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IRREGULARITIES IN NEET Congress demands SC-monitored probe NEWS » PAGE 12



CSDS-LOKNITI STUDY Why the BJP underperformed in Uttar Pradesh

SP's social engineering formula paid dividends

NEWS » PAGE 9



DELAY IN ASSISTANCE Biden apologises to Ukraine President

President invites Modi to form new government

Swearing-in tomorrow; NDA Parliamentary Party elects Modi as its leader, allies hand over letters of support to President; Modi says he will strive to ensure consensus in all decisions of the govt.

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

resident Droupadi Murmu on Friday formally invited Narendra Modi to form the next government, and begin his third successive term as Prime Minister, after the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Parliamentary Party elected him as its leader. The new government will be sworn in on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, leaders of NDA parties, including N. Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), and Maharashtra's Shiv Sena Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met the President and handed over their letters of support to the new government.

At the meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party held at the Central Hall of the old Parliament House, Mr. Modi evoked the spirit of a coalition government, stressing that he would strive to ensure *sarvamat*, or consensus, in all the decisions of his next government. "Governments may be made on the basis of

numbers, but the country



Above all: Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays respect to the Constitution at the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting on Friday. PTI

Modi said, asserting that the NDA was an organic alliance committed to the principle of "nation first".

Kicking off the proceedings at the NDA parliamentary party meeting, senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh proposed Mr. Modi's name as the leader of the Parliamentary Party, and as the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha.

He was seconded by other senior leaders, including the BJP's Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah, Mr. Naidu, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Shinde, Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party and Pawan Kalvan

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Modi said that mutual trust was at the core of this alliance, which is committed to the principle of 'sarv pantha sambhava (all sects are equal)'.

Claiming that NDA partners were all known for good governance, he noted that the alliance was forming a government at the Centre at a time when its members were also in power in 22 States.

Mr. Modi took potshots at the Congress, pointing out that even after 10 years in the Opposition, the partv had not managed to

that the Opposition had made every attempt to paint the NDA's election victory as a loss, but insisted that impression could not be created.

"There were efforts to not acknowledge this very victory, to cast a shadow of defeat. But all such efforts remained fruitless," he said.

Defending the democratic process in the country made a pointed jab, asking whether "EVMs were still alive" when the Lok Sabha results came in, referring to the Opposition's doubts regarding Electronic Voting Machines.

'Man with a vision' His NDA allies were fulsome in their praise for the Prime Minister, with Mr. Naidu calling him "a man with a vision and a zeal", whose execution of plans was "perfect".

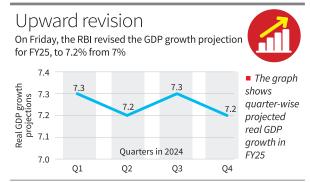
Terming Mr. Modi the "right man at the right time", the TDP chief said that India's enhanced prestige on the global stage was due to the Prime Minister's decade-long tenure.

...

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

MORE REPO

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged, raises GDP forecast to 7.2%



SOURCE: PTI & CMIE

tive of achieving the medi-

um-term target for consum-

er price index (CPI)

inflation of 4% within a

band of +/- 2% while sup-

porting growth," RBI gover-

nor Shaktikanta Das said af-

Mr. Das, along with MPC

Bhide, Rajiv Ranjan, and

Michael Debabrata Patra

voted to keep the policy re-

po rate unchanged at

6.5% and to remain focused

on the withdrawal of ac-

commodation, while their

colleagues Ashima Goyal

and Jayanth R. Varma voted

Shashanka

ter the meeting.

Divided MPC

members

Lalatendu Mishra MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. The decision, taken at

the MPC's meeting, marks the eighth time in a row that the policy rate has been put on hold to keep the focus on battling high inflation.

Revised forecast

The MPC has revised its GDP growth forecast upwards from the earlier 7% estimate to 7.2% for the financial year 2024-2025.

These decisions

to reduce the policy repo It has also decided to rerate by 25 basis points and main focused on withdrafor a change in stance to wal of accommodation to neutral. ensure that inflation does **CONTINUED ON** not accelerate, while supporting growth.

» PAGE 11 **'AUGURS WELL'**

is run on consensus," Mr. of the Jana Sena Party. reach a 100 seats. He said

» PAGES 2, 11

consonance with the objec-» PAGE 13

N BRIEF



Not invited to **INDIA bloc meets.** says RLD chief

JAIPUR

Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) chief and and Nagaur MP-elect Hanuman Beniwal on Friday expressed his displeasure over not being invited to attend INDIA bloc meetings after the election results. » Page 4

Two cattle transporters killed, 1 hurt

RAIPUR

Two cattle transporters were killed and another was injured after allegedly being attacked by a mob at Arang near the Chhattisgarh capital of Raipur on Friday morning. » Page 12

Four medical students drown in Russia: MEA

MUMBAI

Four medical students from Maharashtra studying at Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University in Russia drowned in the Volkhov river. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the incident took place while the students were on an outing. » Page 12

CM YK

Decision on Fadnavis's resignation 'put on hold'

Shoumojit Banerjee PUNE

A decison on Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's offer to quit, following the BJP's Lok Sabha poll debacle in the State, has reportedly been put on the back burner for the time being, sources said on Friday.

Asked to carry on

Mr. Fadnavis, who reached Delhi on Thursday, held two meetings with senior party leader Amit Shah on Thursday night and Friday. Sources said the Maha-

rashtra BJP leader has been instructed by Mr. Shah to continue in his post in the Mahayuti coalition government and any further discussion on the issue would take place only after Narendra Modi's swearing-in as Prime Minister for a third term on Sunday, the sources added.

Mr. Fadnavis had announced his decision to resign and concentrate fulltime on rebuilding the BJP in the State to make it battle-ready for the Assembly election.

In the just-concluded Lok Sabha poll, the party managed to win just nine of the 29 seats it contested in Maharashtra, as opposed to 23 seats it had won in the 2019 election.





2



Atishi blames Haryana, BJP for all-party meet on water crisis

Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Friday inspected the Wazirabad barrage amid the ongoing water crisis in the national capital. She said the water level at the barrage had reduced by 1.6 feet since June 2 because the BJP's Haryana government was not releasing Delhi's rightful share of water in the Yamuna river. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva accused Ms. Atishi of "lying" and sought an all-party meeting on the issue.

