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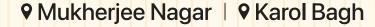


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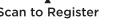




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CALL FOR PROBE Stock market crash of June 4 a 'scam': Rahul NEWS » PAGE 13



UTTARAKHAND TRAGEDY Bodies of four more trekkers recovered STATES » PAGE 6



INDIA'S TALISMAN Chhetri bids adieu after a stellar career **SPORT** » PAGE 17

New govt. should review Agnipath scheme: JD(U)

Remove shortcomings of the scheme, says the party; LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan says it should be looked into at the 'appropriate' time; NDA meeting today; Modi to take oath on June 9

Nistula Hebbar Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

mid meetings being held by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners to form a government, two allies of the BJP said on Thursday that the new government should review the Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitments to the armed forces.

Janata Dal(U) leader K.C. Tyagi told The Hindu that "there is anger among certain sections on the Agnipath scheme. Our party wants those shortcomings removed." He said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had not refused a review when asked about the scheme during the polls. "The scheme should be reviewed clause by clause," he said.

There is anger among certain sections on the Agnipath recruitment scheme.. it should be reviewed clause by clause K.C. TYAGI (United) leader

Mr. Tyagi also said that

on the issue of a caste cen-

sus already undertaken by

the Bihar government led

by the JD(U) last year,

"there is no party that can

now refuse to conduct a

caste survey. Bihar has

shown the path. Prime Mi-

nister [Narendra] Modi too

didn't oppose it when an

all-party delegation met

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief him. Caste-based census is the call of the hour. We will pursue it."

If they [parties]

believe that

worked for the country,

they can always discuss

it. Either you convince

me, or I will convince

you, that is

how we will

CHIRAG PASWAN

go ahead

a scheme has not

'No preconditions' Mr. Tyagi said his party had no preconditions in

forming the government. Another ally in the NDA, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, also said the Agnipath

scheme should be reviewed at the appropriate time. "It is too early to comment on issues like this. Every party has its own agenda and concerns, and they have equal right to voice them. Ultimately our goal is the same – to make India a developed nation. If they believe that there is a scheme that has not necessarily worked for the country, they can always discuss it. Either you convince me, or I will convince you, that is how we will go ahead," he said.

The NDA's parliamentary party meeting will be held on Friday morning and Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States and all

MPs-elect will be present. Mr. Modi will be taking the oath of office on June 9.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 13

Ajit holds emergency meetings; Fadnavis rushes to New Delhi



Post-poll parleys: An NCP meeting on at the residence of Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Thursday. ANI

Shoumojit Banerjee

Amid the crisis engulfing the ruling Mahayuti coalition in Maharashtra following its rout in the Lok Sabha election, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar summoned emergency meetings of his Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction leaders on Thursday.

BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who had offered to quit the post, reached Delhi to meet the BJP top brass.

A flurry of meetings were held by Mr. Ajit at his

residence in Mumbai, to take stock of the party's disastrous poll performance.

The meetings took place amid swirling rumours that several legislators of Mr. Ajit's faction were in touch with the rival NCP (SP) faction headed by his uncle Sharad Pawar, which scored a stunning victory in the election, proving to his nephew that the electorate had rejected the manner in which Mr. Ajit split the NCP to align with the BJP last year.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 13

No alliance with Congress for Delhi Assembly election: AAP

The Hindu Bureau

Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi convener Gopal Rai on Thursday said his party will fight the upcoming Assembly election independently and that the alliance with the Congress was only for the Lok Sabha election.

"We had made this clear earlier as well that the alliance with the Congress was only for the parliamentary polls, and we fought that together with honesty. We will fight the Assembly election with the help of the people of Delhi, and win," Mr. Rai said.

The Delhi Assembly election is scheduled to take place early next year.

Speaking to mediapersons after a meeting with AAP MLAs regarding the party's performance in the Lok Sabha election in

contested in Delhi, Mr. Rai said the election was fought under "tough circumstances", and the 4-3 seat-sharing deal with the Congress "helped decrease the margin of AAP's loss" compared to the 2019 poll. "Reports from across the

country show that the people have reacted to the way in which Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal and other leaders of the party were put in jail... Despite a verdict by the Supreme Court in favour of the Delhi government over control of services, the Centre overturned the ruling. We hope that after the Lok Sabha results, the Centre will change its ways of trying to snatch powers given to the

which it lost the four seats it among party workers after the Chie in a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, AAP had remained united even in difficult times and fought the Lok Sabha election well against the BJP's "dictatorship". "All party MLAs will concentrate on development work in their individual Assembly constituencies in preparation for the State election next year," Mr. Rai said.

> 'Will strengthen party' In a similar meeting held to take stock of the Congress's performance, Delhi chief Devender Yadav said that while the party accepts "with humility" the results of the Lok Sabha poll in the



Nara Lokesh says mandate in A.P. against arrogance

NEW DELHI

Newly elected TDP MLA from Andhra Pradesh and son of Chief Minister-elect N. Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, in an interview to The Hindu, said that the mandate given to the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance in the State was one "against arrogance and complacency in governance". » Page 6



elected government of Del-Capital, it will spare "no efhi," Mr. Rai said. fort" in strengthening its He added that though cadre at the grassroots there was disappointment

We are real Ram *bhakts*, says SP's newly

elected Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad

Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) general secretary Awadhesh Prasad has had an illustrious political career spanning roughly five decades. With roots in the anti-Emergency movement and associations with socialist leaders of the Janata Party, Lok Dal, Janata Dal in the 1970s and 1980s, the 79-year-old has served as a legislator in Uttar Pradesh a staggering nine times and been a founding member of the Samajwadi Party since 1992.

Mr. Prasad's tallest claim to fame has perhaps arrived

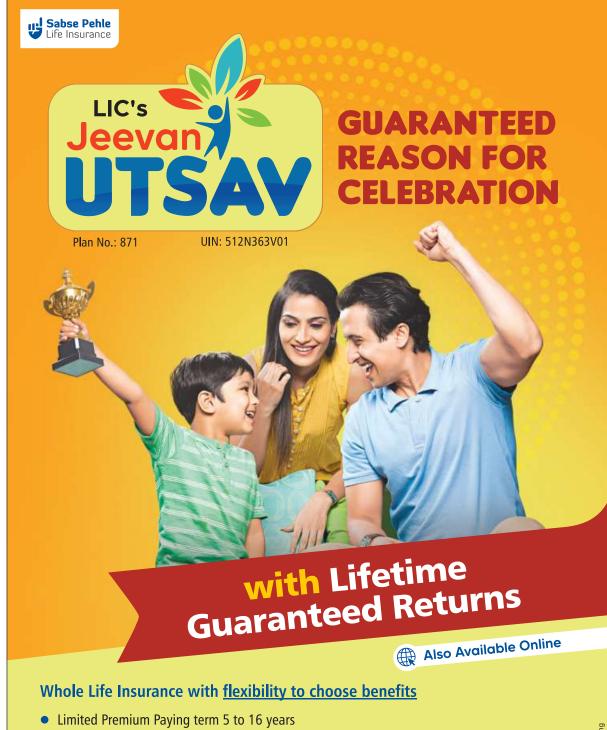


Prasad in Ayodhya on Tuesday. PTI

only now, as newly elected Lok Sabha member from Faizabad seat, synonymous with the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Despite the BJP mounting the temple's consecration as one of the Narendra Modi government's big achievements in its second term, Mr. Prasad, who hails from the Pasi Scheduled Caste community, wrested the general category seat from sitting MP Lallu Singh by 54,567 votes.

The Faizabad MP-elect told The Hindu the BJP's penchant for politics over Lord Ram proved to be its undoing. "We are the real Ram bhakts, they did politics on the name of Ram for attaining power. It is a big achievement for me to emerge victorious from the historic religious centre," he said, expressing his gratitude to the voters. Mr. Prasad's victory in the prestigious seat took SP to its best performance ever of 37 Lok Sabha seats from U.P., five of its winners coming from the Pasi community. "My victory is unprecedented as I won from this general seat. I'm thankful to party chief Akhilesh Yadav for the opportunity," he said.

Currently an MLA from the Milkipur reserved constituency, the SP leader, who has also served as Cabinet Minister in multiple U.P. governments, said his victory signalled the triumph of the democratic and constitutional values of the republic. "I will fulfil the trust placed in me with full responsibility," he said.



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SC orders release of 137 cusecs of water to Delhi; victory for Capital: Atishi

Provide passage to water meant for Capital, SC tells Harvana, after H.P. says it's ready to help Delhi: Water Minister Atishi thanks court for standing with city dwellers during the 'unprecedented crisis'

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court on Wednesday orof 137 cusecs of surplus water from upstream Himachal Pradesh through the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana into the Wazirabad barrage to quench Delhi's drinking water crisis.

Water Minister Atishi welcomed the apex court order and called it a "victory" for the people of Delhi, which is facing an acute water shortage.

A Vacation Bench of Justices P.K. Mishra and K.V. Viswanathan passed the order after perusing the minutes of a meeting held by the Upper Yamuna River Board with the States of Delhi, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, along with the Centre.

The meeting, held on June 5, saw the Board acknowledge the acute shortage of drinking water in the national capital in the middle of a heatwave across the northern States.

Himachal said it could spare an additional supply of 137 cusecs to the Capital. However, Haryana, through which the water



Parched: Residents fill water from a tanker at Vivekanand Camp in Chanakyapuri on Thursday, PTI

was "ready and willing" to

help Delhi in its hour of

Singhvi for Delhi said Ha-

ryana's objection was

nothing short of "cussed-

ness and obstructionist".

He said the State was "play-

machal Pradesh to release

137 cusecs of surplus water

Haryana should be given

prior intimation about the

release of the water so that

it could facilitate its flow in-

na River Board and Harya-

It said the Upper Yamu-

The Bench ordered Hi-

The court directed that

Senior advocate A.M.

dire need.

ing politics".

on June 7.

has to pass to reach Delhi, raised objections.

Haryana insisted in court that Himachal Pradesh did not have any water to spare for Delhi and said it was also suffering from a water crisis.

"But Delhi is not asking you (Haryana) to give water... The water has to come from Himachal Pradesh and not Haryana," Justice Mishra reacted.

Justice Viswanathan said Haryana needed only to give the water the "right of passage"

Himachal Pradesh, represented by Additional Advocate General Vaibhav Shrivastava, said the State na could measure the water released from Himachal Pradesh to see if the quantity was really 137 cusecs.

The court made it clear that the Delhi government should ensure that no water was wasted through leaks or in other ways.

'Coordinated efforts'

In a post on X, Atishi said, "I salute the Hon'ble Supreme Court for standing with the people of Delhi during this unprecedented water crisis. This is a time that calls for coordinated effort above all else, and the SC order marks a victory for the people of Delhi and their right to water."

Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that despite requests, Haryana had refused to give way for the water that Himachal Pradesh had agreed to provide.

"I spoke to [H.P.] Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. He was ready to provide water to Delhi. However, the Haryana government was not providing a path for the water, which forced the Delhi government to approach the Supreme Court," he said.

BJP outperformed Oppn. candidates in 10 of 12 reserved Assembly segments in LS election

Satvika Mahajan NEW DELHI

Candidates of the BJP, which swept all Lok Sabha seats in the Capital, were ahead in 10 of the 12 reserved Assembly segments while the Opposition INDIA bloc candidates led in only two, data released by the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer show.

"The BJP has thwarted the poll alliance formed between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress this year, and the biggest contributors towards our win were members of the Scheduled Castes," said Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

Hitting back, AAP said it "vehemently condemns" politics rooted in caste or religion. "We are committed to inclusive development that benefits all," a statement said.

In East Delhi, AAP candi-

date Kuldeep Kumar, an BJP's Kamaljeet Sehrawat MLA from the reserved took the lead with 59,258 Kondli Assembly seat, votes while AAP's Mahabal trailed in two reserved As-Mishra trailed at 45,240 sembly segments, includ-Similarly, in New Delhi, ing his own. According to the data, his opponent,

Bansuri Swaraj of the BJP secured 52,562 and 58,092 votes in the reserved Karol Bagh and Patel Nagar segments respectively compared to AAP's Somnath Bharti winning only 45,416 votes and 51,534 votes in the same areas.

However, South Delhi and North East Delhi Lok Sabha constituencies saw INDIA bloc candidates register a lead in a couple of the reserved segments.

Congress's Kanhaiya Kumar led in North East Delhi's Seemapuri with 66,604 votes against BJP's Manoj Tiwari's count of 61,017 votes, but in Gokalpur, Mr. Tiwari established his lead with 80,757 votes compared to Mr. Kumar's tally of 70,159 votes. In South

Delhi, BJP's Ramvir Singh Bidhuri led with 73,883 votes in Deoli while AAP's Sahi Ram trailed with 71,513 votes.

But in Ambedkar Nagar, Mr. Ram led with 46,327 votes against Mr. Bidhuri's 45.523 votes.

The Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha seat had no reserved Assembly seats.

'Anti-poor'

Defending its performance, AAP said the BJP government at the Centre is "blatantly anti-poor". "Their failure to secure a majority in the Lok Sabha clearly highlights this fact," the statement added.

"The BJP government used bulldozers to demolish the properties of the poor, and especially targeted marginalised communities. We are grateful to the people of this country for giving a befitting reply to the BJP," AAP said.

Four private hospitals

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

. E-Tender No.: 37-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Construction of boundary wall to prevent encroachment of railway land & to prevent tress-passing across track at RRME, PUS, DGD and BKRO. 12 (Twelve) Months. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 1,89,78,296.34

2. E-Tender No.: 38-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: PTRU- Provision of 2 nos. Deep tube well at PTRU and 1 no. at each RRME &

BHKD station under ADEN/BRKA. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs.

3. E-Tender No.: 39-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Ballasting of Track including 300 mm Deep screening with BCM- 17.088 Km and 250 mm Deep screening-13.608 Km & TBR(Turnouts) - 48 Sets (1 in 8.5) and 11 Sets (1 in

12) under Sr. DEN/2/DHN. 12(Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 97,27,993.25

4. E-Tender No.: 40-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion

period: (Balance work) Rebuilding & strengthening of Bridge No.305, 352, 371, 374, 384

401,410 & 414 and other in connection with up- gradation of feeder routes to dedicated freight corridor in Grand Chord section under Sr. Divisional Engineer (2), East Central

5. E-Tender No.: 41-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Supply and installation of Maple Wood Flooring and badminton court for

construction of one Badminton court and one court mat in Recreation club Gomoh. 04

6. E-Tender No.: 42-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Dhanbad Division-TBR(Turnouts)-22 sets (Loops & Yards) and TWS+WCMSC-22 sets, FS+CS+CMSC-3 sets, TTR(TSR) - 32 sets, SEJS 16 Nos. & Glued joints -81 sets along with other ancillary work under ADEN/2/DHN in the jurisdiction of DEN(Estate)/DHN.

7. E-Tender No.: 43-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion

n DC line, NPJE-KTH link & KDS-TET link. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs

8. E-Tender No.: 44-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: GHD-SKTN: (i) TFR = 33,396 Km, and (ii) TBR (Turnout- 44 sets) = 33 Km, under

9. E-Tender No.: 45-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Provision of 1 No. Lift for passenger amenities at Renukut of Dhanbad Division. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 35,64,898.81

10. E-Tender No.: 46-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Singrauli Provision of ARRV (Accident Relief Road Vehicle) at SGRL station: Civi

11. E-Tender No.: 47-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Dhanbad Division: SLBN-CPU-MHDA section: (i) CTR(S)=8.831 TKm (ii) TSR(P)=2.392 TKm in the jurisdiction of SSE/P. Way/ OBRA and SSE/P. Way/SGRL unde

12. E-Tender No.: 48-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: OBRA-PPKD- Provision of LHS for elimination of Trespass at Km.140/08-09 ween OBRA-PPKD. 08 (Eight) Months, Approx. cost of work: Rs. 5,27,36,020.47

13. E-Tender No.: 49-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Replacement of flat type bearing by centralized bearing in Bridge No. 210U

section of Dhanbad Division under SSE/BR/DHN & DTO. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost 14. E-Tender No.: 50-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completic **period:** Metalizing of Bridge No. 17, 4, 65, 78, 79, 88, 95, 111, 130, 148, 159, 252, 264, 281 312, 314, 327, 346, 360, 361, 362, 365, 9, 11, 23, 27, 32 and 106A&B unde

SSE/Br./Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs.

15. E-Tender No.: 51-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Periodical painting of Bridge No. 65DN, 78DN, 79DN & 173 under SSE(Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 07 (Seven) Months. Approx. cost of work:

16. E-Tender No.: 52-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Periodical painting of steel bridge girder of br. no.117, 31, 32, 200, 206 and periodical greasing of br. no. 34A(UP&DN), 167(UP&DN), 202(UP&DN), 345(UP&DN), 416(UP&DN), 96(North & South), 117, 174, 238, 1up, 19, 32,59,59A, 61,61A, 77, 77A 110(UP&DN), 133(UP&DN), 155(UP&DN), 188UP, 210(UP&DN), 218(UP&DN)

221(UP&DN), 269UP, 297(UP&DN), 298(UP&DN), 311(UP&DN), 31, 8(North), 8(South), and 2GD under SSE/BR/DHN in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of

17. E-Tender No.: 53-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

period: RCGT-DMX: Provision of LHS for elimination of Trespass at Km.206/27-29 between RCGT-DMX, 12 (Twelve) Months Approx, cost of work; Rs. 5,71,60,773,97

18. E-Tender No.: 54-DHN-2024-25, Name of the work with its location & completion

eriod: DHN:- Improvement of existing rooms for installation of Departmental Mechanizer

Laundry at DHN Coaching Depot. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs

19. E-Tender No.: 55-DHN-2024-25. Name of the work with its location & completion

period: Improvement of colony road in Hill & Hospital, Bekarbandh and Rangatand colony

under ADEN/1/DHN. 12 (Twelve) Months. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 1,94,42,259.06

Earnest Money (In Rs.): Earnest Money is applicable as shown i

218UP, 248UP, 251UP, 311UP, 278UP, 315UP & 334UP in connection with strength bridges on dedicated freight corridor feeder route on CIC section and Br. No.187DN on GC

gineering works. 06 (Six) Months, Approx. cost of work: Rs. 37,86,180.09

ADEN/CPU. 12 (Twelve) Months. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 1,99,26,176.43

ne jurisdiction of Sr.DÉN/4/ECR/Dhanbad. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work:

Railway, Dhanbad. 09 (Nine) Months. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 4,94,65,480.86

(Four) Months. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 8,04,344.00

12 (Twelve) Months. **Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 2,58,76,129.19

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Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has found that four private hospitals in the Capital are being run illegally, while 40 others are operating with several discrepancies, officials said

probe into the registration and regulatory management of private medical facilities in the wake of the deadly fire at a neonatal hospital in Vivek Vihar, which killed eight newborns on May 25.

BJP's Harsh Malhotra, se-

cured 59,551 and 62,731

votes in Kondli and Trilok-

puri respectively, as op-

posed to Mr. Kumar's tally

of 57,985 and 55,244 votes.

Delhi's sole reserved LS

seat, BJP's Yogender Chan-

doliya defeated Congress's

Udit Raj in all three re-

served Assembly seg-

ments. In Bawana, he se-

1,17,586

compared to Mr. Raj's

82,896 votes. In Sultanpur

Majra, he got 54,957 votes

against the Congress candi-

date's 46,774 votes, and in

Mangolpuri, Mr. Chandoli-

ya led with 62,374 votes

while Mr. Raj lagged be-

In West Delhi's Madipur,

hind with 50,053 votes.

In North West Delhi,

Of the four hospitals, two are in east Delhi's Krishna Nagar and Kondli. One is located in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden, while another is in south Delhi's Devli, a senior government official said.

run illegally, finds ACB

on Thursay.

The findings emerged after the ACB inspected 62 private hospitals and nursing homes in Delhi over the last week as part of its

(Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:-

segments represented by jailed AAP leaders

Turf trough

How INDIA bloc candidates fared in Assembly segments represented by jailed AAP leaders

Oppn. nominees trailed

in 2 out of 3 Assembly

Assembly segment	Votes	
1. Patparganj	Kuldeep Kumar	Harsh Malhotra
(Manish Sisodia)	(AAP) 49,845	(BJP) 79,044
2. New Delhi	Somnath Bharti	Bansuri Swaraj (BJP)
(Arvind Kejriwal)	(AAP) 29,257	26,995
3. Shakur Basti	J.P. Agarwal (Cong.)	Praveen Khandelwal
(Satyendar Jain)	29,934	(BJP) 63,264

Lok Sabha constituency: 1. East Delhi 2. New Delhi 3. Chandni Chow

Satvika Mahajan NEW DELHI

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc candidates in Delhi trailed in two out of three Assembly segments represented by senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders who are in jail on corruption charges, data released by Delhi Chief Electoral Officer show.

INDIA bloc partners AAP and Congress fought the Lok Sabha election in Delhi together in a 4-3 seat-sharing arrangement against the BJP.

Kuldeep Kumar, AAP's East Delhi candidate, trailed behind his BIP rival. Harsh Malhotra, in the Patparganj Assembly segment, which is represented by former Deputy Chief Minis-Satyendar Jain.

However, in the New Delhi Lok Sabha seat, AAP's

of BJP's Bansuri Swaraj in the New Delhi Assembly segment, represented by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Mr. Jain, Mr. Sisodia, and Mr. Kejriwal are currently lodged in Tihar Jail on corruption charges, with the former Deputy CM and CM being arrested in connection with the excise policy case. The former Health Minister was sent to judicial custody in May 2022 and the former Deputy CM in February 2023. The CM was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21.

These results assume significance given that the campaign of the BJP's Delhi unit was centred around the AAP government's "scams" and that the Delhi Assembly election is less than a year away.

Talking about its performance, AAP said, "As far as Delhi is concerned, the party's vote share in the Lok Sabha election has increased significantly compared to the 2014 and 2019 elections. Despite its strong performance in the 2014 and 2019 elections, the BJP was reduced to just three seats in the 2015 Assembly election and eight in 2020."

ter Manish Sisodia. Similarly, the Opposition candidate from Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha seat, Congress's J.P. Agarwal, got fewer votes than BJP candidate Praveen Khandelwal in the Shakur Basti Assembly segment represented by former Deputy Chief Minister

Somnath Bharti was ahead

Gogi gang member attacked in Tihar Jail

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

An alleged member of the Gogi gang was attacked inside his cell at Tihar Jail on Wednesday, over a year after gangster Tillu Tajpuriya of the rival Tillu gang was stabbed to death inside a high-security ward at the same prison.

According to police sources, Hitesh alias Happy was attacked by two convicts, Gaurav Lohra

and Gurinder, leading to injuries to his neck, back and hips. He was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital immediately, an officer said.

The two persons involved in the attack are likely from the Neeraj Bawana gang, he added. While the victim is a convict in a 2019 murder case, Gaurav and Gurinder are in custody for cases of murder and attempt to murder, respectively.

बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति

प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कंपनी में कार्यरत IT/Computer प्रक्षेत्र के COMPUTER ENGINEERS/PROFESSIONALS एवं अन्य के लिए सूचना NOTICE FOR IT/COMPUTER ENGINEERS/PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS/COMPANIES & Others

बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति, पटना में निम्नलिखित पदों पर प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्पनी / सरकारी / गैर–सरकारी संस्थान में कार्यरत IT/Computer प्रक्षेत्र के Engineers/Professionals के लिए संविदा आधारित नियोजन हेतु <u>दिनाक 22.06.2024 को पूर्वाहन 11:30 बजे</u> से समिति मुख्यालय, सिन्हा लाइब्रेरी रोड, पटना-800017 में Walk-in-Interview आयोजित किया जाता है :-

पद का नाम	कुल रिक्ति एवं आरक्षण कोटि	शैक्षणिक योग्यता एवं अनुभव	मासिक मानदेय
उप निदेशक, आई०टी० (उ०मा०)	1-U/R	(i) एम०ई० (Computer Science/IT) / एम०टेक० (Computer Science/IT) एवं केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय / अर्द्ध-शासकीय संस्थानों / प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्पनी में कम्प्यूटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ६ वर्षों का कार्यानुभव। अथवा बी०ई०(Computer Science/IT) / बी०टेक० (Computer Science/IT) / एम०सी०ए० एवं केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय / अर्द्ध-शासकीय संस्थानों / प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्पनी में कम्प्यूटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ६ वर्षों का कार्यानुभव। (ii) वांछनीय किन्तु अनिवार्य नहीं (Desirable but not compulsory):Project Management में Advance Certificate or Diploma.	मानदेय के रूप में 1,05,000/— रू0 प्रतिमाह एकमुश्त राशि देय होगा। +
उप निदेशक आई०टी० (OFSS)	1-U/R	(i) एम०ई० (Computer Science/IT) एम०टेक० (Computer Science/IT) एवं केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय/अर्द्ध—शासकीय संस्थानों/प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्प्यूटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ६ वर्षों का कार्यानुभव। अथवा वी०ई० (Computer Science/IT) / वी०टेक० (Computer Science/IT) / एम०सी०ए० एवं केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय / अर्द्ध—शासकीय संस्थानों / प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्पनी में कम्प्यूटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ८ वर्षों का कार्यानुभव। (ii) वांछनीय किन्तु अनिवार्य नहीं (Desirable but not compulsory):— Project Management में Advance Certificate or Diploma.	इसके अलावा मासिक रूप से वाहन उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा।
सिस्टम एनालिस्ट (माध्यमिक)	01-U/R	(i) एम॰ई॰ (Computer Science/IT)/एम०टेक॰ (Computer Science/IT) एवं प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान/ कम्पनी अथवा केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय/ अर्द्ध-शासकीय संस्थानों में कम्प्यूटर/आई०टी॰ प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ४ वर्षों का कार्यानुभव। अथवा बी०ई॰ (Computer Science/IT)/बी०टेक॰ (Computer Science/IT)/एम०सी०ए० एवं प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान/ कम्पनी अथवा केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय/ अर्द्ध-शासकीय संस्थानों में कम्प्यूटर/आई०टी॰ प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ६ वर्षों का कार्यानुभव। (ii) वांछनीय किन्तु अनिवार्य नहीं (Desirable but not compulsory):- Project Management esa Advance Certificate or Diploma.	मानदेय के रूप में 95,000/- रू0 प्रतिमाह एकमुश्त राशि देय होगा। + इसके अलावा मासिक रूप से वाहन उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा।
प्रोग्रामर	1-U/R 1-EBC	(I) शैक्षणिक योग्यता — किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से B.Tech/B.E in Computer Science अथवा एम०सी०ए० ∕ एम०एस०सी० (आई०टी०)।	मानदेय के रूप में
प्रोग्रामर (उ0मा0)	1-U/R	(ii) अनुभव— प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान/कम्पनी अथवा केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय/ अर्द्ध—शासकीय संस्थानों में कम्प्यूटर/आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम 4 वर्षों का डाटा	75,000 / — रू0 प्रतिमाह एकमुश्त राशि
प्रोग्रामर (DMS)	1-U/R	प्रोसेसिंग, एम०आई०एस० मॉनिटिरिंग एवं डाटा / बिजनेस एनालिसिस का अनुभव।	देय होगा।
नेटवर्किंग एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर	01-U/R 1-EBC	(i) शैक्षणिक योग्यता— किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से बी०ई० / बी०टेक० / बी०सी०ए० / बी०एस०र (आई०टी०) / एम०सी०ए० / एम०एस०सी० (आई०टी०) / B.Sc. के साथ Computer में Diploma. (ii) अनुमव— केन्द्र / किसी राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय / अर्द्ध—शासकें संस्थानों / किसी प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्पनी में कम्प्यूटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम ४ वर्षों कार्यानुभव। यथा— a. Network monitoring, installing and implementing security programs/patches, e-mail a internet filters b. Exp. in network infrastructure such as switches and routers and diagnoses problems w these or with the behaviour of network-attached computers. c. Specialist in computer and network security, including the administration of security devices such as firewalls, as well as consulting on general security measures.	ाय मानदेय के रूप में 75,000 / — रू0 प्रतिमाह एकमुश्त राशि देय होगा।
डेटाबेस एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर (DMS)	1-U/R	(i) शैक्षणिक योग्यता— मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से B.Tech/B.E in Computer Science अथ्र एम०सी०ए० / एम०एस०सी० (आई०टी०) (ii) अनुभव— केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय / अर्द्ध—शासकीय संस्थानं प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थानं / कम्पनी में कम्प्युटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम 5 वर्षों का डाटाबेस मैनेज सिस्टम (SQL Server, My SQL Server, Oracal Database) का अनुभव। वांछनीय किन्तु अनिवार्य नहीं— SQL Server, 2014 & Latest version का कार्यानुभव।	75,000 / - \overline{\ove
हार्डवेयर टेक्निशियन	1-U/R	(I) शैक्षणिक योग्यता—िकसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से बी०ई० / बी०टेक० / बी०सी०ए० / एम०सी०ए० कम्प्यूटर हार्डवेयर में स्नातक की डिग्री / कम्प्यूटर हार्डवेयर में डिप्लोमा एवं 02 वर्षों का कार्य अनुभव। (ii) अनुभव— केन्द्र / किसी राज्य सरकार में अथवा उसके नियंत्रणाधीन शासकीय / अर्द्ध—शासक संस्थानों / किसी प्रतिष्ठित निजी संस्थान / कम्प्यनी में कम्प्यूटर / आई०टी० प्रक्षेत्र में न्यूनतम 4 वर्षों का कार्यानु यथा—Computer System के रख रखाव का 2 वर्षों का अनुभव। Patch/Server/Firewall & Software का Installation का अनुभव Computer System में AMC	मानदेय के रूप में 70,000/— रू0 प्रतिमाह एकमुश्त
		अनुभव वांछनीय किन्तु अनिवार्य नहीं (Desirable but not Compulsory)	

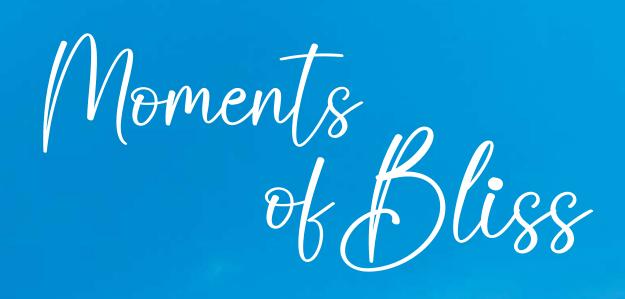
- अभ्यर्थी उपर्युक्त पदों पर संविदा आधारित नियोजन के संबंध में बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति मुख्यालय, सिन्हा लाईब्रेरी रोड, पटना–800017 में वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू (Walk-in-Interview) में अपना बायो-डाटा / आवेदन पत्र एवं शैक्षणिक योग्यता संबंधी प्रमाण पत्रों की मूल एवं स्व-अभिप्रमाणित छायाप्रति के साथ उपस्थित होंगे, जहाँ उनका इन्टरव्यू लिया जायेगा तथा इन्टरव्यू के आधार पर ही चयन(Selection) किया जायेगा।
- 3. संविदा पर नियोजन हेतु अधिकतम आयु सीमा ६० वर्ष होगी। समिति के निर्णय के अनुसार प्रत्येक वर्ष उपर्युक्त मानदेय (Remuneration) में वृद्धि की जायेगी। 💃 60 वर्ष पूरा होने के बाद संविदा विस्तारित नहीं की जायेगी। उपरोक्त सभी पदों के लिए मानदेय के अतिरिक्त प्रत्येक छः (०६) महीने की सेवा अवधि पूर्ण करने के पश्चात १५ (पन्द्रह) दिनों के पारिश्रमिक के समतुल्य विशेष
- मानदेय देय होगा। 5. आवेदन पत्र का प्रारूप बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति के विभागीय वेबसाईट http://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। संविदा आधारित नियोजन के संबंध में समिति का निर्णय अंतिम / मान्य होगा।

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http://www.ireps.gov.in. portal. Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 12:00 hours on 27.06.2024, Date opening of e-tender from 12:30 hrs. on 27.06.2024. Website particulars: http://www.ireps.gov.in, No manual tender For Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) East Central Railway, Dhanbad





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States



After bypoll win, Haryana CM Saini takes oath as legislator

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was administered oath as a legislator by the Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta on Thursday in Chandigarh.Mr. Saini recently defeated his main rival, Congress's Tarlochan Singh to win the bypoll for the Karnal Assembly seat, which was earlier held by party colleague Manohar Lal Khattar. Mr, Saini, the outgoing MP from Kurukshetra, had contested the by-election after he replaced Mr. Khattar as Chief Minister. The bypoll was necessitated by Mr. Khattar's resignation as MLA from Karnal after his removal from the post of Chief Minister. PTI

Rajkot fire: HC asks why civic chief was not suspended

The Gujarat High Court on Thursday came down heavily on the State government over the Rajkot game zone fire that killed 27 persons last month, and sought to know why the then chief of the local civic body was not suspended for not taking action against the facility that was being run without permission. The High Court expressed anger after learning that though a demolition notice was served to the TRP Game Zone, where the fire took place 25, by the Rajkot Municipal Corporation in June last year, no action was taken for one year by the civic body, whose commissioner was Anand Patel at that time. PTI

'Bhil Pradesh' in focus with BAP's victory from Rajasthan tribal region

Rajkumar Roat, the newly-elected MP from Banswara known for his strong views on the rights of tribal people, lists creating employment opportunities and tackling malnutrition as priorities

Mohammed Iqbal

he victory of Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) in Banswara in the 2024 Lok Sabha election is set to change the political landscape in the tribaldominated region of southern Rajasthan, as the tribal identity, formation of a 'Bhil Pradesh' and an increase in reservation for Scheduled Tribes have come to the centre stage. BAP's candidate Rajkumar Roat has won the reserved seat with a margin of 2,47,054 votes.

