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The World

TOPOF THE WORLD



A man votes in the EU parliamentary polls in Nijmegen. *Reuters*

Netherlands kicks off 4 days of EU elections in 27 nations

The Hague: Voters went to the polls in the Netherlands on Thursday to kick off European Union parliamentary elections that span four days across the 27 member states and are expected to deliver gains for the hard right.Geert Wilders, of the far-right Party for Freedom, or PVV, was among the first senior politicians to cast his ballot. Having sent shockwaves around Europe six months ago by becoming the biggest party in the Dutch national parliament, he now wants to build on that popularity and set the tone for much of the bloc. **AP**

SRI LANKA SC reverses pardon to murder convict

Colombo: Sri Lankan Supreme Court on Thursday reversed former president Maithripala Sirisena's decision to grant a presidential pardon to a murder convict and ordered him to pay compensation to the victims in the case. The three-member bench said his 2019 decision to grant a pardon to convict Shramantha Jayamaha was unconstitutional. Jayamaha in 2005 beat to death Yvonne Jonsson, a 19-year-old Swedish woman holidaying in Sri Lanka, at an apartment here. **PTI**

JAPAN 1st joint drill off coast as China concerns rise

Tokyo: Japanese, US and South Korean coast guard vessels conducted their first three-way drill on Thursday off Japan's coast as the countries strengthen their maritime ties in response to increased assertiveness by China in pressing its territorial claims. Skirmishes between Chinese and Philippine coast guard vessels have escalated in the South China Sea, triggering fears that the disputes could escalate to an armed conflict between China and the US. Thursday's joint drill followed an agreement by the leaders to enhance security ties. **AP**



US President Joe Biden, his wife Jill, French President Emmanuel Macron, his wife Brigitte in Normandy, France, during ceremonies to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, on Thursday. *AP*

Biden on D-Day: To bow down to dictators unthinkable, won't back away from Ukraine

REUTERS

OMAHA BEACH, JUNE 6

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden made an impassioned call for the defence of freedom and democracy at the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy on Thursday, urging Western powers to stay the course with Ukraine and not surrender to Russian tyranny.

At a joint ceremony with French President Emmanuel Macron and US veterans at the Normandy American Cemetery, Biden said it was "simply unthinkable" to surrender to Russian aggression and he promised no let-up in support for Ukraine. "To surrender to bullies,



Britain's King Charles III with a war veteran; Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, his wife Olena. *AP, Reuters*

to bow down to dictators, is simply unthinkable," he said.

He urged Western and NATO allies to recapture the spirit of D-Day and work together at a time when he said democracy was under greater threat than at any time since the end of World War Two. "Isolationism was not the



answer 80 years ago and is not the answer today," Biden said in his speech, adding "we will not walk away" from Ukraine.

On June 6, 1944, more than 150,000 Allied soldiers invaded France by sea and air to drive out the forces of Nazi Germany, coming ashore at five beaches code-

named Omaha, Juno, Sword, Utah and Gold or dropping from the sky. With the numbers of veterans fast dwindling - many are aged 100 or more - this is likely to be the last major ceremony in Normandy honouring them in their presence.

Macron echoed Biden's comments, also making a link between Ukraine and D-Day.

"Thank you to the Ukrainian people for their courage, for their love of freedom. We are here and we will not weaken," Macron said. Russia, which invaded Ukraine in 2022, touching off Europe's biggest armed conflict since World War Two, was not invited. In a speech, however, Macron paid tribute to the contribution of the Red Army.

CLEARING THE AIR ON RUMOURS

PRABHAKARAN, HIS FAMILY KILLED: HIS BROTHER

The brother of Velupillai Prabhakaran, Velupillai Manoharan, has for the first time admitted that his brother and his entire family were killed in 2009 and warned of a bunch of Tamilians defrauding people by claiming that the late LTTE founder and some of his family, especially one daughter, are alive.

TARGETED HAMAS FIGHTERS INSIDE: ISRAEL 40 killed in strike on UN school in Gaza sheltering displaced

US and other countries call on Israel and Hamas to close truce deal

REUTERS

CAIRO, JERUSALEM, JUNE 6

ISRAEL HIT a Gaza school Thursday with what it described as a targeted airstrike on up to 30 Hamas fighters inside, and a Hamas official said 40 people including women and children were killed as they sheltered in the UN site.

Video footage showed Palestinians hauling away bodies after the attack, which took place at a sensitive moment in mediated talks on a ceasefire that would involve releasing hostages held by Hamas and some of the Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

The United States issued a joint statement with other countries Thursday calling on Israel and Hamas to make whatever compromises were necessary to finalise a deal after eight months of war in the Gaza Strip. Ismail Al-Thawabta, the director of the Hamas-run government media office, rejected Israel's assertion that the UN school in Nuseirat, in central Gaza, had hidden a Hamas command post.

Israel's military said its fighter jets had carried out a "precise strike" and circulated satellite photos highlighting two



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a UNRWA school sheltering displaced people in Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on Thursday. *Reuters*

parts of a building where it said the fighters were based.

"We're very confident in the intelligence," military spokesperson Lt Col. Peter Lerner said, accusing Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters of deliberately using UN facilities as operational bases.

He said 20-30 fighters were located in the compound, and many of them had been killed.

The school, run by the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), was sheltering 6,000 displaced people at the time, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said. "At least 35 people were killed and many more injured," he wrote on X. "Claims that armed groups may have been inside the shelter are shocking. We are however unable to verify these claims. Attacking, target-

SPAIN APPLIES TO JOIN SOUTH AFRICA'S CASE

Barcelona: Spain became on Thursday the first European country to ask a United Nations court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza. "We take the decision because of the ongoing military operation in Gaza," Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said in Madrid. "We want peace to return to Gaza."

ing or using UN buildings for military purposes are a blatant disregard of International Humanitarian law."

Thawabta and a medical source said 40 had been killed.

With change in alliance partner, Nepal recalls 11 ambassadors

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, JUNE 6

THE NEPAL Cabinet Thursday decided to recall 11 ambassadors, including Dr Shankar Sharma, who is serving in India.

The decision to recall the ambassadors was taken three months after the Nepali Congress was replaced by the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) in the alliance government led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda).

Those recalled, apart from Dr Sharma, include Sridhar Khatri (US), Gyan Chanda Acharya (UK) and those serving in North Korea, Qatar, Spain, Denmark, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Portugal.

Nepal's ambassador to Beijing, Bishnua Pukar Shrestha, a Maoist leader, remains unaffected by the decision.

According to sources, most of the new appointees will be from the CPM-UML, the largest party in the coalition government.

According to another Cabinet decision, Prime Minister Prachanda will attend the oath-taking ceremony of Narendra Modi.



SpaceX's Starship launches for a test flight from Boca Chica, Texas, Thursday. *SpaceX*

SpaceX's Starship survives return to Earth, achieves landing test

REUTERS

TEXAS, JUNE 6

SPACEX'S STARSHIP rocket survived a fiery, hypersonic return from space and achieved a breakthrough landing demonstration in the Indian Ocean on Thursday, completing a full test mission around the globe on the rocket's fourth try.

Starship's controlled plunge into the Indian Ocean just 65 minutes after launching from Texas capped the latest advance in the company's test-to-failure rocket

development campaign, a multi-billion-dollar effort by Elon Musk's space company to build a reusable satellite launcher and moon lander. The three previous test missions ended with Starship blowing up or disintegrating.

The two-stage, nearly 400-foot (120-meter) tall rocket system, consisting of the Starship vessel mounted atop its towering Super Heavy rocket booster, blasted off from the company's Starbase launch site near Boca Chica Village in South Texas, sending powerful shockwaves rippling through the Gulf Coast's morning

fog. Super Heavy detached from the Starship upper stage at an altitude of 74 km, as Starship ignited its own engines to ascend further toward space. Meanwhile, Super Heavy returned to the Gulf of Mexico and nailed a soft splash-down, demonstrating a touchdown that would otherwise be on land. In space, a SpaceX live stream showed Starship coasting around 16,000 miles per hour at roughly 200 km in altitude as it made its way toward the Indian Ocean for a return to Earth, setting up for a key demonstration in its reusable design.

WILL LEWIS, CEO OF POST, OBJECTED TO COVERAGE OF A LEGAL DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING HIM IN A PHONE HACKING CASE

Clash over phone hacking article preceded exit of Washington Post editor

BENJAMIN MULLIN & KATIE ROBERTSON

WASHINGTON, JUNE 6

WEEKS BEFORE the embattled executive editor of The Washington Post abruptly resigned Sunday, her relationship with the company's CEO became increasingly tense.

In mid-May, the two clashed over whether to publish an article about a British hacking scandal with some ties to the Post's CEO, Will Lewis, according to two people with knowledge of their interactions.

Sally Buzbee, the editor, informed Lewis that the newsroom planned to cover a judge's sched-

uled ruling in a long-running British legal case brought by Prince Harry and others against some of Rupert Murdoch's tabloids, the people said.

As part of the ruling, the judge was expected to say whether the plaintiffs could add Lewis' name to a list of executives who they argued were involved in a plan to conceal evidence of hacking at the newspapers. Lewis told Buzbee the case involving him did not merit coverage, the people said.

When Buzbee said the Post would publish an article anyway, he said her decision represented a lapse in judgment and abruptly ended the conversation.

The interaction rattled Buzbee, who then consulted with confi-

dants outside the Post about how she should handle the situation. When the judge ruled several days later, May 21, that Lewis could be added to the case, the Post published an article about the decision.

Lewis did not prevent the article from publishing. But the incident continued to weigh on Buzbee just as she was considering her future at the paper, according to the two people with knowledge of her decision-making process. Her eventual decision to resign has shaken one of the country's top news organisations.

The interaction over the court ruling was not the primary reason for her resignation. Buzbee had already been mulling her future at



Former executive editor of Post Sally Buzbee; CEO Will Lewis

the Post because of a plan by Lewis to reorganise the newsroom that he laid out to her in April, the people said. Lewis had offered Buzbee a job running a new division fo-



cused on social media and service journalism, according to the people. She considered that a demotion, since her job as executive editor included overseeing all parts

of the news report. A spokesperson for the Post declined to comment. Buzbee also declined to comment.

Lewis was appointed by Jeff Bezos, the Post's owner and the founder of Amazon, late last year to remake the publication as it reeled from a steep audience decline. For the past few months, Lewis, who was previously CEO of News Corp's Dow Jones, which publishes *The Wall Street Journal*, has been formulating a strategy to overhaul the business.

He decided to split the editorial ranks into three divisions: a core newsroom that covers politics, business and other topics; an opinion section; and a new division that would focus on social

media, such as video storytelling, as well as service journalism, including wellness and lifestyle coverage.

In offering Buzbee a role running the social media and service journalism division, according to people familiar with her thinking, Lewis told her she could weigh in on the recruitment of the editor to oversee the core news operation. He later informed her that he had selected Robert Winnett, an editor at *The Daily Telegraph* who had previously worked with Lewis.

The conversation between Lewis and Buzbee about the phone hacking coverage took place in a conference room at an executive meeting outside the Post newsroom. At the meeting,

Post executives discussed Lewis's planned changes to the Post.

Lewis declined to comment to the Post for its article about the ruling in the phone hacking case. But in numerous previous media interviews, he has denied the allegations that he was involved in covering up phone-hacking while he was a senior executive for Murdoch. The Post published an article in March about the lawsuit that also named Lewis.

At a contentious staff meeting Monday, Lewis defended his business strategy, telling the newsroom that the Post had lost \$77 million the previous year, had seen a 50% audience decline since 2020, and needed to make radical changes to succeed. **NYT**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



China objects after Taiwan congratulates Modi who says thank you

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE CHINESE Foreign Ministry, which congratulated Narendra Modi, the BJP and NDA on their election victory, has protested the exchange of messages between Taiwan President Lai Ching-te and Modi on the poll outcome.

On Wednesday, Lai, who was elected Taiwan's President last month, in a post on X, said: "My sincere congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi on his election victory. We look forward to enhancing the fast-growing #Taiwan-#India partnership, expanding our collaboration on trade, technology & other sectors to contribute to peace & prosperity in the #IndoPacific."

Replying to the message, Modi said: "Thank you @ChingteLai for your warm message. I look forward to closer ties as we work towards mutually beneficial economic and technological partnership."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MODI, NDA PARTNERS TO MEET PRESIDENT TODAY, STAKE CLAIM

Swearing-in ceremony Sunday, talks on Govt formation, berths intensify

RSS and BJP hold talks, 'share views on poll outcome'

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

AMID HECTIC parleys on the composition of the incoming Union Council of Ministers led by Narendra Modi, the BJP leadership held a meeting Thursday with senior RSS functionaries including Arun Kumar who is the interface between the party and the Sangh.

The meeting, two days after the BJP lost majority in Lok Sabha following a decade of single-party dominance at the Centre, took place on the day the BJP leadership was huddled in talks to work out a formula for Cabinet formation and negotiations on the nature and participation of partners in the coalition government.

Modi is expected to be sworn in as Prime Minister for a third consecutive term on Sunday evening. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' are to attend the ceremony to which over 8,000 dignitaries have been invited.

Modi, along with NDA leaders including TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and Bihar Chief Minister and JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar, is expected to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



President Droupadi Murmu receives the list of newly elected members to the 18th Lok Sabha from Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

Chandrababu back, so is his dream project for Amaravati

NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

WALKING INTO any small-time real estate agent's office in Tullur village in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, one would see on the wall a map — the detailed master plan of the Amaravati capital city.

Spread over 217 sq km of land, the Amaravati city was TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu's pet project which had taken shape in 2015, barely a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu meets his newly elected party MPs in Vijayawada on Thursday. PTI

After Agnipath faces poll fire, ally JDU says 'remove flaws', Chirag agrees



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's JDU and IJP's Chirag Paswan have asked for a review

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & SANTOSH SINGH
NEW DELHI, PATNA, JUNE 6

THE JD(U) on Thursday added review of the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme to its list of expectations from the new NDA government, apart from four ministerial berths. The party may also push for its long-standing demand of special status for Bihar, now that it is set to be a part of the government at the Centre.

Asked about the JD(U)'s remarks regarding Agnipath, another NDA ally, Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), told NDTV in an interview: "Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has said the platform is open for discussions. I believe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'PM, Shah and media house': Rahul demands JPC investigation into market-poll crash link

BJP's Piyush Goyal: Markets mature, retail investors benefited the most

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Thursday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the sudden surge of share prices after the exit polls and their plummeting on election results day, and alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had a role in what he claimed was the "biggest scam" in the history of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

TMC and Uddhav Sena ask Akhilesh to reach out to Naidu and Nitish

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE INDIA bloc may have decided to wait and watch developments unfolding in the NDA camp and "take appropriate steps at the appropriate time", but some parties in the Opposition alliance, particularly the TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT), and to some extent the AAP, are pushing hard for exploring options to shore up the bloc numbers to checkmate the BJP.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



TMC's Abhishek Banerjee with SP's Akhilesh Yadav in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

ROPING IN STATES FOR LAND, LABOUR

Coalition opens space for dialogue, makes tough reforms feasible: CEA

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

WILL A reduced mandate for the third consecutive NDA government, set to take oath in two days, curb its reform instincts? Fitch Ratings Thursday said broad policy continuity is expected but with "coalition politics and a weakened mandate" there could be greater reform challenges. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, however, thinks otherwise.



Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran

"This actually makes some of the difficult reforms more feasible incrementally because it opens up

space for dialogue," Nageswaran told *The Indian Express*.

During the previous two stints, the NDA government faltered on big-ticket reforms not having evolved the requisite consensus — and pushed the ball back to the states.

This happened in the case of land reforms, initiated early in the tenure of the first NDA government. In its second term, labour reforms got stalled due to an inadequate number of states pushing through the requisite

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CISF constable 'slaps' Kangana at airport, says mocked mother at farm protest



Ranaut was elected to Lok Sabha from Mandi

JAGDEEP SINGH DEEP & RAAKHI JAGGA
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 6

ACTOR KANGANA Ranaut, who recently won the Mandi Lok Sabha seat on a BJP ticket, was allegedly slapped by a woman constable of the CISF at the security area of Chandigarh airport.

Afterwards, the CISF constable, Kulwinder Kaur, suggested her actions were linked to a statement Ranaut had made about women joining the farmers' protest. In a video, Kaur can be heard purportedly saying, "Isne bayaan diya tha na 100-100 rupye ke liye baithi hain vahan pe. Ye baithi thi vahan pe? Meri ma baithi thi vahan pe jab isne bayaan diya tha (She had given a statement that women have joined the farm protests for Rs 100. Was she there? My mother was sitting there)."

Her comments are ostensibly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Uncertainty over Odisha popular medical scheme as BJP says will end it

SUJIT BISOI
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 6

UNCERTAINTY OVER a popular healthcare scheme launched by the Naveen Patnaik government in 2018, which the BJP had promised to replace with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana if it came to power in Odisha, has led to complaints of empanelled private hospitals turning away pa-

tients within days of a change of guard in the state.

Confirming the complaints, the state Health Department has issued a clarification that the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) continues to be in force even as sources in Raj Bhavan said Governor Raghunath Das has asked state Chief Secretary P K Jena to take appropriate measures to remove the confusion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

VERDICT 2024

● 224 seats with 50%+ vote share in 2019, BJP tally now down to 156



● SP Dalit leader who won Ayodhya: BJP did business in Ram's name

PAGE 9

71-year-old Karnataka woman mountaineer among 9 who died in Uttarakhand blizzard

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

JOHNSONTA & KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, DEHRADUN, JUNE 6

ONE OF Karnataka's oldest women trekkers, a member of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association (KMA) for over three decades, was among nine persons who died after their trekking expedition to Sahastra



Rescued trekkers being brought to Dehradun, Wednesday. PTI

Tal in Uttarakhand was hit by a blizzard Tuesday afternoon.

While 71-year-old Asha Sudhakar died, her husband S Sudhakar, also 71, survived the blizzard.

Usha Ramaiah, one of Karnataka's first women mountaineers, said of Asha, "She was a part of my expedition to Kalanag. She has undergone training. We have to wait for the details."

The 83-year-old, who is the founder of the KMA, said that while the trekkers on the expedition to Sahastra Tal were part

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FROM PAGE ONE

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Swearing-in ceremony Sunday, talks on berths

meet President Droupadi Murmu Friday to formally stake claim for government formation.

While the BJP has called its newly elected MPs, state unit chiefs and Chief Ministers to New Delhi for a meeting at 11 am Friday, presidents of all NDA partners and MPs are also expected to meet to formally elect Modi as the coalition's leader before he heads to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

On Thursday, there were hectic parleys among BJP leaders to finalise details on government formation. Sources said the meeting at party chief J P Nadda's residence was attended by RSS leaders, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh.

Sources said the meeting with the RSS leaders was in the context of the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections, "the changed political

scenario" where the BJP will no longer enjoy absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, and that the new government will be an NDA government.

The leaders, sources said, met to "exchange notes, take perceptions from each other and share the impact of the electoral outcome".

The BJP won 240 seats, 63 less than its 2019 tally of 303, and much lower than its target of 370 for the party and 400-plus for the NDA – the coalition ended up with 293 seats in the House of 543.

On the BJP-RSS ties, sources said while the "situation keeps changing... the relationship remains... it will improve."

In an interview with The Indian Express on May 17, Nadda, responding to a question on how the RSS presence has changed between the time of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and now,

said, "Shuru mein hum aksham honge, thora kum honge, RSS ki zaroorat padti thi... Aaj hum badh gaye hain, saksham hai... toh BJP apne aap ko chalti hai (In the beginning, we would have been less capable, smaller and needed the RSS. Today, we have grown and we are capable. The BJP runs itself). That's the difference."

These remarks, a senior BJP leader said, did not go down well with the RSS. "The BJP cannot survive without the Sangh. If Sangh withdraws its backing, the BJP will not be able to stand up. Now that the party has realised it, it will improve. There cannot be any confrontation between the two," the leader said.

Asked about the meeting in New Delhi, Sunil Ambekar, Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh of the RSS, told The Indian Express: "I have no information about the meeting. But communication keeps happening."

Sources said the RSS leadership will be kept in the loop on the discussions on government formation and it will closely monitor the functioning of the BJP.

An overhaul of the BJP organisational structure is expected as Nadda's extended term as party president ends in June and it has to choose a new president soon.

On government formation, BJP sources maintained that the details will be finalised only after talks with partner leaders. But the BJP, sources said, is keen to retain crucial portfolios such as Home, Finance, Defence and External Affairs.

Although both the TDP and the JD(U) have indicated that the post of Speaker should go to the allies, the BJP, sources said, is "in no mood" to give it up, more so after a verdict in which the party lost majority in the House.

—WITH DIVYA A & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

Chandrababu back, so is his dream project for capital Amaravati

year after he took over as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister following the state's bifurcation.

But in 2019, the development of this city, named after Andhra Pradesh's Buddhist heritage, came to a halt after Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy told the YSRCP to a landslide victory in the state Assembly polls.

After taking charge as the CM, Jagan decided to have three state capitals – Visakhapatnam as the "executive capital", Amaravati as the "legislative capital" and Kurnool as the "judicial capital" – stalling all construction projects in Amaravati.

With the TDP storming back to power by sweeping the Andhra Pradesh polls, the Amaravati capital region is likely to see a revival marked with the construction and real estate boom, whose green shoots are apparent.

Indicating a change in the situation, one of the dignitaries who met Naidu in New Delhi on June 5 to greet him over his poll triumph was Alluri Narayana Raju, director of Nagarjuna Construction Company (NCC) Urban Infrastructure Ltd, which was one of the construction majors in charge of infrastructure

development in Amaravati. Some of the construction projects in the proposed capital were also to be taken up by the L&T and the Shapoorji Pallonji Group.

A TDP source told The Indian Express, "He (Raju) was here to meet the TDP leaders including industrialist Galla Jayadev."

Raju, however, told The Indian Express that his bid to visit Naidu's felicitation event was "personal" and that he was not representing his company.

Just months before the 2019 elections, Naidu had laid the foundation stone for a permanent secretariat in the Amaravati region, and the NCC was one of the companies roped in for its construction.

Jagan's freeze on the Amaravati capital development had devastated the farmers in the belt, who had donated their lands for the purpose.

With Naidu back at the helm, these farmers are said to be jubilant now. As per the city's master plan, those who had donated land were to be given proportionate real estate space in the multiple residential towers which were to come up in the new capital. When Jagan stopped all construction activi-

ties in the region, the farmers who donated their land had launched massive protests, forming a joint action committee (JAC) to "save Amaravati".

According to sources in Tullur, the JAC is expected to send many farmers to attend Naidu's swearing-in ceremony, which is scheduled for June 12 in the Amaravati region. "Truckloads of farmers from Tullur and surrounding villages will attend Naidu's swearing-in event," said a former JAC member.

Already, real estate prices in Amaravati, which had hit rock bottom – Rs 3,500 per sq yard – in the past five years, have increased manifold. "The prices now are estimated to be Rs 45,000 per sq yard. The capital region is going to be the most sought-after real estate destination in Andhra Pradesh," said Subhakar Vemulapalli, a real estate agent from Tullur.

The BJP, now an ally of the TDP, too was in favour of the Amaravati capital, said several local farmers and real estate agents who are expecting to rake in big bucks now.

In October 2015, when Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Amaravati capital, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi was by his side. Modi had brought water from Yamuna and soil from the Parliament building to be placed at Amaravati as a mark of appreciation and support. Amaravati was supposed to be developed on the lines of Singapore.

For Naidu, Amaravati has been a prestigious project after Andhra Pradesh lost Hyderabad to Telangana, the state which was carved out of it in 2014. Naidu, who had been the CM of undivided Andhra Pradesh for two terms, was credited with developing Hyderabad as one of the major IT hubs in the country.

With the 10-year deadline for Hyderabad to remain the joint capital of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana – set by the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 – having expired on June 2 this year, the TDP's proposal to develop Amaravati will assume urgency now.

In March 2022, the AP High Court directed the then YSRCP government that Amaravati should be developed as the state capital. The Jagan government subsequently challenged it in the Supreme Court, where the matter has been pending.

After Agnipath faces poll fire, JD(U) says 'remove flaws', Chirag agrees

that we must discuss how much we could deliver through Agniveer, because this is something related to the youths of our country. A review must be done. But these things can be kept on hold... Government formation is happening and, after that, we can discuss these things."

On Thursday, JD(U) supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar held a series of meetings, including with his 12 newly elected MPs, at his residence on Kamraj Lane in Delhi. "There is anger among voters with regard to the Agnipath scheme. Our party wants that this scheme is discussed threadbare in the government to remove its flaws," JD(U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi said after the meetings, while adding that the party's support to the NDA was "unconditional".

Speaking to The Indian Express, Tyagi said: "We have sought a re-view of the Agnipath scheme on the basis of what senior BJP leader and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said during his poll campaign." Rajnath Singh had said the government was "open to change in the Agnipath scheme if required".

Patna was among the cities that saw protests against the

the proposed changes. A senior JD(U) leader in Patna said: "We are not applying pressure tactics, but making our stand clear on certain matters. Apart from special category status and ministries, we also want assurance of stability of the NDA government in Bihar, headed by Nitish Kumar."

On special status, a senior JD(U) leader said that the party realised it might not be possible, but that "a special financial package is needed for Bihar". "We are going to polls in a year. We have to address certain issues in the state."

In his interview with NDTV, Chirag was also asked about caste census, which has been supported by the JD(U) but the BJP is against; the Nitish Kumar-led Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar had conducted a caste survey in the state. Chirag told NDTV: "I believe the government should have this data. I am not in favour of making it public because it increases the divide."

The JD(U) leaders present at the meetings at Nitish's residence included Tyagi, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha, Lok Sabha MPs Lallan Singh and Alok Kumar Suman, apart from leaders such as Ashok Choudhary, Khiru Mahato,

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Ramnath Thakur, Afak Ahmed, Harshvardhan Singh, G M Sahin (the party's J&K president), and general secretary Afaque Ahmad Khan.

Suman said while the party leadership would spell out their demand, "we are hoping the JD(U) gets at least four ministerial berths". As reported by The Indian Express on Thursday, the JD(U) may push for Railways and Transport, along with two minor ministries.

JD(U) MP Lallan Singh said the party's Parliamentary Board meeting would happen on Friday morning. Noting that the Prime Minister holds the first right to decide ministerial berths, Singh added: "Special status for the state will be discussed with the government, it can't be discussed in the media. We are with the NDA and will remain with the NDA."

With 12 MPs, the JD(U) is crucial to government formation at the Centre as the BJP is short of the majority mark by 32 seats. The other partner the BJP needs to accommodate is the TDP, which with 16 seats will also demand its pound of flesh, including special status for Andhra Pradesh, as he needs funds to build his dream capital city in Amaravati.

Coalition opens space for dialogue, makes tough reforms feasible: CEA

supporting measures at their end. Farm reforms, too, could have fared differently if some states were taken on board early on.

While the push towards capital expenditure and infrastructure is expected to continue, other reforms may see slow progress, ratings agencies said. Moody's, in a note Wednesday, said it expects policy continuity especially with regard to budgetary emphasis on infrastructure spending and boosting domestic manufacturing in order to support growth.

Fitch Ratings said the government is expected to continue prioritising infrastructure capex, improvements to the business environment, and gradual fiscal consolidation, but coalition politics could make ambitious parts of the reform agenda more challenging.

But officials said land and labour reforms can be pushed, especially through discussions with states. "The answers to the current employment and growth situation lie in tightening nuts and bolts, of which many lie in the domain of states. Since these reforms are in the concurrent list, these would require talking to them, persuading them, having a dia-

logue with them and thinking of them as an equal participant," an official said.

Changes in land-use policy could be initiated by states to make land acquisition easier for industries and infrastructure in the overall push towards scaling up manufacturing and improving growth outcomes, the official added.

Of the factor market reforms of land, labour and capital, the Centre has been stuck with implementation of labour reforms despite having passed the requisite legislation in Parliament as early as August 2019 (Code on Wages) and September 2020 (Code on Social Security; Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Code; and Industrial Relations Code).

With labour being a concurrent subject, both the Centre and states have to frame laws and rules. While Parliament cleared the four labour codes in 2019 and 2020, and the Centre pre-published the draft rules for all four codes, some state governments are yet to complete the process.

Internal discussions within the government in 2022 had even contemplated a staggered imple-

mentation of the labour codes with an initial rollout of two codes, the Code on Wages and the Code on Social Security. But these could not sail through.

In the case of land, the NDA government promulgated an ordinance on December 31, 2014, less than a year since coming to power with an absolute majority in May, to amend the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, enacted by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

It introduced key changes to expand the purpose for which land can be acquired without consent from landowners and undertaking social impact assessment.

Despite demands from other political parties including Congress that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament after being introduced in Lok Sabha on February 24, 2015, the government refused to budge.

Given BJP's majority numbers in Lok Sabha, it was passed there but was held back in Rajya Sabha. Then, the ordinance was re-promulgated in April since it could not be passed in the first leg of the Budget session.

The ordinance was re-promulgated on May 30, 2015, but protests gathered momentum and eventually Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in August that the ordinance would not be re-issued and was allowed to lapse. Additionally, farm reforms were brought in as a package during Covid relief measures in May 2020 and then within a fortnight, the government issued ordinances on June 3, 2020, bringing into effect the three farm laws.

By the time the bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on September 14, protests had intensified in Punjab with rail roko and gheraos, and within two months of the President of India's assent to the laws on September 27, 2020, the farmers had moved to the Delhi border.

The two Houses cleared all three Bills in a week, without much debate and discussion. There were many concerns of farmers – like no recourse to courts on disputes with the private procurer and the perception that APMC mandis would be rendered unviable.

In November 2021, after a year of protests, Modi announced the repeal of the three farm laws.

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CISF constable 'slaps' Kangana at airport

a reference to Ranaut's tweet in 2020, wherein she claimed that an elderly woman, popularly known as Shaheen Bagh dadi, was also a part of the protest against the farm bills. "She is available in 100 rupees," she wrote.

The CISF suspended the constable, initiated departmental inquiry, and lodged a police complaint against her. Ranaut, who was taking the 3 pm Vistara flight to New Delhi and was accompanied by family members, said she will file a complaint with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In a video later, she said, "First of all, I am safe, I am perfectly fine... As soon as I came out after the security check, a woman in another cabin, a CISF security staff, she waited for me to cross her and hit my face from the side. She started abusing me. When I asked her why, she said that she supports the farmers' protest. I am safe but my concern is how we handle the terrorism and extremism



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'ED allegations vague': Supertech promoter Arora granted bail



Ram Kishore Arora. Archive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

NOTING THAT allegations levelled by the ED are vague, a Delhi court Thursday granted bail to Supertech promoter Ram Kishore Arora in a Rs 700-crore money laundering case after directing him to furnish bail bonds worth Rs 1 lakh. "The allegations...are vague and the applicant/accused has furnished an explanation sustainable in the eyes of law," the court observed.

It was Arora's case that the alleged offences against him were civil/commercial in nature. He also alleged that out of the 26 FIRs, three had been quashed and many others were being settled with the respective homebuyers.

"It is nowhere explained by the ED that out of the proceeds of crime of Rs 228 crore, a sum of Rs 697 crore was diverted," observed Additional Sessions Judge DK Jangala while pulling up the ED over a discrepancy in the alleged proceeds of crime.

DIRECTS HARYANA TO FACILITATE SMOOTH FLOW

SC tells Himachal to release surplus water today, Delhi to not waste a drop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release on Friday 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it to resolve the drinking water crisis in Delhi, and Haryana to facilitate its smooth flow into the national capital.

"Since Himachal Pradesh... is ready, willing to release the surplus water available with it, we direct that Himachal Pradesh shall release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it from the upstream, so that the water reaches Hathnikund and Delhi through Wazirabad," a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and K V Viswanathan said.

Referring to the court's June 3 direction for the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) to discuss the issue, the bench noted: "In compliance with the order, UYRB convened its meeting on June 5 and discussed the water crisis faced by Delhi. Two pertinent issues discussed in the meeting were the

matter related to actualisation of MoU between Delhi and Himachal Pradesh, and secondly, additional water required by Delhi and the way forward."

The court added that "the discussion would clearly reveal that the members/ stakeholders participating in the meeting have not contradicted or disputed that there are extraordinary heatwave conditions in Delhi, which is facing acute shortage of drinking water. Although it records that Haryana is also facing similar heatwave conditions, there is no evidence before us that there is an acute drinking water crisis in Haryana".

"...since there is an acute water crisis in Delhi, there should be no wastage of water by the Delhi government," the court said, directing that the measures suggested by the board be followed, adding that "considering urgency in the matter, we direct Himachal Pradesh to release the water tomorrow (Friday)," the bench said, while asking the Board to measure the excess water that comes to Hathnikund for its onward supply to Wazirabad and Delhi.



A man supplying water cans in a locality in Delhi. Tashi Tobgyal

ply to Wazirabad and Delhi.