CBI files supplementary chargesheet against Kavitha

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed a supplementary chargesheet in a Delhi court against Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K. Kavitha in the corruption case linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam, claiming there was "sufficient evidence" to prosecute her in the matter. The probe agency filed the report before Special CBI Judge Kaveri Baweja, who will take cognisance of the matter on July 6. PTI

Govt. orders report on issuing of RCs by vehicle dealers

Following multiple complaints regarding vehicle dealers not handing over registration certificates (RCs) to owners at the time of delivery, the Delhi Transport Department has directed all its district offices to seek reports on the issuance of RCs from vehicle dealers under their jurisdiction on a fortnightly basis. The order, issued on Thursday by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, stated that "strict action is to be taken against the vehicle dealers not following directions".



Multi-layered security at Rashtrapati Bhavan for Modi's swearing-in event

Capital to be on high alert with dignitaries from SAARC nations likely to attend tomorrow's event; SWAT, NSG commandos, drones to keep watch; central Delhi to see road closures, traffic diversions

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

multi-layered security cordon, comprising paramilitary personnel, Delhi Police's SWAT (Special Weapons and Techniques) teams, National Security Guard (NSG) commandos, drones, and snipers, will surround the Rashtrapati Bhavan for Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on June 9, the Delhi police said on Friday.

The national capital will be on high alert on Sunday as dignitaries from SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) nations are expected to join the ceremony.

Senior leaders from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius, and Seychelles are likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

Security for dignitaries Hotels such as Leela, Taj, ITC Maurya, Claridges, and Oberoi, where the dignitaries will stay, have been placed under heavy security cover. A senior officer said designated routes will be given to the invitees to reach the venue and return to their respective hotels. Snipers and armed police personnel will also be deployed along the routes taken by the dignitaries.

Taking no chances: NSG commandos outside Parliament as part of a security drill. FILE PHOTO Drones will be deployed around the venue," the of-

at strategic locations in central Delhi, another officer said, adding that the security cover is likely to resemble the one put in place for the G-20 Summit last year.

Several meetings have been held at the police headquarters to discuss the security arrangements for Sunday, the officer added.

2,500 personnel

"Around 2,500 personnel, including five companies of paramilitary and Delhi Armed Police (DAP) jawans, will be deployed

Kejriwal sought time to go

ficer also said. Several roads in central Delhi may be shut on Sunday. Moreover, traffic diversions may be enforced in view of the VVIP move-

borders from

Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora issued an order imposing a no-flying zone over the Capital on

June 9 and 10. "The flying of sub-conventional aerial platforms like paragliders, para-motors, hang gliders, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), UASs (unmanned aerial systems), microlight aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft, hot air balloons, small size powered aircraft, quadcopters or even para jumping from aircraft etc. shall be punishable," Mr. Arora said in the order. The Police Commission-

er said the no-flying zone was being imposed because "it has been reported that certain criminal, anti-social elements or terrorists may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries, and vital installations".

Three construction workers

fake IDs to enter Parliament

arrested after producing

'1,414 Delhi govt. school students cleared NEET, thanks to CM's reforms'



Six govt. schools had a 100% success rate, Atishi said on Friday. PT

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

Education Minister Atishi on Friday said the number of students enrolled in Delhigovernment schools who have passed the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) has been rising steadily, with 1,414 students making the cut this year.

"Ten years ago, nobody could have imagined that children studying in government schools would qualify for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and NEET. But this year, over 1,400 children from poor families studying in Delhi government schools have passed NEET, and will soon go to the best medical institutions in the country, bringing glory to Delhi, the country, and their families," she said. The National Testing Agency had announced the results of the competitive medical examination on Tuesday. The Minister said the

number of students hailing from government schools who had qualified for NEET counselling had jumped 2.5 times in the last five years. "In 2020, the number

was 569. In 2024, it has in-

she said. She added that 243 of the 255 students appearing for NEET from B.R. Ambedkar School of Special-

creased to 1,414 students,"

ised Excellence (SoSE) had cleared the test, and added that the 95% success rate rivalled that of renowned schools and coaching institutes across the country.

"We have 12 SoSEs, where students prepare for medical exams. Of these, six schools had a 100% success rate, which means that every student who appeared for NEET cleared the exam," Ms. Atishi said.

The Minister added that the milestone not only highlights the "transformative impact" of the government's educational reforms, but also sets a new benchmark for public schooling in the country.

Crediting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "revolutionising" the education system in Delhi, Ms. Atishi said, "The poorest of poor studying in Delhi government schools are getting the best education, and later getting admission in the most renowned higher education institutions. They can now fulfil their dreams."

AAP suspends + former MLA for anti-party activities

The Hindu <u>Bureau</u>

The labourers, hired to construct a lounge, showed forged documents to CISF personnel, the police said one or both Aadhaar cards produced by Monis and Kasim were forged," it said. All three labourers are residents of Uttar Pradesh working under a contractor, Sahnawaj Alam, said the FIR. The three labourers were detained by CISF personnel and later handed over to the Delhi police on Tuesday. They have been booked under Sections 465 (forgery), 419 (cheating by personation), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 471 (using as genuine a forged document), and 468 (forgery for cheating) of the Indian Penal Code at the Parliament Street police station. Security in the area has been heightened after two individuals illegally entered and opened smoke canisters in Parliament on December 13 last year. The CISF has taken over the security of the premises, replacing CRPF and Delhi Police contingents.

Kejriwal's bail plea: court adjourns hearing to June 14

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

through the 182-page reply filed on the bail plea by the Enforce-A court here on Friday adment Directorate journed till June 14 the bail appli-The Central probe agency cation filed by Chief Minister Arhad arrested the Chief Minister vind Kejriwal in a money on March 21, alleging him to be the "kingpin" of the excise laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy. "scam", which it said was The adjournment came after framed to benefit certain liquor the counsel representing Mr. sellers in lieu of monetary gains.

ment. Police have been asked to beef up vigil at the city

Saturday. No-flying zone

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For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under "Two Cover System" through online only for the following work from qualified Bidders having experience in similar nature of works as mentioned under. Tenders will be received upto 15.30 Hrs (as per server system clock) on 22.08.2024 and the same will be opened at 15.30 Hrs (as per server system clock) on 23.08.2024.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Development Of 60 MLD sea water desalination plant at village Mullakadu in Tuticorin district – Tamilnadu on Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), PPP Basis	Rs.904.07 Crores (including GST @18%)	Rs. 4,52,15,000/-*
* EMD should be paid through Online	in the portal (https:// tnte	enders.gov.in)

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website https:// tntenders.gov.in

MANAGING DIRECTOR DIPR/1794/Tender/2024

NEW DELHI

Three labourers hired for the construction of an MP lounge in the Parliament building were arrested after they produced "forged" Aadhaar cards to gain access to the premises, a senior police officer said on Friday.

