—those who turned 18 or 19 recently—have registered to vote this time around. Just about a little more than 1.8 crore out of around 4.9 crore eligible new voters are on the electoral roll, as per data released by the Election Commission. This makes the vote of those first-time voters who have registered all the more precious.



The colour purple

The participation of more youngsters in voting will help set the narrative for the future due to which it is important for them to take this seriously

PHOTO: ISTOCK



■ Swati Shukla
Resp.Edit
@timesgroup.com

As India boasts of the world's largest young population, first-time voters are in the limelight. There is a lot of excitement and anticipation among young voters as they step into the democratic arena for the first time. These young citizens have immense potential to influence the course of our nation's future.

"Elections are pivotal moments in India to steer progress and change. The first-time voters must understand the significance of their role and make informed choices that reflect their aspirations and values," says Prof Naveen Sharda from a city-based college.

CHANGEMAKERS

These young voters have significant electoral influence, which means they are likely to shape the political landscape of the country for

years to come. For many young adults, casting their vote for the first time is a significant event that symbolises their transition into active citizenship and civic engagement. As they prepare to exercise their democratic right, there are several important considerations that first-time voters should keep in mind.

Rahul Kashyap, a first-time voter, shares, "Young voters need to educate

Young voters need to educate themselves about the electoral process, political parties, and candidates

themselves about the electoral process, political parties, and candidates contesting in their constituency. By staying informed and aware, we can ensure that our votes are not only meaningful, but also aligned with our values and priorities."

We, as citizens of the larg-

est democracy, should recognise the power of our collective voice and the impact it can have on shaping the political landscape. With a significant portion of the electorate comprising young voters, its participation can influence the outcome of elections and drive positive change in the society.

By participating in the electoral process, first-time voters can hold elected representatives accountable and advocate issues that matter to them, such as education, employment, environment, and social justice.

Vandana K, a first-year college student, is all excited to be casting her right for the first time and shared, "It's essential to rise above partisan politics and vote for candidates who demonstrate integrity, leadership, and a commitment to serving public interest. I feel we young voters should critically evaluate candidates based on their qualifications, policies, and vision for the future."

Are you a first-time voter? Here's a checklist

Is this your first time at the polling booth? Here's what to expect on voting day

■ PriyaC.Nair
@timesgroup.com

First-time voters may have some doubts about the process of voting. Here's a ready reckoner for them.

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUENCY

The first step is to know which constituency you belong to. The official election

commission website is a good source to check.

CARRY YOUR IDENTIFICATION CARD (IC)

Polling officials will ask you to show a photo ID card when you reach the polling booth. Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) or any one of the 11 specified photo

POINTS TO KNOW

- Make sure your name is on the voting list;
- Do not tell anyone who you have voted for.

identity documents essential for casting vote will have to be produced for identification at the polling station.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF VOTING?

Enter the polling station; the entry will be regulated by queues.

Step 1: Go to the First Polling Officer who is in charge of the marked copy of the electoral roll, to verify your identification and voter ID.

Step 2: Proceed to the Second Polling Officer who will mark your left forefinger with indelible ink.

The officer will record your serial number in the electoral roll and give you a signed voter slip with your serial number.

Step 3: Hand over the voter's slip to the Third Polling Officer. The officer will press the ballot button on the Control Unit of the voting machine and direct you to the voting compartment.

Step 4: Inside the voting compartment, press the button on the balloting unit against the name and symbol of the candidate of your choice. The red lamp will glow once you press on the candidate button.

चुनाव का पर्व
DESH KA GARV

WINNER OF



CONCEPTUALISED BY
HAVAS WORLDWIDE

This page of
THE TIMES OF INDIA
has been printed in purple
to remind people
of unused electoral ink.

We could have printed thousands of
such pages using the 7500 litres* of indelible ink
that was left unused due to less voter turnout
during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections.

DON'T WASTE A DROP OF ELECTORAL INK.

DON'T WASTE THE POWER OF DEMOCRACY.

Visit
electoralsearch.eci.gov.in

Call Voter Helpline
1950

Download
Voter Helpline App

Winning team: Ravinder Kumar, Soham Ghosh, Havas Worldwide, Gurgaon.

*The volume of unused electoral ink mentioned is an approximation that has been derived from multiple independent sources of data. Issued in public interest by The Times of India, supported by the ECI.

The power is in her hands: Young women voters are set to drive change

With every vote cast, women have the opportunity to demand accountability from elected representatives and champion issues that directly impact their lives and communities

■ Resp.Edit
@timesgroup.com

As the nation gears up for the ongoing election, one crucial demographic stands at the forefront of shaping the future of our democracy—women voters. With their sheer numbers and unwavering dedication, women play a key role in influencing electoral outcomes and driving social and political change.

EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL DECISIONS

In India, women were granted voting rights since the adoption of the Constitution in 1949. This was an important step towards gender equality as it ensured that women had an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Over the years, there is an increasing female partic-

ipation in Indian elections, which can be attributed to various factors. Education and electoral awareness initiatives have played a significant role in boosting women's participation in the electoral process.

As per the Election Commission, 12 states have more women voters than men, with a total of 47.1 crore females registered in the electoral roll in the country out of which first-time voters make a major stake.

Rekha T, a working profes-



sional, says, "Women voters must recognise the power they hold in their hands. With every vote cast, they have the opportunity to demand accountability from elected representatives and to champion issues that directly impact their lives and communities."

Vedika C, a college student and first-time voter, says, "We will cast our vote by critically evaluating candidates' performance and track record. Women's safety, empowerment, and gender equality, as well as equal opportunities for employment and financial inclusion and independence are my core concerns."

Shruti N, from an NGO raising awareness on voting, shares,

"Women today ought to recognise the importance of voting rights and understand that by uniting voices, they can amplify their demands and needs for inclusive governance and social equity."

Need time off to vote? Employers are happy to oblige

People are balancing their work and pulling out all the stops to vote, even as companies allow employees to take a break to fulfil their citizen obligations

■ Leena Mudbidri
Resp.Edit@timesgroup.com

Corporate firms have plans in place to allow their employees to vote without it affecting their business. Simran Hoskote, a 24-year-old consultant with a finance firm, is excited because she got her voter ID card only last year. "Our company has announced a WFH schedule for all employees, so we can vote at any time of the day, considering the heat. I plan to step out in the first part of the day when it's not too hot, so I have the whole day to complete my work," she says.

Like Simran's employer, Sangeetha Balasubramaniam's company in the city too has marked the calendar for its employees to step out of office to vote. The global management consulting firm has put a roster in place for each depart-

ment to exercise their franchise. "We got an email from our HR to intimate our respective team leads on the time we'd like to take off from work. Some of us are planning to first vote and then come to the office. So when we do that, the rest of our colleagues will be deputised to handle the workload. When we are back, the rest will go and vote. This, I feel, is a great idea to balance the schedule without work piling up," says the 21-year-old who's voting for the first time.

Ask her if she's excited about it, and she says, "I am for sure, the same way I can't speak for my friends. A lot many Gen Zers are more excited about putting up their pics with their inked finger on social media." She rues the fact that her generation is still not serious about the importance of their vote and what it can mean for the country. "I think it is important to fulfil our duty to get a duly elected government. For that, we should ensure that we vote," she shares prudently.

"Elections are one of the most important days for any country and its people as it decides who will steer the country forward for the next five years. Companies are well-aware of this responsibility of citizens. Our company has been giving time-off to employees so that they fulfil their voting obligation," says Aparna Chandrashekar, HR lead in a multi-national company.



Delhi Hoping To Buck Low Turnout Trend

EC Appeals To Voters In NCR

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With urban apathy in Mumbai and Lucknow pulling down overall turnout in Phase 5, the Election Commission on Friday issued a special appeal to the voters of Delhi, Gurgaon and Faridabad, reminding them of their right and duty to vote and seeking their enthusiastic participation in Phase 6 polling to break the trend.

While Delhi had witnessed an overall 60.6% polling in 2019, with parliamentary constituency (PC)-wise turnout ranging from 56.9% in New Delhi to 63.8% in Northeast Delhi in 2019, the voting percentage in Gurgaon was 67.3% and in Faridabad, 64.1%. The figures are inclusive of EVM votes and postal ballots.

In the last 17 Lok Sabha elections, the city witnessed the highest turnout of 71.3% in 1977, while the lowest turnout of 43.5% was recorded in 1999.

With 83% electors exercising their right in 1977, Chandni Chowk holds the unique distinction of a Delhi constituency recording the highest ever voter turnout. The New Delhi Lok Sabha area saw only 41.8% voters casting their votes, which was the lowest ever in a city constituency.

Ahead of the voting in Delhi, chief electoral officer P Krishnamurthy appealed to the voters to cast their ballot in large numbers and join in the grand celebration of democracy, irrespective of the weather conditions.

"Even if the weather is harsh, it is our foremost responsibility as citizens to participate in this democratic process. While heatwaves, cold, and rain are part of every season, our commitment to voting should remain unwavering," Krishnamurthy said.

Delhi is likely to witness heatwave conditions today, as the mercury is predicted to remain around 46 degrees Celsius. A few stations are expected to record a higher tem-

perature by one to two degrees. A spell of intense heatwave, which has gripped the capital for a week, could impact voter turnout.

According to the draft heat action plan, people should avoid exposure to heat from noon to 4 pm, which is also the peak voting time. Heatwaves can impact elderly people and people with comorbidities and cause heatstroke, dehydration and other related issues.

To ensure a comfortable voting experience despite the extreme heat, Krishnamurthy said comprehensive arrangements have been made at all polling stations. "Shaded areas have been set up at each polling station, and the waiting areas are fully covered. Coolers and fans have been installed to mitigate any discomfort. Additionally, proper arrangements for drinking water, toilets, wheelchairs, and ramps for the disabled are in place under the Assured Minimum Facility Policy. We aim to provide all necessary facilities so that voters face no inconvenience at any polling station," he said.

For the first time in the Delhi elections, paramedical staff equipped with basic medical kits will be stationed at all polling locations. Volunteers will assist elderly voters, and sign language experts will be available to ensure that disabled voters have a smooth voting experience.

Highlighting special initiatives to enhance the voting experience, Krishnamurthy said 70 pink polling stations will be entirely operated by women polling staff. For the first time, each parliamentary constituency will have a polling station fully staffed by persons with disabilities, he said.

All the seven seats in Delhi will go to polls on Friday, where the AAP-Congress alliance is pitted against BJP. The BJP had won all seven seats in 2019.

While West Delhi is the largest constituency in the capital, New Delhi is the smallest.

A DIRECT FIGHT

BJP

The party is aiming for a hat-trick of wins on all seven seats. While it has replaced six of the seven candidates this time to counter anti-incumbency, it is again banking on the 'Modi factor' to work in its favour. The campaign, therefore, has centred around the work done by Modi govt at the Centre as well as projects implemented in the capital. BJP has strived to make the alleged corruption in AAP govt a major election issue by highlighting the arrests of CM Arvind Kejriwal and his former deputy, Manish Sisodia, in the excise policy case.



AAP-Congress

Aam Aadmi Party and Congress have joined hands to stop the BJP juggernaut in this election. The alliance is pinning its hopes on preventing a split in anti-BJP votes. In fact, the combined vote share of the two parties was nowhere close to BJP in the 2019 election. The result assumes even greater significance as it may have an impact on the upcoming Delhi assembly elections, which are due in Feb 2025. It is also likely to put to test the new-found bonhomie between AAP and Congress.



ELECTION ISSUES IN DELHI

Water Supply

Paucity of potable water, especially during summer months, is a major issue across the city. While Delhi's population has grown manifold over the years, the production of drinking water and its supply to far-flung areas have not been able to keep pace. While BJP and AAP blame each other for the situation, residents are only asking for an early respite.



Expansion of Metro

Though Delhi Metro now covers large swathes of the city, people living in the outer regions continue to face connectivity issues. The lack of last-mile connect is another headache for residents of these areas. Providing a solution to these issues is on top of the 'to-do' list of most candidates.



Civic Amenities

People living in slums clusters, resettlement colonies and unauthorised colonies form almost two-thirds of Delhi's population. Better housing and improved living conditions are among their biggest demands. The political parties, too, have promised in situ pucca housing to slum dwellers and better civic amenities in unorganised housing areas.



Employment

It is a major issue for first-time voters, who are on the rolls in large numbers in all constituencies of Delhi. The city is also home to a large population of migrant workers, who have come here for better employment opportunities. The issue figures prominently in the manifestoes of both AAP and Congress. BJP has also promised greater job opportunities.



Inflation

One issue that finds the largest resonance across the city is inflation. The spike in prices of essential commodities has burnt a hole in the pockets of all classes of people. The opposition parties have made it a major poll plank this time.



Voters' Dos and Don'ts



Don't carry mobile phones to polling stations

Carry voter's slip issued by the returning officer

Carry voter identity card or any of the 11 identity documents approved by Election Commission

Carry passport if overseas or NRI voter

No voter will be allowed inside the polling location after 6pm. But those who are already inside will be allowed to vote

In villages, focus on unkept promises

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Panchayat Sangh has appealed to the people in the city's rural areas to keep in mind the "quality" of work done by incumbent govt and elected representatives while exercising their franchise.

It emphasised that despite having many rounds of meetings, no action was taken to waive property tax or clean the Yamuna and Sahibi rivers. The sangh had earlier this month shared an 18-point agenda with villagers and the candidates in the Lok Sabha election.

"We have appealed to the people in villages and the panchayat functionaries to ensure 100% voting in the Lok Sabha election for the betterment of rural areas and the fulfilment of points raised by them," said Than Singh Yadav, head of Delhi Panchayat Sangh. "The majority of villages are still struggling to get proper water supply and efforts to provide fodder funds for cows in shelter homes are missing," he alleged.

Sunil Sharma, its vice-chairman, said the

sangh had received several complaints about non-receipt of pension for a long time from many elderly people in Delhi's rural areas. "Many people said their power bills were not halved and even waivers on water bills were missing. Villagers have been asked to visit the polling stations to elect the right person," said Sharma. The sangh claimed to have members from 200 villages and it had prepared the 18-point agenda after consulting the panchayat heads. The agenda includes conferring ownership rights in Lal Dora and extended Lal Dora areas, exempting them from payment of house tax, conversion and parking charges, and keeping villages out of building bye-laws while allowing commercial activities.

The other points include freeing agricultural land from tent mafia and returning them to farmers, handing community halls and barathghars back to panchayats, using agricultural land for village facilities, approving layout plans for development, increasing circle rates and starting mutation process.

Feel-like temp in city above 50°C

New Delhi: At 41.7 degrees Celsius at Safdarjung, Delhi managed to skirt a heatwave on Friday, but the high temperature and uncomfortable humidity ensured that the heat index, which gives a feel-like temperature, was 50.8 degrees.

The meteorological department has withdrawn the red alert for extreme temperatures on Saturday, which is a relief as Delhi will vote on May 25. However, the department has issued an orange alert for Sunday, expecting heatwave conditions in some areas.

For today, the department has revised its earlier prediction of maximum temperature of 46 degrees Celsius to 44, with the possibility of heatwave in isolated areas. For Sunday, the maximum temperature is expected to rise to 45 degrees Celsius. **TNN**



In heat of poll battle, parties have plans to keep voters cool

Abhinav.Rajput@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Political parties are gearing up to beat the heat on voting day. BJP, Congress and AAP have identified the 7 to 11 am period as the "golden hour" to ensure that people from their strongholds go out and vote. Delhi is likely to witness heatwave conditions at isolated places on Saturday when the city goes to the polls, as the mercury is predicted to remain around 44 degrees Celsius. A few stations are expected to record a higher temperature by one to two degrees. India Meteorological Department has placed a "yellow" alert for Saturday.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "We have deployed one party worker for every locality whose duty is just to ensure that people come out from their homes. BJP has taken permission to set up tents where people can sit with their voter slip. There will be water arrangements for supporters of all political parties. This is the festival of democracy." Senior AAP functionary Durgesh Pathak also said that there would be tents and water arrangements so that people would come out and vote in good numbers.

"Electoral bags have been distributed, and a three-tier system has been formed in which mandal workers will look after booths and ensure people come out. Former MLAs will see that there are no hiccups overall in assemblies, and candidates will be travelling from one place to another," said Delhi Congress's interim president Devender Yadav.

A senior BJP functionary said that party workers had already been assigned their blocks and they would be active in their respective areas from early morning. "We have also noticed that many people are registered as a



GET SET, POLLS

voter in a particular area but have changed their addresses. We have told our workers to understand these things," he added.

At the local level, e-rickshaw arrangements have been made by both BJP and INDIA bloc so that people are taken out to vote without much hassle.

A senior Congress functionary said, "With the elections being a two-contest this time, voter turnout will be key, so we have told the party workers that they should ensure large voting in our and AAP's strongholds."

BJP had swept the LS polls in 2014 and 2019, winning all seven seats in Delhi with big margins. This time, the party is pitted against INDIA bloc, for which AAP and Congress have joined forces. The INDIA bloc, which is expecting that the vote split will not happen this time, is hoping to give a tough contest.

As part of the seat-sharing agreement, AAP has fielded candidates in New Delhi, South Delhi, East Delhi and West Delhi, while Congress is contesting North East Delhi, North West Delhi and Chandni Chowk seats.

18
YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

PARAS
HEALTH

A HEALTHIER NATION STARTS WITH YOUR VOTE.

Vote Today For A Healthy Tomorrow.

Paras Health Is Making Healthcare Accessible, Paving The Way For A Stronger & Healthier Bharat.

@ParasHealth | www.parashospitals.com

080-35358735

COMPASSION | ACCESSIBILITY | AFFORDABILITY | QUALITY

GURUGRAM | PATNA | DARBHANGA | PANCHKULA | UDAIPUR | RANCHI | SRINAGAR | KANPUR

NEW DELHI

Bansuri Swaraj

Daughter of former BJP stalwart, the late Sushma Swaraj, Bansuri is making her electoral debut. A lawyer, she was part of BJP's legal cell earlier.



Somnath Bharti

A three-time MLA from Malviya Nagar, Bharti is among popular Aam Aadmi Party seniors. He resigned as vice-chairman of DJB and member of DDA before filing his nomination.



Winning Margin
2.6 lakh votes

CHANDNI CHOWK

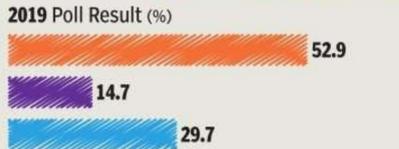
Praveen Khandelwal

Founder of Confederation of All India Traders, Khandelwal has been at the forefront of raising issues related to traders. He earlier contested Delhi assembly polls in 2008, but lost.



Jai Prakash Agarwal

A veteran politician, Agarwal has been active in Delhi politics for almost 40 years. He has so far won four LS elections - three from Chandni Chowk and one from North East Delhi.



Winning Margin
2.3 lakh votes

EAST DELHI

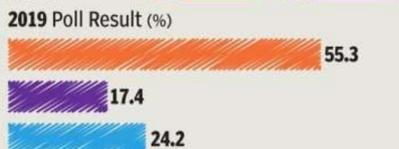
Harsh Deep Malhotra

Malhotra won his first municipal election in 2012 from Welcome Colony in North East Delhi in 2012. He was mayor of erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation in 2015-16.



Kuldeep Kumar

Part of India Against Corruption Movement, the precursor to AAP, Kumar became a councillor at 27 from Kalyanpuri and is seen as someone who could take on BJP tenaciously.



Winning Margin
3.9 lakh votes

NORTH EAST DELHI

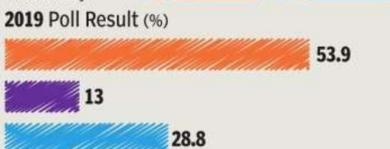
Manoj Tiwari

Tiwari was a well-known actor and a singer in Bhojpur films before his foray into politics. He is the only sitting BJP MP in Delhi seeking re-election. He won in 2014 and 2019 handsomely.



Kanhaiya Kumar

Kanhaiya was the member of All India Student Federation and was president of JNUSU in 2016. He contested his first Lok Sabha election in 2019 from Begusarai on a CPI ticket but lost.



Winning Margin
3.6 lakh votes

SOUTH DELHI

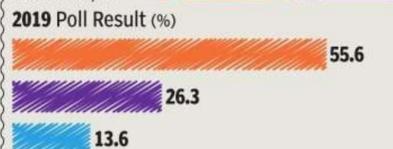
Ramvir Singh Bidhuri

Leader of opposition in Delhi Assembly since 2020, Bidhuri belongs to Gujjar community, which has dominance in South Delhi. He has won four Assembly polls from Badarpur.



Sahi Ram

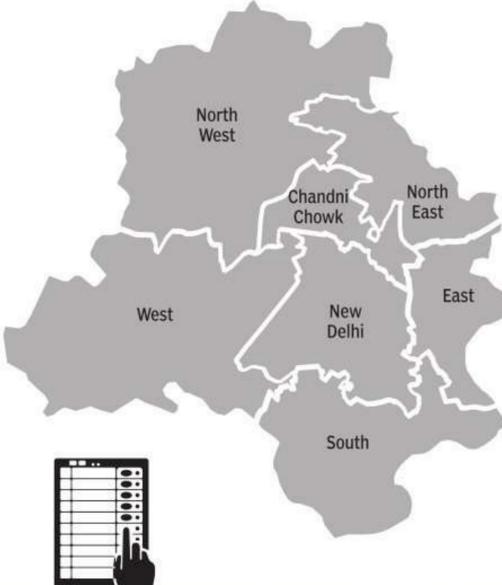
A wrestling enthusiast, Ram served in CISF. He was elected MCD councillor in 1997 and again in 2007 and 2013. He was elected MLA from Tughlaqabad in 2015 and retained his assembly seat in 2020.



Winning Margin
3.7 lakh votes

BATTLELINES DRAWN

Main Contestants for Each Seat



NORTH WEST DELHI

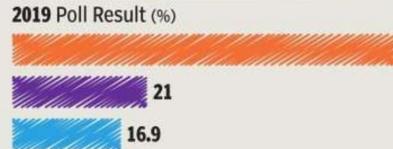
Yogendra Chandoliya

Chandoliya is a prominent face of Delhi BJP from the SC community. He contested Delhi assembly polls three times, but lost all of them. He was elected mayor in erstwhile North MCD in 2014-15.



Udit Raj

A former IRS officer, Raj held key positions in I-T department before resigning to form Indian Justice Party. He won his first Lok Sabha election in 2014 from North West Delhi on a BJP ticket.



Winning Margin
5.5 lakh votes

WEST DELHI

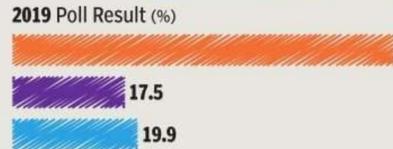
Kamaljeet Sehrawat

A prominent Jat representative, Sehrawat was mayor in erstwhile south corporation and leader of the house. She is currently vice-president in the Delhi unit of BJP.



Mahabal Mishra

A prominent Poorvanchali figure, Mishra is a retired armyman, who has been a councillor and an MLA before successfully fighting his first LS election from West Delhi on a Congress ticket in 2009.



Winning Margin
5.8 lakh votes

23 in poll fray, 25.7L voters to seal fate of Ggn today

Bagish.Jha@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: In the midst of a harsh summer, 25.7 lakh voters of Gurgaon will choose between 23 candidates on Saturday to elect their next representative in Parliament.

In the fray is incumbent Rao Inderjit Singh, a five-time MP who is now seeking a sixth Lok Sabha term. A strong favourite to win once again, the Ahirwal leader ran his campaign on development projects carried out by BJP over the past ten years and tweaked his poll pitch when he needed to.

In Nuh, where the Muslim community makes up the majority of voters, the BJP MP said he never discriminated on caste or religion. In Gurgaon's Sadar Bazar, where he held a roadshow earlier this week, Inderjit said 2019 was a "trailer of development. This time, it will be a full picture".

Nuh is part of Gurgaon Lok Sabha constituency. Congress, which sees itself as having an edge over BJP in this election, put up actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar to take on Rao Inderjit Singh. But his candidature was declared on the last day of nomination, giving him just three weeks to campaign.

Babbar, who has been in politics since 1989, is also a five-time MP though he shifted his base from UP to Haryana. Tagged an "outsider" by his opponents, Babbar said in his rallies in Nuh that he has relatives in Haryana and wanted "just a small house to settle among the people". He invoked uneven development of areas in Gurgaon and said people want change.

Against these two heavyweights is JJP's surprise pick - Haryana rapper Rahul Yadav Fazilpuria, who invoked local issues such as unemployment and waste management to reach out to voters.

Since the 2019 Lok Sabha election, 4.2 lakh new voters, including first-time voters, have registered with the Election Commission.

Deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav said the Lok Sabha constituency's voter list included 13.6 lakh men, 12.2 lakh women and 78 transgender people.

60k cops, security personnel to ensure free & fair election

Lull before storm? Some spend time with families, others hold closed-door meets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Over 60,000 personnel from Delhi Police and paramilitary and reserve forces will be deployed across the city on Saturday to secure the polling stations and ensure free and fair polling. The cops have been strategically posted at the 13,637 polling stations in 2,627 locations with higher deployment at the critical booths.

According to police, around 429 polling stations have been identified as 'critical' and will see heightened surveillance and monitoring. Officers revealed that besides policemen from Delhi, 51 teams of paramilitary forces and 17,500 Home Guards will also be deployed to ensure no untoward incident takes place. All the critical polling stations will be monitored by drones, according to an officer.

In addition to posting security personnel, police have implemented measures like extensive CCTV coverage to ensure the security of booths. The cameras have been in-

A POLICE OFFICER SAYS

We have introduced a mobile app that delivers a daily quiz on various aspects of election rules and procedures. Police intends to promote ongoing education and keep its officers well-informed about the latest electoral regulations

stalled at all entry points to the city, and joint teams of Delhi and Haryana police will conduct thorough checks on vehicles entering the capital. The city police have held several meetings with police forces from the neighbouring states to coordinate efforts and ensure a peaceful election process.

Police have disclosed seizures of more than one lakh litres of liquor and detected Rs 15 crore in cash during checks in the election season. "Several teams were formed to keep tabs on illegal activities," the officer said. In an incident in March, the cops apprehended four individuals on the Jharera flyover in south-west Delhi carrying Rs 3 crore. Another case occurred in



According to police, around 429 polling stations have been identified as 'critical' and will see heightened surveillance and monitoring

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Exhausted after weeks of hectic campaigning and meetings, candidates of the three prominent political parties on Friday got a few hours to relax and take the day lightly.

They spent some time with family, visited temples and prayed for divine intervention, and chatted over leisurely cups of tea before getting involved again in a string of meetings with party colleagues to discuss booth management for polling on Saturday.

For the May 25 election to seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, the campaigning came to an end on Thursday at 6pm, and the silent period started. Though the campaign and election management started the day their candidature was announced, it picked up with the filing of nominations in the first week of May and reached a crescendo in the last 15 days.

Tired and sleep-deprived, the candidates were glad to be able to have family dinners, play with their kids and visit shrines on Friday. The work, however, continued, and almost all the contestants met party workers.

Congress candidate from Chandni Chowk, Jai Prakash Agarwal, went to a gaushala at Kishanganj on Friday morning and offered food to cows. Agarwal's family members said the veteran politician finds peace when he visits the gaushala.

"He spent some time there only to be back among party workers and colleagues to discuss poll management. He held joint meetings with Congress and AAP workers on how to encourage people to come out and vote," son Mudit Agarwal said.

His opponent, Praveen Khandelwal of BJP, too had some time to himself on Friday. Khandelwal made tea for himself and spoke to a large number of people from the area over the phone.

"It was an intensive 84-day campaign for him. He started working from the day his name was announced by the party and never relaxed since then," Khandelwal's

close aide said.

"He would get up early in the morning, have a number of meetings and interactions the entire day. As the campaigning picked up, he did padayatra in the area. He held a number of roadshows too."

AAP's South Delhi candidate Sahi Ram watched a film with his family. According to AAP, Sahi Ram went to a temple in the morning in his village, Tehkhand, to offer prayers. He later watched the Anil Kapoor-starrer Nayak at his home. An MLA from Tughlaqabad, Sahi Ram is contesting his first parli-

amentary election.

His colleague Mahabal Mishra, who has been propped by AAP in West Delhi, spent time playing and chatting with his grandchildren. He later had 'Dahi Chooda', a dish popular with people from Bihar, with party workers and later had a discussion with them on booth management for Saturday.

Mishra was MP from West Delhi between 2009 and 2014 from Congress but lost the last two polls.

AAP's East Delhi candidate Kuldeep Kumar went to the residence of his political

mentor and former deputy CM Manish Sisodia with his family. He and his children spent time with Sisodia's wife Seema. Kumar and played cricket with kids in the house for some time.

"Senior party functionaries like Delhi state convener and minister Gopal Rai and Timarpur MLA Dilip Pandey also joined Kumar. They later had a meeting to discuss election-related issues," said a party functionary.

AAP's New Delhi candidate Somnath Bharti also visited a temple to seek blessings. BJP's New Delhi candida-

te Bansuri Swaraj visited the Iskon Temple at East of Kailash to seek blessings. She was accompanied by a spiritual orator and Abhinav Arora and the two had a spiritual interaction at the temple premises, said her close aide.

BJP's West Delhi candidate Kamaljeet Sehrawat relaxed at her residence in the morning. She made tea and snacks for party workers. She held meetings about the election later in the day.

Congress candidate from North West Delhi, Udit Raj, also spent time with his family at his residence.



NCLAT clears Jaypee plan, Suraksha to pay ₹1.3k cr

Aditya.Dev@timesgroup.com

Noida: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Friday approved Suraksha Group's resolution plan for Jaypee Infratech Ltd (JIL), ordering it to pay Rs 1,335 crore to Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) over the next four years as farmers' compensation.

NCLAT set aside an order by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had restricted the amount to be paid by Suraksha to just Rs 10 lakh against YEIDA's claim of Rs 1,689 crore, concluding that the development authority is an operational creditor.

In its Friday order, NCLAT emphasised the need for swift implementation of the modified resolution plan, renewing hope for around 20,000 homebuyers that the flats they booked in Wish Town 15-20 years ago will be completed in the near future.

The order - which brings Suraksha a step closer to taking full control of JIL - follows long-drawn insolvency proceedings, which began in 2017.

"The impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority (NCLT) insofar as it deals with the claim of the appellant of its secured operational debt of Rs 1,689 crores in the ratio of 79%, which has been paid to other secured creditors, which amounts to Rs 1334.3 crore," read the NCLAT order.

YEIDA moved the appellate tribunal after NCLT rejected its claim of Rs 1,689 crore in March last year. Over the next few months, Suraksha and YEIDA made several attempts to reach a settlement, with the company expressing willingness to pay in phases and YEIDA insisting on getting the entire amount at once.

According to the resolution plan Suraksha submitted in the bankruptcy court this April, it offered to pay Rs 1,216 crore as enhanced compensation for farmers over the next four years. NCLAT, however, asked Suraksha to pay an additional Rs 118.3 crore.

Poll Noise On Social Media Amid Silence On Streets

Parties Ramped Up Digital Effort Despite End To Campaigning

Abhinav.Rajput@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Though the campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections ended in the city on Thursday evening, amid the silence in the streets on Friday, political parties ramped up the digital effort to reach people ahead of voting on Saturday. The combatants posted potshots at their rivals on online platforms or featured old interviews that explained political stands.

The surge in digital activity underscored the pivotal role of online media in modern elections as parties strove to sway voters even during the regulated period. BJP's timeline on X had videos of characters resembling opposition leaders, accompanied by rolling text saying, "They will divide the country. They also shout about removing poverty but will cast an evil eye on public property. They will rob the SCs, STs and OBCs of their rights." The posts included clippings of PM Narendra Modi's earlier interviews.

AAP too featured earlier interviews of CM Arvind Kejriwal on social media platforms as well as the video footage

from Thursday of Kejriwal assisting his elderly parents to a room where he claimed police would interrogate them in the Swati Malvi case. Alongside were soundbites of people voicing their opposition to police action.

On its part, Congress shared short videos of Rahul Gandhi, with the thrust of these being to say, "It is Rahul's habit

und, but there was also a sudden surge in old interviews and clips, repurposed to discredit rival candidates.

Sources in the opposing camps admitted that social media teams had been told to push people to go out and vote and to continue feeding voters with political messages. In the case of BJP, this meant posting videos depicting the central govt's projects in the capital and the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. AAP had short videos hailing the free services offered by the state govt and those showing how "BJP was trying to crush AAP by sending leaders to jail".

During the 48-hour regulated period of political silence before voting day, there is a prohibition on public displays of any election matter by means of cinematography, television or other similar apparatus. No public meetings are allowed in the 48 hours before the conclusion of voting. The rules also bar the propagation of any election matter among the public by holding musical concerts, theatrical performances or other entertainment and amusement avenues with the intent of attracting the members of the public.

The surge in digital activity underscored the pivotal role of online media in modern elections as parties strove to sway voters even during the regulated period

to reach into the hearts of people. This *jannayak* is the real strength of us Indians!" There were several posts on the promises made by the INDIA bloc, including on women's reservation in government jobs, Rs 25 lakh insurance and Rs 400 as daily wage under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

WhatsApp was abuzz as well throughout the day. Videos promoting the agendas of the political parties made the ro-

CM says PM accepted excise case wrong; BJP strikes back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted that the excise policy case is wrong, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Friday, demanding that everyone arrested in it should be released.

Addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal said BJP had been screaming that there was a scam. "They are screaming for two years that there is a liquor scam, claiming it was to the tune of Rs 100 crore, but not even a penny has been recovered," said Kejriwal, who is out on interim bail till June 1 in the case.

"Yesterday, the PM was asked in an interview that Kejriwal was saying that no evidence has been found. The PM said no money was found because Kejriwal is an experienced thief. He accepted that no recovery was made," he added.

"To hide it, he said Kejriwal is an 'anubhavi chor'. This is just an excuse to prove the wrong arrests right. When you have accepted that the excise scam is wrong, please release those who have been arrested," said the AAP national convener.

"They arrested me, Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia, conducted more than 500 raids all over the country. Don't know how many more people they arrested. They say we took a bribe of Rs 100 crore, and just a few days ago, they said there is a scam of Rs 1,100 crore," he said. "A big question arises that if there is a scam of Rs 100 crore



Arvind Kejriwal releases a video message on the eve of voting in capital

KEJRIWAL SAYS

They are screaming for two years that there is a liquor scam, claiming it was to the tune of ₹100 crore, but not even a penny has been recovered

case is still on and, on June 2, he will be back in judicial custody, Sachdeva pointed out.

"Everyone knows Kejriwal's role in the entire liquor scam. The law will do its job, and others involved in this scam will also have to come under investigation," he said. "Every criminal calls himself innocent, but the people of Delhi know about Kejriwal, that he has committed the liquor scam, and that's why Manish Sisodia is also in jail, he did not get bail."

re or Rs 1,100 crore, the money must be kept somewhere... They did not find a single penny anywhere." They didn't even find any account of expenditure, he added.

Kejriwal is out on interim bail following an order of Supreme Court, which has directed him to surrender on June 2.

Responding to Kejriwal's remarks, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "Kejriwal has accepted today that he is an experienced thief." The investigation into Kejriwal's

Delhi High Court made a strong remark this week while rejecting former deputy chief minister Sisodia's bail plea and pointed out many irregularities, Sachdeva said. Claiming that the statement just before the election is Kejriwal's strategy, he said, "But he should not think any more that he can mislead the people of Delhi."

BJP candidates share poll experience, Sachdeva lauds effort by foot soldiers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP candidates and Delhi party president Virendra Sachdeva shared their poll experiences at the party office on Friday during which they expressed gratitude towards party workers for their support in the scorching heat during the election campaign. They also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sachdeva, while sharing his experience in his election rallies, said that for the third consecutive time, BJP will win Delhi, and Prime Minister Modi will become the Prime Minister again. "The BJP national leadership also provided complete guidance and support in this election campaign," he said.

He mentioned that the party organised campaigns in the capital with home minister Amit Shah, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and several senior leaders. He added that party senior functionaries and candidates participated in 131 major public meetings and roadshows, in addition to 2,625 corner meetings and 10,048 padayatras.

Manoj Tiwari, the candidate from North East Delhi, said, "People have de-



BJP candidates with party's Delhi president Virendra Sachdeva on poll eve

cided to bring Modiji back."

"Modiji has continuously worked to change the image of Delhi." Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, the party's candidate from South Delhi, said. "This time, everyone has decided to vote for Modi for the third time. So, looking at the work we have done in our assembly, everyone's focus in this Lok Sabha election is to make Modiji the PM again."

East Delhi candidate Harsh Malhotra said: "The love and support received from the people during this election campaign, on how the people have made up their minds to make Narendra Modi

Prime Minister for the third time... would not be an exaggeration."

