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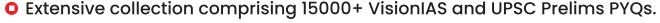
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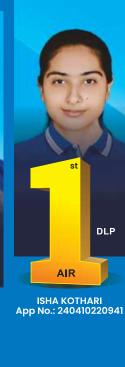




















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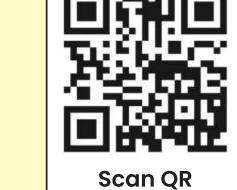












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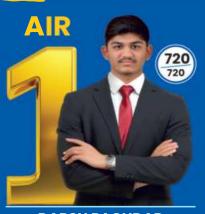
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Guessing game begins over new **BJP CM in Odisha**

BHUBANESWAR

A day after the BJP secured a decisive victory in Odisha, potential names for the new Chief Minister have begun doing the rounds. The BJP won 78 seats in the 147-member Legislative Assembly. » Page 9

BJP's Delhi unit sets its eyes on **Assembly poll**

NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the party's win in all Lok Sabha seats of the Capital, Delhi BJP chief on Wednesday said they will work to win the 2025 Assembly poll. » Page 2

THE HINDU CSDS-LOKNITI Post-poll Survey 2024

Beginning today, The Hindu is publishing a series of articles by CSDS-Lokniti, explaining the 2024 Lok Sabha election results based on their post-poll survey.

INDIA decides to keep doors open for Naidu, Nitish



Upbeat camp: Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Sanjay Raut, Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders of the INDIA bloc at Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

Calling the June 4 results a mandate against the Narendra Modi government, the INDIA bloc, at the end of a two-hour meeting at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence here on Wednesday, said it would take "appropriate steps" at the "appropriate time" to realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP government.

At the meeting, 33 leaders from 21 parties said that while doors should be kept open for the TDP, led by N. Chandrababu Naidu, and their erstwhile ally the Janata Dal(U) of Nitish Kumar, the bloc will be patient for the right opportunity. It was agreed that the allies should remain vigilant whenever the BJP government moves a confidence motion in Parliament, which could possibly offer them an opening. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, according to sources, opined that the bloc has been successful in demolishing "Brand Modi".

the allies to remain flexible and accommodative to keep the bloc united. Trinamool Congress's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was the only one to claim that a few elected BJP MPs are in touch with his party.

Mr. Yadav also advised

There were a few feeble comments on necessity for a convener, but this conversation did not dominate the discourse.

NDA elects Modi as its leader; talks with allies to begin soon

Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nadda to meet partners on the contours of the new coalition government; NDA parliamentary party meeting to be held on June 7; swearing-in likely over the weekend; TDP chief reportedly demands Central aid for A.P.

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

he process of forming a new government led by Narendra Modi was set in motion on Wednesday, with the parties of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unanimously passing a resolution electing him their leader at a meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence.

In all, 21 NDA leaders signed the resolution, which appreciated Mr. Modi's efforts in nation-building, welfare of the poor, and development, adding that they were all partners in that effort.

"After a very long gap, of almost six decades, the people of India have chosen a powerful leader with an absolute majority for the third consecutive time," the resolution read.

"We NDA leaders unanimously choose Narendra Modi as our leader," it said.

The meeting was attended by BJP president J.P. Nadda, BJP leaders Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, and the BJP's allies, including Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo N.



Show of strength: Narendra Modi with NDA allies at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Sena chief Eknath Shinde, Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, and Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar faction) leader Praful Patel.

President Droupadi Murmu dissolved the 17th Lok Sabha on Wednesday after the recommendation of the Union Cabinet.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister tendered his resignation, along with his Council of Ministers, to

the President. She accepted the resignation and requested that Mr. Modi and his Council

the new government assumes office.

The path for government formation is being prepared, with a meeting of the NDA parliamentary party scheduled for June 7 to allow the alliance's MPs to endorse the resolution, after which Mr. Modi will stake claim to form the government before the Presi-

Mediation time

With the BJP falling 32 seats short of a full majoritv on its own in the Lok Sabha, the distribution of Ministries and the shape of the new coalition government will require some

Shah and Mr. Nadda will hold meetings with alliance partners to hammer out the details.

Mr. Modi's swearing-in will likely take place over the weekend.

"The Prime Minister Modi has a preference for June 9, but that is also the day that Chandrababu Naidu wanted his own oathtaking ceremony [as CM of Andhra Pradesh], so either of them could move the date," said a source.

Mr. Naidu met BJP leader Piyush Goyal for half an hour after the NDA meeting, with sources saying that Mr. Naidu's "asks" reof Ministers continue until mediation. According to volved around Central aid

for Andhra Pradesh which, he said, was in dire straits financially.

"The alliance is strong. All are on board. We are still working out a formula for Ministerial berths, etc," said a senior BJP leader involved in the negotiations.

Mr. Naidu spoke to journalists after the meetings, reiterating that he was "firmly" with the NDA. "Where is the doubt?" he said, when asked about the INDIA bloc's repeated assertions that he was an unreliable ally in the NDA.

JD(U) leader Rajeev Ranjan Singh also released a statement stating that his narty stood with the NDA



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// BY ORDER OF THE COURT // Sd/- Y. NAGENDER

Advocate H.No. 9-2-52, Girmajipet, Warangal, TELANGANA. Cell : 91824 99414

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R-1 : Indian Overseas Bank, Kikar Bazaar Branch, Battinda Town, Punjab State, PIN : 151 001, Rep. by its Branch Manager.

R-2: UNIT TRUST OF INDIAMUTUA FUNDMCBZ3/03228, 1st Floor, Near Vandana Hospital, Ganesh Basti Bus Stop, Goniana Road, Bhatinda-151 001. R-4: Muthoot Finance Ltd., Bank Bazaar, Main Bazaar Road, Raman Mandi, Battinda Town, Punjab State, PIN: 151 301, Rep. by its Branch Manager. R-6 : State Bank of India, Bhatti Road, Opp to Care Hospital, Battinda Town, Punjab State, PIN : 151 001, Rep. by its

R-8: SHRI. PARASARAM HOLDINGS PVT LTDB-7, Nimri Shopping Center Gupta Chambers, Bharat NagarDelhi-110052. R-9 : Finance IOB, Kikar Bazaar Branch Battinda Town, Punjab State, PIN : 151 DO1, Rep. by its Branch Manager. Please take notice that the above Succession OP 01/2023 filed by the petitioners stands posted to 06-05-2024 or your appearance. Hence, you are nereby informed you to appear before the advocate at 10-30 AM on 20-06-2024, failing which the matter will be decided in

// By order of the Court // Praneeth GN, Advocate for petitioners, Bangalore Date: 05-06-2024 Place: Penukonda

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REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Assistant for

cation: Delhi or Gurgoan

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nall be considered to be non-existent and/or
aived and/or abandoned AND our client will

Schedule

Description of the Said Property
iround Floor comprising of both the Front
ortion of Ground Floor, together with the
iven (comprising of One Bed room, One
rawing Dining, One Kitchen, One car arking) AND also the Rear Portion of Ground loor together with the rear courtyard omprising of Three Bed rooms with attached oath, Family Lounge, One car Parking and one Servant room on the terrace of a Mtrs.), in Block B-7 (also known as B-7/9), afdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029

be entitled to proceed with the transaction of

rchasing the Said Property

along with 25% proportionate interest in the plot of land of B-7/9, Safdarjung Enclave Suri and Company, Law Firm Flat No's 10&12, Golf Apartments Sujan Singh Park, New Delhi - 110003

Place: Delhi Dated 06.06, 2024

Despite drawing a blank, AAP calls poll results a 'win'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

In spite of defeats in all four Lok Sabha seats it contested in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lauded its electoral performance. saying the results must be judged against the circumstances in which the party fought the election.

"They [BJP] threatened our volunteers, tried to buy our MLAs, and hatched many conspiracies, but AAP did not bow down and was firm in its fight," said party's national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak, adding that AAP stayed united even though the BJP "put [Chief Minister] Arvind Kejriwal in jail".

Mr. Pathak said the party had put "its heart and soul" into ensuring a good electoral performance for the Opposition's INDIA bloc in a bid to safeguard the country and show that India "won't tolerate dictatorship" "We have been saying

from the beginning of the election that in this contest, it is not AAP which is important, but the entire country," he said. Adding that Mr. Kejriwal's extensive campaign-

ing while on interim bail

contributed greatly to the

INDIA bloc's performance,

Didn't bow down to BJP's pressure results for INDIA

Mr. Pathak said that Delhi has a "fixed pattern" of voting, wherein it votes for the BJP during the general election and for AAP during the Assembly election.

"Delhi stuck to its guns change," he said.

While the Opposition failed to wrest even one of State "saw a close fight".

tactics, ensured good bloc, says AAP leader

he said, "We followed the coalition dharma with full honesty. Moreover, AAP was successful in its aim of ensuring that the BJP did not get a majority in the Lok Sabha."

'Fixed pattern'

this time too, but the margin of the BJP's victory, which used to be in lakhs, reduced considerably this time. It was clear that the public is ready for a

Delhi's seven Lok Sabha seats from the BJP, AAP saw an increase in vote share from 18.2% in the 2019 general election to 24.14% this time. Mr. Pathak added that leaving aside the defeat in Delhi, three AAP candidates won the poll in Punjab, while two or three other seats in the

AM 306, City Center, Sector 29 (Near Hotel Pllazio)

• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)

JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
 NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP

LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

INTERSCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION

the transformative impact of debates. Participants debated the necessity of wars in

maintaining peace. DPSG Vasundhara won first place, Indirapuram Public School second,

MOMMY & ME CELEBRATION

emphasized the strong bond between mothers and children, promoting nurturing

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

the school auditorium, featured esteemed guests Colonel Umesh Marwaha, Director

Administration Ms. Shikha Vats, Principal Mr. Gaurav Bedi, and Headmistress Primary

Ms. Era Batra. Bhavyansh Sharma and Priyamvada Tyagi were installed as Head Boy and

Head Girl. The event highlighted the commitment of these young leaders to uphold the

school's values. Parents, faculty, and the entire school community proudly witnessed the

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and Lotus Valley School third. The event concluded with the national anthem.

Delhi Public School, Jaipur, celebrated the Mommy & Me event for Pre-Nursery to class II students.

Highlights included "Culinary Queens," where mothers prepared appetizers, and "Eco-Artists,"

creating art from recycled materials. The event

also featured a lively ramp walk with moms and

kids grooving to energetic tunes. The celebration

relationships and creating lasting memories.

Delhi Public School Ghaziabad Vasundhara hosted

Pulse - Impulse 2024, an interschool debate

competition. The event commenced with the

Gayatri Mantra, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by distinguished guests, including

Dr. Rathindranath Sarkar, Senior Advocate Rajesh

Kumar Gupta, Ms. Priya Vaidya, and Dr. Tanushree

Sharma. Dr. Vinod Kumar, the Principal, emphasized

After Lok Sabha election success, BJP sets eye on Assembly poll next year

AAP's loss in LS poll prelude to its ouster from power, says Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva; vows to expose ruling party's 'corruption'; 2025 poll will be a 'game changer' for the party, he says

Satvika Mahajan NEW DELHI

Buoyed by his party's victory in all seven parliamentary seats of Delhi for the third consecutive time, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva on Wednesday said their next target will be to oust the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from power in the Assembly election next year.

"This victory for the BJP is just an interval. We will once again focus on our work and oust the corrupt Arvind Kejriwal government from power in the Capital," he told reporters at a press conference held to introduce the newly elected Lok Sabha members from Delhi.

In the election results declared on Tuesday, the BJP won the seven Lok Sabha seats in the city against the combined strength of the AAP and Congress, which fought in a 4-3 seatsharing arrangement. Despite bagging all Del-

hi seats in the 2014 and 2019 general elections, the BJP's performance has re-

MEN & WOMEN

By Economy Sales: 9212758425



Newly elected BJP Lok Sabha members during a party programme in Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

mained dismal in the Assembly polls as it has failed to reach double digits in the 70-member House since 2015. AAP formed its government with a thumping majority in the 2015 and 2020 Assembly polls, bagging 67 and 62 seats respectively.

'People disappointed' However, Mr. Sachdeva

said the city's people are now "fed up" with the AAP

government. "People have seen the development works carried out by the BJP's Central government in the past 10 years and I'm sure they will consider this before voting in the Assembly poll," he said.

He also claimed that the Assembly election will turn out to be a "game changer" for the BJP and that the party will "expose" the Delhi government's "corruption" with facts.

"Delhi has been plundered by AAP and, as a result, the CM, along with other senior party leaders, is sitting in jail today," he said, referring to the corruption cases lodged against AAP leaders.

He said Delhi residents have been troubled by the lack of drinking water, traffic, and bad roads, and that all of these issues will have an impact on the outcome of the Assembly poll.

Massive fire breaks out at hospital, no one injured

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A short circuit in an air on Wednesday According to the police,

dent at 11.30 a.m.

'AAP national party, its need for office space can't be overlooked'

conditioner led to a major fire incident at a two-storey private hospital in southeast Delhi's Lajpat Nagar

no one was injured in the incident, as those inside the hospital were rushed out immediately. A Delhi Fire Services of-

ficial said they pressed 20 fire tenders into service to put out the fire at Eye7 Chaudhary Eye Centre on Ring Road after receiving information about the inci-

It took almost an hour and a half to douse the flames. All furniture and machines kept in the medical facility were gutted in the blaze.

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The High Court on Wednesday ordered the Centre to take a decision on allocating land to AAP for the construction of its offices, saving it is a national party and its need for office space in the national capi-"cannot overlooked".

The court said the Centre has to give a detailed order "as to why even one housing unit from the General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) cannot be allotted to the petitioner (AAP) when all other political parties have been allotted similar accommodation from the GPRA".

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had earlier told the court that it

was facing an acute shortage of the GPRA on account of the redevelopment of seven GPRA colonies, which is currently under way, and that there is a long waiting list of eligible officers who are awaiting the allotment of these accommodations.

The Ministry said the grant of housing a unit from the general pool to AAP for office use is "not feasible".

The court remarked that "there has always been pressure on the pool of houses available for allotment to the officers". "The fact that there is a huge pressure cannot be the only reason for the respondent (Centre) to deny the petitioner its right to be allotted an accommodation from the GPRA for setting up its party office," it said.

Nearly 10 lakh households availing of free power scheme may see soaring summer bills

Aroon Deep NEW DELHI

Around 10 lakh households that avail of the Delhi government's electricity subsidy may see their tariffs soar due to the use of air conditioners, air coolers, and fans during the ongoing heatwave, according to data accessed by The Hin-

Delhi, which saw maximum temperatures touch the 45-degree Celsius mark several times over the past few days, recorded a record-breaking peak power demand of 8,302 MW a week ago. Last year's peak power demand was 7,438

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission's tariff policy allows house-

More customers are expected to lose out on subsidies due to higher use of ACs, air coolers, and fans

holds with fewer than 200 units of electricity consumption a month to avoid paying any bill under the voluntary subsidy scheme. Above the 200-unit limit, a rate of ₹4.50 per unit is charged till 400 units, beyond which each unit is charged ₹6.50. Moreover, consumers who breach the 400-unit mark are charged ₹800 extra as they stop receiving subsidies under the Delhi government's 2021 tariff scheme.

The Hindu reviewed data shared by an industry

source, which show that among 50-60 lakh households that consumed less than 800 units of electricity over a two-year period, fewer than 5% breached the subsidy cut-off of 400 units over the past two winters. However, last summer, a quarter of all households consuming less than 800 units of electricity lost their subsidy during summer and paid an additional ₹800. The additional load was

due to "the cooling load [in summers]," the source "The number of subsidy

recipients generally increases during the winter (November to February) and decreases during the summer (May to August),"

the source added.

The

Ghaziabad celebrated the

Student Council Investiture

for 2024-25. The ceremony

marked the official installation

of the newly elected Student

Council members. The oath-

taking ceremony, held in

School

Evening rain brings relief for Delhiites

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Delhi's weather experienced a sudden change on Wednesday evening as rain lashed several parts. providing relief to residents from the heat. The weather department has forecast thunderstorms with light to moderate rain and gusty winds with speeds of 30 to 40 kmph over and adjoining areas during the next two hours.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 44 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department, Relative humidity oscillated between 22 and 33%. Other stations recorded the following temperatures: Najafgarh 46.4; Narela 46.3; Aya Nagar 45; Ridge 44.3 and Palam 44.4 degrees Celsius.

Timings

- **DELHI** THURSDAY, JUN. 06
- RISE 05:24 SET 19:18 RISE 04:46 SET 19:26
- FRIDAY, JUN. 07 RISE 05:24 SET 19:18
- RISE 05:40 SET 20:29 SATURDAY, JUN. 08
- RISE 05:23 SET 19:18 ► RISE 06:38 SET 21:25
- **Delhi Weather** max min Delhi City 44 Safdarjand

Delhi Palam Today

44°C Heat wave to prevail The weather will be very hot and uneasy during the day. Chances of duststorm and

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 45°C Heat wave to continue Morning will be uneasy. The day will be very hot and uneasy. Spell of dust storm and thundershower is likely © Copyright Skymet Weather 2024 All rights reserved.

Fadnavis offers to resign as Maharashtra Deputy CM; Opposition calls it 'drama'

'I take responsibility for the results,' says the Deputy CM after the BJP's Lok Sabha tally comes down from 23 in 2019 to nine; Assembly election in the State will be held in less than six months

Abhinay Deshpande MUMBAI

fter the BJP-led Mahayuti secured only .17 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis offered to resign as Deputy Chief Minister.

"I take responsibility for the results in Maharashtra, as I was leading the party. I request my top bosses to relieve me from governmental responsibilities, and let me work for the party for the upcoming Assembly election," he said after a meeting with top leaders to analyse the poll results. The Assembly election is scheduled less than six months from now.

Mr. Fadnavis's resignation offer came after the BJP's Lok Sabha tally dropped from 23 in 2019 to nine in Maharashtra.

In these elections, Mahayuti's performance was eclipsed by the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, which includes the Congress, the Shiv Sena (UBT), and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar). The MVA won 30 seats, reflecting significant gains for the alliance. The Congress won 13 seats compared to one in 2019.

The Opposition Congress said Mr. Fadnavis's offer was a "drama", and it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who should quit.



Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis at a press conference at the BJP headquarters in Mumbai on Wednesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

diji has a development

agenda that could not be

gether in the past and we

will keep on working in the

future. Failures must not

discourage us," said Mr.

Shinde, who ousted Mr.

Thackeray from the Shiv

Sena, with the support of

most of the party MLAs

the reason for the defeat

would be reviewed. Ear-

lier, Mr. Fadnavis said coor-

dination issues exist with

Mr. Shinde and Deputy

Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of

Patil, the grandson of

former CM Vasantdada Pa-

til, who won as an Inde-

pendent candidate from

Sangli, will likely extend

his support to the MVA.

Congress leader Vishal

The Chief Minister said

and MPs in 2022.

the NCP.

"We have worked to-

countered," he said.

Mr. Fadnavis, after attending the meeting with State leaders, said, "The entire responsibility for this result is mine. I agree that I was lacking somewhere in all this and am going to make all efforts to overcome this shortcoming." He added that he would meet the senior BJP leaders soon and do whatever they ask him to.

However, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the electoral defeat is a collective responsibility and all three parties had worked together. "If you look at the vote share, Mahayuti received more than two lakh votes in Mumbai. The false narrative that the Constitution will change hurt us. The Opposition was shouting 'Modi hatao'. The voters of India kept them

away from power and Mo-

Pawar skips NDA meeting

Sulking Ajit

Shoumojit Banerjee

Cracks have begun to appear within the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Mahayuti coalition in Maharashtra, after Deputy CM and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar skipped a key National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting in Delhi on Wednesday.

According to sources, a sulking Mr. Ajit, upset over the debacle of his party in the Lok Sabha election, gave the NDA meeting a miss. His NCP faction managed to win only the Raigad seat out of the four it had contested.

Mr. Ajit's biggest loss was in Baramati, where his wife Sunetra Pawar was trounced by his cousin and incumbent MP Supriya Sule, who won by a margin of more than 1.5 lakh votes.

Following the defeat, recriminations have begun in earnest, with NCP MLC Amol Mitakri on Wednesday accusing the BJP and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena of not campaigning wholeheartedly for Ms. Pawar, dubbing her loss "a betrayal".



The goal should be the restoration of 'Amma reign' in 2026: Sasikala. FILE РНОТО

'MGR, Amma followers must unite'

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The former interim general secretary of the AIADMK, V.K. Sasikala, on Wednesday urged party workers to come together. Her plea followed a call given by J.C.D. Prabhakar, a key aide of the party's former coordinator O. Panneerselvam and former Villivakkam MLA, for unity followers among AIADMK icons M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa.

Ms. Sasikala said the party had "never experienced" such successive electoral setbacks. "The time has come to decide whether the organisation should continue to suffer defeats or get back to winning ways." She recalled that before she went to prison in 2017, she made every effort to safeguard the AIADMK and its government. Later, the party lost power, and did not remain united. "Crores of workers who are reposing their faith in the party, and the people of the State are important," Ms. Sasikala said, adding that the goal should be the restoration of the "Amma reign" in 2026.

Delhi court rejects Kejriwal's plea for bail on medical grounds

Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI

A court here on Wednesday rejected the interim bail application of Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, arrested in a money laundering case related to excise policy. Mr. Kejriwal had sought bail for seven days citing health reasons.

Special Judge (PC Act) Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Courts rejected the plea after hearing arguments from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the applicant.

"It is a well-settled proposition that every ailment would not entitle an accused to be released on bail and the power to grant interim bail on the ground of illness should be exercised in a sparing and cautious manner," the court

'Relief given earlier'

The judge said Mr. Kejriwal, who claimed to be suffering from diabetes, had been given relief on earlier occasions. However, diabetes or even type-2 diabetes could not be said to be so serious an ailment so as to entitle him to the relief claimed, the court said.

"Further, the extensive campaigning tours and related meetings/events undertaken by Mr. Kejriwal indicate that he does not appear to be suffering from any serious or 'life-threatening' ailment so as to entitle him to the beneficial provision as contained in proviso to Section 45 of the PMLA," the court said.

The judge noted that the



Every ailment would not entitle an accused to be released on bail, says the court. FILE PHOTO

plea was made on the ground of diagnosis of an illness from which he could be suffering i.e. diabetic ketoacidosis of which high ketone levels was stated to be an indicator. For this, a series of tests were stated to have been prescribed.

The court added that these tests could be conducted while he was in cus-

The judge said the medical board of AIIMS, constituted on the previous order, had been asked to review the same.

Mr. Kejriwal, earlier this month, had filed two separate bail applications in the court – an interim bail on medical grounds and a regular bail. The hearing on regular bail plea is scheduled for June 7. The AAP leader remained in jail from March 21 to May 10 when the Supreme Court gave him interim bail to campaign for the general elections. The apex court has not yet pronounced the final verdict on the plea of Mr. Kejriwal in which he has challenged his arrest and remand by the ED.

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Sukhu govt. to build tunnel under Jakhu Hill in Shimla

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said Wednesday his government will build an 890-metre-long double-lane tunnel under the Jakhu Hill in Shimla to ease traffic congestion. Presiding over a meeting of the public works department in Shimla, Mr. Sukhu said the tunnel would be constructed from Nav-Bahar to the circular road near the Indira Gandhi Medical College with an outlay of ₹295 crore. ₹100 crore has already been released and the tender process will begin by June end. A parking facility for an additional 3,000 vehicles will also be developed, he added. PTI

Cocaine worth ₹130 cr. seized off Gujarat's Kutch coast

Thirteen unclaimed packets of cocaine, valued at ₹130 crore in the international market, were recovered from a creek area near Gandhidham town in Gujarat's Kutch district in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. A preliminary probe suggested the smugglers had hidden the contraband at the sea shore to avoid getting caught, Kutch-East Division Superintendent of Police Sagar Bagmar said, adding this is the second major drug recovery from the same creek area in eight months. In September last year, the Kutch police recovered 80 unclaimed packets of cocaine valued at ₹800 crore in the international market. PTI

Sena (UBT) likely to move court over loss after recount

Snehal Mutha MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena (UBT) is mulling over moving court after its Mumbai North West Lok Sabha candidate Amol Kirtikar lost by a wafer-thin margin of 48 votes to his opponent, Ravindra Waikar of the ruling Shiv

Mr. Kirtikar was initially declared the winner on Tuesday by a margin of 600 votes over Mr. Waikar, the sitting MLA from Jogeshwari, but the latter won the seat after a recount.

"The counting process had issues. First the EVM votes were counted and then postal ballots," Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray said. The Sena (UBT) is also likely approach the President over the 'unfairness' of Election Commission's functioning.