According to the FIR, accessed by The Hindu, the matter came to light after Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel deployed at Iron Gate Number 3, who were in charge of scanning photo identification of those entering the building, detected three workers - Kasim, Monis, and Soyeb -trying to gain entry to the premises on a 'casual entry' pass on Tuesday.

"Monis and Kasim displayed the same Aadhaar cards with the same photos. It was found that they had forged the documents," stated the FIR.

It was also stated that the three labourers tried to pass off the forged documents as genuine and that Mr. Kasim impersonated Mr. Monis.

<u>Branded</u>

ARROW

Dt.07.06.2024

"Furthermore, it seems that either

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday suspended former MLA Nitin Tyagi from the party, accusing him of engaging in "antiparty" activities during the Lok Sabha poll. Mr. Tyagi had spoken against the party's policies on social media platforms. Responding to the accusation, Mr. Tyagi said the action was taken against him "for speaking the truth" and accused AAP of being corrupt.

In a communication to Mr. Tyagi, AAP's Delhi convener Gopal Rai said, "It has come to our notice that you have been involved in anti-party activities during the Lok Sabha Election. The party has decided to suspend you from its primary membership pending disciplinary proceedings."

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THE HINDU **States**



Chennithala calls for unity to strengthen MVA against BJP

Former Kerala Home Minister and AICC in-charge of Maharashtra Ramesh Chennithala on Friday urged the Maharashtra unit of the party to prepare for the coming Assembly poll in the State, following its impressive performance in the Lok Sabha poll. He said the Congress has the responsibility of bolstering the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, and stressed the importance of unity within the coalition to challenge the BJP effectively. "It is the duty of the Congress to fortify the MVA," Mr. Chennithala said, addressing the newly elected Congress MPs from the State.

Dalit sarpanch tied to tree, thrashed in M.P.'s Morena

A Dalit sarpanch was allegedly tied to a tree and beaten up by goons in Morena in Madhva Pradesh, forcing him to leave his native village, a police officer said on Friday. The Koutharkalan panchayat sarpanch, in his complaint at Porsa police station on Thursday, said goons for the past two years were harassing him and wanted him to leave his post as well as hand over his dongle, containing his digital signature password, the officer said. When he refused to give in to their demands, he was taken to the outskirts of Koutharkalan on May 3, tied to a tree and thrashed, said the officer quoting from the sarpanch's complaint. PTI

Not invited to INDIA bloc meetings in Delhi, says RLP chief Hanuman Beniwal

Nagaur MP-elect says he is unhappy at being 'ignored', but would remain in INDIA bloc as he is opposed to the BJP: 'Congress should not forget that we too had a role to play in winning 11 seats'

Mohammed Iqbal

JAIPUR

ashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) chief and winner from Nagaur Lok Sabha seat, Hanuman Beniwal, on Friday expressed his displeasure at being "ignored" by the INDIA bloc, saying he was not invited to attend the meetings of the grand alliance before and after the election results. Mr. Beniwal said he would remain in INDIA bloc despite "such mistakes", as he was opposed to the BJP's policies.

The unhappiness of Mr. Beniwal – one of the three alliance party candidates fielded by INDIA bloc in Rajasthan - hinted at fissures in the Opposition camp over the expectations of smaller parties. All three candidates - the other two being CPI(M)'s Amra Ram and Bharat Adivasi Party's Rajkumar Roat won from their respective constituencies.

Talking to journalists in Nagaur, Mr. Beniwal said



The RLP chief pointed out that while he got three lakh votes of the Congress, 20 lakh RLP votes went to the Congress. FILE PHOTO

when small parties from south India could be invited to INDIA bloc meetings, there was no justification for him being ignored. "Every single MP is important ... Why are people like Hanuman Beniwal forgotten? The Congress, in its celebrations over victory from 11 seats in Rajasthan, should not forget that we too had a role to play. I got

three lakh votes of the Congress, but 20 lakh RLP votes went to the Congress," Mr. Beniwal said.

'Here to stay' The MP-elect dispelled rumours of him joining the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, with which he had earlier parted ways. "I am here to stay in INDIA bloc... I will launch a major agitation against the Agnipath scheme, which has destroyed the future of our youths," Mr. Beniwal said. "Mallikarjun Khargeji

[Congress president] spoke to me on phone and admitted that a mistake was made," he said, pointing out that the INDIA bloc meetings were held twice, on June 1 and 5.

Mr. Beniwal won the Nagaur seat by defeating BJP candidate and former Congress MP Jyoti Mirdha with a margin of 42,225 votes.

A former BJP MLA and a vocal critic of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Mr. Beniwal formed the RLP in 2018 with the support of Jats, who constitute a politically powerful community in more than a dozen Lok Sabha constituencies in the State.

The BIP entered into an alliance with the RLP before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, when Mr. Beniwal was fielded from Nagaur. He later parted ways with the NDA during the farmers' agitation over the nowrepealed agriculture laws.

'Moral defeat' of BJP in LS poll: Chidambaram

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> CHENNAI

Former Union Home and Finance Minister and Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Friday said that the INDIA bloc had won 234 seats, which was not a small number when compared to the BJP's 303 seats in 2019 and 240 seats in 2024. The "moral victory" in the 2024 election belonged to the Congress, while the "moral defeat" belonged to the BJP, he

said. Addressing the media at Sathyamurthy Bhavan, Mr. Chidambaram criticised the exit polls, the majority of which predicted a massive victory for the BJP, and said that the people had taught "humility" to the BJP. "As citizens, we welcome the new government that is being formed. At the same time, as the Opposition, we will be keenly observing the actions of the government," he said. He also rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that the BJP and

the NDA had grown in Tamil Nadu. "I saw a report that the BJP had got 11% [vote share] and the Congress had got 8% in Tamil Nadu. How can a party that



Cong. leader P. Chidambaram addressing the media in Chennai on Friday. R. RAGU

contested nine seats and secured 8% be compared to a party that contested 21 seats and secured 11%? It has to be rationalised. It is illogical," he said.

Modi's EVM barb

When asked about Mr. Modi's barb that the Congress was not complaining about the electronic voting machines (EVMs) now, Mr. Chidambaram said that the party had only proposed a small change to make them better. Regarding Mr. Modi's statement questioning why the Congress was celebrating despite not being able to form a government, Mr. Chidambaram said, "What is his problem with our celebrations? Let him celebrate. I can see that he has lost his enthusiasm and sheen," he said.

MNS decides not to contest Maharashtra MLC elections

Ateeq Shaikh MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) will not Maharashtra's contest Member of Legislative Council (MLC) polls scheduled for later this month. The decision was taken after the Bharativa Ianata Party's (BJP) sitting MLC Niranian Davkhare met MNS chief Raj Thackeray on Friday, the last day of filnominations. Last ing week, the State's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis too met him.