Bansuri Swaraj, the party candidate from New Delhi, said: "Due to the vision of the Prime Minister and belief in India's development, I received full support from people in the campaign." BJP Chandni Chowk candidate Praveen Khandelwal said, "The strongest support I received during this entire election campaign was from the people because when I went among the people during the entire campaign, I found a direct connection of people's belief in the development vision of the Prime Minister."

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT.

Tender Notice No: RE/UMB/Civil/1202/E-T Dated: 22/05/2024

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Chief Project Director, Rly. Electrification, Ambala Cantt. for & on behalf of the President of India invites **OPEN E-TENDER** on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following works. Tenderer may submit their original/revised offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

S. N.	Tender No. & Tender Title	App. Cost (in Rs.)	Bid Security Money (in Rs)	Completion Period (in months)	Cost of tender document (in Rs.)	Date of closing
1	RE/UMB/Civil/Gr-248-014-R Execution of balance Tower wagon siding works at Chandausi station in Gr. 248 of NR in connection with Railway Electrification.	14.30 Lakh	28,600/-	04 (Four)	NIL	18-06-2024 at 15:00 hrs

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. Tender document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering is NIL but Bid security Money (EMD) in respect of e-tendering will only be accepted through net banking payment gateway and bank guarantee bond Only. Details of bank account number and technical details have been provided for in the software (IREPS) to which prospective registered tenderers will have access at the time of tendering.

All other terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Rly. Electrification/Ambala Cantt
For & on behalf of the President of India

PR-40/2024 (DG) "Serving Customers with a Smile"

(S5506/S5606)

ASUS Vivobook S 15/16 OLED

#SimplyStunning

Up to Intel® Core™ Ultra 9 Processor

Up to 3.2K 120Hz ASUS Lumina OLED

Single-Zone RGB Keyboard

VALUE TRIO BENEFITS

NO-COST EMI STARTING FROM ₹5 722*
(ASUS Vivobook S 16)

5% CASHBACK OFFER UP TO ₹2 500*

ASUS PREMIUM CARE STARTING AT ₹1 999**

AVAILABLE AT:

VISIT US <https://www.asus.com/in> | CALL TOLL-FREE 1800-2090-365

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

SCAN TO FIND A STORE

*Processing fee & Downpayment needs to be paid as per the financing scheme. *EMI of ₹5,722 is computed on 18|6 (33% down payment) basis & calculated on ₹1,02,990 SRP. EMI Price mentioned is for ASUS Vivobook S 16 (S5606). **EMI Price given is for 1 unit only. *Cashback offer on Card EMI is applicable on select banks only if purchased through ASUS Authorized Resellers. ASUS reserves the right to alter product offerings & specifications at any time without notice. Models product pictures are for illustration purpose only. Information as advertised has no contractual effect. GFK and NPD combined retail data in 2021 Q4-2023 Q3, worldwide market. **For more details visit www.asuspromo.in. T & C Apply. Offer applicable for limited period only.

Intel® Core™ Ultra - Unlock New AI experiences
Intel® Evo™ Edition

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Bhaiyya Ji (Action, Crime) ★★

Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Suvinder Vicky, Jatin Goswami, Zoya Hussain, Vipin Sharma
Direction: Apoorv Singh Karki
Duration: 2 hours 15 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ A former criminal sets out to avenge his younger brother's murder over a petty argument. As he takes on the powerful mafioso responsible, his loyal followers join him in his fight.

Manoj Bajpayee plays the titular role of a former criminal and Robin Hood *ka baap* in this crime drama directed by Apoorv Singh Karki. The film has a promising opening, with a heart-wrenching scene as Bhaiyyaji witnesses his brother incinerated at a police station and discovers he was brutally murdered.

However, the initial promise of an intricate plot unraveling the truth behind the murder fades as the narrative progresses. The movie settles into a familiar Bollywood formula of the 90s, complete with dramatic action sequences and dialogues. Potboilers delivering action-



packed entertainment are perfect for a guilty pleasure, but the over-the-top heroics and implausible scenarios here have all been seen too many times. The entertainment wears off soon, and one yearns for a more nuanced exploration of themes like vengeance and redemption.

Despite the formulaic elements, the action sequences are well-choreographed and visually appealing. The use of macro shots and slow motion adds a layer of intensity to the fight scenes. Apoorv Singh Karki's direction is

passable but a more focused narrative and a tighter screenplay could have made the movie captivating. The movie also gets repetitive in the second half, with flashbacks of the younger brother's memories and their mother reminding Bhaiyyaji of his promise to avenge his death.

Manoj Bajpayee shines throughout the film, effortlessly transitioning between intense emotional moments and action-packed sequences. He even brings a touch of humour to some scenes, showcasing his acting versatility. Zoya Hussain provides ample support as Bhaiyyaji's fiancée and a national-level shooting champion who utilises her skills when needed. The performances of the antagonists, Suvinder Vicky and Jatin Goswami, are appropriately menacing, while Vipin Sharma is convincing as the corrupt cop.

While *Bhaiyya Ji* boasts strong performances and engaging action sequences, the predictable storyline and overreliance on formulaic tropes leave viewers wanting more.

— Dhaval Roy

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

Blue Giant (Animation, Drama, Music)

★★★★

Voiceovers: Yuki Yamada, Amane Okayama, Shotaro Mamiya
Direction: Yuzura Tachikawa
Duration: 2 hours 2 minutes
Language: Japanese with English subtitles (U)

■ *Dai, a student from Sendai, moves to Tokyo to pursue a career in music after receiving a saxophone as a gift. In Tokyo, he meets Tamada and Sawabe, and together they form a band that revolutionizes the jazz scene in the city.*

Blue Giant is a film that captivates with its simplicity. With its straightforward storytelling, this impressive piece tugs at the heartstrings and can make anyone fall in love with jazz — even those who weren't fans before. With amazing musical performances and a perfect blend of emotions, this musical anime is an outright winner. The live music sequences are electrifying and completely immersive. While the plot of the film might be predictable, you'll become so invested in the characters' emotions that this quickly becomes irrelevant. This anime serves as an excellent introduction to the genre of jazz, which has certainly lost some of its sheen in recent years.



The plot of the film revolves around Dai Miyamoto, a student from Sendai who moves to Tokyo to pursue a music career after receiving a saxophone as a gift from his brother. To save money in the big city, he moves in with his school friend Tamada and contributes to the rent by doing odd jobs. Dai aspires to become the greatest jazz musician in the world and hones his skills by practicing under a bridge until he can no longer stand. At a bar, he meets

Sawabe, a talented pianist, and the two quickly form a strong connection. When Dai, Tamada, and Sawabe form a band and perform at a local jazz festival, it leads to an opportunity to play at SoBlue, the premier jazz bar in Tokyo.

The most intriguing and heartening aspect of the film is its laser focus throughout, with no subplots. The story centres solely on the three main characters and their struggle to survive in an expensive city, ultimately reaching the pinnacle of their dreams despite the odds. The film is clear in its intentions, delivering everything to the viewers with virtually every scene packing an emotional and passionate punch.

The film features a soundtrack composed by Japanese jazz pianist Hiromi Uehara that is guaranteed to blow your mind. It pays homage to American saxophone legends of the past. With three standout performances, each one can be described as outstanding. This film will make you laugh, cry, and empathize with its characters. The high-quality animation enhances the experience, especially the scenes depicting bar and stage interiors, which look fantastic. There isn't a false note in the film; every element is perfectly in sync. If you're a music fan, consider *Blue Giant* a treat.

— Abhishek Srivastava

RATING SCALE: TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★
VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

FINDING Foothold IN ADULT WORLD NOT SIMPLE

Out of 'child care', but pressing EVM not easy

Ambika.Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Surja is 23 and one of the many who will be queuing up on Saturday to vote for the first time in the Capital. But for her, getting access to exercise her right to vote has in itself been a big achievement. Her journey reflects the struggles of thousands of youth who grow up in child care institutions and are trying to find a foothold in the outside world as adults, first under the 'aftercare' system that is supposed to hand-hold them till 23 years if needed, and then as they move on to find their way.

Getting an address proof and matching her school and other identity documents for Surja, who is pursuing her post-graduation in Delhi, has been an arduous journey since she became an adult. She finally managed to get her voter ID made in Sep last year. Surja lost her mother when she was very small and her father, who was a gardener, passed away when she was 11. She was placed by the Child Welfare Committee in a children's home in East of Kailash. She is now working with Udayan Care voluntary organisation to coordinate a fellowship for care leavers to help them develop leadership skills. She lives in East of Kailash.

Like Surja, 27-year-old Manoj, a resident of Bijwasan who works in the IT sector, said with much enthusiasm that he would be voting for the first time. He talked about his long struggle to get his identity and address proof documents made. "Not only is getting an address proof



Surja, 23, and Manoj, 27, were able to get address proofs with the support of the child care institutions where they once stayed and their address is the same as that of the CCIs

tough for us, employers judge us while hiring us when we tell them that we don't have a family. Even finding a partner for marriage is difficult. There are many challenges at every step," Manoj told TOI.

He got separated from his family when he was very small at a railway station where a man took him under his care but ill-treated him. Finally, Manoj found himself in a child care institution in Delhi from where he moved out at 18 and worked part-time to support his professional diploma in IT.

Surja and Manoj were able to get address proofs with the support of the child care institutions where they once stayed and their address is the same as that of the CCIs.

Recognising the challenges, Delhi Care Leavers Association and Network, of which Manoj and Surja are members, started a petition on 'change.org' platform on March 29 where they put out an open letter addressed to

political parties. The petition has been endorsed by care leavers' networks in Assam, Telangana, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

They said around 50,000 young adults transition out of CCIs on turning 18 every year. They said care leavers and those in aftercare needed to be prioritised in national and local elections so that govt bodies and policymakers were able to make laws and policies safeguarding the right of aftercare.

They drew attention to the fact that many of them were first-time voters struggling with a wide range of challenges ranging from lack of support for financing their higher education, employment avenues and that they have to find their feet in the world without family support.

They said the Juvenile Justice Act and the Mission Vatsalya 2022 guidelines mandates 'aftercare' support to care leavers.

Family of 6 attempts suicide; 73-yr-old dies, 2 critical

Mahesh.Buddi@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: Their business in dire straits and hounded by moneylenders, a family of six in Faridabad consumed sleeping pills and slit their wrists after agreeing to a suicide pact on Thursday night.

Three of them were saved and two others were admitted to a private hospital in critical condition after a friend knocked on their door just in time, said police. Though cops dashed them to the hospital, it was too late for the eldest member of the family, the businessman's father (73).

Police said the 45-year-old ran a business in Noida for importing electronics and lived with his family in Sector 37 of Faridabad.

His business was running into losses and over the years, his debt mounted to Rs 40 crore.

"When he couldn't return the informal loans in time, moneylenders started calling him and threatening him that they would come to his house. They threatened to kill him as well," Faridabad police spokesperson Yashpal said on Friday.

Hours before the attempted suicide, two men came to his house

around 11pm and abducted the security guard stationed outside his house, the businessman said in his complaint.

The guard was later let go by the abductors at Lajpat Nagar in Delhi, and he went back to the house. "We suspect that the offenders kidnapped the guard as they were not able to contact the businessman," said inspector Kuldeep Singh of Sarai Khawaja police station.

Scared after the guard went missing, the businessman, his parents, wife and two teenage boys decided to consume sleeping pills and slit their wrists. The businessman's friend told

police that he was calling around the same time, but no one took his calls.

He went to the businessman's house, and a short while later, the security guard returned to the spot. Both kept ringing the doorbell, and after a few minutes, the businessman opened the door. He was bleeding from his arm. The friend alerted cops as he realised what had happened. "My team rushed the family to a nearby hospital around 1am. Doctors declared the businessman's father dead. His mother (67) and wife (42) are critical. He is stable and his sons, aged 18 and 16, are out of danger," the inspector said.

BJP targets AAP again over Maliwal 'assault'

New Delhi: BJP on Friday said CM Arvind Kejriwal owed an answer to the country whether he stood with AAP MP Swati Maliwal "who had suffered physical assault" or with the "culprit". The party also said AAP would suffer a big defeat in Lok Sabha polls in Delhi.

"Swati Maliwal gave an interview in which many facts came to light, on the basis of which I want to ask some questions to Arvind Kejriwal. Why did Kejriwal not say anything about the incidents that happened in his house? Maliwal said she was abused and slapped several times... all this happened when Kejriwal was present in his house. Can he be trusted to stand up for the women of the country?" BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia asked at a press conference. "It has also come to light that CCTV footage has been destroyed. When CCTV footage is destroyed, it reveals that a heinous crime has been committed and Kejriwal is trying his best to destroy the evidence. Kejriwal is not standing with the woman but the accused," the BJP functionary added.

"He (Kejriwal) should not underestimate the power of people. There is anger among people. When polling is held tomorrow, people will inflict such damage to his party's prospects with their votes that even its deposits will be forfeited," Bhatia said. **TNN**

Promising higher returns on investment, gang dupes man of ₹23L via trading platform

New Delhi: A social media scam has been busted with the arrest of two men. Exploiting a man's desire for higher returns, an alleged trading platform deceived him into 'investing' over Rs 23 lakh into a trading scheme, police said.

The man had lodged a complaint a month ago about the loss of Rs 23 lakh in a fraud. "The complainant was added to a WhatsApp group named 'Mark Bilson Institutional Strategist Center' and was convinced to invest in stocks through the group's website. Initially, he received profits on small investments, which led him to invest a larger sum," said Manoj Meena, DCP (north).

The transactions were being "guided" by someone posing as "Meera", who claimed to be assistant of a reputed investment strategist and persuaded the man to invest more, the DCP said, adding, "Upon requesting withdrawal of his purported profits, the victim was asked to pay a tax of Rs 35 lakh, leading him to realise the scam. The scammers also gained access to his PAN card and Aadhaar card details."

"During investigation, the analysis of the money flow led to the identification of the culprits' residence in Rajasthan. An interstate raid was conducted and Jai Pal (26) and Bhupendra (24) were nabbed," the DCP said. **TNN**

Bibhav in judicial custody, cops wait for forensic report

Vineet.Upadhyay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A court on Friday sent Bibhav Kumar, personal assistant of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, to four-day judicial custody in the case of alleged assault on AAP's Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal. He was produced in court after the completion of his police remand.

The court of metropolitan magistrate Gaurav Goyal allowed the prosecution's plea seeking Kumar's judicial custody for four days. On May 18, a court had granted police Kumar's five-day custody.

Delhi Police said in its remand application that electronic, scientific and medical evidence along with the statements of witnesses had been collected during the investigation. "The recovered network video recorders, stated to be containing relevant materials concerning the present case, have been seized as per the procedure and sent for examination, opinion and analysis by the forensic experts, which is awaited and expected to be received within shortest possible time," police argued.

The prosecution also stated that Kumar had been non-cooperative during the investigation and had given evasive answers to most questions. "He has deliberately not disclosed the password of his mobile phone, which is again an important piece of information in the investigation to unearth the truth," the application stated.

Police also submitted that after receiving the report from forensic experts, Kumar might be required to be confronted with it to reach a logical conclusion. "Some investigations are being carried out by the members of the investigating team in Mumbai and they are likely to return to Delhi soon with some evidence, and the accused will be required again for confrontation," police said.

Kumar's counsel, Rajiv Mohan, requested the court to allow custody for a shorter period. He also moved an application seeking a copy of the CCTV footage of the day of the alleged incident collected from Kejriwal's residence.

Special public prosecutor Atul Srivastava opposed the plea, claiming that the CCTV footage cannot be provided to the accused under the law at this stage as the matter is under investigation. "They have not given any detail of which CCTV footage they require. A copy of the same has also been given to the occupier. They have said they want the same, but it is not the stage; it will come later," he argued.

The court has reserved its order on Kumar's plea.

TIMES TRIBUTE

Pay homage to the departed soul. To book your ad, login to ads.timesgroup.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

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.

08/09/1944 - 25/05/2021

DEEPLY MISSED BY
Veena Jain (Wife), Anu & Rohit Jain (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Ritu & Siddhartha Sachdeva (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Partha, Aadya & Krishiv (Grandchildren)

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

In loving memory of
MS. MANJU VERMA
22.05.1952 - 25.05.2014

10 years have gone by since you have left us but you continue to live in our hearts.
Fondly remembered by Avinash Verma and family.

In Loving Memory of
SMT. SARALA R. NAIR
(05.10.1952 - 25.05.2003)

Life has not been the same after you left us. You always remain with us in our hearts.
Fondly Remembered by: Raveendran Nair, Vinod Nair, Vineet Nair and Swetha Kurup.

Life is one eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil.
Shree Spoke Saravathra

HONOUR. COURAGE. BRAVERY. Three words that help us cope with your loss.
The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful. Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

Publications	Total Outlay
The Times of India Delhi/NCR	5,600
TOI-NBT (Delhi/NCR)	8,800
TOI+ET (Delhi/NCR)	6,600

Maximum 10 lines

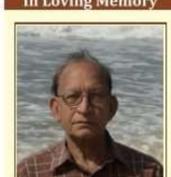
REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

For any information call
Vinod : 9958992088
Pankaj : 8130604727

OBITUARY

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory



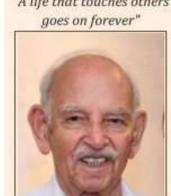
Krishan Lal Sharma
25-05-2021

Covid took you away physically, but you live on in our hearts. Thank you for your love and blessings.

Susham, Shubha, Priyanka & Chanchal
M:9990185797

Death Anniversary

"A life that touches others goes on forever"



L.T. COL. J.K. MALHOTRA
30.12.1935 - 25.05.2021

"Those we care about the most never truly leave us. They live on through the kindness and love they brought into our lives"

Remembered by Juju Malhotra, Karun & Nitika, Sujata & Rahul, Rajagopals, Malhotras Adi and Tara

SAD DEMISE

OBITUARY



Our Beloved Mother
Mrs. PAMMI SIKKA
(20 November 1930

23 May 2024)

We will miss you.

Chautha Community Centre, Madhuban Officer's Society, Near Preet Vihar East Delhi 110092
9822115404

Rajiv and Monica Sikka, Arun and Payal Sikka, Shalini Sikka

With a heavy heart we share the sad news of the sudden demise of our Dear

RANJIT DASS
on 23rd May 2024
Cremation will be held at the Lodi Electric Crematorium on 25th May at 4.30pm.
In grief: Rajit Dass & Karan Dass (Sons) Family & Friends

TIMES TRIBUTES RATE CARD

Publications	Rates per sq. cms
TOID Capital + NBT (Delhi+NCR)	1295
TOID Full Run ## + NBT (Delhi+NCR)	1360
THE TIMES OF INDIA (Delhi+NCR)	780
THE TIMES OF INDIA (Delhi) Full Run##	900
NAVBHARAT TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	595
THE ECONOMIC TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	715
SANDHYA TIMES (Delhi)	100

*Placement on specified obit pages only. *This rate benefit is extended up till the size of 320 sq. cm only. *## Full run includes Delhi City + NCR (Including Gurgaon + Noida) + Chandigarh + Western UP + Uttarakhand *TOI Capital (Delhi + NCR) includes TOI Gurgaon & TOI Noida.

To place an Obituary announcement or Remembrance message please call
Vinod: 9958992088
Pankaj : 8130604727



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India



स्वागत है

All the voters are invited to join the biggest celebration of Democracy.

25
May

8
States / UTs

58
Parliamentary
Constituencies

Parliamentary Constituencies

Bihar - 8 Jharkhand - 4 Uttar Pradesh - 14 NCT of Delhi - 7
Haryana - 10 Odisha - 6 West Bengal - 8 Jammu & Kashmir - 1

Simultaneous Assembly Election: Odisha (42 ACs)

Ease of Voting at the Polling Stations

- Ramp & Wheelchair
- Signages
- EVM with Braille
- Special Volunteers
- Transport Facility for PwDs
- Separate Queues for PwDs & Senior Citizens
- Drinking Water
- Medical Kit
- Accessible Toilets



Scan QR code to watch the film 'Swagat Hai'

Visit: elections24.eci.gov.in



SCAN QR CODE & TAKE VOTER'S PLEDGE
Make your pledge count in the **World's Largest Democracy** by scanning this QR code and share on your social media handles using **#IVoteForSure**

Call Voter Helpline
1950



Scan the QR Code to **check your name in the Voters' List** and **Know the Poll Date** in your constituency

#IVoteForSure | #MeraVoteDeshKeLiye

Court rejects pre-arrest bail plea of AAP functionary

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail application moved by Aam Aadmi Party's media coordinator Vikas Yogi in a case pertaining to the alleged assault on a woman reporter and a videojournalist on May 20.

The court of additional sessions Judge Ram Lal Meena said that the alleged offences mentioned in the present case were bailable, therefore, there was no apprehension of the present applicant being apprehended. "Accordingly, the present application is not maintainable and the same is dismissed," stated the court.

Police had registered a case against Yogi on May 21 based on the young woman journalist's complaint. The case was registered against Yogi and others under relevant IPC sections pertaining to punishment for voluntarily causing hurt, criminal intimidation, and common intention, among others.

Advocate Rajat Bhardwaj, counsel for Yogi, submitted before the court that he had been falsely implicated in the case and he had an apprehension that he may be arrested by police authority. The counsel requested the court to give him protection by allowing the application.

Additional public prosecutor Jitender Sharma opposed the application and stated that since police had registered the present case only for bailable offences so far, there was no apprehension of arrest to the applicant. During the hearing of the matter, the court also pulled up police for writing "custodial interrogation required" for bailable offences in their application opposing Yogi's anticipatory bail. "How will you arrest anyone when offences are bailable... is the police bigger than the law?" asked the court. The alleged assault took place inside the AAP office in IP Estate on May 20 when the reporter entered the party office to get a response from the party's official spokesperson regarding an ED chargesheet.

THE BALLOT FOR JUSTICE

Tarun.Rawati@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Kanchan is determined to be among the 1,200 voters from the Sunder Nagar slums pressing the EVM button at the polling booth in Delhi Public School nearby. For her, it's an act of revenge. Even if she hadn't said anything, her eyes, as she surveyed the rubble around her, would have conveyed the pain of having her house demolished on Nov 21 last year.

Kanchan has since moved in with the family of her sister's husband in Greater Noida but comes to Sunder Nagar every day with her father, who is a house help. She waits among the debris for him to finish his work. "It hurts me so much. Our parents had somehow managed to build a house. We couldn't have done that on our own," said Kanchan, adding, in a raised voice, that she would use her vote for vengeance.

Sandhya too is a domestic worker at Sunder Nagar. She lived in the slums there, but her house too was demolished by the Union urban affair's ministry's L&DO. "They made us homeless," said Sandhya, who is struggling to make ends meet for her family of six because they now have the additional monthly expense of the house rent. "Politicians keep promising rehabilitation to us, but..." she left the sentence unfinished as she looked

meaningfully at the remains of numerous demolished houses.

Amid the bricks, concrete detritus and discarded sheets, Hafiza still lives in the demolished zone with a few other families, making do with the flimsiest of dwellings. "We no longer have any faith in anyone because nobody stood up for us," said Hafiza. "Our children's schooling was disrupted and our daily earnings affected." When asked about her voting intention, Hafiza thought a while before replying, "If we had been rehabilitated prior to the election, we might have thought of voting for the party assisting us."

Photos: Tarun Rawat



Government of Karnataka
KEA KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560012.
Phone: 080-23460460 (5 Lines)
E-mail: keaauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No: ED/KEA/ADMN/CR- 05/2024 Date: 22-05-2024

PGCET-2024 - Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Arch Courses

- Applications are invited from the eligible interested Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates for admission to 1st year / 1st semester full time / part time MBA / MCA / M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Arch courses in the institutions affiliated Universities which will be notified by the Government of Karnataka for the year 2024-25. Candidates have to appear for the Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2024 conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority to become eligible for admission as per 2005 and 2011 PGCET rules and its amendments.
- GATE qualified candidates in Engineering and Technology discipline are only eligible to take admission to Various M.Tech Programmes under VTU, Belgaum.** The candidates with valid GATE score should compulsorily enter application online to become eligible for admission to M.E. / M. Tech / M. Arch courses, but they need not appear for PGCET-2024.
- For admission to MBA / MCA courses, non-Karnataka candidates are eligible to select ONLY the seats surrendered by the management, if any.
- Please note that SC / ST / OBC eligibility criteria are applicable to Karnataka SC/ST/OBC candidates only.
- Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2024 - Time Table and Examination Scheme.**

Date	Timings	Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester	Number of Questions	Total Marks
13-07-2024 SATURDAY	2.30 PM to 4.30 PM	M.E. / M. Tech / M. Arch.	100	100
14-07-2024 SUNDAY	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM	MCA	100	100
	2.30 PM to 4.30 PM	MBA	100	100

(Non-programmable calculators are allowed for M.E./M.Tech/M.Arch examination only)

- SYLLABUS: PGCET-2024 new syllabus is hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates. URL: <https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/pgcet24>
- Interested and eligible candidates can register and apply online for PGCET-2024 from 11.00 AM onwards on 27-05-2024 upto 11.59 PM on 17-06-2024. Fee has to be paid by the registered and applied candidate on or before 18-06-2024 6.00 PM. Only after confirmation of receipt of payment of fees, candidates will be permitted to download the Admission Tickets for PGCET-2024 exam.
- Before registering through online for admission to PG courses, applicants have to compulsorily read Information Bulletin, detailed notification and understand the eligibility conditions, educational qualification, classification of seats and eligibility to claim such seats hosted on the KEA Website.
- All the admissions and undergraduate Degrees to claim eligibility for admission to any of the PG courses are subject to approval of the Government / VTU / other respective University.
- Candidates are advised to visit KEA Website: <https://kea.kar.nic.in> for more details notification regarding admission rules, eligibility clauses and various schedules.

Sd/-
(H. Prasanna, IAS)
Executive Director

DIPRI/CP/103/2024-25

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CORRIGENDUM

No. 75/Paper Publication/Fab Dated: 22/05/2024. The following corrigendum has been carried out in respect of the Tender No.75/24/5028 scheduled to be open on 21/05/2024. Sl. No.: (01). Particulars: TOD Tender No.: 75/24/5028. Opening Date From: 21/05/2024. To: 28/05/2024. Quantity: 90 Sets. [PRI-433] SMM/M/CLW/CRI
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Online open E-tender is invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS)/N.E. Railway Loco Shed Gondia acting for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work:
1. Tender No.: LS-GD-RSP-23-24-TC. "Rehabilitation of 10 nos. Tap Changer N-32 of Electric Locomotives for Loco Shed Gondia, sanctioned under RSP 2023-24" Estimated Cost (in Rs.): 2,20,16,706.80, Period of Completion - 24 months, Earnest Money (in Rs.): -2,60,100.00.
2. Tender No.: LS-GD-AL-TRANSF-2024. "Repair, Reconditioning, Rehabilitation and Testing of 5400 KVA Loco Main Transformer (Aluminium Winding Type) of Electric Locomotives for 02 years" Estimated Cost (in Rs.): -1,28,40,462.44, Period of Completion - 24 months, Earnest Money (in Rs.): -2,14,200.00
• Offer can be updated by tenderer, up to 12:00 hrs. on 15/06/2024. • Detailed information, minimum eligibility criteria, Terms and condition regarding this e-tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in • Tenderer should check any correction/corrigendum related to this e-tender notice on website before uploading their offer.
ADEE/TRS, N.E. Railway/Loco Shed Gondia
CPROEL - 43
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for supply and installation of Laparoscope Surgery Set with Instrument in the Hospitals and Medical Colleges of the Govt. of West Bengal as per details indicated in the table below:

Sl	Item (Qty.)	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid	Remarks
1	Laparoscope Surgery Set with Instrument (01)	WBMSCL/NIT-294/2024, Dated 22.05.2024	30.06.2024 up to 09:00 PM	2 nd call for Bid Ref. no. WBMSCL/NIT-292/2024, Dated: 22.05.2024

Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in and www.wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager & Joint Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department
ICA- 179873/2024

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 : einc-mpbdc@mp.gov.in, ajay.nagaria@mp.gov.in
No. : 5851/GM/MPBDC/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/GM/MPBDC/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
Registration in MPPWD is required.
PAC can vary 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

Thankfully, The Economic Times has it all mapped out. With insightful election coverage from journalists who are at the heart of all the political action, we help you cut through the clutter and get to the stories that matter.

Catch all the action on
THE ECONOMIC TIMES | **THE MORNING BRIEF Podcast**

Patkar Held Guilty In Defamation Suit By LG

Reputation Is One Of Most Valuable Assets A Person Can Possess, Says Magistrate

Vineet Upadhyay
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court convicted activist Medha Patkar on Friday in a defamation complaint lodged against her by VK Saxena, the lieutenant governor of Delhi.

Saxena had filed the defamation suit as president of the National Council of Civil Liberties against the veteran social activist for her defamatory press release against him in 2000. She had also filed a case against Saxena for publishing advertisements against her and her organisation, Narmada Bachao Andolan. Saxena had filed two other cases against Patkar for making derogatory remarks against him on a TV channel and issuing a defamatory press statement against him.

Metropolitan magistrate Raghav Sharma said that reputation was "one of the most valuable assets a person can possess" because it affected both personal and professional relationships and could significantly impact an individual's standing in society. "The accused's statements, 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.

The court convicted Patkar of criminal defamation



AT LOGGERHEADS: Medha Patkar and VK Saxena

under which she may be punished with a jail term of two years or fine or both. Arguments on the quantum of sentence will be heard on May 30.

The court considered three questions while deciding the matter: whether the press note was proved to have been issued by Patkar, whether the press note made imputations against Saxena and whether the activist, by publishing the imputations, intended to harm Saxena's reputation. The metropolitan magistrate ruled that it was clear Patkar's actions were "deliberate and malicious" and aimed at tarnishing the complainant's reputation and had indeed caused substantial harm to Saxena's standing and credit in the eyes of the public. The court said the activist's accusation that Saxena had mortgaged the people of Gujarat and their resources to foreign interests was a direct attack on his integrity and public service.

The court noted that Saxena's testimony, supported by two court witnesses, demon-

strated that Patkar's defamatory statements not only questioned his integrity and patriotism but also falsely associated him with activities contrary to his public stance. The court further noted that Patkar had failed to provide any evidence to counter these claims or to show that she hadn't intended to or foresaw the harm these imputations would cause. "The resulting inquiries and doubts raised among the complainant's acquaintances, as well as the shift in perception highlighted by the witnesses, underscore the significant damage to his reputation," the metropolitan magistrate said.

Concluding that the weight of the evidence presented before it had proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Patkar had published the statement knowing that it would harm Saxena's reputation, the court said she had committed defamation and convicted her for the offence. Advocates Gajinder Kumar and Kiran Jai represented Saxena in the matter.

Three held for kidnapping a 11-yr-old boy for ransom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Three people, including a couple, have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping an 11-year-old boy for ransom and the abducted child has been rescued from a village in Uttar Pradesh, police said.

The boy's family informed police on May 20 that he had gone missing from near their house. "Despite efforts, the family was unable to locate the child and feared that he had been kidnapped. A case under kidnapping for ransom was registered, and teams formed to solve the case," a senior police officer said.

The following day, the boy's father received three calls from an unknown number demanding Rs 6 lakh ransom for his release. "During investigation, the call detail records was analysed and it was discovered that the phone had been stolen from Jahangirpuri about three weeks prior," said Jitendra Meena, DCP (north-west).

Police conducted a reconnaissance of the area from where the ransom calls were being made. "Prioritising the child's safety, they devised a plan to rescue the child first and then arrest the suspects," the DCP said.

"A tip-off was received, and raids were conducted wherein suspects Vikram Kumar (28), his wife Namita (30) and Atul (19), all residents of Jahangirpuri, were nabbed from UP. During probe, the couple revealed that they had been struggling with business losses and debt for several years. Over the past two months, they had been planning to kidnap a child," the DCP said.

They observed the child for 10-15 days, ultimately purchasing a stolen SIM card to execute their plan. "They convinced the boy to tell his parents he was attending a friend's birthday party and lured him to their home. Namita purchased sedative pills from a local pharmacy and mixed them into a cold drink, which they gave to the boy. After he fell asleep, Vikram and Atul took him to Bisalpur in Pilibhit on a motorcycle," the DCP added.

During questioning, the kidnappers admitted that they were inspired by crime shows "Crime Patrol" and "Savdhaan India", police said.

3-yr-old kidnapped, raped & murdered; accused held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A three-and-a-half-year-old girl was kidnapped, raped and murdered by her neighbour in southwest Delhi's Kapashera. The crime took place on May 22. The accused suffered gunshot injuries while attempting to escape from police custody after snatching a constable's pistol. The medical board conducting the postmortem confirmed rape on Friday.

Police received a police control room call at 8.51pm on Wednesday about a person calling about the kidnap of his daughter by a neighbour. "Her mother told us that at 6pm, her daughter was playing in front of their house. Around that time, Anil, who lives in the vicinity, took the girl with him," a police officer said.

An extensive search was carried out to locate Anil and the girl, but when they couldn't be found, a case for kidnapping was registered. Then, on CCTV footage, police saw Anil taking the girl towards a drain at 7.05pm. The same camera captured him returning without the girl at around 7.25pm.

Rohit Meena, DCP (South-west), asked SHO Naveen Kumar to lead several probe teams. "During the technical investigation, we found Anil ta-

On interrogation, Anil confessed to kidnapping and murdering the girl and dumping her body in a marshy drain on the border of Kapashera with Gurgaon

king a bus to his home city of Kanpur. We began inspecting buses headed towards UP. After numerous searches, we finally apprehended him on a bus in Sohna," Meena said.

On interrogation, Anil confessed to kidnapping and murdering the girl and dumping her body in a marshy drain on the border of Kapashera with Gurgaon. "Anil led the police team to the drain area, marked by dense bushes and heaps of garbage. After a search operation lasting for more than an hour in the dark, the body was finally discovered," the DCP said.

When in custody, Anil sensed an opportunity to escape and grabbed the loaded service revolver of a policeman. He fired at the police personnel, but the cops fired back in self-defence. After he was hit on his left leg, the suspect was rushed to a hospital.

The girl's family has been living in rented quarters in Kapashera for five years. Kin revealed that Anil, a labourer and father of two girls who li-

ved just a few houses away from their home, was well known to them. They said the child affectionately called Anil 'uncle' and the two frequently played together. Anil and the girl's father often shared meals too.

"On the day of the crime, when he asked the girl to accompany him, she did not refuse because she knew him," an officer said. Cops suspect that the accused assaulted her and when the girl started crying loudly, he killed her to silence her. "Anil told us that he smothered her to death," the officer said. The post-mortem report on Friday confirmed this.

A 54-year-old relative said the girl had come to her parent's house only 5-6 months ago from her maternal grandparent's house, where she lived. The relative added that when the family had been frantically looking for the missing girl, a neighbour informed the mother of seeing her leave with Anil.

The mother immediately called Anil, who assured her that he would return in 10 minutes. However, it soon became apparent that Anil had no intention of coming back and was, in fact, attempting to flee. "Anil killed our little girl by submerging her head in the drain," the relative alleged.

2 men die in septic tank on pvt property

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two men allegedly died of suffocation while cleaning a septic tank at a private residence in southeast Delhi's Old Jasola village on Friday. Police have booked the property owner.

According to a senior officer, the police control room received a call about the fall at 1.07pm. "A team rushed to the spot and found that the two men were hired to clean the septic tank. They were using a tractor tank for the task. The men entered the septic tank to fix a malfunctioning valve and soon fell unconscious," the officer said.

A fire service team was called to the spot. Both the victims were brought out of the tank and taken to a hospital, where they were declared brought dead, said police.

The cops said the septic tank cleaning was arranged by Iqbal Singh, who is at large. One of the deceased has been identified as 60-year-old Rajprakash Singh, who was the driver of the tractor. The identity of the second victim is still being verified, said police.

A case has been registered and further investigations are under way to verify the details. Teams have also been formed to locate and apprehend Iqbal.

Inter-caste marriage: Man kills brother, 2 others

Mahesh Buddi@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: A businessman allegedly hacked to death his brother, sister-in-law and their three-month-old son in a Sonipat village on Thursday, angry with the couple's inter-caste marriage. Police said the infant was in his mother's lap when the accused attacked him with a pickup axe.

Mandeep (28), who rents out excavators at various project sites in Bindhrauli village, is on the run.

Ties with his brother Amardeep — who was a contractual worker at Sonipat municipal corporation — turned

testy three years ago when the younger one fell in love with a woman from another caste and married her. Three months ago, Amardeep and his wife Madhu gave birth to Shivam.

"Madhu was an OBC and Amardeep a Jat. Ever since he decided to marry Madhu despite the family's objections, Mandeep nursed a grudge against his younger brother. He would often pick up fights with the couple over trivial issues," said Dharamveer, their father and a numberdar in the village.