According to election officials, Mr. Waikar's polling agents raised objections after Mr. Kirtikar's victory, leading to a recount of 9,51,582 EVM votes. Mr. Kirtikar still led by one vote after the recount. However, after counting 3,049 postal ballots, Mr. Waikar emerged with a lead of 48 votes and secured victory with a final tally of



Party to challenge Amol Kirtikar's loss by 48 votes in Mumbai North West seat.

4,52,644 votes compared to his opponent's 452,596. Shiv Sena (UBT) polling agents then alleged technical errors in three voting machines and claimed a discrepancy between their count and that of the Election Commission, but officials of the polling body

dismissed these claims.

'Seat stolen'

"Kirtikar's seat was not won but stolen by the ruling party candidate," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said on Wednesday.

"After the election, anyone who is aggrieved over the results can file a petition with the court within 45 days as all the EVMs in the country are stored in the strongroom," Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S. Chokkalingam told The Hindu.

Amid silence on the LS results, reshuffle likely in BJP's Rajasthan unit

Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan, BJP candidates posted victories in 14 while eights were bagged by the Congress; State Cong. chief challenges CM to accept responsibility for defeat

Mohammed Iqbal

enior Bharatiya Jana-ta Party leaders in Rajasthan have refrained from commenting on the defeat of party candidates in as many as 11 seats amid indications that the central leadership is likely to soon carry out a reshuffle in the State unit. Following his victory from Chittorgarh, State president C.P. Joshi is likely to get new responsibility in New Delhi.

Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan, BJP has won 14, Congress 8 while three seats went to others.

Both Mr. Joshi and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma have congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for National Democratic Alliance's victory and have expressed hope that the nation would achieve new heights under his leadership.

However, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Sharma have not commented on the defeat of



Former Lok Sabha Speaker and Bharatiya Janata Party candidate, Om Birla, receives his certificate after he won from Kota, ANI

the BJP candidates, mostly in seats in the north and east parts of the State. The prominent losers include sitting MPs Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria, Sumedhanand Saraswati and Kailash Choudhary.

If Mr. Joshi is sent to the Centre, the BJP will have to find a suitable replacement to head the State unit. The post of general secretary (organisation) has also been lying vacant since the 2023 Assembly election, after the incumbent officebearer. Chandrashekhar. was sent to Telangana.

Mr. Chandrashekhar is largely credited for BJP's victory in the Assembly election. As the BJP reportedly faced a difficulty in selecting suitable candidates for the Lok Sabha election, speculations are rife about his return to ensure the party's organisational strength.

The Gujjars are unhappy with the BJP after the defeat of its lone community leader, Mr. Jaunapuria from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur. Harish Chandra Meena (Congress) defeated Mr. Jaunapuria by a margin of 64,949 votes. However, two other Gujjar candidates - Prahlad Gunjal (Kota) and Damodar Gujjar (Rajsamand) - fielded by Congress defeated.

Veteran BJP leader and Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena has also created a predicament for the State government by hinting that he would keep his word and resign from the Cabinet after the BJP's defeat in some of the seats for which he was given responsibility. Four of the seats in eastern Rajasthan where Mr. Meena campaigned extensively have gone to Congress.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra has asked Mr. Sharma if he was also willing to take some responsibility for his party's defeat.

How consolidation of dominant castes influenced poll results in Karnataka

Sharath S. Srivatsa BENGALURU

The Lok Sabha election results in Karnataka have thrown up two things in particular – the Vokkaliga-Lingayat consolidation in favour of the NDA in south Karnataka, and a total rout of BJP by the Congress, fuelled by a perceived consolidation of the oppressed classes, in five seats of Kalyana Karnataka.

In probably a first in nearly three decades, the Vokkaligas and Lingayats, the dominant land-owning communities in south and north Karnataka, respectively, have together supported the NDA that won 12 of the 14 constituencies in south Karnataka where the BJP's ally Janata Dal (S) remains strong.

Though Lingayats and Vokkaligas had rallied behind BJP and Janata Dal (S), respectively, by the end of 2018 during the first tenure of Chief Minister Siddara-



JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP State chief Vijayendra campaigning for Tumakuru BJP candidate V. Somanna. FILE PHOTO

maiah, largely seen as an AHINDA face, they were in politically opposite camps.

Observers believe that the two dominant communities have come together for the first time since 1996, when the united Janata Dal returned with an impressive 16 seats and propelled H.D. Deve Gowda to the post of the Prime Minister.

JD(S) says that Lingayats came in support of its (Vokkaliga) candidates in Mandya and Hassan while the Vokkaligas stood behind the BJP (Lingayat) candidates in Tumakuru and Shivamogga, besides Mysuru, where the scion of

erstwhile Mysore royal family has been elected. Of the four constituencies that saw a face-off between Vokkaliga candidates, the NDA won three.

In Kalyana Karnataka, the total dominance of the

Congress has been attributed to further consolidation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Muslim votes in favour of the party over statements by BIP leaders on "changing the Constitution".

The absence of Janata Dal (S), which would get a fraction of these votes, in the electoral fray led the electors from these segments to the Congress. This election has also seen an increase in the voting percentage among Mus-

Support of Naiks

The Naik community, which is dominant in Raichur, Ballari, and neighbouring constituencies, is believed to have continued backing the Congress.

The Lingayats in Kalyana Karnataka voting in favour of Congress, the party believes, increased marginally though a sizeable chunk continued to support the BJP.

BJP MLA defends his 'wishes' to Congress leader for poll victory

The Hindu Bureau

A BJP MLA has defended his congratulatory message to Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi after he won the Jorhat Lok Sabha constituency. Mr. Gogoi defeated incumbent Topon Kumar Gogoi of the BJP by 1,44,393 votes.

Mrinal Saikia, a former member of the extremist United Liberation Front of Asom, who represents the Khumtai Assembly constituency, extended "special congratulations" to Mr. Gaurav for his "amazing" win. "The outcome proved that money, big publicity, overdoses of leaders and arrogant speeches do not always help win elections,"

he wrote on X. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma did not take kindly to the post. "I think Mr. Saikia will not be with the BJP for too long," he Gaurav Gogoi won the Jorhat seat defeating Topon Gogoi of the BJP by 1,44,393 votes

had said on Tuesday.

Mr. Saikia responded by posting a photograph of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, and Murli Manohar Joshi. "... I learned today from HCM @himantabiswa sir that to congratulate someone from the Opposition is a crime nowadays."

Mr. Saikia also said the BIP could lose the 2026 Assembly elections if it does not introspect now and stop its leader-centric pol-

Apart from Mr. Saikia, four-time MP Raien Gohain and the Assam Christian Forum and other churchbased organisations were also critical of Mr. Sarma.

In a stunning upset, Odisha CM ousted by former daily wager

The Hindu Bureau BHUBANESWAR

The results of the Odisha Assembly election, particularly from the electoral battleground of Kantabanji in Odisha, were watched with bated breath.

The counting process, which extended rounds and lasted late into the evening, delivered a shocking outcome. The seemingly invincible Naveen Patnaik, who had never faced defeat in his entire political career, experienced his first loss. The victor was Laxman Bag, a man who, just fifteen years ago, was working as a daily wage

Mr. Bag, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate, garnered 90,878 votes, while Mr. Patnaik received 74,532 votes in the Kantabanji Assembly segment, resulting in a victory margin of 16,344.

labourer.

Considering the strong influence of the outgoing Odisha CM, this defeat and its margin were unimaginable. According to confidantes, Mr. Bag's win was not a stroke of luck; his consistent efforts to support people in need within the Kantabanji constituency played a crucial role in his decisive victory.

Struggle for survival

Born into a poor farming family, Mr. Bag was one of six siblings struggling to make ends meet. In addition to working on his family's farm, he started earning money by assisting a truck driver for a meagre wage. Eventually, he became a daily wage labourer to support himself.

Although Mr. Bag is rumoured to have connections for sending workers to other States, he has never admitted to it. Over time, he managed to improve his situation by purchasing trucks. In 2023-34, he filed an IT return on the income of ₹4.89 lakh.



BJP candidate Laxman Bag was once a daily wage labourer. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

His first foray into politics was in the 2014 Assembly election, where he finished third. In the 2019 Assembly election, he narrowly lost by just 128 votes.

Long before Mr. Patnaik announced his candidature, the BJP nominee had already laid the groundwork and visited nearly every village, which worked to his advantage. In his affidavit, Mr. Bag declared 12 pending criminal cases.

More than an upset The victory of the 48-year-

old BJP candidate was more than just an election upset. It delivered a powerful statement on the ineffectiveness of the employment generation programmes implemented by the Biju Janata Dal government.

The CM's nomination from Kantabanji had triggered huge debate on labour migration. Though Mr. Patnaik held two public meetings during his campaign, he apparently failed to convince people about his plans to address their suffering.

Kantabanji is infamously known as a labour market where brick kiln operators hire workers at relatively low wages. The region has previously made headlines for unfortunate reasons such as starvation deaths and child trafficking.

'Odia asmita' played a big role in turning the tide in favour of BJP

NEWS ANALYSIS

Satyasundar Barik BHUBANESWAR

Local Bharatiya Janata Party leaders believe it was the issue of 'Odia asmita (pride)' that stoked the anti-incumbency sentiments across Odisha.

People could through' the ambition of V. K. Pandian, a Tamil Naduborn former IAS officer and close aide of outgoing Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, to rule the State from behind the scenes, said BJP leaders.

Manmohan Samal, president of the BJP's Odisha unit, was the first to attack the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) over the "Pandian issue" and state that 'Odia asmita' would be the party's main poll plank.

The former 2000-batch IAS officer, known to be a backroom operator diligently performing all bureaucratic works in the Chief Minister's Office after being posted as Mr. Patnaik's private secretary in 2011, is said to have gradually exerted his influence both in official functioning and party affairs. Subsequently, he enjoyed unhindered access to Chief Minister's residence.

Photographs of the former bureaucrat standing behind Mr. Patnaik in informal attire, overseeing his morning exercise and sharing the dining table with him and other dignitaries, reinforced the public perception that no one enjoyed more power than him and nothing moved in Odisha without approval.



Celebration time: BJP supporters celebrate the party's victory in Odisha Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Bhubaneswar. ANI

In 2019, a new initiative, '5T' (teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit), a benchmark deciding the performance of government officials and project execution, was launched in the State. Mr. Pandian headed the initiative, accruing supreme administrative power to review projects across departments.

The turning point came

in 2023 when he started flying to every district to hold grievance redressal sessions.

The Opposition started to question a mid-level bureaucrat's overarching power and extravagant spending on addressing 'staged' events.

The public spectacle of him occupying the stage alone while people's representatives were being reduced to the role of 'volunteers' did not go down well among people. Senior BJD leaders, in-

cluding Cabinet Ministers. were seen clearing traffic so that Mr. Pandian's vehicle could move to the venue. As BJD leaders competed among themselves to prove their loyalty to the former bureaucrat, people considered it an exhibition of arrogant power. Mr. Pandian would reportedly use helicopters to travel even a small distance of 30 km.

In the run-up to elections, BJD had issued a list of 40 star campaigners. However, during the campaign trail, only Mr. Patnaik and Mr. Pandian were seen canvassing.

A senior BJP leader said the former bureaucrat's campaign proved to be a blessing in disguise. The more he campaigned, the more votes BJD started lossaw Mr. Pandian touring

ing, he claimed.

more districts than Mr. Patnaik. On the stage, the speech time allotted to Mr. Pandian was higher than that of Mr. Patnaik, who enjoyed unparalleled popularity in Odisha during his 24 years of rule and was now starting to be viewed as ordinary politician.

The hectic campaign

More interviews Moreover, the number of

interviews Mr. Pandian gave to media outlets during the campaign vastly outnumbered that of the Chief Minister. It triggered a discussion about the deteriorating health of Mr. Patnaik. In one of the meetings, Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the health issue, which appeared to have worked in the BJP's favour.

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THE HINDU

Haryana saw through BJP's divisive tactics, voted for Cong.: Hooda



Former Haryana CM and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda in Rohtak on Wednesday. ANI

Ashok Kumar GURUGRAM

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has attributed the impressive show by the Congress in the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls in Haryana to people voting against the Bharatiya Janata Party's "non-performance" and "divisive politics"

In reply to a query, Mr. Hooda told The Hindu over phone that the present BJP government had failed on all fronts with high rate of unemployment, deteriorating law and order situation, and inflation. "From being a leading State in per capita income and investment during the Congress rule, the BJP has made Haryana number one in unemployment. More than two lakh vacancies in government departments are lying vacant."

"It was also a victory for the brotherhood since the people had seen through the divisive tactics of the BJP, which practised the politics of caste and religion," he added.

Congress candidates bagged five seats in Haryana with a vote share of 43.67%, an increase of around 15% compared with the previous Lok Sabha election. In 2019, the party had drawn a blank.

Pointing to the party's increased vote share, Mr. Hooda said the people of the State had made up their mind to bring the

the Assembly polls due later this year. Though the Congress had contested the Lok Sabha polls in the State in alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party, Mr. Hooda said there was no decision vet on any alliance for the Assembly

'Expected more'

The two-time CM said that he expected a clean sweep for his party, but denied that it had lost the remaining five seats because of infighting. "I have not received any such complaints so far," he said.

On the performance of the Indian National Lok Dal and the Jannayak Janta Party, Mr. Hooda said there was a direct contest between the Congress and the BJP, but some of these parties were just "vote-cutters" competing with NO-TA (None Of The Above), a ballot option to allow voters to indicate their disapproval of all the candidates

'Weak opponent'

On the party's former State president Kumari Selja's victory from Sirsa with the second highest margin of over 2.68 lakh, Mr. Hooda said she was pitted against a "weak" candidate and any party candidate could have registered an easy win. Ms. Selja, who polled 7,33,823 votes, defeated BJP's Ashok Tanwar, who had quit the Aam Aadmi Party to join the BJP a few months before the an-Congress to power again in nouncement of the polls.



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2. The Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhopal invites applications in the prescribed format by email at recruitment.2022@aiimsbhopal.edu.in for the following Group-A Non-faculty posts on Direct Recruitment basis:-

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I	2	Deputy Medical Superintendent	Level-11	Between-21 and 40 years	01 (UR)
I	3	Blood Transfusion Officer	Level-11	Between-21 and 40 years	01 (UR)
ĺ	4	Medical Officer (Ayush-Siddha)	Level-10	Between 21 and 35 years	01 (OBC)
ı					

3. For details of essential eligibility criteria, application process, application format, last date for submission of applications through email & post etc., and other terms and conditions please visit Institute's websitewww.aiimsbhopal.edu.in. Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their applications in the prescribed format, as available on the website, along with self-attested copies of certificates by 05/07/2024.

Dy. Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

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.nstfdc.tribal.nic.in

CORRIGENDUM

Extension of Tender Submission Date

Tender Reference No: NSTFDC/Impact/Proj/36/2024 This notification is in continuation to the Notice Inviting sealed bids from eligible bidders for Impact Assessment / Evaluation Study of NSTFDC schemes published in e-procurement portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/ epublish/app) on 18th May 2024.

Last date for Bid submission has been extended upto

20th Ju	20th June, 2024.					
S. No.	Activity	Existing Date	Revised Date			
1.	Technical Bid Opening	13th June, 2024	27th June, 2024			
2.	Invitation for presentation	20th June, 2024	4th July, 2024			
	for those who qualify					
	Technical Bid					
3.	Financial Bid Evaluation	26th June, 2024	11th July, 2024			
4.	Allotment of Contract	2nd July 2024	19th July 2024			
All othe	r tender conditions remain unc	hanged. Further det	ails are available at			

https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app Sd/

CM YK

(Bismita Das) Chief Manager (Proj. & CSR), NSTFDC 011-2618 0980

Immediate task is to set the house in order, says Naidu

The NDA allies have the onerous responsibility of fulfilling people's aspirations and dealing with the mess left behind by the YSR Congress Party government, says the TDP national president

The Hindu Bureau VIJAYAWADA

DP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu says he is overwhelmed by the historic mandate given by people to the TDP-BJP-Janasena Party alliance, but is, at the same time, conscious of the tough job the new government has to grapple with in the coming days.

"The victory was made possible by the true spirit with which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP State president Daggubati Purandeswari and Janasena Party president K. Pawan



Even the Alipiri bomb blast could not shake me. What we have gone through since 2019 was unbearable. Today, I am grateful to the people for giving us a mandate that is unparalleled N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU

Kalyan worked in the runup to the elections. We are elated with the triumph, but have to now deal with the mess left behind by the incumbent YSR Congress Party (YSRCP)," Mr. Naidu said while addressing the media here on Wednesday.

Mr. Naidu said the immediate task was to set the house in order. "The economy is teetering on the brink of collapse with huge sums going into debt servicing, natural resources have been plundered, and so many bad things happened in the last five years," he observed.

"The YSRCP rule was so atrocious that even the fundamental rights to life and liberty were stifled. It was because of the burning rage borne out of it, people flew in from as far as the U.S. to cast their votes".

"I have been through the thick and thin in politics. Even the Alipiri bomb blast could not shake me. What we have gone through since 2019 was unbearable... Today, I am grateful to the people for giving us a mandate that's unparalleled," he said.

Final decision on ferocious dogs ban not till June 14: HC

Mohamed Imranullah S. CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday restrained the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying from taking a final decision on the ongoing process of collecting objec-

tions and comments from a cross-section of people on classifying certain breeds of dogs as "ferocious and dangerous to human life" and consequently banning their import and breeding. It said no decision should be taken until June 14.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

OM SHANTI



With profound sorrow we regret to inform the demise of Smt. Rajalakshmi Sunkavally (w/o late V K P Sunkavally) on Wednesday 5th June 2024

The last rites will be performed at 1:30 pm on 6th June 2024 at 113, 86th street, 19th avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai followed by cremation at the Besant Nagar Crematorium at 3pm.

Deeply mourned by Vijaya kumar Sunkavally & Family (Chennai) Ph: +91 - 95000 02334

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Telangana will maintain good ties with A.P.'

M. Rajeev

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has asserted that his government will maintain friendly relations with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in resolv-

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Tender Specification No. ESD-

8/209 F-tender unloaded or

05.06.2024 on https://etender.

up.nic.in. EMD for the tender is

Rs. 10.53 Lacs and tender Fee

of Rs. 2,950.00 will be deposited

through RTGS/NEFT. Last

date for submission of tender is

04.07.2024 at 12:00 Hrs. and

opening of part-I is 05.07.2024

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 cance

the e-Bids without assigning

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,

Electy. 765/400kV SDC, 11th floor,

Shakti Bhawan Extn. Lucknow.

reason Corrigendum

THE HINDU

W

ing the long pending bifurcation related issues.

He said Hyderabad as the common capital had been resolved through the AP Reorganisation Act 2014 recently and efforts will be made to resolve the remaining issues in the

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No.: NER-BSBOSnT-OT-09-2024

"Open Tenders" through Online (E

Tendering) are invited by Divisiona

Railway Manager (Signal &

Telecomm)/ Varanasi/ N. E. Rallwa for and behalf of the President of

India for the following works

SN: 1, Tender Notice No.and

Description of Work: NER

BSBOSnT-OT-09-2024:, Name owork: Signalling works in

connection with Engineering work

related to LHSW etc in the section of

SrDSTE/II/Varanasi., Details Approx. Value: Rs. 11422383.06

Earnest Money: Rs. 207100.00/-Cost of Tender Form: Rs. 00.00/-

Completion period: 12 Months

Tender Closing date & Time

01.07.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs

1. Tender Online will be submitte

up to 15 Hrs on date 01.07.2024

of bid kindly visit the Officia website of Indian railways i.e

Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER

(Danapur Division/Electrical (TRD) Branch

TENDER Notice No.01/TRD/DNR/OT/24-25

The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C.

Railway Danapur invites sealed open tender

on behalf of the President of India for the

Tender No.: TRD/DNR/OT/01/24-25

Name of work with its location: Annua

maintenance contract of transmission with

axle drive, traction motor with alternator

lifting & swiveling platform with DG sets &

control system including complete electrica

circuits (excluding engine) for 4/8 wheeler

tower wagon of TRD, DNR division for two

vears. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT

value): Rs. 63,77,879.60/- 3. Earnest

noney to be deposited: Rs. 1,27,600.00/

4. Tender Document cost: Rs. 3000/-

5. Date & time for selling, submission and

opening of tender: The tender have to be

submitted online on www.ireps.gov.in upto

12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e.

01.07.2024 and will be opened on the sam

day at 12.30 hrs. 6. Website particulars

notice board location where complet

details of tender can be seen and address

of the office from where the tender form

can be purchased etc.: Detailed tender

can be seen from the CRIS website:

http://www.ireps.gov.in & full details of notice

can be seen on notice board of Sr.

DEE(TRD)/E.C. Railway/Danapur Al

corrigendum will be uploaded on website if

PR/00414/DNR/ETRD/T/24-25/44

For Divini. Railway Manager.

E.C. Rly., Danapur.

Divl. Rly. Manager (S&T)

www.ireps.gov.in.

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coming days. "Resolving the State issues and solving the people's problems is my priority," he said.

Replying to a question on the Congress performance in Telangana, he said though satisfactory, the results did not meet ex-

vernance further peoplecentric," he said. To another query, he said being the TPCC president and the Chief Minister, he would take the responsibility for the party's victory or loss.

pectations. "We will have

to work more and make go-

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ENTERPRISE CONNECT

AIIMS-Raipur to Hold Convocation this year, Hon'ble President



Raipur: All India Institute of Medical Sciences is holding its Second convocation this year. Executive Director Lt. Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd.) has invited President Smt. Droupadi Murmu to be the Chief Guest for this occasion. Around 500 students will be awarded degrees during the event in July this year. Lt Gen Jindal and Ms. Usha Jindal met President Smt. Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday at Rashtrapati Bhawan and invited her to the convocation. 'It is a great privilege for the AIIMS-R to hold its second convocation this year. The Hon'ble President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, has been invited to be the Chief Guest in the ceremony. According to Prof. Alok Chand Agrawal, Dean (Academics), second convocation has been proposed this year. 'Around 203 MBBS students from the 2017 and 2018 batches, 116 BSc (Nursing) students (2018 and 2019 batches). 143 MD/MS/MDS, and 14 DM/MCh degrees will be awarded during the ceremony. There are a total 509 degrees and diplomas proposed to be production distributed in the ceremony, he said. Different committees have been formed to finalize the

HUDCO posts 24% growth in Net Profit YoY, 10.40% growth in Revenue from **Operations YoY**

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) Board of Directors in its Board meeting held on 24.05.2024 at New Delhi approved the Audited Financial Results for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director of HUDCO, while expressing his satisfaction at the exceptional Financial Results said, "HUDCO, being a Government Company under aegis of MoHUA with lowest levels of NPA and Debt-Equity and comfortable CRAR is envisaged to play a vital role in creating assets for the nation and supplement efforts of Government of India for creation of sustainable and resilient Infrastructure, in line with Viksit Bharat 2047. With recently conferred "Navratna" status, HUDCO is amongst top 20 Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the country to have been accredited with this status. HUDCO is focused towards diversification of its resource base, establishing footprints in international markets through its maiden JPY denominated ECB offering and optimizing overall cost to add competitive strength to its overall lending operation.

POWERGRID acquires "Khavda IV-E2 Power Transmission Limited" under **TBCB**

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) - a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power has recently acquired a Project the "Transmission System Project for Evacuation of Power from Potential Renewable Energy Zone in Khavda Area of Gujarat under Phase-IV (7GW) Part E2" after competing with various private sector Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process.

Second Khavda IV-E2 Power Transmission Limited viewers to not only enjoy these short films but also System Limited, Both the Projects shall enable integration of an additional 6 GW (cumulative 9 GW) generation capacity in Khavda RE Park.

route, is implementing various Transmission System Projects being constructed on build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis. These Projects will augment the Indian transmission infrastructure to evacuate Green Energy to the National Grid thereby reducing dependency on fossil fuels, in line with Government of India's vision of achieving 500 GW renewable energy target by year 2030. As on 30th April 2024, POWERGRID has commissioned and is operating 278 Sub-stations and more than 1.77,790 km transmission lines and 527,446 MVA of transformation capacity.