Davkhare, Kiran Shelar and Shivnath Darade for Konkan Graduates, Mumbai Graduates and Mumbai Teachers constituencies, respectively.

The fourth seat, Mumbai Graduates, from the Mahayuti coalition will be contested by Shinde faction of Shiv Sena's Deepak Sawant.

Percentage of NOTA votes dips nationally, rises in Northeast

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

The percentage of votes recorded under NOTA or 'none of the above' dipped nationally in the 2024 Lok Sabha election from the 2019 edition. Northeastern India, however, showed a different trend.

wever, the NOTA votes increased from an average of 0.71% in 2019 to 0.81% in

2024. "The jump in the NOTA votes in the Northeast indicates the voters were not happy with the choice of candidates in a region known for MLAs switching parties. It could also be an indication that the voters saw the futility in electing leaders who fatten their purses instead of pushing the promised development," Pranay Bordoloi, the consulting editor of NKTV said. Three constituencies in Assam from where the Bharatiya Janata Party's candidates won, recorded the highest number of NO-TA votes. These are Dibrugarh (32,255), Kaziranga (24,431), and Darrang-Udalguri (23,204).

Don't precipitate complaint against Nadda, Malviya: HC

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the police not to precipitate the complaint, registered against BJP national president J.P. Nadda and party's national IT cell in-charge Amit Malviva, in connection party quoted in its mation with an animated video posted on social media by the party's Karnataka unit on "Muslim appeasement" by the Congress. Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the interim order on a petition filed by Mr. Nadda and Mr. Malviya and adjourned further hearing after ordering issue of notice to the High Grounds police in Bengaluru.

munities as the video was a mere expression of displeasure over the manifesto of Opposition Congress, it has been contended in the petition that bringing to the notice of the public the danger of the policy of the Opposi-

HC nod for release of film after deletion of dialogues

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday allowed the release of the movie, Hamare Baarah, with subject to deletion of "objectionable" dialogues from the film. Representing the filmmakers, senior advocate Rahul

hatred among the com-

Poll for four seats

Four MLC seats - Mumbai Graduates and Konkan Graduates as well as Mumbai Teachers and Nashik Teachers – will go to polls on June 26 and results will be announced on July 1.

MNS had proposed filmmaker and party functionMNS chief Raj Thackeray

ary Abhijeet Panse's name from the Konkan Graduates seat, resulting in an unpleasant situation between the allies - BJP and MNS. Raj Thackeray had lent unconditional support to the BJP-led Mahayuti for Lok Sabha election that concluded this week. "Mr. Panse will not con-

test the MLC polls," announced MNS spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande.

adi (MVA) alliance, Shiv Sena (UBT) was the first to name the candidates. The party has chosen sitting MLC Anil Parab and J.M. Abhyankar for the Mumbai Graduates and Mumbai Teachers seats, respectively. The Congress will be represented by Ramesh Keer from the Konkan Graduates seat. Sitting MLC

Kishor Darade too is a contender from the Nashik The BJP has chosen Mr. Teachers seat.

MVA candidates From the Maha Vikas Agh-

Comprising eight States, the Northeast has 25 seats, of which 14 are in Assam, followed by two each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura, and one each in Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim.

According to the Election Commission of India, the percentage of NOTA votes polled across India this time was 0.99%. This was 0.07% less than the 1.06% recorded in 2019. In the Northeast, ho-

Contending that the animated video did not contain any content to promote enmity, ill will or

nifesto does not amount to Narichania, agreed to deany offence. lete the two dialogues from

'Draconian policy'

community".

Stating that BJP's social media team in Karnataka had created the video, the petitioners said the animation was aimed at exposing the "draconian policy" of the Congress, which wanted to "take away a certain percentage of reservation from SC/ST and OBCs and make over the same to a particular religious

the movie and screen an edited version from June 8. The High Court, however, gave permission to screen the film from June 7.

Earlier hearing

Earlier on June 5, a twojudge Bench of the High Court, Justice N.R. Borkar and Justice Kamal Khata, postponed the release of the film after hearing the Central Board of Film Certification.

BJP's 'double engine' develops a snag in U.P. as party reviews dismal poll performance

NEWS ANALYSIS

<u>Anuj Kumar</u> GHAZIABAD

As the reviewing process of the dismal performance of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh gets going, the internal tussle in the party has come to the fore. Not only six Union Ministers lost their seats in the State, but 16 Ministers in the State government have failed to hold on to their Assembly segments in a humdinger of a contest where the party came down to 33 seats from 62 in 2019, and its allies seem to have failed to deliver on the tall promises.

From the complacency and confusion caused by the slogan of '400 paar' (more than 400 seats) and the inability to arrest antiincumbency against sitting MPs, to bringing in outsiders at the last minute and not getting the caste calculus right, a series of grouses that has surfaced gives credence to conspiracy theories floated during the campaign which suggested that the two engines are on a collision course.

Poor performance

Suddenly, meaning is being drawn into the party's poor performance in the Varanasi division (Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seat) and a better strike rate in Gorakhpur (Chief Minister Yogi Adityanth's constituency). Sources are coming up with tales of complacency and indifference to describe why PM Narendra Modi's margin of victory fell significantly. "With at least a dozen Ministers landing in the constituency, the local worker kept serving them instead of going to the ground," said a source. Sanjay Nishad, chairman

of the NISHAD party, an ally of the BIP that was entrust-



In the open: A series of grouses that has surfaced after the poll results gives credence to conspiracy theories which suggested that the two engines are on a collision course. FILE PHOTO

ed with the vote of boatlim candidate of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) securing men communities, told remore than 1,50,000 votes. porters the prospects of NDA in the State suffered Jaiveer Singh, a Minister due to complacency that in the Yogi Adityanath goset in because of the slogan vernment who could not of '400 paar' and irresponsave his Assembly segment, sible statements made by said that the Opposition some candidates such as succeeded in misinterpret-Lallu Singh and Arun Govil ing the slogan of '400 paar' on changing the Constituand created confusion in tion. Mr Nishad's son Prathe minds of OBCs and Dalits that if voted to power, veen Nishad lost the Sant Kabir Nagar to SP's Nishad the party would take away candidate despite the Mustheir quotas.

Meanwhile, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, who lost the Fatehpur seat, told a news agency that though she would continue to work for Fatehpur, she would identify those who created obstacles in the development work of Mr. Modi.