According to Dharamveer, he and his wife left for the cattle shed a few metres away around 6.30am on

Thursday. "My younger son, Amardeep, was lying in a cot while his wife and son were inside. Mandeep was standing next to his bike, which was parked nearby," he said.

Dharamveer said that on his way back, he heard loud shrieks. "I rushed home and saw Mandeep leaving on his bike. He stopped to say he had killed Amardeep, his wife and son," he added. "I called out to Madhu, but she did not respond. I rushed inside and found her lying on the floor, which was covered in blood. Her son was lying injured in her lap," Dharamveer added.

SC upholds decades-old acquisition of land by DDA, DSIIDC and DMRC

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a huge fillip to residential, infrastructure and Metro projects planned in the national Capital, Supreme Court has upheld acquisition proceedings initiated under the earlier regime would be deemed to have lapsed in certain cases, including when compensation was not paid or possession was not taken.

The court allowed hundreds of appeals by DDA, DSIIDC and DMRC against HC orders and upheld acquisition under the 1894 Act. It directed the authorities "to take physical possession of the lands falling under the category where compensation amount has either been deposited in the treasury or in reference court, and continue uninter-

ruptedly to complete the public infrastructure projects". Writing the 113-page judg-

ment, Justice Kant said, "This will, however, not preclude the respondents (land owners) from recovery of the compensation amount, if not already paid or to the extent it is not paid, along with interest and other statutory benefits under the 1894 Act."

In cases where land owners allegedly suppressed facts, the SC directed HC to constitute a dedicated bench to inquire into the facts relating to the land which was the subject matter of the writ petitions and adjudicate it expeditiously.

In cases where land was acquired but possession was not taken or compensation was not paid to the owners, the SC permitted authorities to initiate fresh land acquisition proceedings within a ye-

ar, that is by July 31, 2025, and pay compensation as per law.

Ordinarily, such land should have gone back to the owners but the court kept in mind the public interest involved in infrastructure projects and development of residential areas in Delhi while allowing initiation of fresh acquisition proceedings under the 2013 law. The SC said it would be beneficial to land owners as compensation would be at the prevailing market rate.

The SC said that though the land was acquired, many owners continued to use it for agricultural purposes, hence there was no need for social impact assessment study or development of alternative multi-crop, irrigated agricultural land prior to acquisition.

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
General Services Organisation
(Recruitment Section Kalpakam - 603 102)

Advertisement No GSO/03/2024

General Services Organisation, Department of Atomic Energy, Kalpakam conducts walk-in-Interview for filling up of the following posts on locum basis (purely temporary) as detailed below:-

S.No	Name of the post	Number of posts
1	General Duty Medical Officer/Casualty Medical Officer in the grade of SO/C (M)	07 (Seven)
2	Nurse/A	06 (Six)
3	Pharmacist/B	05 (Five)
4	Scientific Assistant/B (Medical Lab Technician)	01 (One)
5	Scientific Assistant/B (Radiography)	01 (One)

Last date for receipt of application by email is : 30.05.2024 (upto 16.00 hrs)

For further details and application format, please visit Web site: www.igcar.gov.in/gso/recruitment.html.

Administrative Officer-III (Recit.)

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://mopng.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.
Phone : 91-11-23381832; Fax: 91-11-23383100

IISER
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BERHAMPUR
An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Recruitment Notice for Non-Teaching Positions Dated: 29.04.2024

Opening date for submission of online application: 0900 hrs. of May 27, 2024
Closing date of submission of online application: 1730 hrs. of June 26, 2024
Crucial date for calculation of age/qualification/experience: June 26, 2024

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur, an Institute of National Importance, established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in order to promote higher scientific learning and research as well as scientific exploration at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels of education and to create scientists and academicians of the highest quality invites ONLINE applications from eligible Indian nationals to fill-up the following sanctioned regular posts as per the reservation and mode of recruitment mentioned against each:-

S. No.	Position	Group	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	Mode of recruitment	Vertical Reservation				Horizontal Reservation	Total No. of posts
					UR	SC	ST	OBC/EWS	PWD	
1	Assistant Engineer (Civil)	B	7	Direct Recruitment	01	00	00	00	00	01
2	Technical Assistant (Physical Sciences)	B	6		01	00	00	00	00	01
Total					02	00	00	00	00	02

Note: The candidates are required to apply through ONLINE process only. Please visit Institute website www.iiserbpr.ac.in for submission of online application and full text of the advertisement for all other details regarding age relaxation, probation, recruitment rules etc.

Registrar

KUTCHINA®
THE KITCHEN EXPERTS

Autoclean chimney

COOK IN STYLE WITH BIG SAVINGS

25% OFF ON CHIMNEY & HOBS*

*Offer valid till stocks last.

Built-in-safety measures
Brass Burners
Metallic Knobs

1 INDIA'S MOST TRUSTED KITCHEN BRAND

ZERO GAS WASTAGE

KITCHEN APPLIANCES | MODULAR KITCHEN | WATER HEALTHIFIERS | SMALL APPLIANCES

Toll free: 1800 4197 333 | follow us on [kutchinaconnect](https://www.kutchina.com) | www.kutchina.com

TRADE ENQUIRY: PUNJAB ANANDA SINHA 9988229197, HP/JK SACHIN SHARMA 9009778181, HARYANA/NCR SHAKTI BATHLA 8816007773, CHANDIGARH AMAN SAINI 9815182512, UP WEST ARUN YADAV / JITENDRA SONI 9758950900 / 9838828735, UTTARAKHAND ARUN YADAV 9758950900, DELHI PRIYA SHAW 6291846932, RAJASTHAN SUNIL KUMAR MISHRA / GOVIND BURDAK 9667558882 / 9529705091, MADHYA PRADESH AJIT SINGH PARIHAR 9522567194, CHATTISGARH GAINDLAL SAHU 9826107444.

'Heatwave health impacts can be life-threatening — adjust your activities to help your body cope'

Gaurab Basu is a physician and assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das at Times Evoke, he discusses why heatwaves are such a threat to human health:

How does heat impact the body?

■ Almost all working systems in our bodies are affected by severe heat — this is particularly true when extreme heat comes with high humidity. Heat events can increase the risks of heart attacks, strokes and premature labour or low birth weight for expectant parents. These episodes are especially dangerous for people who already have underlying health issues like coronary artery disease, diabetes and respiratory illnesses — they, the elderly and children are very vulnerable. Also, the body must cool down at night and reset from compensating to diffuse severe heat through such days — but in this era of climate change, we're seeing the body unable to rest properly at night. This creates other issues as well like impacted cognitive functioning, depression, anxiety, etc., all correlating at higher rates during heatwaves.



Humans are warm-blooded beings — so, why aren't we able to adapt to hotter conditions? ■ The change in temperature from baseline is very concerning. At baseline, India is a warm country — so, you could argue people living in India have mostly acclimated to hot temperatures. But when you have these severe heatwaves — often with

Humans are warm-blooded beings — so, why aren't we able to adapt to hotter conditions?

humidity — our body must compensate from what it is used to. That is a huge challenge. It is critical for our body's functioning that temperature remains in a very narrow spectrum — our system can't go up or down too much in temperature without facing consequences. Anyone who's suffered a fever due to infection

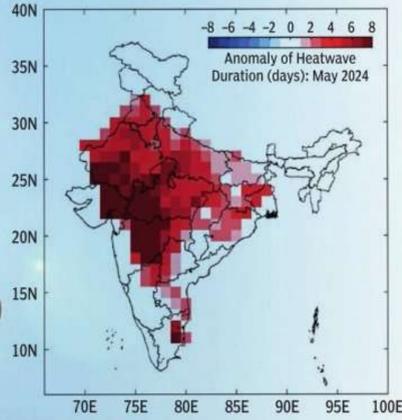


(W)HEATING UP: Farmers face risks

knows how bad they felt with even a one centigrade increase. Our body works very hard to maintain a stable core temperature — to dissipate heat, it changes our blood flow, moving blood away from some organs towards others. It sweats, bringing blood flow to our skin and dispenses heat thus. Our heart also works much harder to boost blood flow during heat events — increasing the oxygen within us can compensate for heat. But if the heart or kidneys don't work well, it becomes much harder to do this. Also, if it's so hot that your body can't keep up and release enough heat, it increases inside us and causes heat stress. The most severe version of this is heatstroke — when your body can't release heat, that causes inflammation within. Our blood vessels open up and enzymes can't work properly. Our organs start to get damaged and could even fail. When people come to hospital with heatstroke thus, we must treat it as life-threatening.

GLOBAL BOILING: THE HEAT IS TRULY ON

As data courtesy IMD (Ministry of Earth Sciences, GOI) shows (R), heatwave days, coming with climate change, will intensify in May 2024 over many regions



variable from person to person, the good news is, we can now accurately predict when these heatwaves are coming upon us — it's key to begin protective preparations early on, decrease heat exposure, drink enough water, rest in cool areas and have someone to call if people don't feel well. We cannot go about our day-to-day functioning during a heatwave — we must adjust our activities to take care of our body in such conditions.

What are your recommendations to administrations to reduce the health damage heatwaves can cause? ■ This involves a systems level as it is also an issue of equity or fairness. Many people with fewer resources are most exposed — individuals labouring outdoors, those who don't have indoor cooling systems and the poorest people face the highest risk of heat exposure. We need policies established to protect them. Awareness is central — India has a very successful community health worker model. Such people can go door-to-door or organise community gatherings to explain the impacts of heat on health. Clinics, community health centres, etc., must offer adequate information. Cities also need increased tree canopies and shade to protect people from heat. Some studies suggest painting rooftops a white shade can help deflect

some heat, which is something administrations should explore. I also see heat evolving to become an important area of medical attention. I'm in charge of a curriculum at Harvard which teaches students the impacts of climate change on health — heat is a core part of it. We've created a heat screening tool and students are learning how to give patients good counsel and medical management to navigate heat. This is all about awareness — we need doctors, nurses and health professionals to understand the potential damage and counsel thoroughly.

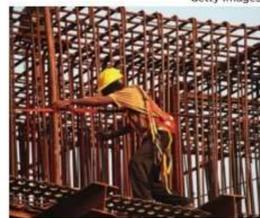


adjust our activities to take care of our body in such conditions.

Heatwaves are increasing and will continue to intensify — they can cause severe health issues and losses of life. Along with other nations, India should identify climate change as a driver of these increasingly dangerous heatwaves and shun fossil fuels — these are stoking extreme temperatures on the planet.

Heatwaves are increasing and will continue to intensify — they can cause severe health issues and losses of life. Along with other nations, India should identify climate change as a driver of these increasingly dangerous heatwaves and shun fossil fuels — these are stoking extreme temperatures on the planet.

Heatwaves are increasing and will continue to intensify — they can cause severe health issues and losses of life. Along with other nations, India should identify climate change as a driver of these increasingly dangerous heatwaves and shun fossil fuels — these are stoking extreme temperatures on the planet.



IN PEAK HEAT: Building needs policy

Heatwaves are increasing and will continue to intensify — they can cause severe health issues and losses of life. Along with other nations, India should identify climate change as a driver of these increasingly dangerous heatwaves and shun fossil fuels — these are stoking extreme temperatures on the planet.

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

I commend TE's interview with Peter Singer (18th May) on animal suffering. His insights truly prompt us to reflect on our treatment of non-human animals. Let's create a world where all beings, regardless of species, can live free lives without suffering cruelty. Thank you, TE, for your commitment to meaningful journalism.

— Ranajit M., Chennai

Times Evoke literally sends its readers on a soul-searching exercise which sparks a million questions, answered through TE! 'The Beautiful & The Damned' TE editorial was a fine article. Peter Singer on why humans eating animals is so problematic was also such an eye-opener.

— Usha Ganesh, Pune

I was very moved reading TE on speciesism. For the sake of animals and ourselves, we must eat less or no meat. It was well pointed out that our violence towards animals is a form of slavery that nobody speaks about in those terms. Thank you for your compassion and activism for the voiceless, TE.

— Sameer Chopra, Delhi

TE's facts on cruelty to animals were absolutely heart-wrenching to read. Like us, birds and animals also experience feelings like fear, sadness and happiness but we are so insensitive about this. Animals and birds have as much right to live as we do. We must treat them the way we'd like to be treated. Thank you for this beautiful feature, TE.

— Subir Mahanta, Mumbai

While the consumption and exploitation of non-human animals is ingrained in human history, TE's articles carefully explored its scientific and behavioural nuances. TE presented one of the most compelling arguments I've encountered against animal cruelty.

— Roshna Sivakumar, Vellore

Share your thoughts at: timesevoke@timesgroup.com
Read Times Evoke online at: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/times-evoke

NSA: Like defence forces, CAPFs too need 'jointness'

'Will Help Save Money, Bring Homogeneity'

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Friday pitched for securing the frontiers on the northern and western side by using technology as a force-multiplier and enhancing engagement with the border residents, while stressing the crucial link between safe borders and India's goal of becoming a \$10-trillion economy in the next 10 years.

Delivering the annual Rustomji lecture at the BSF's 21st Investiture Ceremony, Doval also floated the idea of "jointness" among different central armed police forces (CAPFs), wherein they can interchange roles like border-guarding and internal security etc, given they have similar training, equipment and command structures. "It is not only for saving money but shall bring about greater homogeneity (among CAPFs)," he stated.

Clarifying that he was throwing up the idea of interoperability among the cen-

tral forces in his capacity as a former police officer and not as NSA, Doval said that it has already been operationalised as regards the defence forces.

"We have a huge (CAPF) force altogether. They have also got the same types of intermingling duties at many places, whether it's procurement, communications, training, standardisation," he said. "In defence forces, they are thinking of theatre commands... joint command of the theatre, where one officer from the Air Force is probably controlling Army and Navy units for the domain," he underlined.

While recalling Modi gov't's emphasis on border security in the past 10 years, he recalled how the PM spends every Diwali at the farthest frontiers, meeting officials of BSF, ITBP and Army units posted there. Also, the PM's personal interest has ensured that governors of border states and cabinet ministers visit border areas.

Citing how Israel recently managed to thwart 99% of the missile attacks from Iran due to technology, Doval pitched for major technological innovations to make the borders impregnable with round-the-clock and reliable systems. Stating that India must not allow vulnerability of its borders to retard its growth trajectory as an economic power, he said BSF needs to be the best rather than the biggest.

Farmer's son from UP bags Prez's gold medal at NDA

Sandip.Dighe@timesgroup.com

Pune: The last two days have been unprecedented for Ravindra Gupta, father of Shobit who won the Prez's gold medal for securing the top spot in the merit list for the National Defence Academy's 146th course. A marginal farmer from Dhuwla Karimnagar in UP's Shahjahanpur district, Ravindra told TOI: "I never imagined he would be the gold medalist of the academy."

"I own a small farm and earn a meagre income from

poultry. Irrespective of circumstances, wanted to provide the best education my son could get. So I borrowed money to fund his private hostel so he could prepare for Sainik School. All our efforts have proven worthwhile," he said.

Shobit went on to study studied at Sainik School in Satara. He attributed his success to the school for motivating him to join the NDA. Silver medalist Manik Tarun and bronze medalist Anni Nehra came from Army backgrounds and studied in Sainik schools.



मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, दिल्ली
Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006.
HELPLINE NO. 1800-111-400, Call Centre No. 1950
Website: www.ceodelhi.gov.in

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:

1. Voters with disability are to be given priority for entering the polling station, without having to wait in the queue.
2. 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
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. Volunteers are being deployed at polling locations to assist the voters with disability.
6. Wheelchairs are being provided at polling stations for convenience of PwD Electors.
7. 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.
8. 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_ls2024@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
KINDLY 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

Our Beloved Mother
Smt. Saroj Goenka
attained the Lotus Feet of the Lord
in peace and dignity, just the way she lived.



29 August 1929 - 24 May 2024

ममना भव मद्भक्तो मद्याजी मां नमस्कुरु ।
मामेवैधिसि सत्यं ते प्रतिजाने प्रियोऽसि मे ॥

Be aware of Me always, adore Me, make every act an offering to Me, and you shall come to Me; this I promise.

सर्वधर्मात्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं ब्रज ।
अहं त्वा सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः ॥

Abandon all supports and look to me for protection. I shall purify you from the sins of the past; do not grieve.

Bhagavad Gita, Verse 65 & 66, Chapter 18

Please join us as we celebrate Amma's life at the prayer meeting on Sunday, 26 May 2024, 2 PM to 4 PM at the Express Estate residence.

Loving daughters Arati, Ritu, Kavita and the whole family.

Please respect the family's privacy.
All home visits and calls only at the prayer meeting.

SC stays Uttarakhand HC ambitious relocation plan

HC Wants Plot For Bldg With 7,000 Lawyer Chambers

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday stayed Uttarakhand high court's ambitious order that had rejected a 26-acre plot at Haldwani for relocation of the overcrowded HC complex at Nainital and sought an appropriate site from the state to construct a new HC building with 7,000 chambers for lawyers.



Appearing for Uttarakhand HC Bar Association, advocate P B Suresh with counsel Vipin Nair took a preliminary yet potent objection to the jurisdiction and power of the HC to direct shifting of HC's principal seat, which can only be ordered by the President after Parliament passes a bill to that effect.

Before a vacation bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Sanjay Karol, they argued that HC had power to create circuit or permanent benches

at different places in a state with prior approval of the governor concerned. As Centre through SG Tushar Mehta supported the bar association's plea, the bench stayed the May 8 order of the HC.

The stay from SC comes two days before the May 26 hearing before a HC bench of Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal, which had directed the state chief secretary to locate suitable land for establishment of HC complex, residential accommodations for judges, judicial officers and staff, conference hall, chambers for at least 7,000 lawyers, canteen, parking space, along with good medical facilities. SC has provided for 700-odd lawyers chambers.

"This exercise shall be completed by the chief secretary within a month and submit a report to the HC by June 7," it had said, while asking HC registrar general to put in

motion a poll to seek opinions of lawyers and litigants on desirability of shifting the HC complex from Nainital.

The state had allotted 26-acre land at Golapur in Haldwani for shifting the HC complex. Finding the land to be surrounded by forest, which formed 75% of allotted land, the CJ-led bench had said the HC "does not want to uproot any of the trees to make a new HC." The bench had asked the state to allot a suitable site at some other place.

Before SC, HC bar association in its plea through Vinod Khanna said the HC could not have ordered for an opinion poll as "only Parliament or Centre could decide on establishment of a principal bench of a HC in a state." However, bar association of Dehradun supported the HC order and requested SC not to interfere with it as the HC complex is congested, making it difficult for lawyers, litigants and judges to function properly.

EAM: Karnataka plea to cancel Prajwal passport received only on May 21

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar said on Friday the MEA had received a request from Karnataka for cancellation of JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna's passport only on May 21 and the ministry had acted immediately on it.

A show-cause notice has been served to the suspended MP seeking to know why his diplomatic passport shouldn't be cancelled in light of allegations of sexual abuse against him. Govt sources said this was in line with the Passports Act regulations for cancellation of passport.

Govt sources had said Thursday the request was processed. The notice was sent to the official email of Revanna, who is believed to be in Germany. "To impound a passport is governed by an act called the Passports Act. We need a judicial court or a police request to do so. MEA got this request from Karnataka only on May 21," Jaishankar told news agency ANI.

"We immediately acted on it. On 23rd of May... we have to follow a certain procedure and the procedure is initiated," the minister added.

Sources said the MEA is undertaking the process to cancel his diplomatic passport under provisions of the Passports Act of 1967. If the passport is cancelled, Revanna's stay abroad will be illegal and he may face legal action by authorities in the country he is staying, a person familiar with the matter said.

On Wednesday, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah wrote a second letter to the PM urging him to take "prompt and necessary" action to cancel Prajwal's diplomatic passport. The SIT set up by Karnataka govt to probe the sexual abuse charges against Revanna wrote to MEA to cancel his diplomatic passport after an arrest warrant was issued against him by a local court.



Ex-RPF cop gets double sentence of 25, 50 yrs' RI in 2 Pocco cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kottayam: A retired railway police officer in Kerala's Adoor was handed concurrent sentences of 25 and 50 years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 4.5 lakh Friday after being convicted in two Pocco cases involving sexual abuse of a pair of 11-year-old girls.

Justice Shibu Daniel sentenced Kodumon native Surendran (69) to 25 years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs1.5 lakh in the first case. He pronounced a sentence of 50 years RI and Rs 3 lakh fine in the second case. Since the sentences will run concurrently, Surendran will spend 50 years in jail.

The abuse survivors had been targeted by Surendran in his house. His wife was away for a wedding in the family when he committed the crime on Sept 12, 2021. One of the girls was subjected to sexual abuse multiple times over four years prior to Sept 2021, the prosecution told the court. The crime came to light when the girls confided in each other, going on to reveal what happened to the mother of one of them. THE

2 heat-related deaths confirmed in Gujarat, but toll could be higher

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Sustained very high temperatures proved to be fatal for two middle-aged men in Ahmedabad on Friday as Civil Hospital authorities declared both of them dead due to heat stroke.

More casualties were reported across Gujarat allegedly due to intense heat, but authorities have not confirmed them as 'heat-related deaths'.

Dr Rajnish Patel, in charge medical superintendent of Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad, told TOI that the two men — one about 34 years and another 55 years of age — were admitted in two different instances late on Thursday. "Both complained of high-grade fever of 103-104 degrees F. They were unconscious and unresponsive to treatment. They were declared dead early on Friday. Prima facie, it is believed that they died due to severe heatstroke," he said.

Ahmedabad remained the hottest Gujarat city at 45.5° C.

Autopsy not must for heat-related deaths, says NCDC

Autopsy is not mandatory to certify heat-related deaths, National Centre for Disease Control has said, reports Durgesh Nandan Jha.

NCDC stated that diagnosis of hyperthermia — abnormally high body temperature — is dependent mostly on the scene of investigation, circumstances of death, and reasonable exclusion of alternative causes of death.

As per NCDC guidelines, a heat-related fatality is defined as a death caused by exposure to high ambient temperatures or one in which high ambient temperatures significantly contributed to the death. For example, the guideline suggests, a death should be certified as heat stroke or hyperthermia if the body temperature of the deceased was ≥105°F (≥40.6°C) just before she or he died.

TIMES PROPERTY

TIMES interact
Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

To book your ad visit
ads.timesgroup.com
or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

Scan QR Code

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

SCHOOL & HOSPITAL PLOTS

Available For Sale- Gurgaon

- 2 acre school land
- 1 acre School Land
- 1.25 acre hospital plot
- 500 sq.yd Nursing home plot

All Prime Locations
Multiple options available

Winworld REALTY SERVICES 9650625000

RENTED BROKERS WELCOME

TENANT	RENT/M	TENANT	RENT/M
EESL	88,000/-	ARCHER & BULL	3.46 Lacs
SAP GERMANY	95,000/-	MANYAVAR	4.20 Lacs
AYE FINANCE	1.97 Lacs	IDFC BANK	4.30 Lacs
ICICI BANK	2.00 Lacs	IBERIA	4.30 Lacs
RENESOLA	2.10 Lacs	DOMINOS	6.50 Lacs
AXIS BANK	2.37 Lacs	INDP. BLDG	20.00Lacs

Rajeev Saluja | 99100-72803 98104-92803

JANGPURA Extn./East

Nizamuddin Lawyers Prof. Area. Ready/Bkg premium Flrs. Area 300/250/200 sq.yds. Chopra Associates. 9650928933

OWNER

9999936021
9811315599

SALE-BEGUMPUR, Shivdik mn Rd, Exclnt loc, 975ft each, Commrcl Gr, Bmt, Resid, F.Fir & 3rd+ Terrace. only Genuine call

LUXURY FLOORS

9811-706806

GK CORNER Triplex BMT+GF+Stilts 500 yds NE sep entry 4 parking, Also 300 to 1000yd 3rd+ Terr many more options.

LEASE & RENT

Available Land & Building for Lease / Rent

on NH-58, Delhi NCR, Meerut

Land area 26000 Sq. Yard comprising of two separate building of G+3 floor of 5600 Sq. mtr each.

Contact: varunjain09@gmail.com

NOIDA

INDEPENDENT Bungalow for lease to corporate guest house or Doctors Clinic Sec-19, Noida, Near Metro Station & DND, 8 Rooms, Drawing, Dining & Servant room GF & FF. Plot Size-250sqm. # 9812456070

SOUTH DELHI

GK2 second floor furnished 3BHK Parking Servant Reasonable Rent Owner 982104454

RENTED - PLOTS

UNION BANK	1,17,000	LUMUS	57,500
RBL BANK	1,16,000	GOOGLE	1,80,000
HDFC BANK	1,28,000	KFC	3,00,000
DBS BANK	2,38,000	MANYAVAR	4,20,000
ICICI BANK	3,08,000	FULL BLDG.	26,50,000

WANTED 500 SQ. YARDS PLOT, DLF PHASE-1

NARESH AGGARWAL PROP.
9810159600, 9650244077

SAAR ASSOCIATES

9910557905
9910430333

APARTMENT STYLE FLOORS. Prime location Golf Course Extn Road. Gated Society, Power backup. @2.15 Cr. onwards

Ms. ROHINI

8448552918

ROHINI BUY/ Sell Plots Allotted by DDA Sec-138, Liaison/ Collaboration/ New Allotment Investmt. 8448552918.

READY Double height shop

Noida Extn. With lease. Near to 130mtr rd, 5min from upcoming metro station dense populated area. DD-50L call 9990205577.

DEFENCE colony avail. 400/325/217 s.yds Premium Floors. Ready/ Bkg. All floors, parking, lift. Sh. Chopra Associates 965092839, 9650702839

PPS ESTATE

9818881000
9599808726

2.75 ACRE Grand Western Green Farm. Private Road, builtup, Clear title. Also 500Y GK-1 floors, New height @ reasonable price

RATTAN JHA

9810381356
9810265234

LAJPAT NAGAR-3 (400 Sqyds) 2nd Floor, Lift, Car Parking, Reasonable Price. 9810381356, 9810265234

DELHI RZONE LAND

98110-40086

DELHI(South, W5) Cr per acre, sec (1-40), become Builder your self, profit in crore, min investment, Brokers welcome

PROPERTY WANTED

REQUIRED full Cheque land deals for purchase in and around Gurugram, Ravi #9811373060

TO LET

SHOWROOM 500-1000 sq feet /office/godown/guest house 20 rooms with license for rent at fategpuri 2700sq.ft Chandni Chowk Linker Prop. 9868092300

INTERCLUB

Harish Taneja
9911247365

DEFCOL- GK Ultra Luxury new 3/4 BHK AC Lift Parking also fully furnished office/res. Clinic short/long term 9911247365

real estate

FOR SALE

DLF

perfect estate agency

800/1000/1200 SQ YD Brand New Floor in DLF City, S. Lok, Vaastu compliant, Lift With Stilt Pkg @ Reasonable Price.

SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES

9810061698
9810099174

800/1000/1200 SQ YD Brand New Floor in DLF City, S. Lok, Vaastu compliant, Lift With Stilt Pkg @ Reasonable Price.

NOIDA

SS ADVISORY

9899410005

PLOT WALA

85278-34633

AUTHORITY PLOTS in Noida Extension for sale. At prime locations. Sizes 100 to 500 mtrs. Ioan Avli. Registry Open.

ABHISHEK

99996-06901

THIRD WITH Exclusive Terrace & Sep. Gate for 2car 208yds S Blk GK-1, Excellent Loc. N/W Facing, New Height, Ultra Luxurious.

FARM HOUSE

78-2727-6161

BUY/SELL Rent Dera Mandi Ansal Villa Gola Chtrpur DLF Bhati MTD (Vku) Jonapur Satnik Farm Sultampur RMD etc.

FOR SALE 3/4 BHK LUXURY FLATS

IN PRIME LOCATION In Very Reasonable Price

MG Road (South Delhi) With Loan Facility + Registry Car Parking+Lift + Furnished Flat. Walking Distance from Metro Station

Contact: 7982406556 8882303763 (Broker Welcome)

SUSHANT LOK

Ritesh Solomon
9910048505
8800049540

602YD PLOT SL. 3. 18mtr. Wide Road. Prime North East Facing. Best For CA, Doctors, Etc. Payment By Cheque Only.

RETAIL SHOP FOR RENT 9000 Sq Feet

Center Market Lajpat Nagar Retail Shop 1800 Sqft on Each Floor, 4 Floors +Basement of 1800 Sqft Lajpat Nagar - 2, Delhi Opp. 3C'S Mall, 300 mtrs from Metro Station. Basement can be rented separately. Contact: 9810021194 9810013828

RENTED RETAIL

GURGAON MODERN BAZAAR Rent 215600 Prime Location High Footfall Brokers Welcome

OWNER: 8076764079 9205622514 8368841512

perfect estate agency

PARTY MEETING DLF City 500 Yds Premium Location, Broker Excuse # 991088735

PARTY MEETING DLF City 500 Yds Premium Location, Broker Excuse # 991088735

PLOT FOR SALE SUSHANT LOK-II

Size - 300 Sqyds Block 'D' East Facing

WHITELAND ASPEN ICONIC Sector - 74, Gurgaon Tower -9 Higher Floor Area 3677Sqft

UNITECH COMMERCIAL TOWER- 2 Sector - 45, Gurgaon Tenant IBRS (Australian MNC) Ground Floor Area Offered 1506 Sqft. Rent Per Sqft. @ 105/- ROI: 6%

Commercial Building For Rent Udyog Vihar Phase -1, Area 19000 Sqft Approx. For Details: 9871344711, 9871191292

NOIDA VIP Sec-14A, Plot for Sale 450 Sq Mtrs, Park facing, 24x7 High Security, Wide Road, Well Located, Elite Neighbourhood.

HOME CONSULTANT PVT. LTD.

99117-14666

YAMUNA PLOT Auth. Residential & Industrial Sector-18, 20, 22, 25, 29, 32, 33 Sizes 300, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000 Mtr. Call: 9911714666

LUXURY retail, ready 4 possession, society shops, ideal for Salons, Banks Cafes etc avail. at prime Loc. in Noida from 3.50cr onwards. Call 987963080.

BUY / Sell Yamuna Exp Resi Plot Sec-18,20, GR. Noida Resi/ Indl. Plots Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, P-3, S.Nagri Sec-2,3 Ghar Sansar 9818639738, 9873731820

M.S. ASSOCIATES

8130789312
8860031309

FARM HOUSE Land/ Bldg. Avail. Vasant kunj/ sultampur/MG road/club drive/ Ansal/ DLF 500/1000/1200/1600y/1 acre & above

Contact KUMAR

9911711944

D-900 NEW Friends Colony 491 sqyds house, (sealed by SDM) desealed very soon (as per law), Req Financier/ Partner/ Builder

AKUL PURI

8130937120
DEEPAK PURI 9810139604

ANAND LOK 400 Sq Yds Front/ Back Park 3rd Flr. Excl Terrace Garden/ Lift/ Huge 4 BR+Balconies, SQ Car Park, Well Maintained

WEST DELHI

PROPERTY PLANNER satisfactory real estate solutions 9811336887

PLOT DWARKA Exp Sec-99 G99 422 sqyd, Corner, East & Park, Facing 100% Gated, Power Backup, Security, Maintain

WEST DELHI

PUNJABI BAGH Transport Centre, Rohtak Rd 110035 New Constructed DDA Commercial /Independent Building -Prkg Lease/ Rent Ground Floor-First Floor -Basement Each Floor 2800sqft 9811683333, 981018 8880 Mstrozen@gmail.com

Rajeev Mittal

9811017103

DLF CITY 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 & Sushant Lok excl. Builder Floors on Plots 300, 400, 500 & 1000 Excel. location & Ready possn. 9811017103

SEC-4 Dwarka, Sh. Badrinath Apt. Fhold, 1st Flr. Sec Rd feng open view, 4 BR, D/D, 3 bath mdr ktr, ultra luxurious brded Inter. #owner 9811036690

COMMERCIAL property 317sqyds for Sale, Kanti Nagar 60ft main Rd, near Krishna Ngr. Delhi-110051. Brokers welcome # 9922007508

FOR SALE - Entire Bungalow in Surajmal Vihar A-Block, Delhi-92. Area 185 sq. yds. Corner plot. Contact 9899009074

ROHINI Kaul

7042292279

BEST Investment Option Sec 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 Availability of Plots in Rohini. DDA Liaison Freehold of Plots.

SQUARE METERS REALTORS

9717452701

YEBDA PLOTS Sale/ Buy, Sector 18 & 20, Yamuna Expressway, Size 300, 500, 1000, 2000 sq.mtr, Call WhatsApp 9717452701

Owner

7428935509

GK-3, GF 3bhk attached bath, park feng DDA flat @2.60, Ludhiana-Model Gram 375yd 8bhk Bnglw wide Rd N/E feng @3.75cr.

SARHA Sarha India

9312502224

VAS KUNJ - GF&FF 2.5-4cr, 5bhk 3rd Lift @4.5, GK1 300y GF&4.25 Vns Vhr 400y FF&2nd, A Lok 2nd 800y, Def col 325y GF@7.5

SAFDARJUNG ENCL.

Bsmnt., GF, FF, SF, 3rd Floor with Terr., 4 Beds, DD, Lounge, Ready Poss. S. Kumar 98110-31558

PPS ESTATE

9818881000
9599808726

ANAND LOK 800y S.F New, Ready, Sep pkg & lift. Also DLF Chattarpur 1.80 Acre farm, Vastu perfect, Wide rd, clear title, Gated

LAND FOR SALE

FOR sale Land 25 Lakh Rental income P/M 350 Bigha Land Mango tree 50 Room Hotel/ Bar Amit Srivastava 9927005485

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

Rajeev Mittal

9811017103

WANTED APPTTS Aralias, Magnolias, The Belaire, Central Park 1, Beverly Park, La lagune, The Elevate 9811017103

GHAZIABAD

RAMPRASTHA CLY 3BHK GR Flr 1599 sqft on 231sqyd plot on 40 ft Rd + Store/Puja & Serv room, Ganga & U/G water, 1km fm Anand Vr Mob: 84478 78259

GURGAON

PRIME LOCATION Deendayal plots, plot under 4CR, Sec-65, GGN, Iconic trump tower facing, open view, 4 BR, D/D, 3 bath, plot available @ 2.40, 000/ sqyd. Ankur Saini 9899555846

DDA MKT. Shop FF 10x10-12L & 10x20-24L, FHold with Loan. Samrat Enclave Pitampura (Aprvd Comm. Mkt)

OWNER CONTACT

9810444180
8447430998

SALE PRIME Loc. 200 yds, Green & open View, 4th Flr with Roof rights, Car Park, New construction at Vijay Nagar Delhi.

ABADI PLOT CO.

9920799258

JEWAR AIRPORT Noida, main highway com'l Residential Plot @ 2 CR (9000 sqft) Nr. film city, metro, pod Taxi & airport

Bricks n yards

9971110380

HAUS KHAS Encl 280yd (Resul) Basement Ground (Duplex) 3 BHK, store room, Pantry, Toilet, Hall, Excluv Lift, Separate gate for prkg.

S KUMAR

98110-31558

SAFDARJUNG ENCL. Bsmnt., GF, FF, SF, 3rd Floor with Terr., 4 Beds, DD, Lounge, Ready Poss. S. Kumar 98110-31558

PPS ESTATE

9818881000
9599808726

VASANT VHR 800y Triplex (B+GF) Ready, Vastu perfect, wide rd, Sep Lift & pkg, G.K-1 Enclave 500y FF ready, lift, stilt @rble price

Contact Owner

9810034155

FOR SALE 3BHK Duplex (L.G.F+U.G.F) 314 Sq yards in Green Park Main (with 3 Reserve Parking, Storage Area & Servant Quarter).

SEC. 35 GGN, 1 Acre industrial plot with 3 side open, 25000 sq ft Shed with Office Block, CLU & Occupiers certificate, 100kva Power, PNG Gas, concrete road 981059215

TIMES PROPERTY Delhi and Lucknow

Connect Now: 9999499496, 9560002888

perfect estate agency

PARTY MEETING DLF City 1, 200 Yds. Good Location, Broker Excuse # 991088735

Conforama HOMES & PRIVILEGES

PRIME LOCATION Deendayal plots, plot under 4CR, Sec-65, GGN, Iconic trump tower facing, open view, 4 BR, D/D, 3 bath, plot available @ 2.40, 000/ sqyd. Ankur Saini 9899555846

BISHT PROPERTIES PVT. LTD.