BHEL signs Technology Transfer Agreement with BARC for 50 kW alkaline electrolyser systems for Hydrogen

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for 50 kW alkaline electrolyser systems for Hydrogen production. The well proven technology offered by BARC is indigenously developed and has high local material content. The agreement was signed in presence of Mr. Jai Prakash Srivastava, Director (Engineering, Research & Development), BHEL by Mr. K. Ravishankar, Executive Director (Corporate Technology Management and Corp R&D), BHEL and Dr. S. Adhikari, Associate Director (Knowledge Management Group), BARC. BHEL, through this collaboration with BARC, intends to scale up Indigenous Alkaline Electrolyser Technology and commercialise it for application in sectors such as refineries, fertiliser, steel, transportation, etc. This will be a step further in BHEL's contribution to the 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' and 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

GAIL (India) Limited launches 'Waah Kya Energy Hai' Campaign to Promote

Clean and Sustainable Fuel Choices GAIL (India) Limited has launched yet another series 'Waah Kya Energy Hai' to highlight the accessibility and benefits of embracing new, clean and environmentally friendly fuel options - Compressed Natural Gas and Piped Natural Gas offered by GAIL and its group companies. Representing one more venture by GAIL in Business-to-Consumer (B2C) digital communication, the campaign is strategically geared towards engaging retail Natural Gas consumers across India. 'Waah Kya Energy Hai', which comprises four short films in a mini-series Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Khavda IV-E2 format, tells the stories of a close-knit middlechallenges through a smarter choice of fuel usage, switching to D-PNG (Domestic Pipe Natural Gas). C-PNG (Commercial Pipe Natural Gas), CNG and Industrial PNG. A witty and emotional delivery of players and emerging as successful bidder in the story line and character arcs of the Mishra family makes their stories relatable, engaging the

shall implement augmentation works at existing encourage them to think about a shift to clean substation namely Khayda Pooling Station -2 in fuel. These 4-5 minutes content capsules will be the state of Gujarat. The augmentation work shall promoted digitally through digital and social media inter-alia include supply and installation of 4x1500 including GAIL's YouTube channel, banners and MVA 765/400 kV ICTs along with corresponding influencer engagements across platforms. Well-765kV and 400kV line bays. The Project is an known actors Srikant Verma, Divya Jagdale, Luv Inter State Transmission System Project and Vispute and Ahmed Khan play key roles in the four episodic short films, adding a relatable and existing substation is also being implemented by compelling touch to the message of sustainability another wholly owned subsidiary of POWERGRID and progress. Launching the campaign, Shri namely POWERGRID KPS2 Transmission Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director, GAIL said "Wah Kya Energy Hai is strategically crafted with GAIL's key objectives in mind. The campaign also endeavors to highlight POWERGRID, though its various Projects SPVs the advantages of using natural gas over other which have been acquired through tariff bidding fuel choices in view of the effects on both health and the environment. Through these concerted efforts, GAIL's campaign endeavors to catalyze a widespread shift towards cleaner and more sustainable fuel alternatives"

A Business Initiative

UP Metro Catalyst of Environment Conservation Since its inception, UPMRC Metro has

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environmental

consistently

sustainability and the promotion of greenery. UP Metro is the 1st organization in the state to participate in the Energy Exchange program which has led to saving of electricity worth Rs 3.5 crore in the last 1.5 years. Electricity is procured for Lucknow Metro's Operation & Maintenance through Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) under 'open access model'. The rates are decided by the exchange for 24 hours divided into 15-15 mins blocks. Accordingly, UPMRC procures electricity for the time blocks for which the desired rates are being offered. And, for the remaining time blocks, the supply is managed through the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) on the standard rates. This unwavering dedication has translated into remarkable achievements including the creation of a sprawling 1.1 lakh square meters of green belt. Leading this green revolution, Lucknow Metro boasts 65,000 square meters of lush greenery, followed by Kanpur Metro with 35,000 square meters, and Agra Metro contributing approximately 1,200 square meters. Key locations such as Polytechnic Chauraha, Metro Depot, Metro Officer's Colony KD Singh Stadium and the medians along the entire metro corridor now enjoy enhanced urban landscapes thanks to these green covers. Another milestone of UP Metro's environmental strategy is its impressive rainwater conservation efforts Moreover, UPMRC's commitment to harnessing renewable energy is evident in its extensive solar installations. Lucknow and Kanpur Metro together boasts a total solar capacity of 4.412 MW. While in lucknow, the Transport Nagar Metro Depot alone houses a 2.28 MW solar plant, five metro stations collectively host another 1 MW. Additional installations include 10 KW plants each at RSS buildings in Transport Nagar and Munshipulia, and a 12 KW plant at the Administrative Building in Gomtinagar. Over the past five years, these solar plants have generated an impressive 60 lakh units of energy. Another 1MW solar plant is installed at Kanpur Metro Depot. UP Metro's environmental initiatives is a testament to its visionary approach to urban development. By integrating green Power Transmission Limited on 30th May 2024 for class Indian family and how they navigate their belts, efficient water management systems, and renewable energy sources, UP Metro is not only enhancing the quality of urban life but also setting a benchmark for sustainable practices. This Environment Day, let us celebrate and draw inspiration from UP Metro's exemplary efforts in

fostering a greener, more sustainable future.

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No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/4791 CORRIGENDUM

In continuation to the Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM 2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt,Cell/Deputaion/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023 read with Recruitment Notification no. ADM-(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/1731 dated 14/03/2024 & Corrigendum No ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/ 2023/2/4098 dated 06/05/2024, it is to notify that:-

- The last date of inviting applications for posts advertised vide recruitment Notification no. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/ Deputaion/2023/2/1731 dated 14/03/2024 read with Corrigendum No. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/4098 dated 06/05/2024 is hereby extended up to 20/06/2024. Those candidates who have earlier applied against the above
- mentioned advertisement notification & corrigendum need not apply again.
- 2. For further details regarding eligibility and other terms & conditions application format etc. Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM 2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputation/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023, available at the Institute's website: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in may be referred. 3. This is issued with the approval of Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhopal
- vide E-file no. 16017 dated 31/05/2024.

Deputy Director (Admin.), AIIMS, Bhopal

Editorial



A narrow loss

BJD's ploy of equivocation towards the BJP at the Centre resulted in its decline

fter 24 years and three months in power in Odisha, outgoing Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will finally pass the baton to a new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government. The performance of the Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in the Assembly elections was not poor – a 40.22% vote share, that was marginally ahead of the BJP's 40.07%. But the BJP was able to win in more constituencies, getting 78 of the 147 seats as against the BJD's 51. The BJD's performance in the simultaneously held Lok Sabha polls was slightly worse – its vote share dipped by 2.76 points to 37.46% while the BJP's increased to 45.41%, by a whopping 5.34 points. Clearly, a section of BJD voters preferred the BJP for the Lok Sabha despite voting for the incumbent in the Assembly elections. The BJP mustered a strong vote share across geographical regions, besting the BJD even in its rural strongholds, while enhancing its already substantial urban vote shares. The BJD's relatively poor performance, compared to the 2019 Assembly elections, when it won 44.7% of the votes, must be attributed to Mr. Patnaik's diminishing appeal. The party had assiduously built its popularity on the basis of welfare measures, including targeted schemes in the largely agrarian State. Mr. Patnaik garnered much of the credit for these schemes and each electoral victory over the years deepened his support base.

The BJP emphasised Mr. Patnaik's alleged frail health and attacked his protégé, the former bureaucrat-turned politician V.K. Pandian and his Tamil roots. The insularity of this campaign notwithstanding, the question of Mr. Patnaik's succession was deftly used by the BJP to sow doubts in the BJD's base. A number of defections from the BJD to the BJP over the years also helped the BJP seize the initiative. That prior to the elections, both parties had engaged in parleys to contest as an alliance and the BJP later broke off the talks suggest that the BJP had an inkling that it stood a better chance fighting the BJD. The BJD's policy of endorsing most of the BJP-led government's measures, including controversial ones, and to play the role of a friendly party that was not part of the NDA backfired, just as it did with the YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh. These parties along with the Bharat Rashtra Samiti in an earlier period and the Bahujan Samaj Party, allowed themselves to be used as buffers by the BJP in the expectation that the BJP would help them stave off their rivals in their States. But these stances only affected them in the long run as they allowed the BJP to pick up support and leaders who defected from their ranks. The BJD's loss of power and the rapid decline of the YSRCP and BRS offer a cautionary tale about these parties' ploy of equivocation.

A new era

The ANC should stay true to its legacy while reaching out to others

he African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling party that led the country out of apartheid three decades ago, suffered a setback in the May 29 general election when it lost its majority in Parliament for the first time. In the final results on Sunday, the ANC, currently led by President Cyril Ramaphosa, saw a dramatic fall in its vote share to 40.18%, from 57% in 2019, while the main opposition Democratic Alliance emerged as the second largest party with 21.81% vote. The surprise was the surge of the uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), a left-wing party founded in December and led by Jacob Zuma, the scandal-ridden former President, which secured 14.58% of the votes. The far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), led by Julius Malema, former ANC Youth League leader, came fourth with 9.52% vote. The ANC's decline itself was not surprising, from the peak of its popularity in 2004, when it won nearly 70% vote. A whopping 17 percentage point drop in vote share points to the rapid erosion of confidence the electorate has in the party which was once led by Nelson Mandela.

When Mr. Ramaphosa became President in 2018, after Mr. Zuma was forced to resign, he promised economic stability, employment and modernisation of infrastructure. But under six years of his rule, there has been little progress in addressing the critical problems of Africa's most advanced economy, which has shrunk over the past two and a half years. Officially, at 32%, the country has one of the highest unemployment rates. Voters also complain about a lack of quality water supply, hours-long power blackouts and rampant violent crimes. After three decades of ANC rule, nearly two-thirds of Black South Africans are living in poverty, as compared to 1% of white South Africans. The ANC knew voters were upset, and Mr. Ramaphosa sought votes in the name of the party's legacy rather than its performance. But voters did not buy into his arguments. The ANC breakaway parties winning more votes than the right-wing Democratic Alliance suggests that the legacy of anti-apartheid politics remains strong, despite the ANC's decline. The three opposition parties have shown an interest in coalition talks, but with riders. The MK will join hands with the ANC only if Mr. Ramaphosa steps aside and the EFF has a radical economic agenda, including expropriation of land. A tie-up with the Democratic Alliance, which is largely seen as a representative of the apartheid era, would not be popular with the ANC's base. Mr. Ramaphosa is in an unenviable position. The era of the ANC's dominance is over. He should form a coalition that would not mar the party's anti-apartheid legacy and keeps it in good stead so that it can focus on resolving the country's myriad economic woes.

The roads to India's redemocratisation, the challenges

he 18th Indian general election probably marks the end of a cycle, in spite of the fact that it has not resulted in an alternation in power, a dimension usually needed for characterising an election as

The Bharatiya Janata Party's loss of its majority seems to be sufficient. It might well be – but under certain conditions - for a re-democratisation process to reach its logical conclusion.

For 10 years, India has followed a trajectory of de-democratisation that has found expression in the concentration of political and economic power in a few hands: at the top of the state apparatus, a handful of men decided for the rest, at the expense of Parliament and federalism, as well as many other institutions. In the business world, a limited number of cronies could get access to the country's resources and dominate the economy. In this regime, inequalities increased but the poor continued to support a pro-rich government in the name of religion among other things: identity politics and communal polarisation at the expense of the minorities tended to prevail over social issues.

Substantial changes are expected in all these domains today because of the new balance of power and because of some narrative shift. But will they materialise?

No shift but a tilt

The balance of power has not shifted, but tilted because the BIP remains the dominant party. But, for the first time in his political career, Narendra Modi will have to play the coalition game. The weakening of his authority should allow institutions to regain some of their spine. Bureaucrats, including those of the Election Commission of India, should appreciate that today's masters are not as strong as they were – and may not be the same tomorrow. Whether they will rise to the occasion remains to be seen. The same prognosis applies to the judiciary and to the media. Will they resist the government's use of liberticide laws that have been passed in the last 10 years? Because we are not in 1977 and the draconian laws restraining freedom of expression and individual rights will not be repealed – there is no majority for that.

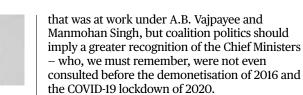
Federalism should be revitalised too, not only because of the relative decline of the government's authority but also because this government will need the support of two or three State parties, including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal (United), or the JD(U), which have traditionally defended the autonomy

We will not see the kind of decentralisation



Jaffrelot

is Research Director at CERI-SciencesPo/ CNES, Professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's College London, President of the French Political Science Association, and Chair of the British Association for South Asian Studies



Besides power relations, narratives matter. Like other national-populist leaders, Mr. Modi claimed that he was the nation and tried to disqualify his rivals by calling them anti-national. And, many politicians, pseudo-intellectuals and journalists supported this discourse. As a result, an equation was propagated between Indianness and Hindutva, relegating minorities and especially Muslims, to the margin. This form of identity politics may well be on the defensive, now, countered by another ideological agenda prioritising social equality. Once again, like so many times since V.P. Singh had decided to implement the recommendations of the Mandal report in 1990, two repertoires are in competition: to counter the rise of the plebeians, the Sangh Parivar resorted to ethno-religious identity from the 1990s onwards, and to counter Hindutva, today, the Congress and the Samajwadi Party as well as the Rashtriya Janata Dal and others mobilise supporters on social issues, including the caste census issue, in order to promote social justice again.

This programme has been clearly articulated by Rahul Gandhi whose yatras, the Bharat Jodo Yatra and Bharat Jodo Naya Yatra, have made him a popular leader, in both senses of the term, in spite of poor media coverage. This transformation has been magnified by the election results: nobody will call him "Pappu" any more. It is not only because of these marches but also because of the way he defended the Constitution of India, built a coalition of so many parties, the INDIA bloc, as well as the attractive nature of his social issues-oriented discourse.

Different scenarios

Bihar, under the stewardship of Nitish Kumar, has been the first State to organise a caste census. Will its Chief Minister try to persuade the National Democratic Alliance to emulate this initiative? Or will he abstain from pushing this issue? More generally speaking, how far will the JD(U), the TDP and others try to promote their own agenda and interests? This is a key variable which may lead to different scenarios.

The most likely one may consist, in the weeks and months ahead, in a modus vivendi based on concessions made by the Modi government for accommodating demands by the TDP, the JD(U) and may be others – that will be very substantial, but acceptable.

Another scenario – the worse case scenario for

Mr. Modi – would crystallise if the TDP and the JD(U) were to formulate exigencies affecting the BJP in terms of power sharing or the party's support base (reservations above 49% or in the private sector for instance). These "partners" may also not see eye to eye with friends of the government (and support, for instance, an investigation regarding Gautam Adani's activities). The bargaining power of the ID(U) and the TDP is immense: by shifting from one side to the other of the political spectrum, they would make the government fall and could allow the INDIA bloc to take over.

These two scenarios are not mutually exclusive. The second one may unfold itself after a few months or even a year or two later, especially if the Modi government is further weakened by electoral setbacks (the State elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will be watched closely in this respect) and if the ruling coalition, including the TDP and the JD(U), are under pressure from other State parties and Congress: the Opposition has tasted blood and realised its strength in such a way that it is bound to mobilise relentlessly in the street and solidify its unity and even recruit more partners. Ms. Mayawati may even become less fearful of antagonising the ruling party in the context of the new dispensation, and revive her party, the Bahujan Samaj Party.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Modi may not be in a position to keep the NDA together, either because its partners would be asking for too much or/and because he has never been a team player, a pragmatic expert in coalition making apt at defusing tensions by making concessions. The Sangh Parivar, then, may replace him by a man such as Nitin Gadkari who has been supported by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on many occasions in the past. Mr. Modi was the candidate of Nagpur by default in 2014 and his relationship with the Sangh's top leaders has not improved.

But Mr. Modi (and Amit Shah) will not let go of power so easily: there is so much at stake. And, nobody can anticipate the techniques that Mr. Modi may resort to, to save his post. Time matters a lot here: a political crisis would not make the same impact if the institutions of the Indian Republic have had the time to recover from 10 years of erosion.

However, besides the political actors, civil society is also bound to play a key role again in the rejuvenation of India's democracy. If this election is probably marking a transition towards a new era, eventually, a change of guard at the State level will not be enough for re-democratising India – and, in particular, to counter the dense network of RSS-related vigilantes.

The great election over, the view from Washington

.S. President Joe Biden, faced with a growing number of naysayers on the United States-India relationship, has barely blinked in Washington's assiduous the Lok Sabha election handing Mr. Modi another victory, albeit a more modest one, the Biden administration – as well as a possible second Trump administration – believes that the U.S. calculation has been proven right.

Seeking a strong India relationship remains, despite a few vocal critics, one of a dwindling number of areas of bipartisan consensus in Washington. Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump, for all their intense disagreements, have both prioritised ties with Mr. Modi. And both Presidents place great faith in their own abilities to forge relationships in person.

Yet, the Bharatiya Janata Party's loss of seats could also whittle down one of the arguments inside Washington for embracing Mr. Modi – that he is a historically powerful figure and the only game in town in India. The U.S. is keenly aware of Indian sensitivities and is unlikely to confront Mr. Modi forcefully on any areas of concern. But, Washington can now also begin to see a post-Modi era, and possibly a future relationship with an India less driven by Hindutva.

Under the American scanner

In the two years running up to the Lok Sabha elections, Washington has been prompted into some of its most serious reassessments of India's role in the two and a half decades since Bill Clinton first extended a hand to New Delhi to cast aside Cold War estrangement. American support for India has been premised on the rosy idea that the world's two largest democracies will inevitably see eye to eye on many of the top challenges – notably in how to handle an increasingly assertive China.



The general

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But the

India's

Shaun Tandon

is the AFP State Department Correspondent

With the BJP's

United States

era in its

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with India

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loss of seats, the

But new priorities have emerged other than China. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the Biden administration made it clear that it believed the world's democracies belonged on Kyiv's side. The reasoning that the war did not affect its core interests and that India could in fact benefit from its historic ties with Russia, including through energy imports that suddenly came with an attractive discount.

Even more serious in U.S. eyes was what U.S. prosecutors allege was an assassination plot directed by an Indian intelligence officer to kill a Khalistan activist on U.S. soil. While the Government of India denies its involvement and some social media warriors have likened the operation to American attempts to strike militants overseas – it should have been no surprise that attempting to kill a U.S. citizen on U.S. soil would be a flashing red line for Washington. Yet, Mr. Modi can draw a lesson from the repercussions imposed by the U.S. effectively none. Top U.S. officials have warned India of the consequences of a repeat plot. But while the U.S. was quietly investigating, Mr. Biden welcomed Mr. Modi to a dinner of saffron-infused risotto during a state visit. One of the biggest takeaways from Mr. Modi's visit - the sale of \$4 billion in top-of-the-line Predator drones to India – is going ahead after the Biden administration reassured concerned lawmakers that India was taking the probe seriously. While the situations are not completely parallel, Mr. Modi can also look to Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom Mr. Biden once vowed to isolate but is now courting as part of a Middle East diplomatic push.

Outreach to the Global South

The reason is simple. The U.S. wants something from Saudi Arabia. What does the U.S. want from India? The Gaza and Ukraine crises show that Washington badly needs friends in the Global South, and India is ideally placed. India remains the only country that rivals the size of China, security strategy identifies as the only long-term competitor to U.S. leadership.

Trump versus Biden

On the surface, a return of Mr. Trump would seem only to bring the U.S. and India closer. Mr. Trump has little interest in lecturing on rights and has vowed a no-holds-barred campaign against China. Mr. Trump visited India on what would turn out to be his last international trip as President due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Mr. Modi in Gujarat gave him exactly what he craved a vast, adoring crowd.

But Mr. Trump is famously fickle. He could just as soon cut a deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as he did early in his term. Bob Lighthizer, Mr. Trump's trusted trade aide, has already set his sights on India over market access. And, while democratic ideals may not matter to Mr. Trump, he is masterfully in tune with his base. He suddenly slapped sanctions on Turkey after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally detained an American pastor who had emerged as a cause célèbre for evangelical Christians. It is not implausible to imagine an incident in India, perhaps involving a missionary, that would lead Mr. Trump to butt heads with Mr. Modi.

As for Mr. Biden, he has often projected a message that he needs Mr. Modi more than Mr. Modi needs him. After the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Biden need no longer see Mr. Modi as the be-all-end-all of India. Rather, Mr. Biden can treat Mr. Modi as a partner with whom to do business in targeted, at times incremental, ways. Not unlike how India regards its relationship with the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The election, the result A coalition is not anathema to politics in India and we have seen many a government at the Centre, before 2014, running on the basis of a large coalition. The Bharatiya Janata Party was successful in getting a majority on its own for long but will now have to be pragmatic when running the nation. It will have to listen to its partners and even the Opposition given the ground realities. Arun Kumar Mahadevan,

The outcome of the parliamentary elections has thrown up many points: with respect to the BJP, the widely held presumption was that Narendra Modi's magic would create wonders and pulverise the Opposition. This is now a myth. The next is that the tide of fortune has not ebbed from the saffron party. On the contrary, there seems to have been a silent mood of anti-incumbency. The aggressive invoking of communal and religious sentiments failed to move

voters. Burning issues such as unemployment and price rise have cost the party dear. It is imperative for the BJP to analyse its performance at the hustings.

V. Johan Dhanakumar, Chennai

Undoubtedly, it is the sentiments of the rural and poor populace, who have been at the receiving end of the corporate-friendly and exploitative policies and decisions of the Modi government, that played a

major role in this election. But in scrutinising the various factors that dictated the election results, it is the effect of urban apathy that also needs to be evaluated. K. Anand, Chevayur, Kozhikode, Kerala

Gains and losses are natural in any contest. They have to be taken in one's stride. The BJP, knowingly or unknowingly, thrust its policies on the public. which it thought would be well received by marketing itself as a good

dispensation after a long spell of Congress rule. But there have been a number of occasions when the BJP either soared or slid in its years of rule from 2014 to 2024. Towards the end of its second term, there was a misuse of central agencies by the BJP. The verdict has come as oxygen to the affected. People hope that the BJP, in amity with its allies, forms the new government and also realises its past follies. Mani Nataraajan, Chennai

The people of this diverse country have spoken and they will not be straitjacketed by a homogenising political project that imposes on them a 'one leader, one party, one religion'. It may be a third consecutive term in power for the BJP, which is no doubt an achievement, but the verdict carries with it a warning that the BJP can ill-afford to either ignore or downplay.

Nagarajamani M.V., Hyderabad

CSDS-LOKNITI POST-POLL SURVEY

A return to an era of genuine coalitions

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections reflected a nuanced political landscape with the ruling party facing setbacks in key States; despite retaining strong support among certain demographics, the BJP's inability to secure a majority underscores a return to genuine coalition politics, reshaping power dynamics and future governance strategies in India

Sandeep Shastri Suhas Palshikar Sanjay Kumar

s the results of the elections came trickling in, it was clear that the 'silent' voter had spoken quite strongly. The march of the ruling party, that was confident of a third term in office was halted in its tracks and had to claim a mandate under the wider cloak of the alliance it was leading. As the results settled, the ruling party was downplaying its own (under) performance and highlighting the majority secured by the coalition. The Opposition alliance led by the Congress is just 60 seats behind the ruling coalition in the new Lok Sabha.

Two important distinctions were visible in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) coalition. Firstly, the composition of the two alliances: the BJP accounted for 80% of the NDA coalition while the Congress was a little over 40% of the INDIA coalition. The number of those not part of either coalition had shrunk to 18.

Secondly, the number of the non-BJP NDA had risen to 53 (compared to 50 in 2019) and the BJP had fallen by over 63 seats. In other words, the NDA shrank because its main anchor has failed to perform adequately. In the case of IN-

DIA, it was a newly founded alliance - though somewhat of a revised United Progressive Alliance (UPA). The Congress saw an 80% rise in seats from 52 to 99. The other parties in the INDIA alliance also saw a rise in their share of seats. Principal among them were the Samajwadi Party and the Trinamool Congress. Thus, for INDIA, almost every member benefitted and contributed to its overall performance. The decline in the seats

of the BJP was largely on account of its performance in the Hindi heartland States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar and the reversals it faced in Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal. It made up for some of these losses in Telangana and Odisha but the recoveries were far less than its deficits. The CSDS-Lokniti post-poll survey 2024, provides some insights into understanding the twists and turns that explain the electoral outcomes.

sition to a third term were clearly on party lines. Those who favoured reelecting the BJP justified the same based on the leadership of PM, the perceived good governance and the development of the country. Meanwhile, most of those who opposed a third term for the incumbent government mentioned unemployment and price rise as the key reasons. This polarisation

The support and oppo-



Social split: While the BJP continues to hold on to the votes of the rich, the middle class seems to be less intense in its support. AP

THE HINDU CSDS-LOKNITI Post-poll Survey 2024

is reflected in the results. More than three-fourths of those fully satisfied with the government voted for the BJP and its allies. Half of those somewhat satisfied with the incumbent government voted for the NDA. More than threefourths of those fully dissatisfied with the performance of the BJP government voted for the Congress and its allies.

Close to half the respondents indicated that they voted for a party while a little over one-third focused on the candidate. Just one of every 10 kept the leadership factor in mind.