Mr. Roat, 31, who belongs to the Bhil tribal community, defeated veteran tribal leader, former Minister and Congress emigre Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party. A Congress stronghold, this Lok Sabha constituency – comprising Banswara and Dungarpur - is witnessing the affirmation of tribal rights in a new



Newly elected BAP MP Rajkumar Roat during his Lok Sabha election campaign in Banswara district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A two-time MLA from Chorasi, Mr. Roat was instrumental in the formation of BAP ahead of Assembly election last year. The party won three seats.

Mr. Roat is known for his strong views on the rights of tribal people in the Tribal Sub-Plan area and reservation for the tribal communities.

At a felicitation programme in Banswara on

Thursday, Mr. Roat said he would work towards creating employment opportunities for the tribal youth to prevent their migration to neighbouring Gujarat. "Malnutrition among the tribal children is a major issue to be resolved... We will also take forward the issue of Bhil Pradesh at the national level," he said, referring to the long-pending demand for the formation

of a separate State carved

out of 39 districts spread across four States.

BAP's decision to accept the Congress's invitation to join the INDIA bloc for the Lok Sabha election produced rich electoral dividends and enhanced the party's potential to influence regional politics at the national stage.

The party will be challenging both the Congress and the BJP in future, as the latter will find it difficult to match it on the tribal-related issues.

With its victory in the by-election at Banswara's Bagidora Assembly seat, the number of BAP MLAs in the 200-member Assembly is now four.

Jayesh Joshi, secretary of Banswara-based voluntary group Vaagdhara, told The Hindu that bringing BAP into the INDIA blocwas a "tactical move". "The votes which went in his favour were in fact a protest against Mr. Malviya's decision to switch to BJP," Mr. Joshi said.

T.N. BJP chief blamed for split with AIADMK

The Hindu Bureau COIMBATORE

Days after the rout in the Lok Sabha poll in Tamil Naerstwhile AIADMK and BIP were on Thursday engaged in a verbal duel over the results and cause for snapping of ties between them.

Former AIADMK Minister S.P. Velumani blamed BJP State president K. Annamalai for the snapping of ties and claimed that had the alliance remained intact, it could have won 35 to 40 seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

He told journalists that while the BJP State presidents in the past were cordial, Mr. Annamalai had made critical remarks against former Chief Ministers C.N. Annadurai and Jayalalithaa and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

He expressed the hope that the AIADMK's fortunes would be revived in 2026 the Assembly election.

Asked about this, Mr. Annamalai alleged that the reality was people had rejected the AIADMK. He felt Mr. Velumani's remarks indicated an intra-party tuss-



le between the former Minister Palaniswami.

On Mr. Velumani's claim that the alliance could have scored a big victory, Mr. Annamalai said though the BJP had allied with the AIADMK during the 2019 parliamentary poll, when the latter was the ruling party, the alliance suffered a "historic loss" in Tamil Nadu, though the BJP had nationally won 303 seats.

'Our time will come'

He pointed out that the AIADMK had walked out of the alliance contending it was compelled to play along with the BJP's policies and this had alienated certain section of voters. On the BJP's performance in the election, he said, "Our time will come. The party is growing in Tamil Nadu."

Similar poll symbols led to skewed results: NCP (SP)

Ateeq Shaikh

As the dust settles on the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar)'s impressive performance in Maharashtra, winning 8 of the 10 seats contested in the Lok Sabha poll, party leaders feel a confusion over their new party symbol and those allotted to some of the independent candidates may have resulted in the latter cornering a considerable number of votes in at least four seats.

"It seems this symbol was allotted deliberately for the division of votes," said Maharashtra NCP (SP) chief Jayant Patil.

In July 2023, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) split as party patriarch Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar joined the Eknath Shinde-BJP government in Maharashtra with eight party MLAs. While the Election Commission (EC) awarded the NCP symbol



(Top) The NCP (SP) party symbol; the symbol alloted to

of a 'clock' and the party name to the breakaway group, the Sharad Pawar faction, NCP (SP), was given the poll symbol of 'a man blowing turha' (a trumpet-like traditional instrument made of brass). Since the beginning of the election campaigning, the party as well as other alliance partners of the Maha Vikas Aghadi went around familiarising voters with the new symbol of turha,



We had raised the issue with the EC, but it didn't pay any heed... It seems this symbol was allotted deliberately for the division of votes

JAYANT PATIL Maharashtra NCP (SP) chief

referring to it with the Marathi name *tutari*. But things took a turn when the EC started issuing the sym bol of trumpet, which also is called tutari in Marathi, to Independents. The NCP (SP) had to change its outreach programmes. For example, in one of the party workers' meetings in Karad on April 27, the gathering was told to call the party symbol as the 'man with a

tutari' and not just 'tutari'. "The similarity in the symbol name created confusion among voters. We had raised the issue with the EC in the run-up to the

poll, but it didn't pay any heed," Mr. Patil said. On April 25, Mr. Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, who fought against her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar in Baramati, complained to the poll body when independent candidate Soyalshaha Shaikh was given the symbol of trumpet, which is called pipani in Marathi. "In several constituencies, pipani was referred to as tutari," Mr. Patil said.

While Ms lakh votes, 1.58 lakh more than her sister-in-law, Mr.

Shaikh bagged 14,917 votes. "In Satara, our candidate lost by about 32,000 votes. The independent rival with pipani cornered over 37,000 votes," Mr. Patil said. Satara was closely contested between NCP (SP)'s Shashikant Shinde and the BJP's Udayanraje Bhosale, who got elected with 5.71 lakh votes.

In Madha, where Mohite-Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh of NCP (SP) emerged as a winner, around 48,000 votes went to the candidate with the trumpet symbol.

In Dindori, although NCP (SP) candidate Bhaskar Bhagare won against sitting BJP MP Bharati Pawar by over 1.13 lakh votes, the confusion over the symbol seems to have limited the victory margin. Independent candidate Babu Bhagare 'Sir' was assigned the trumpet symbol. The 'Sir' in his name further added to the confusion.

Prior to joining electoral politics, NCP (SP)'s Bhagare was a schoolteacher. Party leaders alleged that the BJP looked for a namesake and found one Babu Bhagare in Nashik. Then 'Sir' was included to his name. While Bhaskar Bhagare Mr. bagged 5.77 lakh votes, Mr. Babu Bhagare (Sir) received 1.03 lakh votes.

Mr. Patil said his party will present its side before the EC on the issue.

Rahul's Bharat Jodo rally route proves game changer in 6 seats

The Hindu Bureau **GUWAHATI**

The route that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took for his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra (BJNY) went through six of the seven Lok Sabha seats which the party won on June 4.

These constituencies -Inner Manipur, Outer Manipur, Nagaland, Jorhat, Nagaon, and Dhubr compass 20 of the 28 districts covered by Mr. Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders during the 63-day rally for "unity and justice" from January 14 to March 16.

Meghalaya's Tura, the seventh constituency bagged by the Congress in the region, is believed to have benefited from the spillover effect of the *yatra* that traversed the adjoining Shillong constituency in Meghalaya and the Dhu-



during the launch of 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Manipur. FILE PHOTO

bri and Guwahati constituencies in Assam.

'Heart-to-heart connect' The rally had started in Thoubal, the home district

of Manipur's Congress Legislature Party leader and former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh and State Congress president K. Meghachandra Singh.

The *yatra* then passed through Imphal East and Kangpokpi, two of the districts worst affected by the ongoing ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in the

"The entire credit for the performance of the Congress in Manipur and the other northeastern States goes to Rahul Gandhi for his heart-to-heart connect with the people along the *yatra* route," the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee's spokesperson Ningombam Bupenda Meitei told The Hindu.

How Akhilesh Yadav laid a caste siege around Hindutva to thwart BJP in U.P.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anuj Kumar GHAZIABAD

The post-results discourse on social media has held Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches - wherein he implied that the INDIA alliance would redistribute the wealth of Hindus and the reservation in jobs meant for the backward and Dalits among Muslims - as one of the principal factors behind Bharatiya Janata Party falling short of simple majority. The speeches, however, had a much bigger impact in the Awadh and Purvanchal belts of Uttar Pradesh in comparison to Bihar, where the social fabric and subaltern equations are not much different. Why was this the case?

The answer lies in Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav patiently laying a caste siege around

the BJP's Hindutva for two years and making it crumble under the weight of 37 seats and 33.6% vote share in the State.

Ticket distribution

With 12 Kurmi candidates and a dozen prospects from the Shakya, Maurya, Kushwaha, Pal and Nishad communities, he made the BJP play on his PDA (Pichde, Dalit, Alpsankhyak or backwards, Dalits and minorities) pitch and posed questions of bread and butter. "We zeroed in on the caste that could win us a particular seat and then looked for the best candidate in that group," said a member of his core team. The final tally shows that seven Kurmi candidates and six Koeris and Nishads have made the cut, followed by five Yadays and four Muslims.

The biggest plus was the Dalit outreach whereby the party fielded two SC candidates, a Pasi and a Jatav,



communities, the SP chief made BJP play on his PDA (Pichde, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) pitch. PTI

from general seats. It sent a message across the State that Yadavs are shedding their aggressive stance and opened a window into the Bahujan Samaj Party vote bank that has been reduced to half in comparison to 2019. The SP is in no mood to bring Chandra Shekhar Azad, who has won the Nagina seat, and is

working on empowering its own Dalit leaders as the party is sending eight SC MPs and one Rajbhar to the new Lok Sabha..

Awadhesh Prasad has not only won in Faizabad, of which Ayodhya is a part, but the Dalit consolidation behind SP has ensured that it won all four seats of the division. Out of the 17 seats

in the Awadh division, the BJP could win only seven, eight less than in 2019. Here the SP also wrested Banda-Chitrakoot, another centre associated with Ram, from the BJP as its Kurmi candidate Krishna Patel defeated BJP's seasoned politician R.K. Singh. In Shravasti, SP's Ram Shiromani Verma,

another Kurmi candidate, defeated BJP's Saket Mishra, the son of Nripendra Misra, chairman of the Ram Temple construction committee.

People connect

In his speeches, the SP chief raised issues that people could identify with. For instance, he would mention about 50 lakh candidates filling the ₹400 form of the U.P. Police recruitment exam that was postponed because of a paper leak to paint a picture of corruption and apathy.

Lacing the content with wit, he would point out how the BJP government changed the police helpline number from 100 to 112 to indicate the rise in the percentage of cuts in shady deals. He kept the definition of PDA flexible. In Robertsganj, it was Adivasi; in Moradabad, it was both Alpsankhyak (minority) and Adhi Abadi (women).

"In this election, Akhilesh Yadav has emerged as his own man and has freed himself from the clutches of *navaratnas* (the coterie of nine young leaders) who tended to keep him away from the ground reality," said a senior party leader. It reflected in the way he aligned with the Congress to maximise the Muslim vote, addressed the ego of senior SP leader Azam Khan, and kept the Yadav parivar together.

'A new Netaji'

"This election has given a new Netaji to the country, one of the top 10 leaders in the country. For the first time, the BJP had to respond to our narrative and was found wanting," said another SP leader.

The chatter within BJP is that while the government focused on Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal, the SP president was allowed to work under the

radar. Conferring Padma Vibhushan on late SP patriarch Mulayam Singh is now being seen as a "tactical error", as is the attempt to make Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav the new poster boy of the commun-

The party didn't wake up when his rally in Mainpuri flopped. It had no answer when the Yadavs asked why the BJP had fielded only one candidate from the community out of 80 seats. Meanwhile, another se-

nior SP leader said if the 43 seats won by SP and Congress were extrapolated to Assembly polls, the alliance is in a position to form the government in the State. "My understanding is that SP would like to see the NDA and the double engine crumble. So far Modiji has run a one-man show. He has no experience of saying ji huzoor, the reality of running a coalition government."

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THE HINDU

Overcome differences, stay united to create history: OPS to party cadre

The Hindu Bureau

The AIADMK Workers' Rights' Retrieval Committee Coordinator, O. Panneerselvam, on Thursday said he was prepared to make any sacrifice to "retrieve the AIADMK" and

bring it back to power. Recalling party founder M.G. Ramachandran's quote forecasting victory for those who "were singleminded in their approach", Mr. Panneerselvam, in a statement, said that the 1.5crore members of the



O. Panneerselvam

AIADMK should overcome their differences and become united to "create his-

tory" in the future. His response comes on the heels of a call for unity among the party cadre by

his supporter and former legislator J.C.D. Prabhakar and the party's former interim general secretary, V.K. Sasikala, in view of the dismal performance of the AIADMK in the Lok Sabha

Meanwhile, AIADMK's deputy general secretary, K.P. Munusamy, questioned Mr. Panneerselvam's 'moral standing' to issue a call for unity. According to him, if there was anyone who "weakened" the AIADMK, it was Mr. Panneerselvam. "He [Mr.

Panneerselvam] attacked

the party when it was facing challenges, tried to usurp the party symbol, vandalised the party headquarters with his goons, and allied with the BJP State president K. Annamalai who had called [party leader1 Jayalalithaa names." He also contested against the AIADMK's candidate by allying with the

Mr. Munusamy said. Mr. Munusamy scoffed at Ms. Sasikala's statement urging the AIADMK cadre to visit her to take the party forward.

THE HINDU

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Delhi Palam Today

Delhi City

Safdarjang

44°C Heat wave to prevail Morning will be comfortable The weather will be very hot and uneasy. Chances of duststorm and thundershower

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

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

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ADDENDUM

continuation to the Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM-(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023 read with Recruitment Notification no. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/ Deputaion/2023/2/1731 dated 14/03/2024, Corrigendum No. ADM 2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/4098 dated 06/05/2024 & corrigendum no. ADM-2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Rectt.Cell/Deputaion/2023/2/4791 dated 03/06/2024 published in various Newspapers/Employment News and on the website of the Institute for Recruitment to various Group-A, Non-Faculty posts on Deputation basis at AIIMS, Bhopal, the following post is also included n addition to the posts mentioned in the above Recruitment Notification dated

No.	Name of Post	Number of Post/s	
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Notification / Corrigendum need not to apply again. 4. For further details regarding eligibility and other terms & conditions application format etc. Rolling Recruitment Advertisement No. ADM 2(2)/AIIMS/Bhopal/ Rectt.Cell/Deputation/2023/2 dated 16/10/2023, available at the Institute's website: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in may be referred

This is issued with the approval of Executive Director & CEO. AIIMS Bhopa vide E-file No. 16017 dated 04/06/2024.

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CIC can't comment on how MPs spend their funds, says Delhi HC

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court has held that the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) has "no jurisdiction" to comment on the utilisation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds by MPs as the scope of the Right To Information (RTI) Act is limited to providing access to informa-

The court expunged certain remarks made by the CIC while dealing with an RTI application seeking information relating to the utilisation of MPLADS funds.

tion under the control of

public authorities.

der, the CIC had observed that some MPs were "deliberately accumulating" their MPLADS funds for the last year of their term to gain an advantage during elections. It had suggested to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation that this "abuse" of the funds be prevented and guidelines

In its October 2018 or-

by the CIC. observations "The made by the CIC on how the Members of Parliament are utilising the MPLADS funds have to be ex-

आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार

(बिहार सरकार का एक उपक्रम) प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी गाँधी मैदान, पटना। Email-md@idabihar.com . Web-www.idabihar.com. phone: 0612-2675933. 2675935. Fax no-2675934

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या :41/TEN/IDA/24 सम्चित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर/मद दर निविदा (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in के माध्यम से)

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be implemented for distri-

buting the money equally

for each year of the five-

year term. The court ex-

punged these observations

punged," Justice Subramonium Prasad said in his

May 15 order. The court's order came after the Centre's Ministry Statistics and Programme Implementation

challenged the CIC order.

Jurisdiction exceeded The Ministry contended that the CIC exceeded its jurisdiction by commenting on the action taken by MPs in spending their MPLADS funds.

The court noted that as per Section 18 of the RTI Act, the CIC can only deal with issues relating to the information being sought or any other issue related to the dissemination of information.

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(नावाडीह) 2 . खराटी (खराटी) 3

5. अंगरा (अंगरा) में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य**। (विद्युतीकरण**

विभिन्न पंचायत यथा-

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3.	निविदा कागजात प्राप्त करने	⊱	दिनांक –	- 27.06.2024 से	17.07.2024	के 15:00 ब
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3.	निविदा कागजात प्राप्त करने	:– दिनांक –	- 27.06.2024 से	17.07.2024	के 15:00 बजे	तक		गया जिला के टिकारी प्रखण्ड में				
((डाउनलोड करने)की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय							विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 नोनी (नोनी)				
	नेविदा जमा करने (अपलोड करने)	टिनांक	18.07.2024 के	15:00 हाले त	rb.			2. रूपसपुर (दौलतपुर) 3. आमाकुऑ				
	,	1411147	10.07.2024 47	15.00 991 (1	47		11	2. (410(13) 3. (410(13)) 5. (410(13)) 5.	40500000000	*******	40000 00	As Per
2	की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय						14		125000000.00	2250000.00	10000.00	Website
5.	निविदा पत्र विक्री का स्थान	: केवल बेव	ासाईट www.er	oroc2.biha	r.gov.in पर			खनेटु (पडरिया) में पचायत सरकार				
6.	प्री०विड मिटिंग की तिथि. समय.	:- दिनांक -	- 02.07.2024 के	ो 15:00 बजे 3	प्रधीक्षण अभिय	iता <u> </u>		भवन का निर्माण कार्य । (विद्युतीकरण				
	एवं स्थान		ग्ल, गया एवं दि					कार्य सहित)				
	एप स्थान	नपन अव	गल, गया एवं । प	नाप≔ 05.07.	.2024 Heed V	आमयता (५७)		गया जिला के आमस प्रखण्ड में				
			र्गाण विभाग, पटन		किया			विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 . करमडीह				
7. f	नेविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	:- दिनांक -	- 19.07.2024 को	15:30 बजे			15		E0000000 00	1000000.00	10000.00	As Per
((तकनीकी बीड)	केवल बेट	ासाईट www.ej	proc2.biha	r.gov.in पर	1	113		30000000.00	1000000.00	10000.00	Website
,	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय		26.08.2024 को		go v v	•		पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण				
	·							कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
((वितीय बीड)	केवल बेट	ासाईट www.ej	proc2.biha	ır.gov.in पर			गया जिला के गुरारू प्रखण्ड में				
9.	निविदा वैधता की अवधि	: - 120 दिन						विभिन्न पंचायत यथा- 1 डीहा (डीहा)				
	कार्य का विवरण।						16		75000000 00	1500000	10000.00	As Per
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_					11 10	में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण	7500000000	1500000	10000.00	Website
क्र.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित	अग्रधन की	परिमाण	बीड	कार्य						
स.		राशि	राशि	विपत्र की	प्रासेसिंग	समाप्ति	I	कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
			(रूपये में)	राशि	राशि +	की अवधि		ग्या जिला के कोंच प्रखण्ड में				
				(रूपये में)	सर्विस			विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 अदई (अदई)				
					टैक्स		11	2 श्रीगॉव (श्रीगॉव) 3 परसावा				As Per
					(रूपये में)		17	(परसावा) 4 असलेमपुर (उसास) में	10000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	Website
	गया जिला के वजीरगंज प्रखण्ड में				(पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण				
	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— १ बिच्छा							कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
	(कान्धा), 2 सहिया (सहिया) 3						1					
1		1000000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	As Per	12 Month		गया जिला के अतरी प्रखण्ड में				
	धुरियॉवा (धुरियॉवा) 4 अमेठी (ओरैल)				Website			विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 डिहुरी				
	में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण						18	(डिहुरी) 2 धुसरी (धुसरी) 3 सीढ	75000000 00	1500000 00	10000 00	As Per
	कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)						18	(सीढ़) में पंचायत सरकार भवन का	75000000.00	1500000.00	10000.00	Website
	गया जिला के वजीरगज प्रखण्ड में							निर्माण कार्य । (विद्युतीकरण कार्य				
	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा– 1 कुर्किहार							सहित)				
	(कुर्किहार), 2. जमुऑवा (जमुऑवा) 3. महुएत (महुएत) में पंचायत सरकार				As Per	12 Month	1					
2	3 महएत (महएत) में प्रचारात खरकार	75000000.00	1500000	10000.00	Website	12 111011111		गया जिला के फतेहपुर प्रखण्ड में				
	भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण				Website			विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1. डुमरीचट्टी				
							11 40	(दोनैया) २ . मतासो (मतासो) ३	7500000000		40000 00	As Per
	कार्य सहित)						19	पहाडपुर (पिपरा) में पचायत सरकार	75000000.00	1500000.00	10000.00	Website
	गया जिला के नीमचक बथानी							भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण				
	प्रखण्ड में विभिन्न पंचायत यथा- 1							कार्य सहित)				
3	बथानी (बथानी), 2 मई (मई) 3 सिघौल	75000000.00	1500000	10000.00	As Per	12 Month	1					
5	(सिघौल) में पंचायत सरकार	75000000.00	1500000	10000.00	Website			गया जिला के फतेहपुर प्रखण्ड में				
	भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण							विभिन्न पचायत यथा— १ मोरहे				
	कार्य सहित)							(पकरी) 2. नौडीह झुराग (नौडीहा) 3.	7500000000		40000 00	As Per
	गया जिला के बेलागंज प्रखण्ड में						20	सलैया कला (सलैया कला) में पंचायत	75000000.00	1500000.00	10000.00	Website
								सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।				
	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— १ अगन्धा							(विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
	(अगन्धा), 2 . लक्ष्मीपुर (लक्ष्मीपुर) 3 .				As Per	12 Month	1					
4	कोरियाँवा (कोरियाँवा) ४. खनेटा	125000000.00	2250000.00	10000.00	Website			गया जिला के इमामगज प्रखण्ड में				
	(खनेटा) 5. रौना (रौना) में पंचायत				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 लाबाबार				
	सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।							(लाबाबार) 2 . नौडीहा (नौडीहा) 3 .	10000000	2000000 00	10000 00	As Per
	(विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)						21	चुआबार (दरभगा) ४ नगवा (नगवा) में	10000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	Website
	गया जिला के बेलागंज प्रखण्ड में							पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण				
	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 अकथुकचनपुर							कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
	(अकथुकचनपुर), 2 वाजितपुर						1					
	(वाजितपुर) ३ भलुआ –1				A - D	12.84		गया जिला के डुमरिया प्रखण्ड में				
5	(91101131) 3.4631 -1	125000000.00	2250000.00	10000.00	As Per	12 Month		विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 नन्दई				
	(भलुआ –1) 4 भलुआ –2 (भलुआ				Website		22	(नन्दई) 2 मझौली (मझौली) 3	75000000.00	1500000	10000.00	As Per
	-2) 5. चिरैला (चिरैला) में पंचायत						**	कोल्हूबार (कोल्हुबार) में पंचायत	, 50000000	2300000	20000.00	Website
	सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।							सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य				
	(विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)						11	(विद्यतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
	गया जिला के गुरुआ प्रखण्ड में						1	गया जिला के टनकुष्पा प्रखण्ड में				
	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 वेलौटी						11	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 टनकुप्पा				
_	(बेलौटी), 2 रघुनाथखाप (रघुनाथखाप)	10000000	2000000	10000	As Per	12 Month	11					
6	3. नदौरा (नदौरा) 4. नगवॉ (नगवॉ) में	10000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	Website		11	(मखदुमपुर) 2. आरोपुर (आरोपुर) 3.				As Per
	पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण						23	गजाधरपुर (गजाधरपुर) ४. उत्लीबारा	125000000.00	2250000.00	10000.00	Website
	कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)						11	(उतलीबारा) 5. बरसौना (बरसौना) में				
	गया जिला के नगर प्रखण्ड में विभिन्न						11	पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण				
							11	कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				
	पचायत यथा— 1.नैली (नैली) 2. बारा							गया जिला के बोधगया प्रखण्ड में				
7	(चरमडीह) 3 . धनसीर (गुलनी) 4 .	125000000.00	2250000.00	10000.00	As Per	12 Month	11	विभिन्न पचायत य था— 1 कन्हौला				
•	चाकन्द (चाकन्द) ५ चुरी (चुरी) में				Website		11					
	पचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण						24	(कन्हौल) २ . बारा (बारा) ३ . नावा	75000000.00	1500000	10000.00	As Per
	कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)		<u> </u>	<u></u>			11 - "	(नावा) म पंचायत सरकार भवन का				Website
	गया जिला केनगर प्रखण्ड में विभिन्न						II .	निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य				
	पचायत यथा— १. केशरूधर्मपूर						II .	सहित)				
	(केशरूधर्मपुर) 2. खिरियाँवा			1				गया जिला के बाराचट्टी प्रखण्ड में				
8	(खिरियॉवा) ३ कन्डी (कन्डी) ४	10000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	As Per	12 Month	11	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 झाझ (झाझ)				
U	मदनविगहा (मदनिवगहा) में पचायत	20000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	Website		11	2. जयगीर (जयगीर) 3 . दिवनिया				A - D
							25	2 जयगार (जयगार) 3 दिवानया (दिवनिया) 4 बिन्दा (बिन्दा) में	10000000.00	2000000.00	10000.00	As Per
							11	(।दवानया) ४ . ।बन्दा (।बन्दा) - म			•	Website
	(विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)						11	पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण				
	गया जिला के मोहनपुर प्रखण्ड में						Il	कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित)				<u></u>
	विभिन्न पचायत यथा— 1 🗼 टेशवार			1	As Per	12 Month		गया जिला के शेरघाटी प्रखण्ड में				
9	(सिमरिया) में पंचायत सरकार भवन क	25000000.00	500000.00	10000.00	Website	TE INIOUTU	11	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 . चिलिम				
	निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युतीकरण का र्य				wensite		26	(चिलिम) में पचायत सरकार भवन का	25000000 00	500000.00	10000.00	As Per
	सहित)			1			20	निर्माण कार्य । (विद्युतीकरण कार्य		555555.50	10000.00	Website
	गया जिला के परैया प्रखण्ड में						11					
	विभिन्न पंचायत यथा— 1 सोलरा						1	सहित)				

12 Month

2000000.00

2250000.00

10000.00

10000.00



4. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय ः **दिनांक २०.०६.२०२४ को १७:०० बजे** 5. अग्रधन राशि की मूल प्रति अथवा इलेक्ट्रोनिक भगतान का प्रमाण और परिमाण विपत्र मुल्य

भुगतान का प्रमाण जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि. समय एवं स्थान 6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

7. वितीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 8. निविदा वैधता की अवधि कार्य का विवरण :—

1 विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एव पता

. प्री–बिड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

: दिनाक 21.06.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक पी०डी०ए० शाखा, आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरब पटना 1—800004 दिनांक 21.06.2024 को 15:30बजे

: कार्यपालक अभियंता (Tech-HQ)

पटना- 800004

bihar.gov.in)

आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम

तल, उद्योग भवन, गाधी मैदान के पूरब

को 17:00 बजे तक (on website

आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन,गांधी मैदान के पूरब

तक(on website www.eproc2

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

दिनांक 14.06.2024 को

(on websitewww.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पश्चात। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

束0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय रू० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)
1	(Re-Tender) Construction of P&P Pre fabricated shed, Phase-16 at Industrial Area Muzaffarpur	13,16,08,713.00	23,16,500.00	10,000.00	09 months
2	(Re-Tender) Construction of P&P Pre fabricated shed, Phase-17 at Industrial Area Muzaffarpur	13,16,08,713.00	23,16,500.00	10,000.00	09 months
3	(Re-Tender) Development of Industrial Area Muzaffarpur Part-01 (Extension work of Plug & Play Prefabricated Shed at Bela Industrial Area Muzaffarpur)	11,36,62,608.00	21,37,000.00	10,000.00	09 months
4	(Re-Tender) Remaining work of Plug and Play Prefabricated Shed at Purnea (Phase-1&2)	9,82,15,327.00	19,64,500.00	10,000.00	09 Months
5	(Re-Tender) Construction of Boundary Wall, Road & Installation of Solar Street Light, At Industrial Area Baijnathpur, Saharsa	8,35,81,979.00	16,72,000.00	10,000.00	09 Months
6	(Re-Tender) Construction of Investors Facilitation Center, Jhajharpur, Madhubani	7,73,53,302.00	15,47,500.00	10,000.00	08 Months
7	(Re-Tender) Construction of Road and Culvert at Industrial Area Sakri, Madhubani.	4,88,07,848.00	9,76,500.00	10,000.00	09 Months
8	(Re-Tender) Construction of Boundary wall at Vilopit Malwari, Motihari	3,82,70,075.00	7,65,500.00	10,000.00	06 Months
9	(Re-Tender) Construction of Plug and Play, Pre-Engineered Multistorey Building at Industrial Area Sikandarpur, Bihta, Patna(Ext)	2,69,35,044.00	5,39,000.00	10,000.00	04 Months
10	(Re-Tender) Construction of Plug and Play, Prefabricated Shed at Industrial Area Fatuha, Patna (Ext)	1,47,05,544.00	2,94,500.00	10,000.00	04 Months

11. अन्य विवरणी प्राधिकार के वेबसाइट www.idabihar.com/ सूचना एव जन-संपर्क विभाग के वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar अथवा अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालयके नोटिस बोर्ड पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (NIT)में देखी जा सकती है य अधोहस्ताक्षरी से संपर्क कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस को कार्यालय अवधि में प्राप्त कर सकते

12. प्राधिकार को बिना कारण बताये निविदा के अवधि विस्तार अथवा आंशिक या पूर्णरूपेण रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। ऐसी कार्रवाई की सूचना प्राधिकार के वेबसाइट www.idabihar.com पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा रदद होने की स्थिति में संवेदक का कोई दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

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Kerala's UDF scrambles to pacify senior leader after Thrissur rout

Biju Govind

United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders on Thursday scrambled to pacify veteran Congress leader K. Muraleedharan, who turned a virtual recluse after he suffered a startling defeat in the election to the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat, won by BJP nominee Suresh Gopi.