9811134984
9650045100

DDA MKT. Shop FF 10x10-12L & 10x20-24L, FHold with Loan. Samrat Enclave Pitampura (Aprvd Comm. Mkt)

Singhal Associates

9999917703
9899150012

YAMUNA EXPWAY Plots Sale/ Purchase Sec-18 & 20, Size 300, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000 sqm, Singhal asso 9899917703, 9899150012

S KUMAR

98110-31558

GK-2, INDEPENDENT House Available for sale 550 Yds, 1000 Yds. S. Kumar 98110-31558

PPS ESTATE

9818881000
9599808726

VASANT VHR 800y Triplex (B+GF) Ready, Vastu perfect, wide rd, Sep Lift & pkg, G.K-1 Enclave 500y FF ready, lift, stilt @rble price

Contact Owner

9810034155

FOR SALE 3BHK Duplex (L.G.F+U.G.F) 314 Sq yards in Green Park Main (with 3 Reserve Parking, Storage Area & Servant Quarter).

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

SEC. 35 GGN, 1 Acre industrial plot with 3 side open, 25000 sq ft Shed with Office Block, CLU & Occupiers certificate, 100kva Power, PNG Gas, concrete road 981059215

TIMES interact

Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

Connect Now: 9999499496, 9560002888

6 of a family killed as bus to Vaishno Devi hits truck

Passengers Say Bus Driver Was Drunk: Police

Rahul Singh & Jaskaran Singh | TNN

Bulandshahr/Ambala: Six people, including a six-month-old infant, lost their lives, and 19 others sustained injuries when a minibus collided with a truck near Mohra village on the Ambala-Delhi Highway around 1.45am on Friday. The bus, carrying 25 passengers to Vaishno Devi in Jammu & Kashmir, collided with a truck on the highway. Police stated a passenger said the driver of the bus, who is on the run, was drunk.

Talking to TOI, Sinder Singh, Ambala Police PRO, said, "Passersby rushed to extricate them from the mangled bus. Subsequently, with police assistance, the injured were admitted to two hospitals. Six died while 19 others sustained varying degrees of injuries." The victims, all relatives, hailed from Kakod in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district. "A case under IPC section 304A has been filed against the unidentified truck driver, and investigations are ongoing," he added.



A helicopter makes an emergency landing, 100m away from helipad, at Kedarnath. It developed a snag in the rear rotor, an official said

Close shave for 7 as copter to Kedarnath goes into tailspin, makes hard-landing

Six Kedarnath pilgrims had a narrow escape on Friday as their helicopter developed a technical snag that made it go into a tailspin before a hard-landing metres below the helipad in the mountainous region. Online videos showed the helicopter with six pilgrims from Tamil Nadu and a pilot onboard swerving dangerously just above the helipad near the temple. People at the helipad scrambled to safety as the chopper descended, nearly touching down on the helipad. But it continued to swirl and finally made a rough landing below the helipad.

Citing preliminary reports, the Rudraprayag DM said the chopper developed a technical snag in its rear rotor. PTI

Among the deceased were Mahesh Chand (60), Vinod Singh (54), Satbeer Singh (40), Manoj Kumar (45), his wife Guddi (43), and six-month-old Deepti, all residents of Bhopatpur village in Kakod. Survivor Shivani Singh (25), also from Kakod, recounted that the passengers were asleep

when the accident occurred. A doctor at civil hospital in Ambala Cantonment said, "We received eight injured individuals, three of whom are critical. Plans are underway to transfer them to another facility. Other injured persons are undergoing treatment at the Adesh Hospital in Mohri."

11 yrs after woman's rape-murder, hubby's arrest, ex-banker held

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Eleven years after a 43-year-old woman was murdered and her husband wrongly arrested for the crime before being released for lack of evidence, three men, including a former manager of Canara Bank, have been arrested for gang-raping and killing her.

Prime accused and former bank manager Narasimha Murthy (65), his associate Deepak C (38) and Hari-prasad (45) are in judicial custody. A chargesheet was filed against them Thursday.

The woman's body was found on Feb 15, 2013, in Chikkajala, near Yelahanka. Her husband had earlier filed a missing person complaint. Then Chikkajala inspector, M Paramesh, arrested the husband on May 18, 2015, saying he had killed his wife in the house and dumped the body on grounds that investigation found blood stains in the couple's residence and a forensic exam revealed they matched with the victim's blood.

The husband was released on bail after spending 73 days in judicial custody. He approached Karnataka HC in Sept 2015 seeking a CID investigation, and the case was

transferred to CID in Oct 2022. DGP (CID) MA Saleem said they carried out a scientific investigation into the case. "We discovered that the mobile number of a person — an associate of a family friend of the woman — had been present where the body was found. Also, an eyewitness, who had seen the woman with the same friend just before being killed, helped us find a new angle," Saleem said.

The woman's husband had worked in the bank branch where Murthy was manager. Murthy had seen the woman

2 AIDES ARRESTED

on many occasions and was drawn towards her. "Murthy planned to meet her near Hebbal bus stop. From there, he told her he would show her his recreation club and took her there. As planned, he raped her. Deepak and Hari-prasad too raped her and strangled her. Stuffing the body in a gunny bag, Deepak and Hari-prasad dumped it in Chikkajala," said Narendra Babu MR, inspector, CID. "Murthy had repeatedly called Deepak to find out whether they had dumped the body. Deepak hadn't accepted the calls and Murthy then texted him," the cops said.

5th arrest in B'lruru cafe blast case: NIA held another accused in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case Friday, three days after a crackdown across four states by probe teams. The accused, identified as Shoaib Ahmed Mirza alias Chhotu, was earlier convicted in a case involving a conspiracy hatched by LeT in Bengaluru. NIA said after his release from jail, Mirza got involved in the fresh conspiracy. TNN



Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021
Phone: +91-22-3555 5000 • Fax: +91-22-2204 2268 • E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

NOTICE

(for the attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company)

Sub.: Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules").

The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares, in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more, in the name of the Investor Education and Protection Fund ("IEPF") Authority.

Adhering to the various requirements set out in the Rules, the Company has, so far, transferred to IEPF Authority, on respective due dates, all shares in respect of which dividend(s) for the financial year 2015-16 or before had remained unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years or more. The Company has, vide its letter dated May 21, 2024, communicated individually, the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority during the financial year 2024-25 for taking appropriate action.

The Company has uploaded full details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF Authority on its website at www.ril.com. Shareholders are requested to refer to the web-link <https://www.ril.com/investors/shareholders-information/dividend-shares> to verify the details of uncashed dividends and the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority.

Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules.

The concerned shareholders, holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority, may note that the Company would be issuing new share certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) held by them for the purpose of dematerialisation and transfer of shares to IEPF Authority as per the Rules and upon such issue, the original certificate(s) which stands registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. The shareholders may further note that the details uploaded by the Company on its website shall be deemed to be adequate notice in respect of issue of new share certificate(s) by the Company for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPF Authority pursuant to the Rules.

In case the Company does not receive any communication (claiming the unclaimed / uncashed dividend) from the concerned shareholders on or before August 26, 2024, the Company shall with a view to complying requirements set out in the Rules, dematerialise and transfer the shares to IEPF Authority by way of corporate action as per procedure stipulated in the Rules.

In case the shareholders have any queries on the subject matter and the Rules, they may contact KFin Technologies Limited (Unit: Reliance Industries Limited), Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent at Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032; Toll Free No.: 1800-309-4001 (from 9:00 a.m. (IST) to 6:00 p.m. (IST) on all working days); Email: riinvestor@kfinitech.com; Website: www.kfinitech.com.

For Reliance Industries Limited

Sd/-
Savithri Parekh
Company Secretary
and Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai
Date : May 24, 2024

www.ril.com

LUCKNOW SOLAR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (LSPDCL)

(A Joint Venture of Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited New Delhi)

IIIrd Floor, UPNEDA building, Vibhuti Khand, Gomtinagar Lucknow- 226010
E-Mail: lspdc12015@gmail.com

Sub: Employment Notification No.3/2024

Lucknow Solar Power Development Corporation Limited (LSPDCL) is a Joint Venture of Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited New Delhi. The Company is incorporated under Companies Act 2013. Application is invited for Post of **Manager Administration** on contractual basis for an initial period of two years.

For Details and Application form log on to website www.upneda.org.in or contact through e-mail at lspdc12015@gmail.com. Last date for receipt of application is **11.06.2024**. Applications received after the closing date or with incomplete details shall not be considered. In case applied earlier against Employment Notification No. 2/2024 need not apply again.

Chairman
LSPDCL

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

(A Govt. of India Undertaking - Under Ministry of Tribal Affairs)
NBCC Tower, 15 NBCC tower, 5th Floor, Hall No. 1,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066
Website: www.nstfcd.tribal.nic.in

Tender Notice

NSTFDC invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Impact Assessment / Evaluation Study of NSTFDC schemes being implemented through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs), Banks and other agencies on the Target Group in various States of India during 2018-19 to 2022-23 and functioning of SCAs. Details are as under:

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/> publish/app. Last date of submission of bid is 06th June 2024 upto 5.00 pm.

Sd/
(Bismita Das)
Chief Manager (Proj. & CSR), NSTFDC

KENDRIYA HINDI SANSTHAN, DELHI CENTRE

(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
B-26A, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016
Mob. : 9753892167

ADMISSION NOTICE (Session 2024-25)

EVENING COURSES

- PG. Diploma in Translation Theory and Practice Course (Offered Offline mode by Delhi Centre)
Qualification : Graduate with Hindi and English subjects
Duration : One Year
- Post M.A. Diploma in Applied Hindi Linguistics Course (Offered Offline mode by Delhi Centre)
Qualification : Post Graduate and Graduate with Hindi as one of the subject or Hindi medium of study at Graduation Level
Duration : One Year

SHORT-TERM COURSES

- Hindi Language Skill Certificate Course (Offered Online mode by Headquarter Agra)
Qualification : Intermediate
Duration : 03 Months
- Translation Certificate Course (Offered Online mode and offline mode by Delhi Centre)
Qualification : Graduation in any discipline (It is mandatory to have Hindi as one of the subject at graduation level)
Duration : 03 Months
- Text Editing and Proof Reading Certificate Course (Offered Offline mode by Delhi Centre & Online mode by Headquarter Agra)
Qualification : Graduation in any discipline (It is mandatory to have Hindi as one of the subject at graduation level)
Duration : 03 Months

Application form will be filled online through our website www.hindisansthan.in then downloaded print copy, essential documents and Demand Draft of Rs. 200/- (Rs. Two Hundred only) should be sent on above address. Demand Draft should be made in favour of Secretary, Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Delhi. Last date for the submission of the application form is July 15, 2024.

- Regional Director

भंडारण विकास और विनियामक प्राधिकरण

भारत सरकार
एन सीयू आई भवन, चौथी मंजिल, 3, सीरी इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, अगस्त क्रान्ति मार्ग,
हौज खास, नई दिल्ली-110016 दूरभाष:- 49536496, 49092978
Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority
Government of India

NCUI Building, 4th Floor, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,
Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016, Tel. No. 49536496, 49092978

F. No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(DDSR)/1/2023-HR/736 Dated: 14.05.2024
Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) invites applications from eligible personnel working in the Central/ State Governments/ Central and State PSUs/ Autonomous/ Statutory bodies for the following posts to be filled on deputation/absorption basis:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of vacancies	Number and date of the Advt.
1.	Under Secretary (Technical) [Level-11 (Rs. 67700-208700) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(UST)/1/2023-HR/3048 dated 08.03.2024
2.	Deputy Director (Strategy Risk and Research) [Level-11 (Rs. 67700-208700) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(DDSR)/1/2023-HR/3064 dated 11.03.2024
3.	Principal Private Secretary (PPS) [Level-11 (Rs. 67700-208700) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(UST)/1/2023-HR/3048 Dated 08.03.2024
4.	Deputy Director (Legal) [Level-11 (Rs. 67700-208700) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(DDSR)/1/2023-HR/735 dated 14.05.2024
5.	Deputy Director (Human Resource) [Level-11 (Rs. 67700-208700) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(DDSR)/1/2023-HR/735 dated 14.05.2024
6.	Assistant Director (Stakeholders Affairs) [Level-8 (Rs. 47600-151100) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HRD/Dep(DDSR)/1/2023-HR/735 dated 14.05.2024

Detailed information may be seen at the Authority's website www.wdra.gov.in. Applications in the prescribed format available on the website may be submitted to the Assistant Director (Human Resource), Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, New Delhi within 30 days from the date of publication of vacancy circular in the Employment News. Corrigendum etc., if any, shall be put up on the WDRA website.

Note: Those candidates who had applied against the post of Deputy Director (Legal), vide advertisement number WDRA-HRD/Dep(DDLG)/1/2023-HR/2985 dated 21.02.2024, need not apply again. However, they can update their application, if they so desire. WDRA will consider their candidature along with the candidates applied for the post against this advertisement.

Sd/-
(Venita Solomon)
Assistant Director (HR)

CBC 08109/12/0001/2425

Uttarakhand Tourism Launches Nakshatra Sabha

The unique **Astro Tourism Campaign** aims to provide a holistic astro tourism experience with activities such as stargazing, special solar observations, astrophotography contests, camping under the stars, and much more.

Actual image at Sir George Everest Peak, Mussoorie

HIGHLIGHTS:

Solar Observation | Rocket Building Workshop | Everest's Secrets | Star Composition | Sundial Skills
Fun Quizzes & Awards | Deep Space Exploration | Telescope Tips | Exclusive Astro Kit & Certificate

Don't miss this chance to dive deep into the cosmos and ignite your passion for astronomy! Scan to know more and book

Event Partner: Starscapes Experiences

UTTARAKHAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

uttarakhandtourism.gov.in | [/UttarakhandTourismOfficialPage](https://t.me/UttarakhandTourismOfficialPage) | [/UTDBofficial](https://www.facebook.com/uttarakhandtourismofficial) | [/uttarakhand_tourismofficial](https://www.instagram.com/uttarakhand_tourismofficial)

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम

(अम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEE'S STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

Advertisement No. 02/2024 Dated: 21/05/2024
RECRUITMENT OF TEACHING FACULTY (1 Yr)/ SUPER SPECIALISTS (1 Yr)/ SENIOR RESIDENTS (3 Yrs ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS FOR ESIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, ALWAR, RAJASTHAN THROUGH WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Date of Interview:-06.06.2024 Mode of Interview:- OFFLINE & ONLINE
VENUE FOR INTERVIEW
ACADEMIC BLOCK, ESIC MCH, DESULA MIA, ALWAR (RAJ) 301030.

ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Alwar, Rajasthan proposes to fill up the posts of medical teaching faculty Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Super Specialists, Senior Residents & Adjunct Faculty in the disciplines mentioned below on contractual basis through interview. The details of vacancies and reservation position is as under:-

Speciality	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Senior Resident 3Yrs	Senior Resident against GDMO (3Yrs)
Anaesthesia	-	02(1-UR, 1-OBC)	02(1-UR, 1-SC)	01-UR	04(2-UR, 1-OBC, 1-ST)
Anatomy	-	01-UR	01-UR	02(1-UR, 1-SC)	-
BioChemistry	-	-	02(1-UR, 1-OBC)	-	-
Community Medicine	01-OBC	1-UR	02(1-UR, 1-ST)	03(1-UR, 1-SC, 1-OBC)	-
Dentistry	-	1-SC	-	-	-
Dermatology	01-OBC	1-UR	01-ST	01-OBC	-
Emergency Medicine	-	-	-	09(02-UR, 03-OBC, 2-SC, 1-ST, 1-EWS)	-
ENT	01-OBC	1-ST	01-OBC	-	-
Forensic Medicine	-	1-EWS	01-SC	02(1-UR, 1-SC)	-
General Medicine	01-UR	03(2-UR, 1-OBC)	04(2-UR, 1-OBC, 1-SC)	03(1-UR, 1-OBC, 1-ST)	01-UR
General Surgery	01-OBC	02(1-UR, 1-OBC)	03(1-UR, 1-SC, 1-EWS)	02(1-UR, 1-EWS)	01-OBC
Microbiology	-	-	02(01-OBC, 1-SC)	02(1-OBC, 1-SC)	-
OBGY	-	01-UR	01-EWS	01-UR	01-UR
Ophthalmology	01-UR	01-OBC	-	-	01-UR
Orthopaedics	-	-	01-EWS	01-OBC	01-OBC
Paediatrics	01-EWS	01-UR	01-OBC	01-SC	-
Pathology	-	01-OBC	02(1-UR, -OBC)	-	-
Pharmacology	-	-	02(1-UR, 1-OBC)	02(1-OBC, 1-ST)	-
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	01-ST	01-OBC	-	01-ST	-
Physiology	-	-	02(1-UR, 1-OBC)	01-OBC	-
Psychiatry	-	01-UR	-	-	-
Radio-diagnosis	01-OBC	01-EWS	01-OBC	01-OBC	01-UR
Respiratory Medicine	-	-	-	01-EWS	02(1-OBC, 1-EWS)

Note:-
1. Super Specialist (Full Time / Part Time) vacancies are available in the Endocrinology (1-SC), Gastroenterology (1-OBC), Haematology (1-UR), Nephrology (1-EWS), Neurology (1-UR), Oncology (1-OBC), Plastic Surgery/Burn (1-ST), Paediatrics Surgery(1-UR) & Cardiology (1-UR) departments. General Candidates can be considered against the post reserved for category mentioned for full time contractual appointment on 44 days basis, in case no eligible candidate belonging to concerned reserved category is available. Alternately the option of part time engagement or empanelment is available with the candidate.

Tenure and Remuneration:

- For Teaching faculty
 - Consolidated remuneration of Professor (Rs. 201213/-), Associate Professor (Rs. 133802/-), Assistant Professor (Rs. 114955/-) will be paid. Consolidated remuneration of Professors may be given to Associate Professor provided eligible to become Professor.
 - Emolument for Senior Resident: Basic Pay Rs. 67700/- (Level - 11) + NPA (Revised) + other allowances.
 - Super Specialist Full Time (uptoRs. 2.4 lakh/-) and for Part Time (uptoRs. 1.5 lakh/-).
- In case of non-availability of candidates in the category advertised, the post may be filled for less than 45 days through UR candidates.
- Reservation Roster for PH Category is applicable as per Govt. of India rules.
- The engagement of contractual faculty on consolidated remuneration will be initially for a period of One year or joining of regular incumbent whichever is earlier. However, the contract would be terminable on one-month notice or on joining of regular faculty or attaining the age of 70 years whichever is earlier.
- Filled-in application forms must be sent to dean-alwar.rj@esic.nic.in
- For more details visit website: www.esic.gov.in → Recruitment

-sd-
DEAN

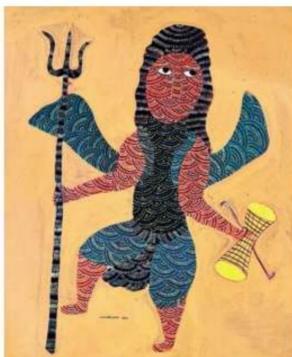
With famous folk artists and modernist stars, AOI auction set to make a splash

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Magicians of the Earth'. That was the name of the path-breaking international exhibition in 1989 Paris that showcased 50 "non-western" artists alongside 50 western artists. One of them was Jangarh Singh Shyam, a young rustic man who had grown up in the forests of MP Painted with colours extracted from charcoal, leaves, and even cow dung, the reliefs made by Jangarh — a Gond-Pardhan artist — caught the eye of noted artist J Swaminathan in the 1980s. Transplanted from the wilderness of Dindori to the modernist mainstream of Bhopal, Jangarh famously went on to spawn an atel-



MASTER STROKES: An oil painting from J Swaminathan's bird, tree and mountain series. (Right) Gond artist Jangarh Singh Shyam's 'Shivji' will go under the hammer



artist Jaidev Baghel's 'The Tree of Life' for its "stylised depiction of the tree along with the lovely addition of people and life along the base".

GUJARAT GREATS

Interestingly, a big chunk of the artists showcased in the finale — including GM Sheikh and Himmat Shah — hark back to Group 1890, a collective co-founded by 12 young artists in 1962 Gujarat. Christened after a house number in a plotted colony in a small town of Gujarat, the motley crew soon disbanded, but its members are known to have individually shaped Indian modernism with their unique palettes.

Art historian G M Sheikh, for instance, was a Gujarati poet known for innovative works that were highly influenced by the poet-saint Kabir. "If people have made a sect out of Kabir, it is not of his making," was among the oft-quoted refrains of 1937-born Sheikh, a Padma Shri recipient who trained and, later, taught at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the MS University in Baroda. Among the delightful curiosities at the auction is Sheikh's 'Talisman', a digital collage accordion book boasting a wooden cover enclosed in a wooden box. It was born out of Sheikh's desire to make painted maps following his discovery of a picture postcard of the Ebstorf Mappa Mundi (a map of the world, now lost, made in 13th century Europe). Learning techniques of digital collaging, Sheikh created maps by implanting sites of his choice into

the circuits laid out in Ebstorf Mappa Mundi. "In order to overcome the limitations of cloning that digital technology imposes, I decided to paint over every inkjet print to play a jugalbandi of the hand, mind and machine," wrote Sheikh. Amid the sea of canvases, sculptures such as a bronze head shaped by artist Himmat Shah stand out. Born in Lothal, Gujarat, Jaipur-based Shah grew up surrounded by the remnants of a prominent port city of Indus Valley Civilisation. Shah — who went on to study etching at Atelier 17 under Krishna Reddy in Paris in 1967 — not only uses innovative techniques such as burnt paper collages and architectural murals but also self-designed tools to shape his signature heads.

MADHUBANI MYTHS

Also up for sale is a vivid work by another Indian folk artist who was featured in 'Magicians of the Earth' at Centre Pompidou in 1980s Paris, Bana Devi. A Bihar-born, Delhi-based pioneer of Madhubani art, Devi's preference for natural colours — extracted from charcoal, turmeric, twigs, leaves, rice powder, vermilion, soot and cow dung — is laid bare by her meticulous canvas at AOI 2024. "My first commercial painting fetched 50 paise when I was working with the National Crafts Museum. There has been no looking back since," she said in an interview to a publication recently. Over the years, Devi's paintings have travelled to several countries, including Spain, Germany, Japan and France. Most of these artworks revolve around mythological narratives of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.



BEAUTY IN BRONZE: A standout sculpture from Himmat Shah who is drawn to

DADIBA PUNDOLE
AOI sale has a strong focus on non-metropolitan artists, some of whom have not featured at auctions previously

ier school called 'Jangarh Kalam' where he taught people from his village how to paint. Soon, three works bearing the unmistakable dots and lines of the folk artist — who died at age 39 in Japan — will go under the hammer at the finale of the Art of India (AOI) 2024 auction.

Along with the works of legends such as FN Souza, Sailoz Mookherjee and other big names from short-lived yet significant art movements of newly-independent India — including Somnath Hore and Jyoti Bhatt — Jangarh's creations form a part of the 35 lots that will go under the hammer from May 28 to May 30. Organised by TOI in association with Pundole's auction house, the three-day auction marks the culmination of this year's successful AOI exhibitions.

"The group of works that are in the auction have a strong focus on non-metropolitan artists, some of whom have not featured at auctions previously," says Dadiba Pundole, the noted gallerist who also founded an auction house. "Given the increasing awareness of artists working outside of formal environments and urban spaces, we are hoping that these artists will also garner interest from both new and existing collectors," adds auctioneer Mallika Sagar who is drawn to

New Delhi: As this year's wheat procurement by govt agencies touched 263.3 lakh tonne on Thursday, surpassing last year's total quantity purchased, the combined stock of wheat and rice with the FCI is

Wheat procurement surpasses last yr's total

now around 600 lakh tonne, reports **Dipak Dash**. This is more than enough to meet the free foodgrain scheme for 80 crore poor under PM Garib Ka-

lyan Ann Yojna and other welfare schemes for the entire year and also for market intervention to check any price increase of the key cereals.

The FCI's wheat purchase data show that two major wheat producing states — Punjab and Haryana — have recorded higher procurement till Thursday compared to the corresponding period last year.

Lalu works for only his own family, nobody else: Shah

'If RJD Returns To Office, Jungle Raj, Abduction Will Come Back'

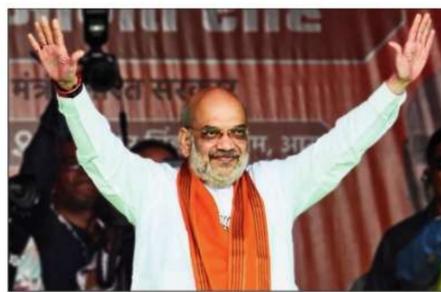
Praveen | TNN

Ara: Union home minister Amit Shah attacked Lalu Prasad on Friday, alleging that the RJD president "neither worked for the welfare of the backward classes nor the people belonging to his caste, 'Yadav'."

"They are under the wrong impression that Lalu works for them," he said at an election rally here. "If Prasad, as part of the arrogant INDIA bloc, comes to office, jungle raj, abduction and gang war will return to Bihar," Shah said, adding that the people didn't want this.

"Lalu ji allowed his two sons to become ministers, sent one daughter to the Rajya Sabha, and another is contesting Lok Sabha polls. He made his wife chief minister of Bihar... He promotes only his sons and daughters. He can't think of the welfare of people belonging to his own caste," Shah said.

"By the end of the fifth phase of the ongoing general election, Modi-ji (NDA) has already got 310 seats. On



Amit Shah during an election rally in Bihar's Bhojpur district on Friday

the other hand, the ghamandiya gathbandhan, led by Congress and RJD, in Bihar will not be able to even open its account. Unka supra saaf ho gaya hai (They have been routed)," he claimed.

"Ara wasiyon, POK hamara hai ki nahin, ise wapas India mein lana chahiye ki nahin... don't vote us only for development, but do elect us for bringing back POK to India. POK hamara tha, hai, aur hamara hi rahega. Hum ise wapas leke rahenge," Shah said amid loud cheers

from the crowd.

Claiming that a victory for CPI (ML) from Ara Lok Sabha seat will mean bringing back Naxalism, the home minister said the NDA govt "has already eradicated the menace of Naxalism from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. In our third term we will root out Naxalism from Chhattisgarh, too". He added: "The elderly in Ara will remember that Ara was also in the grip of Naxalism... But I

am assured that you will not let it happen and make R K Singh win from here by a huge margin."

"Make us cross 400 LS seats and we will abolish the Muslim quota and give reservation back to the OBCs and extremely backward classes. Congress, Lalu-ji and Mamata Banerjee want to give reservation on the basis of religion. But the Calcutta HC has invalidated the list of OBCs prepared by the Mamata Banerjee govt in which she had carved out many categories of Muslims to give them reservation," Shah said.

He said two-time incumbent Ara MP and Union power minister R K Singh "has done much development work for his constituency. He has spent crores under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund for the all-round development of Bhojpur district".

The crowd cheered when Shah mentioned the nullification of Article 370 and the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at Ayodhya.

I am in very good health, BJP spreading rumours: Naveen

Ashok Pradhan
@timesgroup.com

Bhubaneswar: A day before six Odisha Lok Sabha seats, including the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, and 42 assembly seats go to the polls, CM Naveen Patnaik said on Friday he is in perfect shape and accused BJP of spreading rumours about his health.

"There is a limit to the amount of lies BJP can tell. As you can see, I am in very good health and I have been campaigning all over the state for around a month," the 77-year-old CM told reporters a day after BJP wrote to state police chief saying the CM has been "captured" by his associate VK Pandian.

Naveen's assertion comes amid BJP's top BJP leadership raising this issue in election rallies. While PM Narendra Modi said BJP will give the state "a young Odia CM", home minister Amit Shah questioned Naveen's advanced age and health. "Naveen babu is unwell. He doesn't run his govt, a Tamil babu runs it," Shah had said.



The Odisha unit of BJP wrote to the DGP on Thursday, claiming that CM Naveen Patnaik was being held hostage by close aide VK Pandian

However, Naveen's social media team has been releasing videos and pictures of the CM waving at the crowd and campaigning on foot. If Naveen wins the state polls, he is poised to overtake Sikkim's Pawan Kumar Chamling's record of being the country's longest-serving CM. Chamling governed for 24 years, a record that could be broken in August with Naveen's victory.

Pandian slammed BJP for questioning CM Naveen's health, saying the re-

14 hurt in pre-poll Odisha violence

At least 14 people were injured as violence erupted on the eve of elections at several places in Odisha's six high-profile Lok Sabha constituencies and 42 assembly segments.

Supporters of different parties clashed in Khandapada and Athagarh assembly constituencies under Cuttack Lok Sabha seat, and Pipili assembly segment under Puri parliamentary seat. TNN

marks were below the belt. He said BJP should come up with innovative ideas instead of raising "sub-standard" issues.

In his letter to DGP Arun Sarangi, BJP's former state chief Samir Mohanty alleged that Pandian and some non-Odia officers had 'captured' the CM. Samir had earlier raised apprehension about Naveen's health, alleging that he appeared in AI-generated deep-fake videos, a charge vehemently denied by BJD.

Farmers' ire makes BJP's Faridkot pick emotional

Bathinda: Facing the wrath of protesting farmers, Hans Raj Hans, BJP candidate for Faridkot Lok Sabha seat, turned emotional on Friday, saying the way he is being treated by protesters anything can happen to him by June 1, reports **Neel Kamal**.

"If anything wrong happens to me, people must preserve my memory as a person who cared for humanity," Hans said while trying to staunch his tears at Daulatpur Neeva village in Mogad district, in Faridkot LS seat.

Hans was narrating Thursday's incident when he was stopped by protesting farmers in Sangrur district while on his way to Patiala to participate in a rally to be addressed by PM Modi.

The singer-turned-politician said it was a horrifying experience as nearly a 1,000-strong crowd surrounded his vehicle. He said he feared for his life as the protesters behaved badly with him and damaged his vehicle, and that two people were injured.

"When the protesters surrounded me... it was due to the efforts of ADGP Jaskaran Singh, DIG Narendra Bhargava and the Patiala and Sangrur SSPs that I was saved," Hans told TOI.

Bengal OBC Act was in violation of statute, Cal HC had ruled

► Continued from P 1

In its order on Wednesday, Calcutta HC had junked all new OBC categorisations in Bengal after 2010, saying the authorities had "practised protective discrimination in deviation of constitutional norms".

The ruling effectively invalidates all OBC certificates given out by successive TMC govt since the party first came to office in 2011. The order points out that within six months of Bengal announcing 10% reservation for backward Muslims in 2010, the state backward classes commission recommended 42 groups as OBC, of which 41 communities were Muslim.

The judges questioned provisions of the West Bengal Backward Classes Act, 2012, that allowed the state govt to include new categories under the OBC A and B lists through a gazette notification.

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-Tender Notice Online e-Bids are invited for "Supply of 420KV & 145KV Circuit Breaker" against Tender Specification No. ESTD-0208. E-tender uploaded on 22.05.2024 on <https://tender.up.nic.in>. EMD for the tender is Rs. 1.68 Lacs and tender Fee of Rs. 1,77,000 will be deposited through RTGS/NEFT. Last date for submission of tender is 21.06.2024 at 12:00 Hrs and opening of part-1 is 22.06.2024 at 16:00 Hrs. Total quantity, tender specification and other terms and conditions is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Undersigned reserve the right to cancel the e-Bids without assigning any reason. Congenium, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Superintending Engineer, Eleycty, 765/400K SDC, 11th floor, Shakti Bhawan Extn. Lucknow. "Save Electricity for the Interest of the Nation" RC-80/24.05.2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Pooja

General public is hereby informed that a female named **Pooja, W/o Jitender Kumar, R/o F-17, Gali No. 08, Rajdhani Park, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing since 18.05.2024 at 02:00 PM from her home.** In this regard **DD No. 52A, Dated 19.05.2024** has been lodged at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Pooja, **Age:** 22 Years, **Height:** Apprx. 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Mehroon Colour Salwar & Suit and Chappal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Nangloi, Delhi
Ph: 011-25949470, 7065036127

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

AYODHYA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AYODHYA
Civil Lines, 14 Kosi Parkrama 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 vcadda@gmail.com or contact us on (7607778900) for any query. Last date of submission of proposals till 3rd June 2024.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION

Tender Notice No. GEM/2024/B/4950547, Dated: 22.05.2024
Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Thycud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014 for and on behalf of the President of India invite e-tender for the under mentioned work.

For other details, the tenderers are advised to refer the detailed tender on the below mentioned website.

Sl No.	Description	Description
1	Tender Notice Number and date	GEM / 2024 / B / 4950547 Dated: 22.05.2024
2	Name of work: Comprehensive linen management in running trains based at Thiruvananthapuram depot of Thiruvananthapuram division, Southern Railway for a period of 2 years.	
3	Advertised value	₹ 15,91,11,134.68
4	EMD	9,45,556.00
5	Tender Closing date and time	12.06.2024 at 11:00 hrs.
6	Web site particulars	http://www.gem.gov.in

The firms registered in GeM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. For details of bid submission, please refer website portal "<http://www.gem.gov.in>". For details of scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "<http://www.gem.gov.in>".
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "<http://www.gem.gov.in>".

EASTERN RAILWAY

Additional E-Auction Programme of Eastern Railway for the Month of JUNE, 2024

No. S.4/S/DAP/2023-24, dated : 22.05.2024. In reference to the above, additional date has been scheduled for Jamalpur Depot for the month of **June, 2024** as under and the other dates of Jamalpur Depot along with other Depots & Divisions shall remain unaltered. **Additional date of Jamalpur Depot : 05.06.2024**

(STORES-14/2024-25) **Chief Materials Manager/ADMN**
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.eir.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No: 230-Elect/TRD/PRY/J/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-noted 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 Jalapur 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(A/N)
www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in [@northcentralrailway](https://twitter.com/northcentralrailway) [@PRONCR](https://facebook.com/PRONCR)

Government of Maharashtra

Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai

E-mail- maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com

MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI-400 001

TENDER NOTICE

Advt. No. _____ Date :- 24/05/2024

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in two Envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of medicines.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	Bid Opening
1	E-98	Hospital Furniture	Dt. 04-06-2024 At.12.00 P.M.	Dt. 24-05-2024 At. 2.00 PM	Dt. 14-06-2024 at 02.30 hrs.
2	E-99	Influsion Pump, ABG Machine, MTP High Vacuum suction (1/2 HP Motor), foot Suction Machine	Dt. 03-06-2024 At.12.00 P.M.	Dt. 13-06-2024 upto 02.00 PM.	

- For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the Website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
- The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/information, please contact.
Website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Contact No. 022-22621886 / 022-22621973
Email- maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com

Signature/-

Chief Executive Officer,

Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority,

Mumbai

DGIPR/2024-2025/60

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 06/2024 Date : 22.05.2024

President, 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 LC 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.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web Portal www.ireps.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)

www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in [@northcentralrailway](https://twitter.com/northcentralrailway) [@PRONCR](https://facebook.com/PRONCR)

Cong allowed Sikh massacre, protected rioters: PM in Punjab

Yudhvir Rana, IP Singh

Gurdaspur/Jalandhar: PM Narendra Modi on Friday attacked Congress over 1984-anti Sikh riots, alleging that while it allowed "massacre of Sikhs" and its govts at Centre protected the rioters, he ensured the guilty were punished.

Addressing poll rallies in Punjab, he targeted Congress and INDIA bloc, saying "no body knows the real face of this alliance better than Punjab."

He slammed Congress for instigating separatism in the state, "orchestrating genocide of Sikhs, and sheltering rioters", thereby creating an "environment of uncertainty and disturbing communal harmony" in Punjab. In contrast, he claimed to have delivered justice to victims of anti-Sikh riots and taken decisive action against rioters. "This is what hurts Congress and AAP the most, and they continue to abuse Modi," he alleged.

He also alleged that Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann cannot take any decision on his own and had to go to Tihar Jail (in Delhi) to take orders. "Will Punjab govt once again be run from jail when the master returns to jail after June?" he asked.

Referring to former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh without naming him, Modi alleged that the Congress high command in Delhi used to send anti-national directives

Rahul, Akhilesh set for rally in Varanasi

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi will hold a joint public meeting in support of INDIA bloc candidate Ajay Rai in Varanasi on May 28. AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge & RJD's Tejashwi Yadav may also share the stage. Rai is pitted against PM Modi in the high-profile seat. Meanwhile, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Dimple Yadav will hold a joint roadshow in support of Rai in Varanasi on Saturday. TNN

to the elected CM of the state, and when he refused to comply, he was removed.

Hailing the contribution of Sikhs in the struggle for Ram Mandir, Modi spoke of the connection of Maharaja Ranjit Singh with Kashi Vishwanath temple. He said "Ranjit Singh had donated gold to the temple. As an MP from Kashi, I bow to him."

Modi said in Punjab, voting for Congress or AAP was akin to "voting against Punjab". He called AAP a "whole-sale trader of drugs", with drug dealers having a free run. "I can recall its promise to end drugs within two months in Punjab. But today, drug dealers have a free licence here. Families are being destroyed," he said.

(With inputs from Agencies)

'Ensured 10% EWS quota': Modi takes swipe at Cong

Continued from P 1

Declaring only BJP could provide the speed and scale of development that India needed, Modi contrasted his party with "the selfish and opportunistic" INDIA bloc.

"For 60 years, Congress did not even think that there were poor people in the general category who needed reservation. Modi came and ensured 10% reservation for them," he said.