It further said: "The Board eventually recommended that to meet the drinking water requirements this summer, before the onset of monsoon or June 30, whichever is earlier, the Delhi government may send a formal request to the Haryana government for consideration to release 150 cusecs of additional water on humanitarian ground... Thus, it can be culled out that the board itself

was of the view that Delhi needs 150 cusecs of additional water tentatively to meet out the heatwave conditions."

The court then referred to a chart submitted by Himachal Pradesh's additional advocate-general, and said that as per the document: "Between the period from March to June, 137 cusecs of water is available with Himachal Pradesh". After giving the directions to Himachal Pradesh, the

court said: "As and when the surplus water is released with prior information to Haryana, by the state of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana shall facilitate its flow to Hathnikund to Wazirabad..."

The court then directed that a report on the matter be submitted before it on June 10.

During the hearing, Justice Mishra asked the Haryana counsel: "What is your objection if we direct release of excess water available with Himachal Pradesh for the benefit of Delhi?" The Haryana government counsel questioned: "Who will determine that it is excess water?"

Senior Advocate A M Singhvi appearing for the Delhi government, termed the argument "very unfortunate". "We want water for a month for an ad-hoc emergent. I'm not holding it against Haryana that forever...they will supply... It's a pass through. Himachal is the one supplying", said Singhvi.

Justice Viswanathan then said the Board had found that there was a need for more drinking water for Delhi.

PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH CASE

L-G grants prosecution sanction against six

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

DELHI L-G V K Saxena on Thursday accorded a prosecution sanction against six persons under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly attacking the Parliament on December 13 last year.

When a case is lodged under the UAPA, the Centre or the state government has to provide sanction to prosecute an accused after reviewing the evidence provided by the investigating agency — the Delhi Police's Special Cell in this case. The Special Cell had requested the L-G to approve the prosecution of the six accused under UAPA sections 16 and 18.

All the six accused have been in judicial custody since their arrest, and the Special Cell is likely to file a chargesheet against them as they have received a prosecution sanction now.

While two of the accused — Manoranjan D and Sagar Sharma — were arrested for



L-G V K Saxena

jumping into the Lok Sabha hall from the visitors' gallery and opening smoke cans, two others — Neelam Azad and Amol Shinde — were held for opening smoke canisters outside the new Parliament building on December 13. Earlier, two others — Lalit Jha and Mahesh Kumawat — were also arrested and produced in the court. Kumawat had allegedly contacted Jha, the key accused, and others via a Facebook group named 'Bhagat Singh Fan Page'. Jha is also accused of destroying evidence of the conspiracy in the case.

3 held from Parliament complex, booked for forging Aadhaar card

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THREE MEN, who have been working in the Parliament complex for the last three months, were arrested by the CISF personnel on Wednesday for allegedly entering inside the complex after submitting forged Aadhaar cards. An FIR has been registered at Parliament Street police station and further investigation is underway.

The complaint was filed by Inspector (CISF) Balmukund Thakur on June 4. In his complaint, he alleged that he was checking photo ID at iron gate no 3 of Parliament house when around 1.30 pm, assistant sub-inspector Anil Kumar detected three workers trying to get an entry on "casual entry pass". They were identified as Kasim, Monis and Soyab. "After scrutiny, Kumar found that Monis and Kasim displayed the same Aadhaar card as Soyab after placing their individual pictures on it. They made these forged documents under a conspiracy and police should

probe further," Thakur alleged in his complaint.

After catching them, the personnel made a call to the Delhi Police and informed them about the matter. "Police immediately rushed to the spot and all three were taken to Parliament Street police station for further questioning. During questioning, they disclosed that they are residents of Uttar Pradesh and had been working as construction labourers in the Parliament complex for the last three months. Their entry pass expired on June 4 and they asked the security personnel to issue them a new one. But Monis and Kasim were not carrying their Aadhaar cards, so they put their pictures on Soyab's card for entry," a senior police officer said.

DCP (New Delhi district) Devesh Mahla said they have registered an FIR under IPC sections of 419 (cheating by impersonation), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document) and 120B (criminal conspiracy). "After registering an FIR, we have arrested all the three men. Further investigations are in progress," he said.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़ (सूचना)

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या 20/2023-24 दिनांक 19.02.2024, जिसका PR No. 319579 Drinking Water and Sanitation (23-24)_D है जो Construction of Multipurpose Community Hall, Hesagara in Mandu Block District Ramgarh under D.W & S. Division Ramgarh से संबंधित है, को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

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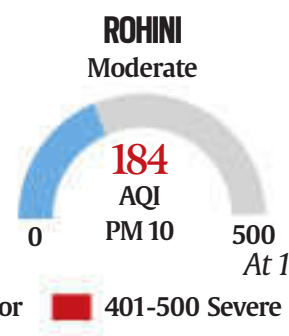
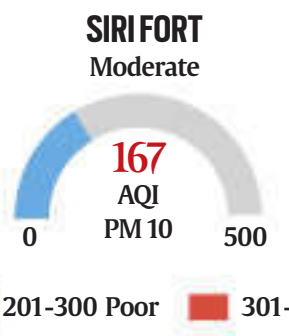
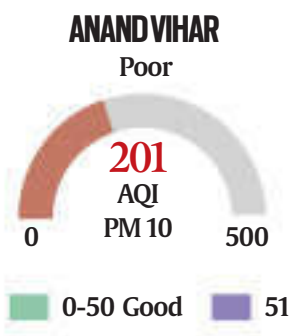
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thunderstorm with very light
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MAX: 43
4°C above normal
MIN: 29
1.4°C above normal

INSPECTION AFTER HOSPITAL FIRE THAT KILLED 7 NEWBORNS

Expired fire extinguishers, unqualified docs, no registration: ACB probe so far

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

FOUR CLINICS are functioning without valid registrations while 40 private nursing homes lack mandatory fire safety certificates, have no fire exits, their fire extinguishers have expired, and they are being run by unqualified doctors.

These are the findings of the first phase of the probe by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of Delhi, initiated by the Directorate of Vigilance after directions from Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena, after the killing of seven newborns in a fire that gutted a privately run neonatology hospital in Vivek Vihar on May 26.

Immediately after the incident, L-G Saxena had asked the Vigilance to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the functioning of the nursing homes and private hospitals across Delhi and identify all the health care facilities that are not following the rules set by the government.

ACB's Joint Commissioner Madhur Verma has confirmed that the anti-graft body has

completed the first phase of investigation.

According to officials privy to the probe, the ACB has investigated 62 private nursing homes in East Delhi, Shahdara, North East and Rohini in the first phase of the probe. Out of these 62, around 40 nursing homes do not meet the safety and regulatory standards as prescribed in the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1953.

"Discrepancy was found in around 40 clinics. Not only did these clinics violate the prescribed norms, most of them flouted the fire norms like fire safety certificates, and did not have valid no-objection certificates. The essential fire safety equipment like fire extinguishers were found either expired or defunct in many of these hospitals," an official said. "Besides, the staff were also not trained to operate these fire safety equipment."

'More beds available than sanctioned'

The official said that several of the nursing homes had illegally added more beds than the number sanctioned by the directorate of health. "If the permission was for 10 beds, they were

DISCREPANCIES AROUND

62 Total nursing homes investigated in first phase

40 Where discrepancies were found

THE ISSUES

- No fire NOC
- Expired fire equipment
- Running more beds than sanctioned



- Unqualified doctors
- Deviation from the MCD's layout plan
- Running baby nurseries

operating with 50 beds... Also, in most of these hospitals, the doctors were either unqualified like with a BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine) degree or less qualified than the compulsory requirement... It was also found that most of the clinics were running residential lifts in their commercial settlements."

The ACB also found that many of the clinics were running "baby nurseries" without following the norms and had illegally carried out "deviation of MCD's layout plan, violating the established guidelines".

Four nursing homes, which were functioning without the requisite registration, are located in East Delhi's Krishna Nagar, Old Kondli, Rajouri Garden in West, and Jawahar Park in South East Delhi's Deoli area.

ACB is also investigating if there are any "administrative lapses" and whether "any government officials are complicit" in these activities.

"The investigation is under process... documents are being carefully examined. Any official found involved with the illegal actions of any of these clinics will be

booked under POC (Prevention of Corruption) Act and disciplinary action will be recommended against them," the official said.

ACB was also asked to check and report nursing homes functioning without valid registrations. Besides, the anti-graft body was also asked to ascertain whether the registered nursing homes comply with all the prescribed norms and check if the grant of registration or its renewal by the Health department was done after proper and full inspection. There are around 1190 nursing homes functioning across Delhi and a quarter of them are operating without a valid licence, an official told *The Indian Express*.

"The first phase is completed... Second phase of investigation is currently going on. We are now investigating the private nursing homes in South, South West, New Delhi, Dwarka and other parts of the city," a senior official said. The ACB was asked to submit an action-taken report by June 5. The official said that the report will be submitted to the Directorate of Vigilance (DOV), the Chief Secretary, and L-G next week by Monday or Tuesday.



Delhi AAP MLAs outside the CM's residence after the meeting on Thursday. ANI

'No alliance with Cong in 2025': AAP holds key meet

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) has ruled out the possibility of an alliance with the Congress in the 2025 Assembly polls. The decision was taken after an organisational meeting chaired by AAP Delhi Convenor Gopal Rai among other senior AAP leaders.

AAP and Congress contested the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat and Goa as part of the INDIA bloc. AAP did not win any seats in these states. The two parties fought Lok Sabha polls in Punjab separately — Congress won seven seats, AAP won three.

Responding to a question regarding an alliance for Delhi Assembly polls, Rai said: "It is very clear from the beginning that the INDIA bloc had come together for the Lok Sabha. We have fought the Lok Sabha elections together with honesty. There is no alliance for the Delhi assembly elections. And we will fight this battle in Delhi with the people and win it."

Reacting to the development, a senior Delhi Congress leader said the party, which had been "left with no other option", was ready

to contest the Delhi Assembly elections on its own. However, the leader expressed the possibility of the Congress's high command taking up the issue with the AAP's national leadership in the coming days. An AAP leader said that it was clear from the beginning that the alliance would not be for states, and only for the Lok Sabha.

"As the party had announced in relation to the seat-sharing agreement with the Congress for the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, the alliance was only for the general elections which have now concluded," a senior AAP leader said.

AAP's stance is based on its performance in the 2015 and 2020 Assembly polls, where it got 67 and 62 seats out of 70. Congress has not won a single seat in the assembly since 2015. The Congress leader said: "What option have they (the AAP) left us? The Delhi unit is more than ready to contest the Delhi Assembly election alone and on each of the 70 segments. Be that as it may, the high command may take up the matter with the AAP's senior leadership later," the leader said.

An AAP insider, questioning the timing of the announcement, underlined that the AAP's decision

as well as announcement threw up the larger implication of the party severing ties with the INDIA bloc within days of the Lok Sabha election results being announced.

Meanwhile, indicating that the AAP's focus had shifted to the Capital and that putting up resistance to the Centre's policy of "interfering" in its affairs and "snatching its rights" would underline the party's political strategy for the 2025 Assembly elections, Rai said the party's MLAs had been instructed to hold meetings with local workers in their respective Assembly segments on Sunday to chalk out which local works and projects needed attention.

Indicating that AAP may raise the issue of statehood again, he said that the issue of overruling an elected government will come into focus again after BJP failed to get a majority. Accusing the Centre of "attacking the rights of Delhi", "snatching the rights of the people" and arresting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior party leaders, Rai said: "Everyone is confident that the Central government will reconsider this in accordance with the mandate of the people and will change the policy of usurping the rights of Delhi."

ASSEMBLY ELECTION IN MIND

In Haryana, BJP defends LS show, Congress eyes repeat of 1987 feat

HOW THE PARTIES FARED

Assembly seats	2019		2024	
	Captain Ajay Yadav (Cong)	Rao Inderjit Singh (BJP)	Raj Babbar (Congress)	Rao Inderjit Singh (BJP)
Rewari	34,811	1,19,912	60,409	96,938
Bawal	26,500	1,16,493	63,654	85,903
Nuh	82,116	34,258	98,070	30,568
Ferozepur Jhirka	1,08,324	26,466	1,23,568	25,100
Punhana	81,876	22,267	1,08,645	16,181
Gurgaon	39,520	1,62,627	60,439	1,62,825
Sohna	53,336	89,198	83,543	89,564
Pataudi	26,062	1,20,882	58,197	1,01,187
Badshahpur	42,188	1,85,138	75,081	1,96,805

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, JUNE 6

HAVING SECURED five seats each in Haryana in the Lok Sabha election results, leaders of both the BJP and the Congress have gone in their separate huddles to introspect where they fell short and to chalk out a roadmap for the upcoming Assembly polls.

The BJP has won five seats in Haryana, down from its clean sweep of all 10 in 2019. Three of these are in the southern districts — Bhiwani-Mahendragarh, Gurgaon and Faridabad — where the margin of votes has dipped.

In Gurgaon, BJP's Rao Inderjit Singh won by a margin of only 75,079 votes as opposed to the 3.8 lakh votes of 2019.

Gurgaon district president of the party, Kamal Yadav, said the BJP is confident of its performance as it had won all four assembly segments — Gurgaon, Sohna, Pataudi, and Badshahpur. "This will only be repeated in the Assembly polls. Not only did urban voters go for the BJP, rural areas such as Pataudi, Rewari, and Bawal have again voted for Inderjit," he said.

— believed to be Singh's stronghold — Congress's Raj Babbar has made comfortable inroads.

Yadav said that it was the BJP's efforts in setting up polling booths in residential areas that yielded positive results for the party. However, he said the decrease in margin in the constituency has been concerning. "We are looking into it. We have got a few demands from the people regarding developmental works, and we will work towards fulfilling them. Earlier, when RWAs announced poll boycotts, we discussed the matter with them, and their votes were in our favour," he said.

Refuting the anti-incumbency allegations, Yadav said Gurgaon won't feel the heat. He said that he would contest assembly elections from Badshahpur constituency, adding it was unlikely that by-polls will be conducted following the death of area MLA Rakesh Daulatabad.

Meanwhile, the Congress said the defeat in Gurgaon was due to a paucity of time as the announcement of the candidate came late. "Babbar performed well and if he had more time, he would have won with a margin of a lakh votes," says Jitender

Bhardwaj, Working President, Haryana Congress.

The defeat, according to him, was also attributed to lower polling in Nuh, among other things. He said there has been a decrease in the margin of votes in assembly segments such as Pataudi and Sohna. "The BJP's victory in Gurgaon is not due to the state government's performance. Badshahpur and Gurgaon have urban voters, and they endorse Narendra Modi's Hindutva... In Gurgaon, people have been complaining about the MCG (Municipal Corporation of Gurugram) and the woes surrounding sanitation due to its inefficient agency, Eco Green. All these seats will come to us during assembly polls," he said. "In South Haryana, only Nitin Gadkari's NHAI has done any work, but that is with the money they take from our toll," he added.

Bharadwaj said that the party was ready for elections. "We prepared (for Assembly elections) simultaneously during the Lok Sabha campaigning and we will have a thumping majority and a repeat of Devi Lal's feat," he said, referring to 1987 when the former CM had won 85 out of 90 Vidhan Sabha seats in Haryana.



Tihar came under fire for murder of 2 gangsters in 2023. Archive

Tihar inmate injured in clash between members of 2 gangs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

IN WHAT looks like another case of gang rivalry inside Tihar, an inmate belonging to the Gogi gang was injured after being attacked by two inmates, said to belong to another gang, police said on Thursday. Police said Hitesh, the injured, has been admitted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital.

Hitesh was allegedly attacked on Wednesday by Gaurav Lohra and Gurinder in Tihar's Jail 3 before the jail officials intervened, they added. The inmates were in the jail's hospital for a routine OPD check-up when the fight ensued, said jail officials. The accused allegedly accosted Hitesh and attacked him with an improvised knife after a verbal altercation. "The reason behind the fight is unclear," said a jail official. Hitesh was stabbed in the neck, back and hip, with some puncture wounds.

Following first-aid, Hitesh was rushed to the hospital where his condition was said to be stable. The Hari Nagar police station has filed a case of attempt to murder on the basis of the injuries. Hitesh has been in jail since 2019 following his alleged involvement in a murder case, said police. The two accused, who were also in jail in murder and attempt-to- murder

cases, were linked to Neeraj Bawania gang, said sources.

However, jail authorities refrained from labeling the fight as a case of gang rivalry.

This comes a month after a similar clash took place in Tihar's Jail number 3 where three men attacked a group of four under-trial prisoners for rubbing shoulders with a member of the Takkar gang. Tihar prison has been under fire since last year when gangsters Prince Tewatia and Tillu Tajpuria were killed in April and May, respectively.

In 2021, Dilsher Azad, an under-trial prisoner, was attacked and killed with a "handmade improvised sharp-edged object" by other inmates. Both Tewatia and Azad were also killed in Jail 3.

Following Tajpuria's murder, the prison authorities had amped up security measures by procuring non-linear junction detectors that could detect metal objects two-feet deep in the concrete. The authorities had planned to increase the frequency of surprise checks by the Tamil Nadu Special Police, jail authorities, and dog squads. The jail authorities had also planned to install PVC exhaust fans, instead of regular fans, to prevent inmates from breaking off the metal blades to fashion them into improvised knives.

Man's charred body found inside car in Nehru Place, cops suspect suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

A MAN'S partly-burnt body was discovered in a car parked in Nehru Place, Kalkaji on Thursday morning, in what police suspect to be a case of self-immolation.

Police said the man, 34-year-old Dhruv Mahajan, first locked himself inside the car and tried to set himself afire. "Mahajan suffered nasal bleeding due to hypoxia stress and asphyxiated to death," said a police officer. Police said he also suffered burn injuries on his face, thighs and hands. Mahajan was an employee of a private company in Gurgaon. His body has been sent to AIIMS for a post-mortem and the police have taken up inquest proceedings.

CCTV footage showed that Mahajan parked his car beside Devika Tower around 3:30 am on Thursday. A few minutes later, a huge fire could be seen burning brightly from the car before subsiding a few minutes later. When Mahajan's body was recovered, police found a crushed plastic bottle and a burnt matchstick near the front seat where Mahajan was sitting. "There was a strong smell of petrol inside the car, the hair of the deceased was fully singed..." said DCP (South East) Rajesh Deo.

Mahajan's sister Poorvi, who resides in Bengaluru, told police that he was under financial stress due to debts.

CIC can't comment on utilisation of MPLADS funds by legislators: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE DELHI High Court recently observed that the Central Information Commission (CIC) has no jurisdiction to comment on the utilisation of funds by the members of Parliament under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad said in its May 15 order: "The Ld CIC has no jurisdiction to comment upon the utilisation of funds by the Members of Parliament under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The scope of the RTI Act is only to ensure that information sought for under the RTI Act is dissipated in order to secure access to information under the control of public authorities."

The HC made the observations while hearing a plea filed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation challenging an order of the CIC passed in relation to an RTI application. One Ram Gopa Dixit had filed an RTI application with the Lok Sabha's central public information officer seeking information on the "work initiated, pending and completed" by Rajesh Diwakar when he was the Haryana MP. Dixit had also sought information on the name of the

agencies involved in the construction/initiation/ completion of various public welfare projects in the Hathras constituency along with "details of MPLADS fund utilisation and status of works recommended and executed in North Eastern Railway such as Road/ Railway Station, etc". He was dissatisfied with the reply, and Dixit appealed against it and filed a second appeal before the CIC.

The CIC in its October 16, 2018, order said: "The Commission noticed that some MPs aren't spending their MPLADS amounts in the earlier years of their term, but deliberately accumulating the funds for last year, preferably before general polls to gain advantage improperly. The representatives couldn't say anything on the issue."

The MPLADS is criticised for creating this kind of undue advantage to MPs vis-a-vis the contestants in the next election. If this is perpetuated there is a possibility of questioning it as unconstitutional. The Commission recommends the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to prevent this kind of 'abuse' of MPLADS funds, and implement their guidelines to distribute the money equally in each year..."

The court said the CIC has "no jurisdiction to comment adversely" on the "functioning" of any public authority.

FULL REPORT ON
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NO BREAK, BASIC NECESSITIES LACKING

As city reels under heat, Anganwadi workers ask: 'Why can't we get vacations?'

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

"CHIDIYA KARTI chir chir chir... (Birds go chirp chirp chirp...)" 4-year-old Savia flaps her arms and recites a poem. She has learnt these words in an Anganwadi centre at Jamia Nagar and pronounces each of them perfectly. Her mother Nazia Parveen, 25, sits on a warped wooden bench outside, in a lane that opens to the Okhla Vihar main road. It is around noon. "Tota... (parrot)" Dilshad, 5, mumbles. He scratches his head as he tries to remember the

poem, but quickly switches to numbers instead: "One, two, three... ten". Dilshad tries to compete with his sister, Savia.

Faizan, 1, is barefoot as he slowly props himself up, holding the wooden bench with his tiny hands. He can't form words yet but has already started to attend the Anganwadi centre.

Ordinarily, on a Thursday afternoon, the children would sit on the Anganwadi premises and be fed a nutritious, hot, cooked meal by Anganwadi workers or helpers. However, in a first, the Women and Child Welfare Department in Delhi issued an order on Monday for all



(Left) Activist Priyambada Sharma and Punita Jha, a terminated worker, at a centre.

Anganwadi centres to remain shut until June 30, citing heat wave conditions.

Even though meals are not being served at the centres, workers have to go door to door

to deliver packaged dry rations.

In an Anganwadi hub in Okhla, three workers and



Express

helpers cover one block. Smaller blocks have one worker and a helper each. With the centres shutting down, they try to finish supplying the packages by 11 am. Ordinarily, children who come to the centres are taught basics such as letters, words and numbers, and given hot meals.

Monthly progress reports have to be maintained for each centre.

In another centre in Saket, an Anganwadi worker, who has been working since 1997 and knows all the families in the area, waits for people to turn up to collect the packaged food.

Priyambada Sharma, con-

venor of the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union, says the workers and helpers barely have time to catch a break. "In addition to supplying food door to door during peak hours, this month they have also been directed to take a population survey for the government in which one person may be in charge of over 2,000 people."

The grassroots workers are supposed to work from 9 am to 2 pm but usually end up working longer hours. "It is good that at least the children get holidays, but we also need holidays at least for 10 days. If the government and private school teachers and students can get vaca-

tions, why can't we?" says an Anganwadi worker who did not want to be named.

Another worker complained that centres do not have basic necessities in place. "We aren't even provided with drinking water; we have to bring it from our homes. There are no fans, the toilet is dirty, but what can we do?" She says.

Vrishali, a member of the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union, put forward the demand of the collective that the heat wave conditions have affected all, adding there should be a relief to the Anganwadi workers and helpers to ensure their well-being.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Janata Darshan in Lucknow on Thursday, Express

Officials accountable for projects will face action for laxity: Adityanath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 6

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Thursday that officials were accountable for the projects related to their respective departments and warned against negligence in ensuring timely completion of works.

In a meeting with additional chief secretary and principal secretary-rank officials from key departments two days after the Lok Sabha election results were declared, the CM reviewed the status of various schemes in the state. He directed the officials to maintain coordination with the ministers concerned and that matters related to the common

man should not be kept pending unnecessarily.

A government release quoted him as saying, "The Chief Minister instructed the officials that the works related to the common people should be done within the stipulated time frame. Ignoring any work will not be tolerated at all."

The officials were also told to immediately send requisitions to the selection commissions concerned from all departments where vacancies and appointments are to be made. The rules should be examined thoroughly before sending requisitions for appointments, he added. "Contact the selection commissions, do not send erroneous applications and fix a time limit for the selection process," he said.

Why was Municipal commissioner not suspended: HC on Rajkot game zone fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JUNE 6

REITERATING THAT the Rajkot civic body must be held responsible for the TRP Game Zone tragedy that claimed 27 lives, the Gujarat HC Thursday said municipal commissioners must be held liable for such incidents.

"Prima facie, our apprehensions have turned out to be somewhat true inasmuch as there has been a dereliction of duty on part of the officials of the corporation, be it the ones manning the highest rungs of the respective (municipal) corporations that is the (municipal) commissioners," the bench of Justices Biren Vaishnav and Devan Desai stated while hearing a PIL on the fire tragedy.

Justice Vaishnav went said, "...the fault should lie at their (municipal commissioners') doorstep, they cannot just sit in their

offices and pass on the buck."

The court also expressed anger after learning that though a demolition notice was served to the gamezone by Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) in June last year, no action was taken for one year against the facility by the civic body, whose commissioner was Anand Patel at that time.

Referring to the arrest and subsequent suspension of RMC's town planning officials, Justice Vaishnav stated, "So you fired the town planning officer. But why was the then municipal commissioner not suspended? The responsibility lies at the top. A demolition order was passed in June 2023. What happened after that? You rested till 27 lives were lost. You did nothing for a year."

The remarks came after RMC, in an affidavit, admitted that there were no periodic checks carried out by the fire department at gamezone.

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING HARYANA, OPPOSITE- PANCHAYAT BHAWAN, SOHNA ROAD, GURUGRAM

Invites quotation in sealed cover for allotment of the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of its computers, printers, UPS and networking installed at the address mentioned above, by 13th June 2024. Details of tender is available at council website www.scertharyana.gov.in

No. 26470 HRY Director

सं ए-46011/1/2016-स्था.
भारत सरकार
वस्त्र मंत्रालय

Applications are invited for filling up of the post of Secretary, Textiles Committee, Mumbai, Group 'A' (Non-Ministerial) in Pay Level-13 [Pay Band-4 of Rs. 37400-67000 plus Grade Pay of Rs. 8700] on deputation (including short-term contract) on tenure basis.

For details of eligibility conditions for the post and application proforma, please visit <http://texmin.nic.in>.

The applications in the prescribed format, complete in all respects along with the required documents may be sent through proper channel, so as to reach Smt. Jayashree Sivakumar, Under Secretary, Room No. 336-A, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

CBC 41101/11/0003/2425

CSIR-CENTRAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Mahatma Gandhi Avenue, Durgapur - 713 209 (West Bengal)

No.: 04/18/2024-Rct. Date: 06.06.2024

Advertisement No. 03/2024

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

FOR THE POSITION OF PROJECT-JRF / SRF / SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE / PROJECT ASSOCIATES / JUNIOR PROJECT FELLOW / PROJECT ASSISTANT

A Walk-in-interview will be conducted at CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur during 20th - 21st June, 2024 to select around 41 nos. of candidates for engagement under different Projects as 'Project-JRF/SRF/Project Associates/Sr. Project Associate/Junior Project Fellow / Project Assistant' for PhD / Masters / Graduate / Diploma in various Engineering and Science disciplines and to provide an opportunity of working experiences in various R&D projects and to impart skill development. For detail advertisement and other information such as, disciplines & vacancies, consolidated remuneration, eligibility criteria, age, tenure, discipline wise date of Walk-in-Interview, application form etc., the interested candidates may log on to the Institute website: www.cmeri.res.in → Opportunity → Career → Vacancies → Advt. No. 03/2024.

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लोकसभा क्षेत्र गौतमबुद्ध नगर

कोटि-कोटि धन्यवाद

आपके अभूतपूर्व स्नेह एवं समर्थन से

मा. प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में

गौतमबुद्ध नगर लोकसभा क्षेत्र में

कमल खिलाने

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प्लेसमेंट में अच्छे अवसर एवं प्रोत्साहन हेतु योजनाएं

- छात्रों में रोजगार कौशल बढ़ाने के लिए कॉर्पोरेट विशेषज्ञों द्वारा प्रशिक्षण।
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- लड़कियों के लिए सभी बहुतकनीकी संस्थानों में दाखिले में 25% आरक्षण एवं सरकारी संस्थानों में लड़कियों की Tuition Fee माफ।
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ONLINE COUNSELLING SESSION 2024-25

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Diploma Prospectus, Admission Schedule & Important Notices (for applying online and further details)



DIMINISHING RETURN

BUOYED BY his second successive victory from Telangana's Secunderabad constituency, Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday organised a meet and greet at his official residence, which was thronged by several MPs, MLAs and party workers from the state. Under Reddy's leadership as Telangana BJP president, the party won the highest number of MPs in the state. However, with Chandrababu Naidu's TDP from the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh becoming a significant part of the coalition government and bargaining for key Cabinet berths, there was a sobering realisation among the ministry hopefuls from Telangana of their chances diminishing.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

THE JD(U) is yet to make an official statement on how many Cabinet berths it has demanded from the BJP in lieu of support to the Narendra Modi government, but the media frenzy around its demands appears to have got many JD(U) leaders excited. One such leader from the party's J&K unit, who was visiting Nitish Kumar's residence in Delhi to greet him, was mobbed by mediapersons. Pressed to reveal the number of ministries the JD(U) was pushing for, the flustered leader blurted out that if his party has 12 MPs, it should get 12 ministries.

FAIR ASSESSMENT

THE ARMY has sent an advisory to senior officers initiating and reviewing the annual confidential reports (ACR) of officers, asking them to be more balanced and objective while assessing the performances of the officers in their command. Each ACR is reviewed by two officers above an initiating officer. The move is aimed at curbing any possibility of inflating the ACR parameters on grounds of favouritism, and pitching officers for their selection boards purely based on their merit and capability.

Trudeau congratulates PM Modi, says ready to advance ties based on 'rights, rule of law'

Sullivan to visit India: White House

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

CANADA Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his "electoral victory" and said Canada stands ready to work with the Indian government to advance the bilateral relationship "anchored to human rights, diversity and the rule of law". "Congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his electoral victory," Trudeau posted on X. "Canada stands ready to work with his govern-

ment to advance the relationship between our nations' peoples — anchored to human rights, diversity, and the rule of law," he said. Trudeau's comments come at a time when the ties between the two countries are at an all-time low following Canada's allegations of Indian government's involvement in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June last year. India has rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated". A day after the phone call between Modi and US President Joe Biden, the White House said US National Security Advisor Jake



U.S. NSA Jake Sullivan, Canada PM Justin Trudeau

Sullivan is scheduled to visit India to engage the new government on shared US-India priorities. Sullivan's visit was discussed during the phone call Biden made to PM Modi on Wednesday to congratulate him on his re-election. The US NSA's visit has been cancelled twice in the last six months.

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke today with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to congratulate him and the National Democratic Alliance on their historic victory in India's general election," the White House said in a readout of the call. "The two leaders also discussed National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's upcoming travel to New Delhi to engage the new government on shared US-India priorities, including the trusted, strategic technology partnership," the White House said. Sullivan's travel dates to India have not been announced yet, but is expected to be within days of Modi being sworn in for the third time. Israeli PM Benjamin

Netanyahu also called PM Modi to congratulate him. "The two leaders agreed to continue strengthening bilateral relations and to bring them to new heights in the near future," a statement from PMO said. Australian PM Anthony Albanese also spoke with Modi. "Australia and India are close friends, with strong strategic, economic and cultural ties. We look forward to growing our partnership in 2024 and beyond," he said. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen also congratulated the people of India and Modi. "I look forward to a continued fruitful partnership between the EU and India," she said.

Zelenskyy dials Modi over election success, discusses Swiss peace summit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

UKRAINE PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday congratulated Prime Minister Modi for his victory in 2024 Lok Sabha elections and discussed the upcoming peace summit in Switzerland concerning the Russia-Ukrainian war, hoping for India's participation at the "highest level" at the conference. Zelenskyy also invited Modi to visit Ukraine at a "convenient time". Zelenskyy's phone call comes a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke with Modi. Talking to X, he said: "I spoke with Prime Minister of India @NarendraModi to congratulate him on his election victory. I wished him a speedy formation of the government and continued productive work for the benefit of the Indian people." "We discussed the upcoming Global Peace Summit. We rely on India's participation at the highest level. I also invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Ukraine at a convenient time," he said. Replying to his same, Prime Minister Modi said, "Happy to speak with President @ZelenskyyUa. I thank him for his warm wishes on the historic victory of the NDA Government in the general elections. We reaffirm our mutual desire to further strengthen the extensive partnership between India and Ukraine." Earlier on Wednesday, Zelenskyy had congratulated Modi in a post on X and said he was looking forward to India's presence at the peace summit in Switzerland next week. An international peace summit concerning the Russia-Ukrainian war will be held in Burgenstock Resort in Switzerland on June 15-16. Switzerland has extended invitations to over 160 countries for the summit.