Muraleedharan, who finished a distant third in the election, announced after the results that he would not contest polls any more and would withdraw temporarily from public life. Though most Congress leaders felt that his statement was meant to pressure the central leadership, they were also of the view that he should be rewarded, perhaps by allotting him the Wayanad seat in the byelection if party leader Rahul Gandhi chose to retain Rae Bareli, the second seat from where he won. IUML national general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty too has backed Mr. Muraleedharan and said that his party will not stake claim to the Wayanad seat.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K. Sudhakaran offered Mr. Muraleedharan his own post and visited him at his residence in Kozhikode on Thursday. Congress leaders fear that a sulking Mr. Muraleedharan could affect the party's chances in the local body and Assembly elections in 2025 and 2026.

Mandate in A.P. is against arrogance, complacency in governance: Nara Lokesh

Every decision the TDP has taken is for the benefit of the State and the nation, says the newly elected MLA, while stressing that the party rejoined the NDA without setting any 'conditions'

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

Ţ ara Lokesh, Telugu Desam Party MLAelect from Andhra Pradesh and son of Chief Minister-designate Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has said that his party's partnership in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will be based on interests of the State rather than Ministries in the Union Cabinet. He has said the TDP had returned to the NDA without conditions on granting Special Category State status to Andhra

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Lokesh said that while the TDP had left the NDA in 2018 over the issue of the special status, "we have walked back in without any conditions".

State interests

"If you look at the track record of the TDP, every decision we have taken is for the benefit of the State and the nation. Look at the deregulation of telecom and airports during our alliance with [former PM Atal Bihari] Vajpayeeji who was generous in sanctioning projects for the State. We are looking to forge that kind of relationship with the Central government, and definitely State interests are primary for



TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh says 'history has shown that we have not been stuck for Ministries'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

us," he said.

"We have walked back in [to the NDA] without any condition for special status. Let us be clear, we want an open channel of communication to ensure that what is required for the State is done in consultation. History has shown that we have not been stuck for Ministries, even during Vajpayeeji's time. We were supporting from outside, and he reciprocated," he added.

Mr. Lokesh said that the mandate given to the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance in Andhra Pradesh was one "against arrogance and complacency in govern-

"The public are very clear that there is no place for arrogance and complacency with regard to governance. The people of Andhra Pradesh have spoken that even a person with 151

seats can be reduced to 11 seats due to sheer arrogance, but this is not just about the seats... the margins with which we have won have been unbelievable. The TDP since its inception had not got such a strong mandate. The writing on the wall is very clear, get your act together, be humble, serve the people. It's not about vindictive politics, but good governance, creating jobs, creating ecosystems for

welfare and development,"

'Red Diary'

he said.

During his campaign for the elections, Mr. Lokesh had however brandished what is now called his 'Red Diary', a record of how the State administration had allegedly harassed the TDP cadre. He said action would be taken against those found guilty.

"There is a bit of context to the Red Diary. I am a victim of the current administration. Since I entered politics in 2013, I had never been to a police station for six years or had a single case against me... I'm a Stanford MBA. The government changes and they foisted 26 cases against me, picked me up, took me to a police station seven times. I think that is wrong and unfair. Even the police should understand that

they cannot use the law

with prejudice, whoever

has broken the law should

be feel the weight of it, not

indiscriminately targeted," the TDP leader said. "I said during my padayatra that I want to have an inquiry into all this and take it up seriously. If the inquiry throws up any wrongdoing, then action will be taken against officials and the political class who have broken the law. Otherwise, it would be tantamount to letting those who break the law go scot-

free, how is that possible?" Mr. Lokesh said his father, Mr. Naidu, was committed to "building strong relationships" with allies, especially the Jana Sena

Party chief Pawan Kalyan. "We will continue to discuss issues, there is complementarity of interests auguring well for a longterm relationship," he said.

4 more bodies recovered after trekking tragedy in Uttarakhand

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The 13 survivors from the trekking group from Bengaluru in the Uttarakhand tragedy arrived at Kempegowda International Airport in the city on Thursday at 8.45 p.m., from Dehradun.

Nine members of the group lost their lives and the bodies are expected to reach Bengaluru on Friday in commercial flights.

A group of 22 trekkers from the city who had embarked on the Sahastra Tal trek on June 3 were caught in a blizzard. The Uttarakhand government and the Karnataka government team, led by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, were involved in the rescue operations, which started on June 5.

After this, eight survivors were shifted to the State guest house in Dehradun on Wednesday, while the five others arrived there on Thursday morning. The health of all the survivors is stable.

While the bodies of five trekkers were recovered on Wednesday, four more were recovered by Thursday morning and airlifted to Uttarkashi.

Mr. Byre Gowda had initially said that arrangements would be made to transport the bodies to Bengaluru in a chartered flight on Thursday. However, he later said that owing to formalities, the bodies would reach Bengaluru only by Friday.

NHRC seeks report on 'sale of girls' as part of Nata Pratha

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice on Thursday to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat over a practice known as Nata *Pratha*. The girls in some communities of these States are sold either on stamp paper or otherwise in the name of illegal or child marriage, mostly by

their own families. Given the immoral consequences of Nata Pratha on women and minor girls. the Commission has called for its eradication and abolition, says a message issued by the rights body.

The States have been directed to submit a report on measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard within eight weeks.

The Commission's directions has come following its intervention in a complaint dated July 15, 2020, by the father of a minor girl who claimed that the child was allegedly kidnapped from Rajasthan's Salamgarh area, in district Pratapgrah. Her body was found in Danpur, in the district of Banswara. "The Commission through its Investigation Division conducted a spot inquiry. It was found that the father himself sold her as part of a marriage deal to a man for ₹2.5 lakh. As part of the Nata Pratha deal signed by their families and wit-



The move follows NHRC's intervention in a complaint by the father of a minor girl.

nessed by villagers on July 11, 2019, the groom paid ₹60,000 and the remaining amount was to be paid by January 10, 2020," the NHRC stated.

The commission further noted that when the groom failed to pay the remaining amount within the stipulated time, the father brought his daughter back and fixed her 'Nata' with another man for ₹32,000. The girl objected to this and went to live with her earlier husband at Gagarwa. She also complained to the Banswara SP, alleging that her father was an alcoholic and had made several attempts to fix her 'Nata' against her will with many boys to earn money and that he had also threatened to kill her. The police failed to take any action and she was found dead on June 16,

It suggested that individuals involved in forcing women into Nata Pratha must be prosecuted under laws relating to human trafficking and prosecuted under POCSO Act.



Gold smuggling accused gets bail in defamation case

Swapna Suresh, an accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, was granted bail by court in Kannur district of Kerala on Thursday in a defamation case filed by CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan. Ms. Suresh, who did not appear in court despite multiple summons, turned up on Thursday following a warrant. The case pertains to an online post by Ms. Suresh alleging that Mr. Govindan, through a mediator, offered her ₹30 crore to retract charges against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family in the gold smuggling case. The next hearing is on June 26.

HC reserves its order on bail plea of Mohiniyattam artist

The Kerala High Court on Thursday reserved its order on a petition filed by Mohiniyattam exponent Kalamandalam Sathyabhama, seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered against her for making casteist remarks against dancer R.L.V. Ramakrishnan during an interview on a YouTube channel. In her petition, Ms. Sathyabhama had challenged the order of a subordinate court under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act rejecting her plea for anticipatory bail in the case. She said the case was falsely foisted on her.

Revanth congratulates Naidu for landslide win in A.P. polls

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy congratulated Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N. Chandrababu Naidu for clinching a landslide victory in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly election. He extended heartfelt greetings to Mr. Naidu and expressed hope that Telangana and Andhra Pradesh would continue their cordial relations and cooperate in resolving pending matters related to the A.P. Bifurcation Act.Mr. Reddy spoke to him over phone amid a review meeting on results of the Mahabubabad Lok Sabha seat.

Preparing the ground



Agricultural workers ready a farmland for turmeric cultivation on the outskirts of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. The all-India scenario for turmeric shows a decline in production this year at 10.74 lakh tonnes, down from 11.3 lakh tonnes last year. K.V.S. GIRI

Karnataka Minister Nagendra quits amid allegations of fraud

Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare, Youth Empowerment and Sports, B. Nagendra, announced his resignation in a press conference here on Thursday, amid allegations of illegal transfer of money from the State-run Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

The four-time MLA from the Ballari Rural constituency is the first Minister in the government of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, which came to power a year ago, to quit.

"I am resigning as per my conscience and to en-



B. Nagendra

sure an impartial probe into the financial irregularities in the corporation as reported in the media for the last 10 days," he said.

"There is no pressure on me to quit either from the Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar," Mr. Nagendra added.

After NDA win in A.P., cases against Jagan, Naidu spark debate

G.V.R. Subba Rao VIJAYAWADA

After the landslide victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners – TDP, BJP and JSP – in the State, the point of discussion in political circles is the cases pending against YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu.

As per information, 26 cases are pending against Mr. Reddy in a CBI Court. After the May 13 election, he had filed a petition in the court in Telangana seeking permission to travel to London along with his wife Bharathi to meet their two daughters on May 17.

While the CBI had objected his petition, given the unresolved legal matters, the court allowed him to travel abroad.

Similarly, there are 24 cases pending against Mr. Naidu. The A.P. CID had filed cases relating to sand mining, distilleries, capital Amaravati, fibernet, etc.

The CID had even arrested Mr. Naidu and lodged him in Rajahmundry prison for more than 50 days. Other cases for conducting roadshows, social media posts, and speaking against handling of COVID-19 are also pending against him.

to the Karnataka Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

All 11 candidates of the Congress, BJP, and Janata Dal (S) were elected unopposed in the biennial elections to the Legislative Council from the Legisla-Assembly tive Thursday.

Seven candidates of the Congress and three of the BJP, and one candidate of the JD(S) were declared elected unanimously.

Elections to the Council were not held as only 11 candidates were in the fray for the same number of seats vacant in the Council.

Congress candidates declared elected are Yathindra S., son of Chief Minismar; former MLC Ivan



All 11 candidates elected unopposed

The newly elected Congress MLCs with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ter Siddaramaiah; Minister D'Souza; party's Kalaburafor Science and Technologi district president Jagdev gy N.S. Boseraju; Chief Mi-Guttedar; and Karnataka nister's political adviser K. Minorities Commission's Govindraj; KPCC working former Chairperson Bilkis president A. Vasanth Ku-Bano.

BJP candidates declared

elected are former Minister C.T. Ravi, party functionary N. Ravikumar, and senior party leader from Basavakalyan and former MLA Muley Marutirao.

The Janata Dal(S) candidate T.N. Javarayi Gowda was also declared elected unopposed.

Besides the 11 candidates, the Congress's R.M. Asif Pasha had also filed nomination.

However, his candidacy was rejected during the scrutiny on Tuesday.

The election was neces-

sitated as the term of 11 MLCs – six from BJP, four from Congress and one from JD(S) - will end on June 17. (With PTI inputs)

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निविदा आमंत्रण निर्गत की तिथि परिमाण विपन्न बिक्री (डाउनलोड) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-18.06.2024 से दिनांक-08.07.2024 को

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 निविदा बैधता की तिथि

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दिनांक—06.06.2024 3:00 बजे अप0 तक दिनाक-09.07.2024 को 3:00 बजे अप0

 - दिनाक-10.07.2024 को 3:30 बजे अप0 तकनीकी बीड निष्पादन के पश्चात

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1.	मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत औराई प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (धरहरवा पंचायत एवं सहिलाबल्ली पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष –2023–24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित)	5,70,29,273.00	11,40,600.00	eproc2 बेवसाईट के अनुसार	12 माह
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3	मुजफरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत पारू प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (कटारू पंचायत एवं देवरिया पश्चिमी पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष —2023—24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित)	5,70,29,273.00	11,40,600.00	eproc2 बेवसाईट के अनुसार	12 माह
4	मुजाफरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत महवन प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (मोहमदपुर सुवे उर्फ बगरी पंचायत, करजाडीह पंचायत, महमदपुर खाजे पंचायत एवं शुमंकरपुर पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्श—2023—24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित)	11,40,58,546.00	21,40,600.00	eproc2 बेबसाईट के अनुसार	12 माह
5	मुजफरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत साहेबगंज प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (गौड़ा पंचायत, परसौनी रईसी पंचायत एवं जगदी ।पुर पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्श—2023—24	8,55,43,910.00	17,10,900.00	eproc2 बेवसाईट के अनुसार	12 माह
6	मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत सकरा प्रखंड के प्रत्येक			amma a 2	

के गोपुर पंचायत एवं सिराजाबाद पंचायत) में एक अदद 11,40,58,546.00 21,40,600.00 बेवसाईट के 12 माह . वंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष —2023—24 अनुसार विद्यतीकरण सहित) मजफ्फरपर जिला अन्तर्गत सरैया प्रखंड के . पंचायत (बहिलवारा रूपनाथ दक्षिणी पंचायत, रेवा बसंतपुर eproc2 उत्तरी पचायत, गोपीधनवत पंचायत, राम कृश्ण दुवियाही 14,25,73,183.00 24,25,800.00 चायत एवं बहिलवारा गोविन्द पंचायत अनुसार पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष —2023—24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित) पंचायत (मीरापुर उर्फ गोपालपुर पंचायत, विद्याझाँप पंचायत एवं वि नुनपुर श्रीराम पंचायत) में एक अद्द eproc2 बेवसाईट के 17,10,900.00 8,55,43,910.00 12 मार पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष —2023—2 अनुसार (विद्यतीकरण सहित) . मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मुरौल प्रखंड के पंचायत (विशुनपुर बखरी पंचायत, पिलखि गजपत्ति पंचायत एवं मोहम्मदपुर बदल पंचायत) में एक अद्द eproc2 बेवसाईट के 17,10,900.00 12 मार 8,55,43,910.00 पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष-2023-2 अनुसार (विद्यतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत काँटी प्रखंड के पंचायत (गोदाई फलकाहाँ पंचायत, दामोदरपुर पंचायत, भाहपुर पंचायत एवं भोरूकाही पंचायत) में एक अद्द eproc2 बेवसाईट के 11,40,58,546.00 21,40,600.00 12 मार पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष –2023–24 अनुसार (विद्यतीकरण सहित) . मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत काँटी प्रखंड के पंचायत (झिटकाही मधुबन पंचायत, मणि फुलकाहाँ eproc2 बेवसाईट वे पंचायत एवं धमौली रामनाथ पि श्चमी पंचायत) में एक 12 मार 17,10,900.00 8,55,43,910.00 अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। अनुसार –2023–24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित) मुजफरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मु ।हरी प्रखंड के प्रत्येव पंचायत (तरौरा गोपालपुर पंचायत, कन्हौली वि ।ुनदत्त पंचायत एवं छपरा मेघ पंचायत) में एक अद्द पंचायत eproc2 बेवसाईट के 12 माह 17,10,900.00 8,55,43,910.00 सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। अनुसार (विद्यतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मु शहरी प्रखंड के पंचायत (बाड़ा जगरन्नाथ पंचायत, प्रहलादपुर पंचायत एव मुशहरी उर्फ राधानगर पंचायत) में एक अद्द पंचायत eproc2 बेवसाईट वे 8,55,43,910.00 17,10,900.00 12 मा सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। व अनुसार (विद्युतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत कुढ़नी प्रखंड के उँ पंचायत (बगरा व शीधर पंचायत, रजला पंचायत, कुढ़नी पंचायत, जगरनाथपुर पंचायत एवं फकूली पंचायत) में एक eproc2 बेवसाईट के 24,25,800.00 12 माह 14,25,73,183.00 अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। अनुसार वर्ष—2023—24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत कुढ़नी प्रखंड के पंचायत (रघुनाथपुर मधुबन पंचायत, केरमा डीह पंचायत, रतनौली पंचायत, पकाही पंचायत एवं भााहपुर मरीचा eproc2 बेवसाईट वे 12 माह 24,25,800.00 14,25,73,183,00 पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष —2023—24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मीनापुर प्रखंड वे पंचायत (पीपरा असली पंचायत, तुर्की पूर्वी पंचायत, धसौत पंचायत, गोरीगामा पंचायत एवं हरसेर पंचायत) में एक eproc2 बेवसाईट के 14,25,73,183.00 24,25,800.00 12 माह अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। अनुसार –2023–24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मीनापुर प्रखंड के पंचायत (जामीन मठिया पंचायत, महदईया पंचायत, eproc2 बेवसाईट वे बाड़ाझरती पंचायत एवं चाँदपरना पंचायत) में एक अद्द 11,40,58,546.00 21,40,600.00 12 मार पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष -2023-2 अनुसार (विद्युतीकरण सहित) पुजपफरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मोतीपुर प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (बरियापुर पूर्वी पंचायत, कोरिगाँवा पंचायत एवं हरपुर पंचायत) में एक पूंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण eproc2 बेवसाईट वे 12 माह 17,10,900.00

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar & <u>www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</u> पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता

कार्य। वर्ष —2023—24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित) मुजफ्करपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मोतीपुर प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (परसौनी नाथ पंचायत, फतेहाँ पंचायत, इब्राहिमपुर पंचायत एवं बरियापुर पि श्वमी पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत

सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष-2023-24 (विद्युतीक

पगहीयाँ पंचायत, हरदी पंचायत, बरियापुर उत्तरी पंचायत

एवं बाँसघाट पंचायत) में एक अदद पंचायत सरकार भवन

ज निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष –2023–24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित)

मुजफ्फरपुर जिला अन्तर्गत मोतीपुर प्रखंड के प्रत्येक पंचायत (रामपुर भोड़ियाही पंचायत, हरनाही पंचायत एवं

ठिकहाँ पंचायत) में एक अद्द पंचायत सरकार भवन का

निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष -2023-24 (विद्युतीकरण सहित)

PR- 001168 (BCD) 2024-25

8,55,43,910.00

11,40,58,546.00

11,40,58,546.00

8,55,43,910.00

बिहार 🏬 सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियता का कार्यालय, लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, ढाका

केवल ईo निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार बेवसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2024-25

कार्य की विवरणी:-

क्र0	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि (रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रू० में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग चार्ज सेवा कर सहित	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of G+1 Divisional & Sub- Divisional building with sub-division at ground floor and division at first floor at existing divisional campus at P.H. Division Dhaka.	1,60,00,000.00	3,20,000.00	10,000.00	As per eproc2	09 माह

विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता कार्यपालक अभियता, लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, ढाका दिनाक-05.06.2024

2 निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि परिमाण विपत्र (डाउनलोड) की तिथि एवं समय :--दिनाक-13.06.2024 से 18.06.2024 को अपराहन 17:00 बजे तक

4 निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलोड) की अंतिम तिथि एवं दिनाक-18.06.2024 को अपराहन 17:00 बजे तक

निविदा कागजात हार्ड कॉपी में एवं अग्रधन मूल :- N/A में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान दिनांक-14 06 2024 को अपराहन 15:00 बजे कार्यपालक अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमण्डल ढाका

निविदा खोलने (तकनीकी बीड) की तिथि एवं दिनांक-18.06.2024 को अपराहन 17:01 बजे। वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तकनीकी बीड अनुमोदन के पष्चात्

9 परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान वेबसाईट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

10 निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान वेबसाईट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

11 निविदा वैधता की अवधि :- 180 दिन

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियता PR-001132 (PHED) 2024-25 लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, ढाका।

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है।

संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें आपकी जानकारी गृप्त रखी जाएगी। <u>टॉल फ्री नं− 15545 या 1800 345 6268</u>

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियता का कार्यालय पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सकरी

अति-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमत्रण सूचना स0:-01/2024-25

(केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्वति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) . कार्य का विवरण :–

ग्रुप सं0	कार्यका नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)०	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में भुगतेय) (रू०)	बेल्ट्रान को देय "बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी" (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में भुगतेय) रू०	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	हर खेत सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम तहत सकरी शाखा नहर एवं इसके वितरण प्रणाली में Out Let सहित फिल्ड चैनल का निर्माण कार्य	130.09073	2.60200	10,000/-	3540/-	31.07.2024

2 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की

3 निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड

4 प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

5 तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

6 वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

7 निविदा खोलने का स्थान

केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

८ निविदा वैधता की अवधि कार्यपालक अभियंता, पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सकरी

www.wrd.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

(परशुराम यादव) कार्यपालक अभियता

PR-001137 (WRD) 2024-25

पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सकरी मोबाईल न0 9304651816

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited invites e-tenders (<u>www.mstcecommerce.com</u>) fo purchase of 200 MW RTC power for the period from 21-06-2024 to 30-06-2024 (RTC) as pe Ministry of Power, Government of India guidelines dated 30-03-2016 and its amendmen 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:-

ast Date of request for purchase of tender document 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. Shall be intimated through emai Date and time of opening of Initial Price Offer (IPO) & -Reverse Auction (e-RA) after conducting of techinca evaluation of the tender.

should be in favour of Executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV offered capacity

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Bank Guarantee Rs. 30,000/MW/month of

the office of SE(Commerical), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali, Road, Dehradun

generation.

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

 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 financia

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

If Bidder is a Trader, it should submit a copy of at least one number executed powe purchase agreement or an equivalent arrangement for supply of power/Letter of intent. The consultancy/Joint Venture firm deputed by UPCL as a consultant shall not be eligible

. 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.

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

acceptable. The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered. Bid will be submitted on (www.mstcecommerce.com) only and

nard 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 ar

Superintending Engineer (Commercial)

नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है। नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

From 14.06.2024 (10.00 hours) 3. Start date & Time for Downloading and on https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in uploading the Bid documents: 4. Date, Time & Place of Pre Bid Meeting: Date 18.06.2024 upto 15.00 hours Chief Engineer, Simanchal wing, RCD Bihar, Officers flat No.-H/5, Rajwanshi Nagar, Patna. Pin- 800001 5. Last date & Time for Downloading and Date 20.06.2024 till time 15.00 hours on https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in uploading the Bid documents: Last Date, Time & Place for submission Date-21.06.2024, Time- 15.00 hours or next working day of last date of uploading of tender of original instrument of EMD document by the bidders, and cost of BOQ Place for submission : office of the -(i) Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division Banka.

Date, Time & Place of opening of

21.06.2024, Time-15.30 hours

(ii) Superintending Engineer, EBC, RCD,

(iii) Chief Engineer ,Simanchal Wing, RCD Bihar,

Details of works:

Technical Bid: Place- on website https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Bhagalpu

SI. No	Name of work	Estimated / B.O.Q. Amount (in Lakh)	Earnest money (in Lakh)	Cost of B.O.Q. (in Rs.)	Time of completion of work (in month)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Maintenance of Kachhi Kawariya path From Sultanganj to Dumma (Bihar Border) Path From Km 0.70 to 83.35 Km including rain cuts repair, Ganga Sand laying , Water Sprinkling & Miscellaneous work on the occasion of Shravani Mela for the year 2024-25 Under Road Division ,	594.88	11.90	10000.00	Two Months (one months construction& one months maintenance)	Double Bid System

9. Date, Time & Place of opening of Financial Bid : After Approval of Technical Bid

Banka.

10. Bid Validity:

Place- on websitehttps://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.ir 120 Days

For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar **Executive Engineer** RCD, Road Division Banka PR. No.001194 (RCD) 2024-25



भवन प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर

अनुसार

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दिनांक 15.06.2024 से 19.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराहन तक। केवल वेबसाईट <u>www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</u> पर I दिनाक 18.06.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में कार्यपालक अभियता पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सकरी के कार्यालय कक्ष में। दिनांक 20.06.2024 के अपराहन 3:30 बजे। केवल वेबसाईट <u>www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</u> पर1 सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोशित की जायेगी। 120 दिन। विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in &

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Victoria Cross Vijeyta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun

Gabar Singh Uria Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Debradun and to be submitted in the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun. Cost of tender Specification (Demand Draft in favour of) Rs. 29,500/- (Rs. Twenty Nine executive Engineer (CM), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Thousand Five Hundred Only) Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun and to be submitted in lincluding taxes.

The qualifying requirements for a bidder to bid for this tender are as follows: . The bidder must quote not less than 20 MW quantum of power from single source of

statements duly certified.)

for participating in aforesaid tender.

B. 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

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SPOTLIGHT



The aftermath: Firefighters carrying out cooling operations and searching for the remains of victims at TRP Game Zone in Rajkot, Gujarat, a day after a deadly blaze broke out on May 25. VIJAY SONEJI

Rajkot gaming arcade fire: a tragedy foretold

The blaze that gutted a multi-level recreation centre, killing 27 people, is the latest in a string of accidents in Gujarat over the past few years due to a lack of stringent enforcement of building rules and safety norms. The mishaps highlight laxity of officials and alleged graft in the State's local bodies, finds Mahesh Langa

have nothing to lose now. Those responsible for the tragedy must get capital punishment. Till they are sentenced to death, no one should get bail," said Pradipsinh Chauhan, who lost his son, Rajbha, 12, and four relatives, including his brother Virendrasinh Jadeja, 42, in a massive fire that gutted TRP Game Zone, an indoor gaming centre in Gujarat's Rajkot on May 25.

The outing on a Saturday had turned tragic for several families as 27 people were charred to death at the gaming zone that operated without valid licences and a no-objection certificate from the local civic body's fire department.

Recounting the tragedy, Jadeja's daughter Devikaba said she was sitting with her family members at a restaurant near the multi-level gaming arcade around 5.30 p.m., when they heard a loud blast and saw smoke billowing from the dome of the recreation centre.

"My father and maternal uncle rushed in as my brother Dharamraj, 15, and some relatives were playing on a trampoline on the upper floor of the game zone. Soon, a few more blasts occurred, and nobody could come out. My father, brother, and three relatives died, and I couldn't even see their faces," said Devikaba.

The State government established the identity of 27 victims through DNA tests of the charred bodies and handed them over to their kin. According to sources, over 150 people were inside the arcade when the fire broke out. On the weekend, the owners had reduced the entry fee to ₹99 per person, attracting more people from Rajkot and its neighbouring areas.

Safety violations

Witnesses and relatives of the victims said there were no firefighting equipment and emergency exits, raising serious questions about the role of local authorities who allowed the gaming zone to function without conducting any checks. Inflammable material, including diesel to run generators and gas cylinders for the various rides, were reportedly present on the premises.

According to the FIR, no proper fire safety mechanism was in place in the two-storey building, which was a 50-metre-wide and 60-metre-long temporary steel structure with tin roofs spread across a 2,000 square metre plot. It added that there were many AC units and compressors installed on the walls, and electrical wiring at the amusement park.

"The gaming zone never applied for the fire NOC," submitted the Gujarat government before the High Court, which initiated a public interest litigation plea after taking *suo motu* cognisance of the incident. The court termed it a "man-made disaster" and asked the government as well as the Rajkot, Surat, and Ahmedabad municipalities to submit a report on the functioning of gaming centres in these cities.

centres in these cities.

The government said its investigation found



bribe them
A BJP
FUNCTIONARY
IN RAJKOT

"gross negligence" on the part of the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) and other departments that failed to carry out inspections and allowed the gaming zone to operate without necessary approvals. It then swung into action, shunting out RMC Commissioner Anand Patel, Police Commissioner Raju Bhargava, and two more IPS officers. Two deputy executive engineers from the Roads and Buildings Department, an assistant engineer in the Rajkot Municipal Corporation's town planning department, the city's chief fire officer and his deputy, and two police inspectors were suspended.

The government also constituted a five-member special investigation team (SIT) headed by Additional Director General of Police Subhash Trivedi to probe the case.

State Director General of Police Vikas Sahay said on May 30 that four government officials, including a town planning officer, were arrested in connection with the fire.

The SIT said in its preliminary report that the operators of the TRP Game Zone carried out welding works for the construction of the proposed "snow park" at the site despite knowing that the construction materials were highly inflammable. It also said the RMC's town planning and fire departments were "directly connected" to the incident. The police have so far named 11 persons as accused in the case, including six partners of the gaming zone, and arrested nine while an accused, Prakash Hiran, was found dead in the same fire.

Recent accidents

The Rajkot blaze is the latest in a string of tragedies in Gujarat over the past few years due to alleged negligence by civic bodies and due to a lack of stringent enforcement of building rules and safety norms.



Charred: Earth movers clear debris from the site where the gaming zone operated without valid licences. VIJAY SONEJI

In May 2019, 24 people died in a fire at a tuition centre on the top floor of a shopping complex in Surat. The building did not have a fire safety system and the top floor was built illegally. The Surat Municipal Corporation failed to inspect whether the centre had a fire safety system or emergency exits.

Probes going nowhere

In November 2022, 140 people were killed after a bridge that had just opened after renovation collapsed in Morbi town. The local civic body had awarded the contract to Oreva, a company known for making electrical appliances, which failed to obtain a fitness certificate before opening the bridge for tourists.

In January this year, a school picnic turned into a tragedy when 12 students and two teachers died after a boat overturned in a lake in Vadodara. The local civic body had given a private firm the contract to maintain the lake and run boat rides. A probe found out that the boat operators didn't have professional training, the boat with a capacity of 14 passengers was overloaded, and the 31 occupants were not given life jackets.

Though separate SITs were formed to probe all three incidents, the investigations ran out of steam after a few months.

The Rajkot blaze triggered public outrage and brought allegations of corruption in civic bodies to the fore. A retired IAS officer attributed the failure of governance in local bodies to a nexus in-

volving politicians, municipal officials, builders, and contractors.

"In Gujarat, urban local bodies like municipal corporations and municipalities are the most corrupt government entities. One cannot get even a basic task done without giving a bribe," the former civil servant said. He added that in all eight municipal corporations and over 150 municipalities in the State, fire service officers and technical staff who approve building plans don't act till they get their share of the pie.

"All eight municipal corporations and nearly 95% of the municipalities are ruled by the BJP. Most of the builders and contractors are connected to the party. Even Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel used to be a builder. We have such tragedies because of neck-deep corruption in civic bodies,"

said Leader of the Opposition Amit Chavda.

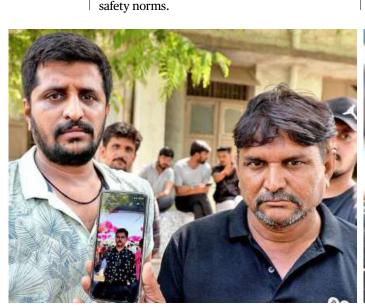
Slamming authorities for "hiding the number of people" who died in the blaze, senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Ram Mokariya stated before mediapersons that he had paid a bribe of ₹70,000 to obtain an NOC for a project from the RMC's fire department. He said he was sharing his "personal experience to highlight widespread corruption" in Rajkot.

"Everyone knows that corruption is everywhere. I have been exposing corrupt officials for a long time. In the past, I had openly said that Rajkot's town planning officer had been indulging in corruption for the last 10 years," he said.

This is not a one-off incident, said State Congress chief Shaktisinh Gohil. "In November 2020, five persons were killed in a fire in a Rajkot hospital, which operated without a fire safety system. Eight persons died in a hospital in Ahmedabad due to a fire in August 2020. In May 2021, 16 people died in a hospital fire in Bharuch. All three incidents occurred during the pandemic. The government failed to learn any lessons and enforce fire safety norms," he said.

Since 2014, when former Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, the Urban Development Department has been directly handled by the Chief Minister: Anandiben Patel (2014-2016), Vijay Rupani (2016-2021), and Mr. Patel since 2021. However, the move hasn't helped improve urban governance and stringent law enforcement.

"It is corruption, nothing else. Officials will overlook even if you build a complex on the road blocking traffic if you bribe them," said a BJP functionary in Rajkot, expressing concerns about how government institutions indulge in malpractices at the cost of public safety.