Questions over efficacy Questions are also being raised about the efficacy of State party president Bhupinder Singh, who failed to show any magic in his home division of Moradabad, with the party losing five of the six seats. Less of a Jat leader and more of an organisational man, he was brought in to helm the party during the farmers' agitation. However, the biggest shock for the party has come on his home turf where a woman Vaishya candidate of Samajwadi Party defeated the Thakur candidate of the BJP in a constituency where the Muslim vote is decisive.

A senior leader in Muzaffarnagar, who is said to be close to Mr. Adityanath, alleged that the spark of Rajput discontent that was lit in Muzaffarnagar and Kairana because of Sanjeev Balyan and Pradeep Chaudhary's casteist politics, spoiled the prospects of the party across the State. He accused the party of ignoring the signals sent by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in ticket distribution. "It resulted in the cold attitude of the cadre of the parent organisation is several seats," he claimed.

Those who feel that the central leadership intervened a little too much in ticket distribution say that the party serenaded Jats and Gurjars in the western region at the cost of other communities who have a more widespread presence in the State. The argument that by bringing in the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), the party saved Meerut and

....

Fatehpur Sikri, and wrested Bijnor and Amroha, doesn't seem to have many buyers. On Saturday, RLD leaders had a hard time explaining why their supremo Jayant Chaudhary wasn't given a seat on stage during the first meeting of the NDA when Anupriya Patel and Jeetan Ram Majhi – who have one seat each – were provided space. There is a sense that to

deflect from the internal tussle between its Thakur leaders, the party might put the blame on the RLD. 'We have the figures to prove that it was the BJP's Thakur leadership that failed it in Muzaffarnagar and Kairana," said a senior RLD leader.

Then there is a section of the cadre that felt that over the last few years, the party brought in leaders from different parties who didn't have a clean image. "We could see that they are doing the same under-the-ta-

ble business but we are expected to continue to walk the straight line in *desh-hit* (national interest)," said a senior party member from Firozabad. The second is a more practical concern. A party worker from Rampur said when the BJP brought in Ghanshyam Lodhi, he was expected to bring in the Muslim vote considering he grew up under the tutelage of Azam Khan in the Samajwadi Party.

"Now when he goes to embrace a Muslim vote manager whom we never allowed to come even close to the booth, it annoys the core worker. Lodhiji is sure that he could bring him around, but most of us feel otherwise. It creates a sense that though we are being watched 24X7 by six different people, our understanding of the seat is being questioned by an outsider who, if succeeds, will get the malai (profits)," said a seasoned party worker.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act). ISSN 0971 - 751X

YK

LS polls: gender parity a far cry, no woman MP from Kerala

With none of the nine candidates fielded by the three major fronts winning the Lok Sabha election, Kerala becomes the only south Indian State with no women representation; women leaders press for speeding up implementation of quota Act

Aabha Raveendran KOZHIKODE

nderscoring the challenges in achieving gender parity in politics, Kerala has emerged as the only south Indian State that has failed to elect a woman to the Lok Sabha this time.

While the State had nine women candidates in the fray from the three major fronts, none of them, not even sitting MP Ramya Haridas from Alathur, could win the polls.

Three from LDF

The ruling Left Democratic Front had fielded three, including former Health Minister K.K. Shailaja who contested from Vadakara

While her loss has been attributed to a variety of factors other than her gender, the plight of women candidates from other parties may have been different.

Deserted by workers "Ramya Haridas was deserted by her campaigners

in favour of some male candidates in other constituencies. She struggled to campaign this time," says

a party worker. Determined Jeby Mather, State president, Mahila Congress,

not ascertain the reason for Ms. Haridas' failure, but is determined to find out. "She lost

could

by a very low margin. We will assess the situation," she says.

However, she does not think there is a difference in the way workers respond when women are made candidates.

"I can attribute all my victories to the grassroots

workers who toiled day and night, not just during

jatha of the CPI(M).

stop turning Jharkhand in-

to Manipur," the post said.

dominated the last three

Lok Sabha elections in

Jharkhand, faced a signifi-

cant setback in the State's

five tribal constituencies -

Khunti, Singhbhum, Lo-

The BJP, which had

fielded five women (25% of the total candidates of front) this time, the which it had highlighted as a pro-

gressive move. But Navya Haridas, BJP State general secretary, feels they have been ne Viswanath glect

ed.

"The primary seats are reserved for candi male dates. Women are often given seats with lesser prospects,' she savs.

the campaign, but before The women leaders feel that as well," says former the need for speeding up Mavelikara MP C.S. Suthe implementation of the Women's Reservation Act The BJP-led National that ensures 33% seats to

Democratic Alliance had women in Parliament as well as State Assemblies. "Uprooting a candidate from the constituency they are familiar with adversely affects their winning prospects, as they need to start from the scratch in the new constituency. In their own constituency, the women candidates could utilise the ground support they have nurtured over the years," Navya Haridas says.

The Mahila Congress plans to press the matter before the party in the forthcoming Assembly polls.

'More options'

"Unlike Lok Sabha, there are more options for women in the Assembly," Ms. Mather says. "We are already on the look out for suitable women to be nominated as candidates," she adds.

Ms. Sujatha feels the need for women to unleash the campaign to speed up women's reservation. "The limitations of parties could be overcome by law," she suggests.

Being oppressed like Stan Swamy, says Soren in social media post

Press Trust of India RANCHI

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is in jail, is facing the same kind of oppression that led to the custodial death of Jesuit priest Stan Swamy who dedicated his life working for tribal rights, according to a social media post by the JMM leader.

The latest Lok Sabha election marks the beginning of Jharkhand's "re-

been fighting for tribal rights, said the Facebook post from Mr. Soren's account which is being managed by his wife Kalpana Soren.

Mr. Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

hardaga, Rajmahal and "Just as Father Stan was silenced by institutional Dumka. Three of these neglect and injustice, toseats were won by the rulday the same kind of oping JMM and two by the pression is being done to Congress, including the Today Khunti constituency where Hemant Soren. there is a need for every Jharkhandi to stand strong-

Press Trust of India ly in support of Hemant So-NARAYANPUR ren. Otherwise, no one can

Seven Maoists were killed and three jawans injured in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Friday, police said.

at 3 p.m. in a forest near Gobel and Thulthuli villages in Orchha area, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Maoist operation, a senior police officer said.

Maoists have been killed in separate encounters with

Young brigade leads charge in Maharashtra's Cong. revival

Shoumojit Banerjee PUNE

The Congress' stunning revival in Maharashtra. which saw the party win 13 of the 17 Lok Sabha seats it contested out of a total 48 to emerge as the single-largest in the State, was a testament to the spirited leadership of the party's second-generation leaders who came into their own in the election.

This is all the more remarkable given that the party's organisation structure in the State has been rickety at best and riven by factionalism among the top leadership.