There is a clear five percentage point decline, in the preference for Mr. Mo-

di as the Prime Minister if one were to compare the 2024 and 2019 figures. The gap between Mr. Modi and Rahul Gandhi as the preferred Prime Minister in 2024, has fallen by nine percentage points as comone-fourth said that they pared to 2019. For those took this call on the day of voting or a few days before who voted for the BJP and voting. This does imply its allies, the impact of Mr. Modi's leadership contithat the issues raised in the nued to be high. One out of campaign, the assurances every four BJP voters said held out by parties and the that they would have attack on their rivals could well have impacted their fichanged the way they voted if Mr. Modi were not the nal decision. It is impor-Prime Ministerial canditant to note that economic date of the BJP. These numissues were a focus of the bers have declined as comcampaign. pared to 2019. The main factor in the BJP campaign so points out distinct dethis time around had a mographic factors that immuch lesser impact as pacted voting patterns.

compared to the previous

election.

higher percentage of sup-One did notice a very port among the younger heated election campaign voters while the vote for with a lot of charges and the Congress and its allies

The post-poll survey al-

The BJP appeared to have a

support is uniform across education levels. While the BJP continues to hold on to the votes of the rich, the middle class seems to be less intense in its support. When there is a somewhat ambiguous verdict, when voters are more evenly spread across parties and when any party fails to get a clear 'mandate', the support for parties across different social sections is also somewhat flatly distributed. This election outcome counter charges being manifests this fact. made. It is important to re-**Electoral support** cord that two-thirds of the respondents reported deciding on who to vote for only after the candidates were announced. Nearly

The BJP did well in the south and the east making it a more evenly spread party across the country.

was spread across age

groups. The BJP vote share

rises among those with

greater access to education

while in the case of the

Congress and its allies, the

But in the process, it also lost crucial support in the States of north India. Therefore, different social coalitions have propped up both the BIP and its opponents in different States. This means that the ongoing process of nationalisation of the social base of the BJP has slightly halted and altered. The BJP would now find itself in a situation where its voters are coming from disparate social groups in different States. However, there are two baseline features of its electoral support for the BJP. One is its continued limitation in reaching out to the minorities and the other is its extra-ordinarily base among the upper castes. This time too, as in 2019, more than half of the upper caste voters have reportedly voted the BJP.

The 2024 election indicates a return to the phase of genuine coalition politics. We did have a coalition government for the last decade. That was, however, a coalition with a dominant party with a majority of its own. The BJP then could give a notional representation to its allies in the Union Council of Ministers. This time around the allies of the BJP in the NDA would expect a fairer share of places in the Ministry as also the key portfolios. We argue that BJP might

not have lost greatly among many social sections. Yet, the losses at the State level among various social sections pushed the BJP below the majority mark and also denied any addition to its overall vote share. Secondly, the drop in BJP's seat share has brought the era of coalitions back to the centre of power equations. These developments slow down the process of BJP becoming a dominant party that it had almost become during the last decade.

Sandeep Shastri is the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network

Suhas Palshikar is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics

> Sanjay Kumar is Co-director Lokniti-CSDS

Methodology

The findings presented here are from the post-poll study 2024 by the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi. The survey was conducted between April 21st and June 3rd, 2024.

A total of 19,663 respondents from 23 States of India participated, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Harvana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. The survey encompassed 772 polling stations (PSs) across 193 Assembly constituencies (AC) within 191 Parliamentary constituencies (PC).

The survey employed a multi-stage random sampling approach to ensure full representation of the voter cross-section. The selection of PCs utilised the probability proportional to size method, with 40 respondents randomly chosen from the electoral rolls of each sampled polling station. Of these 40, we set a target of 25 interviews per polling station.

Once we identified our sample, trained field investigators were sent to the field to conduct face-toface interviews using predesigned mobile app.

To read the methodology: scan the code or go to the link

https:// newsth.live/ Methodolo-



₊ Evaluating govt.'s performance and its impact

Vibha Attri <u>Naman Jaju</u>

As the dust settles on the 2024 general elections, an intricate tapestry of voter sentiment and political dylight on how the BJP was left stranded for a majority.

According to the CSDS-Lokniti post-poll survey 2024, there was general satisfaction with the Union government's performance, though it has declined compared to 2019. This time, about six in 10 respondents reported being fully or partly satisfied with the Modi government, a six percentage point decline from 2019 (Table 1).

The construction of the Ram Mandir was reported as the most favoured initiative, appreciated by over two of every 10 (22%) respondent. One in 10 voters cited the promotion of Hindutva and the elevation of India's international standing as the government's commendable most achievements (Table 2). As can be imagined, satisfaction on account of religious and cultural initiatives rather than core economic performance must have cost the party.

54% of those who appreciated the Ram Mandir construction voted for the BJP. Similarly, 41% of those who favoured poverty reduction initiatives supported the BJP (Table 3).

One-seventh (14%) of the respondents said that they did not like any work of the Modi government in the last five years.

Nearly a quarter of the electorate cited price rise and unemployment as the most disliked work of the Union government's performance. Additionally, one in 10 highlighted poverty. According to the prepoll survey conducted by CSDS-Lokniti, 27% of voters identified unemployment as a significant issue. Similarly, concerns about Table 1: Satisfaction with the ruling government

(%)				
	2024 post-poll	2019 post-poll		
Fully satisfied	23	26		
Somewhat satisfied	36	39		
Somewhat dissatisfied	19	12		
Fully dissatisfied	18	18		

Note: Rest did not respond.

Question asked: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over the past five years?

Table 2: Most liked work of Union government

Most liked work of Union government	%
Construction of Ram Mandir	22
Reduction of poverty	6
Creation of employment opportunities	6
Taking initiative for development	5
Creating better infrastructure	5
Promoting Hindutva/ Sanatan Dharma	4
Promoting India's international/global image	3
Helping Economically Weaker Sections	3
Did not like any work	14

Note: The rest either gave other responses or did not respond. **Question asked:** Which is the one work done by the Union government in the past five years that you have liked the most?

Table 3: Positive assessment of Union government's works favours BJP in voting

Most liked work of the Union government	Party voted in the 2024 Lok Sabha election (%)				
	Congress allies		ВЈР	BJP allies	Others
Construction of Ram Mandir	16	8	54	6	16
Reduction of poverty	18	11	41	10	20
Creation of employment opportunities	14	13	43	12	18
Taking initiative for development	12	11	53	8	16
Promoting Hindutva	12	9	53	8	18

Note: The rest either gave other responses or did not respond.

price rise have surged to 23% in 2024. Additionally, 8% of respondents reported increasing communalism/religious conflicts as the most disliked aspect of

the government's performance. Though the BJP retained some support from voters who identified rising prices, unemployment, and poverty as their primTable 4: Most disliked work of Union government

Most disliked work of the Union government	(%)
Price rise/ inflation	24
Growing unemployment	23
Increasing poverty	11
Communalism/ religious conflicts	7
Increasing corruption	3
Growing conflict among communities	2
Liked every work	6

Note: The rest either gave other responses or did not respond. Question asked: Which is the one work done by the Union government in the past five years that you have disliked the most?

Table 5: Negative assessment of Union government's performance affected BJP, but not severely

	.	11 11 0004			(0/)	
	Party voted	Party voted in the 2024 Lok Sabha election (%)				
	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies	Other	
Price rise/ inflation	21	9	40	6	24	
Growing unemployment	20	19	36	8	17	
Increasing poverty	23	17	32	7	21	
Communalism/ religious conflicts	30	16	16	6	32	

Note: The rest either gave other responses or did not respond.

Table 6: Overall satisfaction and vote choice

Satisfaction with	Party voted	tion (%)			
the work done by Union government	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies	Others parties
Fully satisfied	8	5	70	8	9
Somewhat satisfied	18	10	41	10	21
Somewhat dissatisfied	31	16	21	4	28
Fully dissatisfied	37	27	4	1	31

Note: The rest either gave other responses or did not respond.

ary concerns, the combined opposition effectively attracted a significant portion of these voters (Ta-

The data shows that fully satisfied voters predominantly supported the BJP and its allies, with eight in 10 such voters voting for the NDA alliance. However, among those who were dissatisfied to some degree

with the work done by the NDA, a significant portion voted for the INDIA bloc or other Opposition parties. This cumulative dissatisfaction with key issues ultimately tipped the scales against the BJP, explaining the drop in vote share and seats in these elections.

> The authors are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

NDA wins, performance pays +

Devesh Kumar Rishikesh Yadav

Voters often support the parties in the expectation of getting particular services, and when governments fail to fulfil these expectations, these voters turn to alternative appeals. At times, when governments fulfil those promises, the voters reward those parties handsomely. The 2024 results indicate, that in pockets the incumbent Union government has been rewarded by the voters, leading them to vote in favour of the BJP-led NDA govern-

ment. Historically, when voters were satisfied with the performance of incumbent governments, they were often re-elected, barring the notable exception of 2004, where despite reasonably high levels of support, the incumbent government lost the elections. In both the pre and post-poll surveys of 2024, (44% & 46% respectively), little less than half of the respondents have indicated that the BJP-led NDA should be given be given another chance (Table 1).

The main reasons why the NDA coalition was given a chance include government development work, leadership, good governance and welfare schemes. One-fifth of the respondents have indicated Narendra Modi's leadership as one of the prime reasons. The lack of alternatives also played a role, with five per cent choosing the NDA government due to lack of options. Another one in every 10 voters said that they had good welfare schemes (Table 2).

A lot of issues remain unaddressed by the incumbent government. These issues discouraged the voters from supporting the current dispensation. For instance, unemployment was an issue for voters during the pre-poll. But the Table 1: Should the government get another chance?

	2004	2009*	2014	2019	Pre-poll 2024	Post-poll 2024
Yes	48	55	23	47	44	46
No	30	45	54	35	39	39
No response	22		23	18	17	15

Source: National Election Studies done by CSDS-Lokniti over time. ' In 2009, the options were only 'yes' and 'no'. The category of 'No response' was not provided.

Table 2: Reason for re-electing the incumbent government

For the development of the country 21 Due to leadership of Narendra Modi 20 10 Governed the country well 15 Good policies and welfare schemes For further economic growth Construction of Ram temple Better than the available options Maintaining law and order/national security

Note: Rest either gave other responses or did not respond. Question asked: Why should the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre

Better for strengthening Indian civilisation

Uplift poor, SCs, STs and OBCs

Table 3: Reason for not electing the incumbent government

	Post-poll 2024	Pre-poll 2024
Price rise/inflation	30	20
Increasing unemployment	27	32
Falling/decreasing income	8	11
Dealing with corruption/scams	6	7
Bad governance	6	6
Favouring big business/ particular section of peoples	5	5
Worsening communalism/religious discrimination	5	5
Lack of economic growth	2	3

Note: Rest either gave other responses or did not respond. Question asked: Why should the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre not get another chance?

campaign, on account of the promises of employment resonating with voters, reduced this proportion in the post-poll (Table 3). Satisfaction with the NDA's performance led many to give it another

chance, while discontent shows that voters have exercised restraint, by not giving the BJP a clear majority on its own.

The authors are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

M ND-NDE

CSDS-LOKNITI POST-POLL SURVEY

Personal financial conditions played key role in voting choice

People who felt their economic situation had worsened were more likely to have voted for Opposition, while those who felt the situation remained unchanged divided their votes almost equally between the ruling regime and the challenging party

Sanjeer Alam

n democracies, economic currents often sway voters. With India's economic rise, the state of national economy has come to occupy centre stage of political and public debates. Economic issues such as growth, unemployment, inflation, rural distress, and so on figured prominently in political debates in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election. While the ruling party or alliance flaunted the impressive GDP numbers and new economic initiatives aimed at benefiting people, the Opposition bloc's campaign remained focused on unemployment, price rise, and other forms of economic distress. Tapping into the downside of the economy, the Congress carefully crafted a package called the Nyay (justice), to be able to reach out to vulnerable sections.

For ordinary voters, complex macro-economic numbers may not mean much, but they have a fair sense of what they have gone through economically. Given this, it is people's assessment of personal or household's financial conditions rather than their perception about the performance of national economy that is expected to play an important role in shaping voting choice. The idea of "pocketbook" voting holds that those who feel economically secure or have experienced improvement in their financial well-being are more likely to vote for the candidates of the ruling regime. Conversely, individuals facing economic hardship, job loss, or financial instability may seek to punish the incumbent.

Rural-urban divide

So, in this election, how did people feel about their personal/household economic/financial conditions? Did it influence their voting preference? If so, to what extent? The CSDS-Lokniti post-poll survey helps us answer these *auestions*

As per the survey findings, only four in 10 respondents felt that their personal/household financial conditions improved



Wage woes: A delivery worker with gas cylinders drives next to an election campaign in Visakhapatnam on April 6. V. RAJU

Table 1: Perceived changes in personal or household financial conditions

Those who said their financial conditions	2024	2019
Improved	43	41
Remained same	35	47
Worsened	18	14

Notes: "Improved" includes "better and "much better", and "Worsened" includes "worse" and "much worse' Question asked: As compared to five years ago, how is the economic condition of your household today would you say it has become become worse, or much worse?

over the past five years. This means that the economic condition of households of a great majority of people either remained unchanged or worsened. Interestingly, this number is about as great as it was in 2019. A closer look at the data indicates that a significant number of respondents actually experienced their economic conditions worsen. Compared with 2019, this number increased a bit. What this implies is that achchhe din (good days) could not expand its reach during the

Who are those people whose economic fortunes improved or worsened? Economic processes are likely to affect sub-groups of voters differentially as their sources of livelihood and income differ markedly. An interesting pattern can be observed in rural and urban settings, the two spatially polarised contexts in terms of sources of livelihood and income. Data show that more rural voters than their urban counterparts felt that their economic conditions had improved. At the other end of the scale representing economic distress, the percentage of urban voters exceeded, though marginally, that of rural voters. The data also show that the

past five years (Table 1).

processes of economic development have impacted different economic classes differentially. While half of the rich respondents said their economic conditions had improved, the corresponding figure for the poor was as low as 37%. A larger fraction of the poor than others saw their economic fortunes decline (Table 2).

The way people perceived their economic conditions appear to have played an important role in shaping their political pre-

Data reveal that those whose economic conditions remained unchanged divided their votes almost equally between the ruling regime and the challenging party/alliance. However, those who experienced their economic conditions worsen had a clear preference for the Opposition camp. More than half of them would have voted for the Congress and its allies. Conversely, most of those whose economic conditions had improved said they voted for the BJP-led NDA (Table 3).

A negative outlook

That key economic issues. such as personal economic well-being, mattered in the election is confirmed when we take a look at other indicators as well.

Table 2: Change in economic conditions of households by locality and economic class

Those who said economic conditions of their household							
Improved Remained same Worsened							
Location							
Rural	45	34	17				
Urban	38	37	20				
Economic class							
Poor	37	38	19				
Lower 42 36 18							
Middle	47	33	17				
Upper	49	33	16				

Notes: "Improved" includes "better" and "much better", and "Worsened includes "worse" and "much worse". Rest had no opinion.

Question asked: As compared to five years ago, how is the economic

Table 3: Perceived changes in household economic conditions and vote choice

Those who said their household financial conditions	Party voted for in the 2024 Lok Sabha election			
	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies
Improved	15	9	48	9
Remained same	26	12	33	4
Worsened	29	24	17	4

Note: All figures are in per cent

Table 4: Perception about the government's working and voting intention

Those who said development has been	Intention to vote				
	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies	Others
Only for rich	30	21	16	6	26
For all people	12	5	58	7	18

Note: All figures in per cent. Rest gave no response. Source: CSDS-Loknit

pre-poll survey (2024). **Question asked:** People have different opinions about the development that has taken place in the country in the past five years. Some believe it has only been for the rich, others say it has been for all people, and some others say

In the pre-poll survey held a couple of months ago, three in 10 respondents were of the view that the BJP-led NDA government worked for the benefits of the rich. About 15% of the respondents had held that there was no development at all during the past five years. Unsurprisingly, those who held a negative view of the ruling regime had expressed their intention to vote for the Congress and its allies (Table 4).

In sum, over the past five years, economic conditions of many people did not improve. A fairly large fraction of people actually saw their economic conditions worsen.

Since this is only a preliminary bivariate result, it is difficult to say how much of a role personal economic conditions play in shaping final electoral outcomes. But it is quite clear that people's assessment of their own economic conditions made a large difference in the voting choice.

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Modi factor seems to have stagnated over a decade

Sandeep Shastri

Ever since the rise of Narendra Modi on the national scene in 2014, his leadership has attracted voters to the BJP on a considerable scale. The electoral strategy of the BJP (and the NDA) in the 2024 polls was to make Mr. Modi's leadership the face of their campaign. However, the Opposition alliance consciously did not declare a Prime Ministerial face. The CSDS-Lokniti data indicate the possible impact of the leadership factor in shaping the electoral outcome.

Fading popularity

Mr. Modi remained in the lead as voters's choice to become Prime Minister. A little over four in 10 respondents (41%) stated that their preferred Prime Ministerial choice was Narendra Modi. Rahul Gandhi was mentioned by a little over one-fourth (27%) of the respondents as their preferred choice (See Table 1).

It may be important to record that the question on preferred Prime Ministerial choice has been asked during earlier elections also. This time, there was a six-percentage point decline in the mention of Narendra Modi as the Prime Ministerial choice compared with 2019. The gap between Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi as the preferred Prime Ministerial choice has fallen by eight percentage points. (Table 2).

Was there any impact of the Prime Ministerial preference in the decision on voting? Six in 10 respondents (60%) reported that it had an impact on the voting decision. Three-fourths of the respondents who reported voting for the BJP mentioned that it had an impact, with as high as four in 10 saying that it had a great impact. The impact of the leadership factor in determining voter prefewas much among those who voted for the Congress and its allies. (Table 3).

The post-poll surveys have been tapping the response to whether there would have been any change in voting preference if Narendra Modi was not the Prime Ministerial candidate. When this question was asked in 2014, a little over onefourth (27%) of those who voted for the BJP said that

Table 1: Preference for Narendra Modi as Prime Minister

MODI as Prime Minister				
Prime Ministerial choice	2024 post-poll (%)	Questio asked: \		
Narendra Modi	41	you war		
Rahul Gandhi	27	Minister		
Mamata Banerjee	4	this Lok election		
Yogi Adityanath	4	•		
Priyanka Gandhi	2	•		
Arvind Kejriwal	2	•		
Other names	8	•		
Did not respond	12			

Table 2: Rahul versus Modi: Has anything changed since 2014

Prime Ministerial choice	2024 post-poll	2019 post-poll	2014 post-poll
Narendra Modi	41	47	36
Rahul Gandhi	27	23	14

Note: Rest gave other names or did not respond

Table 3: Assessing the impact of Prime Ministerial preference on voting

	Ministerial preference on voting			
	A great extent	Somewhat	Not much	Not at all
Overall	26	34	19	10
Among Congress voters	23	31	22	14
Among voters of Congress allies	19	36	23	13
Among BJP voters	38	34	16	5
Among voters of BJP allies	25	38	20	8
Among BSP voters	15	31	27	19
Among Left voters	17	23	28	25
Among voters of others parties	19	36	18	13

Note: Rest did not respond Question asked: To what extent your decision about which party or

andidate to vote for depends on who you want to see as India's Prime Minister - to a great extent, somewhat, not much, or not at all?

Table 4: Modi effect: Assessing the impact of Narendra Modi as Prime Ministerial candidate of the BJP/NDA

	Would have voted for the same party	Would have voted for a different party	Not sure about voting choice
Overall	50	24	4
Among BJP voters	56	25	3
Among voters of BJP allies	58	27	3

Note: Rest did not respond. **Question asked:** If Narendra Modi was not the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate, would you have still voted for the same party as you have done or your decision would have changed?

they would have changed the way they voted. In 2019, two-thirds (32%) took this stand. This time, onefourth (25%) said that they would have changed the way they voted if Mr. Modi was not the Prime Ministerial candidate. Clearly, the

initial ability of the Modi factor to make voters move to the BJP seems to have stagnated over the decade.

Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust, and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network

Sandeep Shastri is

News

As congratulations pour in, Modi invites Sri Lankan President to swearing-in

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

U.S. President Joseph Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ioined leaders of more than 50 countries in congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) that won the highest number of seats in the Lok Sabha election.

During a telephone call, Mr. Modi also invited Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe to his swearing-in due to be held this weekend, which he has accepted, the Sri Lankan Presidential Media Division said in a statement.

All eyes are now on which other leaders the government would invite to the ceremony as Mr. Modi did in 2014 and 2019, when he invited SAARC leaders and BIMSTEC leaders, res-

pectively. As a member of both groupings, Sri Lanka's leaders were invited on both occasions.

Officials did not rule out invitations to other regional countries, including the Gulf countries such as the UAE and Arabia, and Central Asian countries. They explained that much will depend on their ability to fly to India at a short notice.

Among countries whose leaders extended their greetings on Wednesday were Israel, Singapore, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine. Leaders of regional countries such as Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Seychelles, and the UAE also joined in, while the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) conveyed its wishes at a

briefing.



Global stage: Narendra Modi flashes the victory sign as he arrives at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on June 4. World leaders have congratulated him on securing another term in office. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"Congratulations Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Democratic Alliance on their victory, and the nearly 650 million voters in this historic election," Mr. Biden said, adding that the India-U.S. relationship had "unlimited potential". The U.S. government also congratulated journalists, civil society workers, and others for the contributions to democracy.

"We commend Indian voters, poll workers, civil society, and journalists for

their commitment and vital contributions to India's democratic processes and institutions," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said. Mr. Putin was the first

international leader to speak to Mr. Modi on the telephone. "The Russian President warmly congratulated Narendra Modi on the success of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the recently concluded general parliamentary elections," the Kremlin said in a statement on Wednesday.

Mr. Sunak said he spoke to Mr. Modi and congratulated him on his victory. "The U.K. and India share the closest of friendships, and together that friendship will continue to thrive," Mr. Sunak said in a post on X.

In a message echoing the MFA, Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong wrote, "Look forward to making joint efforts with the Indian side for a sound and stable China-India relationship, which is in line with the interests and expectations of both countries, the region and the world."

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Na-

hyan greeted Mr. Modi and expressed interest in advancing "deeply rooted strategic partnership". Mr. Modi is expected to

travel to Italy for the G-7 outreach on June 13 and 14, where he will meet Mr. Biden, and other G7 leaders, as well as to Kazakhstan on July 3-4 for the SCO summit, where the Presidents of Russia, China, and Central Asian countries, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan are expected to be present.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has been urging Mr. Modi to travel to Switzerland next week for a Peace Summit, said, "Everyone in the world recognises the significance and weight of India's role in global affairs... In this regard, we also look forward to seeing India attend the Peace Summit."

India has not yet confirmed its level of participation at the conference, where Russia has not been invited, and Mr. Modi sidestepped Mr. Zelenskyy's invitation, only saying in response that "India will continue to support peace, security and prosperity for everyone in the region".

On Wednesday, as the NDA constituents met, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu issued statements greeting Mr. Modi on securing enough support for the third consecutive term. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is on a visit to China, has yet to convey his greetings.

"I look forward to working together to advance our shared interests in pursuit of shared prosperity and stability for our two countries," Mr. Muizzu said.

(With inputs from Meera Srinivasan in Colombo)

THE HINDU

From Page One

INDIA bloc to keep doors open for Naidu, Nitish

This was because a few leaders pointed out that the bloc had already anointed Mr. Kharge as the chairperson. There was little introspection on the losses faced by some of the allies such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party, both of which won far fewer seats than they had claimed at the June 1 meeting. The leaders instead went around congratulating the winners, with one of the leaders particularly pointing out the victory of Awadhesh Prasad, a Dalit leader, who won the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat, a general constituency. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was applauded for the bloc's clean sweep in the State.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Kharge read out the joint resolution, thanking the people of India for the "overwhelming support received" by the alliance. "The people's mandate has given a befitting reply to the BJP and their politics of hate, corruption and deprivation. This is a political and moral defeat of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is a mandate in defence of the Constitution of India and against price rise, unemployment and crony capitalism of the Modi government." The resolution also pledged to continue their fight against the "fascist rule of the BJP". "We will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP's government," Mr. Kharge read. The meeting was attended by Mr. Stalin, Jharkhand CM Champai Soren and former CM Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren, Mr. Akhilesh Yadav, Mr. Abhishek Banerjee, Sharad Pawar, Mr. Tejashwi Yadav and Sanjay Raut from the Shiv Sena (UBT). General secretaries of four Left parties – Sitaram Yechury, D. Raja, Dipankar Bhattacharya and G. Devarajan – were also present.