Reeling from shock: Relatives show the picture of Jignesh Gadhvi, who was one of the 27 people charred to death at the gaming zone that had no firefighting equipment; (right) a bereaved woman waits for her relative's body outside the morgue of a hospital in Rajkot. VIJAY SONEJI

STEPOUT



Musical evening

The 24th quarterly baithak of Pracheen Kala Kendra features eminent artists in an evening of soul-stirring music under its Legends of Tomorrow series. The programme will begin with a vocal

recital by Anooratn Raai, followed by Amitava Chatterjee's sitar recital. At Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg,

Mandi House; June 8; 6.30pm; Admission on first-come-first-served basis

▶ Women in labour

Baroda-based artist, Komal Mistry spent three months at hospitals across Gujarat to document the process of childbirth. Her interventionist photographic works capture unspoken narratives that mark the transformation of the woman's body and psyche and unseen aspects of the labour room processes. Come with your Own Light is her solo show that captures complex emotions and difficult spaces. At Latitude 28, F-208, First Floor, Lado Sarai; Till June 15; 10.30am to 7pm



Art exhibition

Writer-diplomat Abhay K is mounting an exhibition of his collection of paintings by Russian artists on

the occasion of Russia Day on June 12. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member-Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts will inaugurate the event. At Darshanam 1 and 2, IGNCA, Janpath

Building; June 12 to 18; 10.30am to 6.30pm

Films to remember

The Kriti Development Praxis and Communication committed to fostering social change is celebrating its silver jubilee with one of its flagship initiatives, Kriti Conversations, Retrospectives and Premieres. A forum that brings to the fore films, and their

India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Colony; June 7 to



From an urban village in Delhi to a factory compound in Vadodara, artist residencies in India are a kaleidoscope of landscapes



Amarjot Kaur

he otherwise orderly gallery space Chemould CoLab, nestled in Colaba's historic building Sugra Manzil, bursts into a chaos of aesthetics every summer when it doubles

up as an artist residency. Painters sometimes feverishly and sometimes with utter punctiliousness - colour canvases resting on easels. When not creating art, they tour Mumbai's most famous neighbourhood, including The Taj Palace and The Gateway of

India which skirts the residency. It is not just the touristy spots of Mumbai that offer diverse locales to inspire emerging artists and art practices at India's artist residencies. These sanctuaries of creativity extend to a wider landscape – from a quaint, ancient site of Hampi and a bucolic heritage home just three



hours away from Khajuraho, to an urban village in Delhi and a factory compound in Vadodara.

Hampi Art Labs is a nine-acre architectural marvel near the **UNESCO World Heritage Site** Hampi. An initiative of JSW Foundation – the social development arm of Mumbai-based JSW Group – it has been designed by Sameep Padora, dean, Faculty of Architecture at CEPT University in Ahmedabad. "The building is inspired by the Tungabhadra river. It is not in a city where you have access to art galleries. Artists engage with local communities through cultural events and workshops on pottery

among others.

I was particularly

impressed with the various

beverages that were served

to me during the three hours

was a refreshing cooler made

with rose, sandalwood, and

I also sipped on a strawberry

Darjeeling tea, which

shikanji made with a

"We have taken

generation before us was

and roselle. We are using

them to create drinks.

familiar with, such as vetiver

ingredients that the

making, embroidery by Lambani women and the stone carvers of Hampi," says Meera, residency director at Hampi Art Labs.

"A lot of networking can happen during the residency. Artists can also go out and use the city as an inspiration," Atyaan Jungalwala, director and gallerist of Chemould CoLab, illustrates with examples of artists Kuldeep Singh and Jayeeta Chatterjee: "Last year, Jayeeta made a work based on the Koli fisherwomen of Mumbai, while Kuldeep, who is based in Brooklyn and is an Odissi dancer too, collaborated with local musicians here."

With no standard guidelines,

residencies have their own working models. For instance, Chemould CoLab covers artists' stay and tiffin service. The residency culminates into an exhibition-cum-sale of their works. Artists are given a part of the profit from the sale of their

artworks. There are residencies, though, where artists are neither expected to make art nor leave creations behind. Hampi Art Labs is the newest addition. On the other hand, the Khoj Art Residency Program is among the older ones. It began in 2002 at Khoj Studios in Delhi's Khirki Extension and has hosted artists like Ravi Agarwal, Atul Bhalla, Cuba's Tania Bruguera and China's Song Dong.

Pooja Sood, curator and director of Khoj International Artist's Association, says, "Before Khoj, there were residential workshops such as the Kasauli Art Centre by Vivan Sundaram or residencies for international artists at Sanskriti Foundation started by OP Jain. Artist camps were a regular - where a group of artists would live and work together for two-four weeks normally at the behest of a patron."

A residency, she adds, is a time-bound sojourn where artists work, contemplate their practices and mediums, attend workshops or travel the city for inspiration.

For those who can afford or are funded by their country's cultural agency, Khoj charges a Creative sojourn (Clockwise from left) An artist working at Heritage Art Labs; Art Ichol; and Atyaan poses with artist Gurjeet Singh's soft sculpture at Chemould CoLab. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fee. But for young Indian artists, it announces an open call and pays a stipend of ₹50,000-₹60,000, and a production fee against bills.

In a way, residencies act as incubation centres for fresh-out-of-college artists, and equip them with skills needed to navigate galleries. "Artists need to formulate their work, or they will succumb to the pressures of the market too early in their career. We do Peers share, where young artists receive a crit session (critical feedback on the artwork) from senior artists/curators," shares Pooja.

Numbers draw an interesting sketch of the artist residency scene in the country. Krupa Amin, director, Space Studio, Baroda, says, "In the last 10 years, we would have housed over 200 artists. We receive 200-300 applications for a programme." The residency, housed in a factory compound, shares its neighbourhood with an old distillery, a museum, amphitheatre, skate park and cafes, all located around Vadodara's Alembic Museum Square, is a CSR vertical of Alembic Pharmaceuticals.

Art Ichol too makes for an interesting venue. Located in the Maihar district of Madhya Pradesh, the residency shares its premises with Maihar Heritage Home and Amaria Writer's Retreat. "We have studios for ceramics, bronze, stone, printmaking, fine art and metal. We attract at least 200 visitors a day, and have brought art out from an elite space to the common man," says Ambika Beri, director of the residency.

Unlike Khoj, Art Ichol is self-funded. "We were funded by Inlaks Foundation, but at the moment, we are depending on our corpus," says Pooja, adding, "A good, sophisticated art scene mainly has a very good public art sector, galleries that help artists with money and several not-for-profit spaces that promote experimental works, which may never be sold but will be seen and experienced by people."

Geetika Sachdev

elhi's Ghitorni neighbourhood is more about furniture than food, making you wonder why the city's new gastronomy hub, Indicā chose to occupy space in one of its alleys.

As you make your way inside, it all begins to make sense. Indicā goes beyond the traditional dining experience, encouraging conversations around food through the lens of sustainability.

Within the space, there's an application lab that concocts distinctive non-alcoholic beverages and products that harness indigenous ingredients. Also, check out the ingredient library, laden with everything from oils to herbs used to prepare food along with artwork that spotlights forgotten or lesser-known indigenous vegetables.

Food tales

The idea for Indicā struck former journalist and food writer Damini Ralleigh. "There is nothing in the world that you cannot study through the lens of food. Each meal tells a story reflective of a community's tradition, social dynamics

and culture," she says. A Master's degree from the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy, and working with the Slow Food Movement reinforced questions in her mind about the extractive and linear relationship with the natural world. At the same time, the pandemic struck and laid bare the harsh realities of a broken food system.

Upon her return to India, she met Sandeep Garg, the other half of Indicā, who already had this space and

Going beyond the plate

In a Delhi furniture district, Indicā offers a unique dining experience that sparks conversations about food, sustainability, and forgotten ingredients



Palate power Sourdough-making workshop; (below) Ja bowl. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was looking to turn it into a food lab that was more ingredient and product-focussed. The duo joined forces and decided to create something where different people could come and share stories through the medium of food.

It helped that Sandeep was involved in his family's specialised food processing business and had insights into sustainable farming.

"Everything we curate here, whether it's a kitchen takeover, workshop, seminar, adda, or even a private event, has to follow a basic framework of sustainability. That's why we close our spots 24-48 hours before the event because we do not produce more than what is consumed. It's a minimal waste kitchen," reveals Damini.

From a sourdough workshop led by Keith Goyden on the nuances of naturally

leavened bread using ancient grains like paighambari (the nutritious and hardy Indian dwarf wheat) and ragi, to a recent kitchen popup by Chef Tanisha Phanbuh reinterpreting staples from Meghalaya like fried chicken and jadoh (pulao prepared with meat), the idea at Indicā is to bring forth stories of communities to as many people as possible.

The food at Indicā is all about showcasing ingredients that are otherwise not found in restaurants, including tree tomato, bamboo shoots, roselle, watermelon peel and neem leaves and flowers,

There's a lot of research that has gone into finding these ingredients and creating sustainable links with the farmers that produce them," says Sandeep. The experience-only space aims to host two to six events every month across formats. Damini and Sandeep's vision may be

ambitious, but it is not unattainable. The duo, through experiences at Indicā, wants to make a point that sustainability is not as hard as it seems. While there is a price to quality ingredients, there is also a lot of greenwashing that prevents people from understanding this

movement.

Indicā is at 620, Zero Number Road, Ghitorni, Delhi. Cost for two is about ₹2,500. +91 9810233892 for reservations.

Shan Gupta

ifferent styles of abstract work have brought emerging and seasoned artists together," says Adhvika Agarwal, who has curated the Rang Mirage Art Gallery's latest exhibition Abstract Alchemy: A Fusion of Form and Color. It showcases the works of nine artists and brings an amalgamation of a wide range of abstract art in a series where each canvas is different from the other and yet connected through non representational art.

Adhvika says that abstract art is a way of depicting a plethora of emotions to the observer, without even a distinguishable form. Talking about one of the artworks, New Beginning by Mahesh M Karembele, she says the painting makes you feel as though you are standing on a seashore with a deep and vivid sunset in the background encompassing the horizon. "Another artist can have an entirely different interpretation of the same painting; that is the magic and beauty of abstract work as an art form," she adds.

Inspiration

Artist, Bhola Rana, talks about how his place of origin, Jharkhand, plays a driving role in shaping his art and the perspectives he draws. His canvas titled Black Diamond is about coal. "I have used red and black colours to signify the frequent fires in the coal mines, which often lead to the death of the workers," he says.

In another work, using acrylic on a red canvas, Rana depicts the constant process of urbanisation not only on land but within the trenches of the ocean too. His colour palette is minimal, yet strong and gives the viewer a crude imagery of a non-figurative art.

The same abstract imagery can be seen in Glimpse of Nature by Renu Jain, in which she uses

Fusion of form and colour

Thought-provoking compositions in a unique blend of styles at the ongoing group art show Abstract Alchemy



c Artworks on display at Abstract Alchemy exhibition at Rang Mirage Gallery. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the reverse painting style, using mixed media on acrylic. "What you paint as an artist on one side is not what the viewer sees from the other. Every painting creates multiple layers of understanding," she says and through her painting talks about the continuous urbanisation diminishing natural surroundings. "The exhibits here elevate different living spaces in Nature into a magical realm of artistic expressions,"

says Renu. The effort

Artist Keerti Agarwal talks about the importance of learning and what goes on behind an artist's hard work. "It is not just a random brush stroke, but days or months of work behind a painting that may look like a splash of colour to many others," she says.

Artist Nawal Kishore and

curator Manisha Gawade, who inaugurated the exhibition, feel in this age of turmoil and negativity that we live in, only art and culture can invoke positivity. "There is a value in abstract art because it helps to contemplate creativity and

heal," says Kishore. "A cuckoo's call isn't comprehensible, but is soothing to the ears; the same way, abstracts may not have any form, but they lend an element of serenity to the observer," he

Other artists whose paintings are featured in the exhibition include Bipin Roy, Deepak Sonar, Vivek Nimbolkar, Kishor Roy, Gopal Namjoshi and Rajesh Baderia.

At Rang Mirage Art Gallery, A -58, Central Avenue, Sainik Farms; Till June 25; 11am to 7pm

United, they thrived

Formidable alliance helped the TDP-led coalition win in Andhra Pradesh

nti-incumbency in Indian State Assembly elections is not rare: governments with strong majorities can lose at the end of a term due to changed expectations from the electorate. Thus, the YSRCP's loss in Andhra Pradesh to the grand alliance of the Telugu Desam Party-Jana Sena Party-Bharatiya Janata Party should come as no surprise. Yet, the scale of the defeat – the YSRCP could only win 11 seats, a fall of 140 from the 2019 elections, in the 175 constituencies in the 2024 Assembly polls, is astounding. In vote share terms, it suffered a 10 percentage point drop, but still landed a respectable 39.37% tally. But the TDP-led alliance did much better with a collective vote share of 55.3% – an increase of 9.75 points from 2019 and roughly the same as the drop in the YSCRP's share. This allowed it to garner a lion's share of the seats – 164 out of 175. It is quite clear that the TDP-JSP alliance allowed both parties to thrive. It helped them stitch up cumulative support from the Kamma and Kapu communities that form their bases and also compete against the YSRCP. By roping in the BJP, the alliance managed to also make the election a bipolar race – the Congress has yet to recover from its decimation after the State bifurcation – and make the best use of the first-past-the-post system that can allow parties/coalitions to get a disproportionately higher number of seats on the basis of a decent lead in terms of vote share.

But the electoral system and the mere presence of a competitive alliance alone would not explain the YSRCP's loss. The Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government pumped in money into welfare schemes despite ballooning debt and fiscal health issues and focused on a targeted delivery of subsidies and benefits. But Andhra Pradesh's record on the growth and development front has left much to be desired. Since its bifurcation, Telangana has emerged with the highest per capita income among major States, while Andhra Pradesh is ranked 10th. Even though the government hiked capex spending in the first quarter of FY24, it was the worst performer in FY23. Other unresolved issues such as the capital of the new State also resulted in a perception among voters about the inadequacy of the YSRCP government to focus on jobs and development as opposed to its "generous" spending on welfare. Mr. Naidu's incarceration because of a purported scam only increased empathy for the TDP. It is now imperative for the new government to eschew the traditional politics of vendetta and work towards the State's development. Mr. Naidu has a great opportunity; after all, his party is now indispensable in the new NDA government in New Delhi.

Bizarre judgment

Personal law norms cannot be used to invalidate inter-faith marriages

is an old principle that ignorance of law is no excuse. Evidently, this applies not only to offenders but also to judges. The Madhya Pradesh High Court's order ruling declining to give protection to a couple on the ground that a marriage between a Muslim man and Hindu woman will not be valid, even if registered under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, reflects an incredible misunderstanding of the law. The judge examined Muslim law treatises to conclude that a Muslim cannot marry an "idolatress or fire-worshipper", as such a marriage would be irregular. The SMA was passed precisely to allow inter-faith couples to get married without the requirements of marriage rituals associated with their religions. For a court to dissect the personal law requirements of the parties to enter into a valid marriage, when all they wanted was police protection to appear before the Marriage Registration Officer, is nothing short of bizarre. The question raised by Justice G.S. Ahluwalia – whether the inter-faith marriage that was intended to be registered under the SMA will be valid under Muslim law – is utterly irrelevant to the case at hand. Even though counsel for the couple advanced the correct argument that the Special Marriage Act would override the personal law of their respective religions, the judge chose to examine whether such a marriage would be valid or void or irregular under Mohammedan law.

The judge concedes that when a marriage is performed under SMA, it cannot be challenged on the ground of non-performance of mandatory marriage rituals. The only justifications offered by the judge is that the SMA itself provides that when the parties are within the degrees of prohibited relationship, it shall not be valid. From this, he draws a conclusion that a marriage that is invalid in personal law cannot be legalised by registering it under the SMA. It is clear that this is only a salutary provision that exists to prevent the Act from being misused to solemnise the marriage of those in prohibited relationships, and does not mean that every inter-faith marriage has to be scrutinised for compliance with personal law requirements. It is strange that the court underscores that the woman petitioner in this case did not want to convert to Islam, but at the same time examines the case through the lens of Muslim law. This is nothing but an attempt to impose religious personal law on those opting for a secular marriage. Allowing this judgment to stand will render the entire Special Marriage Act superfluous. It will also undermine any move towards a uniform civil code, and privileges Muslim personal law over the secular Special Marriages Act. In effect, it could drive people to religious conversion just for the sake of solemnising their mar-

Health regulations need a base to top approach

n the last week of May, an incident of a devastating fire in a private neonatal care nursing home in New Delhi shook us all. Political parties began a blame game and the media coverage was intense, going overboard and reporting incorrectly that a number of nursing homes in Delhi function without a licence. Yet, the incident seems to have been forgotten by most even as the parents grieve. Such tragedies are often followed by a question of who should be blamed, completely missing the point that these are almost always the outcome of a systemic failure – in this case, the failure of health-care regulations.

The subject of regulation has always been of interest to health programme managers but, arguably, is one of the weakest points in India's health-care system. It is not as if there are not enough health regulations in Indian States. Rather, it is a problem of excess. Some States have over 50 approvals under multiple regulations, which need to be followed and complied with by every health-care facility. Still, many officials in government, as well as others, believe that the private health sector in India has insufficient regulation.

The other challenge is unrealistic health-care quality standards. Governments at every level in India – national and States – are known to draft policies which are near perfect. One such case is the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, enacted 14 years ago, but not adopted by States. This is because State governments, in discussions with stakeholders, have realised that many provisions in the Act are impossible to implement. Another example is the Indian Public Health Standards, or IPHS, drafted by the government for its own health-care facilities and proposed as essential in order to deliver quality health services. The IPHS were first released in 2007 and have been revised twice since then. Yet, in 17 years of existence, only 15% to 18% of government primary health-care facilities in India meet the government's own standards. Clearly, in the efforts to be aspirational, health-care regulations and standards in India have drifted towards unrealistic standards, and are difficult to implement.

India has a mixed health-care system

There is a binary perception that when it comes to adhering to the rules, the government health sector always does better, and that the private sector always violates them. The fact is that India has a mixed health-care system, where private health-care facilities and providers deliver nearly 70% of outpatient and 50% of hospital-based services. In most States such as Maharashtra or Kerala, the health indicators are better not because these States have outstanding government facilities but because the facilities and clinics in the private sector are fulfilling the



Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

is a practising physician and internationally acclaimed health policy specialist. He has 15-plus years of work experience with the World Health Organization in India, Africa and Headquarters in Geneva



Dr. Vinay **Aggarwal**

is a former National President of the Indian Medical Association and a former member of the Delhi Medical Council health needs of the people. People 'vote with feet' by seeking care at these private health

Yet, when it comes to health-care regulation, there seems to be an unfairness and overzealous attempt to enforce the regulations in the private sector. In 2017, two separate but near identical incidents in two large hospitals in Delhi (a tertiary-care government hospital and a large corporate hospital), had allegedly declared newborn infants as dead; they were alive. This resulted in a temporary suspension of licence in the case of the private hospital, while in the case of the government hospital there was just the setting up of an inquiry committee. Clearly, for effective regulation and adherence, the stakeholder should not feel they are being targeted. In health-care regulation, in the current scheme of things, the burden of responsibility is more on providers and facility owners. Most private nursing homes and clinics have often flagged the issue of approvals being delayed by the authorities for months even when these facilities apply for renewal well in advance. In many examples, applications submitted well on time for renewal (two to three months before the due date), are granted approval months later. The sluggish approval process is a main concern as far as facility owners are concerned.

Affordable care is one need

The private sector is also not a homogenous entity as there is everything from single doctor clinics, small nursing homes and medium-sized hospitals to large corporate hospitals. Single doctor clinics and small nursing homes are often the first point of contact for access and utilisation of health services in India by middle-income and low-income populations, and are the real lifeline of health services. They deliver a large share of health services at a fraction of cost of that of the big corporate hospitals. Why the parents of the babies opted to go to a private nursing home despite government health facilities with free health services is an issue we must reflect on. The single doctor clinics and nursing homes play a key role in health service delivery in India and make services accessible and affordable. Clearly, there needs to be supportive and facilitatory regulations to serve the public purpose of keeping health-care costs low and affordable.

Yet, the tragic incident in Delhi is not something which should be allowed to pass without calm assessment and some concrete plans. First, ensuring quality of health services is essential and the joint responsibility of all stakeholders. However, in an overzealous attempt to ensure having a 'world class tag' or being 'swayed by the lure of medical tourism', the government should not end up making health-care regulations unrealistic. There is a need to formulate guidelines that can be practised and implemented. There is a need to

harmonise multiple health regulations and simplifying the application process. Such applications need to be disposed of in a time-bound manner.

Second, in regulatory aspects, what is possible for large corporate hospitals may not be feasible for smaller clinics and nursing homes, without escalated cost. Expecting smaller facilities to meet the same standard would make it expensive for the smaller facilities – a cost that is likely to be transferred to patients, making health services unaffordable. There is a need for a differential approach for different types of facilities. Yet, there should be essential and desirable points in each category overseen by regular self-assessment and regulatory visits. If thousands of buildings in the city can have safe elevators, why cannot there be equal emphasis on fire and other safety measures in health facilities? For effective adherence and implementation, the government should consider subsidies and funding to increase adherence to regulations.

Third, representatives of doctors' associations and the types of facilities for which regulations are being formed as well as community members should be involved in the process of the formulation of such regulation.

Fourth, political loose talk and sensational media headlines might worsen the mistrust of the common man about doctors and nursing homes and may result in increased violence against health-care providers.

Focus on the primary-care givers

Fifth, and most importantly, India needs to promote single doctor clinics apart from smaller health-care facilities, and nursing homes. These are what deliver primary care and contribute to keeping the cost of health care low. Every such facility and its doctors need to be supported rather than burdened with excess regulations.

In the fire tragedy in Delhi, we should not just treat the symptoms but also aim to find and eliminate the root causes. It is a reminder of the need to have simplified and implementable regulations that have been developed with the collaboration and coordination of key stakeholders. There is a need for fairness in implementations, time-bound decisions and the disposal of applications for renewal of licences, promoting smaller health-care facilities with subsidies, and support for increased quality and safety. India's health-care system is already becoming skewed towards admission based in-patient services. It needs to promote providers and facilities that deliver out-patient care at lower costs. This would contribute to the goal of the National Health Policy, 2017 – to deliver health services that should be people-centric, accessible, available, affordable, and have quality. This requires health regulations being drafted from bottom up and not top down, and implemented in a nuanced and calibrated manner.

The return of social justice and 'Marathi Asmita'

aharashtra has played a crucial role in causing drastic changes to the Lok Sabha seat tally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - from 23 in the 2019 election, it plummeted to a dismal nine seats this time. The BJP is a powerful political organisation in Maharashtra, and it was expected that the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in combination with the strong rhetoric of Hindutva would get the party good political dividends in

However, the BJP failed to acknowledge the growing resentment against the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the State. The political developments of the last two years were poorly managed by the BJP, leading to its political losses. The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, or the INDIA bloc, on the other hand, had better political rhetoric, gave a voice to anti-incumbency sentiments among farmers, Marathas and Dalits, and built an impressive campaign around Marathi Asmita and social

Machiavellian moves

The BJP invited sharp criticism in 2019 when Devendra Fadnavis tried to form the government by orchestrating defections from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Though Ajit Pawar's defection at that time did not help and Mr. Fadnavis had to resign soon after, it was a political move that caused the BIP much damage – that the BJP could manipulate political leaders and indulge in political harakiri in order to grab power. In 2022, the BJP was instrumental in causing the split in the NCP and the Shiv Sena which resulted in Uddhav Thackeray being removed from the Chief Minister's post. The BJP then formed the new government with the support of two breakaway leaders, Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde. The BJP exhibited cunning in order to dislodge and pressure its political



Harish S. Wankhede

Health

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is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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opponents into joining the incumbent government. However, such Machiavellian political moves affected the traditional character of the BJP in the most negative way possible.

In the early 1990s, the BJP was celebrated in Maharashtra as a party that was led by humble social elites (mainly Brahmins), and which stood out from the 'ruffian and violent' character of Bal Thackeray's Hindutva. Further, with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) offering the BJP 'moral' character, the BJP was heralded as the party that would challenge the Congress's corrupt political actions by standing for ethical values. However, under Mr. Fadnavis, this image of the BJP was transformed into that of a party that makes compromises and uses manipulative tactics in dealing with its opponents. All this damaged the party's reputation and painted it as a party that lacked political morality.

The BJP's strategies to dislodge a working government only ended up creating a wave of sympathy for Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar. The 'downsizing' of Mr. Pawar at this stage in his long political life was not well received. Mr. Pawar is a stalwart Maratha icon who has the tremendous support of the farming communities. Further, Uddhav Thackeray, when Chief Minister, was seen to be both a popular and effective administrator (especially during the COVID-19 crisis) and a reformist Hindutva leader. These images were used to rouse Marathi sentiment, leading to the BJP's campaign around Hindutva and Mr. Modi's leadership being strongly challenged.

The issue of reservation

One also had the BJP's response to the demand for Maratha reservation. Its delayed reaction to the Maratha reservation agitation led by activist Manoj Jarange Patil was not taken well by the community. Further, when the government decided to endorse Mr. Patil's demands, it evoked

criticism from the Other Backward Communities (OBC). Many OBC leaders, including Chhagan Bhujbal, viewed the government's attempt to give quota to the Marathas as the BJP offering OBC quota to the Marathas. This was enough for sections among the OBCs to vote for the INDIA bloc. The BJP was unable to control the growing tussle between the Marathas and the OBCs, which only harmed the BJP's prospects in the Marathwada region.

Another important development was the consolidation of the Dalit vote in favour of the INDIA bloc. In the last Lok Sabha, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), led by Prakash Ambedkar, got close to an eight percent vote share, which helped in the defeat of the Congress-NCP candidates in at least a dozen seats. It was expected that in 2024, Mr. Ambedkar would join the INDIA bloc to stall the BJP's juggernaut. However, his decision to contest the elections independently was not appreciated by the VBA's conventional Dalit votebase which was in favour of political moves that would help defeat the BJP. Dalit voters, especially in the Vidarbha region. reposed their faith in the INDIA bloc and deserted the VBA in several seats.

A strong show

The INDIA bloc fought a charged battle against the BJP by building an impressive campaign around the need to safeguard constitutional values and the pride of the region, i.e., Marathi Asmita. So, the Congress became the focus point for social justice politics, the NCP-Sharad Pawar reemerged as the protector of the interests of the agrarian communities and Uddhav Thackeray impressed voters, especially in the Mumbai region, by reemerging as the true inheritor of Bal Thackeray's legacy and the leader of Marathi Manoos. Against such a strong movement, the BJP and its allies failed to perform and ended up losing the election.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Implications of the results The results of the general election 2024 have proven to be critical. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has failed to secure a majority on its own, and, thereby, is not in a position to unilaterally implement its 'saffron agenda'. The BJP can no longer hold

its own and will have to rely

on coalition partners who

may not give in to its Hindutva agenda. Therefore, the BJP has to become democratic and come to terms with the Constitution. Further, the Opposition parties have improved their electoral performance and are in a position to strongly oppose the unconstitutional policies of the BJP. The Supreme Court of India

too would do well to look upon the results as a welcome change with important constitutional issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the like to be decided.

A holistic analysis shows that the present mandate should secure a peoples' governance and the fears that existed earlier should be dispelled. N.G.R. Prasad, Chennai

The outcome of the results

is welcome news for the Congress and its allies, but will spell a headache for BJP. There is sure to be hectic bargaining as the BJP

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "Modi factor seems to have stagnated over a decade" (Inside pages, 'CSDS-Lokniti post-poll survey", June 6), a sentence in the fifth paragraph read, "In 2019, two thirds (32%) took this stand...." It should have been "... one third".

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

will have to depend on its allies. A very interesting situation lies ahead. A.S. Thirumalai, Chennai

The exit polls 2024 will be

long remembered for being the funniest. One wonders whether their creators were pollsters or pranksters. M. Jameel Ahmed,

Mysuru

How urban and rural India voted

Broadly, people in larger urban centres and rural areas supported the BJP. On the other hand, those living in towns appear to have contributed the most to the improved performance of the Congress

<u>Abhinav Pankaj Borbora</u> <u>& Priyanka Mittal</u>

n the last two general elections (2014 and . 2019), the BJP gained dominance more or less uniformly across urban and rural India. This time, it has got a much lower seat share compared to 2019. Did all segments of voters equally contribute towards this or was this the outcome an aggregate of their distinctive behaviours? With the findings of the Lokniti-CSDS postpoll study, we attempt to understand the voting patterns of those living in India's cities, towns, and villages.

Broadly, people in larger urban centres remained more loyal to the BJP compared to those in small towns. Surprisingly, the BJP remained strong in rural areas too. Among city dwellers, 23% voted for the Congress, while 38% voted for the BJP (Table 1). Compared to the previous election, the Congress lost the support of 2% of those living in cities while the BJP gained marginally. However, the Congress' loss was adequately made up by its allies, who secured support from 13% of voters belonging to this segment, which is 6% points higher than last time, mostly at the cost of 'others'. Among the urban poor, 38% opted for the BJP, while 22% voted for the Congress. Among the rural poor, 37% voted for the BJP and 21% for the Congress.

Those living in towns appear to have contributed the most to the improved performance of the Congress. Compared to last time, the Congress secured an additional 7



People on their way home after casting their vote in Alappuzha, Kerala. SURESH ALLEPPEY

THE HINDU CSDS-LOKNITI Post-poll Survey 2024

points in votes in towns, while the BJP lost 3 points in towns. The Congress' coalition partners secured a higher proportion of support from voters in towns (10%) compared to the coalition partners of the BJP (6%).

Among voters in villages, 20% voted for the Congress and 36% voted for the BJP. Combined with the support secured by its allies, the INDIA bloc got an additional support of 6 points in villages compared to the previous election. This is in contrast to the NDA which lost 1 point

Table 1: BJP lost village and town-based voters while Congress lost voters in cities (%)

	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies				
Village	20 (1)	13 (6)	36 (-1)	7 (-1)				
Town	25 (7)	10 (3)	37 (-3)	6 (1)				
City 23 (-2) 13 (6) 38 (1) 6								
Note: Figure	Note: Figure in bracket denotes change over from 2019.							

Note: Figure in bracket denotes change over from 2019. Note: The AAP is Congress's ally only in Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi, and TMC is only in UP.

Despite agrarian unrest and protests, the BJP managed to retain a robust vote share in rural areas

in villages compared to 2019.

Compared to the overall vote shares of the Congress and the BJP, the difference in rural and urban voters therefore did not seem to be very critical for the BJP since its vote share across spatial locations is more or less the same. But in the case of the Congress, voters from towns definitely seem to have voted more for it than others.

There could be a number of reasons why the Congress and the BJP performed they way they did in cities, towns, and villag-

es. While smart city projects and global diplomatic events could have attracted a section of city dwellers towards the BJP, soaring unemployment and unsatisfactory civic infrastructure might have hindered the party's ability to expand its support among a wider section of such voters

But more significantly, despite agrarian unrest and protests, the BJP managed to retain a robust vote share in rural areas. Needless to say, this all-India picture somewhat understates the BJP's failures in States such as Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Abhinav Pankaj Borbora & Priyanka Mittal are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

Table 1: Vote by caste and communities (%)

	Congress	over from	allies	over from		over from	allies	over from
		2019		2019		2019		2019
Hindu upper caste	14	2	7	1	53	0	7	-1
Hindu upper OBCs	20	5	15	6	39	-2	9	-2
Hindu lower OBC	18	3	7	4	49	1	9	-1
Hindu Dalits	19	-1	13	8	31	-3	5	-2
Hindu Adivasis	23	-8	8	2	48	5	3	1
Muslims	38	5	27	15	8	-1	2	1
Christians	25	-14	7	1	14	3	14	9
Sikh	30	-9	2	1	10	-1	1	-19
Other Minorities	19	6	12	5	31	-1	14	10
Note: The AAP is Congr	ess's ally or	nly in Gujara	t, Haryana,	and Delhi, a	and TN	IC is only in	UP.	

The three main takeaways

Hilal Ahmed

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections were unique. The verdict shows that the voters prefer to have a delicate yet politically viable balance. The BJP-led NDA emerged as the leading formation, while a strong and effective Opposition also came into existence for the first time in last 10 years. This seemingly fragmented political configuration cannot be understood without a careful analysis of caste community-based electoral responses. The CSDS-Lokniti post-poll survey highlights three trends in this regard.