Apart from the campaigning by the party's central leadership, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, the party's win was spearheaded by several young 'veterans' who have managed to carve a niche in districts in western Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha with their dynamism.

Three-term MLA Praniti Shinde, 43, daughter of veteran Congressman and former Union Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, who was fielded as the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s candidate for the Solapur Lok Sabha seat, pulled off an impressive victory by defeating the BJP's Ram Satpute, another youthful candidate. The seat was lost twice to the BJP in 2014 and 2019.

After Mr. Shinde announced that the 2019 contest would be his last election, Ms. Praniti had been conscientiously laying the ground following her father's defeat.

Her win is all the more creditable given that of the six Assembly segments comprising the Solapur Lok Sabha seat, only one -her own segment of Solapur City Central - was held by the Congress, while the rest were held by the BJP and its Mahayuti partners. Furthermore, PM Narendra Modi had made multiple visits to Solapur before and during the campaign-



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO





Newly elected Congress MP Praniti Shinde. FILE PHOTO

In the Marathwada region, the Congress snared all three seats it had contested.

Effective campaigning by the Deshmukh brothers – Amit and Dhiraj – saw the Congress win the Latur LS seat after 15 years. Sons of late CM Vilasrao Deshmukh, 48-year-old Amit, supported by his younger brother Dhiraj, 44, conducted a spirited campaign to engineer a surprise victory of the Congress' candidate, Dr. Shivajirao Kalge - an unassuming ophthalmologist and political neophyte.

Likewise, in western Maharashtra, it was former Minister Satej 'Bunty' Patil's leadership in the sugarbelt district of Kolhapur that ensured the victory of the MVA's candidate - Maratha royal Shahu Maharaj Chhatrapati.

Leadership crisis

According to analysts, the Maharashtra Congress has been bedevilled by a leadership crisis since 2016 when Ashok Chavan was State party chief. The party's disastrous performance in the 2019 general election had led Mr. Chavan to resign his post. Likewise, Balasaheb Thorat, who succeeded him,

Kolhapur MP Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, FILE PHOTO

alism and infighting continued even after Nana Patole took charge, with several leaders within the party opposed to his style of leadership.

"It is notable that the younger Congress leaders have risen above this bickering and their party's organisational woes to prove their mettle," said a Mumbai-based analyst.

In many ways, the Congress' revival, headed by its younger leaders often working on the ground independently of the senior leadership, has been a continuation of the party's spirited showing in the 2019 Assembly elections, when the party belied predictions to win 44 seats. At that time, too, the reins of campaigning were firmly taken by the younger leaders.

In Sangli, where rebel Congress candidate Vishal Patil - scion of the family of ex-CM Vasantdada Patil contested and won as an Independent, the victory bore the seal of 44-year-old Vishwajeet Kadam, the MLA of Palus-Kadegaon. The seat had proved a source of much rancour within the MVA allies after Sena (UBT) unilaterally declared a candidate despite Sangli having been a Con-

7 Maoists killed, 3 jawans injured in encounter

da and Bastar and the 45th battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police were in-

volved in the operation, he said. After guns fell silent, bodies of seven Maoists in uniform and some weapons were recovered from

The gunfight took place the spot, he said. injured in the gun battle, he said. Maoists was vet to be ascertained, the officer added. With this incident, 125

Personnel belonging to the police's District Re-

venge for the custodial death of Swamy" who had Union Minister Arjun Munda suffered a defeat.

serve Guard from Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Dantewa-

security forces in the State so far this year.

Three jawans were also

The identity of the slain

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Animal Husbandry Unit pulled up over violations in Delhi's dairy colonies

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

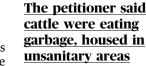
The Delhi High Court has come down heavily on the Animal Husbandry Unit of the Delhi government, observing that there is a "lack of will" in State functionaries to stop the "rampant violation of laws" by dairy owners in the nine dairy colonies in the Capital.

"These violations not only affect the public health of the citizens and residents who are consuming the milk being produced in these dairies, but are also wrapped in extreme cruelty to the animals housed there," the court said in its May 27 order.

Last year, a Delhi High Court-appointed Court Commissioner tasked with inspecting dairy colonies had found that several norms were being violated. The dairy units were operating in poor hygiene, the holding areas were overcrowded with little space for the cattle to move, and milch animals were found to be in poor health. Moreover, the inspection report revealed that several common issues were plaguing each dairy colony, such as the presence of solid waste overflowing in open drains.

During the hearing, the counsel for petitioner Su-

YK (



nayana Sibal showed the Bench photographs of the Bhalswa dairy colony, dated May 26, which showed the cattle grazing at the base of sanitary landfill and eating garbage.

The court remarked that the Animal Husbandry Unit has not only failed in discharging its primary function of granting and regulating the licenses of these dairies, but has also not provided for functional veterinary hospitals in the area.

"The State's lack of will to shift Ghazipur and Bhalswa dairy colonies to an alternate site despite the presence of sanitary landfills shows that decisions are being taken for considerations not relevant and germane to public health," the Bench said.

While listing the case for further hearing in July, the court made the Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs party in the case.



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THE HINDU **States**

BRIDE

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Villagers rescue 12-ft python from house in Chittoor

Villagers rescued a 12-foot python from a house in Vepanapalle in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district on Friday. When the family members discovered the large python under a bed, neighbours intervened and safely removed the reptile into a gunny bag and handed it over to the forest officials. The officials commended the villagers on their non-violent approach and later released the python in a forest.

Bodies of 9 trekkers handed over to families in Bengaluru

The bodies of nine persons from Bengaluru, who lost their lives during a trek in Uttarakhand, were handed over to their families on Friday. The 13 survivors of the 22-member group from Bengaluru arrived in the city on Thursday. "We and the families got some sort of closure. Our plans for rescue and recovery worked out. The intervention of the government was necessary to spare them of the burden of legal procedures and logistics," said Revenue Minister Krisha Byre Gowda, who coordinated the operations.

Around 30 monkeys found dead in Chikkamagaluru

Around 30 monkeys - 14 male and 16 female were found dead in a forest area of Chikkamagaluru in Karnataka on Friday. Local people noticed the carcasses of the monkeys and informed the Forest Department. "We suspect that they were poisoned. They had sustained head injuries too. It is suspected that they were hit with a blunt object," said Shivakumar K.N., Assistant Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

Prajwal's mother gets bail, appears before probe team

SIT to question her over the next few days; court puts on hold the non-bailable arrest warrant issued against her; counsel says she's the mastermind behind abduction of the rape survivor

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

havani Revanna, mother of rape accused former MP Prajwal Revanna, appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday after the Karnataka High Court granted interim anticipatory bail to her in a case of alleged abduction of one of the rape survivors.