Guessing game begins over next Chief Minister in Odisha

Dharmendra Pradhan is considered frontrunner for the post along with other State unit leaders; BJD MLAs meet at Naveen Patnaik's residence to chalk out the future course of action

BHUBANESWAR

day after the BJP secured a decisive victory in its over decade-long campaign to form a government in Odisha, potential names for the new Chief Minister have begun circulating in the State.

In the 147-member Odisha Legislative Assembly, the Bharatiya Janata Party secured 78 seats, while the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) got 51. The Congress improved its tally from nine seats in 2019 to 14. The Communist Party of India won one seat, and three Independent candidates also emerged victorious. The BIP's tally has gone up further after one Independent MLA joined the party on Wednesday. Two more are likely to follow suit.

Several names for the post are doing the rounds in political circles and on social media.



Tides of change: Naveen Patnaik tendering his resignation to Odisha Governor Raghubar Das on Wednesday. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Education Minister in the dissolved government and winner of the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat, is being considered the frontrunner for the post. Mr. Pradhan, a prominent figure in Odisha's BJP, has the experience to manage both the bureaucracy and party affairs. Additionally, his age is being seen as an advantage, potentially allowing him to lead the party in the State for an extended period.

However, the BJP, which won 240 seats in the Lok Sabha election, is 32 MPs short of a majority. Asking him to resign and get elected from an Assembly seat could be tricky.

This would also apply to other potential candidates such as former Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi, and BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda.

Another name which social media is abuzz with is Girish C. Murmu, a retired Odia IAS officer who had spent considerable time in Gujarat when Mr. Modi was Chief Minister. He was the Comptroller-General of India. An elected MLA will have to resign in order to accommodate Mr. Murmu, who is a tribal too.

Among the newly elected MLAs, Mohan Charan Majhi, a three-time MLA from Keonjhar, who was chief whip of the BJP Legislature Party and also a tribal face, could be considered for the post.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal said the central Parliamentary Board of the party would take a final decision. The party is likely to announce the name on Thursday.

Meanwhile, BJD MLAs met at the residence of Naveen Patnaik, to chart out their next course of action. Mr. Patnaik tendered his resignation to Odisha Governor Raghubar Das on Wednesday.

Several incidents of post-poll violence reported in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

Several incidents of postpoll violence from different parts of West Bengal were reported on Wednesday, a day after the results of the Lok Sabha election were declared.

Violence broke out across several districts from Cooch Behar in north Bengal and North 24 Parganas district and South 24 Parganas in south Bengal to Jhargram in the Jangalmahal region.

At Natabari in Cooch Behar, a BJP supporter attacked a Trinamool worker with a gun and a video of the incident went viral on social media.

Several houses of BJP supporters and a party office were allegedly vandalised at Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas district. Those who were involved in the incident were allegedly armed with iron rods and guns.

The police and personnel of the Central armed

police forces reached the spot. However, the miscreants returned and ransacked the area after the security forces left.

Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas also witnessed violence. The houses of BJP workers were attacked, and crude bombs were hurled after the results were declared.

There were reports of a BJP agent's house being vandalised in South 24 Parganas's Narendrapur and crude bombs being hurled at the residence of a BJP worker in Howrah.

The West Bengal BJP leadership said several party supporters had to escape from Sandeshkhali after the results were declared.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) workers were targeted in Bijoygarh, Kamarhati and Jadavpur.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has decided to deploy about 400 companies of Central armed police forces in the State till June 19 to contain incidents of post-poll violence.

Congress plays on previous fault lines among NDA allies BJP, JD(U) and TDP

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

As the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) projected a picture of unity before staking claim to form the next government, the Con-Wednesday on played on the previous fault lines between NDA allies and the BJP to create a sense of unease.

The party said the Lok Sabha verdict is a "big mandate against" Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and alleged that Mr. Modi was intent on "sabotaging" the people's mandate.

Taking to X, Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh pointed out the differences between Mr. Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over the caste census and special category status for Bi-



Mr. Ramesh highlighted a news report that Mr. Kumar's party, the Janata Dal (U), would be insisting on special category status for the State, and a caste census. "Will Mr. Narendra Modi stand by his statement that the caste census is an attempt to divide the nation in the name of caste," he asked.

Mr. Ramesh kept pointing out the differences that leaders, including Mr. Kumar and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, had with the Prime Minister.

Mr. Ramesh shared a video clip of February 10, 2019 in which Mr. Modi targeted Mr. Naidu for misgovernance, and accused him of misusing government funds for his political programmes. "And today he [Mr. Modi] is begging for Mr. Naidu's help to remain in office after the people have rejected him de-

cisively," he said. The Congress also targeted Mr. Modi for not stepping down despite the BIP's inability to secure a majority on its own under his leadership.

Mr. Ramesh said the "caretaker Prime Minister is thumping his shrunken chest and boasting that not since 1962 has a government been re-elected thrice consecutively".

Muslims failed to understand BSP, says Mayawati after defeat

The Hindu Bureau LUCKNOW

A day after the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) failed to win a single seat in the Lok Sabha election, party president Mayawati on Wednesday said that the Muslim community, despite getting a sizeable representation in ticket distribution, did not vote for her party. "The Muslim communi-

ty, which is an important part of our Bahujan Samaj Party family, is not able to understand the party properly despite being given proper representation in the past elections and this time also in the parliamentary polls. So, in such a situation, the party will give them a chance in future polls only after a lot of thought so that our party not suffer a huge loss in the future like this time," Ms.



Mayawati said in a state-

In the 2024 Lok Sabha olls the BSP had fielded 35 Muslim candidates. As may as 34 of them failed to save their deposits, with the party's vote share only 9.39%, its lowest since the 1991 polls.

It is the second time that the BSP has failed to win a single Lok Sabha seat; in 2014 too, the BSP failed to open its account.

People's win, clear message that Manipur can't be taken for granted, says MP-elect

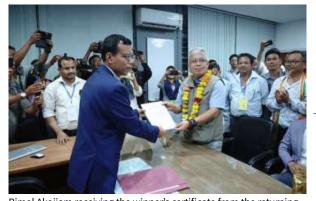
Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELHI

Hours after posting a decisive victory in Inner Manipur constituency in what was his first foray into electoral politics, Jawaharlal Nehru University Professor A. Bimol Akoijam told The Hindu on Wednesday that this was a "victory of the people of the State".

Mr. Akoijam said that people had sent a clear message to "those who try to destroy Manipur and those who have allowed this violence to go for so long" that they cannot be taken for granted.

Mr. Akoijam said that his first priority was to figure out how he could help the over 50,000 people internally displaced by the ethnic conflict and living in relief camps.

He added that he had al-



Bimol Akoijam receiving the winner's certificate from the returning officer for the Inner Manipur constituency. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ready hit the ground run- expressed gratitude for the ning to arrange alternative resources for those living in relief camps, and that eventually he would like to focus on economic concerns and education.

Mr. Akoijam thanked his party – the Congress – and alliance workers for supporting him on the ground.

The JNU Professor also

trust people had shown in him, saying: "Much of the pressure on the organisation was also not there here as people were already angry and dissatisfied and my appearance on the scene seems to have given people some hope. That's a huge responsibility that I have."

'Victory a triumph for backward classes, minorities and Dalits'

The Hindu Bureau

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday described the victory of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in the Lok Sabha election as a landmark triumph for the backward classes, Dalits, and minorities in Uttar Pradesh. He added that it was a testament to the power of the PDA (Pichda, Dalit, and Alpsankhyak) strategy.

"It is a landmark victory of the trust reposed by the Dalit-Bahujan community which, along with the backward classes, minorities, tribal people, and all the neglected, oppressed and exploited sections, along with pro-democratic forces who fought shoulder-to-shoulder to save the Constitution which gives them the right to equality, respect, dignified life and reservation," Mr. Yadav wrote on social media platform X.

He said the electoral success was achieved due to the cooperation and contribution of each and every section of society with strong support of the backward, Dalit, minority and tribal communities. "This is a victory for women's dignity and women's safety. This is the victory of new hopes of farmers, labourers, businessmen and traders. A collective victory of harmony loving, inclusive and egalitarian positive people of the entire society. A victory of the protectors of the Constitution who consider it as their life-giver. This is the victory of the poor. This is a victory for democracy," he added. The SP leader said the

party would fulfil the trust placed by the voters with full responsibility. "We will maintain and fulfil the trust you have placed in us with full responsibility. My heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the new positive times to come," he said.

BJP down from 77 to 55 reserved seats as Congress and SP make windfall gains

Abhinay Lakshman NEW DELHI

Results of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, which saw the issues of social justice and reservation take centre stage over the two months of campaigning, show that the BJP has been reduced to 55 seats from 77 out of the total 131 reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha.

The BJP lost 19 SC seats where it had incumbent MPs across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Bihar, Punjab and West Bengal. The party lost 10 of its ST seats across Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The Congress beat the BJP in 12 of the SC seats and seven of the ST seats.

Other losses were dealt to the BJP by the Samajwadi Party (five in U.P.), Trinamool Congress (Coochbehar), new entrant Bharat Adivasi Party (Banswara),

Of the 55 reserved seats the BJP won, 25 were ST seats, and 30 were SC seats

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Dumka), and the Nationalist Congress Party-Sharad Pawar (Dindori).

Big losses

Some of the biggest losses for the BJP were in Jharkhand's Khunti, where the Congress's Kali Charan Munda defeated Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda by a margin of nearly 1.5 lakh votes. The others were in Rajasthan's Banswara, where the BJP lost to the BAP by a margin of nearly 2.5 lakh votes; and in Karnataka's Chamrajanagar, where its margin of loss to the Congress was over 1.88 lakh votes.

The most damage to the BIP's incumbents on SC and ST seats was seen in Uttar Pradesh, where it lost six of these seats - one to

the Congress and five to the SP. In fact, the SP, which had won no SC seats in Uttar Pradesh in the 2019 election, ended up clocking a tally of seven SC seats in the State this time.

The BSP, meanwhile, lost the only other SC seat it earlier held in Uttar Pradesh - Nagina - to the Azad Samaj Party's Chandrashekhar Azad, who won the seat by a margin of over 1.5 lakh votes.

Of the 55 reserved seats the BJP won, 25 were ST seats (down from the 2019 tally of 32), and 30 were SC seats (down from 45).

Janta Dal had incumbents.

Though the BJP lost 29 of the reserved seats where it had incumbents, it made gains in ST seats in West Bengal (Alipurduar), Chhattisgarh (Bastar), and Odisha (Nabarangpur and Keonjhar), and on SC seats in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak constituencies, with all of the BJP's wins in Odisha coming from seats where the Biju

Tough questions await CPI(M) leadership at post-poll meet in Kerala

G. Anand THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Political anxiety over the erosion of Left Democratic Front (LDF) votes might loom over the CPI(M) State leadership when it meets here in mid-June to evaluate the party's stunning reversal of fortunes in the just-concluded Lok Sabha

LDF insiders, known for their adeptness at reading the political tea leaves, are not entirely optimistic about the ruling front's prospects in the local body elections in 2025 and

beyond. Their concerns add weight to the potential challenges the LDF may face, including in the Assembly by elections for the seats vacated by CPI(M) leader K. Radhakrishnan and Congress legislator Shafi Parambil, who have been elected to the lower House of Parliament.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front's (UDF) domination in 110 Assembly constituencies and BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's leads in 11 has unsettled the LDF.

BJP leader Sobha Surendran's stunning gains in the Alappuzha Lok Sabha constituency, widely reckoned as a CPI(M) bastion, has vexed the LDF.

Congress political warhorse K. Muraleedharan's loss to Suresh Gopi has stirred a rebellion in the party in Thrissur.

A section of leaders have accused the party's local leadership of opening the door for the BJP.

Meanwhile, the BJP's celebrity candidate's decisive victory in Thrissur has provided a sorely needed bright spot for the NDA in Kerala. The BJP has gained a toehold in Kerala and Mr. Gopi's startling win has provided a high-profile victory for the party to rally around. BJP State president K. Surendran cast the results in Kerala as a test case for the local body elections 2025 beyond.

BJP averted Adityanath's removal as CM in 2021

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

Kejriwal's claim, during Lok Sabha campaign, that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath was in danger of losing his post like several other BJP CMs had created ripples. Journalist Shyamlal Yadav's new book, At the Heart of Power: The Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, throws light on how Mr. Adityanath was indeed in danger of being replaced, back in 2021.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Mr. Yadav writes that, in May and June of 2021, several meets were held both in Delhi and Lucknow to discuss whether Mr. Adityanath was to be removed from the post.

"Before Yogi Adityanath could be convinced about the change of leadership, the BJP assessed that if he was removed, the party would suffer," he writes.

The matter was settled when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met him in Lucknow. M ND-NDE



Tamil Nadu CM meets TDP chief Naidu at Delhi airport

Minutes after the conclusion of meetings of the Bharatiya Janta Party-led National Democratic Alliance and the INDIA bloc, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu met at the Delhi Airport. The leaders were returning to their respective States. Mr. Stalin posted photographs on social media of his handing over flowers to Mr. Naidu, congratulating him for the TDP's victory in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly election. At the INDIA bloc meeting, the allies had agreed to keep the door open for Mr. Naidu as also for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United).

CBSE warns schools after AI finds variation in marks

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has detected a significant variation between theory and practical marks in certain subjects among 50% or more students in nearly 500 CBSE-affiliated schools, based on the data of past year's result. The CBSE had employed advanced artificial intelligence (AI) tools to analyse the results. The variance highlights a need for meticulous assessment during practical examinations. "The aim is to implement a more robust, transparent, and reliable mechanism to ensure that the assessment process adds substantial value to the students' academic journey," the CBSE advisory stated.

Pune car crash: custody of minor's parents extended

A laboratory report shows that the blood samples of the mother were swapped with those of her 17-year-old son involved in the luxury car crash case that claimed two lives in Pune. Following a request from the police, the Juvenile Justice Board extended the teen's observation home remand until June 12, while the Sessions Court extended the police custody of his parents until June 10. During the hearing before the Sessions Court on Wednesday, the prosecution said that a report of the Forensic Science Laboratory confirmed that blood samples of Shivani Agarwal were used to replace those of her son. PTI

Health, Defence Ministries to set up Tele MANAS cell

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Defence to facilitate collaboration between them in operating a special cell of Tele MANAS, the National Telemental Health Helpline of the former, as a pilot project for a period of two vears at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune. Tele MANAS is the digital extension of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), offering comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services. The initiative provides a toll-free number, 14416, in each State and Union Territory for easy access to mental health support.

Disquiet in Punjab over win of Amritpal, Sarabjeet

Though the Khalistan movement has lost popular support, the electoral victory of the two shows moderate space is shrinking and that fringe elements are gaining in *panthic* constituencies

Vikas Vasudeva CHANDIGARH

he victory of Amritpal Singh, a jailed pro-Khalistan propagator, and Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa, son of Beant Singh, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassin, in the Lok Sabha election in Punjab is bound to create disquiet and embolden radical elements in the State, which shares an International Border with Pakistan.

Political and policing experts say that with people rallying behind the radical elements, a feeling of disquiet will certainly prevail in a State such as Punjab, which has gone through a traumatic phase of militancy between the mid-1980s and early-1990s over the demand for Khalistan, though the movement has lost popular support.

Mr. Amritpal won the Khadoor Sahib seat by a margin of 1,97,120 votes over his nearest rival from the Congress, Kulbir Singh Zira. In Faridkot, Mr. Khalsa won by 70,053 votes, defeating Karamjit Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party. Both registered their maiden entry to Parliament.

Mr. Amritpal has been facing criminal charges for allegedly spreading dishar-



Amritpal Singh (centre) has been accused by the police of spreading disharmony, attempts to murder and attacks on police. AFP

mony, attempts to murder, and attacks on police personnel. His rise to notoriety started in 2022 after being anointed as the head of Waris Punjab De, a social organisation established actor-turned-activist Deep Sidhu. Mr. Singh's growth was rich with symbolism from the very beginning when his anointment took place at Rode village in Moga district the native village of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the extremist leader who was killed in 1984.

Balwinder Kaur, mother of Mr. Singh said that due to "immense" pressure from people from Khadoor Sahib, her son contested the election.

Mr. Khalsa narrowed his campaign to panthic (Sikh) issues, raking up the Kotkapura-Behbal Kalan police firing of 2015 after the sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib at Bargari village in Faridkot. Two persons were killed in the police firing during protests. Widespread protests were witnessed in the State and since then it has remained a key political issue surrounding panthic politics. He raised the issue of the release of Bandi Sikhs (Sikh prisoners) who had completed their terms. His

"The moderate space is weakening and the fringe radicals are gaining space in the religious or *panthic* constituencies in Punjab. The worrying factor is that people have rallied behind them – be it Amritpal or Sarabjit. The counter-nar-

mother, Bimal Kaur, was

the MP for Ropar in 1989.

rative appears to be weak in Punjab. The moderate panthic politics has gone weak and that space is being occupied by radicals," Pramod Kumar, director of the Institute for Development and Communication in Chandigarh, said.

Response from youth

"The fringe radicals got a notable response from the youth. Their main emphasis is on the denial of justice to the Bandi Sikhs, the exodus of youth from Puniab, and the migration to the State of labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The negation of the agenda of peace and communal harmony, and one-upmanship in power politics, has weakened the moderate space," he said.

Simranjit Singh Mann, a known hardliner and chief of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) from the Sangrur constituency, who has time and again been raising the bogey of Khalistan, though lost the Lok Sabha election this time, garnering 1,87,246 votes.

Shashi Kant, former Director-General of Police, said the win of radicals would embolden the hardliners as they would propagate the message that they are getting strong, which is dangerous.

Will analyse what went wrong, says AIUDF chief Ajmal

Rahul Karmakar **GUWAHATI**

The outcome of 2024 Lok Sabha election was a bitter pill for the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) in the Nagaland Lok Sabha constituency and the National People's Party (NPP) in Tura.

These were constituen cies where the NDPP and the NPP had a stranglehold for years. But the party that was hit the hardest was the Assam-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) led by Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, a perfume baron-turnedpolitician.

The AIUDF, born after Supreme Court scrapped the allegedly proforeigners Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act in 2005, sought to do what its predecessor, the United Minority Front, could not - make the Bengali-origin Muslims a political force.

The party went from 10 seats in the 2006 Assembly elections to 18 in 2011 before the 'Modi wave' saw its tally dipping to 13 in 2016. The party's victories, mostly in the Muslim-dominated constituencies, were seen as an outcome of a shift in the minority votes from the Congress and also the former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi's tendency to ignore Mr. Ajmal.

Over the last couple of



years, it was becoming apparent that the AIUDF was losing ground with people in its strongholds speaking out against the party's strategies that were allegedly against the secular entities. It also did not help that Mr. Ajmal was seen as having fielded candidates in the Muslim-dominated Nagaon and Karimganj primarily to harm the Congress.

The Hindu had reported how Mr. Ajmal would face his toughest test in Dhubri from former Minister Rakibul Hussain of the Congress. The latter won by a record margin of 10,12,476

"It [losing Dhubri] is a big blow. We will take our time to analyse what went wrong in a constituency that made me an MP for three consecutive terms," he said on Wednesday.

The analysis, he asserted, would help the AIUDF stage a comeback in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Forward Bloc, RSP say 'no' to any future alliance with Congress in West Bengal

Shrabana Chatterjee KOLKATA

After a humiliating performance in the Lok Sabha election in West Bengal. the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) and the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), both part of the Left Front, said on Wednesday that they were not in favour of any future alliance between the Left Front and the Congress.

The Left Front failed to win a single seat in the State, while the Congress bagged Malda South. The Trinamool Congress won 29 of the 42 seats.

The Left Front contested from 33 constituencies, while the remaining nine had Congress candidates.

The Left Front failed to win a single seat in the State, while the Congress bagged one in Malda South

AIFB State secretary Naren Chatterjee said the alliance had not worked in 2019 too. The AIFB lost in all three constituencies of Barasat, Purulia, and Coochbehar that it contested. They had a vote share of a mere 0.24% across West Bengal. Purulia and Coochbehar had Congress candidates, though the parties were in alliance.

"The seat-sharing between the Left Front and the Congress was decided by the CPI(M); we were not

consulted. So we had our own candidates in these seats," Mr. Chatterjee said, "Why should we, the

Left, bear the burden of the things that the Congress had done in Bengal? If we form an alliance, we will never be able to avoid sharing the responsibility," he said. His party had no intention of sharing seats with the Congress, their ideological opponent.

Manoj Bhattacharya, RSP general secretary, said, "I do not consider this an alliance between the Congress and the Left Front, this is more of an adjustment. I do not oppose the coming together of the parties." But the RSP too is not keen on any future alliance.

Health Ministry reworks protocol as country's TB elimination drive plateaus

Bindu Shajan Perappadan NEW DELHI

India's goal to achieve rapid decline in the burden tuberculosis (TB) morbidity and mortality, while working towards the elimination of TB in the country by 2025, has plateaued, a senior Health Ministry official said.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is looking at reworking the protocol, the official added, specifically TB medication and its duration, to reboot the TB-free initiative for eliminating deaths, disease, and poverty resulting from the infection.

According to the Health Ministry, India has been engaged in TB control ac-



Tuberculosis kills an estimated 4,80,000 Indians every year.

tivities for more than 50 years, yet the disease continues to be the country's severest health crisis.

TB kills an estimated 4,80,000 Indians every year or over 1,400 patients every day.

Additionally, the country also has more than a million 'missing' TB cases annually, which are not notified. Most remain either undiagnosed, or inadequately diagnosed and treated in the private sector.

"We are sure that this trag-

ic loss of life, and continued suffering and poverty, needs to end. There are several new technologies which help in early detection and we are also better prepared to address TB. We now have advanced and effective interventions and technologies for diagnosis, treatment and care of TB," the official said.

The Ministry, however, maintains there is a need to recognise that more needs to be done to drastically reduce the incidence of TB in India.

TH CROSSWORD + 14194

13 Part other than inner radius (7)

14 New unit, Congress leader gets a kurta (5)

16 I hope Leon perhaps likes wine (9) 19 Strange story, really shattered (9)

20 Is in front of terminals (5)

22 Agree, the aim is on goal mouth (2,5)

25 The French possess right to enter port (2,5)

27 After a drink, go steady - a scene of battle in France (9)

To solve this puzzle online,

get across to our crossword site.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

28 Meals essentially are inside (5)

29 Madhouse, is keen to deal with a daily complaint (10.4)

2 Such works of art - all spoilt and in a mess (3,6)

3 Fish caught by pulling plastic sheets from below (5) 4 Sense of smell works when cold, naked on top (9)

5 Yes, in beer gas rises from the bottom (5)

6 Ground spice on stone - shows divine authority (9)

7 Alternative to the German command (5) 8 Place to eat food around mid morning, there on both sides (7)

9 Faithful when It is broken, in short (6) Intend to lay a hand on a decorative frame (9)

18 Criminal can invade beforehand (2,7)

Having lumps, so unloaded at random, takes time (9)

19 Two characters in say, small church making one sound (7) 21 Drink withdrawn as she enters (6)

23 Cast in gold for so long (5)

24 According to you, biased media ultimately gets the cheese (5) 26 Yank, he is from the countryside with nothing to eat (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku 6 1 9 8 7 4 5 3 2 2 4 5 6 1 8 7 9 9 1 4 3 2 6 5 8 4 6 8 7 5 9 2 1



Vidura warns Dhritarashtra

People need to have moral fear towards society and should show affection to fellow beings. They should be righteous in their deeds. Duryodhana had none of these. When Lord Krishna arrived as an emissary and stayed at Vidura's house, the latter said he did not relish Krishna coming to meet Duryodhana. Sri Damodara Dikshitar said in a discourse Lord Krishna told Vidura that people should not blame Him as if He had not taken steps to thwart the

Vidura told Dhritarashtra that because Yudhishthira was polite, serene, righteous, and well-mannered, Duryodhana had given him all the trouble. The court astrologers predicted the kingdom would perish because of Duryodhana. Vidura warned Dhritarashtra to abandon Duryodhana. Dhritarashtra did not pay heed to the advice. Contrarily, the furious Duryodhana, bloated by arrogance, prattled with Vidura with harsh words piercing his heart, and so Vidura decided not to take part in the war but to go to the forest for meditation and have a dip in holy

Kundaleekan, a pilgrim, stayed at the house of sage Kukkuta near Kasi and enquired whether the sage had gone to Kasi for a holy dip. The sage replied in the nega-

12 The Spanish wine before first course - you're stretching it (7)

10 Plan urban renewal, doesn't wannabe the one to draw a line

11 In place of US president, Democrats go in - that's not allowed

1 Doctor already out, so do follow orders (2,2,3,3,4)

-0.10



Brakes India, Advics to form JV for advanced braking products

TSF Group firm Brakes India Ltd., in association with Japan-based Advics, has decided to form a joint venture firm in South India at an investment of more than ₹500 crore to design, develop and manufacture advanced braking products for the Indian light vehicle market. The project will be funded by both firms having a shareholding in the ratio of 51:49 respectively. To begin with, the products will be supplied through the parent companies, Brakes India said in a statement.