Subaltern reach First, the BJP somehow managed to protect its carefully nurtured constituency of voters – upper caste Hindus, OBCs, and Adivasis; as well as Dalits on a somewhat lower scale. However, a slight movement of these social groups towards the Opposition weakened the party's prospects in some key States such as Uttar Pradesh. For instance, the Hindu upper caste continued to support the party, though a small fraction also moved towards the Opposition. The Hindu OBCs (especially the "lower" OBCs) and the Hindu Adivasi voters overwhelmingly supported the BJP. This shows that the Hindutvadriven subaltern outreach of the party at the grass-roots level worked well nationally. We also cannot underestimate the significance of the Labharati phenomenon: the welfare schemes introduced by the BJP were well-received and created a favourable electoral ground for it.

Diversity in Dalit vote Second, Dalit voters played

a crucial role in this election. The BJP received 31% of Dalit votes at the all-India level. However, Dalits also voted for the Congress and its allies in key areas. This apparent diversity of Dalit electoral behaviour in this election underlines an important political trajectory. The BJP's slogan of "Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar (this time, we will get 400 seats)" created an impression among the poor Dalit communities that the party might make significant changes to the Constitution. This impression was carefully used by the Opposition during its campaign. The Congress manifesto recognised the protection of the Constitution as an electoral issue. In fact, Congress leaders worked hard to use the Constitution as a political symbol. This overtly Constitution-centric politics sensitised a segment of Dalit voters. The BJP's attempt to communalise the reservation debate failed to

attract additional Dalit votes.

Third, the religious minori-

Minority vote

ties - Muslims, Christans, and Sikhs - did not get behind the BJP this time. This was because the party changed the meaning of its slogan, "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas (together with all, development for all)". The BJP manifesto did not have any programme for religious minorities. During the campaign, BJP leaders tried hard to polarise voters on religious lines. Even affirmative action policies were problematised to create the perception that the Congress wanted to give undue reservation to Muslim OBCs. This anti-minority rhetoric encouraged the minority communities to support non-BJP forma-

tions at the State level. This support, however, cannot be called vote bank politics. The voting pattern of religious minorities proves this point. While more than 65% of Muslim voters supported the Congress and its allies, it is also true that almost 8% of Muslims voted for the BJP in this polarised election and a large share of Muslims voted for 'others'. The BJP also secured 10% of the Sikh and 14% of the Christian votes, respectively.

Hilal Ahmed is associate professor at CSDS

While the BJP

altered its

strategy phase-wise, the

The BJP's pro-rich skew becomes moderate

Sanjay Kumar & Jenitta

In the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the gap between the poor and the rich with regard to their support for the BJP was very wide – that is, more among the rich and middle class voted for the BIP compared to the those belonging to the poor and lower class. But in 2024, this gap has narrowed significantly. This is mainly because of the steady rise in the vote of the poor in favour of BIP.

The findings of the Lokniti-CSDS post-poll survey indicate that even if the BJP fell short of a majority in the 2024 general elections, a significant proportion of the economically weaker classes voted for it. Among the poor, 37% voted for the BJP while 21% chose the Congress. However, the BJP's allies secured a much lower proportion of support from the poor (6%). In comparison, the Congress' allies secured 14% of the votes from the poor.

Similarly, the BJP secured 35% of the votes from those belonging to the lower class, which is 13% points higher than what the Congress got. The BJP maintained an almost similar lead over the Congress in terms of votes secured from the middle class. The BJP secured the highest proportion of votes (41%) from the upper class.

Compared to 2019, there has been a dip of 3 points in the proportion of those from the upper class (from 44% to 41%) who voted for the BJP. A smaller decline of 3 points is also visible in the support that



BJP supporters celebrate after the party's victory in the Lok Sabha elections, at the party office in Hyderabad. ANI

Table 1: Class-wise vote choice 2024 (%)

	Congress	Congress allies	INDIA	ВЈР	BJP Allies	NDA
Poor	21	14	35	37	6	43
Lower	22	14	36	35	6	41
Middle	21	13	34	35	8	43
Upper	22	10	32	41	7	48
Overall	21	13	34	37	7	43

All figures are in percent. Note: The AAP is Congress's ally only in Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi, and TMC is only in UP.
Source: Lokniti-CSDS data unit

Table 2: Class-wise vote for BJP (%)

VOLC 10	וטטו	(/ 0)	
	2014	2019	2024
Poor	24	36	37
Lower	31	36	35
Middle	32	38	35
Upper	38	44	41
Overall	31	38	37

the BJP got from the middle class. Among the lower class, 35% voted for the BJP this time compared to 36% in the previous election. It is noteworthy that since 2014, the BJP has seen a steady rise in votes from the poor. The share has risen to 37% in 2024 from 24% in 2014.

Looked at from a different angle, in 2014, the BJP polled a higher share of votes (38%) among the rich compared to its overall vote of 31% resulting in a skew in its electoral sup-

port. This time, while the higher share from the rich continues, its share among the poor and lower economic classes is almost the same as its overall vote share. Thus, the skew has moderated. The various welfare schemes of the ruling government, especially free ration for large proportions of the poor, have worked in favour of the BIP.

This data means that the Congress has not acquired additional support in spite of its specific appeal to the economically lower strata of society. There is a flatness to support for the Congress across economic classes.

Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS and Jenitta is a researcher at Lokniti

BJP's sustained loss in women's vote

Table 1: How gender-wise voting preferences change over elections

	Congress	Congress allies	BJP	BJP allies				
Men	21(+2)	14(+7)	37(-2) 7(0)					
Women 22(+2)		12(+5)	36(0)	7(0)				
Note: All fig	Note: All figures are in percent. Figures in brackets are changeover							
percentages from 2019. Note: The AAP is Congress ally only in								
Guiarat, Hai	ryana and Del	hi; and TMC only i	n UP.					

Table 2: The voting preferences of women across different social groups

Women	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies			
Level of education							
Non-literate	19	13	34	7			
Upto primary	23	11	34	6			
Upto matric	22	11	38	6			
College and above	22	12	36	7			
Caste communities							
Hindu upper caste	13	5	52	6			
Hindu OBC	20	12	42	9			
Hindu Dalits	20	12	30	5			
Hindu Adivasis	24	8	47	2			
Muslims	40	25	7	2			
Other religious minorities	23	8	24	12			
Locality							
Rural	21	12	35	7			
Urban	25	10	36	6			

Rajeshwari Deshpande

As Table 1 shows, 37% men and 36% women voted for the BJP this time. The gap was more or less been the same in the past. The Congress, on the other hand, enjoys more support among women than men.

During the 2019 general elections, the BJP's success was linked to its popular welfare schemes, particularly those that targeted women voters. Yet, our data show that even then, the BJP was a less preferred party for women. This is the case in 2024 too.

Why is this the case? One, until 2014, the BJP had a limited overall vote share. Not many women really voted for the party even if we take into account their absolute numbers. Second, the BJP was known as a party of the socially privileged sections and thus had a somewhat skewed social support base. These factors combined provide a possible explanation for the party's gender disadvantage until now.

As Table 2 shows, the skew is evident in 2024. In other words, despite its expanded social support base, the BJP still faces loss of support among women.

Rajeshwari Deshpande teaches at Savitribai Phule Pune University

The elections changed across different phases

<u>Jyoti Mishra</u> <u>& Ananya Sharma</u>

The 2024 general elections have demonstrated noticeable variations across different phases. As the election was held in seven phases, parties could plan their campaigns accordingly. The outcomes were mixed, reflecting the complex interplay of factors influencing electoral success.

The BJP's performance varied considerably across the different phases of the election. For instance, in phase 1, covering 101 seats, the BIP won 30 seats with a 30.8% vote share, while the Congress and its allies gave a tough fight and secured a significant portion of the votes. During phase 2, the BJP secured 47 seats with a 37.1% vote share, demonstrating its strength in certain regions. In phase 4, when the voter turnout was highest at 69.6%, the BJP secured only 38 seats with a 31.8% vote share. This indicates that high voter turnout does not necessarily correlate with increased support for the ruling party. The fluctuations in the BJP's perfor-



results suggest that regional issues, local dynamics, and the appeal of candidates played a more significant role in determining outcomes

phase 1, Congress secured 26 seats with a 21.9% vote share, and its allies captured 31 seats with 16.7% of

mance across different phases highlight the limitations of a one-size-fits-all campaign strategy. While the BJP altered its strategy phase-wise to maximise its campaign effectiveness, the results suggest that regional issues, local dynamics, and the appeal of individual candidates played a more significant role in determining the outcomes.

For example, in phase 3, the BJP won 58 seats with a substantial vote share of 45.3%, whereas in phase 5, the party's performance dipped: it secured only 18 seats with a 37.2% vote share despite a similar turnout.

The performance of the Congress and its allies also varied across phases, reflecting their strongholds in specific regions. In phase 1, Congress secured 26 seats with a 21.9% vote share, and its allies captured 31 seats with 16.7% of the votes. This was in contrast with phase 4 when the Congress won only 6 seats with 14.5% of the votes, while its allies fared better with 17.2% of the vote share.

These phase-wise results highlighted the absence of a straightforward correlation between voter turnout and the BJP's vote reduction, as speculated. The findings highlight that while strategic planning is crucial, the ultimate outcomes are shaped by factors such as regional issues, candidate appeal, and local dynamics.

Jyoti Mishra & Ananya Sharma are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

Table 1: Phase-wise performance of parties

Phases	Total	Turnout	ВЈ	P	BJP.	Allies	Cong	ress	Congre	ess allies	Other	Parties
	Seats		Won	Vote	Won	Vote	Won	Vote	Won	Vote	Won	Vote
Overall	543	66.1	240	36.6	52	7.0	99	21.2	98	12.6	54	23
Phase I	101	66.5	30	30.8	3	3.8	26	21.9	31	16.7	11	27
Phase II	88	67.1	47	37.1	6	6.4	24	31.7	7	6.4	4	18
Phase III	94	66.0	58	45.3	7	5.9	15	29.0	9	9.7	5	10
Phase IV	96	69.6	38	31.8	23	14.2	14	15.9	11	10.1	10	28
Phase V	49	62.4	18	37.2	5	7.2	5	10.7	14	21.7	7	23
Phase VI	58	63.6	31	41.2	6	4.1	6	14.5	11	17.2	4	23
Phase VII	57	64.1	18	33.3	2	3.6	9	14.8	15	13.1	13	35
Note: The A	AP is Co	ngress's a	lly only	in Guja	arat, Ha	ıryana,	and Del					

merged with other parties. | Source: ECI Data compiled by CSDS

The impact of social welfare schemes on voting behaviour

While comparative studies tell us that voters prefer the incumbent when they have benefited from a policy output or action of the government, voters do not have much sentiment towards a party that inaugurates a welfare scheme

K.K. Kailash

ince 2004, discussions around election outcomes have highlighted the influence of social welfare policies on voting behaviour. If the MGNREGS was the star in 2009, it was Ujjwala in 2019. So, what do welfare programmes tell us about the mandate in 2024?

First, there is an increase in the percentage of voters who reported to have benefited from select welfare programmes. When we examine data on five major social welfare schemes, including the Public Distribution System (PDS), Ujjwala (free gas connection with cylinder), MGNREGS, Ayushman Bharat (free hospital treatment up to ₹5 lakh per family), and the housing scheme, we see that the percentage of voters who reported receiving a benefit from a scheme varied from one-fourth to twothirds (25% to 67%) of the respondents (Table 1). The increase is stark when we compare the beneficiaries of similar schemes between the last two elections. While an average of 27% of the electorate claimed to have benefited in 2019, 41% said they could take advantage in 2024 (Table 1). Whether this increase in beneficiar-

worth asking. While we have no official data, reports suggest that the number of people who cannot afford an adequate diet is reasonably high. It is, therefore, not surprising that the sharpest rise in beneficiaries was among those who used the PDS. While only four in 10 (43%) respondents claimed to have been beneficiaries of the PDS in 2019, it went up to a whopping two-thirds (67%) in 2024 (Table 1). Furthermore, more than half

ies is a sign of better deliv-

ery of welfare programmes

or a rise in the indigent

population is something



To uplift: Women workers under the MGNREGS at Purulia in West Bengal. DEBASISH BHADURI

Table 1: Measuring welfare impact: Tracing government scheme beneficiaries and credit attribution (%)

		Credit attribution				
Schemes	Benefited	State government	Union government			
PDS	67	35	55			
Ujjwala	45	25	68			
MGNREGS	34	27	65			
Ayushman Bharat	30	26	66			
Awas Yojana	25	25	64			

Note: Rest attributed the local government Questions asked: In the past five years, have you or someone from your family benefited from the following schemes; (If benefited) Who would you give credit to - State government, Union government, or local government?

Table 2: Rural and urban beneficiaries of welfare schemes (%)

	Proportio	Proportion of beneficiaries							
	NREGS	Awas Yojana	PDS	Ayushman Bharat	Ujjwala				
Rural	41	29	73	31	49				
Urban		18	56	27	36				

(56%) of the urban and three-fourths (73%) of the rural voters claimed to have benefited from the PDS (Table 2).

Who takes credit?

Second, despite the claims that the increased use of technology has eliminated intermediaries and reduced discretion, corruption, and leakages in welfare delivery, it appears that it has not necessarily made life easier for citizens. Nearly half the population who benefited from

one of the above schemes felt they had a difficult experience attempting to access these programmes (Table 3). However, it appears that this has not made a difference in voting. Comparative studies tell us that voters prefer the incumbent when they have benefited from the policy output or actions of

Third, does aggressive branding and advertising of welfare schemes help bring in votes? We cannot answer this, but it appears

Table 3: Accessibility of welfare

How easy or difficult was it to benefit from welfare schemes	(%)
Very easy	12
Easy	35
Difficult	36
Very difficult	14

Note: Question was asked to only those who benefited from any scheme Question asked: (If benefited from any scheme) Based on your overall experience, how easy or difficult was it to benefit from welfare schemes

was it very easy, easy, difficult, or very difficult?

Table 4: Preference of nation's development over welfare schemes (%)

Building better roads and railways is more import- ant for the nation's devel- opment than subsidising/ supporting the poor via welfare schemes	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies	
Agree	19	10	41	9	
Disagree	26	17	31	5	
N + D + + I ()					

Note: Rest voted for other parties. The AAP is the Congress's ally only in Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi, and the Trinamool Congress is only in U.P.

Table 5: Vote choice of the beneficiaries of welfare scheme (%)

	Voted for			
Schemes	Congress	Congress allies	ВЈР	BJP allies
MGNREGS	20	10	39	8
Awas Yojana	19	12	43	6
PDS	18	13	37	7
Ayushman Bharat	23	11	45	6
Ujjwala	21	12	44	5

Note: Rest voted for other parties. The AAP is the Congress's ally only i Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi, and the Trinamool Congress is only in U.P.

that it allows voters to assign credit. The likelihood that voters will give credit to the Union government (as opposed to State or local governments) for welfare schemes has increased since 2019.

Fourth, we find that there appears to be a sharp difference in the development vision between the Congress and the BIP voters. A voter who believes that infrastructural development should be prioritised over public assistance programmes is twice as

likely to vote for the BJP as compared to the Congress (Table 4).

Nevertheless, the voter does not appear to have any sentimental attachment to a party that inaugurates a welfare scheme. There is more than a 10point gap in all welfare schemes between credit attribution to the Centre and votes for the BIP and its allies (Table 1 and 5).

K.K. Kailash is with the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad

Party more than candidate holds sway over voters

Nirmanyu Chouhan Subhayan Acharya <u>Majumdar</u>

The Lok Sabha election results have once again drawn attention to the multifaceted diversity that the Indian political landscape represents. One aspect of that diversity is the difference in the ways voters relate to parties. Despite the impression that voters are cynical about parties, a significant portion of the electorate continues to identify closely with political parties. A little less than half the respondents in the CSDS-Lokpost-poll expressed a sense of allegiance to one party or another (Table 1). This proportion has increased substantially over the past decade - in 2014, only 32% respondents had expressed allegiance to a party.

In tune with the multiparty composition of political competition and the presence of many State-level parties, one in three voters who admit to being close to some party is close to a party other than the Congress or the BJP (Table

This discussion of party allegiance is important in view of the fact that half the voters decide their vote on the basis of party rather than the candidate or any other factor (Table 3). A little over one-third (36%) of the respondents stated that the candidate was the primary factor in their voting decision. This indicates that while party affiliation remains a dominant factor, the personal appeal and credentials of individual candidates also play a role shaping preferences.

Party or PM?

Since the rise of Narendra Modi as leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, elections have assumed the characteristic of a presidential battle; appea ils are now made in the name of the Prime Ministerial can-

However, with the IN-DIA alliance refusing to

Campaigns play key role in shaping choice

Table 1: Closeness to nalitical nartice

political parties		
Closeness to political parties	(%)	
No	43	
Yes	45	

Note: All figures in per cent. Rest did not respond. **Question asked:** Is there any political party you feel close to?

Table 2: Party affiliation

Closeness to political party	(%)
Congress	23
BJP	43
Others	31

Note: All figures in per cent. Rest Question asked: Which party do you feel close to?

Table 3: Primary considerations while voting in the 2024 Lok Sabha election

Consideration while voting	(%)	
Party	50	
Candidate	36	
PM candidate	10	
Note: All figures in per cent. Rest did		

Question asked: People have different considerations while deciding whom to vote for. In this election



Table 4: Considerations while voting

Among	Considerations while voting		
	Party	Candidate	PM candidate
Voters of Congress	50	41	5
Voters of Congress allies	51	38	7
Voters of BJP	46	34	17
Voters of BJP allies	56	32	9

Note All figures in per cent. Rest did not respond.

Note: The AAP is the Congress's ally only in Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi, and the Trinamool Congress is only in Uttar Pradesh

identify any leader as its possible Prime Ministerial candidate, voters were less interested in this aspect of the electoral competition In the 2019 Lok Sabha

sidered the PM candidate as a crucial factor in deciding whom to vote for (CSDS-Lokniti NES 2019 post-poll). However, in the 2024 election, this percentage

election, 17% of voters con-

dropped to just 10%. This decline signifies the reduced impact of the PM candidate as a factor in influencing voting choice. Among voters who ex-

pressed a closeness to the NDA, nearly half consi-

dered the party itself as their main reason for voting, while only one in 10 respondents (9%) cited the PM candidate as a deciding factor (Table 4). Similarly, voters aligned with the IN-DIA bloc also predominantly considered the party as their primary voting criterion.

Coupled with the fact that a large proportion of voters feel close to some party, the finding that for half the voters, party is an important consideration in deciding their vote indicates the relevance of parties to electoral choices.

> The authors are researchers at CSDS-Lokniti

BJP maintains advantage among young voters

Sanjay Kumar Fuhaar Bandhu

In a country as diverse as India, voter choices, especially of the youth (under 25 years), can be the deciding factor in closely contested races. In 2019, 20% of young voters supported the Congress.

This figure increased by just one percentage point in 2024, indicating no significant consolidation of youth supportfor the Congress. In contrast, the BJP received substantial youth support in 2019, with 40% of young voters backing them. In 2024, the BJP's youth support decreased by just one percentage point among those under 25. (Table 1).

How then was the Congress able to challenge the BJP? In the 2024 election, 39% of young voters voted for the BJP and nearly 7% for the BJP allies. However, what helped the INDIA bloc was that 12% of young voters supported the Congress allies, far more than the BJP allies, helping close the gap in voter share between the NDA and the IN-DIA (Table 2).

In summary, the Congress and its allies made notable gains among Table 1: Voting across age groups in 2019 and 2024 (BJP and Congress)

	Vote share of	the Congress	Vote share o	f the BJP
	2019	2024	2019	2024
Up to 25 years	20	21	40	39
26-35 years	19	21	39	37
36-45 years	20	22	37	36
46-55 years	20	21	35	37
56 years and above	20	22	35	35

Table 2: Vote by age groups for INDIA and NDA

II VDI/ (dild i VD/ (
	Party	Party voted for in 2024 Lok Sabha election				
	Congress	Congress allies	INDIA	ВЈР	BJP allies	NDA
Up to 25 years	21	12	33	39	7	46
26-35 years	21	14	35	37	7	44
36-45 years	22	12	34	36	7	43
46-55 years	21	12	33	37	7	44
56 years and above	22	12	34	35	6	41

Note: Rest voted for other parties. The AAP is the Congress's ally in Gujarat,

young voters. More importantly, while the share of the Congress and its allies among voters of different age groups is rather flat, in the case of the BJP, it declines with age – meaning

that the BJP continues to attract voters of a younger age more than the elderly.

Sanjay Kumar is co-director, CSDS-Lokniti, and Fuhaar Bandhu is a researcher at CSDS-Lokniti

Shivani Choudhary Ganesh Ramesh Kulkarni

Campaigning as a political accomplishes strategy three tasks. It connects the parties and their leaders with the electorate, introduces the voter to the party manifesto and the candidate's or the party's vision, and builds a perception about who will win the election based on engagement with the campaigns.

The post-poll survey shows that most voters are interested in election campaigns and decide their vote for a particular candidate during the campaigning period. The data further indicate that the Congress and the State parties contacted more voters through social media and door-to-door campaigns than the BJP. These responses in light of the increased vote share of the Congress, the INDIA bloc, and the regional parties in the Lok Sabha election, hint at the crucial role political campaigning might play on the electoral battleground.

Time of vote choice

Our study shows that 41% of the respondents decided whom to vote for during the campaign period (Table 1). This points out that voters wait for the candi-



Reaching out: Supporters wave flags with images of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a rally in Amritsar on May 25. AFP

date to be announced and the election campaign to unfold before making a choice. This decision is based on which candidate and political party can persuade the voter with their promises, manifesto, and campaigning tactics.

In contrast, 28% of the respondents decided their vote before the candidate was announced. These can be called the early deciders or the staunch party supporters for whom the party ideology trumps the candidates or the campaign. They form the core voter base.

The third group are the late deciders, consisting of 28% of the respondents. They choose their candidate a day or two before voting or on the day of the election. Here too, the impact of campaign is bound to be considerable.

In the survey, 71% of the respondents showed a great deal of interest or somewhat interest in the campaign. Interestingly, 23% of the respondents were uninterested in election campaigns.

Campaigning strategies Contrary to the expectation that the BJP would be

more aggressively engaging in the campaign, figures in Table 3 reveal that a lesser proportion of respondents were contacted by the BJP. In the case of social media campaigns (phone calls, text messages, or WhatsApp, Facebook), 51% of the respondents in the survey were contacted by the Congress, and 54% by the State parties (the largest two parties in the State). In contrast, this number stands at 44% for the BJP. Similarly, in the Table 1: Timing of voter decision-making in 2024 election

Time of vote decision	(%)
Late deciders	28
During campaign	41
Early deciders	28

Question asked: When do you decide whom to vote for?

Table 2: Levels of interest in election

campaign

	Great Deal
-	Somewhat
	Not at all
_	Note: Rest did not res

Note: Rest did not respond. **Question asked:** How interested vere you in the election campaig

29

42

Table 3: Methods of voter contact by political parties in the 2024 election (%)

Party	Social media campaigns	Door-to-door campaign
ВЈР	44	40
Congress	51	46
State parties	54	47

Note: Rest did not respond. Question asked: Were you or a member of your family contacted by these political parties through a phone call, text message, or on WhatsApp, Facebook, etc., in the past month; Did a candidate or member of these parties come to your house to ask for your vote in the past one month?

case of door-to-door campaigning, the percentage stands at 46% and 47% for the Congress and the State Parties, respectively, with the BJP at 40%. There is a possibility that the BJP relied more heavily on rallies by star campaigners, public meetings, and the appeal of its leadership.

In conclusion, the postpoll data show that the voter's choice depends on three factors: the degree of support for a party, interest levels of voters in campaigns, and the party's campaigning strategies. The authors are researchers

at CSDS-Lokniti

From Page One

New govt. should review Agnipath scheme: JD(U)

"A resolution electing Prime Minister Modi as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party will be passed in that meeting, after which he will be meeting President Droupadi Murmu to stake claim to form his third successive government," said a source.

Through the day, government formation discussions were held by senior BJP leaders, including Union Ministers Amit Shah, Mr. Rajnath Singh and BJP president J.P. Nadda.

Some internal reviews of the BJP's performance were also held where reportedly, some officebearers of the RSS were present.

While much was not revealed as to the exact contours of the government, sources did say that the BJP with 240 seats will not be letting go of crucial ministries such as Home and Finance. "There is talk that big allies like Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP will be allotted two Cabinet and two Minister of State berths for his 16 MPs, and there is a demand for three Ministries from the JD(U)," added a source. The BJP is unlikely to give up its claim on the Lok Sabha Speaker's position either, in a House that is much more tightly held than before. The Shiv Sena, in a press note, said Kalyan MP Shrikant Shinde, son of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, would be ruled out for a ministry as a move to privilege "merit over nepotism".

Ajit Pawar holds emergency meetings

Stressing that "not even a single MLA will go over to Sharad Pawar's side", NCP (Ajit faction) State chief Sunil Tatkare claimed instead that some legislators from the Sharad Pawar-led faction were in touch with his party.

"The core group meeting took stock of our performance in the Lok Sabha election. While we have not been able to secure the expected success, the overall performance of our coalition in the State and at the Centre has not been up to expectation either... no MLA from our side is going anywhere," Mr. Tatkare said.

He was responding to claims made by Sharad Pawar faction MLA Rohit Pawar that 16-18 MLAs of the Ajit faction were in touch with the NCP (SP).

The NCP leader was the sole candidate from his party to win the election as he successfully retained the Raigad seat. The biggest blow to the Ajit Pawar faction, which lost three of the four seats it contested, was that of Baramati, where Mr. Ajit's wife Sunetra Pawar was defeated by his cousin -Supriya Sule, who is Mr. Sharad Pawar's daughter.

The loss has cast a shadow over the future of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP within the Mahayuti

Fadnavis may meet Shah

Mr. Ajit's colleague and counterpart in the BJP, Mr. Fadnavis, first left for Nagpur and then proceeded to Delhi in the evening. He is expected to meet Un-Minister Amit Shah to convey his offer to quit as the Deputy Chief Minister in view of the BJP's defeat (it won a mere nine of the 29 seats it contested) in the State.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his leaders will be reaching Delhi to meet with Mr. Modi and the BJP brass. Sources said Mr. Shinde, whose Sena faction won seven of the 15 seats it contested, has now emerged as the third largest member of the NDA after N. Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U). Mr. Shinde is likely to demand a Cabinet berth at the Centre along with two Ministers of State, said informed sources.

June 4 stock market crash a 'scam', says Rahul Gandhi

Former Congress chief seeks JPC probe into alleged role of Prime Minister and Home Minister; BJP leader Piyush Goyal terms charges baseless, says Indian investors did not suffer losses

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

lleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "directly involved" in the June 4 stock market crash that "wiped out" ₹30 lakh crore of investor wealth, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) investigation.

At a press conference at the Congress headquarters, Mr. Gandhi referred to the June 4 crash as "the biggest stock market crash scam", one that pushed up the markets after "fake" exit polls, saw a record transaction on June 3 and then crashed a day later when the votes were counted.

"We want to ask a few questions: why did the PM and HM give specific investment advice to the 5 crore families investing in the stock markets? Is it their job to give investment



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

advice to the people," Mr. Gandhi asked. "Why both interviews

were given to the same media house owned by the same business group, which is also under SEBI [Securities and Exchange Board of India] investigations for manipulating stock markets? What is the connection between the BJP, the fake exit pollsters, and the dubious foreign investors, who invested one day before the exit polls were announced and made huge profits, at the

cost of 5 crore families? We demand a JPC [probe] into this," he said.

He said Mr. Shah advised people to "buy shares before June 4" on May 13 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, on May 19, asserted that the stock market "will break all records on June 4". He asserted that the top BJP leadership was aware that the exit polls were "fake".

'Baseless charge' BJP leader Piyush Goyal said the allegations made

less". "In April and May, when the market was rising, foreigners sold in the market and Indian investors took advantage of it and bought it. The benefit of this rise in the past two months has been received by Indian investors. The day the exit poll came, foreigners bought at high prices and Indian investors sold at high prices and took profit," Mr. Goyal said at a press conference. Noting that foreign in-

by Mr. Gandhi were "base-

vestors had bought stocks worth ₹6,850 crore in retail at high prices and Indian investors took advantage of it, Mr. Goyal said that on June 4 foreign investors sold at a low price and Indian investors bought it with the belief that the Modi government was returning.

"Indian investors sold at a high price and bought at a low price. So in a way, Indian investors earned even in this period. No one suffered a loss," he said.

Trinamool unhappy with 'wait and watch' policy of INDIA bloc

<u>Sobhana K. Nair</u> NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress is not wholly satisfied with the INDIA bloc's strategy of taking the "appropriate steps" at the "appropriate time", arguing that the Opposition does not have the luxury of sitting around for the next five years. Lobbying for more votaries for their position, Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday met Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in Delhi and flew to Mumbai to meet Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray.

The two meetings come a day after the INDIA bloc meeting where it was resolved that the bloc, while remaining vigilant, will wait and watch. During the meeting, according to sources, Mr. Banerjee had suggested that the resolution should include a sentence categorically stating that the bloc will keep its doors open for N. Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U). But this suggestion was rejected, as



Abhishek Banerjee meets Akhilesh Yadav in New Delhi

need not spell it out.

many felt that the bloc

"We don't have the luxury of sitting around for the next five years. We have to strike now," a senior Trinamool leader said. The Trinamool is of the view that the allies should be actively sought out. They also suggested that Mr. Thackeray should make efforts to reach out to the Shinde faction of the

Mr. Banerjee had also said that three BJP MPs were in touch with his party and could change sides.

Shiv Sena.

"Modi's BJP ran the government in India for 10 years. He and his government have been REJECT-ED," Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader O'Brien said.

65.79% turnout in 2024 Lok Sabha election, says EC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The just-concluded Lok Sabha election saw a total voter turnout of 65.79%, the Election Commission (EC) said on Thursday. The turnout in the 2019 elec-

tion was 67.4%. The poll panel said the final figures for 2024 could change as these did not include postal ballots. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had said earlier that a total of 64.2 crore voters had exercised their franchise.

Lakshadweep recorded the highest voter turnout at 84% followed by Assam at 81%. The lowest turnout was recorded in Bihar at 56.19%. Uttar Pradesh (56.92%)and Mizoram (56.87%) were the other low turnout States.

The EC said the overall

Lakshadweep recorded the highest voter turnout; the lowest turnout was recorded in Bihar

voter turnout for the seventh phase was 63.88%.

Mr. Kumar, along with **Election Commissioners** Gvanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, met President Droupadi Murmu and submitted the list of MPs elected to the 18th Lok Sabha.

Once the list of MPs is handed over to the President, the formal process to constitute the Lok Sabha will begin.

Narendra Modi is set to take oath on June 9 for a third consecutive term after the BIP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a majority.

strong protests from the

LJP, the NDA government

stepped in to restore the

Scheduled Castes and the

Scheduled Tribes (Preven-

tion of Atrocities) Act, 1989

which the Supreme Court

had struck down. It clearly

illustrates that the Prime

Minister heard and res-

narratives of the 2024

"reservation" was in

danger. Your comments.

ponded to us.

One of the key

election was that

'India-Norway cooperation to witness manifold increase'

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAL

Norwegian businesses are showing a lot of interest in India and a manifold increase in cooperation between the two countries is expected in the next 10 years, May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, said on Thursday.

In an interaction with journalists of *The Hindu* in Chennai, while responding to a question on the role of Norway in the recently signed trade pact between India and the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) bloc, Ms. Stener said, "Norwegian businesses are showing a lot of interest here because India is the fifth-largest and fastest-growing economy in the world. The treaty has immense importance because the Western businesses also feel secure and can now rely on this frame-



May-Elin Stener

work for them to operate

She said Norway will contribute a lot in terms of promoting investments in India. "EFTA's [pact with Indial is the first trade treaty with an investment chapter. We have committed to promoting investments in India in the coming years. Altogether, we [EFTA countries] wanted to create a million jobs and Norway will contribute a considerable part of that. We will also work on strengthening relations between the governments,

including with the State governments in India, and business-to-business and people-to-people." Further, the Ambassador said Norway is keen on

three sectors – renewable energy, maritime and circular economy. A conference on marine environand circular ment economy in Chennai has been scheduled on Friday, which will focus on shores, rivers and other ecosystems and how to preserve the environment, she said. The conference will bring together diverse stakehol ders to take forward envi-

ronmental issues. Ms. Stener added Norway is set to host the third India-Nordic Summit by the end of this year in its capital Oslo. "... The Third Summit was scheduled accordingly by taking into consideration the elections in India and we are looking forward to it."