BALUNI MEETS GOYAL

BJP leader Piyush Goyal with newly elected Garhwal MP Anil Baluni at the party headquarters in New Delhi. Express

HC pulls up Bengal police over post-poll violence, seeks report

'Will order Central forces to stay for 5 yrs if violence not controlled'

ATRIMITRA
KOLKATA, JUNE 6

EXPRESSING DISMAY and concern over reports of alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal following the announcement of the Lok Sabha election results, the Calcutta High Court on Thursday said it may ask the Central Armed Police Forces to stay deployed in the state for the next five years if the state fails to control violence. Hearing a PIL filed by an organisation, Rastrabadi Ainjeebi, the Division Bench of Justice Kausik Chanda and Justice Apurba Sinha Ray also issued a directive to the state to allow people affected by violence to submit complaints to the state DGP via email. "We want to ensure security of the people of the state at any

cost," the Bench said. The Court also ordered DGP Sanjay Mukhopadhyay to submit a report within 10 days on the number of post-poll violence complaints received by the police, the number of FIRs registered, and the subsequent actions taken, if any. During the hearing, the counsel of petitioner, Susmita Saha Dutta, told the court that 11 people have died since the seven-phase polling in the state concluded last Saturday. "On June 1, the election process was completed. After that till Thursday, 11 people have died in post-poll violence," Dutta told the court. The Bench then asked, "How can we be convinced that 11 people have died?" Dutta replied, "We have sufficient documents." Advocate General Kishore Dutta, representing the

state government, intervened, saying: "These are not true." Justice Koushik Chanda said, "Everyday, we are watching in the media about post-poll violence. What happened after the last Assembly election, the same thing is happening this time also. You (State) should be ashamed." "If the state fails to control this violence, we have to make a decision that in the next five years, the Central forces will stay in this state," Justice Chanda added. A day before the counting on June 4, the EC decided to extend the deployment of nearly 400 companies of Central forces in West Bengal for another 15 days till June 19. The EC said the CAPF would be deployed primarily in areas and districts that are sensitive in terms of violence to prevent any untoward incident.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन प्रमंडल छपरा।				
ई० निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 15 (S.B.D) /2023-24				
शुद्धि पत्र				
इस कार्यलय के द्वारा आमंत्रित अत्यकालीन ई० निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 15 /2023-24 जिसका पी०आर०न० PR-20107 (BCD) 2023 -24 है, की तिथियों में निम्न प्रकार संशोधित की जा रही है:-				
कड़िका संख्या	कड़िका का विषय	पूर्व में निर्गत तिथि एवं समय	नव संशोधित तिथि एवं समय	पुनः नव संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
03	परिमाण विपन्न बिकी (डाउनलोड) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	15.04.2024 से 15.05.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	10.05.2024 से 30.05.2024 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	01.07.2024 से 22.07.2024 को 03 बजे अपराह्न तक।
04	निविदा जमा करने (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि	18.05.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	31.05.2024 को 03:30 बजे अपराह्न तक।	23.07.2024 को 03:30 बजे अपराह्न तक।
05	निविदा तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	20.05.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न	01.06.2024 को 3:30 बजे अपराह्न	24.07.2024 को 3:30 बजे अपराह्न
06	निविदा वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के उपरान्त	तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के उपरान्त	तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के उपरान्त
08	बिबीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं स्थान	1. 26.04.2024 को 12:30 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता भवन अंचल छपरा के कार्यालय में। 2. 02.05.2024 को 12:30 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार पटना का कार्यालय में।	1. 15.05.2024 को 12:30 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता भवन अंचल छपरा के कार्यालय 2. 22.05.2024 12:30 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार पटना का कार्यालय में।	1. 10.07.2024 को 12:30 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता भवन अंचल छपरा के कार्यालय 2. 17.07.2024 को 12:30 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार पटना का कार्यालय में।
शेष अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेगी।				कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन प्रमंडल छपरा।
PR- 001181 (B C D) 2024-25				नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

भारत सरकार त्कसाल, मुंबई
INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT, MUMBAI

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NOTICE

BOOKING OF "75th Republic Day" and "125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh" Commemorative Coin Sets

India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of commemorative coin sets in Proof and Uncirculated varieties of following themes.

Theme	Proof (Rs.)	UNC (Rs.)
75 th Republic Day (Denomination of ₹75) Folder Packing	6670.00	6465.00
75 th Republic Day (Denomination of ₹75) Wooden Packing	7045.00	NA
125 th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh (Denomination of ₹125) – Folder Packing	4280.00	3975.00
125 th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh (Denomination of ₹125) – Wooden Packing	4710.00	NA

The booking period will be from 07.06.2024 the coin sets can be booked online on our website <https://www.indiagovtmint.in>. Alternately, the coin sets can be ordered offline by submitting an order form available on our website or visit our store at Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400001.

***50gms Silver Coin on Shree Ram Jannabhoomi Mandir, Ayodhya available for sale.**
For other detailed terms and conditions and online booking please visit customer corner section of our web site: <https://www.indiagovtmint.in>.

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-Tender)

On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. DMM/ DSD/NWR, Jodhpur: E-Tender Notice No. 33245281. Name of Item: Provision of 02 nos. Lifts at new control building, at DRM Office, Jodhpur-Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of passenger lift of 13 persons capacity, G+2 Floor, complete in all respect with complete accessories as per CPWD specification; **Approximate Cost of items:** Rs. 2582412.00 (Rs. Twenty Five Lacks Eighty Two Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Only); **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 51650.00 (Rs. Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Only). **Last date and time for Submission of E-Tender Opening of E-Tender:** 24.06.2024 at 14:25 hrs.: Website from E-Tender forms can be obtained: www.ireps.gov.in; Address of NIT Issuing Office: Officer of the Sr. DMM/DSD, NWR, Jodhpur-342001 (Rajasthan).
Notice: 1. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. 2. Cost of tender document & EMD online through e-transfer i.e. through payment gateway facility. 3. on the IREPS website. **647-PM/24**

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Bihar: Fire breaks out in local train

Patna: Four compartments of a local train on the way from Patna to Jharkhand caught fire at Lakhisarai junction in Bihar on Thursday ,said the officials. All passengers were safely evacuated and no casualty has been reported.

CRP said that the fire broke out at the Mainline Electric Multiple Unit of the train. The incident took place at 6 pm when the train reached Lakhisarai railway station. All passengers were safely evacuated at Lakhisarai station. **ENS**

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बिहारशरीफ
अत्यकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02 SBD/2024-25
(राष्ट्रीय/राजकीय स्पर्द्धा)
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण –

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (लाख रु० में)	अंशान की राशि (लाख रु० में) (अन नईन बाबा निगमन / केन्द्रीय संचालन से न पुनर्लेन)	परिमाण-विषय का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल अन संचालन से न पुनर्लेन)	बेडिंग को सेव बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल अन संचालन से न पुनर्लेन)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	नालन्दा जिलान्तर्गत बिन्दु प्रखण्ड में सदरपुर ग्राम के निकट जिराईन नदी पर सदरपुर वीयर में अतिरिक्त सुरक्षात्मक कार्य।	398.822	7.98	10,000.00	5900.00	31.03.2025

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक-05.06.2024
3. निविदा कामजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड: दिनांक-13.06.2024 से दिनांक-19.06.2024 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक-15.06.2024 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, सिंचाई सृजन, जल संसाधन विभाग, नालंदा, बिहारशरीफ
5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-21.06.2024, समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
6. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
8. निविदा की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन
9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बिहारशरीफ
मो०न०: 74638 89411

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कार्यपालक अभियंता
सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बिहारशरीफ

PR- 001101 (WRD) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Government of Jharkhand
Industry Department
Directorate of Handlooms, Sericulture and Handicrafts
Udyog Bhawan, 3rd floor, Ratu Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand – 834001
Notice Inviting Tender

E-Procurement TENDER NOTICE for Outsourcings manpower services

The Directorate of Handlooms, Sericulture and Handicrafts invites E-Procurement Tender (Online Tender through website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> in Two bid system from the qualified firms as per the below mentioned schedule:-

Sl.No.	Activity Description	Tentative date
1	Tender No.	No.
2	Name of the Work	Selection of Agency for Supply of Manpower on outsourcing basis to Directorate of Handloom, Sericulture and Handicraft, Industry Department, Government of Jharkhand
3	Name & address of the issuer of this e-tender	Director Directorate of Handloom, Sericulture and Handloom Udyog Bhawan, 3rd floor, Ratu Road Ranchi, Jharkhand – 834001
4	Date of Issue of e-tender	Start Date:- 06.06.2024 Closing Date: 28.06.2024 till 6:00 PM IST The tender document can be downloaded from https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
5	Time and last date of submitting e-Tender/Bid	28.06.2024 till 3:00 P.M. • Online Technical Proposal Submission: scanned copy of Technical Proposal, shall be submitted in the PDF files through https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in portal by 18:00 hours on 28.06.2024 • Online Financial Proposal Submission: scanned copy of Financial Proposal, shall be submitted in the PDF files through https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in Portal by 18:00 hours on 28.06.2024
Technical Proposal Opening		01.07.2024
6		Outsourcing of manpower services - 120 Nos. Project Manager (sericulture) – 40 Project Assistant (sericulture) - 80
7	Amount of EMD to be deposited	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakhs only) in form of Bank Guarantee / Demand Draft Payable to Deputy Director, Directorate of Handloom Sericulture and Handicraft, Ranchi must be submitted at DHSH Office before opening of Technical Bid.
8	Validity of bid	90 days
9	Duration of Contract	01 year from the date of award of contract. However, the same may be further extended for next three year or part thereof on same terms and conditions on mutually agreed basis
10	Technical Presentation	Technical Presentation if required would be scheduled for all eligible bidders through Power Point Presentation. Date shall be intimated through email. The schedule would be notified two days in advance.
11	Helpline and e-mail id for submission Bid Query	0651-2281111 Email id- jdsericulture@gmail.com

Note:

- Directorate of Handloom, sericulture and Handicraft, Industry Department, Government of Jharkhand reserve the right to change any schedule of bidding process.
- Directorate of Handlooms, sericulture and Handicraft Industry Department, Government of Jharkhand reserve the right to cancel the e-tendering process at any stage and to reject any or all the bid(s) received without assigning any reason thereof.

Deputy Director
Directorate of Handloom, sericulture and Handicrafts

PR 325322 Industries (24-25)

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECH.)
FIELD MACHINERY DIVISION, BHAGALPUR
SHORT e-AUCTION NOTICE NO:-02/2024-25
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Letter No:- 328 (Through e-procurement mode only-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. Details of Work :-

Sl No.	Name of Work	Reserve Price (In lac)	Earnest Money (In lac)	Cost of B.O.Q. (Amount in Rs) Non refundable	Payable to Beltron, Bid processing Fee (non refundable), only payable online mode	Time of completion
1	e-Auction of Mechanical Items such as Pipes, Valves, Barge, Pump and other scrap Iron materials kept on Dakranala Pump House campus under Felid Machinery Division, Bhagalpur, District-Bhagalpur.	Rs.132.5139 (lakh)	Rs.2.6510	Rs.10,000.00	Rs.3540.00	15 days

2. Date of issue of notice inviting auction :- Date 05.06.2024
3. Period of sale of sale of Bid Document :- Date 13.06.2024 to 15.06.2024 , up to 3.00 PM only (only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
4. Time , Date , and place of pre-bid meeting :- Date 14.06.2024 at 3.00 PM in office of the Chief Engineer (Mech), WRD, Patna
5. Last date and time for Receipt of Bids :- Date 18.06.2024 upto 3:00PM only (only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
6. Time and Date of Opening Technical Bids :- Date 19.06.2024 up to 3:30PM only (only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
7. e-Auction Date and Time :- After approval of Technical Bid and Verification of payment. Date and Time for e-Auction will be communicated to Successful Bidders. Through website: (only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
8. Place of Opening of Bids :- Through website: (only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
9. Period of Bids validity :- 120 Days
10. Office Inviting Bid :- Executive Engineer (Mech.) Field Machinery Division, Bhagalpur Mob. No-9199427686.
11. For detailed information Bidder can visit website. www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Executive Engineer (Mech.) PR- 001134 (WRD) 2024-25 Field Machinery Division, Bhagalpur

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

9 VERDICT 2024

Muraleedharan blames Cong for his loss, party reaches out

ENS & PTI
KANNUR, KOZHIKODE, JUNE 6

THE CONGRESS on Thursday reached out to senior Congress leader and Thrissur candidate K Muraleedharan, who blamed the party for his defeat.

"The Congress machinery in the constituency (Thrissur) was in a shambles. PM Narendra Modi campaigned for Gopi and Chief Minister (Pinarayi) Vijayan campaigned for the LDF. No one came for me," he said, adding that he may have won had he contested from Vadakara again.

Modi campaigned for BJP's Suresh Gopi, who won from Thrissur. A section of the Youth Congress leaders have also raised questions over Muraleedharan's loss, demanding the resignation of district president Jose Vallore and senior leader T N Prathapan, who had won in 2019 from Thrissur.

KPCC chief Sudhakaran met Muraleedharan at his residence in Kozhikode. Earlier in Kannur, Sudhakaran, who comfortably retained the Kannur LS seat, suggested that the party was even prepared to field Muraleedharan in Wayanad LS seat if Rahul Gandhi vacated it for Rae Bareilly. "There is no obstacle for Muraleedharan to contest in Wayanad. The party should make the decision," Sudhakaran said, noting this would depend on Rahul's decision regarding seats he has won. Asked if he was willing to hand over KPCC chief post to Muraleedharan, he said, "Muraleedharan is suitable for any position."

No talks yet but Cong capable of going solo: Hooda on Assembly polls

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 6

BUOYED BY the Congress's victory in 5 LS seats in Haryana, former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda said Thursday the party is capable of contesting the Assembly elections due in October on its own.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Hooda said, "As of now, there is no discussion on whether we will contest the election alone or in alliance. However, the Congress itself is capable (in contesting the election on its own)."

The Congress contested the Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the AAP in Haryana. The AAP lost the lone Kurukshetra seat it contested. Hooda, who along with 4 newly elected Lok Sabha MPs went to Delhi, said the party's vote share increased to nearly 48% from 28% in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, while the BJP vote share has reduced to 46% from 58% five years ago.

In the 2019 elections, the BJP had won all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana.

Talking about the election results, Hooda said, "In the country, I believe the INDIA bloc has secured the highest vote share in Haryana, followed by Karnataka. People have made up their minds to form a Congress government next in Haryana. After winning the Assembly election, we will again introduce the Old Pension Scheme for government employees. Our poll manifesto will also be released soon."

The Congress Legislative Party group will meet in Chandigarh on June 10 this year.

SP Dalit leader who won Ayodhya targets BJP: 'They did business in Ram's name'

DHEERAJ MISHRA & LALMANI VERMA
AYODHYA, NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

IT WAS ONE of the most viral moments from the Lok Sabha election campaign trail. Canvassing in the Faizabad constituency in UP last month, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav mistakenly referred to his party's candidate Awadhesh Prasad as "poorva vidhayak (former MLA)". As Prasad, standing beside Akhilesh on the stage, pointed out that he was still an MLA, Akhilesh quickly corrected himself. "*Poorva vidhayak isliye bol raha hoon kyunki sansad banne wala ho* (I said you are a former MLA because you are about to become an MP)," Akhilesh said,

224 seats with 50%-plus vote share in 2019, BJP tally now down to 156

ANJISHNU DAS
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

IN THE 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when the BJP had won 303 seats, it had won 224 of them with more than 50% of vote share. This time, not only did the BJP fall short of an outright majority, getting 240 seats, it won only 156 of them with more than 50% vote share.

In 2019, of the 224 seats won by the BJP by over 50% of votes, it got over 70% of votes in seven seats, between 60% and 70% in 77 seats, and between 50% and 60% in another 140 seats.

In 2024, it again won seven seats with over 70% of votes, but won half the seats it got in 2019, that is 39 seats, with 60% to 70% vote share. The seats it won with 50% to 60% vote share also fell, from 140 to 110. Besides, the party won 78 seats with 40% to 50% vote share, and another five with 30% to 40% vote share.

Among the 224 seats the party had won with over 50% vote share in 2019, the BJP retained 176 and lost 45. Of these, 29 seats were lost to Congress and eight to SP.

Three of the 224 seats were left by BJP for its allies JD(U), JD(S) and RLD this time, and all three won.

'Almost all of Bengal Congress opposed alliance with TMC'

IN A major setback to Congress and its unit in West Bengal, ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY, the party's outgoing floor leader of Lok Sabha, lost from Baharampur to TMC's debut face and cricketer-turned-politician Yusuf Pathan. In an interview with MANOJ C G. Chowdhury speaks of the reasons behind his loss, dynamics of TMC and Congress in Bengal, and his future. Excerpts:

What went wrong in Baharampur?

A defeat is a defeat. I did everything I could, but I could not succeed. I have won the seat five times. I am hearing the BJP polled more votes this time.

The ruling party in West Bengal (TMC) waged a strange campaign. They imported someone from outside — I do not have any objection to that — but he (Pathan) came and started telling minorities to vote for 'bhai' and not 'dada'. Dada means Hindu and bhai means Muslim.

But I don't have any complaints against anybody... He is a sportsman and fought like one... I tried, but our fight was against the ruling party. They have the organisation, control all the panchayats and municipalities. Slowly, people were given the benefits of welfare schemes. My district is a very poor district and is hub of migrant workers.

... And they said in the campaign that if TMC candidate loses, Lakshmir Bandar scheme will be stopped. They created that fear. But I am not saying all these as excuses. I accept the defeat unconditionally.

TMC has said you stood in the way of an alliance with the Congress in West Bengal...

I had told my party I have no problem with the party entering into an agreement with anyone. But I told them that she (West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee)

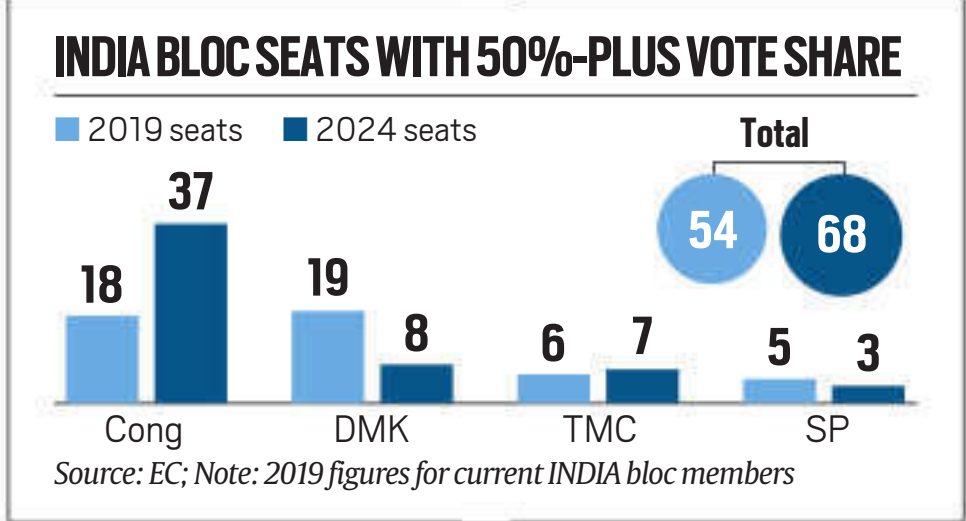
drawing loud cheers.

Akhilesh's words came true on June 4 as Prasad, a nine-time MLA and SP founder member, defeated two-time MP Lallu Singh of BJP. Prasad, who is from the Pasi community, is the only Dalit leader to have won from a non-reserved constituency. Though he does not like to identify himself as a Dalit leader and considers himself to be a representative of all classes and communities, Prasad is now the Dalit face of a Yadav party.

Since his victory, his supporters have been thronging his home near the Sahadatganj over-bridge in Ayodhya. Seemingly overwhelmed by the wishes, the 79-year-old SP leader sat down for an interview with *The Indian Express* in a room where a framed

State/UT	2019	2024	State/UT	2019	2024
Uttar Pradesh	40	13	West Bengal	5	2
Rajasthan	23	12	Jharkhand	8	6
Maharashtra	15	5	Assam	7	6
Bihar	14	8	Chhattisgarh	6	5
Haryana	9	3	Arunachal	2	1
Karnataka	22	17	Chandigarh	1	0
Gujarat	26	23	Punjab	1	0

Source: Election Commission



Source: EC; Note: 2019 figures for current INDIA bloc members

Across the 176 seats that it won with over 50% votes which the BJP retained from 2019, its vote share fell in 132 seats and rose by 5% points or more in just 12 seats.

Across all the 224 seats, excluding those that the BJP left to

its allies and the Surat seat which the party won uncontested, the BJP's vote share fell by an average of 5.31% points. In Rajasthan's Barmer, decline was from 59.52% votes in 2019 to just 17%, with Congress winning the seat this time.

Independent, who won Sangli, extends support to Congress

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, JUNE 6

VISHAL PATIL, the Congress rebel candidate who won from Sangli LS seat, Thursday extended support to the Congress, INDIA bloc and the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

"With his support, the Congress strength will go up to 100 in the Lok Sabha," said Congress MLA Vishwajeet Kadam, his mentor who fought very hard to get nomination for Vishal Patil.

Vishal Patil and his mentor MLA Vishwajeet Kadam Thursday met Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. Patil handed over the letter of his support to Kharge.

"My family has been part of the Congress for years. My father, grandfather and brother have been members of the Congress party," he said.

Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said Vishal Patil will now become the associate member of Congress. "He will have to now submit a letter for becoming associate MP of Congress to the Lok Sabha secretariat. Only after the Lok Sabha secretariat ap-

In fight for Paswan's political legacy, Chirag scores cent percent

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JUNE 6

WINNING THE seat represented eight times by his father Ram Vilas Paswan, whose political career spanned over 50 years, and the 4 others that his faction contested in Bihar in the Lok Sabha elections, has cemented Chirag Paswan's position as the third-most important ally in the NDA after the TDP and JD(U).

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections marked the first poll contested by the young Dalit leader since his father's demise in 2020 and the subsequent split in his Lok

Of the 156 seats BJP won this time with over 50% vote share, just 10 are seats the BJP had failed to win in 2019, while 5 are those it had won with less than 50% votes.

In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP won all 25 seats with over 50% vote share, the highest such tally from a single state and a feat it had achieved in 2019 too. The party won 23 of Gujarat's 26 seats with more than half the vote share, and 17 of Karnataka's total 28 seats with similar votes.

In four other states where the BJP won all seats — Delhi (seven), Uttarakhand (five), Himachal Pradesh (four) and Tripura (two) — all these victories came with over 50% vote share. The party had similarly swept Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal in 2019 too.

The BJP's poor performances in states like UP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are notable as the party had won a significant chunk of its seats, including with more than half the vote share, from these states in 2019. Last time, the party had won 40 of UP's total 80 seats with over 50% vote share, a figure that has dropped to just 13 this time. In Maharashtra, its 50%-plus seats fell from 15 to 5, and in Rajasthan, from 23 to 12. Among the 53 seats won by the BJP's NDA

partners this time, 30 were won with over 50% vote share.

Opp's 50%-plus wins

The INDIA bloc members won 68 of their total 233 seats with over 50% of vote share, compared to 54 of their total 120 seats in 2019 (excluding the Shiv Sena and NCP, which were united at the time). The Congress won 37 of its 99 seats with over 50% vote share. The next largest party with such wins was the DMK, at eight seats, followed by the TMC at seven.

Of the 68 seats won by the INDIA bloc with more than half the vote share, none came with more than 70% votes.

The most 50%-plus vote share wins for the INDIA bloc came from Tamil Nadu, where the DMK won eight such seats. In Maharashtra, the INDIA bloc won 9 seats with over half the vote share. In Rajasthan, the Congress won six seats with over half the vote share.

Other states where the INDIA bloc won seats similarly included West Bengal (7); UP (6); Karnataka and Kerala (5 each); Assam, Jharkhand and Telangana (3 each); Haryana and J&K (2 each); and Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Puducherry (1 each).



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with Sangli MP Vishal Patil in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

proves it and issues gazette notification, he can be called the associate MP of Congress...Congress strength in Lok Sabha will then go up to 100," Chavan said. In Maharashtra, 13 candidates were elected on Congress ticket. With Patil's support, the Congress strength of MPs will go up to 14.

This morning, Kadam took Vishal Patil to Mumbai where they met MPCC chief Nana Patole and then went to Delhi to meet the Congress leadership.

Patil said his family and the

Thackeray family have also been very close. "Our party leaders tried their best to convince Uddhav Thackeray to field me from Sangli. However, somehow things did not work out. My family and Thackeray family have very good rapport. Now that I have been elected, I hope all misunderstandings will end," Patil said.

Chavan said Uddhav Thackeray had erred in not extending support to Patil. "We tried our best, but Uddhav refused to listen," said Chavan.



PM Narendra Modi with LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan. File

Janshakti Party (LJP) into the National Lok Janshakti Party — one led by Paswan's brother Pashupati Kumar Paras and the

spreading lies in the country, saying, '*Hum Ram ko laaye hain* (We brought back Ram)'. The reality is they cheated the country in the name of Ram, did business in the name of Ram, allowed inflation to rise in the name of Ram, created unemployment in the name of Ram, and uprooted the poor and farmers in the name of Ram. The BJP has worked to destroy the dignity of Ram. People have understood this," said the SP MP.

Asked what played the biggest role in his win, Prasad said, "This was an election where the public took matters into its own hands. Everyone had faith in me... Caste did not come to the fore. Lallu Singh said the BJP needed 400 seats to change the Constitution. He should not have said this.

People did not like it."

Prasad, a law graduate, joined active politics when he was 21 years old. He joined Charan Singh's Bharatiya Kranti Dal and unsuccessfully contested his first Assembly polls from Sohawal in Ayodhya district in 1974. During Emergency, he served as Faizabad district co-convenor of the anti-Emergency Sangharsh Samiti and was arrested. While in jail, his mother passed away and he failed to get parole to attend her last rites.

Recollecting the episode, Prasad got emotional, calling it one of the regrets of his life. "My only regret is that I could not see my mother (in her last moments). It was during Emergency and I was in jail at the time. Her body was kept for five days but I could not



Near Rampath in Ayodhya on Wednesday, a day after the Lok Sabha election results were announced. PTI

BJP loss includes 5 of 9 seats in Ayodhya region, 9 of 12 in Varanasi

BHUPENDRA PANDEY
LUCKNOW, JUNE 6

THE BJP's big loss in UP included setbacks in the regions of Ayodhya and Varanasi, both crucial to the party's Hindutva project, which its governments in state and Centre having showered special attention since coming to power.

While Ayodhya saw the consecration of the Ram Temple, Varanasi is now not only PM Narendra Modi's constituency for the third time in running, but also the site of his government's ambitious Kashi Vishwanath Temple corridor project.

Of the nine LS seats in the Ayodhya region, the BJP lost in five, down from 7 in 2019. The constituencies from which it lost included Faizabad, under which the Ram Temple falls, which was won by SP's Awadhesh Prasad Singh, a Dalit fielded from a general category seat. BJP had won the constituency in both 2014 and 2019.

In Sultanpur, BJP candidate Maneka Gandhi was served her first-ever electoral defeat by the SP's Ram Bhual Nishad, who is originally from Gorakhpur. Basti LS seat was also won by SP, with the BJP's two-time sitting MP from here, Harish Dwivedi, losing.

The BJP also lost Ambedkar Nagar and Shravasti, which it had not won in 2019 either. However, the party was hoping to reverse its fate given that the consecration of Ram Temple happened just four months ago. In fact, Ram Temple construction committee chairman and PM Modi aide Nripendra Misra's son Saket Mishra was Shravasti BJP candidate.

The constituencies in the Ayodhya region from where the BJP won were Kaiserganj, Gonda, Domariyaganj and Bahraich.

The Varanasi region has 12 LS seats — Varanasi, Jaunpur, Machhlisahr, Bhadohi, Chandauli,

Mirzapur, Robertsganj, Ghazipur, Ghosi, Azamgarh, Lalganj and Ballia. In 2019, the party with ally Apna Dal-Soneylal had won 7 of these, losing Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Ghosi, Lalganj and Azamgarh.

It had won Azamgarh in a by-poll later, after SP chief Akhilesh Yadav vacated the seat to contest Assembly elections. This time, BJP won only 3 (including one won by Apna Dal-Soneylal), losing Jaunpur, Machhlisahr, Chandauli, Robertsganj, Ghazipur, Ghosi, Lalganj, Azamgarh and Ballia.

Among those defeated was Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, the two-time sitting BJP MP from Chandauli, who lost to SP's Bjendra Singh. Robertsganj and Ballia seats had also been won by BJP both in 2014 and 2019. This time the seats were won by the SP's Chhotelal and Sanatan Pandey, respectively.

The big win for BJP here was Varanasi, from where Modi won, though with a much-reduced margin of 1.5 lakh votes.

Mirzapur was won for the third time consecutively by Union minister Anupriya Patel, the leader of the Apna Dal (Soneylal).

In Bhadohi, the BJP's Vinod Kumar Bind defeated the TMC's Lalitesh Pati Tripathi by 44,072 votes. Tripathi, the grandson of former Congress CM Kamlaapati Tripathi, joined the TMC in 2021.

Asked about the party's losses in Varanasi and Ayodhya, a senior BJP leader said they would soon hold a meeting to review the reasons. "Losing Faizabad seat is a big setback," he added.

Another BJP stronghold in UP, Gorakhpur, though, had better news for the party. The long-time fiefdom of CM Yogi Adityanath covers 8 LS seats, including Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Balrampur, Bansgaon, Maharajganj, Deoria, Salempur and Kushinagar. The BJP retained seven of them, losing only Sant Kabir Nagar.

came after Paswan's death and in face of a tough fight and some debt social engineering by RJD-led Mahagathbandhan. The results cement Chirag's position as a leader of Dalits, with LJP winning over 6% of votes.

Soon after completing the formalities regarding results, Chirag told mediapersons: "This moment feels like a dream come true. After I lost my father and the party split, I knew onus of making a comeback was on me."

Chirag is expected to demand a Cabinet berth and a Minister of State position in exchange for his party's allegiance with the NDA.

after the elections are over. 'I was the counting agent. When the news of my father's death came, I was in a dilemma whether to go see him for the last time or listen to my political father Chaudhary Charan Singh. I chose to follow Charan Singh's orders and went home after 14 days,' he said.

As the party splintered, Prasad found himself by Mulayam's side as he launched the SP in 1992. Prasad was appointed the party's national secretary and member of its central parliamentary board.

Now the biggest Dalit leader in SP, Prasad said, "This is not my victory, this is the victory of the great people of Ayodhya... Awadhesh Prasad will consider it his victory when he lives up to what he promised," he said.

What Bihar seat numbers don't tell: RJD 1st in vote share, JDU saw steepest fall

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE NDA may have performed better in Bihar than Uttar Pradesh, winning 31 of the 40 seats in the state, but its vote share has dipped significantly, with victory margins of its candidates shrinking considerably.

Also, while the JD(U) recorded a better strike rate than the BJP in Bihar – it lost only four of its 16 seats, compared to the BJP's five out of 17, thus emerging as a kingmaker at the Centre – its vote share has shrunk more than that of the BJP.

In contrast, the RJD, which won just three seats despite a spirited campaign by former deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav, has increased its vote share by over 6%, compared to 2019.

These trends could be a signal of things to come in the 2025 Assembly polls in Bihar, where the JD(U)'s newfound importance within the NDA could be tested against its popularity on the ground. Across caste lines, voices on the ground suggest that Nitish did not enjoy the pop-



RJD won just three seats despite a spirited campaign by former deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav. *File*

ularity he once did in the state, and the electorate may look for alternatives in 2025.

In 2019, the BJP-JD(U)-LJP combine won 25 seats with a victory margin of over 2 lakh votes. Of these, the NDA won by 3 lakh or more votes in 13 seats. This year, they won by over 2 lakh votes in only two seats – Araria and Muzaffarpur.

The smallest victory margin

was recorded in Saran, where the BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy defeated Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya by just over 13,600 votes. The highest victory margin was recorded in Muzaffarpur, where the BJP's Raj Bhusan Chaudhary won by nearly 2.35 lakh votes, against the Congress's Ajay Nishad.

The significant dip in margins was reflected in the vote shares

of the parties. The BJP got a vote share of 20.5% – a 3.5% fall from 2019. The decline for the JD(U) was 3.75%, to around 18.52% of the vote share this time.

The LJP, which contested one less seat but won all five of its five constituencies, also saw a fall in vote share but by a smaller degree – from 8% in 2019 to 6.5% now.

On the other hand, the RJD, which garnered around 15.7% of the votes in 2019, has improved its vote share to 22.14%, emerging as the single-largest party in Bihar in terms of vote share, and going up from zero to four in seats. In fact, the RJD's vote share improvement was close to the cumulative decline recorded by the BJP and JD(U).

The Congress, which contested in alliance with the RJD, like in 2019, also improved on its vote share, though marginally, from 7.9% in 2019 to 9.2% now.

"The difference in strike rates of the BJP and JD(U) is not a statement on the popularity of the two parties in the state. We continue to command a far higher vote share than the JD(U). Yes, our candidate selection was not good, because of which we lost

a few seats," said a senior BJP leader in the state.

According to the leader, the JD(U), in fact gained from the alliance more, with PM Modi's name helping it "an anti-incumbency undercurrent". "The real difference was the Opposition putting up a good fight by giving tickets to many non-Yadav OBC candidates, which disrupted our electoral calculations."