Heritage Foods' shares surge 20% as Naidu set to lead A.P.

Heritage Foods shares surged 20% on Wednesdav to a 52-week high of ₹546.95 on the BSE. The development came in the backdrop of the dairy firm founder and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu being all set to become Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for the fourth time. Besides winning the Assembly polls with a big majority, the TDP has emerged as the second-largest constituent of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP's Narendra Modi.

ixigo parent Le Travenues fixes IPO price band at ₹88-93

Le Travenues Technology, the parent company of travel aggregator ixigo, has announced to open its initial public offer (IPO) on Monday at a price band of ₹88-93 per share. The IPO will close on Wednesday. Bids can be made for a minimum of 161 equity shares and in multiples of 161 shares thereafter. The total offer size comprises fresh issue of equity shares of ₹1 each aggregating up to ₹120 crore and an offer for sale aggregating up to 6,66,77,674 shares by the selling shareholders.

Coalition crutches could cramp reform chase: Moody's, Fitch

Upsides to India's growth prospects would be modest if reforms face hiccups, while structural weaknesses pose a long-term risk, they say

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

7 ith the BJP losing an outright majority in the Lok Sabha, global rating agencies on Wednesday said navigating far-reaching reforms may prove more difficult during a coalition-dependent third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Upsides to India's growth prospects would be modest if reforms face hiccups, while structural weaknesses like youth unemployment and ebbing foreign investment flows pose a long-term risk, they

'Tough to push reforms' While "broad policy continuity" is expected in areas such as the thrust on public capex to spur the economy and gradual fiscal consolidation, a BJP-led government that needs "to rely more heavily on its coalition partners" could find it tougher to push contentious reforms, particularly around land and labour, recently flagged as the party's priorities, said Fitch Ratings Director Jeremy Zook.

"We expect India's strong medium-term growth outlook to remain intact, underpinned by the government capex drive and improved corporate

Coalition karma

Navigating far-reaching reforms may prove more difficult under a BJP-led coalition govt., say global rating agencies



- The Centre may find it hard to push contentious reforms, particularly around
- High levels of youth unemployment, weakness in productivity mask structural weakness risking long-term growth
- Fiscal and debt metrics remain weaker than peers', including Indonesia and

and bank balance sheets. But upsides to mediumterm growth prospects are likely to be more modest if reforms prove more challenging to advance."

In a comment on India's well as the BJP's loss of its outright majority in Parliament" may delay more farreaching economic and fiscal reforms that could impede fiscal consolidation.

Noting India's fiscal outcomes would remain weaker than its peers, Moody's senior vice president Christian de Guzman said India is projected to grow faster than all other G20 economies through fiscal year 2025-26, but the nearterm economic momentum masks structural weaknesses that pose risks

long-term potential growth. The weaknesses include "high levels of youth unemployment across sectors" to weak productivity growth in the farm sector that accounts

economic and geopolitical backdrop for India amid broader U.S.-China strategic tensions, suggesting continued constraints from the investment climate."

While India may be able to meet fiscal deficit target of 4.5% of GDP in 2025-26, fiscal consolidation since the pandemic has not outperformed other Asia-Pacific emerging markets while fiscal and debt metrics remain weaker than peers, including Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, Moody's said.

Sensex recovers 3.2% on 'bargain buying'

PMI signals services

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The S&P BSE Sensex bounced back with a gain of 2,303 points, or 3.20%, to 74,382.24 on Wednesday in the wake of bargain hunting by investors a day after a 5.7% fall on account of the BJP falling short of a majority on its own.

'Return to sanity'

"Value buying was witnessed as the market had fallen so much a day before," said Ambareesh Baliga, an independent analyst. "Several people waited to buy and Tuesday's was a very good fall to provide entry into the market," Mr. Baliga added. Banking, metal and auto stocks led gains. Sensex

stocks which advanced the most included IndusInd Bank, which rose 7.75%, Tata Steel (6.55%), M&M (6.49%), Bajaj Finance (5.1%), Kotak Bank (4.89%) and Axis Bank (4.6%).

The NSE Nifty-50 index, led by Adani Ports, surged 735.85 points, or 3.36%, to 22,620.35.

"Some sanity has come back to the market after two days of excess volatility," said Arun Kejriwal, founder Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. "There was some bargain buying which helped in the recovery," he added.

72,820 Brent oil NIFTY 50 PRICE 3115.35 1354.60

US Dollar

CHANGE Apollo Hosp 5934.65 ... 88.95 Axis Bank. 1184.50 .. 53.25

74,382

83.44

Bajaj Auto. 9602.25 Baiai Finsery 1517.70. ...40.40 6836.65 ..327.10 Bajaj Finance 1344.35 . 44.65 BPCL0.90 .. 581.10. 5486.65 .161.55 1496.95 ...34.40 Divis Lab... 4502.70. .178.55 Dr Reddys Lab Eicher Motors 4579.00 83.60 Grasim Ind. . 2304.85 1343.70 HDFC Bank 1551.80. .. 68.65 Hero MotoCorp 5658.50 .347.80 Hind Unileye 2602.75 106.45 ICICI Bank. . 1108.65 ... 37.20 IndusInd Ban . 1430.10. .. 36.45 JSW Steel . 878.40. Kotak Bank 3409.00 .. 5.80 .4688.85 .. 58.20 2740.95 168.05 Maruti Suzuki 12502.60 2509.85 . 341.00 PowerGrid Corp. . 298.80 ... 2.85 SBLLife 1390.10 51.25 State Bank . 789.75

.. 126.75 Sun Pharma TataConsumerPro 1142.40 Tata Motors .929.95. ... 26.05 3746,45... .. 31.45 1266.90 3317.65 78.70 UltraTech Cement 10038.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 05 .. 90.73 British Pound Japanese Yen (100) .. 53.30 .. 53.50 11.52 Singapore Dollar 61.69 .. 61.93 .17.70 Malaysian Ringitt Australian Dollar .55.24..

growth receded to a 5-month low in May for 40% of all employment, sovereign rating, titled "Incumbent victory suggests and the decline in inward policy continuity while fisforeign direct investment cal metrics to remain (FDI) flows in each of the weak", Moody's Ratings surveved firms indicated past three years. The Hindu Bureau said the NDA's "relatively "The erosion in inward NEW DELHI slim margin of victory as FDI is despite a favourable

Activity in India's services sectors slumped to a fivemonth low in May, with competition, price pressures and a severe heat wave denting growth in new orders and output, as per HSBC India Services Business Activity Index that fell to 60.2 from 60.8 in April. A reading of over 50 on the survey-based index indicates an expansion in activity levels.

However, fresh orders from international markets surged at the sharpest pace in nearly 10 years, while

greater confidence in the outlook for business prospects, lifting their measured optimism to an eight-month high. Survey participants noted strong growth of demand from Asia, Africa, Europe, West Asia and the U.S.

Hiring activity among the 400 firms surveyed increased by the greatest extent since August 2022, as they picked up more junior and mid-level workers in May. Firms reported a rise in input costs through May, especially on labour and materials such as meat, vegetables and packaging.

TI and TICMPL sign pact to raise ₹310 crore

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India and TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. (TICMPL) have signed securities subscription agreement with Luxembourg Specialist Investment Fund FCP-RAIF (M&G) and existing investors of TICMPL to raise about ₹310 crore in equity and compulsorily convertible preference shares.

With this proposed investment, the overall fund raise by TICMPL would aggregate to ₹2,840 crore against its ₹3,000 crore target. The fund raise will help scale TICMPL and its subsidiaries' operations, the Murugappa group firm said in a statement.

'People aspect most

important part of

AI-Vistara merger'

Will not invest in planes if bilateral rights expanded for

NEW DELHI

Air India will "not invest" bell Wilson.

"If the rug is pulled from



Campbell Wilson

these hubs fed flights to destinations beyond like the U.S. and Europe.

Mr. Wilson said Indian airlines had placed orders for 1,000 aircraft in 2023 and there was an appetite for more and "we are committing to that on the basis of an economic return" on almost \$100 billion in priv-

ate sector investment. But if this return could not be realised, "we have clarity that we will not invest".

Retrofit programme Air India will retrofit 100

planes by mid-2025 and deploy them on the busiest international routes like New York and London, Mr. Wilson said. "Our key international markets will be exclusively served by the new product," he added.

The airline has also bought 25,000 seats as part of its \$400 million retrofit programme and though this was decided in 2022, it will take until mid-2025 for the retrofits to be visible on the planes.

West Asian rivals: Air India

<u>Jagriti Chandra</u>

in buying new aircraft, including widebodies, if the Government grants more seats under bilateral agreements to hubs in West Asia impeding "non-stop" international travel for Indians, said its CEO and MD Camp-

under us, if we can't fill the aircraft, we will not take them," he said at the CAPA India Aviation Summit 2024. He made these comments while indirectly referring to rights granted for hubs like Dubai. He said 90% of passenger traffic to

Farmland conversions have triggered newer businesses in India'

Mini Tejaswi BENGALURU

the country.

Buhler India MD Prashant Gokhale said the firm was seeing several market dynamics play out simultaneously even as rapid conversion of farmlands for other purposes were taking place. "Urbanisation and reduction of arable



land could potentially increase the focus on food processing technologies to ensure the efficient use of agricultural produce in the country," he observed.

Also, the reduction in farmlands might encourage diversification of agriculture towards high-value



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The most important aspect of the merger of Vistara with Air India is the 'people aspect' and the former is engaging with employees to provide 'direction and certainty' about their role in the integrated entity, said CEO Vinod Kannan. He underlined that the

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

merger of Air India and Vistara was not aimed at cost cutting, but growth. The airline was forced to cancel 1,000 flights in April due to various factors including hectic rosters for pilots, as well as resentment over applying Air India's salary package for pilots that cuts guaranteed flying allowance from 70 hours to 40 hours.

The aim is to complete the integration of the two airlines by 2024-end but various factors like the peak travel season witnessed from October to December as well as intense fog during peak winter may also play a role, he added. Though Vistara's aircraft operator certificate expires in December, the airline may also seek an extension from the DGCA if there were delays in procuring regulatory approvals for the merger.

Buhler, a Swiss firm that offers technology solutions to grain, food and animal feed processing industries, said rapid conversion of farmlands in India for other purposes may expose the company to newer market opportunities in

crops, Mr. Gokhale added.

STOCKHOLM

26-year-old Swedish rapper shot dead in 'gang conflict', say police



Masked 26-year-old rapper C.Gambino — whose real name is Karar Ramadan — has been killed in a gang shooting in Gothenburg, the Swedish police said on Wednesday. The killing "is linked to a gang conflict", a police spokesperson said, adding that the rapper "was known to police". AFP

TOKYO

Palau President confirms 'major' cyberattack, points finger at China



Palau's President Surangel Whipps on Wednesday said the tiny country, one of Taiwan's few diplomatic allies, had suffered a major cyberattack, pointing a finger at China. The documents were taken in March and later appeared on the dark web. Ransomware group DragonForce claimed responsibility for the hack. AFF

MANILA

Police officers in the Philippines arrested for kidnapping 4 tourists



Four police officers assigned in the Philippine capital region have been arrested for kidnapping for ransom that victimised four foreign — three Chinese and a Malaysian — tourists, officials said on Wednesday. The captives were later freed after payment of a 2.5-million-peso (\$43,100) ransom. AP

MOSCOW

Russian cosmonaut becomes the first to spend 1,000 days in space



A 59-year-old Russian cosmonaut has become the first person to spend 1,000 days in space, Russian space agency Roscosmos said on Wednesday. Oleg Kononenko achieved the milestone on Tuesday, having made five journeys to the International Space Station dating back to 2008. AP

Biden rolls out asylum restrictions to help 'gain control' of the border

The order will go into effect when the number of border encounters between ports of entry hits 2,500 per day; migrants who arrive at the border but do not express fear of returning to their home countries will be subject to immediate removal

Associated Press

resident Joe Biden on Tuesday unenact immediate significant restrictions on migrants seeking asylum on the U.S.-Mexico border as the White House tries to neutralise immigration as a political liability ahead of the November elections.

The long-anticipated presidential proclamation would bar migrants from being granted asylum when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed. The Democratic President had contemplated unilateral action



Stuck midway: Migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. being watched by the Texas National Guard, on the bank of the Rio Grande. AFP

for months after the collapse of a bipartisan border security deal in Congress that most Republican lawmakers rejected at the behest of former President

Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential

Mr. Biden said he preferred more lasting action via legislation but "Republicans have left me no choice". Instead, he said he was acting on his own to "gain control of the border" while also insisting that "I believe immigration has always been the life-

Mr. Trump, on the other hand, used his social media account to assail Mr. Biden again over immigration, saying the Democrat had "totally surrendered our Southern Border" and his order was "all for show" ahead of their June 27 presidential debate.

The order will go into effect when the number of border encounters between ports of entry hits 2,500 per day, according

to senior administration officials. Once this order is in ef-

fect, migrants who arrive at the border but do not express fear of returning to their home countries will be subject to immediate removal from the United States, within a matter of days or even hours. Those migrants could face punishments that could include a five-year bar from re-entering the U.S. or even criminal prosecution.

Meanwhile, anyone who expresses that fear or an intention to seek asylum will be screened by a U.S. asylum officer but at a higher standard than currently used.

Israel prepared for Lebanon border operation: Netanyahu

Agence France-Presse JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Israel was "prepared for a very intense operation" along the border with Lebanon, where Israeli troops have exchanged near-daily fire with Hezbollah fighters.

Exchanges between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, a Hamas ally, have intensified over the past week, with repeated Israeli strikes deeper into Lebanese territory.

"We are prepared for a very intense operation in the north. One way or another, we will restore security to the north," Mr. Netanyahu said during a visit to the border area earlier on Wednesday.

Hezbollah said later it



Benjamin Netanyahu

launched several attacks on Israeli positions during the day, including a "guided missile" strike on an "Iron Dome platform in the Ramot Naftali barracks".

The Prime Minister's far-right coalition partners National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich have both called in recent days for urgent action to restore security to northern Israel.

"They burn us here, all Hezbollah strongholds should also burn and be destroyed. WAR!" Mr. Ben Gvir said on Tuesday.

Mr. Smotrich said on Monday: "We must move the security strip from inside Israeli territory in the Galilee to southern Lebanon, including a ground invasion, occupation of the territory and distancing Hezbollah terrorists and hundreds of thousands of Lebanese among whom Hezbollah hides to the other side of the Litani river," nearly 30 kilometres north of the border.

The violence since early October has killed at least 455 people in Lebanon, mostly fighters but including 88 civilians, according to a tally. On the Israeli side, at least 14 soldiers and 11 civilians have been killed, as per the Army.

Western Europeans question reliability of **United States: survey**

Only a tiny number of people in Britain, France and Germany put great faith in the United States to guarantee their security over the coming decade, a survey said on Wednesday, ahead of an election in which Donald Trump has thrown doubt on alliances.

The Eurasia Group's Institute for Global Affairs, in its survey of the three western European nations, still found that more people than not expected the United States to be at least "somewhat" reliable.

But only 6% said that the United States would be a "very reliable" guarantor of European security over the next decade, compared with 24% of Americans who believed their country was very reliable.

Mark Hannah, a senior

fellow at the institute, said it was the first time the

Russian invasion. **Reason for doubts**

"The fact that the United States has contributed to the extent it has, and yet only 6% of Western European respondents thought the United States was very reliable, is remarkable and shows this lack of certainty or confidence in American guarantees," he said.

question was asked in the

annual survey, but that the

low number was striking

after two years of President Joe Biden staunchly

backing Ukraine against

Mr. Hannah, who formerly worked in Democratic Party politics, said the most likely reason for the doubts was Mr. Trump, who has described both NATO and assistance to Ukraine as wasteful and unfair to the United States.

Spiritual journey



Pilgrim's progress: The faithful pray around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in Mecca on Tuesday as pilgrims arrive ahead of the annual Haj pilgrimage. AFP

China accuses U.S. of interfering after Tiananmen remarks

China lashed out at the United States on Wednesday after Washington's top diplomat Antony Blinken vowed never to forget the crackdown in Tiananmen Square 35 years ago.

"The move of the U.S. seriously interferes with China's internal affairs," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

"China is strongly dissatisfied and firmly opposes it," she added.

She called upon the United States to "stop provoking ideological confrontation, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs under the pretext of hu-

man rights". Chinese troops and tanks forcibly dispersed peaceful protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, quelling huge,



Mao Ning

weeks-long demonstrations demanding greater political freedoms.

The exact toll is unknown but hundreds died, with some estimates putting the figure at more than 1,000 people.

China's leaders have since sought to erase any public mention of the crackdown.

On Tuesday, Mr. Blinken who has visited Beijing twice since last year called the events at Tiananmen Square a "massacre".

After losing majority in election, South Africa's ANC talking to all parties keen to be part of government

Reuters **JOHANNESBURG**

The African National Congress has been talking to all political parties that are keen to contribute to a new government, the party's spokesperson said on Wednesday, after it lost its majority in last week's election.

The ANC, which is still the largest party but can no longer govern alone, said it was determined to unite the broadest range of sectors in society as it addressed what it described

as the urgent need to move out of the current stalemate.

"We have been meeting with all parties that are keen to contribute ideas on how we can collectively move our country forward to form a government that ensures national unity and stability, continues the transformation of South Africa, and safeguards our constitutional democracy," said Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri in a statement at

the start of a news briefing. The ANC has run South Africa since Nelson Mande-



speaks to the media in Johannesburg on Wednesday. REUTERS

la led it to power in the 1994 elections that marked the end of apartheid, but voters punished it this time over persistent poverty

and joblessness, rampant crime, corruption and frequent power cuts. Voters, politicians and

financial markets have

been on tenterhooks for clues as to which party or parties will form the next national government.

Ms. Bhengu-Motsiri said the ANC had held meetings with the free-marketeer Democratic Alliance (DA), the Marxist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), the socially conservative Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and two smaller parties.

She added that it had approached uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), a party led by former President Jacob Zuma, but had been rebuffed.

MISSING Resolution

against Iran

The U.N. nuclear watchdog's 35-nation Board of Governors passed a resolution on Wednesday calling on Iran to step up its cooperation with the watchdog, diplomats said on Wednesday. AFP

Emmanuel, age 31, S/o Rapheal, Therath House,

Cherthala South P/W 22, Arthunkal PO, Alappuzha District has been missed from 04.05.2023. If any information is received about him, please inform to the nearest Police Station or below mentioned phone numbers

Description Height: 162 cm, Complexion : White, Body Shape : Medium

SHO Arthunkal Police Station : 9497980267 DySP, Cherthala : 9497990042 District Police Chief, Alappuzha: 9497996982

233/F2/2024/I&PRD



कार्य) / Construction of facilities for production of Ablative products for PSLV on GOCO mode at TERLS. VSSC. Thu डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading : दिनांक 13.06.2024, 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए / Extended upto 23:00 hrs on 13.06.2024 गेग्यता मानदंड़ तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छूक निविदाकार ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई–एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें

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NOT IDEAL

Needed a good pitch but the NY surface didn't live up to it: Malan



Ireland head coach Heinrich Malan was critical of the New York track. "You need a good pitch, but this pitch did not necessarily live up to this. Hopefully, it flattens out in the next few days and we get some good cricket," Malan said after his side crashed to an eight-wicket loss against India in its opener.

UP FOR IT

adjust," Rathour said.

Expected a challenging pitch, had the experience to adjust: Rathour



India batting coach Vikram Rathour said his side had enough experience to tackle the unpredictable New York surface. "It was a challenging pitch, and we were expecting a challenging pitch. We needed to find a way. We have enough experience in the team to

AMBITION

It's my dream to win the T20 World Cup for India: Kuldeep



FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJ

Left-arm unorthodox spinner Kuldeep Yadav spoke about his World Cup ambitions. "It's my dream to win the World Cup for India. This is my first T20 World Cup. I'm 29 years old and expect to play for as long as possible. I think trophies do matter in the end, and you're playing to win them," Kuldeep told Delhi Capitals.

INJURY

Pakistan's Imad Wasim to miss the match against USA



GETTY IMAGES

All-rounder Imad Wasim will miss Pakistan's T20 World Cup opener against USA on Thursday due to a persistent side strain, said captain Babar Azam. "The medical staff is monitoring him and he will be available for the remaining matches in the World Cup," Babar told the media.

Pacers rip through Ireland line-up on a minefield as India begins with a bang

Arshdeep removes the openers cheaply before Hardik, Bumrah and Siraj strike at regular intervals; chasing a 97-run target, Rohit-Pant seal the deal





A study in contrast: Balbirnie's timid and clueless approach embodied Ireland's display on a difficult wicket while Rohit came out all guns blazing. K.R. DEEPAK

T20 WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

he Indian team did not overtly celebrate the fall of Ireland wickets. The mind was occupied on batting duties to come on a minefield of a pitch.

On the day, India did enough, starting its ICC Men's T20 World Cup campaign with a comfortable eight-wicket victory. The Nassau County International Cricket Stadium surface, which offered unbounce and exaggerated movement,

helped India's cause.

um, just like it did in the opening match at this venue between Sri Lanka and South Africa. The former had crumbled for 77, and Ireland only did marginally better.

The Indian pacers – Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya – cut through Ireland, which folded for 96. The signs of a tough morning for the batters came early. In the fifth over bowled by Arshdeep, Harry Tector cut a sorry figure. One delivery rolled through under the bat, and the next spat up from length to

that Ireland shoulders started to droop. The fear of the unexpected led to nervous feet movement, and loose defence took over as the only viable option. The mental frailties were apparent when opener Andy Balbirnie gave up the ghost, exposing his stumps and meekly hanging his bat out.

India needed no second invitation to apply the chokehold. Bumrah, a handful even in batting-friendly conditions, was unplayable here. Extra zip, a tight length and swing was too hot to handle for Ireland.

Tector's short stint

thud into Tector's gloves. came to an end with a until a horror mix up frightening bouncer from Bumrah which crushed his fingers, ricocheted onto the helmet, and flew to infielder Virat Kohli.

Bumrah returned to the attack later to apply the finishing touches with a pinpoint yorker to tailender Josh Little.

There was no respite when all-rounder Hardik came on. With a hint of late movement, an accurate Hardik stuck to the basics to scalp three wickets.

Only Gareth Delany (26, 14b, 2x4, 2x6) had the right idea - smash it and pray for success. The approach worked for a short while,

brought his end Delany batting with last man Ben White, refused a second run which would have kept him on strike. A quick release from Siraj in the deep left Delany in no man's land.

Rohit (52 retired hurt) and Rishabh Pant (36 n.o.) ensured a smooth chase. There was disappointment, however, for Virat Kohli (1, 5b), who sliced a short ball to deep third

Rohit waited for the bad balls, especially those on his pads. Once the result was beyond doubt, Rohit and Pant played expansive shots. The skipper reached

SCOREBOARD

IRELAND

Andrew Balbirnie b Arshdeep 5 (10b, 1x4), Paul Stirling c Pant b Arshdeep 2 (6b), Lorcan Tucker b Hardik 10 (13b, 2x4), Harry Tector c Kohli b Bumrah 4 (16b), Curtis Campher c Pant b Hardik 12 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), George Dockrell c Bumrah b Siraj 3 (5b), Gareth Delany run out 26 (14b, 2x4, 2x6), Mark Adair c Dube b Hardik 3 (2b), Barry McCarthy c & b Axar 0 (6b), Josh Little b Bumrah 14 (13b, 2x4), Benjamin White (not out) 2 (4b); Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-9): 15; Total (in 16 overs): 96.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Stirling, 2.1 overs), 2-9 (Balbirnie, 2.6), 3-28 (Tucker, 6.5) 4-36 (Tector, 7.6), 5-44 (Campher, 8.6), 6-46 (Dockrell, 9.4), 7-49 (Adair, 10.1), 8-50 (McCarthy, 11.2), 9-77 (Little, 14.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-35-2, Siraj 3-0-13-1, Bumrah 3-1-6-2, Hardik 4-1-27-3, Axar 1-0-3-1, Jadeja 1-0-7-0. INDIA

Rohit Sharma retd. hurt 52 (37b, 4x4, 3x6), Virat Kohli c White b Adair 1 (5b), Rishabh Pant (not out) 36 (26b, 3x4, 2x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Dockrell b White 2 (4b), Shivam Dube (not out) 0 (2b); Extras (w-6): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 12.2 overs): 97. **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-22 (Kohli, 2.4), 2-91 (Suryakumar, 11.4)

IRELAND BOWLING Adair 4-0-27-1, Little 4-0-42-0, McCarthy 2.2-0-18-0, Campher 1-0-4-0, White 1-0-6-1. Toss: India; PoM: Bumrah. India won by eight wickets with 46 deliveries remaining.

his 30th T20I fifty. The pitch came to the fore again when Rohit retired hurt after being struck on the shoulder.