CWC to meet tomorrow to discuss Lok Sabha results

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on Saturday to discuss the Lok Sabha results and the future course of action. The meeting will be chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

The party has put up its best performance in the past decade, winning 99 of the 328 seats it contested as part of the INDIA bloc.

With the Leader of the Opposition's office assured, a section of the party wants former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi to assume that position.

There may be a discussion on which of the two seats Mr. Gandhi should retain for political reasons. He had won from Wavanad in Kerala and Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh.

'Modi has said he is open to all suggestions'

It is not easy for an alliance to come back to power for a third time; introspection on why it failed to achieve the 400-seat target will have to wait till government formation, says the LJP(RV) chief; alleging that the Opposition ran a false campaign on reservation, he says it won't work all the time

INTERVIEW

Chirag Paswan

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

ith the National Democratic Alset to begin a third term, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan speaks about the election results, coalition politics and his expectations from the government. Edited excerpts:

The LJP(RV) had a 100% strike rate, winning all seats it fought, but your ally, the BJP, fell short of the 370-plus target it set this time. What do you think went wrong for the party?

At times, you set such high goals for yourself that if you fall short, people start

asking questions. It is not easy for a government to come back to power for a third time. This has happened only for the second time in seven decades, with a Prime Minister returning for a third consecutive term. The alliance will need to introspect on why it did not reach the 400seat target. But this exercise will have to wait till government formation. I am not sure if I should say this on record, but in Wednesday's meeting of NDA allies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he is open to all suggestions and that this platform is open for all discussions. I am confident that in the 2029 election, we will achieve the 400-seat target.

But the Opposition claims that this is a mandate against Mr. his arrogant style of governance. Your

Modi and a defeat for thoughts.



Calling someone arrogant is the easiest and cliched way to deride them. Anyone who has met our Prime Minister knows that he is the most humble person, who is easily available and open to suggestions.

But with the BJP at 240 - several seats shy of a majority - do you believe allies will have more space?

We always had a space in the NDA. In 2018, following basaheb B.R. Ambedkar's vision. The Constitution is in-

destructible, it is not a joke. No one can end reservation. In 2015 too, the Opposition played on this fear in Bihar, but such fake contrived narratives won't work every time. Why would the Prime Minister, who has worked for 25 years under this Constitution, take any step to destroy it?

The Opposition ran a false

narrative. I believe those

raising such doubts are the

ones who do not trust Ba-

What is your party's stand on the Uniform Civil Code, which many expect Mr. Modi to push for in his third term?

It is too early to comment

on the UCC, there is no draft in place. We need to understand India is a country of plurality and diversity. To bring all these varied cultural identities under one umbrella is a gigantic task. For example, in Uttarakhand, where the State government has implemented the UCC, tribal people have been exempted. The problem is that the UCC is only seen through the communal perspective and ends up being treated as a divisive issue. We forget that there are various regional variations in Hinduism too.

In the end, the UCC will be adopted only through a consensus within the alliance, after taking into account every ally's suggestions and addressing their apprehensions.

Do you think the Vajpayee model of NDA should be followed with a convenor and organised structure of consultations?

In due course, everything will be settled. The BJP has expertly handled the coordination so far.

Sangli MP extends support to Congress

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Vishal Patil, Independent MP-elect from the Sangli constituency in Maharashtra, met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday and extended his unconditional support to the party in a formal letter.

Mr. Patil also met Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi at their official residence.

His expected induction into the party will shore up the numbers for the Congress, which has 99 seats. Mr. Patil, grandson of former Maharashtra CM Vasantdada Patil, ran as an Independent after his attempts to win a party nomination failed.

Asked when he would formally join the Congress, Mr. Patil said, "After consulting experts, I will do whatever I need to do for the road ahead."

Pappu Yadav, who won the Purnea Lok Sabha seat as an Independent candidate, is expected to extend his support to the Congress as well.



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Statues shifted on Parliament premises; Cong. slams move

Statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Chhatrapati Shivaji and others have been removed from their original place on the Parliament premises and shifted to a lawn near the old building as part of a landscaping exercise, a move that drew criticism from the Congress on Thursday. All the statues are now at the same place – the lawn between the old Parliament building and the Parliament library. Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said this was an "atrocious" move. Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera claimed Shivaji and Ambedkar's statues were removed after Maharashtra voters did not vote for the BJP. PTI

FIR lodged over medical student's remarks on Prophet

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday lodged a first information report (FIR) against a medical student for allegedly posting "blasphemous" content against Prophet Muhammed at the Government Medical College, Srinagar. The post evoked protests on the college campus. The police action comes a day after hundreds of students held a demonstration on the campus, and alleged a non-local student posted "blasphemous remarks" on social media and "refused to remove despite several requests". The college has suspended the student.

NIA arrests terror accused in Imphal for 'waging war'

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested another accused from Imphal Airport in the case it had registered in July last year related to an alleged transnational conspiracy by terror outfits based in Myanmar and Bangladesh to "wage war" against the Government of India by exploiting the current ethnic unrest in Manipur. The NIA said the key accused, Thongminthang Haokip, a member of the Kuki National Front-Military Council (KNF-MC), was allegedly involved in "attacks on security forces at various places during the ongoing insurgency and violence".

on closer ties with Taiwan

China on Thursday protested over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that he looked forward to having closer ties with Taiwan and insisted that New Delhi should resist the Taiwan authorities' "political calculations". China views with the mainland. "First of all, there is no such thing as 'president' of the Taiwan region," told a media briefing in Beijing. "On the one-China principle, India has made serious political commitments and is supposed to recognise, be alarmed about and resist the Taiwan authorities' political calculations, and refrain from doing things that violate the one-China principle," Ms. Mao said. PTI

Pro-Khalistan slogans raised at Golden Temple

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> CHANDIGARH

Slogans favouring Khalistan (sovereign state for Sikhs) were raised on the premises of the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar on Thursday during the 40th anniversary of Operation Bluestar.

Most commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed in the city amid a call for an "Amritsar shutdown" by radical Sikh outfits to commemorate the

Supporters and activists of Dal Khalsa, and Sikh hardliners led by the radical Sikh leader and president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), Simranjit Singh Mann, raised slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" during the congregation of Sikh devotees.

Giani Raghbir Singh, chief priest of the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, raised the issue of Bandi Sikhs (Sikh prisoners who had completed their terms), saying that not releasing them is an unfair treatment of the Sikhs by the Union government.

Bengal post-poll clash victims can file plaints with DGP: HC

Court says they can submit complaints by email, and seeks report from the police chief after 10 days; violence was reported across several districts with BJP and CPI(M) supporters facing assault

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

xpressing concern over post-poll vioover post post Benlence in West Bengal, the Calcutta High Court on Thursday issued a directive allowing the affected people to submit complaints to the State's Director-General of Police (DGP) by email.

A Division Bench comprising Justices Kausik Chanda and Apurba Sinha Roy directed that any person who was a witness to, or was a victim of, any post-poll violence could directly lodge a complaint with the DGP.

The court was hearing a petition filed seeking directives to the police in the wake of alleged post-poll violence.

The court said the police station concerned would register an FIR immediately if the complaint revealed a cognisable offence. The Bench added that FIRs would be uploaded immediately on the website of the West Bengal Police, which, along with



Tense times: Security personnel and local people during a clash on the day of the final phase of polls in North 24 Parganas district. PTI

Central forces, would, if necessary, work together to protect the life and property of the citizens.

Emphasising the State's responsibility to prevent recurrence of such incidents, the court directed the DGP to file a report after 10 days about the number of complaints filed and

BJP workers in fear

Hundreds of Bharatiya Janata Party supporters have taken shelter in different offices of the party, alleging that they were attacked by supporters of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

On Thursday, Trinamool supporters intercepted the car of West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar while he was on his way to Minakha in North 24 Parganas district. The supporters surrounded his vehicle and raised slogans of "Joy Bangla".

"I have come to meet the affected people in the area. Tonight, I am travelling to Delhi and will speak to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and request him to extend the duration of the presence of Central forces in the State," said Mr. Majumdar.

Central forces deployed Post-poll violence was re-

ported across several districts of the State and both the BJP and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) supporters have been at the receiving end of the attacks.

Violence was reported in North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts of the State, along with certain districts of north Bengal. A section of Central forces deployed in the State for the Lok Sabha election will stay on till June 16 to contain post-poll violence.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari urged Governor C.V. Ananda Bose to visit violence-affected areas. The Trinamool Congress has won 29 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal, restricting the BJP to 12.

Kangana 'slapped' by CISF constable at airport

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Kangana Ranaut, BJP MPelect for Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, alleged on Thursday that she was slapped by a woman constable of the Central Industrial Security Force at the Chandigarh airport. The constable has been suspended from duty.

Ms. Ranaut posted on X: ...the incident occurred at the Chandigarh airport during the security check. As I went through the security check, the lady CISF officer from adjacent cabin approached me and hit me on the face and abused me. I asked her why did she do it, to which she replied that she supported the farmers' protest. While I am safe, my concern is that how shall we handle growing terrorism in Punjab."

Several farmer outfits have alleged that she had made derogatory remarks against farmers during the 2020-21 protest.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee demanded an unbiased investigation to find out if Ms. Ranaut made provocative remarks at the airport.

NEET aspirants allege discrepancies, urge NTA to hold re-test

The Hindu Bureau

Citing widespread irregularities in how the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges was conducted, a section of aspirants on Thursday wrote to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Union government, requesting for a re-examination.

They highlighted an al leged question paper leak in Bihar, hidden grace marks, "illogically high" scores, an unexpected number of full scores, and very high cut-off scores.

Over 2,000 persons have signed the petition. "We, the undersigned students and concerned citizens of India, are writing to bring to your immediate attention the serious irregularities and discrepancies observed in the recently conducted NEET examination. Our future and the integrity of the education system are at stake, and we cannot remain silent about these issues," it said.

"Many students received different marks on their scorecards compared to their OMR sheets. These discrepancies were not due to grace marks."

Aspirants have also pointed out that the midterm revision of syllabus added further confusion and unfairness to the examination process.

While students h manded a re-examination, the NTA in a statement has said the integrity of the exam has not been compromised. However, it has also said that the NTA had registered cases against impersonators, where action against "unfair means cases" has been taken according to the existing rules, including the cancellation of candidature.

The NTA has not commented on students' grievances of mismatch between OMR sheet scores and the final result score they received.

India is now 'second-biggest foreign threat' to Canadian democracy, says report

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee report in Canada has described India as the second-biggest foreign threat to the country's democracy. The revelations of the report added to the negative state of the bilateral relations between the two countries which been caught in a diplomatic spat since the June 2023 killing of a pro-Khalistan ideologue in Surrey, British

Columbia. "India emerged as the second-most significant foreign interference threat to Canada's democratic institutions and processes," said the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians re-

It stated that alleged interference by India has "slowly increased" but at the same time the operation has become expand-



has allowed space of operation to pro-Khalistan elements.

ed. "It became clear during the period of this review that its efforts had extended beyond countering what it perceived as pro-Khalistani efforts in Canada to include interfering in Canadian democratic processes and institutions, including through the targeting of Canadian politicians, ethnic media and Indo-Canadian ethnocultural communities," the report said, while describing China as the topmost foreign threat to Canada's democracy. While such threat as-

sessment is part of the Canadian government's practhe focus has tices. increasingly shifted to China and India in recent years. India and Canada have seen heated diplomatic exchange since the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18, 2023, when the pro-Khalistan preacher was murdered by unknown assailants in

Subsequently, in September, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said Nijjar was murdered by "agents of the Government of India". Following this, India had put a pause on issuing visas to Canadian citizens. Earlier this year, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had pointed fingers at foreign countries, including India, for being involved in the election process of Canada. The Centre had denied that allegation.

Parliament breach: Delhi police to file chargesheet

Vijaita Singh

Months after six persons were jailed under terror charges for allegedly breaching the security at the new Parliament building, the Delhi Police are all set to file a chargesheet against the suspects in a city court on Friday.

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena accorded sanction to prosecute the six persons under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

On December 13, 2023, two of the six accused jumped into the Well of the Lok Sabha activating colour spray canisters hidden in their shoes. The accused, who allegedly breached the Parliament security to protest against the government's handling of issues such as unemployment and farmers' crisis, have been in jail for the past six months as police sought several extensions to file the chargesheet.

China protests PM's comment

Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning

TH CROSSWORD + 14195

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn





- **15** Fail to invite a tenant farmer (4,1,7) **18** Best to back hundred and one (6,2,4)
- 21 Come back to a distiller (6)
- 22 Generate fancy drink (5,3)
- 24 Show off food with fibre (8)
- **25** Run around parts of London, it's a swindle (6) 26 Shepherd stories, half of them have copy (8)
- **27** See obstruction in the button hole (6)
- **1** Royalty gets 50% over land (8)
- 2 Byzantine fort with guns all around examples of creativity (3,5)
- **3** Copy link for a card game (9,6)
- **5** Tribal men guard one that heals (4)
- 6 Recovered glory incorporating last of the exotic dance
- Close to the country manor (6) **8** Slender direction pointer (6)
- **11** He waves a flag and on cue three of them enter (7)
- **14** Somehow press got the identity of these black widows
- **16** Day time, it's money city (8) 17 A day spent in modest surroundings is immoral (8)
- **19** Language bill, teacher allowed without book (6)
- 20 Even boot strap, what a capital! (6)
- 23 Industrial action exposed the capital (4)

SUDOKU



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





Parental affection

Lakshmana asks Sumantra to tell Dasaratha that his son Lakshmana does not respect him. Rama is everything to him - brother, father and all relatives. Dasaratha is relieved to hear this, said Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse. He feels that of his four sons Lakshmana is the best. Dasaratha's favourite son is Rama. Naturally, anyone who cares for Rama becomes dear to him. Rama reciprocates Lakshmana's affection. After Dasaratha's death, Rama says that he does not feel he has lost his father, for in Lakshmana He sees a caring parent. Sumitra's words to Lakshmana match his mood and desire. She tells Lakshmana that he should go happily to the forest. She urges him to look upon Sita as his mother. Rama must be seen as his father. So, both Dasaratha and Sumitra wanted Lakshmana to see everyone in Rama. And this is as it should be, for is not the Lord the parent of everyone in this world? Arjuna is stunned when the Lord shows him His Viswaroopa. Who is equal to Krishna, he asks. In the next sloka, Arjuna regrets the way he took liberties with Krishna. A parent forgives his child for its mistakes. Likewise, Arjuna wants Krishna to forgive him.

Arjuna had treated Him like an ordinary playmate. He had ordered Krishna around. It is only now that he knows that Krishna has no beginning or end.

Sea creatures once, regularly seen with a head gear (6) **10** He is on top of the bridge on a small ship (8) **12** Journalistic order, not just satirical (8)

Across

1 Helps to follow extremely powerful material (6)

4 Somehow bear with it, need to return to the city (8)



THE HINDU



IOB opens exclusive branch for start-ups in Chennai

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) said it had opened its maiden, exclusive start-up branch in Chennai aimed at providing "bespoke financial services and robust support to budding entrepreneurs and emerging enterprises". MD & CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava inaugurated the branch on Anna Salai. On Thursday, the public sector lender unveiled an 'IOB Start-up current account' and a credit scheme 'IOB Pragati' for financing start-ups, and on boarded 35 start-ups.

Quality control norms relaxed for import of polyester fibre

Textile and garment exporters importing polyester and viscose fibres under Advance Authorisation, Export Oriented Unit, and Special Economic Zone schemes have been exempted from the mandatory quality control order (QCO). However, the export obligation period for such imports is restricted to 180 days from the date of clearance of import consignments in respect of QCO exemption, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification on Thursday.

TVS Srichakra rolls out steel-belted radial tyres

TVS Srichakra Ltd., the makers of TVS Eurogrip tyres, announced the introduction of steel-belted agro industrial radial tyres at The Tire Cologne 2024 fair held in Cologne, Germany, from June 4-6. This is the first such product in this segment designed for use predominantly in telescopic handlers, compact wheel loaders and backhoe loaders engaged in both agricultural and industrial applications, the tyre manufacturer said in a statement.

'Food price rise likely sped up in May'

Crisil's food plate cost tracker finds vegetarian meal costs surged 9% year-on-year last month compared with the 8% gain in April, when official retail food inflation was 8.7%; cost of a non-vegetarian thali dropped 7% as broiler prices declined 16%

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

ood inflation may have hardened in May, as the average cost of a home-cooked vegetarian meal rose 9%, compared with April's 8%, to hit a four-month high. Tomato, onion and potato prices surged about 40%, while inflation in rice and pulses held firm, CRISIL's food costs tracker shows.

Food inflation, as measured by the official retail price rise gauge – the Consumer Price Index (CPI), had sped to a four-month high of 8.7% in April from

Veg thali dearer

Food inflation may have hardened in May, as the average cost of a home-cooked veg thali quickened to a four-month high

- Tomato, onion and potato prices surged about 40%, while rice, pulses inflation held firm CRISIL's food costs tracker shows non-veg thali was at the second-highest level in
- 5 months at ₹55.9 ■ Vegetarian meals cost an average of ₹27.8 per person in May

8.5% in March, with rural consumers witnessing a sharper uptick of 8.75%. Overall retail inflation stood at 4.83% in April. The National Statistical Of-



fice will release CPI numbers for May on June 12.

The cost of a non-vegetarian meal slid 7% as broiler prices fell 16% from 2023 May's high levels, but still stood at the secondhighest level in five months at ₹55.9. Vegetarian meals cost an average of ₹27.8 per person in May, up slightly from ₹27.4 in April, the **CRISIL Market Intelligence** & Analytics' Roti Rice Rate report reckoned.

Tomato gains soften

There was a price rise of 39%, 41% and 43% in tomato, potato and onion, respectively, reflecting a slight softening in tomato inflation, which was 40% in April. Potato and onion prices rose faster than the 38% and 40% recorded in the previous month.

"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," CRISIL noted.

Prices for rice, which makes 13% of a vegetarian meal cost, and pulses, which account for another 9%, rose 13% and 21%, respectively, in May. Cumin, chilli and vegetable oil prices fell 37%, 25% and 8%, respectively, offsetting the spikes in other components of a vegetarian meal.

THURSDAY	% CHANGE
75,075	0.93
83.53	-0.10
73,500	0.93
79.86	2.25
	75,075 83.53 73,500

Brent oil	il 79.86 2.25	
NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3185.65	70.30
Adani Ports	1352.95	1.65
Apollo Hosp	5962.00	27.35
Asian Paints	2904.80	56.95
Axis Bank	1170.95	13.55
Bajaj Auto	9701.45	99.20
Bajaj Finserv	1526.45	8.75
Bajaj Finance	6925.80	89.15
Bharti Airtel	1370.60	26.25
BPCL	584.15	3.05
Britannia Ind	5440.45	-46.20
Cipla	1477.00	-19.95
Coal India	472.95	12.40

pollo Hosp	5962.00	27.35
sian Paints	2904.80	56.95
kis Bank	1170.95	13.55
ajaj Auto	9701.45	99.20
ajaj Finserv	1526.45	8.75
ajaj Finance	6925.80	89.15
harti Airtel	1370.60	26.25
PCL	584.15	3.05
ritannia Ind	5440.45	46.20
ipla		
oal India	472.95	12.40
ivis Lab		
r Reddys Lab		
cher Motors		
rasim Ind		
CL Tech	1397.50	53.80
DFC Bank		
DFC Life		
ero MotoCorp		
indalco		
ind Unilever		
ICI Bank	1110.40	1.75
dusInd Bank		
fosys	1472.25	42.15
C		
SW Steel		
otak Bank		
&Τ	3482.55	73.55
IMindtree Ltd	4800.25	111.40
&M	2699.85	-41.10
aruti Suzuki	12673.50	170.90
estleIndia	2471.40	38.45
TPC	349.75	8.75
NGC		
owerGrid Corp	300.45	1.65
eliance Ind	2863.20	21.70
BI Life		
tate Bank	816.95	27.20

2474.80 Sun Pharma TataConsumerPro Tata Steel .. 172.05. .. 2.85 Tech Mahindra . 1317.45. . 50.55

.10054.95

UltraTech Cement.

Malaysian Ringitt.

Australian Dollar

EXCHANGE RA	TES	
Indicative direct rates in p.m. on June 06	rupees a unit	except yen at
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.27	83.59
Euro	90.57	90.93
British Pound	106.42	106.84
Japanese Yen (100)	53.36	53.57
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.54
Swiss Franc	93.44	93.82
Singapore Dollar	61.80	62.05

.60.82

.. 17.73...

... 17.82

'Local air passenger traffic rose 5.1% in May'

Press Trust of India MUMBAI

Domestic air-passenger traffic grew 5.1% year-onyear to an estimated 138.9 million in May and was significantly higher by about 14% than pre-COVID levels, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Thursday.

ICRA also said the outlook for the Indian aviation industry is stable amid continued recovery in domestic and international air-passenger traffic with a relatively stable cost environment and expectations of the trend continuing in FY2025.

The airlines' capacity deployment in the pre-



vious month increased 6% year-on-year and about 2% higher than April 2024.

According to the agency, the domestic air-passenger traffic for FY24 was about 154 million, with a year-onyear growth of about 13%.

It thus surpassed the pre-COVID levels of about 142 million in FY2020, the ratings agency said.

ECB cuts interest rates even as inflation fight is far from over

Reuters FRANKFURT

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, the ECB said it expected inflation to average 2.2% in 2025, up from a previous estimate of 2% and meaning it was now seen holding above the central bank's 2% target well into next year.

Inflation in the 20 nations that share the euro has eased to 2.6% from ov-



er 10% 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.

to 3.75% from a recordhigh 4.0%, the ECB gave no indication whether that would be followed by a further easing in July. "We are not pre-comit-

Cutting its deposit rate

ting to a particular rate path," ECB President Christine Lagarde told a press conference. "Despite the progress over recent quarters, domestic price pressures remain strong as wage growth is elevated, and inflation is likely to stay above target well into next year," she added.

"It is unlikely we'll see back-to-back cuts," said Diego Iscaro, head of European economics at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

NCLT gives approval for Vistara, Air India merger

<u>Jagriti Chandra</u> NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger of Vistara with Air India (AI) allowing nine months for the dissolution of the former.

Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. will hold 73.38% stake in the merged entity and Singapore Airlines 25.1%. The balance 1.52% will be held by SBICAP Trustee Ltd. on behalf of Air India Employee Settlement Trust.

The anti-competition trusts of India and Singapore have agreed to the integration. The DGCA will have to approve the transfer of Vistara's crew, operations and aircraft to AI.

'Tube Investments to set aside ₹500-cr. capex for core business'

N. Anand

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) will be setting aside ₹500 crore for capex on its core business in FY25, while its subsidiary TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd., (TICMPL) will allocate ₹471 crore in the EV space, said a top company executive.

"We'll be investing close to ₹500 crore in this financial year for the [TII] core business," Executive Vice Chairman Vellavan Subbiah said during an analysts call.

'Capacity expansion'

TII CFO A.N. Meyyappan said ₹500 crore would be set aside for building capabilities in the engineering as well as metal formed di-



Vellayan Subbiah

visions, which in turn would go for capacity expansion and capability enhancement.

"Most of this ₹500 crore will get spent in this fiscal. However, some money will be towards work in progress, and should get spent by Q1 or Q2 of FY25," Mr. Meyyappan added.

As far as capex for clean

mobility is concerned, TICMPL plans to set aside wheelers, ₹31 crore for tractors, ₹278 crore for small commercial vehicles (SCV) business, ₹71 crore for medium and heavy commercial vehicle (M& HCV) business and some marginal investments in several R&D efforts, said MD K.K. Paul.

Talking about the company's production plans, he said the e-3W plant had the capacity to manufacture 75,000 units.

Capacity would be augmented to manufacture about 50,000 SCVs and 25,000 tractors. Yet another line would be added for M&HCV trucks, taking the total capacity to about 4,500, he added.

SPECIAL **TOURNAMENT IN NUMBERS TITANS OF TEAM INDIA MEET THE CAPTAINS SCHEDULE HOST IN HISTORY: WEST INDIES CONNECT ACTIVITY SHEETS** AND LOTS MORE...

'India HNWIs' wealth rises to \$1,446 billion'

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The number of high networth individuals (HNWIs) in India rose 12.2% in 2023 vs 2022, bringing the total number of HNWIs to 3.589 million, as per The Capgemini Research Institute's World Wealth Report 2024.

The financial wealth of India's HNWIs rose by 12.4% in 2023 to \$1,445.7 billion. Market buoyancy in 2023 sparked a \$3.8 trillion increase in the country's HNWIs' wealth.

Among the best performers in the APAC region were India and Australia, which recorded HNWI wealth growth of 12.4% and 7.9% and HNWI population growth of 12.2% and 7.8%,



respectively. A resilient economy and robust performance of the equity markets drove wealth growth in both of these countries. Asia-Pacific experienced 4.2% HNWI wealth growth and a 4.8% rise in HNWI population.

India's market capitalisation increased by 29% in 2023, after an increase of 6% in 2022.

to \$385 bn for RE goal' Reuters

India must spend up

BENGALURU

India will have to invest as much as \$385 billion to meet its target of 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) by 2030, but coal will remain a key source of electricity generation for the next decade, Moody's Ratings said.

India, a major greenhouse gas emitter, said it aims to ramp up non-fossil fuel capacity set by 50 GW each year to help meet 500 GW target. It missed its target of 175 GW by 2022.

Moody's, however, estimates an annual capacity addition of about 44 GW will help achieve the goal.

For that, India will have to spend \$190 billion to



\$215 billion on capacity over the next six to seven years and another \$150 billion to \$170 billion for transmission and distribution, the credit ratings agency estimates.

India's strong policy support boosted the RE share to about 43% in its power capacity mix in fiscal 2023-24, attracting private investments.

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KYIV

Ukraine destroys Russian tugboat in Crimea: military intelligence



Ukrainian forces destroyed a Russian tugboat on the coast of the Moscow-annexed Crimean peninsula early on Thursday, Kyiv's GUR military intelligence said. Greyscale footage published by the GUR showed what appeared to be a drone quickly approaching a ship on a body of water before the connection is lost. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump ally Steve Bannon should surrender to prison by July 1: judge



Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, must report to prison by July 1 to serve his four-month sentence for defying a subpoena from the House committee that investigated the U.S. Capitol insurrection, the U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols

UNITED STATES

Denmark, Pak., Somalia, Greece, and Panama get seats on the UNSC



Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia got seats on the U.N. Security Council in a secret ballot in the General Assembly on Thursday. The 193-member world body elected five countries to serve two-year terms on the council. The five council members elected Thursday will start their terms on January 1. AP

YEMEN

18 killed in clashes between Yemen government forces and Houthis



At least 18 combatants have been killed in battles between Yemeni government forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the country's southwest, military officials said on Thursday. The attack came despite a lull in fighting that has largely held since the expiry of a six-month truce brokered by the United Nations in April 2022. AFF

37 killed in Israel's strike on **UN school, says Gaza hospital**

The IDF says it 'eliminated' several militants in a 'precise strike' on a Hamas compound embedded inside an UNRWA school; the militant group decries Israel's 'new crime against our people'

Agence France-Presse GAZA STRIP

Gaza hospital said at least 37 people were killed in an Israeli strike on Thursday on a UN-run school that the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) alleged housed a "Hamas compound".

The raid came after U.S., Qatari, and Egyptian mediators resumed talks aimed at securing a truce and hostage-prisoner swap in the nearly eight-month war triggered by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

The military said it had "eliminated" several militants in a "precise strike on a Hamas compound embedded inside an UNRWA school" just before 2 a.m. in the Nuseirat area of central Gaza.



Harsh night: Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on an UNRWA school in the Nuseirat refugee camp, central Gaza. REUTERS

Israel accuses Hamas and its allies in Gaza of using schools, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure, including facilities run by UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, as operational centres - charges the militants deny. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, near Nuseirat, said it had received the bodies of at least "37 martyrs" from the strike.

Hamas in a statement decried a "new crime... against our people", urg-

ing international pressure on Israel to stop "these brutal massacres".

Intense shelling

A medic at the hospital said another Israeli predawn strike killed six people in a house in Nuseirat refugee camp, while witnesses reported intense shelling in the Bureij and Al-Maghazi camps in the same area.

The military said troops killed three suspects who had tried to breach the Gaza border fence in the Rafah area, adding no militants had crossed into Israel. It also said a soldier was killed in Gaza on Thursday, bringing to 295 the overall death toll since the start of its ground offensive in the Palestinian territory on October 27.

100 killed in militia group's attack on Sudan village

Associated Press

At least 100 persons were killed and dozens were injured after the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces attacked a village in Gezira province in Sudan on Wednesday, officials said.

Women, children, and the elderly were among the victims in the attacks by the Rapid Support Forces on Wad al-Noura village in Gezira, Mini Arko Minawi, the governor of Darfur province, said on X.

A grassroots group set up to protect residents in Wad Madani, the capital city of Gezira, said that the paramilitary force used heavy artillery to besiege and attack the village.

The Sudanese transitional government in a statement on its Telegram channel condemned the attacks.

Spain to join South Africa's Gaza case at top UN court accusing Israel of genocide

Associated Press 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.

South Africa filed its case with the International Court of Justice late last year. It alleged that Israel was breaching the genocide convention in its military assault that has laid waste to large swaths of

The court has ordered Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah but stopped short of ordering a cease-fire for the enclave. Israel has not complied and shows no sign of doing so.

"We take the decision



We want peace to return to Gaza and the Middle East, and for that to happen we must all support the court JOSÉ MANUEL ALBARES

because of the ongoing military operation in Gaza," Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said in Madrid. "We want peace to return to Gaza and the Middle East, and for that to happen we must all support the court."

Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Libya, and the Palestinians are waiting for the International Court of Justice in The Hague to grant approval to their requests to join the case. Israel denies it is com-

mitting genocide in its military operation to crush Hamas triggered by its deadly October 7 attacks in southern Israel.

Once admitted to the case, Spain would be able to make written submissions and speak at public hearings. Spain's request is the latest move by the government of Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to support peacemaking efforts in Gaza.

Spain, Ireland, and Norway formally recognised a Palestinian state on May

While Mr. Sánchez has condemned the attacks by Hamas and joined demands for the return of the remaining Israeli hostages, he has not shied away from the diplomatic backlash from Israel. His backing of the Palestinians is generally supported in Spain.

'First fatal human case of H5N2 bird flu identified'

Agence France-Presse GENEVA

The World Health Organization said on Wednesday a person in Mexico had died in the first confirmed human case globally of infection with the H5N2 variant of bird flu.

The patient, who died on April 24 after developing fever, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, and nausea, had "no history of exposure to poultry or other animals", and "multiple underlying medical conditions", the WHO said.

Mexican health authorities reported the confirmed case of human infection with the virus to the UN health body on May 23, after a 59-year-old was taken to hospital in Mexico City. The WHO said the case was the "first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection with an influenza A(H5N2) virus reported globally".

The source of exposure to the virus was unknown, although cases of H5N2 have been reported in poultry in the country.

According to the UN health body, H5N2 cases affected poultry in the state of Michoacan in March, with other outbreaks identified in the State of Mexico. But it said establishing a link between the human case and the poultry infections was so far impossible, estimating the risk to people as "low".

A different variant of bird flu, H5N1, has been spreading for weeks among dairy cow herds in the United States, with a small number of cases reported among humans.