A JD(U) leader, however, insisted that the results were proof of the enduring popularity of the Nitish government's schemes for the women and poor. "This victory also underlined that Nitish Kumar can't be ignored within the NDA. The 2025 polls are still far away, and political alignments are not the same as in 2020," the leader said.

In the 2020 Assembly elections, the JD(U) had fallen to 43 seats, from over 70 in 2015. This put it far behind both the RJD (the first-placed after the election results) and BJP. JD(U) leaders had blamed it at the time on "sabotage" from within the NDA, with the LJP (which fought separately in Bihar) fielding its nominees against all JD(U) candidates.

Knives out in Bengal BJP after election setback, the target: Suvendu Adhikari

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, JUNE 6

WITH THE BJP failing to replicate its 2019 Lok Sabha election success in West Bengal and losing ground to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the fissures in the state unit are once again out in the open, with at least two prominent leaders criticising the state leadership in recent days.

The party's Bishnupur MP Saumitra Khan – he defeated his ex-wife and TMC candidate Sujata Mondal by 5,567 votes, the lowest among all 42 seats in the state – fired the first shot on Wednesday when he said, "Had it not been for the efforts of the RSS and the central BJP leadership, we would not have won the number of seats which we won. We would have drawn a blank. There are no experienced leaders in the party who have experienced electoral success in their careers. The leaders also lack organisational knowledge."

Alleging that a section of BJP leaders had "an understanding with the TMC", Khan said, "Maybe some senior leaders of the party entered into an understanding with the TMC. If that had not happened, then we would have won more seats in Bengal. Only experienced leaders can run the state unit. This seat (Bishnupur) should have been won by 1 lakh votes. If I were with the TMC, I would have won this seat by more than two



Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari; former state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh. *File*

lakh votes."

Former state BJP president and the party's Bardhaman-Durgapur candidate Dilip Ghosh, who lost to the TMC's Kirti Azad by 1.38 lakh votes, also trained his gun at the state leadership. Without naming Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, Ghosh said on Wednesday, "Conspiracies and backbiting are part of politics. I take them that way. Despite that, I worked hard enough, but success did not come. In politics, everyone walks around with a stick to poke you. The party was moving at a faster pace till 2021, which somehow got stuck after that. We could not move at the same pace in which we were moving till 2021. We had hoped a lot this year, but could not perform. There must be some gap. We must examine that. Everything should be discussed."

The Leader of the Opposition and members of his camp have not yet reacted to the criticism from within the party.

Ghosh was removed as the

After Annamalai dig, AIADMK responds: 'Better result had he controlled his mouth'

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JUNE 6

AFTER THE DMK-led alliance swept all 39 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK and the BJP – former allies who parted ways before this year's polls – kicked off a war of words regarding the results.

The exchanges began Wednesday when BJP state president Annamalai took aim at the AIADMK, claiming that the party being pushed to third position in a dozen seats where the BJP came second was in itself a victory for his party.

Reacting to this, the former AIADMK minister R B Udhayakumar blamed Annamalai for the poor showing of both parties.

"If Annamalai had controlled his mouth, there would have been a better result. Only one leader is responsible for this massive defeat of everyone. For his inexperience, all parties in Tamil Nadu faced this tragic result. If he had learnt from his predecessors and controlled his tongue, even Delhi leaders wouldn't be suffering this much. His wrong move made BJP short of a simple majority in Delhi," said Udhayakumar, an influential leader in Madurai – one of the seats where AIADMK was pushed to the third position.

Suggesting that it was Annamalai who forced AIADMK and BJP to part ways,



BJP state chief Annamalai

Udhayakumar said an alliance would have won many seats. "He attacked us when we were in the Opposition. He defamed us not knowing who is friend and foe," he said.

In Coimbatore, SP Velumani, another AIADMK heavyweight and former minister, addressed the press with a clear message on Thursday morning. He said that an AIADMK-BJP alliance would have secured 30-35 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Velumani placed the blame for the split squarely on the shoulders of Annamalai.

Annamalai, who lost to DMK's Raj Kumar by 1,18,068 votes in Coimbatore, fired back at the criticism: "AIADMK leaders claimed they lost seats in 2019 because of BJP, and would gain more in 2024 after parting ways with us. This shows an internal conflict between Velumani and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami."

Maharashtra question: What is Ajit Pawar's next move?

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, JUNE 6

AT THE REVIEW meeting held by NCP chief Ajit Pawar on Thursday to discuss the party's LS poll performance, winning just one seat, five of his 41 MLAs were absent. Narhari Zirwal is said to be abroad, and four reported to be unwell. Ajit, on his part, skipped the NDA meet in Delhi Wednesday.

The developments are set to add to the speculation around the fate – and plans – of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, after Sharad Pawar again stole a march over his nephew by leading his party to eight seats out of the 10 it contested. Ajit's NCP, on the other hand, contested four seats and won only Raigad. Among the constituencies it lost was Baramati, where Ajit's wife Sunetra was pitted against Sharad Pawar's daughter and sitting MP Supriya Sule.

Given Ajit's flip-flops concerning Sharad Pawar earlier – including several near-rebellions – the foremost chatter is that the nephew may be looking to stage another return. Alternatively, a substantial number of his MLAs may be looking to do so.

What is clear is Ajit is left with few bargaining chips. In the Mahayuti vs MVA contest involving six big parties in Maharashtra, Ajit's NCP fared the worst – winning 1 seat and 3.6% votes.

While it contested the least number of constituencies compared to the others, the gap between it and Sharad Pawar's NCP that contested 10 seats is a glaring 7%. Plus, it will be weighing on his MLAs that, going by the LS



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar meets his party leaders in Mumbai on Thursday. *ANI*

results, they might end up on the losing side in the Assembly polls at the end of this year.

The failure in Baramati – where the BJP too had thrown in its all – will also lower Ajit's stock with the national party.

In his bid to win the Baramati seat, Ajit also left no stone unturned, even burying his long-time rivalries with leaders of other parties. He pressed on even after his own brother and other members of the extended Pawar family sided with Sule.

Sunetra's defeat, however, was comprehensive, with Sule winning five of the six Assembly constituencies under Baramati.

Underlining the scale of Ajit's personal defeat, Ankush Kakade, a leader of the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) said: "Voters did not approve of him ditching Pawar saheb and joining hands with BJP. They did not like how Ajit targeted Pawar saheb at rallies."

Those in the Ajit camp, however, claim a silver lining in Fadnavis's offer to resign owing "moral responsibility" for the poor showing of their Mahayuti coalition. Many believe the offer was made to pave the way for

the BJP to move Fadnavis to Delhi in a senior position – a plan long in the works.

Amit Gorkhe, a BJP leader seen as close to Fadnavis, said his offer had "stumped" his followers. "The Deputy CM is not one to run away. He has faced many storms in his life."

If Fadnavis is removed from the Maharashtra picture, Ajit's aides say, it will create an opening for the latter to become the CM of the Mahayuti government, replacing Eknath Shinde. The Shinde-led Shiv Sena also did not fare as well as it hoped in LS polls, winning 7 seats, two less than the count of Uddhav-led Sena.

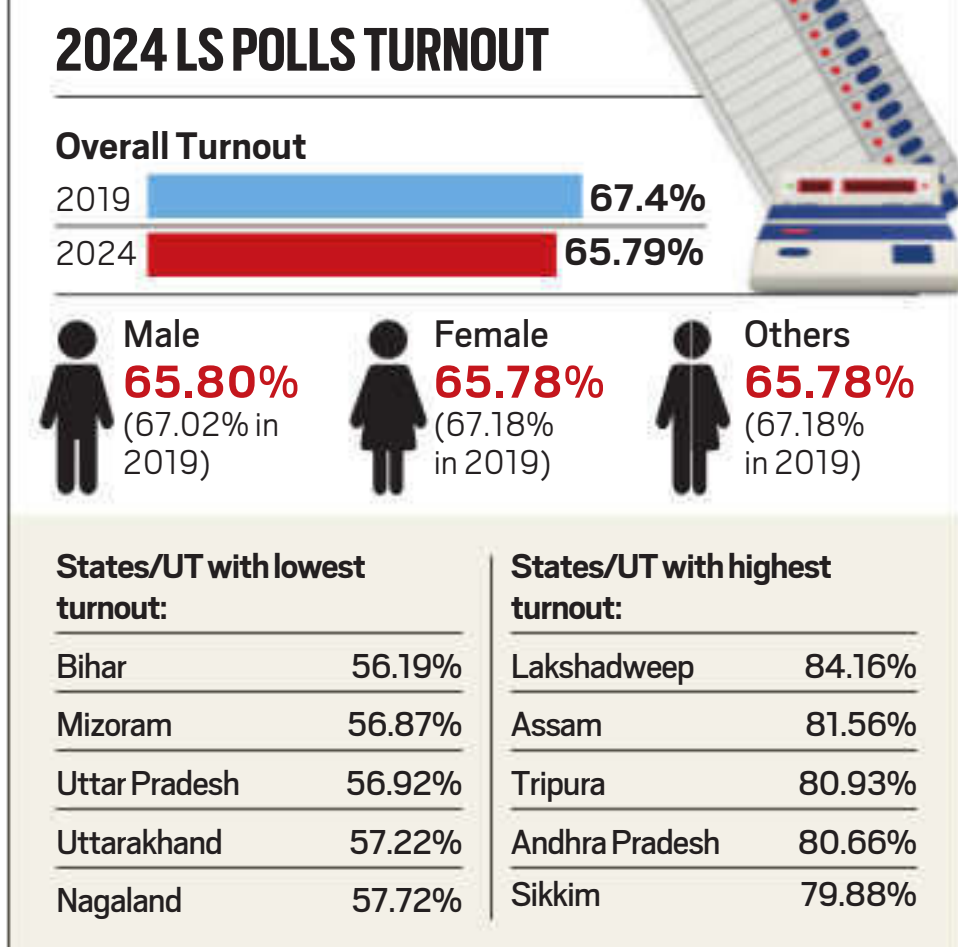
"Shinde does not have the charisma to lead the Mahayuti. Only Ajit Pawar can help the coalition win in the Assembly elections," said an NCP leader.

But with one seat in his kitty, chances of Ajit being picked as CM or CM face seem highly unlikely. NCP spokesperson Umesh Patil told *The Indian Express* that too much should not be read into Ajit skipping the NDA meet with Ajit deputing Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare to attend in his place.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE OVERALL turnout in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections stood at 65.79% – 1.61 percentage points lower than the 2019 polls.

Five days after the last phase of polling on June 1 and two days after results were announced on Tuesday, the Election Commission on Thursday released the final turnout figures for the Lok Sabha elections. Male voters had a marginally higher turnout (65.80%) than females (65.78%). Voters of the other genders category recorded a turnout of 27.08% – an increase from 14.64% in 2019. These figures only account for those who voted at polling stations and not those who voted via postal ballots. Nineteen states recorded higher female turnout compared to their male counterparts, with Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh being the top states. In Bihar, the female turnout was 59.39%, while for the males it stood at 53.28% – in keeping with the trend seen in the state for the past many years. Gujarat had the highest gap between male and female turnouts – for males it was 63.52% and for females it



stood at 56.56%. Meghalaya recorded 100% turnout for the other gender category. At 56.19%, Bihar had the lowest turnout among all states and UTs while Lakshadweep (84.16%) and Assam (81.56%) were the UT and state with the highest turnout respectively.

Of the 523 seats – 14 seats of Assam and five of Jammu and Kashmir where delimitation has

changed boundaries of constituencies since 2019; and one from Gujarat (Surat), where the BJP won uncontested, were not included for the comparison – 351 recorded a decrease in voter turnout compared to 2019.

Nagaland recorded the highest decrease in voter turnout (25.35 percentage points), while Shillong had the highest increase (8.33 percentage points).

BRIEFLY CHHATTISGARH Teen girl raped by six, including four minors

Raipur: Six persons, four of them minors, allegedly raped a 13-year-old girl in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district, police said, adding that they have been nabbed. "We formed three teams and nabbed all the accused before they could flee," said Jashpur SP Shashi Mohan Singh. "The adults were arrested and the four minors, in the 16-17 age group, have been detained." **ENS**

MANIPUR Man bludgeons 12-year-old girl to death

Imphal: A 12-year-old girl was bludgeoned to death by a 47-year-old man in Thoubal district of Manipur on Thursday. Police said the girl was attacked while on her way to school. The motive behind the attack is yet to be ascertained. **ENS**

Karnataka minister quits over graft allegation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JUNE 6

IN A setback to the CM Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government, the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister B Nagendra, facing allegations in connection with the ₹94.73-crore fund misappropriation in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation (KMVSTDC), said Thursday that he has decided to resign.

Nagendra held a press conference Thursday and announced

his decision to resign. "For the last 10 days, the media has been reporting about the case. Also, the opposition (BJP) has been targeting the government. I have met CM Siddaramaiah and deputy CM D K Shivakumar. No one pressured me to resign. With my conscience and to ensure that people are not misled (about me), I have voluntarily... (decided to resign)," he said.

Asked if he was unaware of the irregularities, Nagendra said that he had suspended the Managing Director of the corporation after he came to know

about the alleged irregularities. "I was totally unaware of (the alleged irregularities) and when the incident came to light, from this very office of mine, I had suspended the Managing Director. There is no way that the government will protect anyone who is involved in the scam," he said.

Asked about an audio clip, which has been widely circulated, where a suspect is heard referring to a "minister" who is aware of transactions, the four-time MLA, who is also the Youth Empowerment and Sports Minister, said, "He has not taken

my name and just by uttering the word minister, it doesn't mean it is about me."

"SIT is probing the case... If I'm in the Minister post during the probe it may cause problems. Considering this, I have come to this decision (to resign)," he said and called the allegations against him baseless. He asserted that he will be proved "innocent".

Several Union Bank of India officials among others were booked in connection with the case. The Karnataka government has formed an SIT. The CBI has also registered a case.

AFTER NEET RESULTS, 18-YEAR-OLD DIES BY SUICIDE IN KOTA

Jaipur: A day after results of the NEET-UG were declared, a student in Kota allegedly died by suicide. According to the police, 18-year-old Bagisha Tiwari jumped from the ninth floor of a building on Wednesday afternoon.

She had scored 320 out of 720 marks in NEET, whose results were announced Tuesday.

The teenager lived in same building with her mother and brother, a Class 12 student and a JEE aspirant. Circle Inspector (CI) at Jawahar Nagar police station Harinarayan Sharma said. **ENS**

For 2-week COP29, host Azerbaijan seeks a pause in conflicts

AMITABH SINHA
BAKU, JUNE 6

AZERBAIJAN, THE host of this year's climate change conference, is hoping to convince the warring parties in the two ongoing conflicts for a truce during the two-week long event in mid-November to focus on the issue of climate change.

The Russia-Ukraine war, which has been going on for the last two years, and the Israel-Palestinian conflict since the October 7 attack by Hamas, are happening within the extended neighbourhood of the central Asian republic of Azerbaijan.

"We are hoping to host a conference of peace. At least during the COP (Conference of Parties, as the climate talks are officially known), all cannons should stop and we should all work and focus on the climate issue, if not for our own sake then for the sake of our children and grandchildren," said Hikmet Hajiyev, foreign policy advisor to Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, in an interaction with Indian journalists. Azerbaijan itself has been in-

volved in a long-standing dispute with neighbour Armenia over claims on Nagorno-Karabakh region. But in a surprise agreement in December last year, the two countries expressed their intention to normalise relations and reach a peace treaty. That agreement also paved way for hosting the COP in Azerbaijan, which Armenia had been opposed to till that point.

Hajiyev said Azerbaijan would offer its own example to try and convince the other countries to cease hostilities during the COP. "We are trying to build support for our initiative. We have spoken to our UN counterparts and several countries and have received positive responses," he said. The idea of "COP truce" is similar to the tradition of Olympic truce which usually sees a cessation of hostilities during the summer and winter Olympic Games.

"Azerbaijan's approach (as host of COP29) is to try and impress upon everyone that the climate issue is very different. On geopolitical and security issues, countries can be on different sides of the fence, but climate affects everybody, everywhere," he said.

Statue relocation in Parliament complex sparks controversy

New Delhi: The relocation of the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr B R Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji from one spot to another within the Parliament complex sparked a political row on Thursday with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleging that they were being removed from a place of prominence.

After Ramesh raised the issue, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said the statues of leaders would be relocated to a "grand Prerana Sthal" within the premises. The Lok Sabha said the plan was a part of the development works after the construction of the new Parliament building, which was inaugurated in May last year.

"Statues of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar have just been removed from their places of prominence in front of the Parliament House. This is atrocious," Ramesh said on X.

The Lok Sabha said the statues were not being removed, but relocated. "It is clear that the statue of any great leader has not been removed from the Parliament House complex. Their statues are being installed systematically and respectfully inside the Parliament House Complex," it said. **ENS**



I-HUB QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION, ISER PUNE
First Floor, Main Building, ISER Pune Campus, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune 411 008
Tel: 020-25908241 Email: qtf_purchase@quantech.org In Website: www.quantech.org in

Global Tender Notice

I-HUB Quantum Technology Foundation, ISER Pune invites bids Original Equipment Manufacturers, Foreign Principals and Indian Agents of Foreign Principals, Authorized Distributors of Original Equipment Manufacturer for the following scientific equipment:

• Atomic Force Microscope

• Rapid Thermal Process Furnace

• Cryogenic Temperature Controllers

• Inductively Coupled Plasma-Reactive Ion Etching System

Last date for bid submission is : 08/07/2024

Details of tender are provided in the tender documents published on:
• <https://gem.gov.in> • <https://www.quantech.org.in/tenders>

Advt. No: I-HUBQTF/AD/24-25/001 Dated: 05/06/2024 PROJECT DIRECTOR, I-HUB QTF

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Jitesh S/o:** Jamana Parsad, R/o: H. No. 61, Gali 6B, Vill. Rang Puri, Mahipal Pur, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 212/13, U/s 279/337 IPC**, registered at P.S.: Shalimar Bagh, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon it that the said accused **Jitesh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Jitesh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Jitesh** accused of **FIR No. 212/13, U/s 279/337 IPC**, registered at P.S.: Shalimar Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **11.07.2024**.

By Order

Ms. Ritika Kansal
Metropolitan Magistrate-07

DP/6936/NW/2024 North-West District, Room No. 208, 2nd Floor,
(Court Matter) Rohini Courts, Delhi

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that a one male person was found in unconscious condition near KG Marg-Tolstoy Red Light. New Delhi dated **28.05.2024**. He was got admitted by PCR Van in Lady Hardinge Hospital, New Delhi. During Treatment he was declared dead by doctor on 02.06.2024. In this regard a **GD No. 65A** dated **02.06.2024** has been registered at **P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 50-55 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Long, **Build:** Thin, **Identification Mark:** Old Scar Mark on Chin, **Wearing:** Light Blue Colour T-shirt, Black Colour Jeans Pant and bare feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.



SHO

P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

DP/6746/NDD/2024 Ph.: 011-23413999, 8750870527



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice: 11/2024

Dated: 06.06.2024

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: 13245435

Qty.: 01 Set

EMD (Rs.): NIL

Tender Opening Date: 08.07.2024

Description: Supply and Installation of Nine Number Modular office workstation, size greater than 4x2x3.5 feet (as per site), equipped with one sliding keyboard tray, mobile pedestal with two/three drawers (as per site), one compartment and foot keeping platform, professionally polished for refined look, utilizing durable 45mm metal powder coated beadings and pre-laminated board, custom design crafted as per site in charge instruction to meet exact specification as per site requirements and one Number Revolving chair with push back, cushioned seat with cushion and backrest, adjustable arms, synchro knee tilt mechanism, chrome base for stability and durability, ergonomic high back chair, leatherite upholstery for easy maintenance.

Note:-(1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website is <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class II digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed on their body. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 991/24(A)

North central railways

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www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867
Victoria Cross Vijayta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
Telephone.: 0135-2762444, Fax No.0135-2763839, Email: cgmupcl@yahoo.com, Website: www.upcl.org

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited invites e-tenders (www.mstcecommerce.com) for purchase of 200 MW RTC power for the period from 21-06-2024 to 30-06-2024 (RTC) as per Ministry of Power, Government of India guidelines dated 30-03-2016 and its amendment from time to time against Tender Specification No. 15/CE (COMM)/UPCL-15/2024 as detailed below:-

The timelines for short term procurement/bid process and activities thereafter are as under:-

Last Date of request for purchase of tender document

12/06/2024 upto 12:00 hrs.

Last Date of and time of submission of e-tender document

12/06/2024 upto 17:00 hrs.

Date and time of opening of tender document (Part-1)

13/06/2024 upto 11:00 hrs.

Date and time of opening of Initial Price Offer (IPO) & e-Reverse Auction (e-RA)

Shall be intimated through email after conducting of technical evaluation of the tender.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Bank Guarantee should be in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun.

Rs. 30,000/MW/month of offered capacity

Cost of tender Specification (Demand Draft in favour of) Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali, Road, Dehradun

Rs. 29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only) including taxes.

The qualifying requirements for a bidder to bid for this tender are as follows:

1. The bidder must quote not less than 20 MW quantum of power from single source of generation.

2. The quantum of power offered by the bidder shall be firm power for the duration mentioned above.

3. The bidder must submit the details of Bidder Company as per Annexure A of tender specification for consideration of their bid. Bidder shall ensure submission of (General/Technical/Financial Information. for last three years supported by unabridged Annual Financial Statements, assets and liabilities statements and other financial statements duly certified.)

4. If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of valid Category license or equivalent Trading License issued by CERC/Appropriate Commission.

5. If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of at least one number executed power purchase agreement or an equivalent arrangement for supply of power/Letter of intent.

6. The consultancy/Joint Venture firm deputed by UPCL as a consultant shall not be eligible for participating in aforesaid tender.

7. The bidder has to submit a self declaration in Rs. 100/-non judicial stamp paper declaring that the bidder has cleared all his dues/liabilities and has no outstanding net financial liability/net dues towards UPCL on the last date of submission of bid.

8. Power will be scheduled under GNA. IF GNA is not available, then power will be scheduled under T-GNA and charge of T-GNA will be borne by buyer. It is also being clarify the delivery point will remain same i.e. Uttarakhand State periphery.

UPCL reserve the right to unilaterally reject the bid at any stage of the processing of the tender if any declaration submitted by the bidder is found false/incorrect/misrepresented. The documents will be issued to the bidders only through e-tender i.e. (www.mstcecommerce.com). E- tenders will be received and opened on the dates as mentioned above. In case the above date is holiday, the tenders will be received & opened on the next working day at same time. The undersigned reserves the right to refuse to issue the tender documents to any applicant and also to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and no claim on this account shall be acceptable. **The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered.** Bid will be submitted on (www.mstcecommerce.com) only and hard copy of technical bid will also be submitted to the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document. For any assistance an E-tendering, please contact on telephone number 011-23217850.

No.: 277/EE(cm)/UPCL/A-2

Date: 06/06/2024

Superintending Engineer (Commercial)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION Use LED Bulb Save Electricity. (Toll-Free- 1800 419 0405 or 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No.: 0135-2760911)



NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 103/2023-2024 dated 20.03.2024 S. No. 13
Tender Number 77239072RGC Opening date 06.06.2024.
The opening date of tender has been extended from 06.06.2024 to 27.06.2024. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.
Date: 06.06.2024 1686/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-39 The details are as under:

1. **Name of the work:** 'Hiring of experienced monkey handler for deployment in Electric Loco Shed Ghaziabad to tackle monkey menace' in two shifts for a period of 24 Months.

2. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 84,78,823.52

3. **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 17,500.00

4. **Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender:** 27.06.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)

5. **Date & Time of opening of tender document:** 27.06.2024 (After 11:00 Hrs.)

6. **Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.
No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-39 Dated: 03.06.2024 1691/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused **Sandeep @ Macho S/o Sh. Vijay, R/o- H. No. 11001, Gali Pipal wali, Motia Khan, Sadar Bazar, Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 000506/22 U/s 379/34 IPC PS Sadar Bazar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Sandeep @ Macho** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sandeep @ Macho** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sandeep @ Macho** of case **FIR No. 000506/22 U/s 379/34 IPC PS Sadar Bazar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **10.07.2024**.

By Order,

Sh. Gaurav Goyal
Metropolitan Magistrate-06,
Room No. 247, Central Distt.
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/6806/N/2024 (Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a Male namely **Unknown, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, was found dead on 30.05.2024 at **Time:** 15:29:05 Hrs. from the area in Front of ISBT Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard **DD No.: 59A, Dated 30.05.2024**, has been lodged at Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Photo is not clear.



Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Sex : Male, Age: about 60 years, **Height : 5'3"** **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Identification Mark:** ✶ Tatto on right hand, **Wearing:** White Colour Payjama.
If any one having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

SHO

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DP/6963/N/2024 Ph.: 011-23968730 & 8750870180

"IMPORTANT"

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a Male namely **Unknown, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, was found dead on 20.05.2024 at **Time:** 17:37 Hrs. from the area in Front of Near about A-3/46, Sec.-4, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard **DD No.: 96A, Dated 20.05.2024**, has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Photo is not clear.



Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Sex : Male, Age: about 65 years, **Height : 5'4"** **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Build:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow Blue Checkdar Shirt & Black Colour Pant.
If any one having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

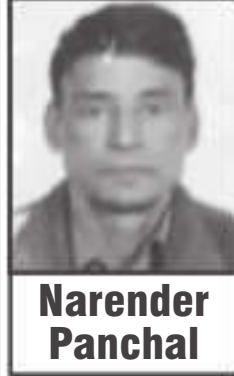
SHO

P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi

DP/6899/RD/2024 Ph.: 011-27521294 & 27521295

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Narender Panchal, S/o Babu Ram Panchal, R/o Gali No. 5, Ashok Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since **14.04.2024 at 08:00 AM from his home**. In this regard **DD No. 48 A, dated 04.05.2024**, has been lodged at Police Station Jyoti Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:



Narender Panchal

Name: Narender Panchal, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Build: Medium, Face: Long, Wearing: Unknown Colour T-Shirt & Pant and Shoes in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Jyoti Nagar, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Jyoti Nagar, Delhi
DP/5594/NE/2024 Ph: 011-22814186, 8750870726

AUCTION OF MISCELLANEOUS STORES OF ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL PARK & TRAINING AREA (AEPTA) DHAULA KUAN, NEW DELHI-110010

Auction for miscellaneous unserviceable stores will be held on 11 June 2024 (Tuesday) at 1100 hours at Army Environmental Park & Training Area, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi-110010. Vendors interested to bid are welcome to attend.

HONORARY SECRETARY

ARMY ENVIORNMENTAL PARK & TRAINING AREA

Contact Number: 011-25693830 & 011-25684179



NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 103/2023-2024 dated 20.03.2024 S. No. 13
Tender Number 77239072RGC Opening date 06.06.2024.
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The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.
Date: 06.06.2024 1686/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



H.P. STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A State Government Undertaking)
Block No. 16 & 17, SDA Commercial Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9, (Himachal Pradesh) (INDIA)
Phone No.: 0177-2621583, Email: himapurtimd@gmail.com

GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE

Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Shimla invites Global E-Tenders for the procurement of **FORTIFIED MUSTARD OIL for three months supply/six months supply (as the case may be)**. The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be down-loaded or viewed on-line from the portal <http://hptenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of sample shall be till **15.06.2024 upto 3.00 PM** and earnest money deposit, tender document fee, processing fee shall be till **14.06.2024 upto 5.00 PM**. On-line tenders shall be till **27.06.2024 upto 5.00 PM**. The tenders of Fortified Mustard Oil shall be opened on **29.06.2024 at 11.00 AM**.

MANAGING DIRECTOR



Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests,
BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building,
N.R.Square, Bangalore-02.

No: DCF/TENDER/PR/02/2024-25 Date: 06-06-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GoK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike invites Tender for Raising & Maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation From Dabaspet to Doddabelavangala Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) both sides (Left & right) During the year 2024-25 and its maintenance up to 2028-29 (5 years) from eligible bidders for the following:

S.N.

Name of the work

1

Raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation Plantation from Dabaspet to Doddabelavangala Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) both sides (Left & right) during the year 2024-25 & maintenance of plantation during the year 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 & 2028-29. Block-1 5450 Plants. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 1,69,38,600 EMD: Rs.2,54,079**

2

Raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation Plantation from Dabaspet to Doddabelavangala Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) both sides (Left & right) during the year 2024-25 & maintenance of plantation during the year 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 & 2028-29. Block-2 5450 Plants. **Estimated Amount : Rs. 1,69,38,600 EMD: Rs.2,54,079**

Time Schedule : 1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from e-Procurement website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> portal : From 10-06-2024 onwards. 2) Last Date and Time for uploading Online : Queries in e-Procurement <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> portal: 14-06-2024 up to 5:00 PM. 3) Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting: 15-06-2024 at 05:00 PM at the following venue: Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annex-3 building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560-002, Mob 9480683047 e-mail: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com. 4) Last Date and Time for uploading of: tenders in e-Procurement KPPP portal for : 24-06-2024 up to 5:00 PM. 5) Date and Time of Online Opening of tender : 25-06-2024, 5:30 PM. 6) Place of Opening of tender 7) Online at e-Procurement portal for Communication : Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3 building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-02. dcfbbmp12@gmail.com

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun - 248001
E-mail Id: cgmupcl@yahoo.com, Website: www.upcl.org, Telephone No. 0135-2762444, Fax: 0135-2763839

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited invites e-tenders (www.mstcecommerce.com) for purchase of short term power for the period from **Jul-2024 to Mar-2025 (RTC)** as per Ministry of Power, Government of India guidelines dated 30-03-2016 and its amendment from time to time against Tender Specification **No. 16/CE (COMM)/UPCL-16/2024** as detailed below:-

Month	Timings		Quantum of Power (MW)	Minimum Bid Quantity (MW)	Delivery Point			
	From	To						
Jul-24	00:00	24:00	150	20	Uttarakhand State Periphery			
Aug-24	00:00	24:00	150	20				
Sep-24	00:00	24:00	150	20				
Oct-24	00:00	24:00	150	20				
Nov-24	00:00	24:00	150	20				
Dec-24	00:00	24:00	200	20				
Jan-25	00:00	24:00	200	20				
Feb-25	00:00	24:00	200	20				
Mar-25	00:00	24:00	200	20				
The timelines for short term procurement/bid process and activities thereafter are as under:-								
Last Date of request for purchase of tender document			18/06/2024 upto 12:00 hrs.					
Last date and time of submission of e-tender document			18/06/2024 upto 14:00 hrs.					
Date and time of opening of tender document (Part-1)			18/06/2024 upto 16:00 hrs.					
Date and time of opening of Initial Price Offer (IPO) & e-Reverse Auction (e-RA).			Shall be intimated through email after conducting of technical evaluation of the tender.					
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Bank Guarantee should be in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL, VCB Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun			Rs. 30,000/MW/month of offered capacity					
Cost of tender Specification (Demand Draft in favour) of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL, VCB Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun			Rs. 29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only) including taxes.					
The qualifying requirements for a bidder to bid for this tender are as follows:								
1. The bidder must quote not less than 20 MW quantum of power from single source of generation.								
2. The quantum of power offered by the bidder shall be firm power for the duration mentioned above.								
3. The bidder must submit the details of Bidder Company as per Annexure 'A' of tender specification for consideration of their bid. Bidder shall ensure submission of (General/Technical/Financial Information for last three years supported by unabridged Annual Financial Statements, assets and liabilities statements and other financial statements duly certified.)								
4. If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of valid Category license or equivalent Trading License issued by CERC/Appropriate Commission.								
5. If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of at least one number executed power purchase agreement or an equivalent arrangement for supply of power/Letter of intent.								
6. The consultancy/Joint Venture firm deputed by UPCL as a consultant shall not be eligible for participating in aforesaid tender.								
7. The bidder has to submit a self declaration in Rs. 100/-non judicial stamp paper declaring that the bidder has cleared all his dues/liabilities and has no outstanding net financial liability/net dues towards UPCL on the last date of submission of bid.								
8. Power will be scheduled under GNA. If GNA is not available, then power will be scheduled under T- GNA and charge of T-GNA will be borne by buyer. It is also being clarify the delivery point will remain same i.e. Uttarakhand State periphery.								
UPCL reserve the right to unilaterally reject the bid at any stage of the processing of the tender if any declaration submitted by the bidder is found false/incorrect/misrepresented.								
The documents will be issued to the bidders only through e-tender i.e. (www.mstcecommerce.com). E- tenders will be received and opened on the dates as mentioned above. In case the above date is holiday, the tenders will be received & opened on the next working day at same time. The undersigned reserves the right to refuse to issue the tender documents to any applicant and also to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and no claim on this account shall be acceptable. The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered. Bid will be submitted on (www.mstcecommerce.com) only and hard copy of technical bid will also be submitted to the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document. For any assistance on E-tendering, please contact on telephone number 011-23217850.								
No. 275/EE(cm)/UPCL/A-2			Date 06/06/2024					
Superintending Engineer (Commercial)			Superintending Engineer (Commercial)					
SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org " (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185 /Fax No. 0135-2760911)								

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

ROTI DAL SABZI

Food inflation may have contributed to election result. It will present a challenge for the new government

AMONG THE MANY readings of Verdict 2024 is this one: The outcome, in many parts of the country, may have been shaped by economic issues like *berozgari* (unemployment) and *mehengai* (inflation) rising to the surface, and becoming salient. Of the two, the latter may have proved to be more decisive — Indian voters have historically blamed governments for inflation. They might be reconciled to working for low remuneration, but not to price rise significantly eating into their purchasing power. The average annual consumer price index (CPI) inflation in the 12 months from May 2018 leading to the 2019 election was just 3.3 per cent. It was even lower, at 0.03 per cent, for retail food inflation. Benign inflation provided an environment that was conducive to the Narendra Modi government's return to power by a thumping majority, bigger than in 2014.