The big crowd, made up primarily of Indian fans, left the stadium happy. A tighter contest, however, would have been more befitting of the grand occasion.

Australia begins its quest for a treble, Pakistan faces USA

Press Trust of India BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

With the World Test Championship mace and the 50over World Cup trophy already in its bag, Australia will look to hit the ground running in its quest to become the first team to simultaneously hold all three world titles when it takes on Oman in its T20 World Cup opener here.

Australia might experiment in the group stage. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa will play a crucial role while left-arm spinner Ashton Agar is also expected to be in the mix.

Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood will run the pace unit.

Commendable job Oman lost its opening

game after against Namibia. While it did a commendable job with the ball by taking the match into the Super Over, the batters will have to be more responsible if its want to pull off an upset win.

Last edition's runner-up Pakistan will take on cohost USA in the day's other match.

bar Azam-led side looks

the outright favourite to win the clash, Pakistan's recent form suggests that it might not be a cake walk.

Babar was reinstated as skipper after Shaheen Afridi was handed the T20 captaincy for a short time. The pacer was offered vicecaptaincy later but he refused to take it.

Babar and Mohammad Rizwan are Pakistan's most consistent performers but their strike rate has been a cause of concern as the duo has struggled to accelerate. They will bank heavily

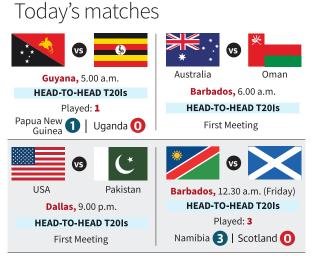
on Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Amir, who has come out of retirement.

USA will be high on confidence after their seven wicket win in the tournament opener against Canada.

The third match of the day features Papua New Guinea and Uganda.

Strong show

PNG put up a strong show against the West Indies, the two-time champion put under pressure by the PNG bowlers. Even though the Assad Valal-led side lost, it will fancy its chances in the



Paolini makes her Grand Slam semifinal debut after win over Rybakina

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press

Jasmine Paolini reached the first Grand Slam semifinal of her career by beating No. 4 seed Elena Rybakina 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 at the French Open on Wednesday.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Paolini said.

The 12th-seeded Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy, exited in the first or second round in each of her first 16 Grand Slam appearances before making it to the fourth round of the Australian Open in January. Now she's gone two steps further by eliminating the 2022 Wimbledon champion.

With Jannik Sinner into the men's semifinals, it is the first time an Italian woman and Italian man both

have appeared in the final four at the same Grand Slam tournament in the same year. It's quite a moment for their country in tennis: On Monday, Sinner will become the first man to be No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

Paolini finished with 22 unforced errors, fewer than half of Rybakina's 48. And Paolini accumulated seven breaks against the big-serving Rybakina, who hit 10 aces.

"I (got) a little bit too emotional in the second set," Paolini said. "But then I said to myself: 'OK. It's good. She's a great champion so it can happen. Just fight. Try to keep it there. Try to hit every ball.' And, yeah, it worked."

The first set could not have gone better for Paolini – or worse for Rybakina. Paolini took the first 15

points she served, and 16 of 17 overall. She grabbed 16 of 32 points Rybakina served.

And while Paolini deserved credit for playing cleanly and showing zero signs of being overwhelmed by the stage or the moment, Rybakina was way off. By set's end, Rybakina had made 16 unforced errors - 15 more than Paolini.

In the second, Paolini twice went up by a break, including for a 4-3 lead. When she led 40-15 in the next game, Paolini was one point from going up 5-3 and being a game away from by far the biggest victory of her career. But Rybakina steadied

herself, broke there and games to force a third set.

ran through the last three Again, Paolini kept moving in front, then getting reeled back in. She was up a break in the last set at 1-0, then at 2-1, and was a point from going up 3-1. Rybakina would not fade and kept breaking back.

But Paolini broke one last time for a 5-4 edge, then served out the victory and let out a yell when Rybakina sent a backhand long.

Meanwhile, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden reached the men's doubles semifinals defeating Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen from Belgium 7-6(3), 5-7,

THE RESULTS

(Bel) 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-1.

Quarterfinals: Women: 12-Paolini (Ita) 4-Rybakina (Kaz) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 Men: 7-Ruud (Nor) w/o 1-Diokovic (Srb). Doubles: 2-Bopanna (Ind) & Ebden (Aus) bt 10-Gille & Vliegen



same Grand Slam tournament in the same year. GETTY IMAGES

Sport

Blue Tigers look to get the better of Kuwait and brighten their chances of making the third round

Captain Chhetri's last outing for the host adds lustre to the contest as the Indians are all pumped up to give him a fitting farewell; Stimac calls it the 'most important' match for India in three decades

FIFA WC QUALIFIER

Amitabha Das Sharma

une 6 could well be one of the most significant dates in the history of Indian football if the senior men's National team is able to secure a win against the visiting national team of Kuwait.

A successful result at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Thursday would mean that India will greatly improve its chances of making it to the third (and the decisive) round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification process.

Indian head coach Igor Stimac hoped that his players would rise to the occasion and produce the intended result.

"The match against Kuwait is the most important outing for the National team in three decades. India never could reach the third round in the World Cup Qualifiers.

"Having the very opportunity to be in that position is an achievement by itself," Stimac said while trying to specify the importance of the match.

Second in standings

India is currently second with four points after four rounds of action in the Group-A league of the round two qualification

With the top two from



All to play for: Chhetri, along with teammates, during a warm-up session on the eve of the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Kuwait. R.V. MOORTHY

each group making it to the third round, a win is necessary for India to keep its position in the group standings and realise its dream.

Qatar is at the top with 12 points after winning all its matches so far while India, Afghanistan (four points) and Kuwait (three) jostle for the second spot.

The match gains greater importance following the decision of Indian captain Sunil Chhetri to make this his final appearance for the national team.

A crowd of over 60,000 is expected to cheer for the iconic player as he ends his international career while playing his 151st match for the country.

This seems to have brought in a greater sense of purpose in the dressing room as each member is looking to bring out his best in honour of the departing captain. There will be a few absentees in the team – like Sandesh Jhingan in defence, Vikram Pratap Singh in attack and Apuia in the

midfield – owing to suspen-

sion and injuries but Stimac said he was hopeful of finding adequate replacements.

With India having completed a three-week preparatory camp in Bhubaneswar, the head coach hoped

that the players will show the right mentality to repeat the win his team had managed against the same opponent while visiting Kuwait City in the first round in November last year.

+ I want to focus on the match against Kuwait as we need to win this game, says Chhetri

Amitabha Das Sharma

Sunil Chhetri, the longstanding captain of the senior men's national football team, tried to contain his emotions as he was repeatedly asked about his feelings ahead of his final outing for India.

This remained the overriding factor in the media conference as the talismanic striker took questions ahead of India's match against Kuwait, which will be his last assignment as player with the team.

Small battle

"I have been fighting a small battle inside me all along. Please do not make it worse by asking again

and again. We were done with the subject of retire-20 days ago," said Chhetri while addressing a packed media conference room in the Salt Lake Stadium here.

Great opportunity

"The only thing that I want to focus on is the match against Kuwait. We really need to win this game.

"Once we win, it gives us a great chance to go to the third round (of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers), which we have never achieved before

"We need to go out there with all our might, because the match is not going to be easy. It is going to be a big battle, but the good thing is that we are all

"I am sure Kolkata will give us tremendous supthe ground," added Chhetri, who has scored a record 94 goals in 150 matches for India.

"If we win against Kuwait, we almost qualify to the third round. And once we qualify, we will be up against some top teams (of the continent). I keep telling the boys about this dream every day.

Player to fan

"Hopefully, everything will happen according to plan. If we qualify, I will be travelling to watch the matches as a fan," said Chhetri while wrapping up his final assignment with the team he has been associated with for 19 years.



Focused: Chhetri deflected questions over his retirement and chose instead to talk about the team's drive to win against Kuwait.

'If India progresses, it will be + my biggest achievement'

Sports Bureau KOLKATA

It will be the biggest achievement as a coach if India is able to realise a third round berth in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, said the National football coach Igor Stimac.

The former Croatian World Cupper, who won the bronze with his native country in the 1998 World Cup in France, said that it will be the greatest moment in his career if India progresses.

"Although I am a foreigner in this country, I feel more like an Indian. I did not want to get my emotions involved with my job but it has happened over time," Stimac said ahead of India's meeting with Ku-

Determined to win a quota place in Bangkok

World Olympic qualifier: boxer Nishant



Stimac. R.V. MOORTHY

wait. "Honestly, this is the biggest game in my playing and coaching career and the simple reason is that we have a chance to make 1.4 billion Indians happy tomorrow.

"We need to do everything to make it happen. That's the reason this is the biggest game of my

dent about the preparations as India looks to regain its winning touch after playing a draw and suffering two loses ever since it notched up an 'away' win against Kuwait in its first outing in the group league fixtures (in November 2023).

"We did not have the chance to play friendly games this time like we had last before facing Kuwait. That helped in raising the intensity, but we have worked on details and did everything necessary to reach the highest level of fitness. There will be a packed stadium which will have great influence on the performance," Stimac said.

Sindhu loses in first round of Indonesia Open

Press Trust of India JAKARTA

India's ace shuttler P.V. Sindhu went down to Hsu Wen-chi of Chinese Taipei in the first round of the Indonesia Open on Wednesday, making a stunning early exit from the BWF Super 1000 tournament.

A two-time Olympic medallist and a former world champion, Sindhu lost the women's singles contest 21-15, 15-21, 21-14, which was her maiden loss to Wen-chi.

Aakarshi Kashyap lost her women's singles first round match to Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon 21-18,

In a women's doubles



Early exit: Sindhu's loss was her first to Wen-chi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

round of 32 match, Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda lost to Korea's sixth-seeds Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong 21-12,

The results:

Women: First round: Hsu Wen-chi bt P.V. Sindhu 21-15, 15-21, 21-14:

Kashyap 21-18, 21-6.

Ratchanok Intanon bt Aakarshi

Doubles: Kim So Yeong & Kong

Hee Yong bt Rutaparna Panda &

Swetaparna Panda 21-12, 21-9.

Y.B. Sarangi KOLKATA

championships bronze medallist Nishant Dev said he was determined to win a quota place in the second World Olympic qualifier in Bangkok after narrowly missing out on one in the previous one in Busto Arsizio in March. Nishant (71kg), the first

Indian male boxer to secure a berth in the Paris Olympics, said his quarterfinal loss to American Omari Jones hurt him as India returned without a quota place from the first World Olympic qualifier.

"This time I was confident. I was determined nobody could beat me. From the first second of the first round till the last second of the last round, I kept on punching. Even though I won the first two rounds (of a bout) easily, the anger of losing to the American kept me going, I kept pushing in the third round," said Nishant.

Shortcomings

"The shortcomings I noticed in the first qualifier, such as my stamina dropping and my body language in the third round. I changed a few things. I have started putting in effort from the beginning." Nishant added he relied

on his skills. "I am God-gifted. I have power, speed and timing. I have good



Training mode: Nishant said he is focused on not getting dehydrated and lose energy in the run-up to the Paris Games. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

power but if I use it mindlessly, then it becomes useless. I wanted to use less power and more skills. I

showed my skills (in Bangkok) by hitting and going away. I landed body shots to tire out my opponents."

According to Nishant, the extra time allotted to the boxers during training sessions these days was beneficial. "It helped a lot. Coaches guide you, but inside the ring, you have to apply your mind. We get 20 to 30 minutes after training. So, those who think they have to work on a specific area, they use it accordingly."

Nishant, who went through two shoulder surgeries in 2010 and then in 2022 and is fully fit now, said he would begin with hard work before switching to smart work, taking care not to get dehydrated and lose energy unnecessarily, in the run-up to the Olympics.

THE HINDU



Cummins joins MLC's San Francisco Unicorns

Australian Test and one-day captain Pat Cummins has signed a four-year deal with Major League Cricket (MLC)'s San Francisco Unicorns, the team announced on Tuesday. The 31-year-old pacer joins a franchise which also includes New Zealand's Matt Henry and Pakistan's Haris Rauf. MLC's second season will begin in July.



Injured Turkey defender Kabak to miss Euro

Turkey defender Ozan Kabak will miss the Euro after tearing a cruciate ligament in his right knee in a friendly against Italy. Kabak was injured after challenging Italy's Mateo Retegui for the ball shortly before half time in the friendly.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Indonesia Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 a.m

Shooting: World Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 1.30 p.m.

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 3.30 p.m. Football: WC Qualifier, India vs Kuwait, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD)

& JioCinema, 7 p.m. T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Hockey: Pro League: Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 10 p.m.



Intense: Carlsen got the better of Praggnanandhaa in their eighth round clash. NORWAYCHESS

Carlsen beats Pragg in Armageddon

The Norwegian still in the lead; Caruana, Firouzja prevail; Wenjun ahead in women's event after a win over Cramling; Vaishali beats Muzychuk

NORWAY CHESS

Sports Bureau

agnus Carlsen defeated R. Praggnanandhaa in Armageddon to retain his sole lead in the Norway Chess tournament at Stavanger on Tuesday.

After their classical game was drawn in the eighth round, the local hero won the Armageddon game with white in 67

The day's other contests in the open section were also decided by Armageddon with Fabiano Caruana of the USA and Alireza Firouzja of France prevailing over Ding Liren of China and Hikaru Nakamura of the USA, respectively.

With just two rounds remaining, Carlsen is on 14.5 points, one point ahead of Nakamura.

Praggnanandhaa is on 12, followed by Firouzja (11), Caruana (9) and Ding

In the women's event, World champion Ju Wenjun of China snatched the sole lead from Ukrain'a Anna Muzychuk by scoring a crucial win in the classical game against Pia Cramling of Sweden.

Thanks to the three points she got for the victory, she took her tally to

Muzychuk, who lost to R. Vaishali, who defeated Muzychuk, is placed second with 13. The Indian is on 11.5 points.

China's Lei Tingjie, who defeated Koneru Humpy, also has 11.5 points.

Humpy on eight points Humpy is on eight and Cramling on 5.5.

The tournament resumes on Thursday after a day's rest.

The results (eighth round): Open: Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 14.5 bt R. Praggnanandhaa 12; Ding Liren (Chn) 4.5 lost to Fabiano Caruana (USA) 9; Alireza Firouzja

(Fra) 11 bt Hikaru Nakamura Women: R. Vaishali 11.5 bt Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 13; Ju Wenjun (Chn) 14.5 bt Pia Cramling (Swe)

Lei Tingjie (Chn) 11.5 bt Koneru

Sofiia holds top seed Divya; Jose Gabriel takes sole lead

WORLD JUNIOR CHESS

Sports Bureau

Sofiia Hryzlova of Switzerland held top seed Divya Deshmukh to a draw in the fourth round of the World junior girls' championship at Gandhinagar on Wednesday. Narmin Abdinova, with four points, is in the sole lead.

In the boys' event, Jose Gabriel Cardoso of Colombia took the lead, with four points, after beating Hungary's Gleb Dudin.

Important results (fourth round): Open: Gleb Dudin (Hun) 3 lost to Jose Gabriel Cardoso (Col) 4; Mayank Chakraborty 3.5 drew with Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) 3.5; Aruj Shrivatri 3 drew with Siddharth Jagadeesh (Sgp) 3; Arsen Davtyan (Arm) 3 drew with Jan Subeli (Slo) 3: Avinash Ramesh 3 drew with Luka Budisavljevic (Srb) 3; Marius Fromm (Ger) 3 drew with Aleksandr Domalchuk-Jonasson (Isl) 3; Harshit Pawar 3 drew with Daniel Quizon (Phi) 3; A.R.

Ilamparthi 3.5 bt Simon Rybka

(Svk) 2.5; Vuppala Praneeth 3

drew with Ayush Sharma 3;

Aleksey Grebnev (FIDE) 3 bt

Santiago Lopez (Col) 2.5. Girls: Divya Deshmukh 3.5 drew with Sofiia Hryzlova (Sui) 3.5; Ayan Allahverdiyeva (Aze) 3.5 drew with Mariam Mkrtchyan (Arm) 3.5; Narmin Abdinova (Aze) 4 bt Liva Kurmangaliyeva (Kaz) 3; Xeniya Balabayeva (Kaz) 3.5 drew with V. Ridhiya 3.5.

Beloslava Krasteva (Bul) 3.5 bt Oshini Gunawardhana (SL) 2.5; Bhagyashree Patil 2.5 lost to Kseniya Norman (FIDE) 3.5; Milena Gasparyan (Arm) 3 drew with Sachi Jain 3.5; Kashthrui Bhai 3.5 bt Ayaulym Kaldarova (Kaz) 2.5; Martvna Wikar (Pol) 3 bt Yashvi Jain 2.5: Dhanashree Khairmode 2 lost to Rakshitta Ravi 3.

India's fastest junior quartermiler Sai Sangeetha provisionally suspended

ATHLETICS

Stan Rayan

Sai Sangeetha Dodla, the country's fastest junior quartermiler this year, has been provisionally suspended for testing positive for a prohibited substance.

The Telangana athlete, who clocked a personal best 55.13s while winning the under-20 Federation Cup in Lucknow in March, figures in the National Anti-Doping Agency's list (dated May 31, 2024) of athletes who are now under a provisional suspension.

The NADA list does not mention the date of the test but specifies that she tested

positive for Stanozolol metabolites.

Sangeetha was part of the Indian team that won the women's 4x400m relay gold at the under-20 Asian Championships in Dubai in April, a gold that could be in danger now.

She had also won the under-20 title in the 400m National Open in Thiruvananthapuram in March in 55.30s but surprisingly could not come anywhere close to that time at the under-20 Asians a month later, clocking 57.26s while finishing seventh in the individual quartermile.

The NADA's new list of athletes under provisional suspension also includes Tamil Nadu's Jeyavindhiya Jegadish, who finished sixth in the 400m hurdles at the under-20 Asians, and the substance involved is Drostanolone metabolite and Bihar's Durga Singh, the girls 1500m champion at KIYG this year.

Four-year ban for Neha

Meanwhile 20-year-old Kerala sprinter V. Neha, who figured under the NA-DA's April 2024 list of athletes provisionally suspended, has now been banned for four years (starting from December 6, 2023) as per the list of sanctioned athletes by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel / Anti-Doping Appeals Panel.

The 20-year-old won silver in the 100 and 200m at Junior Nationals in Coimbatore late last year.

Celebrating a Changemaker is not just about acknowledging the champions of change. It is also about setting an example for the future generation. The Businessline Changemaker Awards are here again to celebrate the ones who went out of their way to make this world a better place. If you know one such person, get them the recognition they deserve by nominating them for the following categories. · Digital Transformation · Social Transformation · Financial Transformation · Young Changemaker · Iconic Changemaker Changemaker of the Year Scan the QR code or visit newsth.live/BLCM2024THP to champion a 2024 Changemaker. the hindu businessline. Knowledge Partners Validation Partner **CHANGE** Deloitte. awards RECOGNISING CATALYSTS



Sumit Nagal in second round in Germany Challenger

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sumit Nagal beat Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 in the first round of the €120,950 Challenger tennis in Heilbronn, Germany. Other results: €120,950 Challenger, Prostejov, Czech **Republic: Doubles:**

Pre-quarterfinals: Andrew Paulson & Patrik Rikl (Cze) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyn & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 7-6(4), 6-4. \$25,000 ITF men, Cordoba, Spain: First round: Andrea Guerrieri (Ita) bt Bharath Kumaran 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Mario Fernandez (Esp) & Karol Malirz (Pol) bt Crlos Perez (Esp) & Bharath Kumaran 6-4, 6-4: Siddhant Banthia & Tennyson Whiting (USA) bt Jaime Caldes & Samuel Arjona (Esp) 6-1, 6-2; Luis Paez & Roger Ferra (Esp) bt Manvir Randhawa & Ayush Sharma 6-2, 6-2,

\$60,000 ITF women, Sumter, **USA: Doubles:** Pre-quarterfinals: Jessica Failla

(USA) & Hong Wong (Hkg) bt Savaka Ishii (Jpn) & Sahaia Yamalapalli 6-3, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Daegu, Korea: First round: Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Haruka Kaii (Jpn)

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Jang Soo Ha & Kim Ye Eun (Kor) 7-5, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Madrid: First round: Kennedy Gibbs (USA) bt Madhurima Sawant 6-2,

\$15,000 ITF women, San Diego: First round: Maya Iyengar (USA) bt Teja Tirunelveli

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: First round: Zeel Desai bt Sara Dols (Esp) 6-0, 6-7(5), 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Patricija Paukstyte (Ltu) & Alica Rusova (Svk) bt Diva Bhatia & Zeel Desai 6-2, 6-1.

Turkey holds Italy goalless

Associated Press

Italy stuttered to a 0-0 draw at home to Turkey in the first of two warmup matches before it begins the defence of its European Championship title next week.

Turkey plays its first Euro 2024 match against Georgia on June 18 before facing Portugal and the Czech Republic.

Without Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal eased to a 4-2 win over Finland.

Austria was in firm control from the start as it beat Serbia 2-1. Austria faces France, Poland and the Netherlands in Group D, while Serbia is in Group C with England, Slovenia and Denmark.

Maradona's heirs win appeal to stop Golden Ball auction

Gilles Moreu a lawyer for the heirs, will now lodge a legal action to have a court look at the merits of the case

FOOTBALL

Associated Press VERSAILLES

iego Maradona's heirs won an appeal ruling to stop the auction of a trophy the football legend was awarded after the 1986 World Cup when a French court ordered it placed in judipossession Wednesday.

The appeal court in Versailles overturned a judicial decision last month that allowed the trophy's auction to go ahead as planned despite the opposition from Maradona's

The tribunal argued there was a genuine dispute as to the ownership of the World Cup Golden Ball that Maradona received for being the best player of the 1986 tournament. Pending a decision on the merits of the case, it ordered its sequestration to avoid any



Prized possession: Maradona receives the "golden ball 86" in Paris, France on November 13, 1986. ETTY IMAGES

risk of further disappearance of the trophy, which resurfaced after being missing for decades.

Gilles Moreu, a lawyer for the heirs, told he will now lodge a legal action to have a court look at the merits of the case and decide who owns the trophy.

"We are satisfied with

this decision, which complies with our requests and cumstances. reassures my clients," he

said. French judicial officials last month opened an investigation after they received a complaint related to the resale of allegedly stolen goods.

The Golden Ball disap-

peared in uncertain cir-

Maradona's heirs say the trophy was stolen and claimed the current owner wasn't entitled to sell it. The auction house Aguttes said the trophy reappeared in 2016 among other lots that were acquired from a private collection at auction in Paris.

The current owner and Aguttes claimed that when he bought the trophy years ago he was not aware it had been stolen.

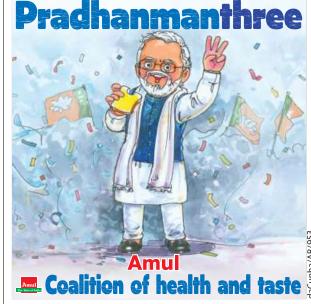
The rumours

Maradona received the award in 1986 at a ceremony in Paris. It subsequently disappeared, giving rise to rumours.

One is that Maradona stored it in a safe in a Naples bank that was robbed by local gangsters in 1989 when he played in the Italian league. Maradona's heirs believe it was stolen from the bank.

Maradona, who died in 2020 at age 60, captained Argentina in its 3-2 win over West Germany in the 1986 final in Mexico City.

Aguttes decided last week to postpone the sale that was planned on Thursday, citing a "litigious climate" and "uncertainties (which) do not allow connoisseurs to approach this acquisition calmly."



Aneesha & Vishal win mixed air rifle gold

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Aneesha and Vishal won the mixed air rifle gold for Jammu and Kashmir with a 16-10 victory over Ismita and Ashmit Chatterjee of West Bengal in the 22nd Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship in Bhopal on Wednesday.

The results: 10m air rifle:

Vishal) 16 (628.7); 2. West Benga (Ismita, Ashmit Chatteriee) 10 (628.9): 3. Uttar Pradesh (Anish. Khvati) 17 (628.0): 4. Karnataka (Anushka, Darius) 15 (627.4). Juniors: 1. Gujarat (Maitri, Keval) 16 (630.7); 2. MP (Gautami, Satyarth) 12 (630.0); 3. Karnataka (Sanika, Darius) 16 (626.7); 4. Punjab (Saneeta, Parikshit) 10 (627.2).