The PM alleged that a conspiracy had been hatched to snatch reservations from SCs, STs and OBCs and distribute these among Muslims, just as Congress had already done in Karnataka.

Referring to Calcutta HC's order this week invalidating OBC certificates based on new classifications in Bengal since 2010, he said another opposition figure — CM Mamata Banerjee — had already refused to honour the ruling.

In Himachal Pradesh, Congress govt didn't even distribute central funds sent during the monsoon disaster last year in a fair manner, he said. Modi, who also addressed a rally in Nahan, said he would inquire into it after the polls.

"I sent hundreds of crores to Himachal but the money was spent selectively. The first thing I will do (on returning to office) is... find out who stole the money, dig it out and then hand it over to the people. Mark my words. This (Congress) govt has no future."

The PM said that the mountaintops of Himachal had taught him to hold his head high with pride. "I cannot tolerate any insult to



PM Narendra Modi being felicitated at a campaign rally held in support of BJP candidate Sushil Rinku in Punjab's Jalandhar on Friday

'Vote for BJP': Modi writes to noted Kashi citizens

Over 2,000 prominent citizens of Varanasi were in a pleasant surprise when they received a personalised letter from PM Narendra Modi seeking support for BJP in Lok Sabha elections and also encouraging them to vote, reports **Binay Singh**. "The biggest festival of Indian democracy is going on. Voting in Kashi Lok Sabha is to be held on June 1. Today, everyone's heartfelt love in Kashi made me a Banarasi. Not only an MP but I consider myself a son of Kashi. All of you are requested that on June 1, every vote should be in favour of BJP. Today, the future of the country is being built with the power of your vote. You have a big contribution in making India powerful," says Modi in the letter. "If we talk about Kashi, you know more than me. The resolutions we had taken for development of Kashi in past ten years are being fulfilled one by one. Whatever I have been able to do with the blessings of Baba Vishwanath, a lot remains to be done. The 2024 election is important in many ways. The resolution of a developed India will be fulfilled only with your vote and support. Let us move together to take our culture, our traditions and our pride to greater heights," it adds.

Mother India. But Congress has a problem with saying 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', and Congress has a problem with saying 'Vande Mataram'. Such a Congress can never do any good to Himachal."

Modi hailed candidate Kangana as someone who "represents the belief that girls can choose newer

fields and become successful". "But Congress's thinking is parochial. You have all seen the way Congress politicians use derogatory language while speaking about Mandi and Kangana. This is an insult to Mandi, to Himachal and to all the women of the state," he said.

HC stays probe against Bengal Raj Bhavan staffers; gov seeks action against 3 officers

Kolkata: The Calcutta HC on Friday ordered an interim stay on police probe against officer on special duty (OSD) and two other Raj Bhavan employees in connection with the molestation allegation levelled against West Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose by a woman.

Meanwhile, Bose said he has urged Centre to act against three IAS/IPS officers for acting in haste and

carrying out an "unlawful investigation" into "cooked up" charges against the three staffers. Bose accused these officers of "ingratiating" towards Trinamool Congress.

Although the FIR does not name the governor, Bose said the officers had stepped beyond their role by starting an illegal case against him and vilifying him in public, which called for severe punishment. TNN

Security tightened in Nandigram: EC has stationed 237 companies of central forces & 210 companies of armed units of state police in East Midnapore after violence in Nandigram, hours before polling. TNN

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India BOI

Head office: Star House, C-5, "G" Block, Bandra - Kuria Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai - 400051

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR BOI RESIGNEES

In terms of 12th Bipartite Settlement/ 9th Joint Note dated 08.03.2024 and after the "No Objection" from the DFS (MoF), employees who were in service of the Banks on or after 1-1-1986 and had joined the Banks before 01-04-2010 and have resigned from the service of the Bank on or before 26-04-2010 and were otherwise eligible to join the pension scheme while in service have been given an option and opportunity to join the Pension scheme within 90 days from issue of guidelines.

For further details, please visit any Branch of Bank of India or contact Terminal Benefits Division, HR Department, Head Office.

(General Manager - HR)

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER
NEW DELHI PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY (NDPC-04)
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, NEW DELHI DISTRICT
12/1, Jam Nagar House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi - 110011.
Email: sdmennd@delhi.nic.in

F.No.RO-NDPC-04/LS-2024/ PUBLIC NOTICE Dated: -

Photo identity document to be produced by electors for establishing their identity at the polling station before casting vote

1. It is informed to all elector that as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, all electors who have been issued Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) have to produce the EPIC for their identification at the polling station before casting their votes. Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC shall produce one of the following alternative photo identity documents for establishing their identity.

i. Passport
ii. Driving License
iii. Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt. PSUs/Public Limited Companies.
iv. Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office
v. PAN Card
vi. Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR
vii. MNREGA Job Card
viii. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
ix. Pension document with photograph
x. Official identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, and
xi. Aadhaar Card

2. Authenticated photo Voter Slips have been distributed to all electors at their residence by the Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Further, on the day of poll, the Booth Level Officer (BLO) or other designated officials will be present at the Voters Assistance Booth located outside each polling station, during polling hours, with undistributed Photo Voter Slips, so that any elector who has not been issued Authenticated Photo Voter Slip, can collect his/her Authenticated Photo Voter Slip in original from the said Voter Assistance Booth.

3. In the case of EPIC, minor discrepancies in the entries therein should be ignored provided the identity of the elector can be established by the EPIC. If an elector produces an Elector Photo Identity Card, which has been issued by the Electoral Registration Officer of another Assembly Constituency, such EPIC shall also be accepted for identification provided the name of that elector finds place in the electoral roll pertaining to the polling station where the elector has turned up for voting. If it is not possible to establish the identity of the elector on account of mismatch of photograph, etc. the elector shall have to produce one of the alternative photo documents mentioned above.

4. Notwithstanding anything above, overseas electors who are registered in the electoral rolls under Section 20 A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, based on the particulars in their Passport, shall be identified on the basis of their original passport only (and no other identity document) in the polling station.

Sd/- (Isha Khosla), IAS
Returning Officer, NDPC-04

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0068/24-25

52 yrs after 'illegal' discharge, IAF war veteran wins pension

Ajay.Sura@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: Almost 52 years after an IAF war veteran was "illegally" discharged after only nine years of service, disintitling him from pension, the Punjab and Haryana HC has held that such an order could not have been passed "to the detriment and disadvantage of a defence personnel".

Pension has to be treated as a personal right of an individual for service rendered to the state, a division bench comprising justices Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Sudeepti Sharma held, while disposing of the petition filed by former sergeant Gopi Ram. He had sought directions to set aside an order by the Chandigarh bench of Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), rejecting his plea for pension on April 17, 2014.

The petitioner was enrolled in IAF as a regular combatant airman in the trade of radar operator, and on completion of training on Dec 10, 1964, joined Operational 43 Signal

Unit. He actively participated in the India-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971 and also received decorations/medals. He completed nine years of service on Dec 26, 1971, and was abruptly discharged on March 28, 1972.

After hearing his plea, HC observed that no reasons had been cited in the order discharging the petitioner, and held that he was entitled to "benefit of completing 15 years of service for the purpose of pension alone". The court found the AFT order "laconic", and said: "His discharge order having been quashed, he would be entitled to full pension on completion of his full service on attaining the age of 58 years."

It did not appear reasonable to deprive the petitioner, who had been promoted to the rank of sergeant, of the benefit of 15 years of pensionable service, the bench observed, and directed the defence accounts department under ministry of defence (MoD) to release the benefits within four weeks.

Mumbai-San Francisco AI flight delayed by 20 hours, rescheduled

Mumbai: Passengers of an Air India flight from Mumbai to San Francisco had to sit inside the passenger cabin for about six hours with poor conditioning as the Friday afternoon flight was inordinately delayed. Flight AI-179 was scheduled to depart at 2.25pm, but was rescheduled to 4pm. Passengers, including senior citizens, had boarded by 3.30pm, said sources.

Air India, in a statement, said that the flight was delayed due to engine problems. Later, some passengers did not want to fly and so their check-in bags had to be removed, then the plane began taxiing at 7.17pm, but had to return to the bay as a passenger felt unwell.

By the time the passenger and the check-in bags were removed, the pilots' duty time restriction kicked in. The airline said it has accommodated passengers in a hotel and the flight will now leave at 10.30am on Saturday. Air India said passengers have been offered hotel accommodation and complimentary rescheduling. TNN

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HERITAGE

A-19, Institutional Area, Sector 62, Noida - 201 309

ADMISSION NOTICE

Indian Institute of Heritage invites application for admission to two different short-term courses of five months duration namely: **Art Appreciation (English medium) & Bhartiya 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

CBC 09103/12/0003/2425 REGISTRAR

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, JLN Marg (Old Minto Road) Near Zakir Hussain College, New Delhi-110002

Vacancy Circular No. 1-01/2024-A&P

Sub: Filling up of the post of **Advisor (Financial & Economic Analysis) in TRAI Headquarters, New Delhi on deputation on foreign service terms: Extension of last date for receipt of applications - Reg.**

Reference is invited to TRAI, New Delhi vacancy circular of even No. dated 28th March, 2024 vide which applications were invited for filling up the following post in its Headquarters, New Delhi on deputation on foreign service terms:-

Name of post	Pay Band & Grade Pay
Advisor (Financial & Economic Analysis)	Pay Level-14 (₹ 144200-218200) in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB-4, ₹ 37400-67000+GP ₹ 10000]

2. The last date to submit online application has now been extended upto **06th June, 2024**.

3. Further details and application form can be obtained from the TRAI website www.trai.gov.in. CBC 06202/12/0005/2425

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की नयी युपहाउसिंग योजना YEA-GH-07/2024 लोक सभा आम चुनाव 2024 के अन्तर्गत आचार संहिता लागू होने के कारण उक्त युपहाउसिंग योजना YEA-GH-07/2024 योजना को ई-एम्-डी-ओ हेतु दिनांक 06.06.2024 एवं Final Bid Submission हेतु दिनांक 07.06.2024 तक बढ़ा दी गई है।

उक्त योजना में आवेदन/औपचारिकताएँ पूर्ण करने एवं प्रतिभाग करने की तिथि निम्नवत् है :-

End date of Submission for Registration and Timing for Submission of Brochure Fees, Processing Fees & EMD	: 06.06.2024 at 5:00 PM
Date of Final Bid Submission	: 07.06.2024 up to 5:00 PM
Date for Display of Name of Qualified Bidders	: 21.06.2024 at 5:00 PM
Date for E-Auction	: 25.06.2024 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

E-Auction से पूर्व पात्र/आवेदकों की सूची प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट पर दिनांक 21.06.2024 को प्रकाशित की जायेगी। केवल अर्ह आवेदक ही दिनांक 25.06.2024 को E-Auction में प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं।

स्पष्ट करना है कि प्राधिकरण की 79वीं बोर्ड बैठक दिनांक 29.01.2024 की मद संख्या 79/11 में पारित निर्णय के क्रम में उक्त योजना के ब्रोशर के बिन्दु संख्या 1.4 के क्लज 1.4.16 के अन्तर्गत यदि किसी भूखण्ड पर एकल आवेदन प्राप्त होता है तो 7-7 दिनों की 2 अवधियों हेतु समय सीमा बढ़ाते हुए उन भूखण्डों हेतु रोल ओवर प्रदान किया जायेगा। तदपश्चात भी अतिरिक्त आवेदन प्राप्त न होने की दशा में एकल अर्ह आवेदक को आवंटन कर दिया जायेगा।

विशेष कार्याधिकारी
यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

GACL-NALCO Alkalies & Chemicals Private Limited
Reg. Office: GACL Corporate Building, P.O. Ranoli - 391350, Dist. Vadodra, Gujarat. CIN: U24100GJ2015PTCO85247

Tender Notice - Coal Procurement
Supply of Non-cooking Steam (Thermal) Imported Coal 4800/4600/4200 GAR for Dahej Plant, Gujarat.

Qualification criteria and other details are available on our website <http://www.gnal.co.in>

Date of Publishing of Details on the Website	24 th May, 2024
Last Date for Issue of Tender Document	31 st May, 2024 up to 17.00 hrs.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male

Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: thin, Face: Long, Wearing: pink color shirt and black color lower and brown color sandal in feet, who was found at PF No. 12, New Delhi RLY Station, Delhi. In this regard a case FIR/DD No. 12A dt. 19.05.2024 has been registered at **PS: New Delhi RLY Station, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S: New Delhi Rly Station, Delhi
DP/6189/RLY/2024 Ph. 8750871305

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) namely **Jyoti W/o Shiv Dutt Sing R/O H No-13/398 Kalyanpuri** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of 13/488 Kalyanpuri, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 99A, Dated 21.05.2024 has been registered at **PS-Kalyanpuri, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing woman who is mentally not fit but no clue has come to light so far.

Her Physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, Age: 36 Years, Height: 4' 10" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Green suit, black plazzo, grey slippers on feet and mentally not fit.

If anyone having any information about this person please inform undersigned

SHO
PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi
DP/6106/ED/2024 Ph. No: 011-22772287, +918750871880

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Baljeet @ Lucky S/o Lt. Surendar R/o B-94, DDA Flats, Jahangir Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 69/2024 u/s 393/394/34 IPC dated 09.05.2024 at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Baljeet @ Lucky** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Baljeet @ Lucky** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Baljeet @ Lucky** accused of FIR No. 69/2024 u/s 393/394/34 IPC dated 29.01.2024 at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **24.06.2024**.

By Order: **Niharika Kumar Sharma**
A.C.M.M. (North)
Room No. 117,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/6163/NW/2024

SB
Premises Department, 9th floor, Corporate Centre, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021

EMANELMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL / CONSULTANCY FIRMS
State Bank of India (SBI) invites applications for empanelment of Architectural/Consultancy firms for its various Civil/ Interior/ Retrofitting/Electrical/HVAC/Audio-Visual projects.

For eligibility criteria and other details, please log on to Bank's website <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news>. Last date for submission of application along with supporting documents is **29th June 2024**. Applications received after due date will not be entertained. Corrigendum/addendum if any in the matter will be published only on Bank's above website.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 25.05.2024
Dy. General Manger (Premises)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(Section 82 Cr. Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Sushil S/o Sh. Chatar Singh R/O Kheda Pilya, District Ghaziabad** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 198/2008, u/s 279/304-A IPC at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Sushil**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sushil**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sushil** accused of **FIR No. 198/2008, u/s 279/304-A IPC at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.06.2024**.

By order
Sh. Aridaman Singh Chima
Metropolitan Magistrate 03,
Room No. 19
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/6149/NE/2024

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/Track-III/C/5 New Delhi, dated: 24.05.2024

CORRIGENDUM-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
Tel: No. 011-47845531
E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in
1562/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rahul S/o Sattail, R/o: Jhuggi No. 7, 38-Block, Shakti Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 00251/17, Dated: 15/05/17, U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S. I P Estate, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rahul** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rahul** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul** accused of **FIR No. 00251/17, Dated: 15/05/17, U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S. I P Estate, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **04.07.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate-03 (Central),
Room No. 150, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/6094/CD/2024

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/02/2024-25
Dated: 22-05-2024

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works approved Under JJM Head of Grants for the year 2022-23 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted on or before **01-06-2024 upto 4.00 PM**. For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: <https://kpppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/106/Adverto/2024-25



I HAVE A RECURRING NIGHTMARE. ALL MY MANSIONS, MY FLEET OF CARS, ALL MY CREATIVELY ACQUIRED WEALTH, SUDDENLY VANISH INTO THIN AIR.



RELAX! SO LONG AS YOU KEEP THE SCHOOLS UNDERFUNDED AND ELECTORATE UNINFORMED YOUR EMPIRE IS SAFE

BATTLEGROUND INDIA | APRIL 19-JUNE 4, 2024

Capital gains crucial to future of Cong-AAP alliance

Atul Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The outcome of elections to seven Lok Sabha seats in the capital is likely to have far-reaching political implications this time. The results of the direct fight between BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party-Congress combine will decide the future of the two alliance partners in Delhi politics, especially with the assembly elections just eight months away. Until 2013, when AAP contested its first assembly polls, the electoral fight in Delhi had been a direct contest between Congress and BJP.

Though BSP did manage to win a few wards in the 2007 municipal elections and a couple of seats in the 2008 assembly polls, it could never build on it to pose a serious threat to the two established players. AAP's entry to electoral fray changed the equation and, in the 2013 Delhi assembly polls, the city witnessed a three-cornered fight for supremacy for the first time. The subsequent polls to Lok Sabha, Delhi assembly, and Municipal Corporation of Delhi saw AAP, BJP, and Congress vying for votes.

The ongoing general elections, however, have seen a change in dynamics with opposition parties cobbling up the INDIA bloc against BJP-led NDA. Both AAP and Congress are constituents of INDIA bloc and are jointly contesting the elections in Delhi. This has turned the electoral contest into a direct fight between BJP and the alliance. While

AAP has fielded its candidates in four seats — New Delhi, East Delhi, South Delhi, and West Delhi — Congress is contesting Chandni Chowk, North East Delhi, and North West Delhi.

"There is a simple arithmetic behind the alliance. It is important to prevent the split of the anti-BJP votes. Those who didn't want to vote for the BJP earlier ended up voting for us or the Congress. It helped BJP candidates secure an easy victory," said a senior AAP functionary, adding that the 2019 elections were different.

AAP national convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal also said the workers of the two parties at both senior level and on the ground have synchronised well and the joint campaign with the functionaries asking for votes for each other has worked well.

"The message has gone down clearly to everyone that this election is not about voting for the party. This is about saving the country and the Constitution," he told TOI.

The 2019 Lok Sabha polls saw BJP walk away with more than 56.7% of the total votes polled in the national capital. Congress got 22.6% while AAP could muster only 18.2%.

The scenario was slightly different in 2014. Back then, when BJP fought its first election with Narendra Modi as PM face, it got 46.4%. While AAP polled 33.1%, Congress had to settle for 15.2%. A



Rahul Gandhi campaigning for Congress candidate Kanhaiya Kumar in North East Delhi constituency

senior Congress functionary said the last Lok Sabha polls saw many fence-sitters voting for BJP "to give the party yet another chance" to deliver on its promises. He claimed there was no apparent wave

in favour of BJP and the govt was also facing anti-incumbency, which could tilt the balance towards the alliance. If the ongoing trend of less voting continued in Delhi too, the alliance had a better chance, he asserted.

"A shift of 8-10% of votes of fence-sitters from the BJP in favour of the AAP-Congress alliance is what we are looking at. If BJP gets restricted to its traditional vote share, the purpose of forming the alliance and giving the saffron fold a direct fight will fructify," said the Congress party.

This is not the first time the two parties have joined hands against BJP. With its eight MLAs in the assembly, Congress had helped AAP form its maiden govt in the capital in 2013. A keenly contested election saw BJP bettering the 2008 result and winning 32 seats with a 33.1% vote share, with debutant AAP polling 29.5% of the votes and winning 28 seats. The Congress tally plummeted to eight from 43, and its vote share from 40.3% to 24.6%. The AAP govt, however, survived for just 49 days with CM Kejriwal resigning over his failure to table the Jan Lokpal bill in the assembly.

Congress and AAP toyed with the idea of having an alliance again in the 2019 LS polls, but informal parleys never reached the discussion table. The functionaries of the state unit of both parties were opposed to the idea, citing their opposition to each other in the assembly, civic polls and having a com-

mon voter base.

The alliance ahead of the 2024 polls was also finalised despite stiff resistance from their local functionaries who were not willing to cede their political space to the other. The decision to contest in partnership with AAP also saw a major upheaval in Congress, with a few functionaries calling it an "unholy alliance" and leaving the party.

While there have been several corruption allegations against AAP and its ministers now, some Delhi Congress functionaries argued that with the alliance, the party has virtually given them a clean chit. "We are siding with AAP now. How will we challenge their governance and policies and question the corruption cases against them only a few months later in the assembly polls?" asked a Delhi Congress functionary.

"We are asking for votes and support for a party, which is responsible for elbowing us out of Delhi politics. We'll never be able to get our political space back," he added.

The internal dynamics of Congress and AAP has made BJP hopeful. A BJP functionary said making AAP workers campaign for Congress candidates and vice versa was a difficult proposition. "Even people understand the alliance has no ideological backing. The hopefuls for tickets in assembly polls in both parties are not keen on supporting the other," he said.

Party flag changes, Adhikaris' bid to retain family borough doesn't

Having Vacated Their Fief Of Tamluk For Another BJP Nominee, Contai Is Adhikari Family's Best, And Only, Bet Against Trinamool

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Suman Mandal | TNN



2024 Contestants	2019 Results (votes)
Uttam Barik TMC	Sisir Adhikari TMC Winner 7.1L
Soumendu Adhikari BJP	Debashish Samanta BJP 6.0L
Urbashi Bhattacharya Congress	Paritosh Pattanayak CPM 76,185
	Dipak Kumar Das Cong 16,851

a huge burden of expectations and is leaving nothing to chance.

At Chaukhali, in the Chandipur assembly segment of the Contai LS seat that Trinamool won in 2021, Soumendu recently held a bike rally. About 150 bikes carrying 400 party workers zig-zagged down the lanes here, seeking votes for Soumendu. "I am no astrologer, but I am telling you we will lead in all the seven assembly segments. I suffered a lot when this (state) govt named me in fake criminal cases. It's time they answered for it," Soumendu said.

A little later, at Batman village, Soumendu claims he has the people's blessings. His aides claim Sisir fought against the formidable Left Front for decades and scripted its decline.

Whichever way the political winds seem to be blowing in Contai, on paper

at least, Soumendu stands on strong ground. BJP won four of the seven assembly seats here in the 2021 polls — Contai North, Contai South, Khejuri and Bhagabanpur. Trinamool had to stay content with Patashpur, Ramnagar and Chandipur.

Patashpur MLA Uttam Barik is Trinamool's pick for Contai. The party's performance in the 2023 panchayat elections has punctured BJP's "invincibility" in the rural belts dotting Contai. Along with a resurgent Trinamool, the Adhikaris are battling another adversary: the state govt's social schemes have gained traction and the CAA-NRC issue has found takers in East Midnapore, where Muslims form nearly 15% of the population.

Every day, once he steps out of his makeshift office in Contai, what awaits

Barik is hectic campaigning in hamlets bordering the coastal town of Digha — Talgachari, Danda Belboni, Juki and Kabra. He offers puja at every shrine on the way and connects with the voters.

The local area MLA and senior East Midnapore Trinamool leader Akhil Giri has been missing from these meetings. There are rumblings of factionalism with Giri perceived as being opposed to Barik. But factionalism is the least of concerns for Trinamool workers at present. Ensuring Soumendu Adhikari's defeat is their sole mission.

Back in Ramnagar, Barik gets "dismissive" when asked about Soumendu. "My fight is against BJP. I will not utter the name of a man who has no ideals, the one who used Trinamool for his family's gains and then dumped it for his own goals. I have the calculations ready, and we are winning," he insisted.

The region throws up sharply divided loyalties. Ardent Trinamool voters like Lakhman Gorui of Alampur in Ramnagar are furious. "They keep calling Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee chor (thief). What proof do they have?" he asked. TMC workers claimed Mamata has also said that both father and son (Sisir and Suwendu) had colluded with the CPM, leading to loss of lives at Nandigram on March 14, 2007.

But BJP supporters disagree. "He (Sisir) went all the way to Delhi to attend Abhishek's marriage. Today, they are yet again trying to discredit the role of the Adhikari family in the Nandigram movement against land acquisition. But everyone here knows he and Suwendu mobilised resources and people for it. He (Sisir) even suffered a cracked hip in the violence that followed and it has yet not healed," a BJP organiser, who was earlier with Trinamool, said.

A strongman adds 'tadka' to Jaunpur's spicy poll soup

Rajeev Dikshit@timesgroup.com

Jaunpur: The present political churning in Jaunpur belies its sleepy demeanour. The town famous for its 'imartis' (dessert) has given a taste of success to all major parties, and this is the reason why stakes are high in this election too.

Amid the battle of turcoots fielded by BJP and SP, local strongman Dhananjay Singh has added 'tadka' to the contest with his swift and swinging loyalties within days.

The dramatic ripples in Jaunpur's political bowl started on March 3 when BJP named the candidature of former Maharashtra minister and ex-Congressman Kripashankar Singh. Next day, Dhananjay, who was elected MP on a BSP ticket from the seat in 2009, expressed his wish to enter the fray. But the plan got nixed when a court convicted him on March 6 in an extortion-kidnapping case and handed him a seven-year jail term.

Dhananjay headed to the jail but managed to secure a BSP ticket for his wife and zila panchayat chairperson Srikala Reddy from the seat. His confinement too was brief as the 'bahubali' नेता walked out of jail on May 1 after getting bail from Allahabad HC. Thereafter, in a sudden turn of events, Srikala took back her candidature and BSP fielded its MP Shyam Singh Yadav on the last day of filing of nomination. Dhananjay, thereafter, extended support to BJP on May 14 and Srikala's picture of courtesy call to Union home minister Amit Shah went viral on social media.

Kripashankar, who joined BJP in 2021 after quitting Congress, hails from a Rajput family of Jaunpur and is playing the 'homecoming' card.

For local voters, the changing equations are a bit confusing. Arun Tripathi, a real estate businessman, says, "The past two months were diffi-

cult for BJP supporters who also have good relations with Dhananjay. His sympathisers were angry after he was arrested though they have cooled now after he allied with BJP." Local BJP functionaries like Surendra Pratap Singh and Vidyasagar Sonkar say BJP has found a cushion with Dhananjay's decision.

SP is banking on caste calculations and support from Muslims. SP has fielded BSP turncoat Babu Singh Kushwaha, once a close lieutenant of BSP supremo Mayawati before he fell out of favour after getting mired in the National Rural Health Mission scam. It's a quest for resurrection for Kushwaha, who has been in the political wilderness since the scam. His entry upon local SP cadre as he reached the town with his chosen poll managers, SP brass had to intervene and pacify the party ranks to set the ball rolling. The party has intensified campaigning among traditional voters of Mauryas and Kushwahas.

Sources say sitting BSP MP Shyam Singh Yadav, whom the party had denied ticket initially, opened talks with SP and was even promised a ticket from Jaunpur but Kushwaha made the final cut. Yadav's ties with BSP brass were not cordial and he also took part in Rahul Gandhi's Nyay Yatra. Jaunpur-based lawyer Brijbhushan Singh says, "With all twists and turns, Jaunpur will not be a cakewalk for any contender because of caste and communal equations."

The town's 19.58 lakh voters expect a close contest as each Brahmin, Rajput, OBC, Muslim and Dalit votes have almost equal share of around 15%. It has sent 11 Rajputs, four Yadavs and two Brahmins to Parliament so far. "Dalit voters play a key role. In 2014, they ensured a smooth win for BJP but drifted towards BSP in 2019," says Jamil, another local resident.



Kripashankar (right) campaigning in Jaunpur

Ground beneath their feet is red-hot, but Jharia residents just can't leave

Jaideep Deogharia & Anil Asutosh | TNN

Jharia (Dhanbad): The earth beneath your feet is hot as pan, ready to crumble like cookies any moment. You can sense the vibrations of raging flames underneath and watch fumes emanating through cracks and fissures on ground here and there. The air is loaded with a pungent odour of burning sulphur ammonia and bitumen and a waft of colourless, odourless gas braces your face at intervals, pushing you to the brink of losing consciousness.

Welcome to Jharia — the city of black diamond for some and the 'hell on earth' for others. Boasting the richest reserves of high-quality bitumen used in the production of coke to fuel steel industry, the region is also known for the century-old underground coal fire that has resulted in extreme damage to life and property since 1916.

Elections come and go, govt change but little has changed for the residents, most of whom have accepted the impending catastrophe as their fate. "They ask us to relocate to the Belgaria colony, but we have to eat to survive. What are we supposed to do there to earn a living," asks Santoshi Devi (name changed on request), a woman from among the four families who have refused to vacate their mud shanties in Basti No.7 of Bastakola colliery. She has witnessed her neighbour, Mandali, a shopkeeper, falling into a crevice on the ground a few months ago and burning his feet completely.

People in the locality blame these families and hundreds of those living a few hundred metres far from the fire spot for "risking their lives out of their greed for stealing coal". "You can see heaps of coal being fired in and

around to make coke-coal. They will sell it to the market and earn a living. If they are relocated to Belgaria, the resettlement colony made by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL), they will lose their livelihood," said a young man from one of those families who have refused to relocate.

Rupesh Kumar, 11, who has stopped going to school now, also engages in picking coal. For the poor in colliery, earning through coal picking depends



An open-cast mine spewing smoke in Jharkhand's Jharia

on number of hands engaged.

Jharia Coalfield Bachao Samity president Rajiv Sharma, however, refuses to accept the theory that BCCL has given ample facilities to relocate the people. The Samity wrote a letter to the principal secretary at the Prime Minister's office last month with a list of suggestions on what must be done for the Jharia residents so that they can relocate. Activists believe underground fire is a 'trump card' in the hands of BCCL and govt to displace the people without compensating them adequately.

"In the name of underground fire and lurking danger to lives, people

are being asked to vacate their land and go to the 'cage-like-houses' in Belgaria on which thousands of crores of rupees have been spent by the Jharia Rehabilitation Development Authority without applying mind," Sharma said.

He added that the land losers must be compensated under Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Sharma's demand is corroborated by the fire-affected people in other regions of Jharia as well. Coal transport machine driver Anil Kumar Thakur believes the alternate arrangement provided to them is not sufficient. "I have no complaints with the company I work for but what about the govt. They have left us at the mercy of coal companies. Shouldn't they intervene and set a standard of compensation," he asked.

Thakur has decided to exercise his franchise on Saturday and ensure there is some change.

"We can't say our elected representatives do not come here. Even the Union minister (Prahlad Joshi) had visited. Rahul Gandhi came here to talk to the coal miners but these visits have not solved our problems," he said.

BCCL public relations officer Samiran Dutta said the tenure of the old policy is about to end, and a new draft policy with better provisions is being considered.

"The matter has reached the Cabinet after a presentation before the PM. Once it gets approval, we can expect a rehabilitation and resettlement plan that suits the interest of those affected by fire," he said.

With inputs from Divy Khare

How BJP's 'Saini gambit' to corner non-Jat votes is playing out in Hry

Mudita Girotra@timesgroup.com

Will BJP's strategy of building a broad non-Jat coalition in Haryana work in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, in the absence of a wave and in the face of visible discontent among farmers? Analysts say the approach is likely to pay dividends, but it also runs the risk of a further consolidation of Jat votes behind Opposition ranks.

The strategy isn't new. BJP, which has been in power in Haryana since 2014, had made Manohar Lal Khattar, a Punjabi, the chief minister. Earlier this year, the party replaced Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini, an OBC. Both moves were seen as attempts to consolidate sections of the non-Jat votes. Over the past decade, the party has been steadily mopping up non-Jat votes to win both in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls.

"The approach seems to be working for BJP in these elections as well. The state is already polarised on the lines of Jat and non-Jat politics. BJP has now found another base by appealing the Sainis and others in the OBC group," says Satish Tyagi, a political expert, author and senior journalist from Rohtak.

However, this time, there are new challenges. For instance, there's no overarching narrative cutting across constituencies. "BJP seems to be losing ground in constituencies with the highest population of Jats, such as Rohtak, Sonapat, Hisar, Bhiwani Mahendargarh and Kurukshetra.

CMS | First CM Bhagwat Dayal Sharma was a Brahmin and his successor Rao Birender Singh was a Yadav. They were followed by a succession of Jats, except Banarsi Das Gupta, a Bania, from 1975 to 1977 and briefly in 1990. Bhajan Lal (1979-86) & (1991-96) was a Jat from the Bishnoi sect



Nayab Singh Saini (left) with former CM Manohar Lal Khattar



A Punjabi (Manohar Lal Khattar) became CM for the first time, after BJP came to power in 2014. In the run-up to 2024 polls, BJP made Nayab Singh Saini the chief minister with an eye on consolidating the non-Jat vote

That's because Jats, who are feeling sidelined under the BJP regime, are uniting against the party," says Tyagi.

Also, a long-standing but little talked about divide between Jats and Punjabis appears to be playing a role in the elections. Punjabis (10-12% of the state's population) have been gravitating to the BJP, particularly because the community felt sidelined in the race for govt jobs in previous regimes. "Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda's promise of reservation for Jats had further widened the rift, making caste lines more rigid," according to political commentator Hemant Atri. A Jat reservation bill was passed

in 2016 after a months-long agitation, from which BJP benefited in the 2019 Lok Sabha and subsequent assembly polls.

The appointment of Khattar as CM brought cheer to the Punjabi community but it did little to bridge the growing caste divide.

The move to make Saini the CM is seen as an attempt to garner support of the state's OBC population, which constitutes around 20-22% of the electorate. The Saini community, although only about 2.5% of the state's population, is seen as a gateway to the larger OBC demographic. Even so, Nayab Singh's elevation was not universally welcomed and some OBC groups, like the Yadavs, raised questions about

their representation.

"It's good to see the OBCs rising," said Ashu Yadav, a medical store employee in Rohtak. "But our caste should also be accommodated."

Congress though does not see Saini's appointment as having much of an impact. "Nothing has changed after he was elected CM. People are confused as to who their CM is. Some people still think it's Khattar," said Selja Kumari, the Congress LS candidate from Sirsa.

Jats and Punjabis have emerged as two distinct blocs this time with their support lying with Congress and BJP, respectively, although there's also the urban-rural divide to contend with. While a majority of Punjabi voters — settled mostly in urban areas — support BJP, some sections continue to back Congress. However, most Jats consider Congress, INLD, and JJP their preferred parties. In rural areas, there appears to be barely any support for BJP this time, thanks to the farmer protests.

"The Jat-Punjabi issue is not being openly discussed by parties but people openly talk about it," says Rohtak-based journalist Vi-render Phogat.

Many Punjabis seem to rejoice in the fact that they aren't governed by Jats anymore. "The previous govt gave all benefits and jobs to Jats. There was an unsaid rule that nearly nine out of 10 govt jobs would go to Jats. It's good that that's changing," says Piyush Kataria, a shopkeeper in Rohtak district.



CASSIE VENTURA BREAKS HER SILENCE ON A 2016 VIDEO THAT SHOWED HER BEING ASSAULTED BY EX-BF 'DIDDY'

SEAN KINGSTON AND HIS MOTHER WERE ARRESTED ON FRAUD & THEFT CHARGES AFTER A SWAT RAID ON THE RAPPER'S HOME



Top court of UN orders Israel to end Rafah op immediately

Israel: Will Go On Fighting For Ourselves

The United Nations' top court ordered Israel to immediately halt its military operations in the Rafah region of the Gaza Strip, partially granting a request by South Africa in a case over genocide allegations.

Israel must open the Rafah border crossing for humanitarian assistance and submit a report on the measures it is taking to do that within one month, the International Court of Justice ruled by a vote of 13-2 on Friday. The ICJ's judgments are binding, with no right of appeal, but it has no mechanism to enforce any order. South Africa had asked the court to deliver an urgent order to protect Palestinians in Gaza from "irreparable violations" of their rights in hearings last week. Israel denied in those hearings that it is committing genocide in Gaza and said South Africa's request had "blatant distortions."

"Those who demand that Israel stop the war, demand that Israel decrease itself to cease from existence. We will not agree to that," Israel's finance minister Bezalel Smotrich in a post on X, reacting to



Heavy machinery is being used to dispose of rotten eggs, part of aid packages for Gaza stuck on the Egypt side of the border with Rafah on Friday. Egypt and the US agreed to temporarily send humanitarian aid to the UN in Gaza via Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing until legal mechanisms are established to reopen the Rafah border

Labour politician wants to recognise Palestine

London: UK opposition leader Keir Starmer said on Friday he wanted to recognise a Palestinian state if he won power in the July 4 election, but said that such a move would need to come at the right time in a peace process. The Labour Party has been engulfed by an internal battle over its policy to the war in Gaza since the Oct 7 attack by Hamas that led to Israel's invasion. Starmer has faced criticism for some traditional Labour voters for only gradually shifting the party's position towards supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. **REUTERS**

Friday's verdict. "We continue to fight for ourselves and for the entire free world."

"This order is groundbreaking as it is the first time that explicit mention is made for Israel to halt its military action in any area of Gaza, this time specifically in Rafah," South African department of international relations & cooperation Zane Dangor said in a statement. "This is de facto calling for a ceasefire."

The Palestinian militant group Hamas hailed the UN court's ruling but criticised its decision to exclude the rest of war-torn Gaza from the order.

A senior EU official said Friday that talks on deploying a European Union mission at the Rafah border crossing in Gaza are at a preliminary stage and the deployment will not happen without an end to the war between Israel and Hamas. **BLOOMBERG, AFP**

Army recovers remains of 3 Gaza hostages

The Israeli military said 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 Yablanka, 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. "Based on verified intelligence in our possession, the hostages were murdered during the October 7 massacre", it said.