It has been different in 2024. Overall CPI inflation has averaged 5.37 per cent year-on-year in the 12 months ended April, way above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4 per cent. It's been higher, at 7.88 per cent, for food inflation and even more in basic foods: Cereals (10.39 per cent), pulses (16.07 per cent) and vegetables (18.33 per cent). The price of roti-dal-sabzi would have arguably weighed much more on the ordinary voter's mind, than in 2019. The Modi government was, no doubt, alive to the situation, responding through supply-side measures — from allowing imports of major pulses and edible oils at 0-5 per cent duty and banning/restricting exports of wheat, non-basmati rice, sugar and onion to imposing stocking limits in wheat and pulses for traders and retailers. But a not-so-great agricultural production year in 2023-24, thanks to an El Niño-induced patchy monsoon, and supply disruptions from Covid and the Russia-Ukraine war before that, have contributed to durable inflationary pressures through much of the Modi government's second term.

The Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government, set to be sworn in by the weekend, will need to double down on inflation control. Imports of pulses and edible oils at zero/low duties should not only continue, but be extended to other agri-commodities such as wheat. The RBI, too, cannot cut its policy interest rates without anchoring of inflationary expectations — which, among Indian households, is clearly linked to the price of roti-dal-sabzi. A good monsoon — rainfall has been above-average so far and the Met Department expects it to sustain for the whole season (June-September) — should translate into a bountiful kharif harvest. Whether or not that happens, food inflation will probably present a big challenge for the new government.

TWO ALARM BELLS

Election victories of hardliners from Khadoor Sahib and Faridkot point to need for vigilance by mainstream parties in Punjab

THE VICTORY OF two Independents in Punjab has raised concerns. Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh, incarcerated in Dibrugarh jail under the National Security Act (NSA), won the Lok Sabha seat of Khadoor Sahib. Sarabjit Singh Khalsa, the elder son of Beant Singh, the assassin of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, secured the Faridkot seat after three unsuccessful attempts. It may not be incidental that their victories came in an election in which long-term allies, Shiromani Akali Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party, contested separately for the first time in decades. In its best version, the BJP-SAD alliance was seen as a guarantor of communal harmony in the border state that experienced protracted militancy in the 1980s.

For years, the Akalis provided a moderating influence in the panthic space, but their credibility suffered after the incidents of sacrilege that wracked the state in 2015. It eroded further during the farm agitation, which also became the trigger for the SAD breaking the alliance with the BJP, leading to a vacuum that actors like Amritpal are now trying to fill. While Sarabjit may have benefited from the focus on Operation Bluestar due to its 40th anniversary this year and anti-incumbency against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, his win also points to Punjab's unresolved issues. The SYL river water-sharing agreement, which sparked the Dharam Yudh Morcha in the 1980s, taken over by militant ideologue Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, justice for victims of the 1984 killings, remission for Sikh political prisoners who have been in jail for over three decades, and the continuing menace of drugs are issues that continue to fester and provide fodder to forces inimical to peace in the state. Amritpal, with his diatribe against drugs and an "unjust Indian state," is also capitalising on these issues, although many state leaders are openly suspicious about his antecedents. Both the Akalis and the Congress have called him a "plant" to destabilise the state.

The impact of these two poll wins will depend on how they are handled by both the Centre and the state government. All political parties with a stake in the state should learn from mistakes of the recent past. It would be a grave error to use these victories to polarise the state for electoral gain. What Punjab needs most is unity and resolve to address long-standing grievances. The border state with a bleeding economy in the throes of an agrarian crisis can ill afford another upheaval. While focusing on these two wins, and what they could mean, however, it is important to note that the polls also saw the defeat of one of the original hardliners, Simranjit Singh Mann, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) chief, who won his first election while in jail in 1989.

THE EXISTENTIALIST GOAT

Two high-end auctions validate the absurdist's faith — only intrinsic value of things and people is that they exist

OVER THE LAST week, two items from the mid-20th century went to auction and were bought for handsome sums. The first piece — an iconic work from a brilliant mind — sold for 6,50,000 euros (Rs 59,024,550). The second, a "sculpture" by one of the most famous unemployed people in the world — one who isn't an artist of repute or, some would say, skill — fetched 8,500 British pounds or Rs 9,07,212. Between the two, though, it is the cheaper one that is over-priced. The more expensive item is a handwritten draft — a hoax, it seems — of the manuscript of *L'Étranger* (*The Stranger* or *The Outsider*) by Albert Camus. Unlike most authors' drafts, this was likely written by Camus in 1944, two years after *L'Étranger* was first published. The story of a French settler accused of murder, largely because of his lack of emotion at his mother's death, *The Outsider* is a classic. Some believe that the manuscript — with doodles and symbols in the margins — was copied out by Camus to raise money for the French Resistance against Nazi occupation. Then there's the ceramic goat, made by the then Prince of Wales, Charles. Its price tag has little justification — it looks a bit like a cheap novelty ashtray. It was owned by a Canadian for 55 years, whose aunt reportedly knew the now king.

Charles — by all accounts, a nice man — is a Kardashian at worst and a placeholder for unearned wealth and power at best. Yet, people bid — a symptom, perhaps, of the sheer power of the "royal" family's marketing. There's another way of looking at the love for the amateurish-at-best work by Charles — one an existentialist like Camus would approve of: The only intrinsic value of things and people is that they exist. The rest of society is just absurd — it pays good money for ugly goats.



SUDHA PAI

THE INDIA BLOC'S stunning performance in Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 general election is a major reason for the NDA remaining below the 300 mark and the BJP failing to gain a majority on its own. In a closely fought election, the INDIA bloc was able to wrest 43 seats while the NDA obtained 36; the SP obtained 37 seats, the Congress six, and the BJP 33. The results were met with surprise because UP is the conservative "heartland" where under Narendra Modi, the Hindutva ideology has grown deep roots.

Before the election began, the BJP was confident of repeating its 2019 performance in UP. But as voting proceeded, with a low voter turnout, lack of a pro-Modi wave and local issues reaching the centre-stage, it became apparent that the BJP faced a stiff contest. In fact, several significant developments in UP over the last few years — which have not been given adequate attention — underlie the results: The formation of the INDIA bloc by a resurgent SP, the improved image of Rahul Gandhi, growing unease with the Yogi Adityanath government, particularly among the Dalit community and sections of OBCs, and most importantly, the poor condition of the UP economy which has disproportionately impacted the poorer and disadvantaged sections.

The main architect of the INDIA bloc has been a resurgent SP under Akhilesh Yadav. In the 2022 assembly election, for the first time since 2014, a leader could challenge the hegemonic BJP, who lost a whopping 57 seats; the SP increased its tally by 67 seats and polled 36.32 per cent votes. Akhilesh single handedly created an anti-BJP front of smaller OBC and Dalit parties, and the Babasaheb Vahini to attract Dalit votes. Positioning himself as the leader of the "pitch-hda", he changed the election discourse to a battle between Hindutva and social justice. In 2024, keen to take his success forward, he patiently negotiated seat distribution with a demanding Congress, agreeing to give it 11 seats, retaining 62. He made efforts to fur-

Mandal over Mandir

SP-Congress consolidation in UP tapped into discontent on the ground, changed subject to social justice

The leaders of the INDIA bloc consistently harnessed the discontent on the ground, reiterating people's issues: The need for a caste census which the BJP was resisting; the fear among Dalit communities that the BJP would change the Constitution depriving them of reservations; the unpopular Agniveer scheme; the repeated leaking of question papers for competitive exams, among others. Their success in moving the discourse away from the communal rhetoric is witnessed in the defeat of the BJP in the Faizabad constituency, where the Ram Mandir is located. Awadesh Singh from the SP, a Dalit leader won the seat.

ther shed the image of the SP as a Muslim-Yadav party by giving tickets to only five Yadavs — his own family members — distributing the rest to diverse, influential non-Yadav backward communities, compared to the earlier formula in which Yadavs and Muslims, received above 40 per cent. In the 17 reserved seats in UP, many tickets were allocated to non-Jatavs.

The 2024 elections point to a reviving Congress with Rahul Gandhi's image having undergone a change due to the two Yatras he led. Congress's victory in Amethi and Rae Bareilly, castigated as dynastic bastions, points to its restored popularity. The Congress manifesto or Nyay Patra with its five guarantees, was well received, particularly its promise of a job guarantee and a constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservation for SC, ST and OBC groups. Joint rallies by the INDIA alliance began late, but in May, at least six were held, with reports of huge crowds attempting to climb the stage to greet Akhilesh.

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With the BSP's unravelling since 2014, the non-Jatavs had preferred the BJP, being wary of the dominant Yadavs and the SP representing them. But, with the SP joining hands with the Congress, they saw the INDIA bloc as a viable alternative. Jatavs have moved away from the BSP, towards the Bhim Army/Azad Samaj party, an Ambedkarite or-

ganisation/party formed by Chandrasekhar Azad, a popular leader in western UP. Despite a four-cornered contest, Azad handsomely won the Nagina reserved seat.

Distress over economic issues such as inflation and rising unemployment brought economic issues to the fore. Official estimates show that the UP economy performed poorly from 2017 to 21 under the Yogi Adityanath government. The gross state domestic product (GSDP) rose at a compound growth rate of merely 1.95 per cent per annum, and per capita income increased by 0.43 per cent. In contrast, the growth rate was 6.92 per cent during the 2012-17 SP government and under the 2007-2012 Mayawati government GDP grew to 7.28 per cent as against the 6.10 per cent target. While many point to improved law and order, Adityanath's "bulldozer politics" is disliked. Many large infrastructure projects inaugurated with fanfare by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Yamuna and Ganga Expressways, Sanauta-Purkazi Expressway, the eight-lane expressway from Varanasi to Noida, and the planning for international airports at Kushinagar and Jewar, were initiated by Mayawati and continued by Akhilesh.

In sum, the 2024 election witnessed a fierce, closely contested battle, between the forces of Hindutva and Mandal espousing social justice. The INDIA bloc has been able, in its campaign, to turn back the narrative from "Ram" and communal issues to people's livelihood problems, both economic and about saving "samvidhan" and democracy. It was able to tap into the unhappiness on the ground and put together a cohesive, meaningful narrative. For the first time since 2014, the BJP has not been able to use polarising communal rhetoric to triumph over dissatisfaction over social and economic issues.

The writer is the author (with Sajjan Kumar) of Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva (2023)



ASHWANI KUMAR

WHAT PM MUST DO

He must accommodate dissenting views, speak for the nation as a whole

IN A CLEAR moral victory for the Opposition, the 2024 mandate is a vote for democracy, dignity and justice. The result reflects the nation's distrust of concentrated power and its commitment to constitutional fundamentals. The verdict is a tribute to the wisdom of our people. The vote demonstrates that the pledge we took on the midnight of freedom for the defence of peoples' liberty and dignity, is a continuing one. It affirms the abiding lesson of history that the anguish of the marginalised cannot be suppressed by a muscular state for long. The lesson of the mandate is that the spirit of our times has upheld democratic politics.

The Opposition's pushback has demonstrated once again the power of peoples' assertion. The force and relevance of regional aspirations in a federal polity and a reconfiguration of national politics is the mandate's unmistakable message, which has also validated the Gandhis' leadership of the grand old party. Most importantly, the vote affirms the integrity of our electoral processes.

Congratulations are, however, due to the Prime Minister who virtually carried the BJP's election campaign on his shoulder demonstrating a remarkable tenacity of purpose throughout the gruelling campaign. His scheduled swearing-in as Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy for a third consecutive term is indeed an exceptional event in Indian politics. Despite the setback, the Prime Minister can claim

consolation in his party establishing itself as a pan-Indian political organisation with a pole position in national politics, having significantly increased its vote share in the southern states. In its energising moment, the Opposition need not, therefore, rush to prematurely read the Prime Minister's political obituary.

That said, the PM has a formidable task. Fatigued and divided by a fractious election, its soul scarred, the nation needs to be healed. The alienation of minorities, a coarse electoral discourse, the perversion of legal and judicial processes in pursuit of political ends, the abuse of constitutional power by ruling parties across the country and rampant corruption at all levels are depressing signs of a failing democracy. The PM's foremost task, therefore, is to recognise the impact of the mandate and work to refurbish the nation's credentials as a constitutional democracy. The incoming Prime Minister must speak for the nation as a whole. He must use his personal chemistry with the Indian people to burnish his vision for the nation with a demonstrated commitment to fraternity and the dignity of all citizens. He is expected to be magnanimous and accommodating of the views of his political opponents, considering the message of the mandate. And he must effectuate the principle of equal citizenship in a pluralist society.

The message of the mandate is for a co-operative enterprise for national renewal

premised on the politics of reconciliation. The primary responsibility for this rests with the Prime Minister. In this endeavour, he will need the constructive cooperation of the Opposition which today represents the voice of a large section of the nation. The Opposition cannot be cynical and compulsively critical of every action of the government. It must gracefully respect the mandate's message and heed B R Ambedkar's words that there is no scope for anarchist politics in a constitutional democracy.

The election results are expected to yield policies that enjoy widespread acceptance. It should be the harbinger of governance that brings the nation together in addressing the challenges of our age, including a pervasive assault on fundamental freedoms through the arbitrary exercise of power. The Prime Minister must move to repeal or amend the draconian penal laws that are routinely abused to deny citizens their constitutional rights and enact humanitarian laws including the much-awaited comprehensive legislation to outlaw custodial torture, condemned by the Supreme Court as a wound in the nation's soul.

Above all, in this chastising moment, the Prime Minister must reflect on the lesson of history, that power is a trust held on the condition that its exercise is just and meant to enhance the moral autonomy of free citizens.

The writer is a former minister of law and justice. Views expressed are personal

JUNE 7, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

BLUE STAR OVER

THE SECURITY FORCES completed their task of flushing out terrorists from the Golden Temple complex. All active resistance had stopped from within and mopping up operations were on. The security forces had stormed the Golden Temple complex when the terrorists ignored appeals for surrender. Forty-eight troops and 250 terrorists were killed.

J&K VIOLENCE

FIDAH HUSSAIN, A jawan of the 8th Battalion of the Kashmir Armed Police, was crushed to death when some Sikh extremists

ploughed a truck into the armed police force at the Nanak Nagar locality. Half a dozen other jawans were injured in the incident. One of them, Fazle Hussain, was in a serious condition. Several other police jawans were hit by the stones thrown from inside the Nanak Nagar gurudwara.

GULF WAR INTENSIFIES

IRANIAN ARTILLERY SHELLED four Iraqi towns, killing three civilians, while 13 Iranian troops died in fighting in the northern sector of the Gulf war front, an Iraqi military communique said. The shelling of the oil port of Basra and the border towns of Mandali,

Zurbatiyeh and Khamsin followed Iran's pledge to retaliate against Iraqi towns for what it said was an Iraqi air raid on the north-western Iranian town of Baneh.

26 KILLED IN CALCUTTA

AT LEAST 26 people were killed due to heavy rains which flooded the metropolis and its industrial neighbourhood. About 12 persons were killed and 31 injured due to house collapse and electrocution as life stood at a stand still for the second consecutive day, following heavy rainfall. In another major tragedy, 14 persons were run over and 18 injured by a speeding train near Howrah.

DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



C R Sasikumar

Should Verdict 2024 be read as the Narendra Modi-led BJP falling short of the halfway mark, or as the NDA winning a historic third term?

BJP has numbers, not mandate

The people have denied Modi government ‘iqbal’ — moral authority, prestige, legitimacy



YOGENDRA YADAV

LET US BEGIN with an elementary distinction: The formal logic of numbers versus the political logic of the mandate. The former is a simple arithmetic exercise: Do the number of seats won by a party or a coalition add up to a simple majority in the legislature? It answers a legal question: Does the claimant have the statutory right to form a government? The latter demands a complex reasoning beyond the self-evident numbers: Who has won popular endorsement in the elections? It answers a normative question: Does the government enjoy popular sanction? This distinction explains the outcome of 2024: The BJP has the numbers to form the government, but it does not enjoy a popular mandate.

The formal logic of numbers is easy to settle. The BJP on its own is the largest single party in the new Lok Sabha, yet it does not have the 272 seats required to form the government. The National Democratic Alliance, a pre-electoral coalition, has 292 seats, well above the majority mark. Given the settled precedent, the President is justified in inviting the leader of the BJP parliamentary party to form the government. As long as it wins a vote of confidence in the new Lok Sabha — which is a formality now — there is no constitutional or legal hurdle or impropriety in the NDA forming the next government.

The political logic of the mandate takes us to a very different conclusion. Decoding the mandate requires us to answer a difficult question: Have the 60 crore plus voters endorsed Narendra Modi's claim to lead a BJP government for the third term? Here are three simple yardsticks to measure whether the BJP has obtained the popular mandate in this election. One, how has the BJP fared compared to its performance in 2014 and 2019, the two elections where it clearly enjoyed a popular mandate? Two, how does it look in the mirror of its own claims and widespread expectations? Three, how does the BJP performance in this election look in the overall political context?

On the first count, the BJP's claim to a mandate is unclear. Writing in this paper on the last day of polling, I had suggested the following thresholds to measure the BJP's performance: While an improvement in its tally of 303 would be a victory, anything below 300 would be a moral defeat; a tally below 272 would be a political defeat for the BJP and below 250 would be a personal defeat for Modi. If that suggestion has any merit, this is clearly a moral, political and personal defeat for Modi in whose name the election was fought. Compared to the last elections, the BJP has lost 63 seats and has fallen 32 short of the majority mark. On the face of

it, the decline in popular vote share is negligible: From 37.4 per cent to 36.6 per cent. But when we disaggregate these national-level seat and vote figures, we arrive at a clearer picture. The BJP's gains (9.3 per cent votes as well as 20 seats) in the south-eastern coastal belt from Kerala to Odisha have softened the severe loss of votes (3.6 per cent) and seats (83 seats) in the rest of the country. It is facile to claim that the BJP has emerged as the largest single party; so did the Congress after what was rightly perceived as its humiliating defeat in 1989. At the very least, this is no ringing endorsement of the BJP or the NDA.

The truth is much harsher when seen in the context of the BJP's own claim of “400 paar”, a self-fulfilling prophecy that was very much the centrepiece of the BJP's campaign and news reporting by pliant newspaper headlines, loyal TV anchors and opinion polls culminating in the curious number of 401 in the exit poll. We would never know how much the inevitability projected by the Modi campaign contributed to the BJP's vote share (my guess is at least 2-3 per cent of the national votes), but we do know that despite this the NDA failed to cross 300. It is fair to say that the BJP did not get the mandate it asked for and expected.

These two criteria assume that 2024 was a normal electoral contest where a two-term incumbent was trying his luck

This was the least free and fair national election in the history of independent India, where everything was stacked against the Opposition. Money, media, administrative machine — the ruling party enjoyed an infinite advantage over the Opposition.

niscent of the popular mandate against the Congress in 1977, though even then Indira Gandhi had triumphed in the South. As a friend put it: “This was a David vs Goliath contest and David managed to give a bloody nose to Goliath”. While it would be silly to claim that the BJP has been vanquished in this election, it would be ostrich-like to deny that the BJP and Modi have suffered a defeat. They have the numbers in the Parliament, but not the popular mandate that they sought to steal.

Let there be no confusion about it. This election was about The Supreme Leader seeking post-facto public approval for the brick by brick dismantling of the republic and popular endorsement for the proposed mutilation of India's constitutional democracy. The Indian public refused to give him that authorisation. If the contest was a shade more fair, he would have been sitting in the Opposition. Eventually, he has managed to reclaim the chair he so desperately needed but the public has denied him the iqbal (moral authority, prestige, legitimacy) that he so craved.

The writer is member, Swaraj India

A vote for continuity, stability

Result is a testament to PM Modi's leadership, BJP's policies and a reflection of changing aspirations of electorate



ABHINAV PRAKASH

THE MANDATE OF the 2024 Lok Sabha election is historic in multiple ways. The people of India have bestowed upon the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA alliance a third consecutive term. It is the first time since 1962 that a ruling dispensation is returning to power for the third time. The PM Modi-led government navigated incredibly tough terrain in its second term, facing challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, global economic slowdown, geopolitical instability with wars in Europe and West Asia, the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, an increasingly unstable Pakistan, and a hostile China. Despite these difficulties, the government maintained peace in India..

Additionally, it expanded India's influence on international affairs, safeguarded its borders, and fostered domestic economic growth. The electorate has voted in the affirmative for PM Modi's decade of leadership, characterised by development, welfare policies, national security, and modernisation.

The BJP's performance in Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, along with its increasing voter share in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, demonstrates the failure of the Congress alliance's divide-and-rule politics based on language and region.

nearly 100 years. The blatant anti-constitutional efforts by Congress and its allies to introduce Muslim reservations — a measure that was a precursor to the Partition and was firmly rejected by the Constituent Assembly — have been rejected by the people.

Similarly, attempts to undermine the reservations for Dalits and OBC castes by facilitating the backdoor entry of Muslim upper castes, who historically held ruling positions in large parts of India, were also defeated by the electorate.

This election is also an unequivocal mandate for the BJP's welfare model over the Congress alliance's freebies model. The new welfare model, pioneered by PM Modi since 2014, is built on objective criteria, aiming to ensure basic necessities, provide public provision of private goods for capacity building of the poor, and implement direct benefit transfers to eliminate middlemen.

This election has further underscored the importance of digital infrastructure and governance in the modern political landscape. The emphasis on digital India initiatives, promoting e-governance, digital literacy, and financial inclusion through digital platforms, has resonated with the younger, tech-savvy electorate.

For the first time, tens of millions have benefitted from government schemes, thus ending the dependency of the poor and marginalised on local power dynamics to access their entitlements. It ended old-style

political feudalism, empowered the citizens, and lifted 25 crore people out of multidimensional poverty. And the people have chosen to support the BJP, rejecting unrealistic promises of freebies, which border on attempts to bribe them. The electorate has reposed faith in responsible fiscal policies, pro-growth economic policies and infrastructure build-up.

Another important highlight is the significant expansion of the BJP in southern and eastern India, especially in Bengal and Odisha, where regional parties

ties that have ruled these states, like personal fiefdoms, have seen their influence wane. The BJP's performance in Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, along with its increasing voter share in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, demonstrates the failure of the Congress alliance's divide-and-rule politics based on language and region. By mounting a stiff challenge to dynasty-based parties, the BJP has strengthened mass participation in the electoral process and expanded the scope of democracy in India.

In conclusion, the mandate of Lok Sabha 2024 is not just a testament to PM Modi's leadership and the BJP's policies but also a reflection of the changing aspirations and dynamics of the Indian electorate. The clear victory for the NDA alliance emphasises a desire for continuity, stability, and visionary leadership that prioritises development, social justice, and national security. As India continues to navigate complex global and domestic challenges, the decisive support for the PM Modi-led alliance signifies a strong and unified endorsement of their vision for a modern, prosperous, and inclusive India.

The writer is National Vice President of BJYM, BJP's Youth Wing

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“It is possible that Mr Modi will now seek to intensify his authoritarianism; an election under fairer conditions would surely have proved still more damning. [But] with his air of invincibility punctured, politicians, business people, officials and broadcasters may be somewhat less eager to dance to his tune.” — **THE GUARDIAN**

The new journalists

Big story of 2024 elections is digital platforms that made space for alternative viewpoints to reach voters directly



ZERO HOUR

BY DEREK O'BRIEN

SIX WEEKS, THOUSANDS of registered political parties, 97 crore eligible voters. India's General Election of 2024 was the biggest in history. It was also a template for a post-truth, post-climate change democracy. With summertime temperatures climbing to 45 degrees and higher, campaigning and running the election machine was extremely challenging for political parties. A stifling media environment with legacy news channels and most newspapers held captive by the ruling establishment and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government added to the uphill task for all Opposition parties.

We in the Opposition — struggling to breathe in the limited space India's Modified democracy allowed us — were not the only ones trying to cope. The hapless Indian voter was also desperately attempting to keep herself informed and aware as she determined her franchise. What were the issues and themes that resonated with her or her fellow citizens? What was the truth behind the battery of data and the information blitz coming her way from the BJP and the government? In a media environment of compromise and negotiable facts, how does one delineate right from wrong? Simply put, how do you get the other point of view?

There was a time when this was easy and simple in India. That was also an easier and simpler India. There were honest, no-holds-barred debates and discussions on news television. Newspaper reports were trusted — they were bipartisan, if not neutral. Speeches and manifestos of all major political parties were laid out threadbare. Today, India has 5,500 daily newspapers and 230 news channels, and yet the independent voice speaks in hushed tones. Encouraged by craven media barons, most publications and virtually every network have turned into brazen cheerleaders.

What is this doing to political communication in what is still the world's largest democracy? It's putting power in the voter's hands, literally! The mobile phone has become the most potent election weapon — the ultimate medium of outreach and empowerment. That India has the biggest national YouTube audience — 46 crore people — is, in a sense, an indictment of the coun-

try's formal or “Legacy Media” landscape and its fading credibility. Digital media and independent platforms rewrote the rules of political communication in Indian elections. To take one example, Ravish Kumar, a prominent and gutsy newscaster, was edged out of the NDTV network after it was bought over by a pro-BJP business tycoon. Today, Kumar runs his own YouTube channel. It has one crore subscribers.

There are many other former and formal journalists who have followed that route. Perhaps even more exciting — or sobering, for old-style media — is the new breed of citizen journalists. Very often Dhruv Rathee gets lakhs of views in the span of four to five hours; his YouTube feed has two crore subscribers. He's no trained journalist — just an engineer with a nose for research, a flair for prose and a hard-hitting style that conquers even his home-video skills.

Prime Minister Modi himself is not unknown to this format. With two crore subscribers on YouTube, he's the most followed politician on the platform. But unlike television and 9 out of 10 newspapers, where friends and officials can “manage” the competition, digital media isn't an opinion monopoly in India. Not yet. The past year has seen the emergence of the “politician journalist”; largely, Members of Parliament from the Opposition who have devised a new strategy to challenge Legacy Media. Rather than send articles that are rarely printed on editorial pages and give interviews that are cut to caricatures — or appear on channels where they would be shouted down and crowded out by biased anchors and other establishment proxies — they have set up their own platforms for direct digital outreach.

The tech is rudimentary, it could even mean shooting or recording videos on mobile phones. But the uptake has been fascinating. The disintermediation of political communication, reaching voters directly and bypassing distrusted go-betweens, is exciting. It revolutionised election communication, with virtual engagement taking the place of large public meetings that are not always feasible in the summer heat. Recently Kapil Sibal, an erudite lawyer-parliamentarian and former minister, launched his own YouTube channel. He says he intends an easy conversation that brings him to the “doorsteps of Indian citizens”.

This was the big story of the India Election 2024 — a digital insurgency that has upturned the mechanics of political communication. Maybe it's the future of politics in our unequal world.

The writer is MP and leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NAIDU'S COMEBACK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Ringing in the new’ (IE, June 6). If a shocking result was in store for India's second longest-serving chief minister Naveen Patnaik in Odisha, there was a pleasant surprise in an overwhelming show of support for N Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh. The former CM who had left the Andhra Assembly three years ago did what he had sworn to do, which was to return to the chamber only as CM. Promising inclusive growth and stability, Naidu charted his way back after having served as the first CM of Andhra Pradesh. The voters may have found his focus on sustainable development attractive even if the welfare initiatives of YSRCP did put money in the pockets of the poor.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

EC DOES ITS JOB

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Rules of the game’ (IE, June 6). India's general election, the largest in history, drew to a close on June 4. It involved over one million polling stations spread across the country, from remote corners of the Himalayas to far-flung forests deep in Nagaland. The Election Commission of India (ECI) must be congratulated for meticulously arranging everything and setting an example for other countries on peacefully holding elections. However, for the next general election, they must reconsider summer as the time for voting. The heat may have been a major reason behind low voter turnout. Despite accusations, the ECI has done its best. The fairness is evident with the results going almost equally in favour of the ruling party and the Opposition. Well done, Election Commission!

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

A NEW ERA FOR BJP

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Modi, beyond numbers’ (IE, June 6). The writer has eulogised PM Narendra Modi as the harbinger of a new era, mobilising new intelligentsia and producing pro-Hindutva works. The question is, why can't Hindutva reclaim its civilisational and cultural space without falling for bigotry and hate against Muslims? This so-called new era saw a rise in hate speeches by RSS-BJP affiliates. Even the Supreme Court took note of these speeches and directed the police to take action. In this sense, the writer is correct in saying that the BJP's next challenge is to incorporate minorities in its version of social inclusion. However, this will require social democracy, by which B R Ambedkar meant a way of life that recognises liberty, equality, and fraternity.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

PEOPLE'S MANDATE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The idea of India reborn’ (IE, June 6). This election was unlike any before it. The common people did not vote for any political party but to preserve the values of the Constitution and to embrace the idea of a new India. It takes more than a decade to understand the true intentions of any ruling party. The citizens rejected authoritarian rule, affirming that democracy is non-negotiable. The verdict made it clear to all political parties that citizens cannot be taken for granted. The people did not accept discrimination, inequality and religious polarisation as characteristics of a democracy. It's not just about receiving free rations but about living with dignity. The people's mandate is that the Constitution is above all.