Climate conference in November to emphasise 'peace' and 'truce'

Jacob P. Koshy

The annual climate conference to be held here in November will lay particular stress on "peace" and "truce" to enable countries to focus on climate solution amid ongoing conflicts, a top adviser to the Azerbaijan government said at a media briefing this

The 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) - as the climate con-

ference is called – is set to further agenda points de-Dubai such as a firm commitment to "transition away from the use of fossil fuels...in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050."

The choice of Azerbaiian as the host means that it will preside over COP-29 proceedings and try to steer countries into achieving consensus on address-



Climate Change Conference COP-28 was held. FILE PHOTO

ing the climate crisis. Most countries have agreed on the urgency of the problem

and the need to keep temperatures from rising 1.5C above pre-industrial levels by the end of century.

A long-standing critiism and a matter of deep division between developed and developing countries is that a 2009 commitment by developed countries to mobilise \$100 billion a year between 2020 and 2025 for developing countries has only been partially realised. A major item that is expected to be firmed up in 2024 is to decide a new annual target above \$100 billion and agreement on whether

grants or loans.

However, deliberating on all these would require an atmosphere of peace. "We are now seeing that geopolitically the world is in a Cold War-like situation," said Hikmet Hajiyev, top adviser to Azerbaijan President, Ilham Ayilev, "The world is divided but Azerbaijan's position is that the climate issue is something different. Countries can be on different sides on geopolitical mat-

these will be in the form of ters but climate affects everybody and needs an inclusive process. So, we are proposing a COP-truce. During the COP [meet], all cannons should stop." He said this in reference to the Russia-Ukraine war

Mr. Hajiyev said he had sounded out the UN on this and as an example he highlighted the recent cessation of hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia. (The writer was part of a South-Asia media delegation invited to Azerbaijan)

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THE HINDU

ONE SKIPPER TO ANOTHER

You are a legend of this game, Modric hails Chhetri



Croatia captain and Real Madrid superstar Luka Modric hailed India skipper Sunil Chhetri as a "legend of the game". In a video message shared by Indian team coach Igor Stimac, Modric said, "Hi Sunil, I just want to wish you all the best in your last game for the national team. Congratulations on your career," said Modric.

LONGEVITY

Sunil's dedication, ability to evolve set him apart: Syed Rahim Nabi



R.V. MOORTHY

Former India midfielder Syed Rahim Nabi heaped praise on Sunil Chhetri on Thursday. "The records that Chhetri set will be very difficult to surpass," said Nabi. He complimented Chhetri for his longevity and said that the ace striker was always able to adapt and evolve. He, however, hoped that someone will fill Chettri's boots.

PLENTY LEFT IN THE TANK

Perfect decision, but he will play for a long time at club-level: Subrata



Former India defender Subrata Bhattacharya feels Sunil Chhetri will play club football "for a long time" post his international retirement. "It's a perfect decision, he (Chhetri) could not have chosen a better time. I see him playing at club level for a long time

ICON

'Referee don't blow the whistle, otherwise Chhetri will leave us'



Thousands cheered a tearful Sunil Chhetri off the pitch after his last match for India on Thursday. Nearly 59,000 fans came to watch Chhetri's swansong in Kolkata — a 0-0 draw against Kuwait. Fans roared whenever Chhetri had the ball. "Referee don't blow the whistle, otherwise Sunil Chhetri will leave us," said a banner.

Heartbreak for India and Chhetri as they fail to surmount the Kuwait challenge

The goalless draw in the Indian skipper's final outing deals a big blow to the Blue Tigers' bid to make the third round for the first time

WC QUALIFIER

Amitabha Das Sharma

ndia suffered a big blow in its bid to realise a third round spot as it played out a goalless draw against Kuwait in a fifth round Group A league match in round two of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, at the Salt Lake Stadium, here on Thursday.

With India notching up a 1-0 win in the first round while visiting Kuwait City in November last year, expectations were high about the national team repeating that result at home and brighten its qualification chances

But India failed to recreate its previous performance to see its World Cup qualification dreams virtually evaporating in front of a massive turnout of

India, which remains on five points from as many matches, now has a Herculean task on its hands. It travels next to Doha to play its last match on June 11 against a mighty Qatar, which currently tops the group, having won all its four matches.

It was a bigger disappointment for Indian captain Sunil Chhetri, who left the ground in tears, apparently unable to secure the



Front and centre: All eyes were on Chhetri and the team gave it its all, but it was not enough to take India past Kuwait. R.V. MOORTHY

The match remained largely uneventful, with India struggling to find its footing in attack. Indian head coach Igor Stimac employed a youthful attacking midfield with the likes of Liston Colaco, Sahal Abdul Samad and Lallianzuala

few incursions inside the Kuwait box but failed to decisively beat the opponent goalkeeper, Sulaiman

Abdulghafoor. Kuwait came up with a cohesive performance and troubled India on numerous occasions.

desired win in his last out- Chhangte supporting Chhe- The visitor had the first chance in the 11th minute header over the crosspiece. chance in the fourth minute when its winger Mohammed Abdulah latched onto a through-pass and found himself unmarked inside the Indian box. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh came out of the line to sal-

vage the situation for India. India found its first when Colaco darted into the Kuwait box before squaring the ball for an onrushing Chhetri. But the Kuwait defender Hasan Alenezi reacted first to clear the ball. India had a great chance to find the lead off the resultant corner, but defender Anwar Ali sent a free

the attack, introducing the likes of Rahim Ali, Manvir Singh and Brandon Fernandes after the break, but that hardly helped the Indian cause as the host's finishing was not of the desired standard.

A captain, leader and legend bids an emotional goodbye



Special moment: Chhetri with his family members after being felicitated for a stupendous career. R.V. MOORTHY

Amitabha Das Sharma KOLKATA

'Thanks Captain, Leader, Legend' was the message unfurled on the stands right behind one of the goals at the Salt Lake Stadium here as thousands of fans wildly cheered the most successful footballer of the country, Sunil Chhe-

The moment was quite poignant for the multitudes who had gathered to see Chhetri turn out in the national colours for the last time in his glittering international career.

Unparalleled record

Thousands had gathered to see Chhetri, the owner of an unparalleled record of playing 151 matches and scoring 94 goals, finish his last match.

Multiple giant tifos hailed Chhetri, who be-

came the epitome of footballing excellence in these parts in the last two decades, though the match did not go the way the huge gathering of partisan supporters had wished for.

Despite achieving much more than any other footballer in the country, Chhetri was inconsolable at the end of the match.

Emotions ran high in the stands too, where his family – including his parents and wife - could not hold back their tears as one of the biggest footballers India has ever produced walked into his sunset.

Chhetri was given a grand farewell at a function – jointly organised by the Government of West Bengal, All India Football Federation and Indian Football Association – after the match.

Goal machine

A look at Chhetri's strikes, by year and opponent



New Zealand

Puerto Rico

N. Sudarshan

BENGALURU

The onset of old age often marks the beginning of an existential crisis. In the sporting realm, it is the first confrontation athletes have with the finitude of their careers. They repeatedly attempt to feel a sense of transcendence only for the mask of invincibility to slip ever so slightly.

Sunil Chhetri's time in international football, which ended on Thursday with the 0-0 draw against Kuwait in a 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification game, will go down as one of the few that militated against this accepted idea.

Longevity

He played for India for a little under 19 years, in a record 151 matches, scoring a record 94 goals, all of it in full bloom, neither burning out nor fading away.

Chhetri first turned out for India in 2005 when football's popularity was geographically strained.

The likes of I.M. Vijayan and Bhaichung Bhutia were indeed famous in the hot-beds such as Kerala,



Chhetri's relentless pursuit to elevate India's standard

Worthy legacy: Chhetri, with an unparalleled career that tested the limits of possibility, has opened the doors for India to dream. R.V. MOORTHY

Goa and the east of India, but they weren't pan-Indian stars in a true sense. Chhetri can stake claim

to have been the first such hero. He was the captain for a dozen years, carrying the nation's hopes every time he set foot on the pitch, so much so that the National team's identity became synonymous with

In team sport, there is a mythical idea of a selfless athlete who shuns individual glory. There is also the popular adage that the leader is only as good as his team. Chhetri was ambitious yet humble, and his greatness may lie in his relentless pursuit to make the team as good as him.

"He has had great influence on the National team players," Erik Paarta-

lu, Chhetri's former teammate at Bengaluru FC, told The Hindu last July after the SAFF Championship triumph.

"But the real help comes to those who can help him. If he wants the ball played in a certain way, or an early cross... and that just drives everybody forward. Because, if you are helping Sunil Chhetri out, you are scoring goals and winning games."

Fitter and leaner

For a footballer, Chhetri was diminutively built. But the 5'7" frame proved remarkably tough to pin down. And over the years, he became fitter and leaner, and re-conditioned his body to meet modern-day physical demands. In India's successful SAFF campaign last year, Chhetri, nearly 39, played every minute of the semifinal and final over a four-day window, both of which lasted 90 minutes and more.

Results-wise, Chhetri may not have taken India to great heights. The nation is still a lowly 121 in FI-FA rankings. It has never qualified for the World Cup and hasn't gone past the group stage in the three AFC Asian Cups he has competed in. But with an unparalleled career that tested the limits of possibility he opened the doors for India to dream. That's a worthy legacy to leave behind.



Rohit completes 600 sixes in international cricket

India captain Rohit Sharma completed 600 sixes in international cricket during the clash against Ireland in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 on Wednesday. He also became the second player to score more than 4,000 runs across all three formats after Virat Kohli. Rohit now has 4,026 T20 runs in 144 matches (avg. 32.20) at a strike rate of 139.98 with five centuries and 30 fifties.

ICC admits that NY pitches 'have not played consistently'

The pitches at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York "have not played consistently", the ICC stated. Efforts are on to get the surface in order for future matches at the venue. "The world-class grounds team has been working hard since the conclusion of Wednesday's game to remedy the situation and deliver the best possible surfaces for the remaining matches," the statement read. The drop-in pitches, marked by inconsistent bounce, has hosted two games. Sri Lanka was bowled out for 77 in the first game while Ireland was dismissed for 96 in the second.

Pakistan complaint forces ICC to change its New York hotel

The ICC has moved the Pakistan team to another hotel in New York after the Pakistan Cricket Board complained about the 90-minute drive to the ground for its forthcoming World Cup games. The Pakistan team was later moved to a hotel which is five minutes away from the purpose-built stadium on Long Island in Westbury, New York.

USA shocks Pakistan in a Super Over thriller

Defending a score of 18, Netravalkar holds his nerve as the host stun Babar's men; chasing a target of 160, skipper Monank, Gous and Jones put the team level before it pulls off a coup

T20 WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse DALLAS

SA stunned Pakistan in a Super Over thriller on Thursday after its T20 World Cup match ended with the scores level.

Pakistan was restricted to 159 for seven after losing the toss before Nitish Kumar hit a four off the last ball of the United States' innings as the co-host finished on 159 for three.

In the Super Over, the host made 18 for one before restricting the visitor to 13 for one and script a sensational upset.

On Wednesday, Marcus Stoinis smashed a quickfire unbeaten half-century and claimed three wickets as Australia began its campaign with a 39-run win over Oman at the Kensington Bridgetown Oval in (Barbados).

Stoinis helped Australia recover from a top-order slide with a brutal unbeaten 67-run knock off 36 balls to help it post 164 for five in the company of David Warner (56). He then came up with an impressive spell (3-0-19-3) to help the 2021 champion picks up two points.

Oman tried to take the fight to the opposition but the lack of experience



Leading the way: Monank, left, starred in the chase as USA tied with Pakistan and went on to win a humdinger. PTI

showed as it could manage only 125 for nine in 20 overs. Oman was pegged back when Nathan Ellis (two for 28) and Mitchell Starc (two for 20) struck once each inside the first three overs.

Earlier, put in, Australia made 164 for five in 20 overs. Stoinis' knock arrested a top-order slide after opener Travis Head (12) and skipper Mitchell Marsh (14) were unable to convert their starts.

The scores:

Pakistan 159/7 in 20 overs (Babar 44, Shadab 40, Kenjige 3/30,

Netravalkar 2/18) tied with USA 159/3 in 20 overs (Monank 50, Gous 35, Jones 36 n.o.): Toss: USA; Super Over: USA 18/1 bt Pakistan 13/1.

Australia 164/5 in 20 overs (Warner 56, Stoinis 67, Mehran 2/38) bt Oman 125/9 in 20 overs (Avaan 36, Mehran 27, Starc 2/20, Ellis 2/28, Stoinis 3/19, Zampa 2/24); Toss: Oman; PoM: Stoinis.

Riazat stars as Uganda registers its first T20 WC win



Vital contribution: Riazat top-scored with 33 and added a crucial 35 with Miyagi for the sixth wicket. PTI

Agence France-Presse GEORGETOWN

Uganda claimed its first-ever T20 World Cup win with a three-wicket victory over Papua New Guinea (PNG) in a low-scoring but tense encounter at the Providence Stadium here on Wednesday

The African side bowled out PNG for 77 and after struggling at 26 for five in reply, reached the target in 18.2 overs with Riazat Ali Shah top-scoring with 33. Riazat put on a crucial sixth-wicket partnership of 35 with Juma Miyagi (13), which effectively won the game for the tournament debutant.

But PNG will rue the moment that Riazat, on eight, was dropped by Charles Amini, who misjudged a relatively simple catch.

"That's a pretty special win for us. You know, first win at the World Cup," said Uganda skipper Brian Ma-

"It doesn't get more special than this. I'm super proud of this group of guys. I mean, they've put in the work, they've put in such a shift. And to get a win for their country at the World Cup is very, very special," he added.

The scores: Papua New Guinea 77 in 19.1 overs (Ramjani 2/17, Kyewuta 2/17, Miyagi 2/10, Nsubuga 2/4) lost to Uganda 78/7 in 18.2 overs (Riazat 33, Nao 2/16, Vanua 2/19). Toss: Uganda.

PoM: Riazat.

Today's match



New York, 8 p.m. **HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is**

Canada 2 | Ireland 2

Lop-sided contests not an ideal advertisement for the tournament in 'The Big Apple'



Good effort, but...Though India got the job done in quick time, there was an empty feeling. K.R. DEEPAK

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

Indian Premier League (IPL) kicked off with Brendon McCullum's swashbuckling unbeaten 158 for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) all those years back in 2008. It was the ultimate advertisement for a new and groundbreaking tournament.

On Wednesday, the Indian team and thousands of its fans arrived at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. A T20 World Cup game in 'The Big Apple'. The chance to see Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and other stars at their best. Anticipation was high.

As the venue emptied after India got the job done in quick time, there was an empty feeling. The grand occasion had fizzled out. This was not the ideal way to entice a new audience into a sport.

The bulk of the blame for this disappointment goes to the conditions -

the pitch, and a slow outfield. Alarm bells went off in the previous encounter held here, when Sri Lanka was shot out for 77 against South Africa.

The script stayed the same when Ireland came in to bat. The drop-in pitch kept the batters guessing with variable bounce and big movement. The pacers also got extra carry when it landed on length. On occasions, batting was reduced to hazardous, when deliveries rose out of turn to smash into the knuckles and worse.

One could argue that 200-plus scores – racked up so regularly in the IPL – gets monotonous. But to get two sub-100 totals is a far worse proposition.

A few empty stands, perhaps down to the weekday morning start and inflated ticket prices on the reseller market, was an eyesore. In most parts of the world, the Indian team at a World Cup attracts nothing less than packed houses.

A bigger crowd will no doubt be present on Sunday, when arch rivals India and Pakistan face off. India will be wary of the immense threat posed by Pakistan fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and Mohammad Amir. On a pitch which does all the work as long as you land it in good areas, this trio can be lethal.

The toss now becomes even more crucial, as confirmed by India batting coach Vikram Rathour. "I think the toss is crucial in conditions like these. Fortunately, we won the toss today so it was a great start, but you can't control that. Even if we lose the toss and we have to bat first, we still need to find ways to deal with the situation and the pitch," Rathour said in the post-match press conference on Wednesday.

For the sake of cricket in the USA, one hopes that the marquee affair comes down to skill and not the flip of a coin.

BCCI announces domestic schedule for 2024-25 season

Sports Bureau CHENNAI

The BCCI on Thursday announced the men's and women's domestic schedule for the upcoming 2024-25 season.

Among the notable changes, the Ranji Trophy has been broken up into two phases with the league stage taking place in October and the knockouts in February.

The first competition of the year will be the Duleep Trophy, from September 5 to September 22, in Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, followed by the Irani Trophy in Mumbai from October 1.

The domestic men's T20 competition, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, will take place from November 23 to December 15. The List A tournament, Vijay Hazare Trophy, will run from December 21 to January 18.

The league stage of the Ranji Trophy will start on October 11 and run till February 2. The knockouts have been scheduled from February 8 to March 2. The Deodhar Trophy, reintroduced last season after four years, was discontinued

"To prioritise player welfare, an extended gap between matches has been incorporated," the BCCI said.

The women's season will commence with the Senior Women's T20 Trophy on October 17. The knockout rounds for the same will begin on November 6. This will be followed by the Senior Women's T20 Challenger Trophy from November 17 to November 27. The senior Women's ODI

Trophy has been scheduled for December 4 to 30 while the multi-day Challenger Trophy from March 18 to April 1. The major takeaways:

Duleep Trophy: Zonal for-

mat scrapped, will be a four-team event.

Women's cricket: Challenger multi-day tournament makes a comeback. Teams to be picked by the National selectors.

C.K. Navudu Trophy: A revamped points system which attributes points for batting and bowling prowess in the first innings alongside points for securing the first innings lead or achieving an outright victory. In an innovative move, the toss will be abolished and the visiting team will be allowed to choose to bat or bowl first.

Weather considerations: Efforts have been undertaken to mitigate the impact of weather disruptions on the schedule.

The Ranji Trophy groupings: Elite A: Mumbai, Baroda, Services, J & K. Tripura, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Meghalaya. B: Vidarbha, Andhra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Pondicherry, Himachal Pradesh, and Hyderabad. C: Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka. Haryana, Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Bihar. D: Tamil Nadu, Saurashtra,

Chandigarh. Plate: Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Arunachal

Railways, Delhi, Jharkhand,

Chhattisgarh, Assam, and

Paolini sets up a summit clash with Swiatek



The big one: Paolini is through to her first Grand Slam final at the age of 28 and awaits the stern test of Swiatek. GETTY IMAGES

the youngest Grand Slam

semifinalist in 27 years with a shock victory over se-

cond seed Aryna Sabalenka

crowned the youngest Ma-

jor champion since Martina

Hingis at the 1997 US Open

was cut short as Andreeva

was unable to reproduce

the level that saw her put

Swiatek eliminated Coco

Gauff 6-2, 6-4 in the other

semifinals on Thursday

and stretched her winning

streak at Roland Garros to

is trying to earn her fourth

championship in five years

in Paris and can become

the first woman with three

in a row here since Justine

Swiatek improved to 11-1

overall against No. 3 seed

Gauff, the reigning U.S.

Open champion, and has

defeated her at the clay-

court Grand Slam tourna-

ment three years in a row,

including in the 2022 final

On Wednesday, Alexan-

last

Henin from 2007-09.

The top-ranked Swiatek

20 matches.

out an ailing Sabalenka.

But her bid to be

in the last eight.

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press

Jasmine Paolini will play Iga Swiatek in the French Open final after the Italian 12th seed ended the run of 17-year-old Russian sensation Mirra Andreeva in the last four on Thursday, win-

ning 6-3, 6-1. Paolini is through to her first Grand Slam final at the age of 28. She had never gone beyond the second round of a Major before the start of this year.

The World No. 15 had won a total of four matches in 16 Grand Slam appearances before advancing to the fourth round of the Australian Open in January.

Now she is one win away from an improbable title at Roland Garros as she tries to emulate compatriot Francesca Schiavone, who won the 2010 French

"I learned I think a little bit later than other players, to dream is the most important thing in sport and in life," said Paolini.

Andreeva had become

der Zverev beat Alex de Mi-"I'm happy I could naur 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-4 to dream this moment. I don't know what to say, I'm so emotional."

and

quarterfinals.

reach men's semifinals for the fourth year in a row. Zverev extended his current winning streak to 11 matches, including a title on clay at the Italian Open last month, and his victory over the 11th-seeded de Minaur at Court Philippe Chatrier moves him into a matchup against two-time Roland Garros runner-up

Casper Ruud on Friday. The fourth-seeded Zverev is competing in Paris as a court proceeding continues in his home country of Germany, connected to accusations of physical abuse by a former girlfriend of his.

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden crashed out after going down to Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 in the semifinals.

THE RESULTS

Women: Semifinals: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt 3-Gauff (USA) 6-2, 6-4; 12-Paolini (Ita) bt Andreeva (Rus) 6-3, 6-1.

Quarterfinals: Andreeva (Rus) bt 2-Sabalenka (Blr) 6-7(5), 6-4, Men: Quarterfinals: 4-Zverev

(Ger) bt 11-de Minaur (Aus) 6-4. 7-6(5), 6-4 Doubles: Semifinals: 11-Bolelli & Vavassori bt 2-Bopanna (Ind) &

Ebden (Aus) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 Mixed doubles: Final: 2-Siegemund (Ger) & Roger-Vasselin (Fra) ht

4-Krawczyk (USA) & Skupski (GBr) 6-4, 7-5.



Djokovic says knee operation 'went well'

Novak Djokovic confirmed on Thursday that he underwent an operation on his right knee that he injured at the French Open and that it "went well". The 24-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic was forced to withdraw ahead of his Roland Garros quarterfinal against Casper Ruud after a scan revealed a torn medial meniscus in his right

Wrestler Sehrawat takes silver in Budapest Ranking Series

Olympic qualified wrestler Aman Sehrawat (freestyle 57kg) took the silver medal in the second Ranking Series in Budapest on Thursday. Sehrawat, who beat Georgia's Roberti Dingashvili 11-1 and individual neutral athlete Aryan Tsiutryn 14-4 to reach the final, lost to Japan's World championships silver medallist Rei Higuchi 11-1 in the title clash.

Maan sets up title clash against Oges

Maan Kesharwani defeated Abhinansu Borthakur 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to set up a title clash against Oges Theyjo in the ₹250,000 AITA men's tennis tournament at Panchgani on Thursday.

The results, semifinals: Maan Kesharwani bt Abhinansu Borthakur 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; Oges Theyjo bt Ajay Malik 6-4, 2-6, 6-1. Quarterfinals: Abhinansu bt Keerthivassan Suresh 6-0, 6-0; Maan bt Aditya Balsekar 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; Oges bt Rashein Samuel 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-1; Ajay bt Omar Sumar 6-3, 6-2.



Premier League clubs vote to continue using VAR

Premier League clubs voted on Thursday to continue using VAR next season. At the league's annual general meeting, the 20 teams decided against scrapping video assistant referees for key onfield decisions, despite a series of controversies last season. Clubs, however, voted to make improvements "for the benefit of the game and supporters."

Tudor quits Lazio after just three months in charge

Croatian coach Igor Tudor has ended his contract with Lazio after just three months in the job, the Serie A club announced on Thursday. Under Tudor, who took over from Maurizio Sarri in mid-March, Lazio has suffered just one league defeat, winning five and drawing three. It finished seventh in Serie A and secured the last qualifying place for Europe.

Sinner and Alcaraz will renew their rivalry today

Their semifinal is capturing all of the buzz because they are widely considered the likely next two greats of the game and because of how exciting some of their past contests have been

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press

annik Sinner is just 22 and Carlos Alcaraz 21, yet they've already built quite a rivalry heading into their French Open semifinal on Friday.

Spain's Alcaraz owns two Grand Slam titles and spent time at No. 1 in the rankings. Italy's Sinner won the Australian Open in January and will ascend to No. 1 next week. This will be their ninth meeting; the series is tied at 4-all.

The other men's semifinal on Friday is between No. 7 Casper Ruud, twice runner-up in Paris - to Rafael Nadal in 2022 and to Novak Djokovic in 2023 and against No. 4 Alexander Zverev, a finalist at the 2020 US Open, an Olympic gold medallist and into the final four at Roland Garros for the fourth consecutive

Not a bad match-up, either. But it's No. 2 Sinner vs. No. 3 Alcaraz capturing all of the buzz.

That's because they are widely considered the likely next two greats of the game and because of how exciting some of their past contests have been, most



Friday. This will be their ninth meeting; the series is tied at 4-all. GETTY IMAGES

notably Alcaraz's victory in the US Open quarterfinals two years ago that ended at 2:50 am after five sets of thrill-a-minute, back-andforth action.

"I hope he and I keep playing each other for the next 10 years," said Alcaraz, who went on to win the championship in New York that year and also triumphed at Wimbledon last

"He makes me a better player. He makes me wake up in the morning and try to improve."

Alcaraz was asked what it's like to face Sinner.

"Well, you have to run like it is a marathon sideto-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.

"At the same time, I love that," he said. Alcaraz won their most recent encounter, in a semifinal on a hard court at Indian Wells, California, in March on the

way to the title there. That ended a 19-match winning streak for Sinner.

And like Alcaraz, Sinner relishes how even their oncourt history has been so far. "This makes things really fun, no?" Sinner said after that loss at Indian Wells.

"Maybe, there (will be a) day where one of us wins three, four times in a row. Then, (one) or the other ... has to try to adjust a little bit, trying completely new things."

Race walker Suraj loses Paris ticket as WA cancels Nationals results

ATHLETICS

Stan Rayan

Suraj Panwar had missed the automatic qualification standard for the Paris Olympics by one second in the 20km event at the race walking Nationals in Ranchi early last year where he clocked 1:20.11s for the silver.

The 23-year-old from Uttarakhand must have been pretty thrilled when he made the cut this year, clocking 1:19.43.08s (Olymentry standard 1:20.10s) for the silver, at the race walking Nationals in Chandigarh in January. That would have placed him second in the list of Indians who would be flying for next month's Paris Olympics. Unfortunately, the World Athletics has now made all the first day's results of the two-day Nationals invalid, marking them as IRM (invalid results marks) on its website.

Time running out

With his personal best time cancelled, Suraj will now have to rush and do a fast time somewhere before the June 30 deadline to go to Paris for his best time now in the qualification period is 1:20.11 which he clocked in Ranchi last year. That will also mean that Punjab's Akshdeep Singh,

who bettered his own national record to win the gold, could now lose his new record (1:19:37.56).

Walkers have a longer qualification period to make the cut for Paris (December 31, 2022-June 30, 2024) and Akshdeep (1:19.55, in India last year), Ram Baboo (1:20.00, Slovakia), Vikash Singh (1:20.05, Japan) and Paramjeet Singh (1:20.08, Japan) have already achieved the automatic qualification standard earlier or in other international meets while Suraj, who virtually had a confirmed berth, has been left out. By the way, only three can go to Paris.

One could not get through to Adille Sumariwalla, the Athletics Federation of India president, for details on the world body's move. And Stanley Iones. the chairman of AFI's technical committee, could not offer any clarity on the issue. "I'm not aware of this. I don't know...because I don't get anything," Jones told The Hindu on Thursday.

However one technical official, who was at the Chandigarh Nationals but who did not wish to be named, said there was an issue with a transponder (which counts the laps and takes timings) at the venue on the first day and that could be the reason for the results being made invalid by World Athletics.

Lakshya into last eight; other Indians fall by the wayside

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India

Lakshya Sen produced a flawless effort to enter the men's singles quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton, beating Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, here on Thursday.

Lakshya scored a 21-9, 21-15 in 45 minutes win over Nishimoto in their prequarterfinal match.

In another match, Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand got the better of Priyansh

was curtains for Treesa Iolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand. The Indian pair went down to Japan's Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara 21-19, 19-21, 19-21 after an intense Round-of-16 match. In mixed doubles, Chi-

Rajawat 21-10, 21-17. In women's doubles, it

Reddy & Sikki Reddy 21-9, 21-11.



Easily done: Lakshya snuffed out the challenge of Nishimoto in 45 minutes. GETTY IMAGES

na's Siwei Zheng and Yaqiong Huang got the better of B. Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy 21-9, 21-11.

The results: Men: Lakshya Sen bt Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) 21-9, 21-15; Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) bt Priyansh Rajawat 21-10, 21-17. Women: Mavu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara (Jpn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopi Chand 19-21, 21-19, 21-19; Ha Na Baek & So-Hee Lee (Kor) bt Tanisha Crasto & Ashwini Ponnappa 21-13, 19-21, 21-13, Mixed doubles: Siwei Zheng & Yaqiong Huang (Chn) bt B. Sumeeth

Ankita Raina enters the quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Ankita Raina fought her way past Angelina Wirges of Germany 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal,

The results: €148,625 Challenger, Surbiton, Britain: **Doubles: Ouarterfinals:** Yuki Bhambri & Lloyd Glasspool (GBR) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-3. Pre-quarters: Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Diego Hidalgo (Ecu) bt Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 1-6, 7-6(3). [10-5]; Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadhe bt Charles Broom & Ben Jones (GBR) 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-2]; Yuki & Lloyd bt Mackenzie McDonald (USA) & Shang Juncheng (Chn) 7-6(5), 6-3.

\$82,000 Challenger, Tyler, **USA: Doubles: Pre-quarters:** Colin Sinclair (NMI) & Coleman Wong (Hkg) bt Joshua Parris (GBR) & Ramkumar Ramanathan 3-6, 6-4, [10-8].

\$25,000 ITF men, Cordoba, Spain: Doubles: Ouarterfinals: Siddhant Banthia & Tennyson

Whiting (USA) bt Mario Fernandez (Esp) & Karol Malirz (Pol) 7-5, 6-4.

Mazowiecki, Poland: First round: Ignacio Monzon (Arg) bt Manas Dhamne 6-3, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals: Manish Sureshkumar bt Nikita Ianin 6-1,

\$15,00 ITF men, Grodzisk

Pre-quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Carolann Delaunay (Ncl) 6-3, 6-3. \$60,000 ITF women, Sumter, USA: First round: Sahaia Yamalapalli bt Charlotte Chavatipon (USA) 7-5, 6-1. \$40,000 ITF women.

Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal: Pre-quarterfinals: Ankita Raina bt Angelina Wirges (Ger) 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-3. \$25,000 ITF women, Daegu,

Korea: Pre-quarterfinals: Kim Cherry (Kor) bt Vaidehi Chudhari 6-2, 6-4; Petra Hule (Aus) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; Doubles: Quarterfinals: Sakura Hosogi & Misaki Matsuda (Jpn) bt Shrivalli & Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-4, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, San Diego: Doubles: Pre-quarters: Ervn Cavetano (USA) & Lilv Fairclough (Aus) bt Abigail Amos (GBR) & Teja Tirunelveli 6-3, 6-3.

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Carpediem India

Man-of-the-match Rituraj

Sharma smashed a 71-ball 142 and Ayush Badoni added 72 while Yash Garg took five wickets as Carpediem India beat Mount Club by 184 runs to lift the 47th all-India Lala Raghubir Singh hot weather cricket tournament title. Yugal Saini was named the best batsman, Sunil Kumar as the best bowler and Swastik Chikkara, best all-rounder of tournament.

The scores: Carpediem India 403/8 in 40 overs (Rituraj Sharma 142, Ayush Badoni 72) bt Mount Club 219 in 26 overs (Yugal Saini 70, Pranav Rajvanshi 38, Yash Garg 5/27).

Easy wins for Sports Club and Citi Cricket

Tanishka Sharma top-scored with 106 as Sports Club defeated Rohtak Road Gymkhana (RRG) by 60 runs in the inaugural march of the first Shanti Devi all-India under-19 women's cricket tournament.

In another match, Citi Cricket downed Talent Sports Academy (TSA) by seven wickets.

The scores: Sports Club 232/5 in 32 overs (Tanishka Sharma 106, Triveni 50) ht RRG 172/9 in 35 overs (Nidhi Mehto 48, Simran Dabas 38); TSA 233/4 in 35 overs (Armeet Kaur 75 n.o., Archana 53 n.o.) lost to Citi Cricket 235/3 in 30 overs (Nishika Singh 114, Samaria Raghay 47).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA Finals: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 6 a.m. Badminton: Indonesia Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9

Shooting: World Cup, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 1.30 p.m. onwards. Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards. T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. 5 a.m. & 6 a.m. (Saturday).