Yablanka, 42, and Hernandez Radoux, 32, were abducted from a music festival when Palestinian militants stormed southern Israel from Gaza on Oct 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. **AFP**

Canada to remove restrictive citizenship by descent norms, diaspora to benefit

Lubna.Kably@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Canada's immigration minister, Marc Miller, on Thursday night introduced a legislation that will extend citizenship by descent beyond the first-generation. This news has been welcomed by several immigrants including the Indian diaspora.

The Citizenship Act was amended in 2009 to add a 'first-generation limit' to citizenship by descent. This meant that a Canadian citizen parent could pass on citizenship to a child born outside Canada only if the parent was either born in Canada or naturalized before the child's birth.

However, because of the first-generation limit, Canadian citizens who were born outside Canada could not in turn pass on citizenship to



HUMAN CAPITAL

their child, if the child was also born outside Canada. Nor could they apply for a direct grant of citizenship for a child adopted from outside Canada.

The proposed amendment comes in the wake of a court ruling, last year, which held the first-generation limit to be unconstitutional. **TOI**, in its edition of Jan 23, had reported that the Canadian government would not appeal against this order.

Pavan Dhillon, immigra-

tion attorney illustrates the first-generation limit. Mrs. A was born in India and was its former citizen. Subsequently after migrating, she acquired Canadian citizenship. On her return to India, she bore a child - 'B'. Now, 'B' was eligible to be a Canadian citizen through descent. Subsequently, 'B' (a Canadian citizen) could not under the first-generation limit rule pass on citizenship to her child (let us name him C) if C was also born outside Canada.

According to the proposed amendment children born abroad to Canadians since 2009, would automatically be granted citizenship. A new substantial connection test would be created for those born outside Canada, after the new law comes into effect.

Those Indians who post enactment of the proposed legislation are eligible to become Canadian citizens and want to opt for it, will have to give up their Indian citizenship, as dual citizenship is not permitted. The proposed provisions require that "parents born abroad who have or adopt children also born outside Canada will need to have spent at least 1,095 cumulative days of physical presence in Canada prior to the birth or adoption of their child to pass on citizenship".

Ken Nickel-Lane, immigration expert states, "This announcement could be very significant to a large group of individuals worldwide, notably Indian Nationals given that they are our largest source of new Canadians."

IMF team leaves Pak sans bailout agreement

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: An International Monetary Fund team returned on Friday to Washington without signing a staff-level agreement with Pakistan for a new bailout programme, saying it will consider signing it after assessing Islamabad's implementation of stringent conditions it has laid down.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and his team had assured the IMF mission they would implement all its conditions and expected to ink a staff-level agreement during this visit by the IMF team. The IMF mission stated it would decide on whether or not to give Pakistan a bailout after approval of the country's budget by parliament.



Implementing all IMF conditions will put an extraordinary burden on the people, experts say

Media reports suggest the IMF visit's purpose was to gauge Pakistan's budget preparations and see whether its next fiscal year economic framework was in line with the overall objectives of ensuring fiscal and external sector sustainability.

Official sources said the global lender gave Pakistani authorities a very hard time

on energy, monetary and taxation policies. "Based on the preliminary findings of this mission, staff will prepare a report that, subject to management approval, will be presented to IMF's executive board for discussion and decision," said Nathan Porter, the IMF mission's chief, ahead of leaving Islamabad.

Porter said Pakistan would have to continue progress towards low and stable inflation by appropriate monetary and exchange rate policies; improve public service provision through state-owned enterprise (SOE) restructuring and privatisation; and promote private sector development by securing a level-playing field for investment and stronger governance.

China's latest AI chatbot is trained on Xi's ideology

Hong Kong: China's latest artificial intelligence chatbot is trained on President Xi Jinping's doctrine, in a stark reminder of the ideological parameters that Chinese AI models should abide by.

China's cyberspace academy earlier this week announced the chatbot trained on Xi Jinping Thought, a doctrine which promotes "socialism with Chinese characteristics." The bot was trained on seven databases, six of which were mostly related to information technologies provided by China's internet watchdog, the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Xi Jinping Thought was the seventh database that the chatbot was trained on, according to a WeChat messaging service post by CAC's magazine about the AI model. The Xi-trained large language model (LLM) is the latest effort by authorities to spread the Chinese leader's ideology and ideas. Students have had to take classes on Xi Jinping Thought in schools, and an app called Study Xi Strong Nation was also rolled out in 2019 to allow users to learn and take quizzes about his ideologies.

Xi Jinping Thought—also known as "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era"—is made up of 14 principles, including ensuring the absolute power of the Communist Party. **AP**

Over 100 feared dead in landslide in Papua Guinea

Melbourne: More than 100 people are believed to have been killed 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. Residents from surrounding areas said boulders and trees from a collapsed mountainside buried parts of the community and left it isolated.

Residents said that estimates of the death toll were above 100, although authorities haven't confirmed that figure. Some villagers and local media reports said the number of people killed might be much higher, though they did not cite sources. **AP**

Putin 'seeks ceasefire' on current frontlines

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.

Asked about the report at a news conference in Belarus on Friday, Putin said peace talks should restart. "Let them resume," he said, adding that negotiations should be based on "the realities on the ground" and on a plan agreed during a previous attempt to reach a deal in the first weeks of the war. "Not on the basis of what one side wants," he said.

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said on X that the Russian leader was trying to derail a Ukrainian-initiated peace summit in Switzerland next month by using his entourage to send out "phony signals" about his alleged readiness to halt the war. **REUTERS**



Blinken to visit Moldova next week

US secretary of state Antony Blinken will visit Moldova next week, the state department announced Friday, in a new Western gesture of support to the former Soviet republic as tensions rise with Russia. The diplomat will hold talks in Moldova on Wednesday on his way to a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Prague, which will pave the way for the alliance's 75th anniversary in Washington in July.

Blinken last visited Moldova in 2022, weeks after Russia's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine. The invasion raised fears on the next moves by Moscow, which stations some 1,500 troops in Moldova's pro-Russia breakaway region Transnistria. While Moldova has stayed out of direct conflict, Russia has been angered by its embrace of a Western path. **AFP**

T'gana techie found dead in sea off Sydney

Hyderabad: Five days after a 30-year-old IT professional from Telangana's Ranga Reddy district went missing from home in New South Wales in Australia, his body was recovered from the sea near a beach in Sydney. It is not clear if Arati Arvind Yadav's death is a case of drowning. His death came just a week after his mother Usha Rani had returned from Australia after paying him a visit. Arvind's father Arati Krishna Yadav had died in a road accident in 2006. Arvind had been working in Australia for nearly a decade, and was married 18 months ago. On May 20, Arvind told his wife that he was taking his car out for a wash, but did not return home. **TNN**

Trump no longer a taboo for some Valley investors

San Francisco: In 2021, David Sacks, a prominent venture capitalist investor and podcaster, said former President Donald Trump's behaviour around the Jan 6 riot at the US Capitol had disqualified him from being a future political candidate.

At a tech conference last week, Sacks said his view had changed. "I have bigger disagreements with Biden than with Trump," the investor said. Sacks said he and his podcaster co-hosts were working on hosting a fundraiser for Trump, which could include an interview for their "All In" show. They also extended an invitation to President Joe Biden, he said, but the Trump camp was more open to it.

Such public support for Trump used to be taboo in Si-



In May, Trump made a virtual appearance at a VC conference in Washington. He thanked attendees for 'keeping your chin up', and said he looked forward to meeting them

licon Valley, which has long been seen as a liberal bastion. But frustration with Biden, Democrats and the state of

the world has increasingly driven some of tech's most prominent venture capitalists to the right.

Some investors, like Chamath Palihapitiya of Social Capital, backed Democrats in the past. (He is set to co-host the fundraiser for Trump alongside Sacks.) Others, like Marc Andreessen of Andreessen Horowitz and Shaun Maguire of Sequoia Capital, have criticised Biden without expressing support for Trump. Much of Silicon Valley, including prominent donors like investors Reid Hoffman and Vinod Khosla, remains loyal to Democrats.

Peter Thiel, the investor who backed Trump in the past, has said he is disillusioned with politics and plans to stay out of the 2024 race.

Thiel's loud and enthusiastic support for Trump in 2016, which included a \$1.25 million donation, came as a shock. Even more surprising to some in the industry was the way that, after Trump won the election that year, the world seemed to blame tech companies for his victory. The resulting "techlash" against Facebook and others caused some industry leaders to reassess their political views, a trend that continued through the social and political turmoil of the pandemic.

During that time, Democrats moved further to the left and demonized successful people who made a lot of money, further alienating some tech leaders, said Bradley Tusk, a venture capitalist investor and political strategist who supports Biden.

That feeling has hardened under Biden. Some investors said they were frustrated that his pick for chair of the Federal Trade Commission, Lina Khan, has aggressively moved to block acquisitions, one of the main ways venture capitalists make money. They said they were also unhappy that Biden's pick for head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Gary Gensler, had been hostile to cryptocurrency companies.

The startup industry has also been in a downturn since 2022, with higher interest rates sending capital fleeing from risky bets and a dismal market for initial public offerings crimping opportunities for investors to cash in on their valuable investments. **NVT**

and creates a false perception of a politician's or party's accomplishments," Africa Check's Clifford said.

A Facebook post shared thousands of times has falsely accused the ANC of failing to complete a public toilet project. Another photo allegedly showed massive potholes in Cape Town, which is governed by the opposition Democratic Alliance. Analysis showed the image had been created with an artificial intelligence tool.

For political analyst William Gumedde, the "exaggeration of achievements and the underplaying of the complexity of problems" play key roles in "South Africa's most 'digitally driven election'". **AFP**

Migration, infra woes fuel South Africa poll disinfo

Propagandists and scammers are exploiting xenophobia and anger over failing infrastructure to unleash a wave of disinformation ahead of South Africa's most contested polls since 1994, experts warn. The ruling African National Congress (ANC) risks losing its outright majority in the May 29 ballot amid soaring unemployment, rising xenophobia, prolonged power blackouts and allegations of endemic corruption.

AFP Fact Check found social media awash with false claims linked to the high-stakes election. They ranged from AI-generated images showing poor road conditions in the opposition-run city of



THE MANY BATTLES

Cape Town, to parties being accused of supplying illegal foreigners with fake papers. "It's very concerning that the levels of xenophobic discourse have risen in the last months as the elections have gotten closer," said Dale McKinley of Kopanang Africa Against Xenophobia, which is part of an international anti-racism network. Prevalent themes include

foreigners allegedly stealing jobs from locals, putting a strain on healthcare systems and being responsible for rampant crime. "These are lies but they spread and all the stereotypes become greenlit in that context," McKinley added.

Despite having one of the world's highest unemployment rates, South Africa attracts many economic migrants from elsewhere on the continent. The influx, coupled with a dim economic outlook, has led to sporadic bursts of anti-immigrant violence in recent years. Electoral candidates have further stoked the flames of online hate and disinformation by tapping into xenophobic sentiment and

blaming foreigners for the nation's problems. "Candidates in forthcoming general elections have been scapegoating and demonising foreign nationals, risking stoking xenophobic violence," Human Rights Watch warned in early May.

Online supporters of the xenophobic group Operation Dudula have claimed that the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) had created fake identity papers for undocumented migrants so it could gain more voters. But the pictures used as proof were from an unrelated police raid.

South Africa's poor public service delivery is another hot-button issue for many of the more than 27 million regis-

AROUND THE WORLD



JAPANESE DOG OF 'DOGE' MEME FAME DIES: In this picture from March, Atsuko Sato lets children pet her dog Kabosu in Narita, east of Tokyo. The Japanese Shiba Inu dog, whose photo inspired a generation of oddball online jokes and the \$23-billion Dogecoin cryptocurrency, died on Friday. 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 on the sofa and posted it on her blog. From there, it spread to online forums, became a meme, an NFT digital artwork that sold for \$4 million and inspired Dogecoin, which was started as a joke by two software engineers. Elon Musk is a keen backer of Dogecoin

Thai town to lock away simians

A Thai town, run ragged by its ever-growing population of marauding wild monkeys, launched an offensive against the simian raiders on Friday, using trickery and ripe tropical fruit. Several high-profile cases of monkey-human conflict recently convinced authorities in Lopburi in central Thailand that they had to reduce the animals' numbers. If all goes well, most will end up behind bars, before starting a new life elsewhere. The first stage of the plan, instituted Friday, is to bait cages with the animals' favourite food, then wait for hunger to get the better of their natural caution. It is estimated that there are nearly 2,500 monkeys in the town.

Indian actor shows solidarity with Gazans

On the red carpet on the steps of Palais du Festival, Cannes, on Thursday, Indian actor Kani Kusruti stood out with her watermelon clutch: the green and red clutch designed like a giant slice of the fruit alluded to the ongoing war in Gaza and the struggle of people there. Watermelon is a symbol of Palestinians' public expression in protests and artwork.





A thought for today

Social media gives idiots the right to speak when they once only spoke at a bar after a glass of wine...It's the invasion of the idiots

UMBERTO ECO

It's Not Working

Are netas hearing young talk about jobs crisis?

Throughout the election period, from prosperous Kerala, Haryana and Maharashtra to Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan, unemployment has been a running theme among voters that reporters, pollsters, party workers have all picked up. This distress call is no surprise – that India is facing a big youth unemployment problem that has only worsened post-Covid is borne out by all estimates. The latest PLFS data on unemployment, the Jan-Mar quarter, for the age group 15-29 is at 17%, a notch higher than the previous quarter. Double-digit unemployment crisis in this age group has only worsened over the years. Unpaid work is increasing, the quality of non-white collar jobs is declining, self-employment, a desperate choice for most low-income earners, is going up and real wages have been falling. This, when around 5 million people annually join the workforce.



One cruel twist of many desperate tales is that while coveted 'govt jobs' are elusive, being part of the paper-leak rackets of qualifying exams is kosher – because there's a chance to make a quick buck. Explosion of low-quality private colleges across India in the last decade has meant an explosion of the numbers of graduates. Some of those with the means have taken illegal routes abroad only to fall prey to job scams, lured into wars, labour work and illegal activity. The short-term Agnipath scheme for army recruitment has been a point of pain. To be "retired" at age 24 is how the scheme is increasingly perceived.

Whether or not the jobs distress has an electoral impact, the message for politicians is clear. Unemployment needs as much political cooperation as political will for Centre and states. Focus on the job of creating jobs via light manufacturing and skilling young India. That vaunted demographic dividend is fast losing hope in the ability of elected govts to create employment opportunities.

Vote Of Thanks

Time we celebrate millions of voters who've braved heat

Delhi will vote today in all likelihood in a scorcher of a day. Voters in other parts of India have had to cope with extreme heat as well. In north India, it's like living inside a hair-dryer. Elsewhere, heat and humidity have wrung people out. But despite the heat, and lower turnout in some places, elections have still drawn hundreds of millions of voters to their booths to exercise their franchise. That's something few are celebrating.



Democracy gives each citizen equal worth, irrespective of rank and status – we are counted, not weighed. This political equality is the one and only force that counters hierarchies of wealth and clout. Our converging and diverging with others is what makes majorities and remakes them. A vote is the only way we can participate in contests over who gets what in our country, what happens to our land and rivers and cities, what medical care and education we get, what can send you to jail, whether your identity is respected. For low-income or marginalised people, these are not abstract stakes, they are vital matters. No wonder so many Indians wait their turn patiently, braving the weather and queues and inconvenience, taking precious time away from their lives and livelihoods, just to press that EVM button. Democracy determines our common fate. Millions who have voted and will vote, braving the weather, give our democracy meaning.

Why Religion Is Big Business

An economic lens might explain its fortunes

God's work is worldly work, and religions are businesses like any other, argues **The Divine Economy: How Religions Compete for Wealth, Power, and People** by Paul Seabright. Churches, mosques, madrasas, temples, synagogues, prayer groups, ashrams, monasteries – these are iron-fisted organisations that need capital and human resources. In US alone, the Catholic Church and faith-based organisations raked in more revenues than Apple or Microsoft in 2016, for instance. They are exempt from taxes on their revenues and properties, shielded from the usual scrutiny that applies to secular businesses.

The book investigates how religious movements gain and use authority. Like modern platforms, religions connect people in new ways, expropriate some of the benefits of this connection, and also compete with each other. This competition is expressed through war and conflict, through demographic rivalry (having more children), and through persuasion. It explores how religious organisations are changing, when they flourish and when they splinter. It also asks how the power of religion is used and abused. While the 'secularisation thesis' once predicted that prosperity, modernity and science would cause religion to fade, this has clearly not been the case. While surveys do suggest that greater existential security in North America and western Europe caused a decline in people strongly identifying as Christian, the facts are more complicated; it indicates turbulence, not a trend.

Religious identity is intensifying in many parts of the world, even in places like China where it is a sensitive subject. The book finds a growing corporatisation at work, as local and

folk religions are absorbed into a handful of global religions. Christianity and Islam are booming, Hinduism and Buddhism are also bigger brands now.

What human needs does religion answer, that secular structures don't? It provides a sense of the numinous, makes believers feel special and protected. Religiosity is a bundle of diverse traits, and different faiths have crafted varied appeals, from private prayer and meditation to collective spectacle to violent crusades and jihad.

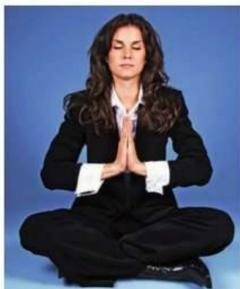
All religions are patchworks, and they have messages that can be interpreted as messages of war or peace. As Adam Smith observed, their effects are not to be found in their teachings, but in the interests and incentives of religious leaders. In business and in religion, fair competition makes religions more benevolent, monopoly has the opposite effect.

When political leaders grant protection to one religious movement over others, there is more discord and violence. But ironically, this reduces the catchment area of believers. From Trump to Netanyahu to Putin and Xi, repressive leaders who claim god is on their side should know the diminishing returns of this strategy. When harnessed to conservative causes, religious authority ebbs away. In Iran, religious legitimacy had reduced by the 1990s because of the Islamic Revolution's instrumentalisation of Shia faith, but the backlash has taken a long time to build, as recent hijab protests show.

Ultimately, a religious platform works best when it persuades, rather than coerces. It has to provide what believers are seeking, not impose itself by force. Because religious power is real and legitimate, there will always be those who use it to send soldiers to battle or voters to the ballot box, and those who are intoxicated by its call.

mindfield

SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



YOUR TUBE, MY VOTE

2019 is remembered as India's WhatsApp election. 2024 is turning out to be a YouTube one. But no matter its pervasiveness, digital media by itself can't alter electoral outcomes

SV Srinivas and Lipika Kamra



Today politicians and political commentators find themselves operating in a media quicksand – a media environment that changed radically since 2019.

That election still relied substantially on TV – and on WhatsApp. It will in fact be remembered as 'India's WhatsApp election'. BJP mobilised lakhs of volunteers to push political messages through the app.

In time, phones became filled with fake news, allegations against opponents, and a great deal of 'fear speech', meant to instil dread of particular groups. Deepfakes appeared later, during the 2020 Delhi assembly election.

Platforms and distribution | Today 800 million Indians, half of them from rural areas, have access to internet. Media space has grown more varied and less centralised. Media campaigns are no longer just about political party IT cells churning out content. Its production and distribution have been substantially outsourced to social media influencers, many with hyper-local reach on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and X.

BJP was the first to recruit social media influencers, but others, including Congress, AAP and regional parties, like BRS, quickly followed suit.

YouTube is now a key election outreach platform. Notorious for harbouring extreme speech, including Hindutva pop that advocates communal violence, it has also become a hotbed of political dissidence: critics of NDA (like Dhruv Rathee), independent journalists (like Ravish Kumar) and a whole slew of opposition politicians.

In Bengal CPM finds little airtime on TV, but has a large YouTube army. Both major parties in Andhra Pradesh, TDP and YSRCP, have been moving from print and TV to YouTube.

Intermediality | All the while, the importance of WhatsApp has only grown. Today, it is not only a carrier of textual and audio-visual content, but also a crucial

re-router of voters' attention to other media platforms. The most used media platform, near-universal on Indian smartphones, WhatsApp is the key agent of what media scholars call 'intermediality', or traffic between media forms and platforms; it distributes messages from YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

The platform's political force can be gauged from the fact that it is through WhatsApp that govt kicked off its media campaign this year, spamming millions of the app's users with a letter from the PM, sent from the staidly named Viksit Bharat Sampark account.

regulating electoral messaging in the digital media age, which EC faces now.

TMC sought to restrict telecasts of Modi's rallies in jurisdictions on the eve of election, but these continued, as neither the legal framework for regulating the political uses of digital media, nor the means of its enforcement, are yet in place. Technology once again outpaced law.

The very long 44-day election season also meant that media users have been subjected to political statements and telecasts of political rallies for weeks, regardless of when they were voting.

POLLITICS

Special Series on Elections



Wilds of social media | In Andhra Pradesh, EC sent warnings about MCC violations to leaders of both the main parties (TDP and YSRCP), but this failed to thwart

Election gig economy | Digital media is a key player in India's massive election economy. At the bottom of its pyramid are lakhs of unemployed and underemployed educated youth who are involved in this year's media campaign as political gig workers. Viral anti-BJP and anti-Congress memes have much to do with the efficiency with which they are distributed by the last-mile IT cell workers with no political party affiliations. This economy also involves vast crowds paid to attend political roadshows and rallies, whose images are broadcast on digital media.

The *Economic Times* has reported that the scale of India's election economy is such that cities are now experiencing serious labour shortages because millions of migrant labourers have returned to their hometowns and villages to take up jobs in tenting, catering or marking roadshow and meeting attendance for every political party in play, for which they are paid more than for regular work in the cities. Election time films, which cost hundreds of crores, fail at the box office, displaced by the electoral spectacle.

Noise and distractions | The intermediality of print, TV and digital media has transformed the nature of election campaigning, but any claim to digital media's ability to determine electoral outcomes should be taken with a fistful of salt.

Opposition parties have better access to social media, while villagers, illiterate people, women and tribal communities are now plugged into multifarious political messaging on their smartphones. While the phone has deepened and expanded political choice, it has also amplified digital information noise meant to distract voters from bread-and-butter issues. New forms of communication have greater reach, but they remain no more than a medium that in itself will not upturn the outcome of these elections.

Srinivas teaches literature and media at Azim Premji University. Kamra teaches politics at Birmingham University

the exchange of abuses. A frenzy of personal attacks and conspiracy theories came to a head when rape videos, made allegedly by a JDS MP Prajwal Revanna, were circulated widely on pen drives in his constituency. Women featured in them were clearly identifiable and have had to go into hiding to avoid humiliation and public shame.

The fact that these videos were circulated during pre-election silence, with no consequences for their distributors, shows the extent of the difficulty in

'Strong leher for INDIA...BJP's on backfoot...Focus on PM face becomes all about image...These are complex & crucial polls'

Tejashwi Yadav has almost single-handedly fired up INDIA's Lok Sabha campaign in 40-seat Bihar, with over 210 election rallies and 180 roadshows and sabhas, all of which have attracted large crowds. From seeking votes for candidates to lashing out at his opponents on multiple fronts, Bihar's 34-year-old ex-deputy CM is leaving no stone unturned to put up a strong fight after INDIA ally Nitish Kumar's return to NDA. In conversation with **Sheezan Nezami**, Tejashwi says joblessness is India's single biggest crisis, that BJP has "no answers to people's questions", and Nitish is "mimicking BJP's tone and tenor".

consistently reposed their trust in us.

● **What's your prediction for INDIA bloc? And who's the PM face if it wins, as your leaders are predicting?**

We're going to perform well; I'm very sure. There is a wave of discontent against the incumbent govt across the country. And there is a strong leher for INDIA alliance. We've worked very hard in Bihar. Work we did in a short period is being appreciated. The people of Bihar have high hopes from us and we're gearing up to deliver what we promised. I don't believe in discussing 'faces'. The thing with being focused on the 'face' is that it becomes all about image and image-management. We've seen enough and have a 'face' for far too long. Unlike BJP, we have several capable, experienced, and energetic leaders.

● **You've promised 1cr govt jobs if INDIA forms govt. Will it help pull votes?**

Yes, we've received very positive responses from the people. Young people have seen we can deliver when we are in govt, no matter the constraints. While much of the mainstream media doesn't talk about the unemployment crisis, it's the single most important and serious issue for our country.

● **Is it tough for Misa & Rohini Acharya fighting Ram Kripal Yadav & Rajiv Pratap Rudy?**

There's massive support for both my sisters. We're getting very good ground

reports from both constituencies. If you care to look, you'll find BJP's on the backfoot. People are asking them hard questions about what they've done in the last 10 years, and they simply have no answers.

● **Modi calls you shehzada in Patna who considers Bihar his jaagir.**

Our PM doesn't look within. While it has always been so, we're able to see it very clearly during these elections. BJP itself today is the hotbed of nepotism and corruption. This is clearly visible – be it ministers, state-level leadership, even alliance partners.

● **You've said BJP 'hijacked' Nitish, that his heart was still with you.**

I was merely stating a fact. Assess my comment against the situation former and incumbent CMs of Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi have found themselves in today, because of BJP's all-out attacks on their govts.

● **Contest in Purnia is between Pappu Yadav as an Independent and the JDU nominee. Was dropping Yadav as an INDIA candidate a mistake?**

Our candidate selection was not based on assessment of individuals. We took into consideration a lot of factors. These are complex and crucial elections and a lot of debate and discussion between alliance partners went into creating a strong and coherent strategy.

Q&A

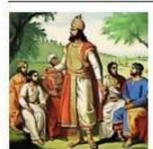
POLLITICS

Special Series on Elections

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



If a king is energetic, his subjects will be equally energetic. If he is reckless, they will not only be reckless likewise, but also eat into his works...Hence the king shall ever be wakeful.

Chanakya

Indic Philosophy Is Inclusive And Sustainable

Arup Mitra

In a speech called 'Message of the Forest', Rabindranath Tagore implied that India could offer its rich heritage as a gift to the world. Several foreigners travelled to India and brought new religious thoughts, but India's uniqueness lies in its generous absorption of them. India made its storehouse richer with new additions without discarding the older constituents. Thus, an all-encompassing essence called Indianness emerged, akin to Indic philosophy and spirituality. Consumerism dominates the world today, and India is no exception, yet the country's spiritual richness remains undisturbed.

One can consider the individual the primary agent; given limited means, his utility-maximising behaviour would guide the entire spectrum of material activities. However, it can result in severe inequality. On the other hand,

Indic philosophy does not oppose material prosperity alongside spiritual advancement but envisages social well-being in a much more meaningful way. The four basic tenets of human aspirations – dharma, artha, kama, and moksha – are fundamental to individual well-being.

Indic philosophy is inclusive and sustainable; it begins with a macro perspective and then deduces the route to individual satisfaction from that grand structure. The maximisation of social well-being is the spirit, and its conceptualisation is so grand that it includes human beings and their environment. In this contextual framework, when one talks about individual satisfaction, he is influenced by unselfish forces. That is how spirituality and a materialistic way of life complement each other and shape one's life in a more fulfilling manner.

Materialism alone has its limitations, and new products cannot render a sense of unending fulfilment. Hence, ethical values must be combined with the material way of life to maintain consistency between the macro perspective and microbehaviour.

When individuals pursue overarching tenets of peace and prosperity at the macro level, they enrich themselves, too. However, if the individual attempts to attain prosperity solely for himself, it can damage the individual and society. A fascinating aspect of this philosophical-economic convergence is its role in shaping completeness in life. As one undertakes every action in the name of That, one is mindful of the need to earn a livelihood without causing harm to others, thereby eliminating corrupt practices. On the other hand, to remain alert and productive, one's body and

mind must be in good health, for which spirituality is crucial. It involves meditation at both the physical and mental levels.

Yogic exercises and kriyas are essential for disciplining the body and mind, while knowledge and devotion enable individual consciousness to stay connected with a higher Reality. Thus, social welfare and, within that broader context, individual pursuits in the quest for completeness coexist in a harmonious manner.

As we march ahead with progress and prosperity facilitated by technological advancements, the role of spiritual heritage is more vital than ever. One must pursue it proactively to conjure practical solutions to the vagaries of material life and think beyond material interests. Well-being restricted to material dimension will never be able to transport an individual to a higher plane of consciousness and help attain a sense of completeness.



THE SPEAKING TREE

Sensex Rallies On Record Dividend Payout, Normal Monsoon Hopes

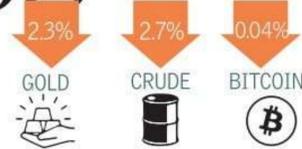
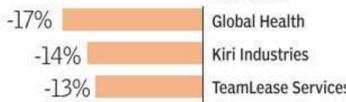
The Sensex & Nifty saw record-setting rallies as a record dividend payment by RBI to govt boosted investor sentiment on Dalal Street. Expectations of an early onset of monsoon and bets on smooth sailing for BJP in the Lok Sabha elections also helped

Sensex
2%

BSE GROUP A GAINERS



LOSERS



₹2.1L cr
RBI declared a record dividend to govt, more than double what was expected by the money markets

Source: Refinitiv, ETG

Google invests \$350mn in Flipkart for minority stake

Infusion Part Of \$1Bn Funding, E-Tailer Valued At Over \$35Bn

Asmita.Dey@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Google is learnt to have invested about \$350 million in Flipkart as part of the e-commerce major's near \$1 billion funding round led by parent Walmart.

Flipkart did not comment on the specifics of the funding, but sources told TOI that the tech giant has infused about \$350 million into Flipkart for a minority stake. With Google on board, the investment round has been closed, taking Flipkart's valuation to over \$35 billion, sources said.

Walmart had injected about \$600 million into Flipkart as part of the funding round in Dec last year. Flipkart's last big funding round was in 2021 when it raised \$3.6 billion from investors in a round co-led by Walmart at a valuation of \$37.6 billion. The company's valuation is understood to have been adjusted to \$33 billion after fintech PhonePe was separated from the group in 2022.

Boost For Quick Commerce Foray

Google has been ramping up its India investments and may look at extending its partnership with Flipkart to other areas as well, according to market advisors

With Google on board, the \$1bn investment round has been closed, taking Flipkart's valuation to over \$35bn. The funding comes in handy for

Flipkart as it looks to enter the quick commerce space

Flipkart has been in a partnership with Google Cloud since 2022

The co, which competes with players like Amazon and SoftBank-backed Meesho to cater to customers who are increasingly going digital, has been leveraging Google's cloud stack to widen tech capabilities and reach more users

Flipkart said that the investment is subject to regulatory approvals. "Google's proposed investment and its cloud collaboration will help Flipkart expand its business and advance the modernisation of its digital infrastructure to serve customers across the country," the firm said in a statement.

Flipkart has been in a partnership with Google Cloud since 2022. Flipkart — which competes with players

like Amazon and SoftBank-backed Meesho to cater to customers who are increasingly going digital — has been leveraging Google's cloud stack to widen its tech capabilities and reach more users. The fresh funding from Google likely underlines a deeper collaboration with Flipkart in the cloud infrastructure space but going ahead, Google may also look at extending the partnership to other areas, said Satish Meena, advisor at Datum Intelligence.

at Datum Intelligence.

"The funding shows how the lines between technology and B2C industries are blurring. Technology is becoming the backbone of many industries and big tech players have a large war chest of money to be deployed. They are deploying it not only for developing capabilities, but also to secure customers by investing in key players across sectors," said Shrayan Shetty, MD at Primus Partners.

Google's rival Microsoft had also invested in Flipkart in 2017 in a \$1.4 billion funding round along with other investors like Tencent. Microsoft held a small 1.2% stake in the firm as of Sept 2023, according to data sourced from Tracxn. Google has been ramping up its India investments.

The funding by Google will also come in handy for Flipkart which is looking to enter new spaces like quick commerce, a sector currently dominated by Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy Instamart and Zepto.

Sebi tweaks derivative scrips' price band norms

New Delhi: Sebi on Friday modified guidelines for dynamic price bands for scrips in the derivatives segment in a bid to strengthen volatility management and minimise information asymmetry.

For scrips excluded from the requirement of price bands, a mechanism of dynamic price bands (or operating range) has been implemented by stock exchanges.

Currently, cash market and futures contracts start with a price band at 10% of the previous day's closing price, which can be adjusted by 5% during the day if there are at least 25 trades involving 5 unique client codes (UCCs) on each side at or above 9.9%. A 15-minute cooling-off period follows each adjustment, during which trading continues within the current band.

Based on feedback, Sebi has modified these rules, enhancing the conditions to 50 trades, 10 unique UCCs, and 3 trading members on each side for adjustments, according to its circular. When conditions for adjusting the price bands are met in either the cash market or current month futures contracts on any exchange, the price band will be adjusted for the scrip and all its futures contracts across all exchanges after the cooling-off period. AGENCIES

Aditya Birla Group joins \$100bn market cap club

6th Most-Valued Conglomerate | Group Adds \$34Bn To Mcap In A Year Driven By UltraTech

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

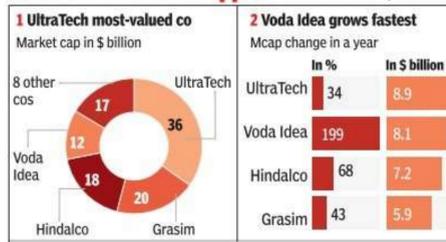
Mumbai: The market capitalisation of Aditya Birla Group companies crossed \$100 billion for the first time on Friday riding on a rally in shares of UltraTech, Hindalco, and Vodafone Idea.

The combined valuation of the 12 companies in the group stood at nearly Rs 8.5 lakh crore, which translates to over \$102 billion. The group's market capitalisation during the current year has improved by 11%, which is more than twice the gain in Nifty or the Sensex.

Although there are a dozen listed companies, nearly 35% of the group's valuation comes from UltraTech, which has a market capitalisation of Rs 2.95 lakh crore — making it the third most valuable cement company in the world. UltraTech shares have been on the upswing after it reported a 35% increase in net profit for the March quarter.

Grasim Industries, which accounts for 20% of the group's value in the stock market, has seen its market capitalisation double in the last three years. Grasim is the biggest gainer in the group has been Vodafone Idea,

Voda Idea's Value Triples In A Yr To \$12Bn



Company	Market cap in \$ billion
UltraTech	36
Vodafone Idea	36
Hindalco	20
Grasim	18
Other 8 cos	17

Company	Mcap change in a year
UltraTech	34%
Vodafone Idea	199%
Hindalco	68%
Grasim	43%

Company	Mcap in \$ billion
Tata	370
Ambani	275
Adani	208
Bajaj	126
Bharti	112
Birla	102

The Kumar Mangalam Birla-led group is eyeing an \$18bn valuation for Novelis, an aluminium co it owns in the US

which has nearly tripled its market capitalisation in a year. This included the equity expansion following its Rs 18,000-crore follow-on public offer. The listed financial services businesses of the group — Aditya Birla Capital, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC, and Aditya Birla Money — contribute to nearly 9% of the group's valuation.

'India should impose wealth tax on ultra rich to tackle inequality'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India should include an annual wealth tax and an inheritance tax for those with net wealth exceeding Rs 10 crore, equivalent to top 0.04% of adult population, who currently hold over a quarter of the total wealth, a new paper has suggested.

The paper by the World Inequality Lab has proposed a comprehensive tax package on ultra-wealthy to tackle what it called the massive concentration at the very top of the wealth distribution and create valuable fiscal space for crucial social sector investments. It called for raising phenomenally large tax revenues, while leaving 99.9% of adults unaffected by the tax.

To Boost Social Sector Investment

Tax Type	TAX PROPOSALS		
	Baseline	Moderate	Ambitious
Wealth tax	2% on net wealth over ₹10cr	2% on net wealth over ₹10cr	3% on net wealth above ₹10cr
Inheritance tax	33% on estates over ₹10cr	33% on estates over ₹10cr	45% on estates above ₹10cr
Adults affected	Top 0.04%	Top 0.04%	Top 0.04%

Source: World Inequality Lab

"In a baseline scenario, a 2% annual tax on net wealth exceeding Rs 10 crore and a 33% inheritance tax on estates

exceeding Rs 10 crores in valuation would generate a massive 2.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) in revenues," according to the paper authored

by Thomas Piketty, Nitin Kumar Bharti, Lucas Chancel and Anmol Somanchi.

The paper said the package would need to be accompanied by explicit re-distributive policies to support the poor, lower castes and middle classes. "For example, baseline scenario would allow nearly doubling the current public spending on education, which has stagnated at 2.9% of GDP over past 15 years, well below — less than half — 6% target set by govt's own National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)," it said.

The issue of inheritance tax and redistribution of wealth has emerged as a raging topic with the BJP and main opposition party Congress sparring over the matter.