Ajay Corriea, Vasai

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Prabjeet Singh Bhullar / Prabjit Singh s/o Hardev Singh Bhullar R/o A-267/1, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to PRABHJEET SINGH BHULLAR 0040732514-3

I, NISHANT BABBAR, S/O SATISH, R/O FLAT, NO. 1602, TOWER - HIBISCUS, PARAMOUNT FLORAVILLE, SECTOR-137, NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR-201305, UTTAR-PRADESH, CHANGED MY SON'S NAME FROM GARVIT TO VEDANT PANT BABBAR. 0040732555-8

I, Muniva Khan, W/O Anwar Khan, R/o H No-F-154/10, Street. No-08, Bhagirathi Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to MUNAWWAR JAHAN. Permanently. 0040732555-7

I, Mahboob Ahmed S/o Maqsood Ahmed R/o H.No.E-13/A, Ground Floor, Madanpur Khadar Extn., Part-III, Near Makki Masjid, P.O.- Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 have declare that in my Passport my father's name is mentioned as Maksood Ahmad instead of his correct name Maqsood Ahmed, which may be amended accordingly. 0070906852-1

I, Kriti D/o Sunil Prakash Sharma R/o H.No. 267-1st Floor, Sector-46, Gurugram (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Kriti Sharma. 0040732595-5

I, Krishna Kumari W/o No.1239056H Rank Hav Late Prabhu Dayal R/okh 49/5, Saini Mohalla, Bijwasan Village, Delhi-61 have Changed My Name To Krishna Devi Vide Affidavit Date 6.6.24 Before Delhi. My Actual DOB 10/1/1956. 0070906848-1

I, KM.POONAM RANI/POONAM/POONAM RANI/POONAM CHOUDHARY,D/O SH.RANVEER SINGH, ADDRESS-3827, GALLI.NO. 7, KANHAIYA-NAGAR, DELHI-110035, CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM AS IT IS HELPFUL FOR MY ENDEAVORS AND SHELL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS POONAM. 0040732605-5

I, Jagdish Kaur w/o Prabhejset Singh Bhullar R/o A-267/1, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to JAGDISH KAUR BHULLAR 0040732514-2

I, Jagdeep, S/o Harbhajan Singh, R/o 18/5, Second Floor, Left Side, West Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008, have changed my name to Jagdeep Singh. 0040732610-3

I, Ibrar S/o Hashmat Ullah R/o 8B FP/Block Pitampura North West Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Abrar Ahmed 0040732595-11

I, Gopesh Raghuvanshi S/o Sh. Shivalp Singh Raghuvanshi R/o Flat No:76, HCL Towers, Opposite Galaxy Business Park, Sector-62, Noida, G.B. Nagar have changed my son's name from Ameya Raghuvanshi to Dakshit Raghuvanshi permanently. 0040732587-1

I, Atta Mohd S/o Azaz R/o E-12/21, Hazr Rani Malviya Nagar Delhi-110017, have changed name to Ata Mohammed S/o Azad. 0070906861-1

I, Ashish S/o Suresh Kumar R/o VPO SISAI KALIRAWAN HISAR HARYANA-125049 have changed my name to Ashish Kumar. 0040732610-7

I, Ankit Singh Rawat S/o D.S. Rawat R/o 125B, Kamna, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201010 have changed my name to Ankit Rawat for all future purpose. 0040732545-1

I, ANKITA C/O VINOD KUMAR SAINI R/O H.No. 622, MASJID WALI GALLI, BAKHTAWARPUR, BAKHTAWAR PUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI 110036, have changed my name to Ankita Saini. 0040732494-1

I, Muni Ram Awana S/o Kalicharan R/o B-288, Sector-26, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Maniram Awana for all purposes. 0040732517-1

I, Reena Halder D/o Late Sh. Sukha Ranjan Karmakar W/o Late Sh.Arup Halder R/o A-0784, TF, MU-2, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201310 is also known as Reena Karmakar. Both names are of one and the same person. My date of birth is 12.08.1968. 0040732499-1

I Madhu Khanna alias Madhu Mehra D/o Sh.Mulakh Raj Khanna W/o Sh.Narinder Mehra R/o I-D-4, Lajpat Nagar-2, New Delhi-110024 have changed my name to Madhu Mehra for all purposes. 0040732499-3

I Balvinder Kumar Dogra S/o Late Sh.Jatinder Kumar Dogra R/o 127-A, Pocket-1, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Balvinder Dogra for all purposes. 0040732499-2

I Alifia Begum W/O, Jitender Gupta R/o M-333, Shakur Pur J.J. Colony, Sri Nagar Colony, Saraswati Vihar, North-west, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Alifia Gupta. 0040732495-1

'It is for general information that I, Saurabh Kumar S/o Golakh Malik R/o Chaura Sadatpur, Sector-22, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201301, declare that name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as Gullakh Malik and Monika Malik respectively in my 12th Class School Certificate Cum Marksheet. The actual name of my father and mother are Golakh Malik and Manisha respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0070906853-1

'I, Tarun Yadav S/o Virender Yadav, R/o W-143/261, Indra Colony Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 My Educational Document My Mother and Father Name has been Wrongly written as Punam Devi and Virendra Yadav, the actual Name Raj Kumari Devi and Virender Yadav. 0070906851-1

'I, Surender Kumar Goel S/o Ram Kumar Goel R/o E-97, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 Have Changed My Name To Surender Goel For All Future Purposes. 0070906858-1

'I, SAIRA BANO W/O AZAM ALI R/O P-316/A BASTI KHOWAJA MIR DARD SHAKOOR KI DANDI DARYA GANJ NEW DELHI-110002, have changed my name to SAHERA BEGUM Permanently 0070906847-1

I, Akansha Seth, W/o Gaurav Bhutani, R/o Block-J/113, Second-Floor, Reserve-Bank Enclave, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Akansha Seth Bhutani, for all, future purposes. 0040732600-7

I, Ashwini Kumar S/o Sh. Ishwar Chand Sharma R/o H. No. 25-D Inderpuri, Ambala Cantt, Haryana have changed my name to Ashwini Kumar Kaushik for all purposes. 0050243308-1

It is for general information that I, Virpal Singh, s/o Late Shri Rajpal Singh, resident of Village Chamad, Bhaiyan, Aligarh, Iglas, Uttar Pradesh-202124, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Shanti Devi in my service record. The actual name of my mother is KANTI DEVI, DOB is-01/01/1950 respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0040732591-7

It is for general information of public that I, Laxman Singh, son of, Late Khushal Singh, resident of, NRC-35, Type-4, Pusa-Campus, New Delhi-110012, has changed my name as "Laxman Singh Bisht" with immediate- effect, for all, future purposes. 0040732610-8

I, shamsheer Khan, S/o sujjaula Khan R/o v- 125, Gali no.24B, Vijay-park moujpur Delhi 110053, Have changed my name to shamsher Khan permanently 0040732605-4

I, hitherto known as VEEMA KAUSHAL, D/O- PRABHU DAYAL KAUSHAL, residing at, house no.123, new market- tulsi pur, balrampur, uttar-Pradesh-271208, have change my new name and shall hereafter be known as RANJANA KAUSHAL. 0040732555-4

I, hitherto known as Mauseam, W/O, Niraj Kumar Present Address-130/32, Karam Vihar, General E Disuza Marg, Delhi- Cantt-110100, Permanent Address- 60/258/A, Laxman Vihar, Kamlaabala Bag-1, Distt- Muzaffarnagar, Uttar-Pradesh-251002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ritu. 0040732591-10

I, Vipin Kumar Singh, S/o Dashrath Singh, R/o Village-Badhaula, Badola, Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh-207243, have changed my minor son name, from Aradhyha Singh to Anirudh Pratap Singh. 0040732591-1

I, Vinod Kumar, R/O-2101, Mandir Wali Gali, Subzi Mandi, Mukim Pura, Malika Ganj, Delhi-110007, changed my minor daughter name from Tanya to Tanya Khawal. 0040732555-3

I, Vinet YAGI, S/O Mahipal Singh Tyagi, R/O-204 Mahagan Mosaic Phase-2, near-Vaishali metro-station, sector-4 Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, have changed my name to VINET KUMAR TYAGI, for all, future purpose. 0040732600-5

I, Tanav JAIN s/o Vandana Gupta R/o 3701-A, Sector-23, Gurgaon, Haryana-122017 has changed my name to TANAV GUPTA 0040732514-1

I, Rajni Bhardwaj, W/o- Sh. Pankaj Bhardwaj, D/o- Sh. Rajender Partap, R/o-1/2705, Friends Home, Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name from Rajani Bhardwaj to Rajni Bhardwaj and the names Rajani Bhardwaj and Rajni Bhardwaj are names of one and the same person i.e., myself and now I will be known by and use my name as Rajni Bhardwaj. 0040732607-2

I, Rachna D/o Partap Singh, W/o Sanjay Bajaj R/o 146, Jai Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi have changed my name to Rachna Bajaj 0040732578-3

I, Shaurya Srivastava, S/o Harsh Srivastava, R/o Flat, No-1703, Tower-B, Heritage One, Sec-62, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122101, have changed my name to Shauryaa Srivastava. 0040732595-3

I, Sanjay Kumar Bansal S/o Gopi Chand Bansal, R/o 1944, Civil-Lines South Santosh Vihar, Muzaffarnagar, have changed my name to Sanjay Bansal. 0040732591-6

I, Sandeep Hudda, S/o Sh. Bhup Singh Hudda, R/o- B6/39, Sector-15, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089, have changed my name Sandeep Hudda to Sandeep Hooda, for all Future Purposes. 0040732605-1

I, Sajjandeep S/o Ram Rattan Garg R/o A-902, Antriksh Golf View-2, Sector-78, Noida-201301 Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name to Sajjandeep Garg. 0040732600-1

I, Sagar Guglani, S/o-Surender Guglani, R/o-9/66, Shyam-Block, Kailash-Nagar, Delhi-110031, have changed the name of my minor- daughter ANGEL GUGLANI Age-13Years. and she shall hereafter be known as KHUSHI GUGLANI. 0040732591-5

I, Sabia Anwar, W/Javed Anwar, R/o-Naved Anwar B-932, Street, No. 16, Subhash Mohalla, North Ghonda, Garhi Mendu, PO Bhajanpura, East-Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Sobia Parveen, for all Purposes. 0040732605-3

I, SONIA W/O JOGINDER SINGH R/O D-15-A, GROUND FLOOR, TILAK VIHAR, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018, have changed my name to RAVINDER KAUR. 0040732605-2

I, SINIMOL T R alias SINI HARI KUMAR, D/O RAGHAVAN NAIR, W/O HARI KUMAR K.G.R/O-Flat, No-311, Pocket-D, Mayur, Vihar Phase-II, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to SINI HARI KUMAR. 0040732595-9

I, SHRIGANESH, son of, Archumay Kumarsamy, Presently residing at, 7/412, KAS- Krishna Garden, Kadampadi, Sular, Opp.A One Nagar, Kadampadi, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu-641401, have changed my name, from SHRIGANESH to SRI GANESH, vide- affidavit date- 4.6.24. 0040732555-10

I, Satya Narayan Yadav, S/o Sh Sarjeet Singh Yadav, H.No-112, Vill Karawara-Mankpur The-Rewari Dist- Rewari (Haryana)-123035, have Changed my name to Satnarayan Yadav. 0040732595-4

I, SHLOK, S/O SANDEEP KUMAR JHA, R/O 18C, POCKET-6 MIG-FLATS, NEW KONDLI MAYUR-VIHAR PH-3, EAST DELHI 110096, CHANGED MY NAME TO SHLOK JHA, for all, Future Purposes. 0040732605-7

I, SHATRUGHAN PRASAD, S/O, BADRI PRASAD KESHRI, R/O, 45-A, POCKET-3, SFS-FLATS MAYUR-VIHAR PH-3, EAST-DELHI-110096, CHANGED MY NAME TO SHATRUGHAN KESHRI, for all, Future Purposes. 0040732605-8

I, SANJAY KUMAR S/O MOHAN LAL R/O AC-25 B, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY GARG FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040732610-6

I, Rammi Madan, W/O Mr. Kuldip Singh Madan, R/O- House, no. M.A 1/3-4A, Garden-Estate Gurgaon 122002, Haryana, have changed my name to Raminder Kuldip Singh, for all purposes. 0040732591-3

I, Rakesh S/O Mr. Jaipal, R/O- House, no. 1677, Gali, no.10, Laxman-Vihar phase-2, Gurgaon-122001, Gurgaon Haryana, have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar, for all purposes 0040732591-4

I, Rajnish rai, s/o rajendra prasad rai, R/o-upper-ground - floor, royal-tower-4, bahrampur, unione, residency akbarpur, ghaziabad, u.p.201009, have changed my name to Rajnish kumar rai, for all, future purposes. 0040732600-6

I, Raj Kumar S/o Om Prakash R/o H.No. 766, Sector-5, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Raj Kumar Sharma for all Purposes. 0040732595-1

I, Raj Kumar Kashyap, S/O-Shri Jahan Singh, R/O-D-18, 1st floor, Block-D, Kailash Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110048, inform that Raj Kumar Kashyap & Raj Kumar both are one & the same Person . 0040732607-3

I, RUPALI MEHRA, W/o SANJEEV MEHRA R/o-3A/47 Sat-Nagar W.E.A Karol, Bagh Delhi-110005, have Changed my minor son name ESHAAN MEHRA aged-10, years to ISHAN MEHRA 0040732595-10

I, Rachna D/o Partap Singh, W/o Sanjay Bajaj R/o 146, Jai Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi have changed my name to Rachna Bajaj 0040732578-3

I, Raisa Begum, W/O-Mehmood Khan, R/o-H No-534/5, Street, No-5, Near Lovly Public-School, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to RAHISA BEGAM. Permanently. 0040732555-5

I, Rahul S/o Veer Karan, H.No.2524 U.G.F, Sector 57, Wazirabad (75), PO, Wazirabad, Dist:Gurgaon (Haryana)-122003, have changed my name to Rahul Singh Bhadauriya. 0040732600-3

I, Punita, W/O Rahul Singh Bhadauriya, H.No.2524 U.G.F, Sector-57, Wazirabad (75), PO, Wazirabad, Dist: Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122003, have changed my name to Punita Singh Bhadauriya. 0040732600-4

I, Naresh Kumar Gupta S/o, Ram Kumar Gupta R/o, A-2/6, F.F. Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar Delhi-87, have changed my name to Naresh Gupta. 0040732600-2

I, Narender Prakash Sharma, S/o late Shri Nand Lal Sharma, R/o-317A, J&K-pocket, Dilshad-Garden, Delhi-110095, have Changed my name, from Narender Prakash to Narender Prakash Sharma, for all, future Purposes. 0040732595-6

I, NEERAJ KALRA W/O KAPIL ARORA R/O B-3/5, RAJOURI GARDEN, RAMESH NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015, have changed my name to NEHA ARORA. 0040732610-5

I, Md Ayyoob, S/O Nazimuddin, R/o H No-C-491, Gali No-16, Shri Ram Colony, Rajiv Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to MOHD AYUB. Permanently. 0040732555-6

I, Komal Preet Chawla alias Komal Preet Kaur, W/o Gurpreet Singh Kharbanda, R/o-33A, North Avenue-Road, West Punjab-Bagh, Delhi-26, have changed my name to Komalpreet Kaur Kharbanda. 0040732610-4

I, Km Monu Chopra W/o Gaurav Mehrotra R/o Aster-5/101, Supertech Emerald-Court, Sector-93A, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Monika Mehrotra for all purposes. 0040732577-1

I, Jhalak Vineet Sehgal W/o Aman Sharma R/o 13, 1st Floor, Paschim Marg DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Jhalak Sharma. 0040732578-1

I, JASPREET, W/O, RAVINDER SINGH, ADD-WZ-5A, GALLI, NO.11, GURU NAKAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI 110018, CHANGED MY NAME TO JASPREET KAUR, for all, Future Purposes. 0040732605-9

I, JAGAN SINGH, S/O, TIPU SINGH R/O, J-281/16A, STREET, NO-6 VIJAY-COLONY NEW USMANPUR, NORTH EAST-DELHI-110053, changed my name to JAGAN NATH SINGH, for all, Future Purposes. 0040732610-2

I, Isha D/o Anil Singh, R/OH. No.-9P, Near Medicity, Sector-38 Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Isha Dhull for all Purposes. 0040732555-2

I, Himaniya Pal, D/o Lokesh Kumar Pal R/o-1676, Pal Niwas Outram, Line Kingsway, Camp, Delhi-110009, inform that my name wrongly, written HIMANIYA PAL in my OBC certificate but my actual name is Himanya Pal 0040732595-7

I, Hemant Kumar Aggarwal, S/o Tribhawan chand Aggarwal, R/o F94, 1st-floor phase-1, Ashok Vihar, new Delhi-110052, changed my name to Hemant Aggarwal for all future purposes. 0040732555-1

I, Harish Kumar, S/o Om Parkash Anand, R/O-C-46, Ind-Floor, Chander Nagar, Janak Puri Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Harish Kumar Anand. 0040732595-2

I, Devender Kumar S/o, Ravikishan Lal Sharma, R/o F-9, Vijay Vihar, Phase-II, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Devinder Kumar to Devender Kumar for all purposes. 0040732578-2

I, DEVINDER, S/O, BAL KISHAN, R/O, 609/56, INDRRA COLONY SCHOOL-BLOCK MANDAWLI FAZALPUR, DELHI 110092, CHANGED MY NAME TO DAVENDER KUMAR, for all, Future Purposes. 0040732605-6

I, Ansh S/o Vinod Kumar Sharma R/o D-13, Yadav Nagar Samaypur North West Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Ansh Sharma 0040732595-8

I, Amrill Lal S/O Late Shri Ram Ji Gupta, R/O-Flat 191, SFS, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Amit Gupta for all future purposes. 0040732607-1

I, ANJALI SHARMA, D/O DWARKA NATH SHARMA, R/O 112, 2nd Floor Block-H, Pocket-2 Sector-16, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085, Have changed my name to ANJALI GOYAL For all future purposes 0070906846-1

I, Yasashvini Goel D/o Surender Goel R/o E-97, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 Have Changed My Name To Yashasvini Goel For All Future Purposes. 0070906862-1

I, Tarandeep Singh s/o Prabhejset Singh Bhullar R/o A-267/1, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to TARANDEEP SINGH BHULLAR 0040732514-4

I, Suman W/o Sunny Dua R/o B-1/158, Second Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Suman Dua. 0040732502-1

I, Subham S/o Ashok Kumar R/o H.No. 2064, 1st Floor, Sector-4, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana), have changed my name to Shubham Garg. 0040732610-1

I, Subha Verma D/o Mohinder Verma R/o E-9, Pushpanjali farms, Bijwasan, New Delhi Post Code-110061, have changed my name from Suwbha Chopra to Subha Verma for all future purposes. 0040732496-1

I, Shivam Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Nanak Chand Garg R/o Flat No. 707, Block No. 19, AVL36Gurgaon, Sector 36A, Narsinghpur (102), Gurgaon, Haryana -122004, have changed my name to Shivam Garg, for all, future purposes. 0040732513-1

I, Sanatan Kumar S/o Sadanand Halder R/o 53 Ashgarpur, Sec-41, Noida have changed my name to Sanatan Kumar Halder. 0070906854-1

I, Rohini D/o Suresh Chand R/o F-64-c-16-373, Sector-40, Noida, U.P.-2010301, Have Changed My Name To Rohini Prapajati 0070906855-1

I, Resham W/o Nishant Kharbanda R/o Flat-01067, Tower-2, Mahagun Mywoods, Sec-16C, G.Noida have changed my name to Resham Kharbanda. 0070906857-1

I, Rajesh Kumar Nehra S/o Iqbal Singh, R/o 317, Police Colony, Ahata Kidara, Idgah Road, Near Filmistan Cinema, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar for all purposes 0040732508-1

I, RADHA W/o S.H.DESH RAJ GUPTA, R/O-115, SECOND-FLOOR, BLOCK-D, STATE BANK COLONY GURANWALA COLONY, NORTH-WEST, DELHI-110009, have changed my name Sunita Gupta to Radha, for all future purposes. 0040732501-1

LOST & FOUND

Share Certificate No.19 and Allotment letter in respect of Flat No. 104 issued by The Kamdhenu Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd., Plot No. 51, Sector-IX, Rohini, Delhi-85, in the name of Hari Parkash Gupta S/o Shiv Charan Das Gupta (Membership No.-65-) is reported to have been lost. Any person having information may contact society office within 15 days else the above documents will be deemed to be lost forever Kindly contact FINDER this no.9310176697 0070906801-1

I, Nelsi Thukral D/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Thukral R/o D-39, Second Floor, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110052, co-owner of DDA Flat bearing No. 57-C, Second Floor, Block-J, situated at Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110052, have lost original Relinquishment Deed dated 13/10/2010 executed by Mrs. Sundari Sood W/o Sh. D.D. Sud & Others in favour of Sh. Anoop Sood S/o Late Sh. Thakur Dass Chaujar, bearing Registration No. 15164, Book No. 1, Volume No. 3106, on pages 10 to 14, registered on 13/10/2010 in the office of Sub-Registrar-VIA, Delhi, And Death Certificate of Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Late Sh. Thakur Dass Chaujar who expired on 24/01/1994 in transit on 02/06/2024 in Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052. Finder may contact above address or 9899428276. 0070906849-1

I, Devender Singh S/o Vinod Kumar R/o J-4, Shakupur, near Nsp, Pitampura Delhi-110034, have lost my B'tech 5th, semester, degree Roll No.1535021023, passout from GTB Polytechnic Vasant, Vihar Delhi, Finder Contact- 8826779574. 0040732600-9

Lost my Original Property Documents (Allotment Letter, Possession Certificate & Handing/Taking Over Certificate) of the Property, situated at L-203, SHATABDI RAIL VIHAR, PLOT.NO.B-9/4, SECTOR-62, NOIDA, GAUTAM-BUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, Finder contact: RAJIV PANDEY, S/o G.N. PANDEY at the above address. 0040732605-11

Krishnan K declare that I have lost Original Allotment Letter of H.N. B-1/265, Aravali Apartments, Sec-34, Noida, w.e.f. 6th June 2024. Filed FIR at NOIDA vide LR No. 1792908/2024 ON 06.06.2024. Founder call 9868936364 0040732509-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
"Be known to all that my clients Sh. Ajmer Singh Malik & his wife Smt. Madan Kumar both are R/o A-352/56-2, Vidy Vihar, Delhi-85, have henceforth severed all their relationships and concerns with their son namely, Sh. Sandeep, his wife Pinky Singh and their minor son Shaurya Malik due to their wayward, insolent and incorrigible ways and have debarred & disowned them from their entire movable and immovable properties. My clients further declares that they shall not be responsible for any acts, deeds and omission of their son and his wife in any manner in future and if, anybody deals with them he/she may do so at their own costs, risks and consequences. My clients and their other family members shall have no liability for the same in any manner whatsoever".
Sd/-
Mohinder Pal Singh (Advocate)
Enrl. No. D/628-R/1997
Under Police Post,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is certified that my clients Shri Pran Ranjan Choudhary S/o Shri Janardan Prasad Choudhary and Prachi Priyadarshni W/o Shri Pran Ranjan Choudhary R/o Ph 1, Pinnacle Tower Ahinsa Khand 2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014 has De-barred their son and his wife namely Mr Prateek Vatsa and Mrs Rashmi Kumari respectively from their movable and immovable properties due to their dis obedient behaviour and mis-behaving attitude towards my clients and also they are not in control of my clients. In future anybody dealing with them shall be at their risk and cost for which my clients shall not be responsible.
DHARMENDER SHARMA
Advocate
Ch. No. 676, Civil Court
Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instruction from and on behalf of my client Mr. KAILASH SHARMA son of Late Shri Jagdish Prasad Sharma resident of House No. A/154-155, Gali No.6, Om Vihar Phase-5, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 (Aadhar No. 49216358846), I have to inform the general public that my aforesaid client has disowned his son Mr. VINIT KUMAR SHARMA son of Late Shri Jagdish Sharma resident of House No. 154-155, Block-A, Gali No. 6, Om Vihar Phase-5, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 (Aadhar No. 378233785573) from inheriting his movable and immovable property and have cut off all relation with him/her. If anybody dealing with them shall do at his own risk cost and responsibility.
Sd/-
RAMZAN AHMAD ANSARI
Advocate
Ch. No. 94, Patila House Court, New Delhi-110091

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Ram Manoj Kumar S/o Late Sh. Ram Dulare Kanchia and his wife Ram Kumari, R/o H.No. E-114, Block-B, Pappu Colony, Patlipur, Saket, Delhi-110014, have severed all relationships with their son Sh. Kishan and his wife Kuran Kuran due to their rude, disrespectful, irresponsible, and bad behaviour/habit. Both of my above-named clients have also disowned and debarred their above-named son and his wife from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Kishan and his wife will do so at his/her own risk, cost & responsibility. My above-named clients will not be responsible for any acts or omissions.
Sd/-
Rajkumar (Advocate)
CH. No. B-28 Civil Side Building Tis Hazari Court New Delhi 110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is hereby given to all concerned that my client Smt. Santosh W/o Sh. Sahil Mittal R/O H.No. 455, Gali no.3, Ambekdar Nagar Extn., Hauz Khas, Delhi-88, have disowned/abandoned/disowned their son, Mr. Saarabh Mittal and their daughter in law Aakansha Rani, due to



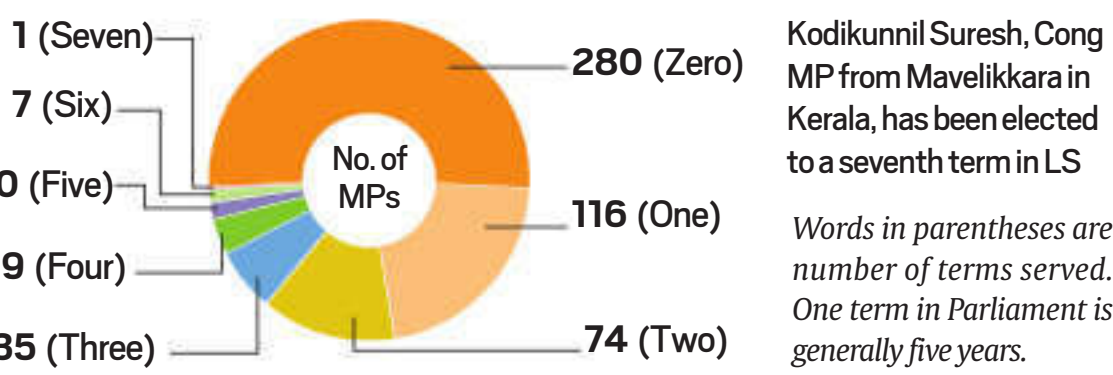
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

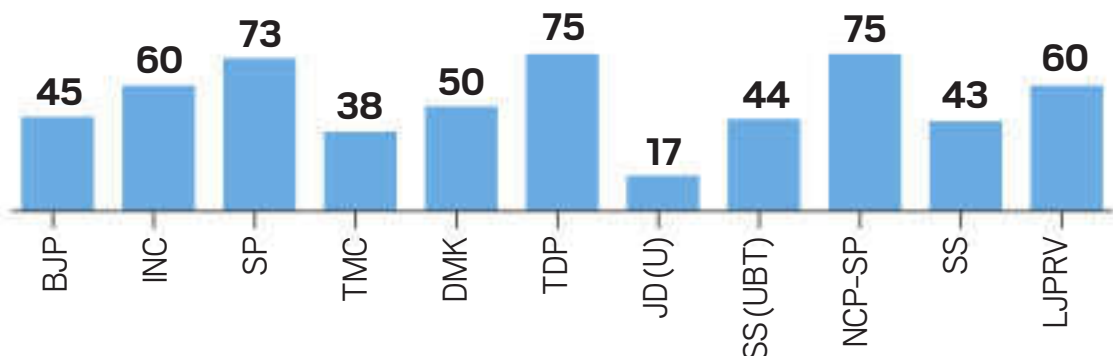
TELLING NUMBERS

Profile of the 543: How new Lok Sabha looks by age, professions

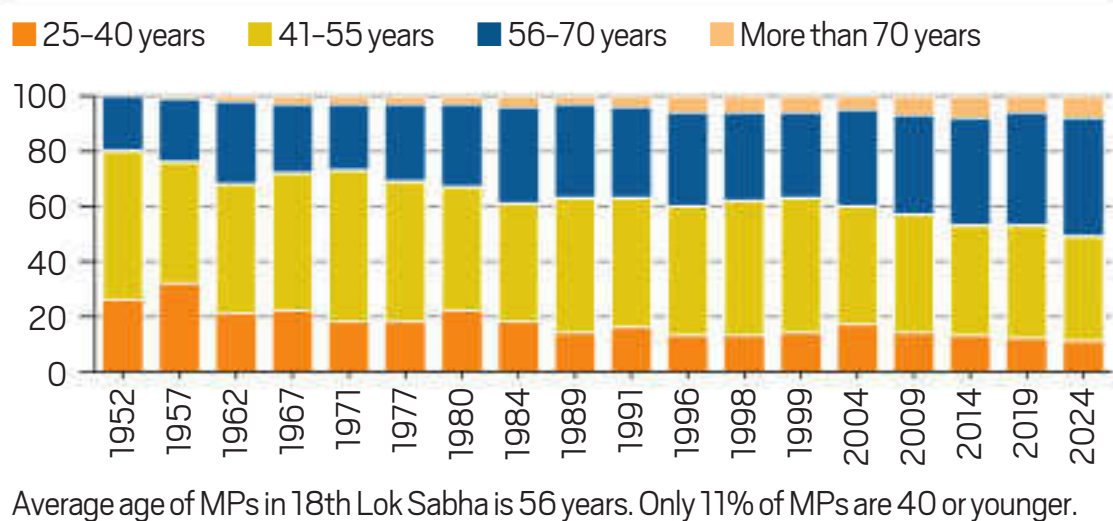
LS TERMS SERVED: 52% OF ALL MPs ARE FIRST-TIMERS



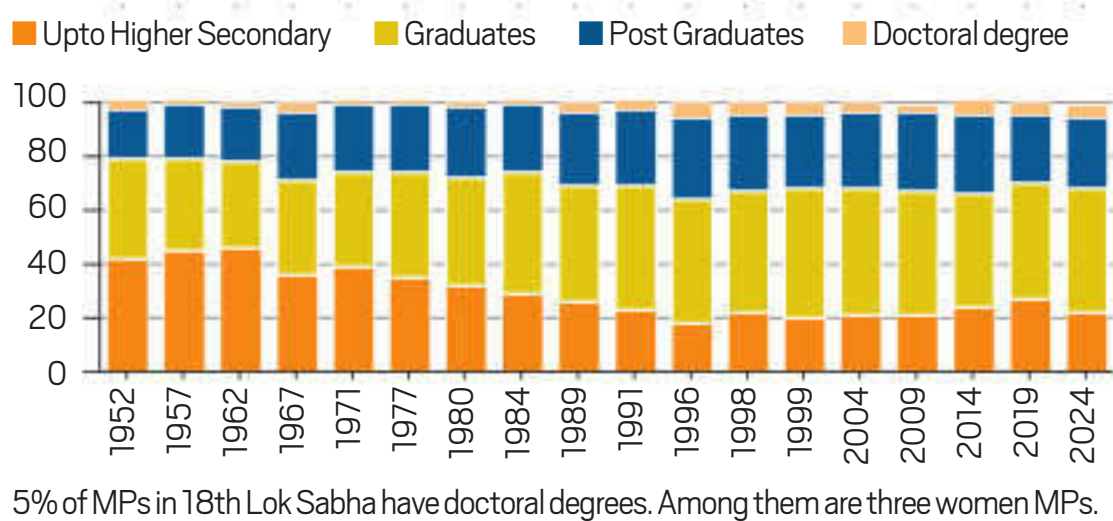
% FIRST-TIMERS BY PARTY: 3 OUT OF 4 TDP, NCP-SP MPs



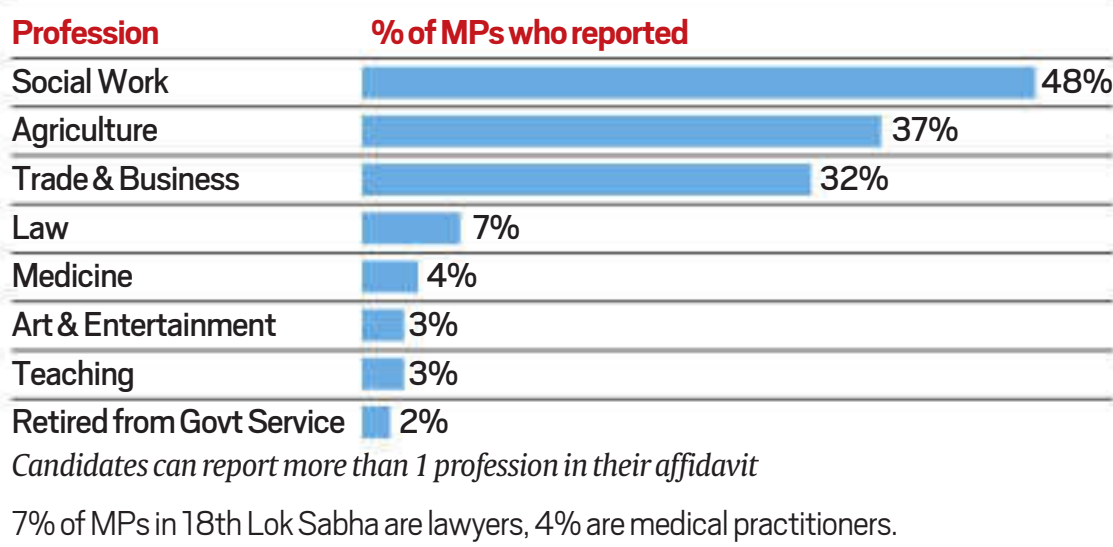
AGE PROFILE OF LS: PARLIAMENT IS GETTING OLDER



EDUCATION PROFILE: ALMOST 80% MPs ARE GRADUATES



PROFESSIONS: FARMERS & SOCIAL WORKERS DOMINATE



ALL DATA COURTESY PRS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

EXPLAINED CIVIC ISSUES

How Delhi gets its water

As Delhi experienced a record-breaking heatwave last month, its residents faced a crippling water shortage. This is a chronic problem in the national capital every summer

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release on Friday 137 cusecs of water it has in surplus, to resolve the drinking water crisis in Delhi. It asked Haryana to do the needful to facilitate the water's flow into the national capital.

This came after the AAP government in Delhi had approached the Supreme Court for the same, amidst a surge in water demand during last month's prolonged heatwave. AAP blamed the BJP-government in Haryana for "stopping" Yamuna's water supply to the national capital.

Where does Delhi's water come from?

Delhi gets most of its water from the Yamuna, Ravi-Beas, and Ganga rivers.

From the Ganga, via the Upper Ganga Canal in UP, Delhi receives 470 cusecs (roughly 254 MGD) of water.

Two channels entering Delhi from Haryana — the Carrier Lined Channel (CLC) and the Delhi Sub Branch (DSB) — supply Delhi with water from the Yamuna and Ravi-Beas rivers. Delhi receives 719 cusecs of water through the CLC, a lined channel meant to reduce seepage-induced water loss, and 330 cusecs through the DSB (total of roughly 565 MGD). The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) also takes water directly from the Yamuna to try and meet demand. A senior DJB official said Delhi is not allotted any specific amount of water it can draw directly from the river. Put together, Yamuna water — through the CLC, DSB and directly from the river — provides a supply of 612 MGD to Delhi.

Finally, the DJB supplements its river-water supply with ground water — around 135 MGD of which are drawn from Delhi's tube-wells and ranney wells.

What triggered Delhi's water shortage?