Youth: 1. WB (Abhinav, Sandrata) 16 (629.4); 2. MP (Gautmi, Satyarth) 4 (630.3); 3. Karnataka (Naraen Pranav, Sanika) 16 (625.8); 4. UP (Khyati, Ansh) 14 (627.5).

'Real'ly happy to be joining my dream club: Mbappe

Associated Press

Kylian Mbappe spoke on Tuesday of his delight at finally joining Real Madrid and felt his time at Paris Saint-Germain came to a sad end.

"Finally, it's official, I will be a Real Madrid player for the next five years. It's an immense pleasure, a dream coming true, a lot of emotions," Mbappe said at a prematch press conference ahead of Euro 2024. "I'm very, very happy (and) relieved, very proud to be joining a club where I've always dreamed of being."

Full of tension

Mbappé's seven years at PSG ended with a final season full of tension.

After his decision to leave, Mbappe chose to not extend his contract, he was left out out of a pre-season tour in July as the club insisted he would be sold and would not leave for

He and was later dropped from the squad for PSG's opening league game of the 23/24 season.

"I was told that, I was



made to understand it, things were very clear. I was aggressively spoken to. I was convinced I would not play (that season)," added Mbappe, who hailed coach Luis Enrique's and PSG's soccer advisor Luis Campos' interventions on his behalf. "Without them, I would never have played."

Mbappe did not receive a farewell ceremony for his final home game.

"I wasn't unhappy at PSG, that would be to spit in the soup (to be ungrateful)," Mbappe noted.

"(But) some things and some people made me unhappy."

We are identifying areas for improvement: skipper Navneet

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India LONDON

Six straight losses in FIH Pro League have completely exposed the Indian women's hockey team's weaknesses and vice-captain Navneet Kaur says the players are looking to learn from these setbacks in the last two outings to finish their campaign on a positive note.

India is scheduled to face Germany and Great Britain in its last two games of the FIH Pro League 2023-24 on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

"We have faced tough challenges but each match has been a valuable learning experience for us. Despite the setbacks, our team has shown resilience and improvement, especially in our closely contested matches against Belgium and Great Britain," Navneet was quoted as saying in a Hockey India press release.

"As we prepare to face Germany and Great Britain again in our remaining two matches, we are focused on analysing our previous performances and identi-



Introspection: Skipper Navneet says the losses were a steep learning curve and is determined to end the campaign on a positive note. AP

fying areas for improvement. Our goal is to convert our hard work into positive results.

"We believe in our abilities and are determined to give our best performance on the field," she added.

So far in the European leg, India suffered a 0-5 defeat against Argentina in their first match, followed by losses to Belgium (0-2 and 1-2). In their rematch against Argentina, India went down 0-3.

The team also faced de-

feats against Germany (1-3) and Great Britain (2-3).

"The journey so far has been challenging, but it has also brought us closer as a team. We are committed to working together, supporting each other, and pushing our limits to achieve our goals.

"The spirit and dedication within the team are strong, and we are motivated to finish the tournament on a high note," asserted Navneet.

Overall, the Indian team

has accumulated eight points from the 14 games they have played.

Talking about the strategy for the remaining two matches and on the way forward for the Indian team, Navneet said, "Our focus now is on making the necessary adjustments and strategies to ensure we come out stronger in our remaining matches. Most of all, we are working on our weaknesses, building on our strengths, and staying united as a team."

NEW DELHI **ROUND-UP**

All-round Aryan stars in Wonder Club's big win

Aryan Chouhan top-scored with 46 runs and picked up four wickets as Wonder Club beat Sehwag Academy by six wickets in the 4th Harcourt Butler tournament.

The scores: Sehwag Academy 102 in 27 overs (Yashvardan 32. Aryan Chouhan 4/46, Arush 3/6) lost to Wonder Club 206/4 in 18 overs (Aryan Chouhan 46, Atharv

Mohit's 185 powers VJSA to massive win

Mohit's 87-ball 185 helped Vidva lain Sports Academy beat Brisbane Heat Club by 252 runs in the 3rd Vijay Saini tournament.

The score: VJSA 328/6 in 35 overs (Mohit 185, Umang Pandey 55, Sunny 3/65) bt BHC 76 in 12

Vedic and Shauryaan's fifties set up **Turf Sultans' triumph**

Half-centuries from Vedic Gupta and Shauryaan Kohli helped Turf Sultans beat Modern Warriors by 93 runs in the final to lift the Turf Junior Cricket League Under-12 title.

The scores: Turf Sultans 178/2 in 20 overs (Shauryaan Kohli 56, Vedic Gupta 55) bt Modern Warriors 85 in 17 overs (Vihaan 3/13, Sarthak Gupta 2/17).

Panghal banking on both skills and luck to win in Paris

BOXING

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Amit Panghal didn't believe in destiny until the setback at Tokyo Olympics and the subsequent struggles. As he waded through the challenging phase, the boxer realised that he would need a bit of "kismet", besides his incredible skills, to land a medal at

Paris Games. "After Tokyo Olympics I have started believing in kismet," Panghal told PTI on Wednesday.

He once stood at the pinnacle of his sport with gold medals at the Asian Games and Asian Championships and a historic silver at the World Championships, the only Indian



male boxer to achieve the

His stellar run had propelled him to the world number one spot in his weight class and made him a strong medal prospect.

However, his journey took a dramatic turn. Not only did Panghal's Olympic dreams lay shattered following a pre-quarterfinal

exit, he lost his spot in the national team on the basis of BFI's evaluation system, which was drafted by then High Performance Director Bernard Dunne.

The repeated snubs severely dented his confidence and made him question his abilities.

foreign "Jo humare coaches unka muh dekh kar toh nahi lag raha tha mere samay aayega par kismat mei hota hai toh sabko milta hai (Looking at our coaches' faces, I did not feel that my time would come. But you get what is written in your destiny)." Panghal said.

Challenging phase

His coach Anil Dhankar played an important role in motivating him during the challenging phase.

"How would you feel fine when you want to play and you aren't being allowed to do so," he said. But his time did come. After Deepak Bhoria failed to secure a quota in 51kg after two attempts, Panghal was selected for the final qualifving event.

It was his first and only chance to qualify for the Olympics, and he did that with aplomb. In Paris, he will be eager to exorcise the ghosts of a disappointing Tokyo Games. "Feeling quite good,"

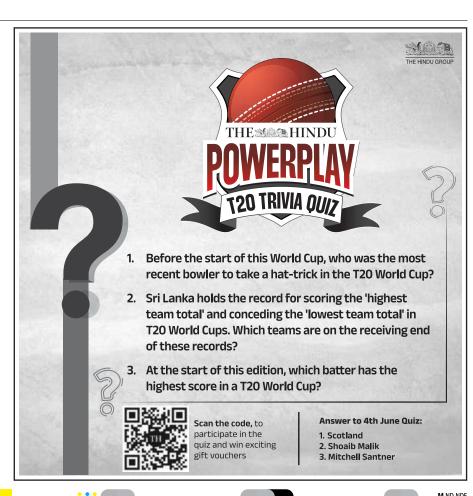
Panghal said half-heartedly

when asked how was the feeling. After a tough few years the reticent southpaw, who has won medals in the all big-ticket events barring the Olympics, has become

met". "There was no pressure of going into the qualifiers. I was a little scared in the beginning because it was a big tournament."

a staunch believer in "kis-

Having rarely competed in international events in the last three years, Panghal had to work on a lot of aspects, given that he got to know about his selection barely a month before the event.



Her success at the Taiwan Open in adverse conditions has brightened her prospects in the qualification race; the long jumper is determined to clinch the yellow metal in the Paris Games and etch her name in history



Pranay Rajiv

lmost all competitive athletes are inherently driven by a sense of delusion, a form of self-deception that drives them to leap for the unreachable.

India's long jumper Nayana James is no different. Written loudly on her Instagram bio is 'ParisOlympicsChampion2024', a title she had given herself right at the

beginning of 2022. Nayana's manifestation – a form of wilful delusion – must have felt far-fetched to even her biggest well-wishers considering she wa quitting the sport than qualifying for the Olympics, let alone standing atop the podium back then.

Recently, the Kerala-born long jumper took a big step in her Olympic dream, as she beat Asian No. 1 Sumire Hata of Japan to win the gold at the Taiwan Open in adverse, rainy conditions.

Incidentally, Hata is the only Asian so far to go past the Paris Games automatic qualification mark of 6.86m in women's

Nayana's triumph in Taiwan, which came courtesy a 6.43m jump – her best mark outside India – will boost the 28-year-old's prospect in the Olympics qualification rankings race.

In a career plagued by illness-induced breaks, sponsorship struggles and wavering faith in her ability, Nayana has managed to script a story of resurgence, powered by an endless reservoir of faith and support from her inner circle.

Smooth progression

Nayana's athletics initiation, though, was a natural and smooth progression considering her mother was a state-level athlete, while her father was a volleyball player.

"Ever since my childhood, I've been encouraged to do sports by my family. They've been supportive. I started winning medals at a very young age. I went to the first State meet when I was in fourth standard. My father accompanied me then. That is a strong memory I have.

Much like most of the athletes from Kerala, Nayana too worked her way through the hyper-competitive school athletics setting of the southern state, taking part in multiple events like hurdles, triple jump and 400m before zoning in on long jump.

"These types of competitions have motivated me a lot. I grew up during times when the media focused on juniors a lot. I used to get a lot of attention, which has motivated me and helped me progress," says Nayana.

After breaking through at the national level in 2017, Nayana started pushing herself beyond the 6.50 mark. A silver at the 2017 Asian Championship and a clutch of medals in the domestic circuit followed as Nayana announced herself on

But just when she was about to push

on to the next step, fate struck in the form of dengue.

Nayana's husband Kevin Peter Oscar, a professional cricketer with State Bank of India, recalls the ordeal they had to go through following that.

Long break

"It was the second time she was infected with dengue. Her platelet count dropped dangerously low. Even walking was difficult for her. We got her treated and then took a long break before starting

"But after that, every two months or so she would be down with some sort of illness. It got to the point that she could barely run one lap around the ground."

Kevin and Nayana, who got married in 2016, tried to shake things up as they experimented with different diets and training routines, without much success.

"Despite all these, she kept going for meets and managed a few medals. But to go there and see athletes with lesser potential than her win was a big hit mentally and emotionally for her. She was so close to giving up on the sport," added Kevin.

And just when things looked the bleakest came

COVID-19 pandemic,

which ground the entire world to a halt. But for Nayana, it was a blessing in disguise. Under the strict lockdown

restrictions in Kerala, Nayana was forced to abandon almost all of her physical training regimen, which allowed her body to recuperate and immunity to revive. A blood test soon revealed that her platelet count had returned to normal

"She resumed training with the Asian Games as the primary target. But then she couldn't participate due to some issues. That was when I felt completely down. We had no sponsorship, we were losing money and we were not gaining any results," says Kevin

"To my surprise, Nayana got this shot of confidence in herself which was very refreshing. She was adamant that she couldn't quit without getting to the next level."

With a renewed sense of willpower in her armoury, all Navana needed was a spark, which came in the form of Pinto Mathew, a former national 110m hurdles champion and a young, aspiring athletics coach based in Thiruvananthapuram. Pinto had known

Nayana from her childhood. He was a friend of Nayana's brother and had vouched for her potential even when she was just 14 and was starting her career.

Their paths crossed again in 2017-2018 when Nayana made her first surge to the top of Indian athletics. Her primary competitor at the national level back then was Neena Varakil – the 2018 Asian Games silver medallist - who happened to be Pinto's wife and ward.

One final push

And then came 2023, when Pinto decided to take Nayana under his wing, to help her give one final push to reach her best.

"She has a problem with her posture, genetically. Her right side and right leg, are comparatively weak meaning there a tilt. Most of her former coaches tried to correct that and have wasted a lot of time on it. Rather than fixing her posture, I tried to get the best out of her current ability with the right technique and minimise the damage her tilt could

> Pinto pointed out that his training methods reflected on Nayana's performance within just 20 days. The Kozhikode-born athlete kept the momentum on, registering a 6.52 jump at the National

> > silver.

Though a level-one certified coach, Pinto works outside any central scheme, which piles on the financial pressure of training and competing on both the coach and the student. But it was a trade-off

Games to clinch the

Nayana was willing to make. "I often prioritise the relationship we have with our coach. I should have that bond with my coach where I can everything about the improvement

> and other changes I through. It's also about our trust in that person,"

says Nayana. Since the turn of the year, Nayana has gone from strength to

strength, winning the Indian Open jumps competition with a new personal best (6.67m) and then adding a gold at the Federation Cup.

Pleasant surprise

Her spike in performance has come to the pleasant surprise of Kevin, who is often taken aback by Nayana's nonchalant confidence.

"The biggest difference in her performance right now is her visualisation. Her confidence in it is so strong that she predicts what she will do in an event. Before going to the Indian Open she told me she would do her PB and I was shocked. She did exactly that and when she came back, she acted as if it wasn't a big deal," says Kevin.

"Sometimes I feel she is a little bit crazy. Look at her *Instagram* profile for example. Even after all these years, I truly can't understand her thought process regarding sports. When I ask her about the Olympics, she is not talking about qualification, but about winning a medal. She wants to get to the Games not by ranking, but by beating the qualification

For all its individualistic ethos, the long jump, much like any other athletic event, is driven by the external element of competition. With Asian Games silver-medallist Ancy Sojan and the up-and-coming Shaili Singh, the Indian women's long jump scene is going through one of its most competitive phases.

But for Nayana, the outside noise isn't a motivation nor a hindrance.

"I am not trying to be dependent on anyone. Neither I'm trying to defeat anyone. I'm performing for my mental satisfaction and my happiness. This is not to take revenge on anyone. All these athletes are younger than me. I just want to work to my full potential. I don't want to connect my journey with anyone else," says Nayana.

Go-to activity

Despite all her composure, Nayana isn't immune to the stress associated with her occupation. The 28-year-old has a go-to activity, to put her mind at ease, that has made her husband's life a tad easier at

"I like household chores, but just the cleaning part. I rely on deep cleaning my home when I feel stressed to calm my mind," says Nayana with a cheeky smile.

Much like her Olympic aspiration, Nayana has set herself an end goal long and far from norm-driven expectations.

"I want to be a 'history woman'. I wanted my name to be recorded in history as one of the top athletes in India's history."

Nayana's conviction isn't one that exists in isolation. "We don't intend to just qualify for the Olympics and go on a tour and click pictures and come back. We want to make an impact there in Paris," announces Pinto with unbridled optimism.

THE GIST

Nayana was encouraged by her

family, right from childhood, to become a sportsperson

Much like most of the athletes from Kerala, she too had to work her way through the hyper-competitive school athletics setting

Since the turn of the vear. Nayana has gone from strength to strength, winning the Indian Open jumps competition and clinching the gold at the Federation Cup

With bad news from Cassini, is dark matter's main rival theory dead?

To prevent galaxies from flying apart, additional gravity is needed. So the idea of an invisible substance called dark matter was proposed. But nobody has ever seen the stuff, leading to a rival idea, called MOND, that the galactic discrepancies are caused instead by a breakdown of Newton's laws

Indranil Banik Harry Desmond

ne of the biggest mysteries in astrophysics today is that the forces in galaxies do not seem to add up. Galaxies rotate much faster than predicted by applying Newton's law of gravity to their visible matter, despite those laws working well everywhere in the Solar System.

To prevent galaxies from flying apart, some additional gravity is needed. This is why the idea of an invisible substance called dark matter was first proposed. But nobody has ever seen the stuff. And there are no particles in the hugely successful Standard Model of particle physics that could be the dark matter – it must be something quite exotic.

This has led to the rival idea that the galactic discrepancies are caused instead by a breakdown of Newton's laws. The most successful such idea is known as Milgromian dynamics or MOND, proposed by Israeli physicist Mordehai Milgrom in 1982. But our recent research shows this theory is in trouble.

The main postulate of MOND is that gravity starts behaving differently to what Newton expected when it becomes very weak, as at the edges of galaxies. MOND is quite successful at predicting galaxy rotation without any dark matter, and it has a few other successes. But many of these can also be explained with dark matter, preserving Newton's laws.

So how do we put MOND to a definitive test? We have been pursuing this for many years. The key is that MOND only changes the behaviour of gravity at low accelerations, not at a specific distance from an object. You'll feel lower acceleration on the outskirts of any celestial object – a planet, star or galaxy – than when you are close to it. But it is the amount of acceleration, rather than the distance, that predicts where gravity should be stronger.

This means that, although MOND effects would typically kick in several thousand light years away from a galaxy, if we look at an individual star, the effects would become highly significant at a tenth of a light year. That is only a few thousand times larger than an astronomical unit (AU) - the distance between the Earth and the Sun. But weaker MOND effects should also be detectable at even smaller scales, such as in the outer Solar System.

This brings us to the Cassini mission, which orbited Saturn between 2004 and its final fiery crash into the planet in 2017. Saturn orbits the Sun at 10 AU. Due to a quirk of MOND, the gravity from the rest of our galaxy should cause Saturn's orbit to deviate from the Newtonian expectation in a subtle way.

This can be tested by timing radio pulses between Earth and Cassini. Since Cassini was orbiting Saturn, this helped to measure the Earth-Saturn distance and allowed us to precisely track Saturn's orbit. But Cassini did not find any anomaly of the kind expected in MOND. Newton still works well for Saturn.

One of us, Harry Desmond, recently published a study investigating the results in greater depth. Perhaps MOND would fit the Cassini data if we tweaked how we calculate galaxy masses from their brightness? That would affect how much



perplexed scientists, ESA/WEBB, NASA & CSA, J, LEE

of a boost to gravity MOND has to provide to fit models of galaxy rotation, and thus what we should expect for Saturn's orbit.

Another uncertainty is the gravity from surrounding galaxies, which has a minor effect. But the study showed that, given how MOND would have to work to fit with models for galaxy rotation, it cannot also fit the Cassini radio tracking results - no matter how we tweak the calculations.

With the standard assumptions considered most likely by astronomers and allowing for a wide range of uncertainties, the chance of MOND matching the Cassini results is the same as a flipped coin landing heads up 59 times in a row. This is more than twice the "5 sigma" gold standard for a discovery in science, which corresponds to about 21 coin flips in a row.

More bad news for MOND

That's not the only bad news for MOND. Another test is provided by wide binary stars - two stars that orbit a shared centre several thousand AU apart. MOND predicted that such stars should orbit around each other 20% faster than expected with Newton's laws. But one of us, Indranil Banik, recently led a very detailed study that rules out this prediction. The chance of MOND being

The main postulate of MOND is that gravity starts behaving differently to what Newton expected when it becomes very weak, as at the edges of galaxies

right given these results is the same as a fair coin landing heads up 190 times in a

Results from yet another team show that MOND also fails to explain small bodies in the distant outer Solar System. Comets coming in from out there have a much narrower distribution in energy than MOND predicts. These bodies also have orbits that are usually only slightly inclined to the plane that all the planets orbit close to. MOND would cause the inclinations to be much larger.

Newtonian gravity is strongly preferred over MOND on length scales below about a light year. But MOND also fails on scales larger than galaxies: it cannot explain the motions within galaxy clusters. Dark matter was first proposed by Fritz Zwicky in the 1930s to account for the random motions of galaxies within the Coma Cluster, which requires more gravity to

hold it together than the visible mass can

MOND cannot provide enough gravity either, at least in the central regions of galaxy clusters. But in their outskirts, MOND provides too much gravity. Assuming instead Newtonian gravity, with five times as much dark matter as normal matter, seems to provide a good fit to the

The standard dark matter model of cosmology isn't perfect, however. There are things it struggles to explain, from the universe's expansion rate to giant cosmic structures. So we may not yet have the perfect model. It seems dark matter is here to stay, but its nature may be different to what the Standard Model suggests. Or gravity may indeed be stronger than we think - but on very large scales only.

Ultimately though, MOND, as presently formulated, cannot be considered a viable alternative to dark matter any more. We may not like it, but the dark side still

(Indranil Banik is a postdoctoral research fellow in astrophysics, University of St. Andrews. Harry Desmond is senior research fellow of cosmology, University of Portsmouth. This article is republished *from* The Conversation.)



Particulate matter, or PM, is the air pollutant most responsible for human morbidity and mortality.

Global project 'paints' evidence of air pollution in India

Press Trust of India

Researchers and artists have joined forces for an international project to make invisible air pollution in India visible, demonstrating the health risks posed to the population.

Combining digital light painting and low-cost air pollution sensors, the scientific team produced photographic evidence of pollution levels in cities across three countries – India, Ethiopia, and the U.K. - to spark debate among local communities.

Their findings, published in Nature Communications Earth & Environment on Wednesday, record how photographs taken as part of the 'Air of the Anthropocene' initiative stimulated discussion around the impact of air pollution.

The illustrations covered two children's playgrounds in India, 500 km apart – one in urban Delhi, the other in rural Palampur - with PM2.5 values at the Palampur playground at least 12.5 times less than those measured in Delhi.

"Air pollution is the leading global environmental risk factor. By painting with light to create impactful images, we provide people with an easy-to-understand way of comparing air pollution in different contexts - making something that was largely invisible visible," said Francis Pope, an environmental scientist from Birmingham University and co-creator of the project with artist Robin Price.

"Air of the Anthropocene creates spaces and places for discussions about air pollution, using art as a proxy to

Combining digital light painting and low-cost air pollution sensors, the scientific team produced photographic evidence of pollution levels in cities across three countries

communicate and create dialogues about the issues associated with air pollution,"

Air pollution also varied dramatically between locations in Ethiopia – a kitchen using biomass stoves for food preparation had PM2.5 concentrations up to 20 times greater than an outdoor site nearby.

In Wales, large variations in air pollution around the Tata Steel Port Talbot steelworks were noted. Air quality monitoring and light painting at dusk in summer measured PM2.5 concentrations higher than the hourly average value.

Particulate matter, or PM, is the air pollutant most responsible for human morbidity and mortality. It has multiple impacts on physical health and is responsible for diseases, including heart disease, stroke, and cancers.

The "painting with light" team used low-cost air pollution sensors to measure PM mass concentrations. The sensors' real-time signal was used to control a moving LED array programmed to flash more rapidly as PM concentration increased.

"By providing a visual understanding of air pollution that is accessible to people who don't necessarily have a scientific background, the light painting approach can demonstrate that managing air pollution levels can have a significant impact on people's day-to-day lives," said Mr. Price.

Co-author Carlo Luiu, from the University of Birmingham, commented: "Thanks to the power of images, we can provoke people's emotions – fostering awareness and prompting people to share their perspectives and take action to tackle air pollution."

The Air of the Anthropocene project has been exhibited at gallery shows in Los Angeles, Belfast, and Birmingham.

For feedback and suggestions

science@thehindu.co.in with the

for 'Science', please write to

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THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The weird shapes of space

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Geometry is the study of some properties of space. Hyperbolic geometric is a form of this geometry created when the parallel postulate of geometry is replaced. Fill in the blank with the adjective derived

from the name of a Greek philosopher

often called the "father of geometry". **QUESTION 2**

Take the spacetime continuum as it exists today and remove gravitation, and the resulting geometry of spacetime is hyperbolic. Name the European mathematician who adopted precepts of hyperbolic geometry to understand spacetime, and paved the way for Einstein's special theory of relativity.

QUESTION 3

Name the branch of geometry concerned with the study of spaces where parallel lines cannot exist (i.e. they will always intersect). In this geometry, the interior angles of a triangle also add up to more than 180 degrees.

QUESTION 4

What is the Latin name for the isosceles triangle theorem? Its name in Latin is reputedly because understanding it tested a reader's intelligence, before they could be introduced to more complicated concepts in geometry?

QUESTION 5

A rectangle is a polygon with four sides; an octagon is a polygon with eight sides. What is the single-word name for

a polygon that has an infinite number

Please send in your answers to

science@thehindu.co.in

Answers to June 4 quiz: 1. Part of the finger from which it is

nearly impossible to remove indelible ink - Ans: Lunula

2. CSIR laboratory that developed indelible ink in 1952 - Ans: National Physical Laboratory

3. Company that owns sole licence to make indelible ink for elections - Ans: Mysore Paints & Varnish, Ltd. 4. Organisation that used sealing wax

until 2022 - Ans: India Post 5. Non-election purpose for which indelible ink was used – **Ans:** To identify people who had completed quarantine during the COVID-19

Visual: Silver nitrate

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan Vijayram Ganasala | Anmol Agrawal Visual: In 1829-1830, Russian mathematician Nikolai Lobachevsky worked out hyperbolic geometry. Name the Hungarian mathematician (above) who achieved the same feat in 1932. FERENC MÁRKOS (CC BY-SA 3.0)