Sony India MD quits after decade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

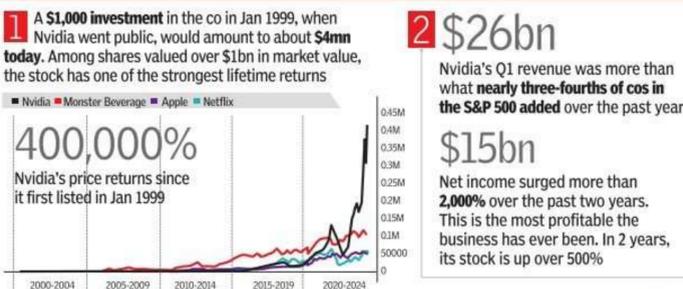
Mumbai: Sony Pictures Networks India MD N P Singh has decided to step down from his position after being at the helm for a decade. The move comes four months after Sony Pictures pulled the plug on a proposed merger with Zee Entertainment Enterprises.

His last date at the company was not disclosed. Singh is Sony Pictures' fourth MD after Manjit Singh, Kunal Dasgupta and Arun Arora. The India unit of Japanese giant Sony has started to look for Singh's successor. Singh, who is in his early sixties, wants to embark on an advisory role.

"I will continue to lead Sony Pictures until we find the right person to take over. We have begun a structured succession planning process for my successor and hope to have exciting news to share in the near future," Singh said.

Nvidia's Stock Rallies 500% In 2 Years, Profit Surges 2,000%

Nvidia produced another set of blowout results on Wednesday. Its shares rose over 9% on Thursday, adding nearly \$220bn to Nvidia's valuation. That's far more than the entire market cap of Intel. Here are some points showcasing Nvidia's meteoric growth:



1 A \$1,000 investment in the co in Jan 1999, when Nvidia went public, would amount to about \$4mn today. Among shares valued over \$1bn in market value, the stock has one of the strongest lifetime returns

2 \$26bn
Nvidia's Q1 revenue was more than what nearly three-fourths of cos in the S&P 500 added over the past year

3 Nvidia's \$1.1tn addition to its mcap this year is more than Alphabet, Microsoft and Amazon combined

4 \$91.3bn
CEO Jensen Huang's net worth has grown by over \$47bn this year, bumping him up to become the 17th-richest person in the world. He is now richer than each individual member of Walmart's founding family, who are America's richest

Vicco chief Pendharkar dies at 85

Abhishek.Choudhari@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: Ayurvedic cosmetics company Vicco Laboratories chairman Yeshwant Pendharkar passed away on Friday. He was 85. His nephew Devesh said, "My uncle was the brain behind marketing of Vicco products and led the advertising campaign." The Vicco TV jingle on Doodardshan had set the nation buzz in the '80s.

Vicco's roots lie in the greater Mumbai area, specifically Dombivli, where company founder Keshav (Yeshwant's father) started a factory in early 1950s. In 1985, when Vicco kicked-started its Nagpur operations, founder Keshav's younger son Jayant shifted to Nagpur to head the business. Keshav had five sons — Gajanan, Yeshwant, Sumant, Jayant and Ashok. Of the five brothers, two survive.

'Macro buffers to help India navigate global headwinds'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Strong macroeconomic buffers of India should help the real sectors of economy navigate the external headwinds smoothly and continue the growth momentum of the previous year, a finance ministry report said on Friday. The ministry's monthly economic review for April also said the positive indications in the farm sector should help India firewall against any adverse pressures that may arise from geopolitical tensions and global commodity prices.

But the report cautioned that the unrelenting geopolitical tensions and volatility in global commodity prices, especially of petroleum products, present substantial multi-frontal challenges.

It said early indications suggest a continuation of the economic momentum during the first quarter of

HEALTHY INDICATORS



FY25. The emerging robust trends in high-frequency indicators of growth such as the GST collections, e-way bills, electronic toll collections, sale of vehicles, purchasing managers' indices and the value and number of digital transactions attest to the growing strength of the economy, the report added.

"Thus, the major pillars of India's macroeconomic strength, including growth, price stability and fiscal management, are directionally positive and mutually reinforcing," said the report prepared by the department of economic affairs.

It said that going forward, the inflation trajectory would be influenced by several factors and asserted that the report prepared by the department of economic affairs.

There will be greater alignment between JLR and parent Tata Motors when it comes to sharing electric charging infra and also in terms of some work on platform sharing. For example, Tata Motors' born-electric Avinya range of cars will now be built on JLR's Electric Modular Architecture that will also develop new cars of British luxury brands. Amba said for JLR, the work for India has started as it begins to get new models almost simultaneously to global launches, while engaging in retail expansion and greater local assembly.

Tata veteran to join AI as CFO

New Delhi: Former Tata Projects and Tata Realty Infra CFO Sanjay Sharma will take over this role at AI India from June 10, 2024, succeeding veteran Vinod Hejmadhi who has been with the airline for over three decades. Sharma has more than three decades of experience in corporate finance, investment banking and real estate sectors. He joins AI India from Tata Projects where he was the CFO. Prior to Tata Projects, he was CFO of Tata Realty Infrastructure, and MD, head of equity capital markets at Deutsche Bank Group. TNN

Nifty crosses record 23,000-mark intraday

Mumbai: The Sensex and Nifty scaled new peaks on Friday in intraday deals before closing marginally lower due to profit booking in FMCG, tech and healthcare stocks.

A weak trend in global equities weighed on sentiment, but renewed foreign capital inflows and stable crude oil prices in international markets supported the markets, traders said. Markets were on a record-breaking rally for the second straight day ahead of Lok Sabha polls results on June 4.

In a highly volatile trade, the Sensex dipped 8 points to settle at 75,410. During the day, it rallied 218 points to hit its all-time intraday high of 75,637. Nifty breached the 23,000 mark for the first time in early trade. During the day, it climbed 59 points to hit its lifetime peak of 23,026. However, it pared all gains and ended with a marginal decline of 11 points at 22,957.

"Markets ended flat in a sluggish trading session as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines due to weak global cues," Prashant Tapse, senior VP (research), Mehta Equities, said. Over a week, the Sensex has zoomed 1,493 points. BSE's market capitalisation stood at nearly Rs 420 lakh crore. AGENCIES

Rupee rises to 2-mth high of 83.1 vs \$

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee hit a two-month high to close at 83.10 in the foreign exchange market on Friday up 14 paise from its previous close of 83.24.

The rupee gained nearly 0.3% this week — its biggest weekly gain in over five months. Dealers said that the currency gained as there were some chunky inflows of dollars in the foreign exchange market. Market sentiment al-

Forex reserves touch new high

India's foreign exchange reserves reached a new high of \$648.7 billion for the week ended May 17, with RBI buying dollars to bolster its reserves. The reserves increased by \$4.5 billion, marking the third consecutive week of growth. In the previous week, they had risen by \$2.6 billion. TNN

India to be 1st outside UK to make top Range Rovers

Pankaj.Doyal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has decided to make its flagship Range Rover luxury SUVs in India. For the first time, these top-of-the-line vehicles will be assembled outside JLR's Solihull factory in the UK.

The move to assemble (through completely-knocked down kits) the cars at Pune factory of Tata Motors will see the company pay less import duty to govt, leading to savings of 18-22%. So, price reduction for Range Rover Autobiography model will be Rs 60 lakh and it will now come for Rs 2.6 crore (ex-showroom). Range Rover Sport will be priced at Rs 1.4 crore after a cut of Rs 40 lakh.

LOOKS TO DOUBLE SALES OVER 3 YRS

Model	Was	To Become	Benefit	Deliveries By
Range Rover Sport	₹1.8cr	₹1.4 cr	₹40L	Aug 2024
Range Rover Autobiography	₹3.2cr	₹2.6 cr	₹60L	Immediate

Already being assembled in India | Discovery Sport, Range Rover Velar, Range Rover Evoque, Jaguar F-Pace

India, said electric will play a key part in brand's growth in India. "A large part of the run will be led by electric with nearly nine launches planned under JLR's SUV range."

There will be greater alignment between JLR and parent Tata Motors when it comes to sharing electric charging infra and also in terms of some work on platform sharing. For example, Tata Motors' born-electric Avinya range of cars will now be built on JLR's Electric Modular Architecture that will also develop new cars of British luxury brands. Amba said for JLR, the work for India has started as it begins to get new models almost simultaneously to global launches, while engaging in retail expansion and greater local assembly.

JLR's sales in India grew 81% in FY24 at 4,436 units. Amba said he expects the momentum to continue. "Despite strong growth in sales, we saw 60% growth in new order book. With Range Rover flagships getting even more competitive post local assembly, there should be further fuelling of growth."

Asked about competition from the German trio, he said, "There is a lot of headroom for us to grow, and a lot of space for us." Amba said luxury remains under-penetrated in India and JLR expects with new model launches, enhanced retail presence and higher marketing spends, the company's volume should double in India within three years. "We are well on our way."

Adani Ports to enter Sensex, Wipro to exit

New Delhi: Gautam Adani-owned Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone will replace IT major Wipro on the Sensex from June 24, according to an official announcement on Friday. This marks the inclusion of the first Adani Group firm in Sensex. The group has 10 listed firms with a combined market valuation surpassing Rs 17 lakh crore. Notably, both APSEZ and Wipro are constituents of Nifty. Moreover, the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises is also part of Nifty. The changes will be effective from June 24, 2024, Asia Index, a joint venture between S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE, said in a statement. It added that the replacement is a part of periodic review.

1ST ADANI CO

In addition, Tata Group company Trent will enter S&P BSE Sensex 50, while Divi's Laboratories will be dropped from the index. Apart from these, changes have been announced in S&P BSE 100, S&P BSE Bankex and S&P BSE Sensex Next 50. AGENCIES

so improved after the recent surge in equity indices, which came on the back of an announcement of a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend by RBI to govt. The delayed reaction to the news was because foreign exchange markets were closed on Thursday due to Buddha Purnima. "Despite the dollar index trading higher in recent days, the rupee showed resilience due to significant economic development in India," said Jateen Trivedi, research analyst at LKP Securities.

LAST THROW OF DICE FOR UNITED

Red Devils Desperate for European Spot; High-Flying Man City Eye Historic Double

London: Manchester United are still regarded as one of the biggest clubs in world soccer but unless they beat Manchester City in the FA Cup final on Saturday they will be absent from European competition for the first time in a decade next season.

Erik Ten Hag's ended eighth in the Premier League this season — their worst top-flight finish for 34 years.

However, they could still qualify for next season's Europa League if they upset the odds and deprive City of a second successive domestic double at Wembley. Not being in Europe next season would be a serious blow to the record 20-times English champions' reputation, have financial consequences, and would not help them attract the kind of players required for a major squad re-building.

United lost to City in last year's FA Cup final and were beaten convincingly by Pep Guardiola's side in both Premier League clashes this season.

A sympathetic Guardiola said, "I have a huge respect for his job in the past, and now in United. I completely agree when he says they have lots of injuries. They have a lot of problems and when that happens the manager suffers a lot." Guardiola said despite his team's recent impressive record against United, he would not take them lightly in a repeat of the FA Cup final won 2-1 by City last season. Should United win the Cup for the 13th time, it would mean Newcastle United, who finished seventh, missing out on the Europa Conference League. AGENCIES



"Last year United didn't make it easy for us. When it's a derby, on your day anyone can win so, it's something we have to look forward to and be at our best if we're going to win."

— CITY MIDFIELDER PHIL FODEN

If history gives you the chance to do something that's never been done before, why not try it? The reason teams haven't done back-to-back PL and FA Cups is because it's not easy."

— CITY MANAGER PEP GUARDIOLA

After this difficult season, it is my responsibility to give more. It starts with me and it starts tomorrow. We have to give everything in this last match against City, and we have to move forward."

— UNITED CAPTAIN BRUNO FERNANDES

I came here to win trophies. On Saturday I have the opportunity to achieve this and we earned this opportunity as a team."

— UNITED MANAGER ERIK TEN HAG

Manipur's ethnic violence splinters teams, dashes sporting dreams

Bengaluru: Ethnic clashes in Manipur saw its most successful women's club fail to field a team in the Indian Women's League in 2023-24, with its coach fleeing his burning home and a number of players in self-imposed exile interstate.

The unrest in the northeastern state, which has resulted in more than 200 dead and tens of thousands displaced, divided football teams like Eastern Sporting Union (ESU) along ethnic lines and forced some players

out of the state. "At first we didn't think it would be that bad, but suddenly it was everywhere," former ESU skipper Irom Prameshwari Devi, who has since joined East Bengal, said about the outbreak of violence.

"We had five Kuki players in the team... they were scared because Kukis were being attacked on the streets of Imphal. We were trying to assure them it would be fine, but houses were being burned by them."

Violence erupted in Manipur

We had five Kuki players in the team... they were scared because Kukis were being attacked on the streets of Imphal. We were trying to assure them it would be fine, but houses were being burned by them."

— Irom Prameshwari Devi, FORMER ESU SKIPPER

on May 3, 2023 between the majority Meitei and minority Kuki

communities over the potential sharing of economic benefits and quotas in government jobs and education.

As warring groups set fire to each other's homes and places of worship, football teams in the capital Imphal also found themselves splintered.

ESU coach Ngampao Kipgen, a member of the Kuki tribe, told Reuters he was forced to flee to the hills with his family after his house was burned down.

"They came in the middle of

the night. I had to leave with my wife and children," Ngampao said. "I have no team here, no income. I am helpless."

According to official figures released in February, Ngampao's house was one of more than 13,000 structures destroyed during the violence.

ESU manager Homendro Irengbam said the conflict, which broke out while the team was playing in the IWL in the western state of Gujarat, drove a wedge between players.

"Our Kuki players were staying with Meitei roommates but once the conflict started, they wanted to stick together," he said. "Match preparation, team meetings, everything was disturbed. That was reflected on the field."

The team tried to put on a united front, Devi said, but finished fourth in the group stage before crashing out in the semi-finals of the 2022-23 competition, a contest they had won in the inaugural 2016-17 season. REUTERS

Lakshya a strong contender for Olympic glory: Vimal

Ashim.Sunam@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: With Paris Olympics a little over eight weeks away, ace shuttler Lakshya Sen is in the final leg of his preparations. The man from Almora, who will feature in the Singapore Open starting next Tuesday, has been working on various aspects of his game, including fitness. In the lead up to the Games, Lakshya, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy here, will undergo a 12-day training stint in France in July.

With the men's singles wearing an open look, it could be anyone's game at Paris. However, Lakshya's coach Vimal Kumar remains positive about the PPBA shuttler's chances. "If Lakshya plays to his potential in Paris (Olympics), he will be a strong contender because I don't see the top 20 players being that consistent. They have all beaten each other. It all depends on that one week — those who will be in the right frame of mind and consistent will succeed," Vimal said.

The coach will travel with Lakshya to Marseille, France, from July 8-21, with the shuttler set to train at The Halle des Sports Parsemain ahead of the Olympics. Ayush Shetty and Chirag Sen will also travel as sparring partners along with a physio and a trainer.

"It will help him train and get acclimatized ahead of the Olympics," Vimal said. Along with Lakshya, PV Sindhu's proposal to train in Germany was also approved by the sports ministry's Mission Olympic Cell. Starting June 15, she will train there for over a month and will be accompanied by her support staff, including coach Agus Dwi Santoso.

Vimal added that Sindhu's mentor Prakash Padukone is expected "to be there during the final 10 days."

Besides Singapore, Lakshya will feature in the Indonesia Open (June 4-9) and Canada Open (July 2-7) to test himself against some of the best in the business. It will help him understand where he stands ahead of the marquee event. There is no doubt about



LAKSHYA SEN

the skillset and the talent, but the 22-year-old has the tendency to blow hot and cold.

In the final quarter of last year, Lakshya suffered six straight first-round exits. However, he delivered before the Olympics qualification cycle came to an end late last month. He reached the semi-finals of the All England Open and the French Open, charting

his trip to Paris. Lakshya beat top shuttlers, including Denmark's Anders Antonsen (current world No. 4), China's Li Shi Feng (No. 6), Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia (No. 10) and Singapore's Loh Kean Yew (No. 12) in March, showcasing his ability to deliver under pressure. "I hope Lakshya can further raise his level," Vimal signed off.

FRANCE'S GIROUD PLANS TO RETIRE AFTER EURO 2024

Paris: France striker Olivier Giroud intends to retire from international football after next month's European Championship, saying he wants to make sure he does not play "one season too many".

Giroud, who left AC Milan to join American Major League Soccer side Los Angeles FC earlier this month, has made 131 appearances for France and was a key part of their World Cup-winning squad in 2018.

With 57 goals, the 37-year-old is the men's national team's all-time leading goalscorer, having overtaken Thierry Henry during the 2022 World Cup. "To be honest, this will be my last competition with Les Bleus. Obviously, I'm going to miss it a lot," Giroud told L'Equipe in an interview published on Thursday.

RANIERI RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS IN MANAGEMENT

Rome: Claudio Ranieri, who famously led Leicester City to a shock Premier League title in 2016, has announced his retirement from football at the age of 72.

The Italian's last match as a manager was Cagliari's 3-2 home defeat to Fiorentina on Thursday, where he received a rousing ovation from fans at the Sardegna Arena as well as a guard of honour from his players. "There is a beginning and an end to everything. It is only fair to close the circle in this way, where I had started, is something I dreamed of and the dream was wonderful," Ranieri, who previously managed Cagliari in 1988, said.

Ranieri, who has managed a string of Serie A teams including Juventus, AS Roma and Inter Milan, is best known for guiding Leicester to a fairy tale Premier League title. He also managed Chelsea, Fulham and Watford in the EPL, as well as Valencia and Atletico Madrid in Spain's LaLiga. "As a soccer fan I was not a great champion, but as a coach I had a lot of fun. For me it was an honour to be in the world of soccer," AGENCIES

Fit-again seamer Rauf in Pak T20 WC squad; Babar to lead

Dubai/Karachi: Having recovered from an injury, experienced pacer Harris Rauf was on Friday named in Pakistan's 15-member squad, which will be led by star batter Babar Azam during next month's ICC T20 World Cup to be held in the Americas from June 2.

Rauf, who had suffered a shoulder dislocation during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in February, last featured for his country in January this year and his return will provide a big boost to the runners-up in the previous edition of the tournament in 2022.

"Harris Rauf is fully fit and bowling well in the nets," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement. "It would have been nice if he had gotten an outing at Headingley. "But we remain confident that he will continue to maintain an upward trajectory in the upcoming matches, as he will have an important role to play along with other strike bowlers in the T20 World Cup," said the PCB.

Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Saim Ayub and Usman Khan will make their maiden appearance in a T20 World Cup, but pacer Hasan Ali was the prominent absentee as he has been released to include Rauf.

"This is an extremely talented and balanced side that has a mixture of youth and experience. These players have been playing together for some time and look well-prepared and settled for next month's event," the PCB said.

It has also been decided that for initial matches, Saim Ayub will open with Muhammad Rizwan with Babar coming in at one down but this could change if required in later matches.

Pakistan also have not named any reserves

Nagal to face world No. 18 Khachanov in French Open 1st Rd

Paris: India's top-ranked singles player Sumit Nagal was handed a tough opening round at the French Open as he is set to face world number 18 Karen Khachanov of Russia here on Sunday. World No. 94 Nagal earned a direct entry into the main draw of the Grand Slam after his consistent performances on the tour. He became the first Indian male player to qualify for the French Open main draw since Prajnesh Gunneswaran in 2019.



Nagal, though, has not been in the best of form leading up to the clay Grand Slam. He lost to Holger Rune in the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters, before missing the Madrid and Rome Masters. The 26-year-old then made first round exits from the Bordeaux Challenger and Geneva Open earlier this month. On the other hand, Khachanov who has been seeded 18th, had reached the quarterfinals last year. He won the Qatar Open 250 in February and enjoys an impressive 21-7 record this season. PTI

Indian compound mixed team in final

Yecheon (South Korea): Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Priyansh advanced to the compound mixed team final, confirming India's second medal, while Deepika Kumari brightened the country's gloomy recurve campaign, reaching to her second successive Archery World Cup semifinals after her comeback in the Stage 2 of the event, here on Friday.

The compound women's team of Jyothi, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami had assured India's first medal by making the final on Wednesday.

Young compound archer Prathamesh Fuge is also eyeing a medal as he advanced to the semifinal in the individual category.

The Indian compound mixed team, No. 2 in world rankings, dropped just two points from 16 arrows to eliminate the host country's duo of Han Seungyeon and Yang Jaewon 158-157 in a tight semi-final.

Jyothi and Priyansh will face USA's Olivia Dean and Sawyer Sullivan in the gold medal match on Saturday in a clash of the top-two world ranked nations.

The fourth-seeded Indian duo earlier ousted Vietnam 159-152 in the first round of 16, missing the target only once from 16 arrows. India then thwarted some strong resistance from formidable Mexico, seeded fifth, to win 156-155 in an intense quarterfinal. PTI

Djokovic loses in Geneva semis before French Open

Geneva: Novak Djokovic will defend his French Open title in Paris still without a trophy this season after losing in the Geneva Open semifinals on Friday. The 44th-ranked Tomas Machac beat Djokovic 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 in the last clay-court event to prepare for Roland Garros, where main-draw play starts on Sunday. Djokovic, 37, took a wild card to the Swiss clay-court tournament in a bid to reverse an alarming dip in form ahead of Roland Garros where the 24-time Grand Slam champion has won three times.

"I have no reaction right now, I just fought for every ball," said 23-year-old Machac. "When you play against Novak you just hope. You just try to play your best and see what it looks like."

Djokovic, bidding to reach his first final of the season, received a medical timeout at the end of the first set.

The Serb will head to Roland Garros where he faces Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert in the first round having won no titles this year.

Machac, competing in his maiden tour-level semi-final, rallied from a



NOVAK DJOKOVIC

break down in the first set and after failing to win a game in the second powered back in the third set.

"I'm looking forward to playing in a final for the first time," said Machac who will face two-time champion Casper Ruud or Italian Flavio Cobolli in the title match. Ruud, the world No. 7, was the runner-up in the last two French Open finals, including a defeat to Djokovic last year. AGENCIES

SINDHU BEATS TOP SEED HAN YUE, REACHES SEMIS OF MALAYSIA MASTERS

Kuala Lumpur: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu took a giant stride towards securing a title at the Malaysia Masters after progressing to the semifinals with a hard-fought win over top seed Han Yue of China here on Friday. World No. 15 Sindhu recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit Han, ranked sixth, 21-13, 14-21, 21-12 in a 55-minute quarterfinal battle to avenge her loss to the Chinese in their last meeting at the Asia Badminton Championships in Ningbo last month.

Sindhu, a former world champion, will now square off against either Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani or Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan in the last four stage. In other results, Ashmita Chaliha's fine run ended in the quarterfinals with a 10-21 15-21 loss to sixth seed Zhang Yi Man of China. Sindhu gave a good account of herself during the 55-minute match as she broke off from 3-3 in the opening game to take a 11-5 cushion at the break.

The Chinese slowly made her way to 13-16 but Sindhu reeled off the remaining five straight points to take the opening game.

Stung by the reversal, Han zoomed to a 5-0 lead after the change of sides. She later comfortably took the match to the decider. In the third game, Sindhu opened up a 11-3 lead, which proved decisive. PTI

No reason for Dhoni to stop playing: Kaif

Mumbai: Former India batter Mohammad Kaif feels there is no reason why Mahendra Singh Dhoni should not play the next season of the IPL, given his form, fitness and ability to play big shots with ease. Speculation has been rife that Dhoni, who has led CSK to five IPL titles, could have played his last IPL season.

The former CSK skipper, who had undergone surgery to treat a knee injury issue last year, scored 161 runs in 73 balls at a strike rate of 220.55 this season. He was also good behind the stumps.

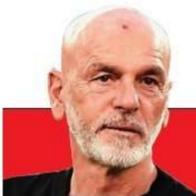
Kaif thinks Dhoni has enough left in the tank to keep playing. "Personally, I don't think he's done, he could not win the game (last league match against RCB). In the last over after hitting a six, he got out. You could make out seeing his body language that he seemed very disappointed not winning the game for CSK," Kaif, a commentator with Star Sports, said. "Why he should not come back? He is fit, he is scoring runs and hitting



Why he (MSD) should not come back? He is fit, he is scoring runs and hitting sixes, and there's no reason to stop playing." — Kaif

sixes, and there's no reason to stop playing... it's up to him, we can't say with Dhoni what's his plan," added Kaif, regarded as one of India's greatest fielders.

The 43-year-old also said that Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Shreyas Iyer had been a revelation with his calm demeanour, and attributed the team's success this year to his leadership qualities. "He (Iyer) missed the whole IPL last year and KKR probably missed his captaincy in 2023. The way he is changing the bowlers, and picking his playing XI, he looks very calm under pressure. In a tournament like the IPL, you have to be very composed, you have to know what's happening in the game and Iyer has come a long way. He has become a much better captain now," opined Kaif. PTI



2 YEARS AFTER LEADING AC MILAN TO SERIE A TITLE, COACH STEFANO PIOLI TO LEAVE CLUB



MBAPPE TO BRING CURTAIN DOWN ON HIS PSG CAREER IN FRENCH CUP FINAL TODAY

TWEAK DOES THE TRICK FOR SRH!

Spinners Shahbaz, Abhishek Put Shackles Around RR Batters As Hyderabad Make Final With 36-Run Win

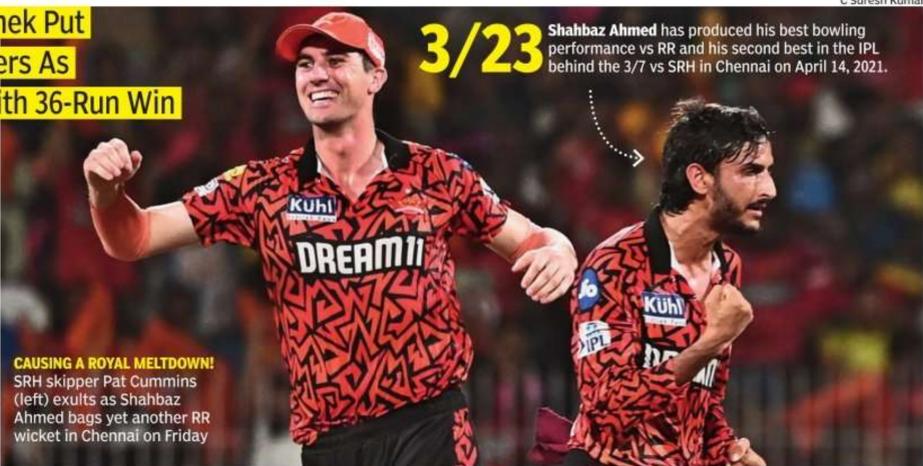
Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Chennai: The dew didn't come into play, the Chepauk pitch played all the tricks that helped Chennai Super Kings make it their fortress over the years, and Sunrisers Hyderabad were the ones to reap the benefits.

Defending a modest 175, their part-time left-arm spinners Shahbaz Ahmed (3-23) and Abhishek Sharma (2-24) followed the Ravindra Jadeja blueprint to wreak havoc and blow away Rajasthan Royals by 36 runs to make the IPL final. On Sunday, at the same venue, they take on Kolkata Knight Riders.

The fact that the pitch was stopping and turning a bit was evident in the first session itself. But when Rajasthan Royals reached 65-1 by the eighth over with Yashasvi Jaiswal looking good, one felt RR had the game under control.

It was at this point that Shahbaz and Abhishek, who were supposed to be the weak links, turned the game decisively in SRH's favour. They pushed the ball through the air and hit the right length, and the pitch had enough in it to allow



CAUSING A ROYAL MELTDOWN! SRH skipper Pat Cummins (left) exults as Shahbaz Ahmed bags yet another RR wicket in Chennai on Friday

3/23

Shahbaz Ahmed has produced his best bowling performance vs RR and his second best in the IPL behind the 3/7 vs SRH in Chennai on April 14, 2021.

19 wickets taken by Avesh Khan at 27.68 in 16 matches, the most by a Rajasthan bowler this season.

567 Run-aggregate at 43.61, including a hundred and four fifties in 14 innings by Travis Head, making him the joint-third highest run-scorer this season with Riyan Parag. Virat Kohli (741) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (583) comprise the top two.

463 Heinrich Klaassen's runs tally at 42.09, including four fifties in 14 innings, his best ever in an IPL season.

42 sixes in 15 innings by Abhishek Sharma, a record for an Indian batter in an IPL season.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SCOREBOARD

SRH: T Head c Ashwin b S Sharma 34, A Sharma c Kohler-Cadmore b T Boult 12, R Tripathi c Y Chahal b T Boult 1, H Klaassen b S Sharma 50, N Kumar Reddy c Y Chahal b A Khan 5, A Samad b A Khan 0, S Ahmed c D Jurel b A Khan 18, P Cummins not out 5, J Unadkat run out 5; **Extras** (lb, w): 8; **Total (20 ov; RR: 8.75): 175/9; FoW:** 1-13, 2-55, 3-57, 4-99, 5-120, 6-120, 7-163, 8-170, 9-175; **Bowling:** T Boult 4-0-45-3, R Ashwin 4-0-43-0, S Sharma 4-0-25-2, A Khan 4-0-27-3, Y Chahal 4-0-34-0

RR: Y Jaiswal c A Samad b S Ahmed 42, T Kohler-Cadmore c A Tripathi b P Cummins 10, S Samson c A Markram b A Sharma 10, R Parag c A Sharma b S Ahmed 6, D Jurel not out 56, R Ashwin c A Klaassen b S Ahmed 0, S Hetmyer b A Sharma 4, R Powell c A Sharma b T Natarajan 6; **T Boult** not out 0; **Extras** (lb, w): 3; **Total (20 ov; RR: 6.95): 139/7; FoW:** 1-24, 2-65, 3-67, 4-79, 5-79, 6-92, 7-124; **Bowling:** B Kumar 3-0-33-0, P Cummins 4-0-30-1, T Natarajan 3-0-13-1, J Unadkat 1-0-5-0, S Ahmed 4-0-23-3, A Sharma 4-0-24-2, A Markram 1-0-10-0

Result: SRH won by 36 runs

that little bit of turn which made it a nightmare five overs for Rajasthan Royals. They lost five wickets for 27 runs — Yashasvi, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag, R Ashwin and Shimron Hetmyer — all falling to Shahbaz and Abhishek.

The two took 47-5 in their eight overs, which was in stark contrast to RR's much-vaunted spin duo of Ashwin and

Yuzvendra Chahal's 77-0 off eight. While Abhishek and Shahbaz will corner all the glory, a special mention should be made of South African Heinrich Klaassen (50 off 34 balls), who blunted the Yuzi-Ashwin duo at a critical phase of the game.

Unlike the Rajasthan batters, Klaassen understood that it wasn't the pitch to bat

at top gear all the time. He ran well between the wickets, took the twos and waited for the odd loose ball. Klaassen used the depth of the crease to pull brilliantly when anything was slightly short and the runs that he scored proved absolutely crucial for SRH.

Another important performance came from the bat of No. 3 Rahul Tripa-

thy (37 off 15 balls), who gave SRH the early momentum after the feared opening duo of Abhishek and Travis Head was separated early.

Following Abhishek's dismissal in the last ball of the first over, Tripathy played fearlessly when the ball was still coming on to the bat and scored a few quick runs that allowed SRH to get off the blocks.

The pitch started slowing up and the RR pace bowlers Trent Boult, Avesh Khan and Sandeep Sharma helped them restrict SRH to a total which seemed manageable at that stage.

But the 56 dot balls that Sunrisers bowlers managed in addition to the magic spells of Abhishek and Shahbaz helped Hyderabad make their fourth final.

'BCCI has not approached any Australian with coaching offer'

Refuting Ricky Ponting's Claims, Board Secy Jay Shah Says Dravid's Replacement 'Must Have Risen Through The Ranks' & Needs Deep Understanding Of Indian Cricket Structure'

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Friday refuted claims that the cricket board had approached any former Australian cricketer for the job. Shah insisted that the board is focused on getting someone who understands the structure of Indian cricket and has risen through the ranks.

On Thursday, Ricky Ponting had claimed in an interview to the ICC that BCCI had checked with him if he was interested in the job. Ponting said he felt his "lifestyle" didn't suit this job.

"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 cricket structure and have risen through the ranks. It's crucial that our coach has an in-depth knowledge of our domestic cricket framework to truly elevate Team India to the next level," Shah added.

The board has been in talks with current National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman since the

ODI World Cup last November. Laxman has been reluctant to take up the role. It is also learnt that Laxman has offers with IPL franchises and broadcasters once his term at the NCA head ends in Sept. Notably, current India head coach Rahul Dravid too was elevated from being India 'A' and U-19 coach to NCA head before taking up the job with the Indian team in 2021.

Shah, in his statement, also said that the board is mindful of the responsibilities of a Team India head coach given the large fan base around the globe. "Team India commands the largest fan base globally, enjoying support that is truly unrivalled. Our rich history, passion for the game make this (head coach) one of the



JAY SHAH

most lucrative jobs in the world. The role demands a high level of professionalism as one gets to nurture some of the best cricketers in the world and an assembly line of talented cricketers to follow.

"Catering to the aspirations of a billion fans is a huge honour and the BCCI will pick the right candidate, capable of propelling Indian cricket forward," Shah said.

The deadline for submitting applications is May 27. It is understood that Dravid is not keen to continue beyond the T20 World Cup.

'KL CAUTIONED ME ABOUT INCREASED PRESSURE & POLITICS'

New Delhi: Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer was enticed by the prospect of becoming India's head coach but KL Rahul's word of caution regarding the "pressure and politics" that came with the job dissuaded him from pursuing the "amazing" opportunity.

Langer, who was Lucknow Super Giants' head coach this IPL season,

recalled a chat with his franchise skipper Rahul. "You never say never. And the pressure of doing it in India... I was talking to KL Rahul and he said, 'You know, if you think there's pressure and politics in an IPL team, multiply that by a thousand, (that's) coaching India,'" Langer told the BBC. "That was a good bit of advice. It would be an amazing job, (but) I have (put myself out of contention)," he added.

Before taking up the gig with LSG this year, Langer coached Australia for four years from May 2018 to Feb 2022, helping the team navigate a difficult period in the aftermath of the infamous ball-tampering scandal. Under Langer's guidance, Australia lifted their first-ever T20 World Cup and went on to win the Ashes. "I also know that it's an all-encompassing role, and having done it for four years with Australia, it's exhausting. And that's just the Australian job," the 53-year-old said.

As clouds clear, Gambhir emerges front-runner in hunt for new coach

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

Chennai: KKR's magnificent run into the IPL final has made former India opener Gautam Gambhir the hot topic in the national team's hunt for a new head coach. BCCI secretary Jay Shah's statement on Friday saying the board never approached any Australian for the job and that they "are focused on identifying individuals who possess a deep understanding of the Indian cricket structure and have risen through the ranks" have only added fuel to the speculation that Gambhir could be the frontrunner.

Shah's words indicate that if the new coach is not VVS Laxman, who is in charge of the National Cricket Academy, then it has to be an Indian who knows how the system works. Sources close to the development indicated there hasn't been any formal proposal from the board to



GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Gambhir yet but if it comes along, the former India opener "may not be averse to taking it up". The source added: "He is that kind of character who never shies away from a challenge."

Gambhir is currently KKR mentor and the obvious question will be whether the franchise will let him go after this season's success. The feeling is "it will be decided in a private conversation between Shah Rukh Khan and Gambhir; if it comes to that".

Those who know Gambhir insist whatever the former Delhi cricketer says, it is always "on your face". He was the same as captain when he revived KKR's sinking ship in 2011 to make

them champions twice in a space of four years. From a lacklustre seventh-place finish last year, this season KKR have topped the table with the same nucleus and start as favourites in the final.

"The beauty of Gauti as a captain, and maybe as a coach also, is that he is not obsessed with numbers. He always rewards small contributions. Once as KKR captain, he gave away his Man of the Match award to (Bengal player) Debabrata Das for a cameo against CSK. The players felt empowered under him. They knew if he had a strong word with them, there must be for a reason," former India pacer Lashmithy Balaji, who was one of Gambhir's chief lieutenants in the KKR team of 2011-13, told TOI.

Gambhir, in a recent interview with R Ashwin, also stressed on that point. "We get too caught up with headlines. But it is important to remember the building blocks. No one talks about Zaheer

Khan's first spell in the 2011 ODI final when he gave away six runs in five overs. Those are the contributions that we need to remember," Gambhir told Ashwin.

As mentor of KKR too, he has stuck to this philosophy. While the likes of Sunil Narine, Phil Salt or Andre Russell have hogged the limelight for big performances, Gambhir always has a lot of time for the likes of Venkatesh Iyer, Vaibhav Arora or Harshit Rana.

There's another element of Gambhir's captaincy and coaching that deserves a special mention. In the build-up to the 2012 IPL final against two-time champions CSK, when Balaji got injured, Gambhir dropped a superstar opener like Brendon McCullum to draft in little-known wicket-keeper batter Manvinder Bisla so that an experienced foreign pacer in Brett Lee could play.