The water treatment plant (WTP) in North Delhi's Wazirabad was functioning below its capacity from May 12 to 14, and again from May 18 to June 1. Coincidentally, this was the time when the national capital experienced record high temperatures, and thus, a steep surge in demand for water.

The Wazirabad WTP has a capacity of 131 MGD (million gallons per day), and serves parts of north, central and south Delhi including Burari, Model Town, Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Matia Mahal, Ballimaran, Punjabi Bagh, the areas around Rajghat and



Children on a DJB pipeline carry drinking water to their homes along the Yamuna on Thursday.
Tashi Tobgyal

ITO, and some parts of Greater Kailash, Defence Colony and South Extension.

It is the third largest of DJB's nine WTPs in terms of capacity, and primarily depends on water from the CLC and DSB. Officials in both Delhi and Haryana told *The Indian Express* that this supply was being maintained. But, the plant, which lies on the bank of Yamuna, also draws some water directly from the river, at the Wazirabad reservoir. This is where DJB's supply problems lay (more on that later).

In May, Wazirabad's production fell to as low as 102.9 MGD, returning to its normal capacity only on June 2 (131.14 MGD, according to DJB's bulletin). Other WTPs, however, functioned above their capacity, save for some days of the month when some plants dealt with short power failures. DJB's bulletins from June 3 to 6 show that the Wazirabad WTP is currently producing around 133-134 MGD per day, slightly more than its capacity.

With all its WTPs functioning as intended, the DJB can produce a little over 1000 MGD of water (DJB's June 6 bulletin reported production of 1,003.05 MGD). Production had dipped to as low as 966 MGD in May, on a day in which in addition to the Wazirabad WTP, the Sonia Vihar WTP was also function-

ing below capacity due to a power failure.

But even at full capacity, DJB is not capable of meeting the city's requirement of 1290 MGD during peak summers, as estimated by the Economic Survey for 2023-24.

Why was the Wazirabad WTP functioning below capacity?

Across the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi recorded large rainfall deficits from May 1 to 24, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Scant rainfall meant that the Yamuna simply did not have enough water for the DJB to draw from the Wazirabad reservoir, a DJB official explained. Against a 'normal' level of 674.5 feet (above sea level), the water level at the reservoir on May 31 was 670.3 feet. It has risen to 671 feet in the last few days.

This is not the first time such a situation has arisen. In previous summers, the water level at the Wazirabad reservoir has been even lower. In June 2022, for instance, it had reached a level of 667.7 feet.

Apart from low rainfall, the water levels are also impacted due to losses in transit, due to seepage, as well as due to evaporation. An official at the Haryana Irrigation and Water

Resources Department said that of the 352 cusecs of water released from the Hathnikund barrage in the summers, a decent proportion is lost in transit.

How much water is Delhi allotted from the Yamuna?

A water sharing agreement on the 'surface flow' of the Yamuna among Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi in 1994, specified that Delhi is to get 0.076 billion cubic metres of water from March to June. The annual allocation for Delhi is 0.724 BCM. This amounts to roughly 435 MGD. This allocation is regulated by the Upper Yamuna River Board, with the 1994 agreement due for revision in 2025.

In 1996, in a matter on Delhi's residents not getting enough water, the Supreme Court had said: "...We order and direct that Delhi shall continue to get as much water for domestic use from Haryana through river Jamuna which can be consumed and filled in the two water reservoirs and treatment plants at Wazirabad and Hyderpur. Both the Wazirabad and Hyderpur reservoirs shall remain full to their capacity from the water supplied by Haryana through river Jamuna."

THIS WORD MEANS | Six-Day War

Israel's victory in the 1967 war was a watershed moment for the region, transforming its geography and power equations

SAIMA MEHTA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

FIFTY-SEVEN years have passed since the Six-Day War, fought between Israel and its Arab neighbours between June 5 and June 10, 1967.

The brief but intense conflict, which has shaped the course of history in the Middle East, altered the region's map and transformed the power dynamics and relations between the countries involved. Here's a brief recall.

Roots of the conflict

The Six-Day War was the culmination of escalating tensions between Israel and its Arab neighbours, primarily Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, with whom the Zionist state shares its borders.

The genesis of these tensions lay in the very establishment of Israel, in which thousands of



Palestinian Arabs were killed and displaced, and which led to a massive refugee crisis. Egypt, under President Gamal Abdel Nasser, had a particularly frosty relationship with Israel due to territorial and water disputes.

The years leading up to the war saw a military buildup in Israel and the surrounding Arab states along Cold War lines — Israel was supported by the West, specifically the US, whereas the Arab states received military support from the Soviet Union and its allies.

Outbreak of the war

The immediate trigger for the Six-Day War was Egypt's naval blockade of the Straits of Tiran in May 1967. The straits are the pathway into the Israeli port of Elath, and Egypt's move dealt a major blow to Israeli commerce. Along with the mobilisation of Egyptian forces in the Sinai Peninsula, the blockade provided Israel with a justification for pre-emptive action.

On June 5, Israel launched a military strike against Egyptian airfields. It swiftly gained air superiority, and effectively neutralised the Egyptian Air Force. It also launched a ground operation into Sinai and the Egypt-occupied Gaza strip. In response, Jordan and Syria attacked Israel from the north and south.

Israel romped to a swift victory in the war. In under a week, it had wrested control of the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank

and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

A region transformed

The defeat dealt a humiliating blow to the Arabs, established Israel's geopolitical supremacy in the region, and saw it taking control of significant strategic territory. The 1973 Yom Kippur War (which Israel again won) can be seen as a direct attempt to undo the Arab losses of the Six-Day War.

The war contributed to the rise of Palestinian nationalism, and led to the emergence of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a major player. Ongoing tensions in the region can also be traced back to the war, and Israel's subsequent occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.

The fate of the Palestinian refugees displaced during the Six-Day War remains unresolved till date.

As Shehbaz visits China, the hope and unfulfilled promise of CPEC

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

PAKISTAN'S PRIME MINISTER Shehbaz Sharif is on a five-day visit to China. The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to be formally announced during the visit.

The \$62-billion CPEC, which was launched in 2015, is part of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at expanding China's geopolitical influence through billions of dollars of investments in infrastructure projects in around 100 countries.

CPEC is supposed to facilitate construction of power plants, road and rail networks, and the deep-sea port of Gwadar in Pakistan. To China, it is supposed to provide direct access to the Indian Ocean through highways in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and down the length of Pakistan.

CPEC story so far

The first phase of CPEC focused on infrastructure, energy, and port development projects. Data from the CPEC website show that of the 21 proposed power projects, 14 have been completed, two are under construction, and five are yet to start. Of the 24

proposed transport-related projects (rail and road), six have been completed, but no work has started on 13. Only four of the nine proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have seen any progress, and no SEZ is complete.

Not much is happening in Gwadar. Andrew Small, a leading expert on Chinese foreign policy, had told *The Indian Express* in 2022 that most of the projects around the port were "far from completion". According to the official Chinese news agency *Xinhua*, CPEC had brought direct investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan until 2022.

Behind stalled progress

CPEC has been hobbled by Chinese concerns about corruption and red tape in Pakistan, the political tumult in the country, and the poor security situation in Balochistan province where Gwadar is located.

The project has triggered violence in the restive province, and tens of Chinese nationals have been killed in terrorist attacks since 2018. At least five Chinese working on various CPEC projects have been killed in attacks by Baloch militants this year so far.

To the historically marginalised Baloch, Gwadar appears as a symbol of continued economic injustice. CPEC-related infrastructure has not generated quality jobs for local

people, and has failed to bring any economic dividends to the impoverished population.

"The developers from Punjab and Sindh, who had made a fortune from trading land in Balochistan, did not build schools and other social infrastructures as they had agreed," Ruoshui Jiao of Lanzhou University wrote in a 2023 paper ('Implications of Pakistani Dynastic Politics for the Construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor'). "The government [too] did not fulfil its promise to promote ...economic and social development..., and the rural areas of Balochistan were getting even poorer," he wrote.

Stella Hong, a China Public Policy Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard, told *Al Jazeera* that Pakistan's security situation "remains the most immediate concern" for China and may impact future Chinese investments in the country. "Companies need to be able to run viable businesses if they were to relocate to Pakistani SEZs or even in Pakistan in general. But many seem to have been frustrated by the difficulties of getting things done in Pakistan," she said.

Sharif has assured the Chinese that his government has started on structural changes to weed out corruption, and that he will

"spare no effort to protect the lives of Chinese workers", *Dawn* reported on Thursday.

Hopes and questions

Bringing big-ticket infra investment to CPEC is a priority for Sharif and the crisis-hit Pakistani economy. But CPEC's limited track record does not inspire confidence. "CPEC has certainly improved sectors such as transportation or energy...but one has

to translate these benefits into economic productivity and economic growth, which has not happened," economist Ammar Malik of the US-

based research lab AidData, told *Al Jazeera*. CPEC was estimated to generate more than 2 million employment opportunities for Pakistanis, government data say less than 250,000 jobs have been created so far.

"The Chinese approach of not partnering with local companies is not going to help create new job opportunities for millions of Pakistani youth. Since Chinese companies are tax-exempt, they bring everything from China, including labour, and hence they will have no reliance on Pakistani businesses to fulfil their demands," economist Abdul Khaliq wrote for the international advocacy The Committee for Abolition of Illegitimate Debt.

EXPLAINED
GLOBAL

sound communication and coordination in international and regional affairs," *Dawn* reported. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning as saying.

The "noise around a revival of the CPEC is either wishful thinking (at best) or a way to camouflage what really is going on", Khurram Husain, a leading Pakistani commentator on business and economy, wrote in an article titled 'The great CPEC mirage' in *Dawn*.

In March, the IMF agreed to release a \$1.1 billion tranche of its \$3 billion bailout package to Pakistan. The government is currently negotiating for a fresh package of \$6-8 billion, but a sticking point has been Pakistan's standing debt obligations, especially to China.

"The IMF does not want its resources being used to service Chinese debt obligations, and has told the government that an agreement will only be possible if there is no positive net outflow from Pakistan to China during the programme period. This means rescheduling some of the maturities in the slew of Chinese debt instruments maturing in the next three years," Husain wrote.

This is what lies at the heart of Sharif's visit to China, not CPEC, commentators including Husain believe.

LONGER VERSION ON
[indianexpress.com/explained](https://www.indianexpress.com/explained)

**CAMPAIGN LAUNCH — GAIL**

GAIL launched a series, 'Waah Kya Energy Hai', to highlight the accessibility & benefits of embracing new, clean & environmental friendly fuel options — Compressed Natural Gas & Piped Natural Gas offered by GAIL & its group companies. Representing one more venture by GAIL in Business-to-Consumer digital communication, the campaign is strategically geared towards engaging retail Natural Gas consumers across India.

BRANCH INAUGURATION — INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

The Indian Overseas Bank in Dehradun Region inaugurated its new branch in Dehradun's Miyawala at the hands of Anand Bardhan, the Additional Chief Secy. to Govt. of Uttarakhand. It is the bank's 46th branch in the Dehradun Region. The newly opened branch would be fully equipped with modern facilities and digital infrastructures to facilitate the best services to its customers. On this occasion, the chief guest of the event, Anand Bardhan congratulated the IOB.

**ACHIEVEMENT — THDCIL**

RK Vishnoi, CMD, THDCIL informed, that the organization has been certified as 'Great Place To Work'. This prestigious certification, issued by Great Place To Work™, India, solidifies THDCIL's commitment to fostering a positive & inclusive work culture. Emphasizing the pivotal role of HR practices & inclusive work culture, Vishnoi stated that it was a proud moment as this international certification has been conferred recognizing exemplary HR practices & work culture.

EXPEDITION — NCC

The NCC boys & girls mountaineering expedition to Mount Kang Yatse-II peak was flagged off recently by DG NCC Lt Gen G Singh from New Delhi. The peak is located in the Ladakh region at an altitude of 6,250m/20,505ft & this is the 87 NCC Cadets mountaineering expedition since 1970. The team comprises five Officers, 17 Permanent Instructors & 24 Cadets (12 Boys & 12 Girls) from various NCC directorates.

**CEREMONY — INDIAN COAST GUARD**

The ICG conducted the steel cutting ceremony for the first NGOPV at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. in Mumbai. This project, valued at Rs 1614 crs, aims to bolster capabilities in coastal & offshore patrolling, safeguarding maritime zones, & enhancing operational efficiency. The NGOPVs, designed to meet the evolving challenges of maritime security, are equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and equipment.

CEREMONY — CISF

A grand Investiture Ceremony was held at CISF Headquarters in New Delhi to honor & decorate 75 officers & personnel of the CISF with Police Medals for Meritorious Service, Fire Service Medals for meritorious service & Union Home Minister's Medals for excellence in Police training, awarded to them by the Gol on significant occasions.

**MOU — NBT**

The Dept. of School Education, M/o Education, Gol, signed an MoU with the NBT under the aegis of Dept. of Higher Education, M/o Education in New Delhi to establish an institutional framework for the Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya. The event was attended by Secretary of Dept. of Higher Education, K.Sanjay Murthy; Secy of Dept. of School Education & Literacy, S.Kumar; JS, Smt. AS Awasthi, & other senior officials of the Ministry.

ART FEST — CANVERSE ARTS

Govind Mohan, Secy, Culture, Gol, inaugurated 'Samagam Art Fest 2024', organized by CanVerse Arts Arts LLP, an art startup. Mohan also appreciated the Delhi based startup CanVerse Arts LLP for creating an atmosphere where artists and audiences of different backgrounds and disciplines have the freedom to create and experience art even if challenged or stretched by others' perspectives and artistic expressions.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY — SCOPE

Commemorating World Environment Day, SCOPE organized a plantation program at its office premises at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, Vice-Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, Goa Shipyard Ltd. & Atul Sobti DG, SCOPE planted saplings in the presence of Senior officials of SCOPE. In keeping with the theme of Environment Day-Our Land, Our Future. We are #GenerationRestoration, SCOPE organized the plantation program reiterating its steadfast commitment towards a greener & more sustainable future. Working towards environmental sustainability, SCOPE has collaborated with GIZ, Germany for highlighting the initiatives of Public Sector Enterprises towards Climate Change Mitigation.

**AWARD — EGYPTAIR**

EgyptAir in New Delhi received the Diplomatic Tourism Award for the year 2024 by choosing the Arab Republic of Egypt as the best historical and heritage destination in the world. Amr Ali, General Manager of Egyptair, received the award on behalf of His Excellency, the Egyptian Ambassador, in a large ceremony organized by The "Embassy Magazine." "Travel Jingles" in the presence of the Indian Tourism Board, many heads of diplomatic missions in India, and representatives of the press. And the media. The award is an acknowledgment by the Indian side of Egypt's history, and great civilization, that is appreciated among Indian society, & Egyptair works to stimulate tourism traffic from India to Egypt by its operation from Delhi and Mumbai to Cairo. Presenting comprehensive tourism programs to its customers in co-operation with the "Karnak" tourism sector of Egyptair.

**MOU — PNB**

PNB, India's Leading Public Sector Bank & India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd., India's leading Government-owned infrastructure financier have signed a MoU at PNB Corporate Office in Dwarka, New Delhi. As per the MoU, both the institutions will collaborate with each other in lending to Infrastructure Projects. With this step, both the institutions will explore the possibility of collaborating to jointly fund Infrastructure Projects, inter alia by Loan Syndication and Underwriting. The MoU was signed by Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO, PNB & Dr. P.R. Jaishankar, MD, IIFCL. The occasion was graced by the top management of both PNB and IIFCL. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jaishankar said "IIFCL has been leading the infrastructure financing sector in the country and this MoU will enable both the institutions to strengthen cooperation in financing of infrastructure projects."

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY — NHPC**

NHPC, India's premier green power company celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2024 with great enthusiasm at its Corporate Office, Regional Offices, Power Stations, Projects & Units. A plantation programme was organized at NHPC Corporate Office wherein RP Goyal, CMD NHPC, Uttam Lal, Dir. (Pers.) NHPC, RK Chaudhary, Dir. (Technical & Projects) NHPC & other Senior Officers planted saplings of various tree species. The vision of NHPC is to be a global leading organization for sustainable development of clean power through competent, responsible and innovative values. The mission is to adopt & innovate state-of-art technologies and optimize use of natural resources through effective management & to achieve excellence in development of clean power at international standards. NHPC has always aimed to execute & operate projects in environment friendly & socio-economically responsive manner.

**EXHIBITION — CCIC**

MK Pardeshi, IFS, Secretary (CPV & O IA) Ministry of External Affairs, in the presence of Manoj Lal, Managing Director, The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. inaugurated an Exclusive Exhibition cum Live Demo by Master Craftsmen from the Handicraft & Handloom sector & motivated them to Exports. The Live demonstrations gave a panoramic view of various crafts such as Blue Pottery, Stone Dust paintings, Madhubani Art, block printing Phulkari, etc to the foreign delegates.

**INAUGURATION — PUNJAB & SIND BANK**

PSB inaugurated its stall at the Annapurna Inter Food, 16th Int'l Food & Beverage Trade Expo, held in New Delhi. The stall, designated as B 02, will be open to visitors from 5 to 7 June 2024. Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO PSB, inaugurated the stall in the presence of Rajender Kumar Raigar, GM Priority Sector, & Gopal Krishan, GM Marketing.



NDMC organized its Suvidha Camp to provide information and facilitate grievance redressal for the benefit of its service users at the NDCC Convention Centre in New Delhi. The Suvidha Camp Helpdesks of the various departments redressed the grievances of the service users, employees, RWAs, MTAs & residents of NDMC. Additionally, NDMC also launched a 'Jan Suvidha Portal' as a contactless grievance redressal mechanism for its residents and service users.

NHB witnessed appreciating property prices during the period Jan-March 2024. Ahmedabad (5.9%), Bengaluru (8.1%), Chennai (5.1%), Delhi (1.7%), Hyderabad (6.7%), Kolkata (3.7%), Mumbai (4.0%) & Pune (5.2%) recorded increase in the index on an annual basis as per the Housing Price Index published by National Housing Bank.

CONCOR & Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. signed an MOU recently in Delhi, in the presence of Senior Officials of CONCOR & SCI. Both companies intend to explore business opportunities for leveraging the advantage of each other's infrastructure & experience in synergy to offer seamless & cost-effective end-to-end logistics services to customers under a single window. On this occasion, Sanjay Swarup, CMD, CONCOR stated that this MoU will enable them to utilize SCI's shipping services to develop CONCOR's Footprint at overseas locations and also to foray in the field of Coastal & Inland Waterways trade to offer a wide range of customizable logistics solution for the benefit of trade at large.

NCSC-DA Delhi, under the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Gol, in collaboration with Mission-A-Sewa (Reg.), successfully conducted 45 days Retail Marketing Training Program for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The program, wherein 32 enthusiastic students participated, aimed at fostering self-reliance among the participants, equipping them with essential skills for employment in the retail sector.

APPOINTMENT

SJVN Public Enterprises Selection Board has recommended Ajay Kumar Sharma for the prestigious post of Dir. (Pers.) of SJVN, a leading Public Sector Undertaking under the M/o Power. He was selected through a rigorous interview process, where he emerged as the top candidate among eleven contenders. Sharma is currently serving as a GM in the Corporate Human Resources department of SJVN. He joined SJVN in October 2009 and has since been a pivotal figure in its HR department at the Corporate Headquarters in Shimla. His contribution spans various fields of HR — Manpower Planning, Administration, Industrial Relations & Welfare, HR Policy, Training & Human Resource Development, & HR Procurement. Additionally, he assisted the Dir. (Pers.) & CMD of SJVN, underscoring his importance in the company's leadership team. He brought his rich experience from the Steel Authority of India Ltd., where he worked from 1996 to 2009. With a career spanning over two decades, Sharma brings a wealth of experience & expertise in human resources and industrial operations.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY****OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
NER-LJN-2024-80 to
NER-LJN-2024-88**

On behalf of President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Engineering, North Eastern Railway, Lucknow, invites online tender for the following work, detail of which is as given below: **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-80; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/EGD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹76,29,566/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,52,600/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-81; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/WGKP; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹1,43,99,784/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹2,22,000/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-82; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/BRK; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹56,00,000/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,12,000/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-83; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/MLN; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹67,69,840/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,35,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-84; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/STP; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹1,25,82,856/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹2,12,900/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-85; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/LINE/LJN; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹86,13,277/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,72,300/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-86; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/SPUGD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹35,15,000/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹70,300/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-87; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-88; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-89; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-90; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-91; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-92; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-93; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-94; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-95; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-96; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-97; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-98; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2024-99; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-00; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-01; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-02; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-03; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-04; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-05; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-06; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-07; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-08; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-09; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-10; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-11; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-12; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-13; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-14; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-15; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-16; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-17; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-18; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-19; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-20; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-21; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-22; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-23; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-24; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-25; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-26; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-27; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-28; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-29; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-30; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-31; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-32; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-33; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-34; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-35; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-36; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-37; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73,19,835/-; **Earnest Money (₹):** ₹1,46,400/-; **Completion Period:** For Period ending 30.06.2025; **E-Tender no.: NER-LJN-2025-38; Name of Work:** Zonal work for repair of level crossing for period ending 30.06.2025 in jurisdiction of ADEN/IN/GD; **Estimated Cost(₹):** ₹73

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 75,074.51 ▲ 692.27 (0.93%) NIFTY: 22,821.40 ▲ 201.05 (0.89%) NIKKEI: 38,703.51 ▲ 213.34 HANG SENG: 18,476.80 ▲ 51.84 FTSE: 8,274.62 ▲ 27.67 DAX: 18,658.31 ▲ 82.37

GOLD

₹73,500

USD RATE

₹83.49

OIL

\$77.65

SILVER

₹93,300

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of June 5

International market data till 1900 IST

HAD INVESTED ₹6,850 CRORE ON JUNE 3 AFTER EXIT POLL RESULTS

Amid market crash & recovery, FPIs pull out ₹18,109 crore so far in June

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, JUNE 6

AFTER INVESTING Rs 6,850 crore on June 3 — after the exit poll results were announced — foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were big sellers in the stock market in the next four days amid the fall and rise in stocks in the wake of the unexpected poll outcome.

Foreign investors have taken out Rs 18,109 crore from the cash market (excluding IPO investments) in the month of June so far, according to exchange data. On the other hand, domestic institutional investors (DII)s have net purchased Rs 6,864 crore of equities so far in June.

Net FPI outflows were at record high of Rs 12,436 crore on June 4, the day Lok Sabha election results were announced and the Sensex crashed by 6 per cent.

RECORD OUTFLOW OF ₹12,436 CR ON JUNE 4



File

NET FPI outflows were at record high of Rs 12,436 crore on June 4, the day Lok Sabha election results were announced and the Sensex crashed by 6%

WITH THE formation of a new government underway, analysts expect FPIs to again start investing in India again

On June 5, while the Sensex recovered by 3.2 per cent per cent, FPIs sold 5,656 crore and turned sellers again on June 6 with Rs 6,867 crore of outflows.

In the recent past, FPIs have pulled out money from India because of the expensive valuation and were investing in China

and also due to election related uncertainties, analysts said. As the election results are out and with the formation of a new government under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition, analysts expect FPIs to again start investing in India. According to Deepak Jasani,

EXPLAINED
FPIs sold, DIIs bought

IN THE recent past, foreign portfolio investors have pulled out money from India because of the expensive valuation and were investing in China and also due to election related uncertainties. However, domestic institutional investors have been buying with a net purchase of Rs 6,864 crore of equities so far in June.

Head of Retail Research, HDFC securities Ltd, events like the passage of a vote of confidence, the announcement of the council of ministers and their portfolio allocation, and policy announcements (including the

Union Budget) could lead to an increase in the confidence of foreigners.

“The valuation of Indian equities may look better in case Nifty EPS (earning per share) is upgraded based on the revived momentum of the economy post the new government settling down to business,” Jasani said.

Indications of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve or the RBI could also lead to heightened interest in Indian equities. If monsoon arrives on time and makes a good beginning across the country in terms of spread and intensity, FPIs may rework the earnings estimates of corporates and start investing, he said.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the 30-share Sensex rose 692.27 points, or 0.93 per cent, to close at 75,074.51. The broader Nifty gained 201.05 points, or 0.89 per cent, to end at 22,821.4.

DEPOSIT RATE TRIMMED TO 3.75% FROM A 4%; FIRST CUT SINCE 2019

European Central Bank starts cutting rates even as inflation fight continues

REUTERS

FRANKFURT, JUNE 6

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank went ahead with its first interest rate cut since 2019 on Thursday, citing progress in tackling inflation even as it acknowledged the fight was far from over.

In new forecasts released with the widely flagged rate cut, the ECB said it expected inflation to average 2.2 per cent in 2025 — up from a previous estimate of 2 per cent and meaning it was now seen holding above the central bank's 2 per cent target well into next year. Inflation in the 20 countries that share the euro has fallen to 2.6 per cent from more than 10 per cent in late 2022, largely thanks to lower fuel costs and an easing of post-pandemic supply snags.

But that progress has stalled recently and what had looked like the start of a major ECB easing cycle only a few weeks ago now appears more uncertain due to signs that inflation may prove sticky, as it has in the United States.

Cutting its deposit rate to 3.75 per cent from a record-high 4 per cent, the ECB gave no indication whether that would be followed by a further easing in July. “We are not pre-committing to a particular rate path,” ECB President Christine Lagarde told a press conference, reading from the Governing Council's statement.

“Despite the progress over recent quarters, domestic price pressures remain strong as wage



European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde at a news conference following the ECB's monetary policy meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday.

Reuters

growth is elevated, and inflation is likely to stay above target well into next year.”

While ECB policymakers signalled their confidence that inflation was gradually being tamed, there was also enough caution in their statement to convince some ECB-watchers that Thursday's cut would not be repeated at the next meeting.

Some commentators have questioned the logic of moving now, however, especially as the US Federal Reserve has been stopped in its tracks by some stronger-than-expected inflation readings and is not expected to move till after the summer.

IMF says ECB cut ‘appropriate’

Washington: The International Monetary Fund said that the European Central Bank's rate cut is “appropriate” given declining inflation in euro area, but that both ECB and US Federal Reserve should maintain a data-dependent approach. IMF spokesperson Julie Kozack also said the Fed should remain cautious in cutting rates. **REUTERS**

Wizz Air plans India-Europe direct flights at average one-way fares of just 200 euros

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

HUNGARY-BASED ultra low-cost airline group Wizz Air plans to launch direct flights connecting India with various destinations in Europe and is targeting average one-way fares of just 200 euros, or around Rs 18,000, Wizz Air's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) József Váradi said. While Váradi hopes that Wizz Air will start flying to India as early as the next financial year, he said that the timeline would be contingent upon the airline receiving all the necessary approvals in India as well as Europe.

With Wizz Air—one of Europe's leading budget carriers—set to start inducting the Airbus A321XLR—the extra long-range version of the A321 aircraft—from next year, India would be within reach for the airline group from its

WIZZ AIR TO INDUCT AIRBUS A321XLR

■ With Wizz Air set to start inducting the Airbus A321XLR—the extra long-range version of the A321 aircraft—from next year, India would be within reach for the group from its stations in countries like Hungary, Austria, and Italy. Wizz Air's current fleet of Airbus A320 family aircraft does not have the range to operate direct flights from Europe to India.

According to Váradi, the XLR is expected to be able to operate non-stop flights of up to 8.5 hours,

enough to connect various cities in Europe with India. Initially, Wizz Air is looking to connect “six to seven” European cities with some of the major airports in India. According to Váradi, while the average one-way fares that the airline is targeting for India-Europe flights would be in the range of 200 euros, the cheapest tickets could go for as low as sub-100 euros.

“We are going to receive the very first XLR in nine months, in February 2025. And we will have 47 of those aircraft coming in. With regard to India... We are in discussions with the (Indian) government and the regulator, and also in Europe... From Europe, we are a designated carrier from Italy, Austria and Hungary... We are talking to the Indian side to make sure that the designation is recognised, accepted and approved,” Váradi told The Indian Express on the sidelines of the CAPA India

Aviation Summit in Delhi.

“Currently, when I talk to Indians living in different parts of Europe, one of the biggest issues is that it is so expensive to fly (to India). That is what is going to change, and I think that needs to change. It would be great for the economy and great for the Indian people,” Váradi said, adding that low fares usually attract tourists and diaspora more, and there is significant demand for affordable travel between India and Europe from both these segments.

Currently, almost all direct flights between India and Europe are operated by full-service carriers, with hardly any budget carriers in the mix. Like Wizz Air, IndiGo will also start inducting the A321XLR into its fleet from next year, and could launch direct flights to Europe from India.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Saudia Group woos Air India, IndiGo for its mega MRO facility

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

SAUDIA GROUP is keen to pitch its upcoming mega maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility to Indian carriers, and has already approached Tata group carrier Air India for the same, a senior executive with the Saudi Arabian aviation conglomerate said. The group also plans to soon discuss the MRO-related possibilities with India's largest airline IndiGo.

“We know airlines in India, not just Air India, are using European MROs. So, we want to be on their radar for their maintenance activities,” said Saudia Group spokesperson Abdullah M Alshahrani on the sidelines of the CAPA India Aviation Summit in Delhi.

Once fully operational next

“We know airlines in India, not just Air India, are using European MROs. So, we want to be on their radar for their maintenance activities”

— ABDULLAH MALSHAHRANI
SAUDIA GROUP SPOKESPERSON

year, the facility—Saudia Technic's MRO Village—will be the largest MRO in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Spread over 1 million square metres, the MRO Village will have multiple hangars and engine and component shops.

It is expected to soon become an Airbus-authorised maintenance centre catering to the Airbus A320 family of aircraft. Alshahrani said that the facility

would also be maintenance centre for Boeing 787 aircraft and the CFM LEAP engines. Air India has both A320 family and Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet, while IndiGo's jet aircraft fleet is almost entirely made up of the A320 family. With both airlines placed mega aircraft orders last year, India represents a priority market for the Saudia Group, not just for its upcoming MRO, but also for the group's airlines—Saudia and Riyadh Air.

While Saudia is a legacy carrier, Riyadh Air is set to start operations next year. The Saudia Group is keen to densify its network with more direct flights between Saudi Arabia and India, and wants Indian airlines to do the same, Saudia Group Director General Ibrahim Al-Omar said during a session at the summit. **FULL REPORT ON**
www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

ITC shareholders okay demerger of ITC Hotels

New Delhi: Diversified entity ITC on Thursday said it has received shareholders' approval to demerge ITC Hotels into a separate entity. Shareholders of ITC... approved the resolution for the scheme of arrangement between ITC Ltd and ITC Hotels Ltd, it said. **PTI**

13 IPEF members ink clean, fair economy pacts

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said 13 IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc members have signed fair and clean economy agreements, while India will ink the deal after getting domestic approval. “India did not formally sign these agreements as domestic approval processes are still underway and will be completed after the formation of the new government,” the Commerce Ministry said. **PTI**

India-Qatar joint task force on investment

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Thursday said the Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI) of India and Qatar reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen bilateral relations. The Joint Task Force meeting was co-chaired by Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Mohamed bin Hassen Al-Malki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of the State of Qatar. **PTI**

IN APRIL

‘Veg thali prices rise by 9%’

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 6

THE ON-YEAR cost of a representative, home-cooked vegetarian thali rose by 9 per cent and non-vegetarian thali declined by 7 per cent in April 2024, Crisil M&A Research said.

The cost of the veg thali increased owing to a surge of 39 per cent, 41 per cent and 43 per cent on-year in the prices of tomato, potato and onion, respectively, largely because of the low base of last fiscal, Crisil said.

“Lower onion arrivals on account of a significant drop in rabi acreage coupled with a decline in potato arrivals on account of the adverse impact of late blight and crop damage in West Bengal contributed towards the increase in prices,” it said.

“A dip in acreage, resulting in subdued arrivals, led to a 13 per cent on-year increase in the price of rice (accounting for 13 per cent of the veg thali

cost), while lower reservoir levels impacted production of pulses (accounting for 9 per cent of the veg thali cost) leading to a 21 per cent increase in prices on-year,” Crisil said.

On the contrary, prices of cumin, chilli and vegetable oil fell 37 per cent, 25 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, preventing a further increase in the cost of the veg thali. The decline in the cost of the non-veg thali can be attributed to an estimated 16 per cent drop in broiler prices on-year on a high base of last fiscal on-month, however, the cost of the veg thali edged up 1 per cent and non-veg thali inched lower by 1 per cent, Crisil said.

The cost of the veg thali rose marginally on-month, largely owing to a 9 per cent increase in potato prices, while the cost of other major components broadly remained flat. The cost of the non-veg thali decreased as prices of broilers, which account for 50 per cent of the cost, declined an estimated 2 per cent on a high base, Crisil said.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 182/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D5/TVM/RT1

AMRUT 2.0 - Providing Pipe Line Network and FHCT in Chandavilla and Kattayikonam ward under Thiruvananthapuram Corporation-Pipeline Work EMD: Rs. 500000/- Tender Fee: Rs. 19518/- Last Date for submitting Tender: 01-07-2024 03:00:pm Phone: 0471-2322303 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Thiruvananthapuram

KWA-JB-GL-6-21-2024-25

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

CIAL/CIVIL/632 **TENDER NOTICE** 07/06/2024

Sealed item rate tenders are invited from reputed civil contractors/agencies for the work mentioned below at Cochin International Airport.