Sarabjot claims air pistol gold in Munich World Cup



On target: Sarabjot clinched his second individual gold in a World Cup. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Sarabjot Singh shot the air pistol gold, defeating Bu Shuaihang of China by 0.2 point in the World Cup in Munich on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Sarabjot had topped qualification earlier with 588. It was the second individual gold for Sarabjot in a World Cup after the one in Bhopal last

In women's air pistol, Rhythm Sangwan shot 575 for the 17th spot, while Surbhi Rao (569) was

placed 45th. Manu Bhaker opted to skip the event.

In the women's 50metre rifle 3-position event, Asian Games gold medallist Sift Kaur Samra shot 593 to make the final.

Ashi Chouksey shot 590 but missed the title clash by three points and was placed 19th, while Anjum Moudgil was 26th with a score of 589.

Nischal shot 588 in the RPO section. Sarabjot's gold medal

placed India joint third with Serbia in the medals table behind China and The results: 10m air pistol:

Men: 1. Sarabjot Singh 242.7 (588); 2. Bu Shuaihang (Chn) 242.5 (587); 3. Robin Walter (Ger) 220.0 (586); 10. Arjun Singh Cheema 582; 11. Varun Tomar

Divya in joint lead with Allahverdiyeva

WORLD JUNIOR CHESS

Sports Bureau

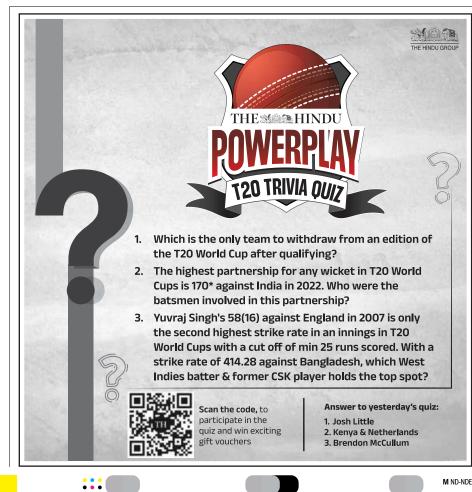
Top seed Divya Deshmukh, who beat the sole overnight leader Narmin Abdinova, and Ayan Allahverdiyeva shared the lead at the end of the fifth round of the World junior girls' chess championship at Gandhinagar on Thursday. They have 4.5 points each.

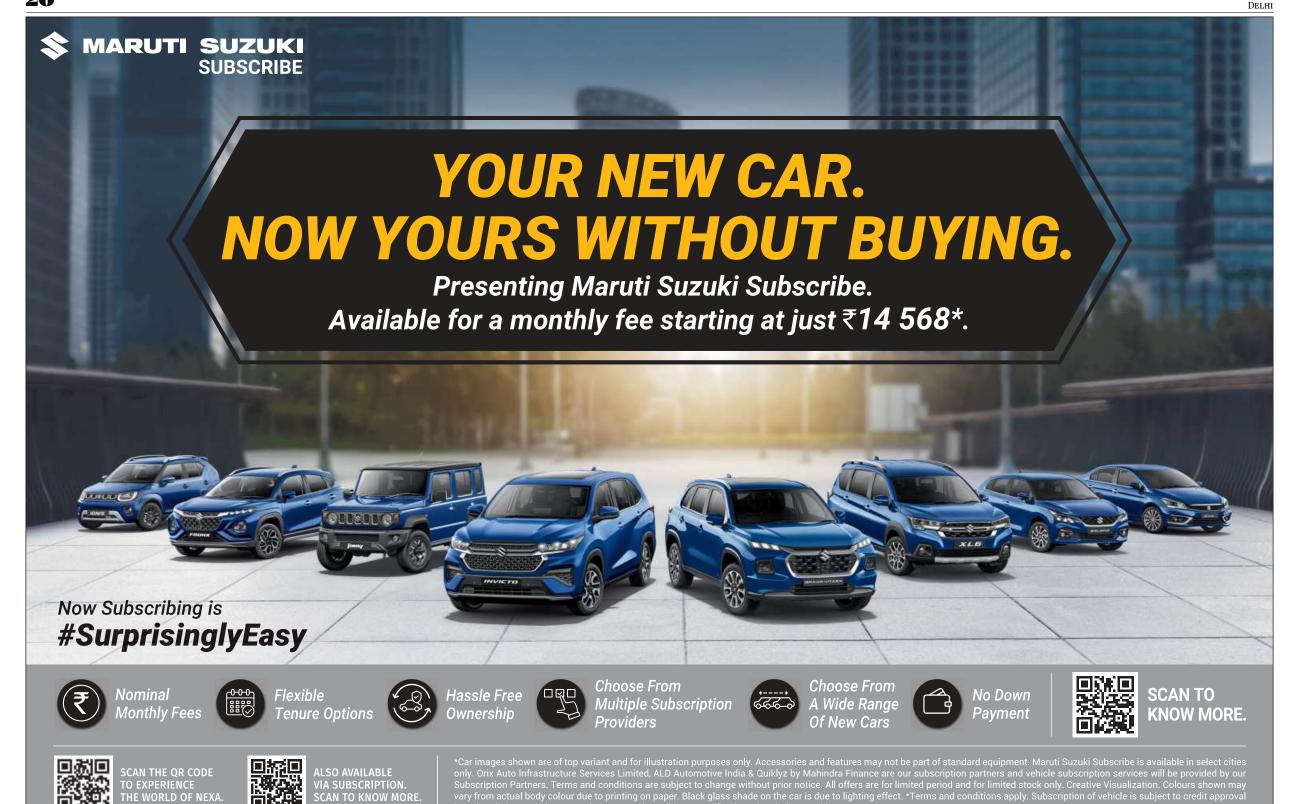
In boys' event, Jose Gabriel Cardoso and Kazybek Nogerbek were in the joint lead with 4.5 points apiece. Important results (fifth

round): Open: Jose Gabriel Cardoso (Col) 4.5 drew with Mayank Chakraborty 4: Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) 4.5 bt A.R. Ilamparthi 3.5; L. Srihari 3 lost to Aleksey Grebnev (FIDE) 4; Pranav

Anand 4 bt Aruj Shrivatri 3; Aleksandr Domalchuk-Jonasson (Isl) 3.5 drew with Gleb Dudin (Hun) 3.5; Siddharth Jagadeesh (Sgp) 3 lost to L.M.S.T. De Silva (SL) 4; Sambit Panda 3 lost to Rudik Makarian (FIDE) 4; Jan Subelj (Slo) 3.5 drew with Sanket Chakravarty 3.5; Ayush Sharman 3.5 drew with Emin Ohanyan (Arm) 3.5; Tobias Koelle (Ger) 3.5 drew with Avinash Ramesh 3.5.

Girls: Divva Deshmukh 4.5 bt Narmin Abdinova (Aze) 4; Mariam Mkrtchyan (Arm) 4 drew with Kashthrui Bhai 4; V. Ridhiya 4 drew with Beloslava Krasteva (Bul) 4; Ksenia Norman (FIDE) 4 drew with Xeniya Balabayeva (Kaz) 4; Sofia Hryzlova (Sui) 3.5 lost to Ayan Allahverdiyeva (Aze) 4.5; Liya Kurmangaliyeva (Kaz) 3 lost to Lucia Striskova (Svk) 4; G. Tejaswini 3 lost to Martyna Wikar (Pol) 4; Rakshitta Ravi 3.5 drew with Lala Shohradova (Tkm) 3.5: Sachi Jain 4 bt Meryem Agajanova (Tkm) 3; Anastasia (Srb) 3.5 drew with Milena Gasparyan (Arm) 3.5.





बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति

समिति के विभिन्न पदों हेतु सेवानिवृत्त (Retired) पदाधिकारी / कर्मचारी एवं

बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति, पटना में निम्नलिखित पदों पर सेवानिवृत्त (Retired) पदाधिकारी / कर्मचारी एवं गैर सरकारी / निजी संस्थान में कार्यरत (Working) पदाधिकारी की संविदा आधारित नियोजन हेतु दिना के 22.06.2024 को 11:30 बजे से समिति मुख्यालय, सिन्हा लाइब्रेरी रोड, पटना—800017 में **Walk-in-Interview** आयोजित किया जाता है :—

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सहायक सचिव	01-U/R 01-EBC				
प्रशाखा पदाधिकारी	09-U/R (F-3, M- 06-OBC(F-2, M- 08-EBC(F-3, M- 07-SC(F-2, M- 03-EWS(F-1, M-	 सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के किसी संस्थान के सेवानिवृत्त (Retired) पदाधिकारी अथवा केन्द्र अथवा किसी राज्य सरकार की परीक्षा समिति (Examination Board) 	सवानिवृत्त (Retired) पदाधिकारियों के मामले में		
प्रशाखा पदाधिकारी (OFSS)	01-U/R	किसी राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार अथवा किसी राज्य सरकार से अथवा र सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के किसी संस्थान के सेवानिवृत्त (Retired) पदाधिकारी अथवा केन्द्र अथवा किसी राज्य सरकार की परीक्षा समिति (Examination Board सेवानिवृत (Retired) पदाधिकारी।	विनांक 10.07.2015 के आलोक में मानदेय का निर्धारण किया		
सहायक (10-U/R (F-4, M- 07-OBC (F-2, M- 08-EBC (F-3, M-	-5) 5) बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति से सेवानिवृत्त सहायक।	मानदेय का निर्धारण सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के पत्रांक 10000, दिनांक 10.07.2015 के आलोक में किया		

04-EWS (F-1, M-3) 2. अभ्यर्थी उपर्युक्त पदों पर संविदा आधारित नियोजन के संबंध में बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति मुख्यालय, सिन्हा लाईब्रेरी रोड, पटना–800017 में वॉक–इन–इन्टरव्यू (Walk-in-Interview) में अपना बायो—डाटा / आवेदन पत्र एवं शैक्षणिक योग्यता संबंधी प्रमाण पत्रों की मूल एवं स्व—अभिप्रमाणित छायाप्रति के साथ उपस्थित होंगे, जहाँ

3. **संविदा पर नियोजन हेतु आवश्यक शर्तेः**— (i) सेवानिवृत्त (Retired) पदाधिकारी / गैर सरकारी / निजी संस्थान में कार्यरत (Working) अभ्यार्थियों के लिए प्रथम बार अनुबंध की अवधि ग्यारह माह की होगी। तत्पश्चात् संतोषप्रद सेवा होने पर एवं आवश्यकतानुसार अवधि विस्तार किया जायेगा। (ii) सेवानिवृत (Retired) अभ्यर्थियों के लिए नियोजन हेतु अधिकतम उम्र 65 वर्ष होगी। (iii) गैर सरकारी / निजी संस्थान में कार्यरत (Working) अभ्यर्थियों के लिए संविदा पर नियोजन हेतु अधिकतम आयु सीमा 60 वर्ष होगी।

4. उपरोक्त सभी पदों के लिए मानदेय के अतिरिक्त प्रत्येक छः (०६) महीने की सेवा अवधि पूर्ण करने के पश्चात 15 (पन्द्रह) दिनों के पारिश्रमिक के समतुल्य विशेष

5. आवेदन पत्र का प्रारूप बिद्यालय परीक्षा समिति के विभागीय वेबसाईट http://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। संविदा आधारित नियोजन के संबंध में समिति का निर्णय अंतिम / मान्य होगा।

08-SC (F-3, M-5)

गैर सरकारी / निजी संस्थान में कार्यरत (Working) पदाधिकारी के नियोजन के लिए वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू (Walk-in-interview) की सूचना

For Subscribe Enquiry, Contact: Mr Prateek Dhimole, Ph.: 9599953049, E-Mail: Prateek.dhimole@maruti.co.in or Ms. Pooja Rajesh Chellani, Ph.: 8141204078, E-mail: poojarajesh.chellani@maruti.co.in

कार्यपालक अभियता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, मधुबनी राष्ट्रीय/स्पर्द्धा निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार एवं www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर ई0- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई० निविदा सं0— 66 / भ०प्र० मधुबनी वर्ष— 2023—24, जिसका पी०आर० सं0— 20110 (BCD) 2023—24 है में अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नवत्

क्र0	पूर्व में कार्य का नाम	संशोधीत कार्य का नाम	संशोधीत परिमाण विपत्र की राशि	संशोधीत अग्रधन की राशि	संशोधीत कार समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	3	4	5
01	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत रहिका प्रखण्ड के लक्ष्मीपुर, सप्ता, बलिया एवं नाजीपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत रहिका प्रखण्ड के लक्ष्मीपुर एवं बलिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	58504005.00	1170100.00	12 माह
02	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत कलुआही प्रखण्ड के मधेपुर, नरार पूर्वी, लोहा एवं कालिकापुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत कलुआही प्रखण्ड के मधेपुर, नरार पूर्वी, एवं कालिकापुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	87756004.00	1755200.00	12 माह
03	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बाबूबरही प्रखण्ड के बसहा, तीरहुता, सतघरा एवं कुलहरिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बाबूबरही प्रखण्ड के सतघरा एवं कुलहरिया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	58504005.00	1170100.00	12 माह
04	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बाबूबरही प्रखण्ड के घनघौर, मुरहददी एवं सर्रा सोनपताही पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बाबूबरही प्रखण्ड के घनघौर एवं मुरहददी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	58504005.00	1170100.00	12 माह
05	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत राजनगर प्रखण्ड के पटवारा उत्तरी, सीबीपटटी, कोईलख एवं मटटासीमर पश्चिमी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत राजनगर प्रखण्ड के पटवारा उत्तरी, कोईलख एवं भटटासीमर पिंच्यी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	87756004.00	1755200.00	12 माह
06	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत पंडौल प्रखण्ड के पचाढ़ी, बिरौल, पंडौल मध्य एवं भगवतीपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत पंडौल प्रखण्ड के बिरौल, पंडौल मध्य एवं भगवतीपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	87756004.00	1755200.00	12 माह
07	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत पंडौल प्रखण्ड के सरसोपाही पूर्वी, श्रीपुरहाटी दक्षिण, श्रीपुरहाटी मध्य एवं उदयपुर विदुआर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत पंडौल प्रखण्ड के सरसोपाही पूर्वी एवं श्रीपुरहाटी मध्य एवं पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	58504005.00	1170100.00	12 माह
09	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बेनीपटटी प्रखण्ड के बिसनपुर, ढंगा एवं नगदह बलाईन पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बेनीपटटी प्रखण्ड के ढंगा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	29252004.00	585100.00	09 माह
10	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बेनीपट्टी प्रखण्ड के मनपौर, ब्रम्हपुरा, समदा एवं बसैठा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बेनीपट्टी प्रखण्ड के मनपौर, ब्रम्हपुरा एवं समदा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	87756004.00	1755200.00	12 माह
11	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बिस्फी प्रखण्ड के सिंघीया पुर्वी, औसी बभनगामा उत्तरी, रथौस एवं भोज पंडौल पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत बिस्फी प्रखण्ड के रथौस पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	29252004.00	585100.00	09 माह
13	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत मधवापुर प्रखण्ड के पिहबारा एवं विसनपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत मधवापुर प्रखण्ड के बिसनपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	29252004.00	585100.00	09 माह
16	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत अंधराठाढ़ी प्रखण्ड के डुमरा एवं गंगद्वार पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत अधराठाढ़ी प्रखण्ड के गंगद्वार पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	29252004.00	585100.00	09 माह
17	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत झंझारपुर प्रखण्ड के सुखैत, रैयाम पश्चिम, लोहना उत्तर, चनौरागंज एवं संतनगर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत झंझारपुर प्रखण्ड के सुखैत, चनौरागंज एवं संतनगर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	87756004.00	1755200.00	12 माह
19	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत मधेपुर प्रखण्ड के महासिंह हसौली एवं प्रसाद पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत मधेपुर प्रखण्ड के महासिंह हसौली पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (विद्युत कार्य सहित)	29252004.00	585100.00	09 माह

ग्रुप सं0— 09, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19 एवं 21 में विड प्रोसेसिंग शूल्क 5900.00 के स्थान पर 3540.00 समझा जाए।

कार्यपालक अभियता भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल मधुबनी

PR. No. 001160 (BCD) 2024-25

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

इसे इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाए। अन्य सभी शर्ते पूर्ववत् रहेंगे।

दिनांक 10.07.2015 के आलोक में किया

टॉल फ्री नं**-** 15545 या 1800 345 6268

Torpor has been the principal theme, both on and off the field, in the T20 World Cup so far

Low-scoring contests and lack of awareness amongst the majority locals have been the biggest dampeners, especially in New York



ive days and ten matches into the tournament, it's safe to say that the T20 World Cup has yet to fire the imagination. There has been one rain-ruined encounter, one match has spilled over to the Super Over and there's been a historic, famous first World Cup win for Uganda, making their debut, but in a way. one might be clutching at straws if these are projected as the major highlights.

On the field, and off it too, torpor has been the principal theme; the on-field lethargy stems from pitches that are against the grain of 20-over cricket while off it, the response has been significantly less than overwhelming not just in the United States, but even in Caribbean where the sport is anything but a novelty.

In the US, matches have been staged in Dallas and New York; so far, Providence in Guyana and Bridgetown have been the host nations in the West Indian islands. Not one of them has attracted a full house, not even Wednesday's clash involving India, against Ireland at the Nassau County International Cricket

Admittedly, India's fans did turn up in their thousands, but the 34,000-capacity venue was no more than two-thirds full, if that. The usual electricity associated with India's fixtures was conspicuous by its absence; more tellingly, there is a distinct lack of awareness of a cricket World Cup being held in their neighbourhood among a majority of the locals, who know that the Eisenhower Park – which houses the Nassau County Stadium – will be closed until June 12, but not why.

Co-hosts United States' 197 for three, replying to Canada's 194 for five in the tournament opener in Dallas on Saturday, remains the highest score so far. To go through 10 completed matches and for 200 not to be breached is anathema to 20-over cricket as it is played in the modern era.

It is worth remembering, of course, that several of the big boys haven't batted first and therefore haven't had an opportunity to erect a monumental edifice. But when they have done so, they haven't found a great deal of joy. Sri Lanka, for instance, were rolled over for 77 by South Africa in New York earlier this week while Australia needed a

Stoinis to lumber to 164 for five against Oman in Bridgetown on Wednesday.

Anything, but a 'runathon'

What does all this tell us? That less than a fifth of the way into the 55-match competition (at the end of Wednesday's face-offs), this isn't shaping up into the 'runathon' that T20 cricket is usually associated with. That, not unlike the 50-over World Cup in the Caribbean in 2007, this tournament will be dominated by attrition, not aggression. That, to be the last team standing, one needs to not just be skilled and innovative, but also patient and adaptable. That, for long having been reduced to the status of serfs, the bowlers are beginning to have their say, even if remarkably one-sidedly

Of course, matches will be conducted at hitherto unused grounds in this World Cup, such as Florida in the US, and North Sound, Tarouba, Kingstown and Gros Islet in the Caribbean islands. Not all of them are renowned to possess pitches that favour unfettered ball-striking.

While that might not be most unwelcome given how lop-sided the balance has been in in recent times, a certain feeling of *déjà vu* has already started to creep in and that's not the most encouraging development, considering that the World Cup was designed to ramp up interest for cricket in one of the most vibrant economies, sporting or otherwise, in the world.

Biggest disappointment

New York has perhaps been the biggest disappointment to date. The Nassau County Stadium, got up in record time on the outskirts of the bustling metropolis, is nestled in the massive Eisenhower Park and is comparable to some of the best in the world in terms of off-field facilities, but the cricketing infrastructure is hardly

Drop-in pitches cultivated in Adelaide, shipped to Florida because of the harsh New York winter and installed belatedly at the tournament venue, have yet to settle in. The bedding-in period isn't a science mastered, but the general consensus is that between ten and a dozen games, primarily involving junior teams, will facilitate the process of integration of the pitches with its

surrounds and that with that amount of usage, it will play quite well.

That settling in period has been denied primarily by the elements, but that is no excuse given the profile of the tournament and the quality of the sides playing in New York – 2014 champions Sri Lanka, South Africa, 2007 winners and the world's No. 1 T20I outfit India, and

2009 victors Pakistan, among others. To see batters from these nations struggle to put bat to ball has been less than edifying. It's not as if the bowling has necessarily been out of the top drawer. Because of the up-and-down nature of the two match-pitches, survival has at times shaded run-making intent. Even in Test cricket, that is a no-no; in a format that enthrals spectators largely because the ball keeps disappearing deep into the stands, the absence of fireworks is especially galling.

While the pitch has been spiteful and mean, the outfield at the Nassau County Stadium too has left a lot to be desired. For one thing, like on certain golf courses, the ball sits in the ground on pitching. There is little value for strokes; additionally, there is the danger of physical injury when one slides and

As Arshdeep Singh, the Indian left-arm quick, pointed out on Wednesday, one might be mindful of the potential for injury going into a match but in the heat of the battle, when a ball needs to be stopped, a run needs to be prevented from being conceded, players don't have time to think about injuries and therefore make a conscious decision to not dive.

The fan response has been in keeping with the brand of cricket that teams have been forced to embrace. There hasn't been a single full house, not even in Providence when West Indies began their campaign against Papua New Guinea.

Expectations that the Nassau County Stadium would be packed to the rafters during India's tournament opener were emphatically dashed. The sea of blue was unmistakable, and while the stands square of the wicket on both sides were densely populated without overflowing, the seating areas either side of the sightscreen at both ends remained almost entirely unoccupied. Perhaps it had something to do with a 10.30 a.m. start on a weekday, perhaps it stemmed from the steep pricing of tickets.

p.m. IST, with an eye on the television audience back in India rather than packed houses at stadiums. It's bizarre that even the final of a T20 World Cup will begin at 10.30 a.m. local time in Bridgetown on June 29; the 20-over format is a mix of cricket (mainly) and entertainment (to a reasonable degree). By taking the floodlights out of the equation and catering exclusively to the TV viewership in inarguably the biggest market for the sport, the message being sent out is unmistakable.

Air of negativity

Amidst the doom and gloom, the only hope that abounds is that nearly 80% of the matches are still to be played, and that things can only get better from here on. But even that isn't enough to dispel the pervading air of negativity. The first phase, involving the 20 teams playing 40 matches, is spread over 17 days; the Super Eights and the knockouts, during which period 15 games will be held at six venues, have been tightly crammed into an 11-day window.

India play their three Super Eight games – they should qualify, yes, after their conquest of Ireland – in five days in three different countries, and while head coach Rahul Dravid insisted that the schedule was pretty much the same for all teams making it through the second stage, one can't help but wonder if greater attention couldn't have been paid to the business end of the competition as the best in the business make a charge for the grandest prize in the format.

This was meant to be an advertisement for cricket as a whole and T20 cricket specifically in the Land of Hope. This early in the piece, it is on hope that the World Cup is relying. Hopefully – there we go again – India and Pakistan will put on a spectacle in New York on Sunday and ignite a tournament that has meandered along for the first five days.

Hopefully, they will produce another classic along the lines of Melbourne in 2022, when a Virat Kohli special pushed India over the line in a spectacular last-ball finish. Hopefully, they will conquer the demons in the pitch and allow their class to shine through, no matter what. Hopefully, when fire meets ice, sparks will fly. But should one match have to carry such a huge burden?

Not one match, including Wednesday's clash involving India against Ireland at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, has attracted a full house

While the pitch has been spiteful and mean, the outfield at the Nassau County Stadium too has left a lot to be desired

To go through 10 completed matches and for 200 not to be breached is anathema to 20-over cricket as it is played in the modern era

Will understanding cancer become a data problem?

Can the use of data analytical tools render the process of diagnosis at least, easier? Will that eventually result in lowering risks, discomfort and pain for patients, and kin? At the cusp of health care and technology, lie innovations and solutions that will aid patients and those who treat them.

Vikas Pawar

ooking back 10 years to before my father passed away after his diagnosis of brain cancer, what I remember the most is the intricate web of challenges we confronted during his illness. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that approximately 33,000 new incidences of brain cancer happen each year in India alone, while Global Cancer Observatory 2020 estimates brain cancer as the 19th most common type of cancer. Behind these alarming numbers, lie many stories of pain and unrest. Every family deals with the pain and uncertainty of taking care of loved ones, who may never get

Move forward by 10 years. Inadvertently drawn to cancer research by the profound personal experience, I now find myself associated with it - and what I have learned fills me with hope. There have been amazing breakthroughs made in oncology research worldwide, the kind that will mitigate some of the challenges I experienced first hand. Based on my experience in working in this field, I will try to explain how this critical field has evolved over the last decade. The current standard of care for diagnosing cancer often requires invasive and risky procedures such as surgeries to extract tissue samples for analysis. Believe it or not, the risks for patients from these procedures range from short-term paralysis to death. Can we make it easier for the patients and their families, at least as far as diagnosis goes? The answer is a resounding yes. And, the answer lies in our genes.

We have all read about genes, DNA, and RNA as part of our basic high-school science. Technically, they are the fundamental building blocks of life, shaping our traits and our health. In the context of this discussion, science today links people's genes to their susceptibility to diseases like cancer. Let me give you a simple example. Imagine that you have a recipe for a sweet dish written down, and you want to make a bowl of it. However, when you're writing out the recipe, you accidentally change one of the ingredients. Instead of listing "sugar," you write "salt". This small change alters the taste and texture of the dish, making it turn out very differently than you intended. Similarly, in our bodies, our DNA is like the recipe for making and maintaining us. If there's a mistake in the DNA code, called a mutation, it can change how our cells behave. Just like the wrong ingredient can change how our recipe turns out, a DNA mutation can change how our cells grow and function, sometimes leading to cancer.

Therefore, what we must primarily understand is what are the mutations in the genes causing cancer. Research suggests that there are close to 3,000 such cancer-causing genes. With each gene containing thousands of DNA codes, and each code potentially holding vital information about cancer development, the sheer volume of data analysis for a human can become quite overwhelming. And seemingly impossible.

But, enter Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS). Cutting-edge technology that is potentially transforming our ability to



Scientists with test tubes containing stem cells at the GlaxoSmithKline research centre in Stevenage, U.K. REUTERS

decipher the genetic code with speed and precision. To provide context, the Human Genome Project officially began in 1990 and was completed in 2003, taking about 13 years to finish, at a cost of about \$3 billion. Today's technology lets us accomplish the same process in possibly less than a week, and costs a little under \$1,000!

Getting back to cancer diagnostics, thanks to advancements in NGS, we have the concept of a liquid biopsy, a revolutionary technique that offers a less invasive alternative to surgery. To explain the concept, think of a detective investigating a case. To piece together the crime scene, the detective collects different types of evidence: fingerprints on a doorknob, footprints, and fibre left



If there's a mistake in the DNA code, or a mutation, it can change how cells behave. A DNA mutation can change how cells grow and function, sometimes leading to cancer

behind on the carpet. Similarly, in a liquid biopsy, clinicians act as detectives. Instead of invasive procedures like surgery, they collect a small sample of patient's blood, which is like the evidence at a crime scene. Within this blood sample, they look for genetic patterns that indicate the presence of cancer cells.



The current standard of care for diagnosing cancer often requires invasive and risky procedures such as surgeries to extract tissue samples for analysis. GETTY IMAGES

These genetic biomarkers are like the fingerprints and footprints found at a crime scene, providing crucial clues about the patient's health. It provides answers to questions: Is there a malignancy? And if so, what precisely is the type of malignancy?

Of course, this process is easier said than done. Producing such real-time results with precision requires the support of rigorous data analysis. The genetic data from several tumour and blood samples needs to be assimilated by artificial intelligence systems based on machine learning algorithms, combined with big data analytics platforms. No wonder chip makers and sequencing technology firms are making significant investments to expand their presence in the NGS domain. These technology tools enable researchers not only to process large amounts of information faster, but also to detect patterns that previously would have gone unnoticed by the human eye or mind alone.

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of oncology, it is clear that the future holds immense promise. By combining the power of data at our disposal, with innovative technologies like NGS, we may well be inching closer to unravelling the complexities of this disease. A popular saying suggests that data has become the new oil. As we stand at the forefront of a new era in cancer research, perhaps solving for its cure is also a data problem.

(The author is part of Hyderabad-based Exsegen Genomics, a company focused on pioneering a liquid biopsy diagnostic specifically tailored for brain cancers. vikaspawar@hotmail.com)



IBD presently affects approximately 5% of the world's population and one in every 10 people in the United Kingdom. GETTY IMAGES

Major cause of inflammatory bowel disease discovered

Asian News International

Researchers have identified a new biochemical pathway that is a major cause of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and related disorders that can be addressed with existing medications.

An autoimmune disease, such as IBD, which encompasses Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, presently affects approximately 5% of the world's population and one in every 10 people in the United Kingdom. These diseases are also becoming increasingly widespread, with over half a million individuals in the U.K. living with IBD by 2022, nearly double the previous prediction of 300,000.

Despite increasing prevalence, current treatments do not work in every patient and attempts to develop new drugs often fail due to our incomplete understanding of what causes IBD.

Researchers at Francis Crick Institute, in collaboration with UCL and Imperial College London published their findings in Nature. Scientists at the Crick journeyed into a 'gene desert' – an area of DNA that doesn't code for proteins – which has previously been linked to IBD and several other autoimmune diseases.

They found that this gene desert contains an 'enhancer', a section of DNA that is like a volume dial for nearby genes, able to crank up the amount of proteins they make. The team discovered that this particular enhancer was only active in macrophages, a type of immune cell known to be important in IBD, and boosted a gene called ETS2, with higher levels correlating with a higher risk of

Researchers found that MEK inhibitors, drugs already prescribed for other non-inflammatory conditions, were predicted to switch off the inflammatory effects of ETS2

disease.

Using genetic editing, the scientists showed that ETS2 was essential for almost all inflammatory functions in macrophages, including several that directly contribute to tissue damage in IBD. Strikingly, simply increasing the amount of ETS2 in resting macrophages turned them into inflammatory cells that closely resembled those from IBD patients.

The team also discovered that many other genes previously linked to IBD are part of the ETS2 pathway, providing further evidence that it is a major cause of IBD.

Specific drugs that block ETS2 don't exist, so the team searched for drugs that might indirectly reduce its activity. They found that MEK inhibitors, drugs already prescribed for other non-inflammatory conditions, were predicted to switch off the inflammatory effects of ETS2.

The researchers then put this to the test, and discovered that these drugs not only reduced inflammation in macrophages, but also in gut samples from patients with IBD.

As MEK inhibitors can have side effects in other organs, the researchers are now working with LifeArc to find ways to deliver MEK inhibitors directly to macrophages.

James Lee, Group Leader of the Genetic Mechanisms of Disease Laboratory at the Crick, and Consultant Gastroenterologist at the Royal Free Hospital and UCL, who led the research, said: "IBD usually develops in young people and can cause severe symptoms that disrupt education, relationships, family life and employment. Better treatments are urgently needed.

For feedback and suggestions

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THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Know your gut beyond digestion

Anjali Srivastava

QUESTION 1

Gut dysbiosis is a term used to describe an imbalance in the gut microbiome. Which chronic disease has been strongly associated with gut dysbiosis and systemic inflammation?

QUESTION 2

The gut-brain axis is a complex communication network between the gastrointestinal tract and the central nervous system. _____ is the neurotransmitter, often referred to as the "happy hormone," predominantly produced in the gut.

QUESTION 3

Certain gut bacteria are capable of

producing vitamins that are essential for the host's health. Which vitamin, crucial for blood clotting, is predominantly synthesized by gut bacteria?

QUESTION 4

What is the term for the method of transferring gut microbiota from a healthy donor to a patient to restore healthy gut flora, commonly used to treat recurrent infections?

QUESTION 5

A specific type of fiber, often found in foods like onions, garlic, and bananas, is known to feed beneficial gut bacteria. What is the term for this type of fiber?



Visual question: Identify the chronic, inflammatory skin condition linked to a decrease in gut microbiota diversity. 2–3% of the world's population have this.