"Imagine the immensity — Bisla for Brendon in a final — and the repercussions of that move backfiring. But Bisla played one of the best knocks of an IPL final. That's what you call instinct and it all happened because Gauti was courageous enough to stick his neck out," Balaji said.

Gambhir showed similar instinct as mentor when he broke the bank to draft in Mitchell Starc for Rs 24 cr in the auction this year. The move was criticized, the Aussie pacer didn't do too well in the first phase, but nothing could stop Gambhir from sticking with the left-arter, just the way MS Dhoni did with a faltering Shane Watson in the 2018 IPL.

Starc's class finally showed in the all-important Qualifier 1, when he removed Travis Head off the first ball to set up the win, which brought back visions of Watson's ton in the 2018 final.

GALLERY

King leads WI to 28-run win vs South Africa

Kingston: Stand-in captain Brandon King made 79 as West Indies defeated South Africa by 28 runs in the first T20 International of a three-game series here on Thursday. Opener King racked up his runs off 45 balls with six sixes and six boundaries as West Indies made 175-8 in 20 overs.

684 vie for honours in Chess for Youth: The 14th edition of the Chess for Youth got underway with 684 players in seven categories in Kolkata on Friday. The participants are fighting for top honours in U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-25 - the premier group which features one GM, five IMs, and two WIMs. *TNN/AGENCIES*

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: Malaysia Masters semis, 10.30 am (Jio); **BASKETBALL:** Timberwolves vs Mavericks, 6 am; Pacers vs Celtics, 6 am Sunday (Jio); **CRICKET:** Eng vs Pak, 2nd T20, 7 pm (Sony); USA vs Bangladesh, 3rd T20, 8.30 pm (Fancode); WI vs SA, 2nd T20, 12.30 am Sunday (Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** FA Cup final, Man City vs Man United, 7.30 pm (Sony); Spanish League, 5.30 pm, 7.45 pm; 10 pm, 12.30 am Sunday (Jio)

DECODING DK!

Dedication & Determination Are Dinesh Karthik's Mantra

Manuja.Veerappa@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Much before the Royal Challengers Bengaluru team set out on its victory lap at the M Chinnaswamy stadium following its win over Chennai Super Kings, IPL veteran Dinesh Karthik took a break from the team's celebrations to acknowledge the fans. This was just after his last dance at the venue, the 22 yards on which he rediscovered his form in the last couple of years to stage an unlikely comeback into the Indian squad for the 2022 T20 World Cup.

Karthik's international career in many ways remained unfulfilled, especially since his time in Indian colours overlapped with another wicket-keeper-bat, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, although Karthik was picked a few months before the former Indian skipper. That said, Karthik has given people plenty of reasons to celebrate, an inspiring tale of dedication, determination and the ability to rise from the dead.



in the roles assigned to him.

His best came in 2013. Batting at No. 4 for Mumbai Indians, he scored 510 runs at a strike rate of 128. As skipper, he led the Kolkata Knight Riders to the playoffs in 2018 and since returning to Bengaluru in 2022, assumed the role of a finisher. It was a job which allowed him to reinvent himself with unorthodox and sometimes audacious shots, which are an integral part of T20. Be it the 360-degree shot, the ingenious scoop or the humongous six, Karthik added them to his repertoire seamlessly.

A team man who has always walked the talk, be it for Tamil Nadu — whom he represented for over two decades — national or franchise squads, Karthik led by example with his work ethic and fitness routines. What also endeared him to peo-

ple was his childlike enthusiasm and his willingness to lend a shoulder or ear to a teammate going through a rough phase.

Highlighting this trait, Virat Kohli revealed in a video posted on RCB's social media channel. "In that phase in 2022 when I did not have a great IPL season, I was really struggling for confidence. He sat me down a couple of times and gave me an honest explanation of how he is seeing things and maybe I am not able to see them myself. I like his honesty and courage to go and speak to anyone about things that he really feels about."

KARTHIK'S IPL JOURNEY

- IPL debut: 2008
- Teams: Delhi Daredevils, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai Indians, Gujarat Lions and Kolkata Knight Riders.
- Matches: 257
- Runs: 4,842
- Highest score: 97 not out
- Strike-rate: 135.36
- 50s/100s: 22/0
- 4s/6s: 466/161
- Catches/Stumpings: 145/37

“He hadn't played a lot leading into the IPL. What he's done for us, runs-wise, attitude-wise, and contributing to the team in the dressing room and out on the field has been really special and I respect him for it.”

—Andy Flower, RCB HEAD COACH

THE FIRE STILL BURNS: Dinesh Karthik scored 326 runs at an average of 36.22 and a strike-rate of 187.36 in the 2024 IPL

USA seal historic T20I series win over B'desh

Patel, Khan Star In 6-Run Triumph

Houston: Pakistan-origin fast bowler Ali Khan's three-wicket burst in his final two overs helped USA pip Bangladesh by six runs in the second T20 International 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 the ICC full member nation again on Thursday at the Prairie View Cricket Complex to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The series is a preparation for both the sides ahead of the T20 World Cup to be co-hosted by USA and the 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. Monank later partnered with Aaron Jones (35) to add 60 runs for the third wicket, guiding USA to a total of 144 for 6.

Brief scores: USA: 144 for 6 in 20 overs (M Patel 42, A Jones 35; R Hossain 2/21) beat Bangladesh: 138 all out in 19.3 overs (N Shanto 36; Ali Khan 3/25) by 6 runs.



ON SONG: USA fast bowler Ali Khan appeals for a leg-before decision during the team's second T20I match against Bangladesh

Major League Cricket in USA

Major League Cricket in USA is an ambitious endeavour to popularise the sport in a region where it has traditionally been overshadowed by more dominant sports like basketball, baseball and football. Established with the vision of tapping into the large and growing cricket-loving expatriate community and introducing Americans to the sport, MLC has fostered a robust cricketing ecosystem.

Minor League Cricket in America

Minor League Cricket (MiLC) in America plays a critical role in promoting the sport across the country. Launched as a developmental cricket league, MiLC serves as a feeder system to Major League Cricket. *TNN/AGENCIES*

BJP in SC against HC order barring anti-TMC adverts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP has approached Supreme Court against Calcutta high court's order directing it not to issue certain derogatory advertisements against Trinamool Congress (in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during Lok Sabha Elections, 2024.

The party mentioned the case before a vacation bench of Justices Bela Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal for an urgent hearing. The court assured that it would examine.

A single bench of HC had held that advertisements were violative of the MCC and had restrained BJP from publishing such ads till further orders.

"A perusal of the impugned ads published on various dates in this month, clearly evince that those are in violation of the letter and spirit of the MCC, which clearly prohibits all participants in the election proc-

₹24L seized from Bengal BJP neta's car on eve of polls

Less than 24 hours before the sixth phase of polls, West Bengal police seized Rs 24 lakh cash from the car of a BJP functionary in West Midnapore on Friday, reports **Sujoy Khanra**. Prasanta Bera, who had contested 2021 assembly polls from Daspur in West Midnapore, was detained after he failed to provide any valid document for carrying such a huge amount of cash hours before the election.

ess from criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion," the bench had observed.

The party thereafter challenged the order before a division bench but the bench refused to interfere and BJP thereafter moved the top court.

Chem plant boiler blast toll mounts to 11, owner arrested

Kalyan: Roughly 24 hours after the reactor blast in Amudan Chemicals Pvt Ltd in Maharashtra's Dombivli MIDC Phase 2 shook a residential neighbourhood, police arrested its absconding owner from Thane and detained his mother, who is a director in the company, in Nashik even as Maharashtra Pollution Control Board issued a closure notice to the unit, report **Pradeep Gupta** & **Nishikant Karlikar**.

The toll rose to 11 on Friday morning, as the authorities found three more charred bodies while clearing debris after the six-hour-long fire-fighting operations.

Only two of the 11 deceased were identified based on their dental braces and mangalsutra — Rohini Kadam (26) and Riddhi Khanvilkar (38), who both worked in the accounts department at Amudan Chemicals.

Maharashtra assembly opposition leader Ambadas Danve blamed govt. However, industries minister Uday Samant told TOI, "There were delays in finding land to shift these hazardous companies... We were working on this."

B'desh, India may seek Interpol help to nab MP murder kingpin

Continued from P1

Bangladeshi butcher Jihad Hawladar (24) had been living illegally in Mumbai and was hired to chop the slain MP's body into multiple pieces so that the victim couldn't be traced, a CID officer said.

Jihad, who hails from Barakpur in Bangladesh's Khulna district, was arrested in Bengal's Bongaon on Thursday and handed over to CID, which is handling the case. Police suspect Celesty, who is also a Bangladeshi citizen, asked Azim to meet her at the New Town apartment. CCTV footage of Azim being escorted in by Celesty is part of the body of evidence along with the boarding pass in her name. Celesty is among the three people arrested in Bangladesh earlier this week. The others are Shimul Bhuiyan Aman, alias Amanullah Syed, member of a banned Left-wing organisation in that country, and Tanvir Bhuiyan.

Besides the trio, others present in the apartment at the time of the crime have been identified as Siam, Faisal, Mostafiz and Jihad, the



Jihad, the butcher, was produced in a court at Barasat in Bengal's North 24 Parganas on Friday

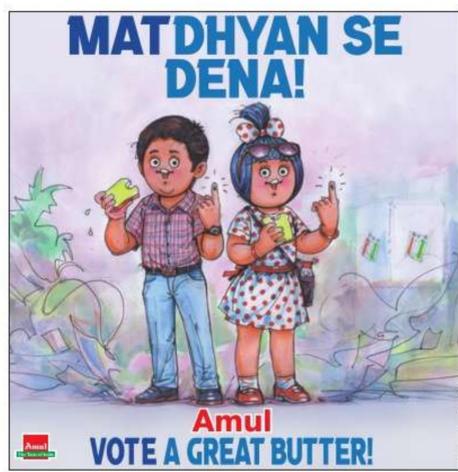
butcher, Siam, Faisal and Mostafiz are on the run.

According to Indian and Bangladeshi investigators, the murder was planned by Md Akhtaruzzaman alias Shaheen, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin. The latter paid the hired killers 5 crore Bangladeshi taka, rented the New Town flat on April 30, and arranged for everyone to converge there to kill his one-time associate and friend Azim. He returned to Bangladesh three days before the murder, leaving the others to execute the plan.

CID said Jihad the butcher confessed to doing Shaheen's bidding. "He, along with four Bangladeshi nationals, smothered and killed the MP. The butcher dismembered the body and stuffed it into multiple plastic bags to take these out of the flat. The accused used various modes of transport to dispose of the body parts in and around Kolkata."

Shaheen fled to Nepal when the MP's murder became public, and is suspected to have travelled to Dubai and then to another country. Bangladesh and India are likely to seek Interpol's help to nab him. Jihad was produced in a court in Barasat on the outskirts of Kolkata and remanded in police custody. A four-member team from police and security wings of India arrived in Bangladesh visited the detective branch office on Minto Road in Dhaka to interrogate the trio arrested there.

Mumtaz Ferdoush Dorin, daughter of Jhenaidah-4 lawmaker Azim, said in Dhaka on Friday that the motive for the murder could only be ascertained when all the culprits were arrested.



HC junks ₹2.5cr recovery notice to Haldwani riot mastermind

Dehradun: Uttarakhand HC on Friday quashed a recovery notice of Rs 2.5 crore served to Abdul Malik, the alleged mastermind of the violence in Haldwani's Banphoolpura area, reports **Pankul Sharma**. Malik is currently in jail.

The notice sought compensation for the destruction caused during the unrest on Feb 8 when a team of local ad-

ministration and municipal corporation officials launched an anti-encroachment operation, demolishing an "unauthorised" madrasa and a prayer place. The structures were built on govt land that Malik had allegedly grabbed illegally.

Malik contested this, asserting that "he had not been convicted of any offence so far".

'PM behind EC gag order on Agnipath': Cong steps up attack

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the election scene moving towards Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, Congress stepped up its attack on the Agnipath scheme and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of hiding behind Election Commission "by getting it to issue a direction" that matters concerning the armed forces should be kept out of the political campaign.

AICC ex-serviceman department chairman Rohit Chaudhary (retired Col) told a press conference that Congress will disband the Agnipath scheme and restore the old full-time recruitment policy of the armed forces, as the four-year recruitment has impaired the fighting abilities of the forces while compromising the training and status of the soldiers.

Chaudhary said the model code of conduct allows political parties to talk about policies and Congress is sticking to it by promising to disband the scheme. "We are challenging the scheme which is not in the interest of the

country, the Army and the soldiers," he said.

At the press meet, Congress played the videos of PM Modi's speeches during the 2019 election campaign, when he said first-time voters should vote for BJP as a tribute to the Pulwama martyrs.

"Whenever PM Modi gets into trouble, he looks for some support. Earlier, he used to hide behind the defence forces. Now, he is taking the support of EC,"

COUNTER-OFFENCE

the Congressman said.

Chaudhary said in the times of two-and-half front war, India cannot afford to weaken the armed forces.

Stating that Agnipath scheme was brought in to cut the expenditure on armed forces, Chaudhary said it is ironical that the Modi govt cannot find enough money for defence despite India being economically strong, in contrast to how the country, when it was much weaker financially, fought four wars and maintained its forces, modernised it and acquired new weapons.

MRP ₹949/-*

*MRP (Incl. of all Taxes) Net Qty. 2N (One Pair)

Shop at www.relaxof footwear.com | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SparxGoFort) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/SparxGoFort) | [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/relaxoindia) | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/relaxoindia)

For Franchise enquiries please contact at 8178762177

*All names, logos & brands used here are property of their respective owners and are being used for identification purpose only, which does not imply endorsement *Product images shown are for representation purpose only, actual may vary. Colour may vary due to printing limitations.

If you did C1 - you must be riding on it now!

MRF ZAPPER C1

LONGER LIFE SCOOTER TYRE

- Suitable for fitment both on the Rear and Front wheel where the size is the same.

GO TO YOUR NEAREST MRF AUTHORISED DEALER AND GET YOUR ZAPPER C1 TYRE

MRF Zapper C1 is available at all MRF T&S Outlets

MRF TireTok Outlets | MRF Exclusive Outlets | and Multi-Brand Dealerships

www.mrftyres.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON MRF DEALERSHIP

HOW TO IDENTIFY FALSE AGENCIES PRETENDING TO BE MRF RECRUITMENT AGENCIES FOR TYRE DEALERSHIP?

Any person or institution asking for any kind of payment for an MRF Tyre Dealership is totally false. MRF never asks for any payment for Tyre Dealership. For Dealership Requests, please email to "write2us@mrftyres.com" or scan the QR Code. Approximate investment required for this prestigious and profitable business - Rs. 45 to 50 lakhs (expenditure to be incurred only after the candidate visits our District Office and is interviewed by our District Manager). The expenditure required is mainly for getting the shop ready for business and for stocking tyres which will happen only 2 or 3 days before inauguration.

THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |

25 States

and J&K would have concluded polling in the ongoing general elections for the 18th LS after today

Bengal's largest phase and Punjab and Himachal are up next in the final phase of the election on June 1



DELHI DURWAR

The LS poll reaches Delhi in its penultimate phase as the BJP-AAP face-off is put to the ballot test. Its NCR neighbour Gurgaon also votes with the rest of Haryana, as do key seats in UP, Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand that NDA had won in 2019

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN PHASE 6

NDA

TO DEFEND: 45 seats, including all 10 in Haryana, 9 out of 14 in Uttar Pradesh, all 8 in Bihar, all 7 in Delhi, 5 out of 8 in West Bengal, all 4 in Jharkhand and 2 out of 6 in Odisha.

CAN LOOK FOR GAINS IN Odisha where it had only two of these seats last time, and UP where BSP, which won 4 of these seats, is going it alone this time.

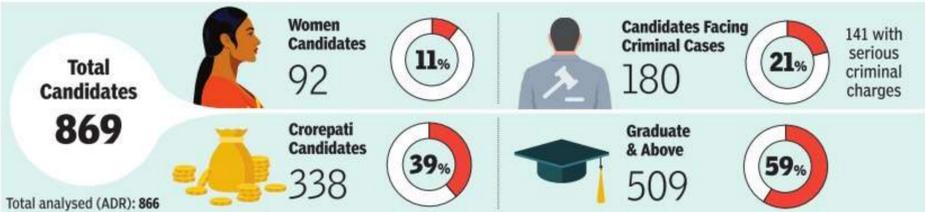
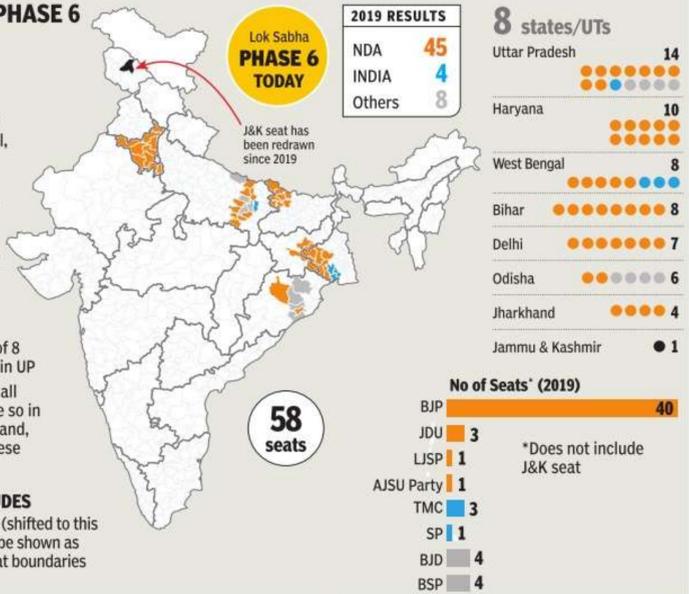
INDIA

TO DEFEND: 4 seats, including 3 of 8 seats in West Bengal and 1 of 14 in UP

CAN LOOK FOR GAINS IN Almost all the states in this round, but more so in Bihar, Haryana, Delhi and Jharkhand, where it had drawn a blank in these seats five years ago.

WHAT THIS BREAK-UP EXCLUDES

The lone seat polling today in J&K (shifted to this phase from Phase 3), which can't be shown as won by any party in 2019 since seat boundaries have been redrawn.



HIGH-STAKES BATTLES TO WATCH TODAY

Haryana: Delhi's next-door neighbour, with modern urban centres like Gurgaon to its south and a sweeping agrarian belt to the north, is a complex political field with BJP and Congress as principal opponents. Prolonged farmers' protests, the agitation by wrestlers, discontent among youth over the Agnipath scheme, and long waits for govt jobs are in the mix as Congress seeks to turn the tables on BJP after 10 years in the wilderness. Anti-incumbency and a leadership haze in the state unit, with Nayab Singh Saini named CM only in March, mean BJP is heavily reliant on the Modi factor. Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, meanwhile, is back at the forefront of the Congress campaign and will see the LS poll as staging ground for the assembly push later this year.

Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest in the backdrop, the national capital votes today in the middle of arguably the bitterest political feud it has seen. With 7 seats, Delhi's LS pool is small but central to national themes — misuse of central agencies and putting political rivals in jail for opposition parties, and crusade against corruption for BJP — that the Lok Sabha election is being fought on. So high are the stakes that BJP will be disappointed with anything less than another 7-0 scorecard — which will make it a hat-trick of clean sweeps for it in general elections since 2014 — and the INDIA bloc, with Congress and AAP in alliance, will take any gain as a vindication of its stand about the PM trying to crush the opposition using state machinery. Kejriwal, who is out on bail, has run an emotive campaign, connecting his freedom to the outcome of the election. Now, the people will decide.

A LOOK AT UNION MINISTERS & OTHER HEAVYWEIGHTS IN THE FRAY

Karnal
2019 WINNER: **BJP (Sanjay Bhatia)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Manohar Lal Khattar (BJP), Divyanshu Budhiraja (Cong)**
Removed as CM just before the general elections were announced, Manohar Lal Khattar (70) has been shifted by BJP to the Lok Sabha arena from his home constituency with BJP indicating he will get bigger responsibilities at the Centre. With Nayab Singh Saini, who replaced Khattar as CM, contesting the assembly bypoll from this seat after Khattar vacated it, Karnal is at the heart of the BJP campaign. Khattar's main rival is 30-year-old Divyanshu Budhiraja, president of Haryana Youth Congress. Also in the fray are JJP's Devender Kadian and Virender Maratha from NCP, which is supported by INLD.

Sambalpur
2019 WINNER: **BJP (Nitesh Ganga Deb)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Dharmendra Pradhan (BJP), Pranab Prakash Das (BJD)**
Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP's prominent Odisha face, is making a comeback to the electoral arena after 15 years in this prestigious west Odisha constituency that BJP won in 2019. Pradhan, a part of the Modi Cabinet who has called on voters to strengthen the hands of the PM, faces a canny challenger in BJD strategist and organisational general secretary Pranab Prakash Das. Sambalpur has demonstrated a pattern of shifting political allegiances over the past three elections. Congress won in 2009, followed by BJD in 2014 and BJP in 2019. Sambalpur, where the Hirakud dam is located, has been at the forefront of a long-standing movement for the establishment of a bench of the Odisha high court here. BJD has thrown its organisational machinery behind Das's campaign with BJP calling him an "outsider", since he is from a different part of Odisha. Though two strong candidates are in the ring, the fight here is between 'Modi's guarantees' and CM Naveen Patnaik's massive welfare push.

Gurgaon
2019 WINNER: **BJP (Rao Inderjit Singh)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Rao Inderjit Singh (BJP), Raj Babbar (Cong)**
Union minister and five-time MP Rao Inderjit Singh takes on Congress veteran Raj Babbar in this high-profile fight to Delhi's south, in a city not known for politics but business. The entry of Babbar, a Punjabi, has brought a different dynamic to the poll arithmetic because the party has always preferred Yadav candidates from this Ahir stronghold. But, even with BJP's troubles in Haryana, breaching the fortress Singh has built will take some doing. As a result, it's often been said during the campaign that Gurgaon is BJP's "safest seat" this time. Singh's influence extends across the Ahirwal belt of south Haryana and is seen as an important factor in optimism in the saffron camp about winning all three seats here.

Rohtak
2019 WINNER: **BJP (Arvind Sharma)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Arvind Sharma (BJP), Deepender Hooda (Cong)**
In the large victory margins of the 2019 Lok Sabha election for BJP in the state, Rohtak stood out for its close contest as Arvind Sharma scraped through by just 7,503 votes. This time, it's perhaps the seat Congress is most confident in. With BJP renominating Sharma, Rohtak will see a 2019 rematch in a seat that was former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda's stronghold before BJP breached it. His son Deepender, who has represented Rohtak thrice in the Lok Sabha in 2005, 2009 and 2014, hopes to wrest the seat on the back of a good Congress performance in the 2019 assembly election here. Sharma, who switched to BJP from Congress in 2014, was an MP from Karnal in 2004 and 2009.

Anantnag-Rajouri
2019 WINNER: **NC* (Hasnain Masoodi)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Mehbooba Mufti (PDP), Mian Altaf (NC), Zafar Iqbal Manhas (Apni Party)**
Far from the comfort of home turf Anantnag, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti faces a tough challenge in this constituency, which includes large parts of Jammu's Poonch and Rajouri districts. Not only did a PDP-NC alliance not work out, she now faces NC's Mian Altaf, a Gujjar spiritual head. Thanks to altered boundaries, the demography is a mix of Kashmiri Muslims, Gujjars and Bakerwals, and the Pahari community that includes Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. The central govt led by BJP, which is not in the fray, has included Paharis and three other communities in the ST list. PDP and NC have labelled Apni Party candidate Zafar Iqbal Manhas, a Pahari, a BJP proxy.
*Constituency redrawn after delimitation

Sultanpur
2019 WINNER: **BJP (Maneka Gandhi)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Maneka Gandhi (BJP), Ram Bhupal Nishad (SP), Udraj Verma (BSP)**
UP's constituency No. 38 has always remained in the shadow of its neighbours, Amethi (No. 37) and Rae Bareilly (No. 36), even though Sultanpur was district headquarters of a major part of Amethi parliamentary constituency before it became a separate district in 2010. A Gandhi contested from this seat for the first time in 2014 when BJP fielded Varun from here, shifting him from Pilibhit. He went back to Pilibhit in 2019, making way for his mother Maneka. Both won and Maneka is now back in the fray from here for her ninth term in Parliament. Last time, she won by a slender margin of 14,000 votes. This time, she is facing a formidable challenge in the form of SP's Ram Bhupal Nishad, a two-time former MLA who started with BSP and was briefly with BJP. While Maneka is confident her connection with people will see her through, Nishad is banking on the support of Muslim voters and consolidation of non-Yadav OBCs.

North East Delhi
2019 WINNER: **BJP (Manoj Tiwari)**
KEY CONTENDERS: **Manoj Tiwari (BJP), Kanhaiya Kumar (Cong)**
The most discussed of Delhi's electoral contests, this became a high-voltage, high-decibel fight after Congress decided to field Kanhaiya Kumar, the former JNU Students' Union president, against BJP's Manoj Tiwari. The Bhojपुरi actor-turned-politician is the only MP in Delhi who was re-nominated by BJP, which won all seven seats in the capital not just in 2019 but also in 2014, the year Narendra Modi became PM. The constituency has a sizable population of Poorvanchali voters, and both Tiwari and Kanhaiya are from Bihar. Kanhaiya had contested his last Lok Sabha election from Begusarai in Bihar and lost to BJP's Giriraj Singh. While he has repeatedly accused Tiwari of "zero" development in North East Delhi, BJP calls him a member of the "tukde-tukde" gang. Tiwari had defeated AAP's Anand Kumar in 2014 and former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit in 2019.

SEE FLAP INSIDE FOR OTHER BIG BOUTS

BIG BOUTS OF PHASE 6



NEW DELHI

2019 WINNER: **BJP** (Meenakshi Lekhi)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Bansuri Swaraj** (BJP), **Somnath Bharti** (AAP), **Raaj Kumar Anand** (BSP)

Arguably the most prestigious seat in Delhi, it is likely to witness a tough contest between three-time AAP MLA from Malviya Nagar Somnath Bharti and former Delhi CM and Union minister Sushma Swaraj's daughter, Bansuri. Congress has not fielded its candidate from New Delhi under the seat-sharing arrangement with AAP. The last two elections saw BJP win the seat by a comfortable margin. But the party replaced sitting MP Meenakshi Lekhi with political greenhorn Bansuri this time. Both Bansuri and Bharti are contesting their maiden Lok Sabha election. This is the only Delhi seat witnessing a three-cornered fight with the entry of former Delhi minister Raaj Kumar Anand, who resigned from AAP in April. Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, and several prominent politicians, judges and bureaucrats vote in this parliamentary constituency.



Bansuri

SIRSA

2019 WINNER: **BJP** (Sunita Duggal)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Kumari Selja** (Cong), **Ashok Tanwar** (BJP)

It's a battle between two former Haryana Congress presidents in Sirsa — Congress candidate Kumari Selja (61) is facing BJP's Ashok Tanwar (48), who moved from Congress to TMC and AAP before joining the saffron party this year. Selja has represented Sirsa in Lok Sabha twice earlier — 1991 and 1996. Her father Chaudhary Dalbir Singh was a four-time MP (1967, 1971, 1980, 1984) from the constituency. Tanwar too was elected an MP from Sirsa in 2009. Though BJP won by a margin of more than 3 lakh in 2019, it may have a tough time reclaiming the seat, with issues such as unemployment and farmers' agitation fueling anti-incumbency. Tanwar, who was with Congress when he lost from Sirsa in 2019, has run into protests while campaigning for this election.



Selja

KURUKSHETRA

2019 WINNER: **BJP** (Nayab Singh Saini)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Naveen Jindal** (BJP), **Sushil Gupta** (AAP), **Abhay Chautala** (INLD)

The land of Mahabharat is witnessing a battle between crop-patis — industrialist-turned politician Naveen Jindal of BJP, AAP's Haryana chief Sushil Gupta and INLD MLA Abhay Singh Chautala. The constituency, which includes Kurukshetra and Kaithal districts, elected Nayab Singh Saini, who vacated the seat as he was named CM earlier this year. Before him, Jindal represented the constituency in Lok Sabha for a decade (2004-2014) as a Congressman. The industrialist shifted to BJP as soon as INDIA bloc decided to give this seat to AAP, the only Haryana constituency that the party is fighting from. While BJP would need to counter anti-incumbency, Jindal has campaigned on the plank of development he brought to the area when he was MP. AAP hopes to leave its mark in the state, though there may be some resentment among Congress ranks in the area over the seat not being given to them. INLD, which is banking on a revival in Haryana, has a substantial following in the region.

FARIDABAD

2019 WINNER: **BJP** (Krishan Pal Gurjar)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Krishan Pal Gurjar** (BJP), **Mahender Pratap Singh** (Cong), **Nalin Hooda** (JJP)

BJP's Krishan Pal Gurjar, also the Union minister of state for power and heavy industries, is eyeing a hat-trick from Faridabad, having won the seat twice in a row in 2014 and 2019 after defeating Congress's Avtar Singh Bhadana both times. This time, Krishan Pal has a formidable opponent in Congress's Mahender Pratap Singh (79), who is returning to the LS arena. Belonging to the Gurjar community like Krishan Pal, Singh has been in politics for over five decades. He is a five-time MLA and has held several portfolios as a minister in Haryana govt. Against the two heavyweights is JJP's youth leader Nalin Hooda (36), whose impact on this election is too early to guess. The constituency is dominated by Gurjars, Jats, Punjabis, Brahmmins and Meo-Muslims.



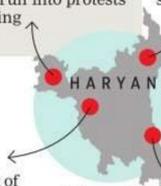
Krishan

HISAR

2019 WINNER: **BJP** (Brijendra Singh)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Jai Prakash** (Cong), **Ranjit Singh Chautala** (BJP), **Naina Singh Chautala** (JJP), **Sunaina Chautala** (INLD)

This Jat heartland is a melting pot of hallmarks that often define Haryana politics — dynasty and turncoats. Sitting BJP MP Brijendra Singh, who quit his IAS job to join politics in 2019, left the saffron camp to join Congress earlier this year. But he didn't get a ticket as Congress opted for Bhupinder Singh Hooda loyalist Jai Prakash, better known as JP. He started his political career with INLD but switched to Bansi Lal's Haryana Vikas Party. He then joined Congress but contested the 2014 assembly poll as an Independent candidate, and won. In 2019, he went back to Congress. On the other side, BJP promptly nominated Ranjit Singh Chautala, son of former deputy PM Devi Lal, after he stepped down as an Independent MLA and joined the party. The Chautala clan, divided among all political parties in Haryana, has two other members in the fray from Hisar — JJP's Naina Chautala, sitting MLA and mother of former deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, and INLD's Sunaina Chautala.



TAMLUK

2019 WINNER: **TMC** (Dibyendu Adhikari)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Abhijit Gangopadhyay** (BJP), **Debangshu Bhattacharya** (TMC), **Sayan Banerjee** (CPM)

This is one of Bengal's most closely watched battles. A high court judge, five months short of retirement, resigned from the bench to join BJP and was awarded with a BJP nomination in Tamluk, an Adhikari family fief since 2009. Pitted against him is a 27-year-old debutant who coined Trinamool's 'Khela Hobe' slogan. In their win or their loss, the Abhijit-Gangopadhyay-versus-Debangshu-Bhattacharya battle is set to be a defining point in Bengal politics. BJP has pulled out all stops to ensure Ganguly's win. Adhikari himself is shouldering Ganguly's campaign and CM Mamata Banerjee has elevated this contest as a "personal battle" to avenge her "illegal" Nandigram defeat in 2021.



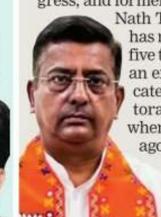
Abhijit

ALLAHABAD

2019 WINNER: **BJP** (Rita Bahuguna Joshi)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Neeraj Tripathi** (BJP), **Ujjwal Rewati Raman Singh** (Cong), **Ramesh Singh Patel** (BSP)

Some big names like PD Tandon, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Bahuguna, VP Singh, Janeshwar Mishra, MM Joshi and Rewati Raman Singh have represented this seat in the past. BJP won the constituency for the first time in 1996 with MM Joshi, and the veteran went on to make a hat-trick before losing to Rewati Raman of SP in 2004. The battle this time is between two scions — Rewati Raman's son Ujjwal from Congress, and former UP speaker and Bengal governor Keshari Nath Tripathi's son Neeraj of BJP. Keshari Nath has represented Allahabad South assembly seat five times. Ujjwal is a former two-time MLA and an ex-minister, and Neeraj, an additional advocate general with UP govt, is making his electoral debut. Like his father, Ujjwal joined SP when he started his political career two decades ago. But he jumped to Congress just before polls were announced. Ramesh Patel of BSP is likely to win a fraction of Kurmi votes but the contest may not be a three-cornered fight even then.



Neeraj

AZAMGARH

2019 WINNER: **SP** (Akhilesh Yadav), **BJP** (Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua in bypoll)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua** (BJP), **Dharmendra Yadav** (SP), **Mashud Ahmed Ansari** (BSP)

Muslims and Yadavs form almost 35% of the voting population, making it a favourite hunting ground for Samajwadi Party's first family for the past three elections (though patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's nephew Dharmendra lost a bypoll two years ago to Bhojpur film star Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua). Of the past 20 Lok Sabha elections, including bypolls, a Yadav candidate has won the seat 14 times, and a Muslim candidate three. The seat went to BSP four times as the party managed to consolidate Muslim voters in its favour apart from Dalit voters, who account for 17-18% of the constituency's population. Before Nirahua inflicted a shocking defeat on Dharmendra in the 2022 bypoll, BJP had won the seat only once, through local strongman Ramakant Yadav in 2009. This election, protagonists of the 2022 bypoll are back in the fray. Former BSP MLA Guddu Jamali, who had polled nearly 2.6 lakh votes in the 2022 bypoll to facilitate Nirahua's victory by a margin of 8,000 votes, is now with SP. Apart from his caste, Nirahua is banking on BJP's development pitch for the region.



PURI

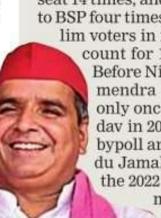
2019 WINNER: **BJD** (Pinaki Mishra)

KEY CONTENDERS: **Sambit Patra** (BJP) and **Arup Patnaik** (BJD)

The Jagannath temple, a 12th-century shrine and a key identity of Odisha, has become the focal point of politics in the state, particularly in Puri, as Odia Asmita emerges as a crucial poll issue. The temple holds immense significance for the average Odia, making it the centre of gravity in Odisha politics. BJP's Sambit Patra and former Mumbai commissioner Arup Patnaik are engaged in a fierce battle. The heritage corridor and the "missing key" to the lord's treasures have surfaced as important poll issues, not only in Puri but across Odisha, during the simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly elections. Patra's recent gaffe, where he described "Lord Jagannath as devotee of PM Modi" instead of the other way around, has escalated into a major controversy. Sambit had narrowly lost to BJD's Pinaki Mishra in 2019. BJD has roped in Arup who had lost the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha election last time.



Sambit



Dharmendra

Haryana hogs list of phase-6 richest

The penultimate round of voting covers 58* seats across eight states and UTs. About a tenth of the 866 candidates whose affidavits were analysed by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) are women and close to one out of every four is a graduate or above

1 Naveen Jindal | **BJP**
Kurukshetra, Haryana
₹1,241.5 crore

Sanjiv Misra | **BJD**
Cuttack, Odisha
482.2

Dr Sushil Gupta | **AAP**
Kurukshetra, Haryana
169.6

Naina Singh Chautala | **JJP**
Hisar, Haryana
139.7

Rao Inderjit Singh | **BJP**
Gurgaon, Haryana
121.5

Fauji Jai Kwar | **IND**
Gurgaon, Haryana
113.4

Maneka Gandhi | **BJP**
Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh
97.2

Mahender Pratap Singh | **Cong**
Faridabad, Haryana
90.4

Bahadur Singh | **JJP**
Bhiwani-Mahendragarh, Haryana
88.7

Raaj Kumar Anand | **BSP**
New Delhi, Delhi
83.6

₹6cr
Avg asset value of candidates

338 candidates are crorepatis

AVG ASSETS, ₹	NO. OF CANDIDATES
Above 500cr	1
100-500cr	5
50-100cr	11
20-50cr	25
1-20cr	296
50 lakh-1cr	87
20-50 lakh	132
10-20 lakh	88
1-10 lakh	159
<1 lakh	62

Figures in ₹ cr

245 Most candidates aged between 40 and 50
Avg age: **48yrs**

AGE	NO. OF CANDIDATES
30	63
40	208
50	191
60	128
70	31

*Voting for Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat in J&K was moved from third to sixth phase