Name of Work	Estimated Amount (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Period of Completion
Construction of south side compound wall and drain for Star Hotel	195.73 Lakhs	Rs. 4 Lakhs	3 months

Agencies may submit their applications on or before **12.06.2024** for pre-qualification. For more details visit our website www.cial.aero

Sd/-
Managing Director

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmisc.tn.gov.in, E-Mail : gmdrug.tnmisc@tn.gov.in, mngprpdrug.tnmisc@tn.gov.in

Online Tender is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of **Disposable Syringes and Needles** from the Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Quality Management System (QMS) and from direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experience in the field for a minimum period of three years. Loan Licensees having valid Loan License with three years Market Standing is also eligible to participate in this tender. All the licenses shall be in accordance with Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of Disposable Syringes and Needles to TNMISC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-009/M(P)/SYRINGE-NEEDLE/TNMISC/2024, Dated 07.06.2024	07.06.2024 at 4.00 PM to 06.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM	17.06.2024 at 10.00 AM to 06.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM	08.07.2024 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>. The tender document can also be downloaded at www.tnmisc.tn.gov.in for reference purpose.

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

DIPR / 1761/ TENDER / 2024

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
7TH FLOOR, TOWER-B, WORLD TRADE CENTRE
NAUROJI NAGAR, NEW DELHI -110029

Petition No. 146/TL/2024 Dated: 3.6.2024

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Solapur Transmission Limited, 2, Dharam Marg, Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi-110021, for the establishment of the “Inter-state Transmission system for Evacuation of Power from RE Projects in Solapur (1500 MW) SEZ in Maharashtra” on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) consisting of the following elements:

Sl. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD in months from the effective date
1.	Establishment of 400/220 kV, 4x500 MVA ICTs at Solapur PS along with 2x125 MVAR, 420 kV Bus Reactors 400/220 kV, 500 MVA ICT-4 400 kV ICT bays-4 220 kV ICT bays-4 400 kV line bays -2. 220 kV line bays for solar park interconnection -5 125 MVar, 420 kV Bus reactor – 2 Nos 400 kV Bus reactor bay: 2 Nos. 220 kV TBC bay – 1 No. 220 kV BC bay – 1 No.	24 months
2.	Solapur PS -Solapur (PG) 400 kV D/c line (Quad ACSR/AAAC/AL59 moose equivalent)	
3.	2 nos. of 400 kV line bays at Solapur (PG) S/s for termination of Solapur PS- Solapur (PG) 400 kV D/c line.	

Note: POWERGRID shall provide space for 2 Nos. of 400kV bays at Solapur (PG) for termination of Solapur PS- Solapur (PG) 400kV D/c line.

- The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letter dated 4.4.2024 has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
- Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 30.5.2024 in Petition No. 146/TL/2024, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
- A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to Solapur Transmission Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.torrentpower.com/ or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
- Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **14.6.2024** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
- The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **18.6.2024**. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

CUP SNIPPETS



Marcus Stoinis hits a six against Oman at Kensington Oval. Reuters

Stoinis shines as Australia beat Oman

Bridgetown: Marcus Stoinis smacked a quick-fire unbeaten half-century and claimed three wickets as Australia began their T20 World Cup campaign with a comprehensive 39-run victory against Oman at the Kensington Oval on Thursday. Stoinis helped Australia recover from a top-order slide with a brutal unbeaten 67-run knock off 36 balls to help them post 164/5 in the company of David Warner (56). He then produced figures of 3-0-19-3 as the 2021 champions grabbed two points. Oman tried to take the fight to the opposition but their lack of experience showed as they could manage only 125/9 in 20 overs. Oman were pegged back when Nathan Ellis (2/28) and Mitchell Starc (2/20) struck once each inside the first three overs. **BRIEF SCORES:** Australia 164 for 5 in 20 overs (David Warner 56, Mitchell Marsh 14, Marcus Stoinis 67 not out; Mehran Khan 2/38) bt **Oman:** 125 for 9 in 20 overs (Aqib Ilyas 18, Ayaan Khan 36, Mehran Khan 27; Marcus Stoinis 3/19, Mitchell Starc 2/20, Adam Zampa 2/24). **PTI**

Pak hotel changed after PCB plea

Islamabad: The ICC has moved the Pakistan team to another hotel in New York after the Pakistan Cricket Board complained about a 90-minute drive to the ground for its forthcoming Twenty20 World Cup games. A source at the Pakistan Cricket Board told The Associated Press that after chairman Mohsin Naqvi intervened, the Pakistan team was moved to a hotel which is just a five-minute drive from the purpose-built stadium on Long Island in Westbury, New York. Pakistan is scheduled to play its group games there against archrival India in New York on Sunday before taking on Canada at the same venue on June 11. **PTI**

Bowlers have lot of experience: Hardik

New York: Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has reposed a lot of hope on the Jasprit Bumrah-led bowling unit to deliver for the team in the T20 World Cup here thanks to their experience, intensity and honesty within the core group. India on Wednesday started their campaign with an eight-wicket victory over Ireland on a drop-in pitch that offered variable bounce and extra seam movement. "We were told today that within the group we have 892 T20 games, that's a lot of games. So we have a lot of experience, especially in bowling where we have someone like Jasprit Bumrah, who is the number one bowler by far. We have (Mohammed) Siraj, who has been tremendous in recent years," Hardik said during a chat with the **BCCLTV**. **PTI**



If you want to take cricket to America, you should do it in such a way that the Americans who come to watch the game are entertained. If these are wickets brought from Adelaide, they should behave like one from Adelaide...

VIRENDER SEHWAG ON CRICBUZZ



Trying to sell the game in the states is great... love it... but for players to have to play on this sub-standard surface in New York is unacceptable... You work so hard to make it to the WC then have to play on this."

MICHAEL VAUGHAN ON X

World Cup on a sticky wicket

Poor drop-in pitches, ticket pricing may end up further alienating USA from cricket; Worry over nature of wicket for India-Pakistan

SANDIP G

JUNE 6

UNUSUAL PROTAGONISTS have entered a T20 narrative; pitch, uneven bounce, seam, swing, fast bowlers, rib cage. It is as though India and Pakistan are resuming their Test ties in New York this Sunday, when they meet in the showpiece game of the World Cup. Only that the arch rivals are locked in peculiar circumstances, something the T20 world has seldom come across.

At the heart of the intrigue are the drop-in pitches that have been far from ideal for a T20 game or a tournament that is seen as cricket's grand pitch to enter the US market. Largely untested because of the delay in laying them - thanks to the organisational ineptitude of the ICC and USA cricket board - they have been dangerously unpredictable so far. In the India vs Ireland game on Wednesday, at the same venue, India skipper Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant suffered blows on the body because of balls taking off from a good length.

Earlier in the same game, a delivery from new-ball bowler Arshdeep Singh had skidded all along the surface.

After the win over Ireland, Rohit wasn't sure about the kind of pitch they would get for the Pakistan game. "It's a new ground, a new venue, with a drop-in pitch. We weren't really aware of what it would be like to play on a pitch that's just five months old. It was all about getting used to the conditions... I don't think the wicket settled down even when we batted second."

Others have been more brutal in their assessment of the track. Calling the surface substandard, former England captain Michael Vaughan wrote on X: "Trying to sell the game in the states is great... love it... but for players to have to play on this sub-standard surface in New York is unacceptable... You work so hard to make it to the WC then have to play on this."

Wasim Jaffer was sarcastic: "This is an excellent pitch, provided the idea was selling Test cricket to the Americans."

On a *Cricbuzz* show, Virender Sehwag questioned the logic of promising entertaining cricket but producing boring wickets. "If you want to take cricket to America, you should do it in such a way that the Americans who come to watch the game are entertained. If these are wickets brought from Adelaide, they should behave like one from Adelaide, where 300 runs are scored in ODIs. This is not the case here," he said.

The fiasco was foreseeable. Once USA Cricket got the right to co-host the T20 World Cup, they decided to turn part of a sprawling park, Van Cortlandt Park, in the heart of Bronx, into a cricketing stadium. It proved to be a futile idea as the locals didn't want cricket encroaching on their park. The issue became a talking point with a state representative opposing it in the Senate, saying: "No. N-O. In caps, underlined, boldfaced, italicised. No."

By the time an alternative was sketched towards the end of last year, the Eisenhower Park, winter had set in. It was only in March that work began on the parkland where the stadium has sprung up. The ICC has produced a time-lapse video on its supersonic transformation from a snow-draped parkland to a grass-covered cricket field with modular stands. But if only preparing an outfield and pitch were as simple as that.

Not for lack of effort

The best men in the pitch-making business were hired. Damien Hough has sparkling credentials as the chief curator of the Adelaide Oval, one of the finest grounds in the world. The ICC also hired LandTek, a local company specialising in sports facilities.

ICC acknowledges pitch problem

New Delhi: In a statement on Thursday, the International Cricket Council acknowledged that the pitches have 'not played consistently' at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, where India play Pakistan and USA in the group stage.

"T20 Inc and the ICC recognise that the pitches used so far at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium have not played as consistently as we would have all wanted. The world-class grounds team have been working hard since the conclusion of yesterday's game to remedy the situation and deliver the best possible surfaces for the remaining matches," the ICC said. **ENS**

ties. Together, they conceptualised a mini-miracle in five months.

A large and elegant structure sprung up, surprising local residents. But the pitch, though, was a different beast. It had to travel 22,000 kilometres, from Adelaide, via different time zones, through the port of Savannah, Georgia to Boynton Beach in Florida, where the grass was sown and allowed to flourish under the sparkling Florida sun. Finally, at the end of April, it reached New York. "Since then, we've just allowed it to grow in, given it time to adjust to the natural conditions it's facing," Hough told The Guardian.

He and his colleagues had picked the best lot of pitches — four for games and six for warm-ups — but he admitted that there is always an element of risk on how a particular variety of grass adjusts to a vastly different environment.

"You know you've thought through the processes, you know you're happy with the way it's come together... but at the same time, until you have those games, you're not sure, because the pitch is only five months old. It's a short period of time to build a cricket pitch and play on it," he would say.

There were challenges that Hough countered on the go, like a bitter winter, the lack of consistent sunshine, the high clay content of the outfield, an unfamiliar soil type, used for baseball mounds, an unknown variety of Bermuda grass called Tahoma 31 for the pitches, and Kentucky Bluegrass for the outfield.

Even the depth of the grass was deeper than it was in Australia, which combined with the clayey soil could account for the sluggish outfield.

Most importantly, the surfaces didn't have time to bed in. No cricket was played on them until the warm-ups.

In a sense, it was like an organ transplant gone horribly awry, not because of a lack of expertise but due to haste and clumsy planning. There is hope that the surface would become better with time— Hough likens it to a human being, needing time to adjust and recover. Drop-in surfaces do improve with time, but in Australia and New Zealand. In the US, there is little history to lean on for proof. There is only uncertainty.

Thus, the tournament that was supposed to bring America closer to cricket could produce the opposite effect.

It has been an event marred by organisational dysfunction, the startling incompetence in handling a big tournament, which the ICC too can't wash its hands off. Cricket's endeavour to break new ground could easily end up breaking the ground beneath the sport in the country, if planning and organisation does not match the ambition.



India's World Cup opener against Ireland wasn't played in front of packed stands. Reuters

Eyes on big clash as matches in USA fail to fill stadiums due to sky-high rates

PRATYUSH RAJ

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

BARRING INDIFFERENT pitches, half-filled stadiums and sky-high ticket prices have also become a massive issue for the International Cricket Council (ICC), which is trying to carve a space for the sport in the United States.

Ahead of the tournament, USA Cricket chairman Venu Pisike had claimed great excitement and anticipation in the country around the India-Pakistan game in the T20 World Cup. "In terms of demand, it was huge. I think when ICC advertised for ticket registration, nearly 2 million requests just came for the India-Pakistan game. Unfortunately, it's hard to accommodate everyone," Pisike had told *The Indian Express*.

However, the ground reality is that the game isn't sold out with just over two days to go. India's opening match against Ireland too received a subdued reception with most of the stands having a large number of empty seats.

Ashish Kumar Gupta, an IT engineer in Pennsylvania, went for India's warm-up match against Bangladesh in New York but said he couldn't get tickets for the June 9 game against Pakistan.

"The cost of one ticket for the warm-up match was \$118, while the starting rate of the India vs Pakistan match is \$300, and it had been gobbled up. At present only hospitality tickets are available, but are fetching between \$2500-\$10,000," says Gupta.

By late Thursday, there are plenty of tickets available for the Diamond Club (\$10,000),



An ICC T20 World Cup promotional display in New York City. ICC

Corner Clubs (\$2,750) and Premium Club Lounge (\$2,500). The rates of the premium seats during the India vs Ireland tie were \$7,500 for the Diamond Club, \$950 for the Corner Club and \$1,750 for the Premium Club lounge.

On Tuesday, ICC released additional tickets for some T20 World Cup matches, including the India-Pakistan game, following huge demand from fans. And by late Tuesday, the general admission tickets, starting at \$300, were not available.

The general admission tickets in the resale market are hovering at around from \$1200 to \$1400 each, which is half the average monthly

earnings of lower-income Asian households in the US. To put matters in perspective, the median monthly income of lower-income Asian households is \$2,625, and for the middle-income category \$9,300, according to a Pew Research paper published last year.

"The cheapest tickets for the India-Pakistan game got sold out in no time. The rest were very expensive, in the \$2000-\$2500 range. Then you need to find a hotel, air or train tickets to reach New York and other expenses. It could have cost me \$4000-\$4500 easily. So I dropped the plan," S Adarsh, an IT professional living in Seattle told this newspaper.

Jamie Harrison, a history teacher, who set up the first American high school cricket team outside of New York City said: "If the American cricket board wanted to take the game mainstream, they should have reduced the prices of the tickets. Suppose a person who doesn't know cricket wants to get a hang of the game, he has to shell out \$200-300. So, he's not likely to buy a ticket. This way, America would not get new cricket fans. Only those who know the game would bother to spend this much. Even for those who like the game, it's not affordable for all."

Long-term view

For ICC, a lot depends on the June 9 fixture in terms of how cricket will leave a mark in the US. In four years' time, the sport will make its comeback into the Olympic fold at the Los Angeles Games after an absence of over a century. Cricket was last played at the Olympics at Paris in 1900, when just two teams competed: France and Great Britain.

OLD WARHORSE

At age of 43, Uganda veteran Nsubuga stars in a special World Cup win

RAHUL PANDEY

JUNE 6

FOUR OVERS, two maidens, four runs conceded, and two wickets. Frank Nsubuga was only playing his second World Cup game when he eked out the most economical bowling figures in T20 World Cup history. This to inspire a historic first win for Uganda, against Papua New Guinea on Thursday. But at the age of 43, the road to a World Cup debut for the second-oldest player in the tournament's history has taken much longer.

Nsubuga may have been new to the World Cups but he's been a constant name in Ugandan cricket over the past four decades.

He made his professional debut in 1996. Or rather, here's a more revelatory picture of the sport from back then: when Nsubuga went on his first tour, the term T20 was still half-a-decade away from being thrown in the ECB boardrooms. Uganda wasn't even an

ICC-recognised team back then. In the 1999 ODI World Cup qualifiers, Nsubuga had represented East Africa. His is a story that runs parallel to the rise of cricket in Uganda.

Born in a family of seven other siblings in the Lugogo neighborhood in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, Nsubuga's interest in the sport took off from his parents.

"My dad worked in Lugogo as a barman and my mother was also a working woman, serving lunch to cricket clubs in the area. That's how I came to be interested in the sport. Our background wasn't that strong but we were always in and around sports," Nsubuga told *The Indian Express*.

Important intervention

The off-spinner who looked effortless with his sliders and zippers on Thursday was far from it when he started out. Nsubuga narrates the tale of an intervention that set him on the trajectory for Thursday's spell during his teenage years. "Before bowling spin, I was a medium pacer, but I was chucking. One day,



Frank Nsubuga made his professional debut in 1996. In the 1999 ODI World Cup qualifiers, Nsubuga had represented East Africa. Uganda Cricket

as I was doing so, Samuel Walusimbi saw me." Walusimbi, who played for East Africa in the 1975 ODI World Cup, is regarded as one of the 'generous contributors to Uganda cricket'. "He intervened and changed me to bowling off-spin."

"My dad worked in Lugogo as a bar man and my mother was also a working woman, serving lunch to cricket clubs in the area. That's how I came to be interested in the sport. Our background wasn't that strong but we were always in and around sports."

FRANK NSUBUGA

What is it that's kept him going after all these years? "Discipline," Nsubuga rushes to answer before sharing what his routine looks like at 43. "Every day in the morning, I wake up by six. I do my 8-10K run. After that, I prepare for the training, which starts at 9. My discipline is what has kept me going. I sleep early. Alcohol is a strict no. I see myself pushing for maybe a year or two more."

It's this work-rate that has made Nsubuga a big source of inspiration in the dressing room. Ahead of the World Cup, Uganda cap-

tain Brian Masaba was asked how big it was for the 43-year-old to finally get to play at the big stage.

"Frank is a certified legend in Uganda cricket. He has been doing what he does since 1996. We all have such huge respect for him because of his professionalism and passion for the game. He is indeed an inspiration and a huge role model," Masaba said.

"He has captained me as well. The pleasure of playing alongside him for quite a while now and seeing him operate the way he has done over the years is truly amazing. He was happy that we qualified for the World Cup in his lifetime and hopefully, it will be a crowning moment for a stellar career he has had," he added.

A likely candidate for the crowning moment - his figures vs Papua New Guinea - came on Thursday, Masaba would concede, "I watched Frank play growing up, so to see him do what he does on the biggest stage makes me very emotional."

This competitive push is something the

Ugandan has picked from his idols - old and new. "Ricky Ponting was my idol because at the time he was playing in such a dominating team. I liked him and that's why I took the jersey number 14," Nsubuga shares.

But it's the team Uganda face next that's had an even bigger impact on their most experienced campaigner during his cricketing run. "West Indies, the way they won the (T20) World Cup, was very gripping to see. The way (Darren) Sammy led them to win. Yes, they've been struggling but they're still a very good side. They play fierce cricket and have a lot of experience in that team. They have been playing good in the IPL."

Such has been the impact of the Caribbean T20 superstars on Nsubuga in the last decade that he even named his son after one of them. "I also named my son after (Kieron) Pollard because I enjoyed the fierce brand of cricket he was playing."

Come their game on Saturday, it is the West Indies fan who will be Uganda's big card against the two-time champions.

BRIEFLY

Sarabjot shoots gold at Munich World Cup

Munich: Sarabjot Singh on Thursday opened India's account at the ISSF World Cup here with a gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event, emerging triumphant in a field that featured a reigning world champion and a four-time Olympian. The 22-year-old Indian shot 242.7 in the eight-man final, leaving behind his nearest competitor Bu Shuaihang of China by 0.2 points. Germany's Robin Walter won bronze. Sarabjot had on Wednesday shot a top score of 588 to qualify for the decider. The final had in its line-up the reigning world champion Bowen Zhang of China and four-time Olympian Yusuf Dikec of Turkey, besides Bu and Walter.

Domestic cricket season from Sept

New Delhi: The Indian domestic cricket season 2024-25 will begin with the Duleep Trophy on September 5, the BCCI announced on Thursday. The BCCI unveiled the fixtures for 2024-25, which have been planned taking into account multiple factors to fortify the core of domestic cricket while prioritising player well-being. The season will commence with the Duleep Trophy. Four teams selected by the senior men's selection committee will compete in the Duleep Trophy, starting in Anantapur from September 5. This will be followed by the Irani Cup and the Ranji Trophy, featuring the first five league matches.

Wrestler Aman loses in final in Budapest

Budapest: Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat lost in the final of the 57kg freestyle category to Japan's Rei Higuchi at the Ranking Series tournament here. Aman was never in with a chance in the gold medal bout as the World Championship silver medalist built a solid lead in round one and ended with a comfortable 11-1 win. Earlier, Aman had a 14-4 technical superiority win over over Russian-Belarusian Aryan Tsiutryn. Despite the defeat in the final, Aman is likely to improve upon his ranking and get a better draw at the Paris Olympics. On Friday, women wrestling stars Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) will be in action. This will be Antim's first tournament since the Asian Games last year.

Bopanna-Ebden lose in French Open semis

Paris: Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden crashed out of the French Open after going down to Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in the semifinals here on Thursday. The second seeded Indo-Australian pair lost 5-7, 6-2, 2-6 to the eleventh seeded Italians. The Australian Open winning pair overcame the challenge posed by Brazilians Marcelo Zormann and Orlando Luz 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 in the opening round. They followed that triumph with a win over the Indo-Italian pair of N Sriram Balaji and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela 6-7 [2-7], 6-3, 7-6 [10-8] in the following round. In the quarterfinals, Bopanna and his partner got the better of the Belgian duo of Sander Gillé and Joran Vliegen 7-6 [7-3], 5-7, 6-1.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhetri exits, India on brink

Struggling to get into the game as teammates fail to create chances in a must-win tie, country gets a glimpse of future after talisman

SAYAK DUTTA
KOLKATA, JUNE 6

AN OVERCAST sky over Salt Lake Stadium reflected the sullen mood in the Indian camp as their talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri laced up his boots for one final time in the World Cup qualifier against Kuwait – a match that ultimately ended in 0-0, with India's dream of qualifying for the next round getting even harder to realise.

As the departing skipper stepped onto the ground for warm-up an hour before the match, the steadily-filling stadium roared its approval. Chhetri, on his part, acknowledged the cheers before joining his teammates for the practice drills.

Even though Chhetri had said the day before the match that of more significance was India's chance to qualify for the third round of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers, something that hadn't been done in the country's history, the magnitude of the skipper's swansong was felt through the crowd assembled to give him a final farewell.

But as Dinesh Karthik had said in a recent video after his retirement after Royal Challengers Bengaluru's elimination from this year's Indian Premier League, "In sport, there are no fairytale endings," Chhetri's last match for the Blue Tigers ended with India going further away from the goal of qualifying for the next round.

The emotions that he kept from bubbling over all these days, came out in the form of tears as the Indian players gave him a guard of honour as Chhetri took the final walk from the field into the locker room. The curtains fell for one of the best strikers of the country who rode off into the sunset with 94 goals in 151 matches.

India started with a 4-3-3 formation with Jay Gupta making his senior team debut in place of veteran Subhashish Bose in the centre of defence alongside Anwar Ali, Rahul Bheke and Nikhil Poojary.

The back-4 was immediately put under pressure by Kuwait, playing without winger Shabaib Al-Khaldi, with Eid Al-Rashedi leaving Poojary in his wake and sending a perfect through ball to Mohammad Daham, only for Gurpreet Singh Sandhu to make an excellent save in the 4th minute of the match.

Kuwait would keep threatening with their dynamic wing play while the crowd cheered even the basic saves made by the Indian goalkeeper as India slowly and steadily tried to grow into the match.

A best example of India's attacking prowess came in the 11th minute when a determined run by midfielder Liston Colaco resulted in a corner, only for de-



TAKE A BOW!

India captain Sunil Chhetri retired from international football on Thursday. The final match of his career, against Kuwait in Kolkata, ended in a goalless draw. Partha Paul

19 Number of years Sunil Chhetri played for the national team. He made his debut against Pakistan in 2005, almost three years after he began playing club football.

151 Number of international matches the India captain played. He featured in three Asian Cups, the joint-most by an Indian alongwith Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

94 Number of goals Chhetri scored for the national team. Nine of those came against Nepal, the most he has scored against a single opponent.

7 Number of times the 39-year-old forward was named India's Player of the Year – 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019. He has won the award more than any other player.

fender Anwar Ali to head high from the ensuing set piece.

Lack of quality

Chances would be rare going forward as Kuwait dominated the midfield for most of the first half with India's lack of ball control and inability to keep possession in the middle playing to their detriment. India would only depend on counters and occasional luck with debutant Gupta spraying in a low cross towards Abdul Sahal, which was eventually cleared. Sahal would get another chance in the 29th minute but his shot was blocked with Colaco's rebound only grazing the side netting.

The man of the moment Chhetri could-

n't get a proper sniff in the first half, floating inside the opposition penalty box but let down by his teammates, who couldn't feed the ball to him in an opportune position, with Kuwait clearly being the happier side at half time.

India switched into attacking mode in the second half with Rahim Ali and Brandon Fernandes coming in for Sahal and Anirudh Thapa. Chhetri was now playing behind the striker with Suresh Singh Wangjam being the lone central defensive midfielder. It almost paid dividends with Fernandes playing a through ball to Ali, who evaded his defender but only hit the goalkeeper as India witnessed first-hand what their future would look like after Chhetri.

How Sen's well-honed defence came to fore against world No. 12 Nishimoto

SHIVANI NAIK
JUNE 6

TASKED WITH keeping his ward Lakshya Sen's feet on the ground even as the Indonesian fans went hysterical over some of his stunning reflex shots, coach Vimal Kumar scythes the hype. "It's not his trademark shot or anything," he says, dismissing the spectacular body defense stroke that Sen hit against world No 12 Kenta Nishimoto on 11-8 in the second set. It was the shot that deflated the Japanese completely as he went down 21-9, 21-15 in the pre-quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 in Jakarta.

Vimal was quick to point out that the 'real test' was in Friday's quarters against Anders Antonsen. Father and co-coach DK Sen would gush and call it one of those things that Sen gets right when he's in the flow. At 10-8, the duo got into a fast-paced rally and the Japanese sent a charging smash most awkwardly on Sen's torso, close to where the

elbow of the racquet holding hand usually is. The Indian not only anticipated it, but swivelled a tad to the left by instinct and made just enough room for a wristy backhand reflex return. And it travelled.

In the mid-game break, Nishimoto got needless time to mull over that 'what - just - happened' shot, and he played like he'd seen a ghost thereafter. DK Sen recalls how some serious thinking went into constructing Sen's defence. "Sometimes in his childhood, besides the multi-shuttle, we would stand on a table on the opposite side and send the shuttle right into his body with continuous downward shots. It was always in that range, awkward angle where the racquet doesn't get space to manoeuvre. Training him to defend body shots by deliberately hitting him in range would reduce his fear of being smashed at," Sen Sr explains.

It was like cricket's late cut, or steering to third man. "The smash is coming at great speed, so no power is needed in the defense, just halka sa (slight) giving it direction when sending it back. It needs concentration to react."



Lakshya Sen won 21-9, 21-15. AP

The team wasn't ignorant to what that reflex defense winner could do to an opponent's head. "Doosra aadmi off-balance ho jaata hai," DK Sen laughs. "When you are being bombarded with punches in range-boxing, if you just suddenly duck and dodge, the opponent's guard is down, but if you send a swift counter, it can be a good move," he stresses. "Turning a disadvantage into advantage. Lakshya is also very agile, and when his

Vimal was quick to point out that the 'real test' was in Friday's quarterfinals against Anders Antonsen

defense works, he gets that flow," Sen Sr says.

Vimal Kumar says the reflex defense to body smashes has always been part of his counterattacking game. "He's now conditioned to it, so his reactions are better. It's like Nadal, he soaks up attacks and then counters," he says. But at the Padukone Academy in Bangalore, Vimal puts him through intense sessions - multi-feeding 4 vs 1, to make it all look like muscle memory.

There are tales about how all 4 get tired after 2-minute rallies, and need to be rotated, but Sen can keep defending all day. Sen's most fantastic-looking defense is obviously the sideways dive and how he's ready for the follow-up recovering in a jiffy. But coach

Sagar Chopra says hours and hours of work went into building that reflexive instinct.

Sen doesn't boast of the hardest of smashes, which Satwik-Chirag or Prannoy have - where the hit draws power from legs, then torso, then shoulder. Even his hit relies on this instinct. "As such, all youngsters think you need to have a real hard smash to get an opening. But Lakshya was one of the rare youngsters I saw who knew that his defense needs to be strong to create attacks and worked towards it."

Chopra reckons it's down to being alert. "They pepper him with down strokes and mix with tosses and drops in practice. But he's always ready with backhand or forehand stance of racquet when hit on body. That alertness is instinct, muscle memory, reflex, whatever you call it," he says. "It makes him one of the most defensively flamboyant players on the circuit and great to watch. Many women have that quality like Tai Tzu Ying, but amongst men, Lakshya might be rare. Watch out for his increased Indonesian fan following."

FRENCH OPEN

Alcaraz, Sinner renew rivalry hoping to give a taste of tennis' future

NAMIT KUMAR
JUNE 6

THIS WEEK at the French Open, for just the third time in 20 years, none of Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic got through to the quarterfinal of a Major.

The triumvirate have loomed so large over men's tennis that tracking their progress, and any potential face offs, through to the final stages of Grand Slam tournaments had become a habit. But with Federer out, Nadal's long, drawn-out attempts of another miracle in Paris crushed in the very first round, and Djokovic's problems with his form compounding with a latest injury setback, curtains for the era they defined seem like they have all but come down. Succession plans, however, often have a way of falling in place on their own.

On Friday, Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner will take each other on for a place in the final at Roland Garros in the latest, most high-profile instalment of their flourishing young rivalry. All through 2024, Sinner has been the player to beat at every tournament he has played, winning three titles including his maiden Major at the Australian Open, rewarded for his consistency with the World No. 1 ranking this coming Monday, irrespec-

tive of how the French Open plays out.

Even though Alcaraz already has two Majors and became the youngest ever World No. 1 as a teenager a few years ago, during the time Sinner made his rise, he has faced some uncertainty due to mounting physical problems. At his best, especially on clay, there are few that can keep up with him over five sets, but Alcaraz acknowledges that Sinner remains the player to beat presently.

"Well, you have to run like it is a marathon, side-to-side. I think he has nothing bad. Everything he does, he does it perfectly. I think it is the hardest thing to face Jannik," Alcaraz said on court after his quarterfinal. But he's relishing the challenge: "At the same time, I love these kind of matches. I love this kind of challenge. ... I love to find solutions, to find a way to beat him."

After completing their rise and keeping their place among tennis' elite, both players come into the match having proved they are capable of dealing with the stress and pressure of these big moments. There had been doubts regarding both, with Alcaraz nursing a sore arm and Sinner dealing with a problem in his hip, ahead of the tournament. But the very best players map out their preparations to peak at the Majors, and the duo have certainly done so, marching through the draw with an inevitability of creating this



Carlos Alcaraz is among the favourites to win the title. AP

face off, with the winner the odds-on favourite to win the title.

The 'Big Three' legend had not only been built on their relentless success, but also the rivalries they forged with each other, which lent a greater importance to each of their triumphs.

While it may be wholly premature to sug-

gest that Sinner and Alcaraz will go on to have a rivalry like that, their current matches have built sufficient hype. In eight meetings, they have squarely won four each. There have been plenty of moments that have already gone into their highlight reels from those contests, and tight exciting matches have often re-

Swiatek, Paolini to face off in final

Paris: Iga Swiatek moved closer to a third successive French Open title by dismantling American third seed Coco Gauff on Thursday and she will play Jasmine Paolini in the final after the Italian downed Mirra Andreeva. Swiatek's 6-2 6-4 semifinal win was her 11th victory in 12 meetings with Gauff, but the 23-year-old Pole had to endure tough moments in the second set before matching her longest winning streak on clay.. Paolini joined her in the final by defeating Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva 6-3 6-1. The women's singles final will take place on Saturday.

REUTERS

sulted – especially during the quarterfinals of the 2022 US Open, a classic five-set thriller which saw Sinner within touching distance of the finish line before Alcaraz edged it on his way to a maiden Grand Slam title.

Their playing styles are, for the most part, complementary. Both are all court players

with ferocious groundstrokes. Alcaraz has the superior forehand. Sinner has the better backhand. Sinner strikes the ball pure, generating more power and creating more acute angles – deceptively, given his lean, wiry frame – which allows him to dominate more from the baseline. But Alcaraz has the greater athleticism, and often counters Sinner's ball-striking with finesse. His groundstrokes have subtle variety, he often steps into the baseline to attack, is comfortable at the net, and has one of the best drop shots in tennis.

Finer tactical points may also decide Friday's contest. Part of why Alcaraz has struggled against Sinner is that the ball that comes off his racquet is so heavy that he hits through the Spaniard in baseline exchanges, especially crosscourt on his backhand. But on the slower red clay in Paris, Alcaraz will have the extra milliseconds to adjust and run around his backhand and take control with his forehand. It may well depend on how often, and how accurately, Sinner takes the riskier down-the-line option with his backhand to negate that.

At 22 and 21 respectively, Sinner and Alcaraz have emerged as potential greats of the game. At a transitional moment like this, the timing could hardly be more perfect for a heavyweight contest like this to prove that expectations are high for a reason.