The court granted interim protection to her on the condition that she should appear before the SIT by 1 p.m. on Friday and on all the subsequent days, and fully cooperate with

The Hindu Bureau

Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi on Friday told the

newly elected MPs from

Karnataka to raise their

voice against the "injus-

tice" meted out to the State

by the Centre in devolution

of taxes, and also question

the delay in approval of ir-

rigation projects such as

Kalasa-Banduri, Mekedatu,

The MPs should be with

and Upper Bhadra.

BENGALURU



Bhavani Revanna

the investigation. However, the court said the SIT could not retain her for interrogation after 5 p.m.

Ms. Revanna, daughterin-law of Janata Dal (S) veteran H.D. Deve Gowda, has been accused of conspiring

to abduct a former house help raped by her son, to prevent her from giving statements against the former Hassan MP.

During the hearing, senior advocate and Special Public Prosecutor Ravivarma Kumar said Ms. Revanna was the "mastermind" behind the abduction episode. The SIT had secured a non-bailable arrest warrant against her as she did not appear before it despite her earlier assurance

to the probe team, he said. Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the interim order on a petition filed by Ms. Revanna seeking anticipa-

tory bail in the case. The

High Court also kept in abeyance the non-bailable arrest warrant issued against her by a special court on June 1.

Barred from Hassan

The court made it clear that "since this is only an advance interim bail order pending disposal of main matter, no celebration, procession or the like shall be ventured by the petitioner or anyone".

The High Court, on the request made Mr. Kumar, directed Ms. Bhavani not to enter Hassan district and K.R. Nagar taluk of Mysuru district, where the alleged kidnapping took place.

Rahul gets bail in

defamation case filed by the

BJP's Karnataka unit against

labelling the BJP corrupt,

during the Assembly polls

campaign in 2023.

advertisements in newspapers

Ensure there are no more hoarding collapse incidents, SC tells Railways, BMC



Rescue and relief work under way near the site of the hoarding collapse at Ghatkopar in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Railways and the Brihanmumbai Mumnicipal Corporation (BMC) to ensure that no untoward incidents of hoarding collapse happen in the city.

A Vacation Bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and P.B. Varale issued the direction while hearing the civic body's plea on the applicability of some of the provisions of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act of 1888. It took note of the hoarding collapse incident in Ghatkopar in suburban Mumbai in which 16 peo-

ple lost their lives last month. "In the meanwhile, all parties concerned, including the Railways, shall ensure necessary measures to see that no untoward incident happens in connection with any hoardings, be

it on Railways land or on

municipal land," the Bench

said and posted the matter

14. The 120x120 square feet "illegal" hoarding at a petrol pump came crashing down in Ghatkopar during a duststorm and unseasonal rain that lashed Mum-

bai on May 13, killing 16 pe-

for further hearing on June

ople and injuring more than 75. Justice Kumar allowed Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, appearing for the Railways, to file his response on a BMC plea pending since 2018 in the apex court.

"Whoever is in-charge of whichever land, please ensure that nothing untoward happens because monsoon season has arrived," Justice Kumar told Mr. Banerjee.

Justice Varale referred to the Ghatkopar incident and said as per media reports, the accused was not initially arrested but detained later, and it was found that he had antecedents of erecting "illegal" hoardings.

or Bengaluru, he said. Mr. Gandhi met all the elected and defeated can-



Fight Centre's injustice, Rahul tells MPs

Rahul Gandhi with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

didates of the Congress and told them to fight against the "unfair" treatment given to the State by the Centre and raise their

constituency's problems in

Parliament.

He also told the defeated candidates to be with the voters who had not

supported them in the polls and win their hearts. Mr. Gandhi said BJP MPs had not raised the issues of Karnataka in Parliament.

YSRCP activist attacked, campaign vehicle set afire

The Hindu Bureau CHITTOOR



Why no action | **Edged out** taken against unauthorised alterations in vehicles, asks

the people in their constituencies and not in Delhi

defamation case BENGALURU Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was granted bail by a special court in Bengaluru in a

Kerala HC

The Hindu Bureau KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday expressed its displeasure at motor vehicle enforcement officers for not taking strict action against drivers, including vloggers, who violate road safety rules and standards.

A Division Bench of Justices Anil K. Narendran and Harishankar V. Menon orally observed that the officers had chosen to take a lenient attitude towards violators of the road safety standards despite its earlier directives for strict action. The court had earlier directed the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) to act against those using motor vehicles with "unauthorised" name boards, beacon lights and flashlights in public places.

Vloggers' videos

The court had also ordered action against the unauthorised alterations in contract carriages and other motor vehicles, the use of such vehicles in public places, and uploading of videos of such vehicles on YouTube by the registered owners of such vehicles or vloggers.

The government pleader submitted that the Transport Commissioner would appear before the court and list the steps taken so far against violations of the road safety rules.

The MVD, in a report submitted, said action had been taken against a You-Tuber and his two friends for setting up a swimming pool in a car and driving it in Alappuzha.



Shrinking spaces: A bird rests on a tree in Kochi, Kerala. THULASI KAKKAT

A YSRCP activist was allegedly assaulted and a campaign vehicle of the party was set afire in two separate incidents in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on Thursday night causing concern among the party followers.

persons Unidentified forcibly entered the residence of Khader, a YSRCP activist in the Bodigutta locality and assaulted him, causing severe injuries to him, before fleeing the scene.

At Kothapalli Mitta village, an unidentified group damaged a campaign vehicle belonging to the YSRCP by setting it afire.

The YSRCP leaders in

A campaign vehicle of the YSRCP damaged by unidentified persons at Kothapalli Mitta village in Chittoor district on Thursday night.

Chittoor accused TDP workers of orchestrating the attacks.

M.C. Vijayananda Reddy, who lost in the recent election, alleged that a Chittoor-based leader associated with the NDA was behind the attacks on YSRCP members, and

called upon NDA leaders to refrain from such acts. The YSRCP high command formed a committee

to look into the grievances of the party cadres. A senior police officer said incidents such as physical assaults and arson would be tackled sternly.

TDP in a fix as race intensifies Health experts call for vigil against spread of H5N1 virus during Bakrid among allies for Cabinet berths

<u>Appaji Reddem</u> VIIAYAWADA

Ahead of formation of the new government and Cabinet in Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam Party-Janasena Party-BJP alliance has a problem of plenty, owing to its massive majority and numbers.

Of the total 175 Assembly constituencies, the alliance parties bagged 164 the TDP won 135, the Janasena 21 and the BJP 8. The YSR Congress Party could win a mere 11 seats.

Intense competition

The 25 portfolios in the Cabinet will, therefore, have intense competition. Several factors, primarily obligations from the al-



Janasena leader Pawan Kalyan greets TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu. ANI

liance partners (Janasena and BJP), leaders who had served as Ministers earlier, seniority, regional balance, caste and gender equations, and a huge number of MLAs will be the challenges for the alliance in general, and TDP in partic-

ular, in determining the Cabinet berths.

These apart, there are first-time MLAs who have won with high majority. There can also be tough competition for plum portfolios.

Going by the political buzz, top priority may be given to prominent leaders, Backward Classes, youth, women, first-timers, and alliance partners.

Though it's not yet confirmed whether Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan and TDP national general secretary N. Lokesh will be a part of the Cabinet, there are few names making rounds as potential contenders based on the above factors and equations.

<u>Abdul Latheef Naha</u> PALAKKAD

A group of health experts from different continents have alerted the Muslim community across the world to step up vigil

against the possible spread of avian flu virus H5N1 during the Haj and Id-ul-Adha celebrations.

Id-ul-Adha or Bakrid is a festival of animal sacrifice and is celebrated by about two billion Muslims across the world. About four million Muslims will be performing Haj in Makkah, coinciding with the Id celebrations in the third week of June.

'There is a risk of highly pathogenic avian influenza

'Mass herding of animals and sacrifice ups the risk of transmission from animals to humans'

A virus H5N1 transmission during the Haj pilgrimage and Id-ul-Adha, which would involve the sacrifice of approximately 143 million animals. The risk of transmission from animals to humans is high," said N.M. Mujeeb Rahman, who co-authored a scientific article in Nature Medicine about the risks.

He said the detection of H5N1 in the U.S. dairy cattle, poultry in Asia, the Gulf, and Europe had resulted in over 800 human

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cases with half leading to death. "Two-thirds of these cases occurred in countries with large Muslim populations," Dr. Rahman told The Hindu.

Note of caution

The team of experts that sounded the warning was led by Shahul H. Ebrahim from Mali. Apart from Dr. Rahman, the others in his team were Justin Wong from Brunei, Alimuddin Zumla from the U.K., Seif S. Al-Abri from Oman, Abdullah A. Al Rabeeah from Saudi Arabia, and Ziad A. Memish from the U.S.

The team raised more concerns about the animal sacrifices done in community settings across the

world. "Although about three million animals are sacrificed at the Haj, the Saudi Project for Utilisation of Haj Meat has streamlined the ritual slaughter to reduce health risks by centralising the process and eliminating direct contact with animals."

Dr. Rahman said the risk in community settings worldwide would remain significant. "The mass importation and herding of animals create opportunities for viral transmission. Every time the virus replicates in a person, there is potential for it to adapt to humans and gain features that enable human-to-human spread, as seen with COVID-19," he said.

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NIT No.	Tender Description	Cost (₹)	EMD (₹)	of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SvS/AS/06	AWARD OF WORK FOR REPAIRING OF ONE NO. 16MVA, 33/11kV POWER TRANSFORMER AT PREET VIHAR GRID	-	2.50 Lakh	28.06.2024 11:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 11:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/APT/07	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF SINGLE PHASE METER WITH BOX	14.82 Crore	14.82 Lakhs	28.06.2024 11:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 12:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SvS/AS/08	RATE CONTRACT FOR PROVIDING PULL/ PUSH SMS AND SMTP RELAY SERVICES	1.88 Crore	3.76 Lakh	28.06.2024 11:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 12:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/09	SUPPLY OF SINGLE PHASE NATURAL ORGANIC ESTER OIL FILLED COMPLETELY SELF PROTECTED (CSP) TRANSFORMER OF RATING 25KVA 6.35/0.240kV	5.88 Crore	5.88 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/10	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF ONAN COOLED TRANSFORMERS OF RATINGS 1000, 1600 & 2000 KVA 11/0.415kV	25.10 Crore	25.10 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/11	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF DRY TYPE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF RATINGS 400, 630, 1000, 2000 KVA 11/0.415kV	3.11 Crore	6.22 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/12	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & SUPERVISION OF 11KV INDOOR & OUTDOOR RING MAIN UNIT'S	21.95 Crore	21.95 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/13	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF AIR CIRCUIT BREAKERS OF RATINGS 400, 1250, 2000 AND 3200A WITH ENCLOSURE	3.81 Crore	7.62 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/14	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV 1C ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR XLPE INSULATED POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	2.78 Crore	5.56 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/15	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV 2C ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR XLPE INSULATED POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	13.69 Crore	13.69 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/16	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV 4C ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR XLPE INSULATED POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	28.76 Crore	28.76 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/17	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV AERIAL BUNCHED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR XLPE INSULATED POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	4.41 Crore	8.82 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/18	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 11KV 3C ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR XLPE INSULATED POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	36.85 Crore	36.85 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SV/19	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 11KV XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR AB CABLE OF SIZES 3CX150+150 AND 1CX95+95 MM2	5.45 Crore	5.45 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SvS/VK/20	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF PRE ENGINEERED BUILDING (PEB) STRUCTURE FOR WAREHOUSE	2.00 Crore	4.00 Lakh	28.06.2024 14:00 Hrs	28.06.2024 16:00 Hrs

ct of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualitying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchasersubritission or territer adum etc. please visit our website <u>www.bsesdelhi.com</u> --> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD--> Tenders-->Open Head (Contracts & Materials)

una Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Office of The

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Latur ur.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone: 02382/200868 Fax: 02382 / 200147 Notice No. B-1 LTR- 01 For 2024-25 E-Tender

for following Sanctioned works are invited by Executive Engineer Public Works om the contractors registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriated class. nts can bedownload from web site of http//mahatenders.gov.in Right to accept or reserved with Executive Engineer Public Works Division Latur.

nder forms can be download from date 10.06.2024 to 26.06.2024 upto 18:55 hrs. er will be submitted online on or before date 26.06.2024 upto 18:55 hrs. open after at 11:00. Pre-Bid Meeting Query Submitted Date 18.06.2024 at 11.00 am. The prebid

der Documents Will be available on website <u>http//mahapwd.com http//mahatenders.gov.in</u> ntact - 24 x 7 Help Desk Toll Free No. 1800 3070 2232 MobileNo.+917878107985/86

-)72/73 Email: <u>eproc.maharashtra@gmail.com</u> cppp-support@nic.in
- ved to reject any or all tenders without any reason thereof.
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Executive Engineer, Public Work Division, Latur

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) 1. The Executive Engineer, B&R Division HPPWD Karsog Distt Mandi H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on

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Editorial



Third avatar

The mandate is for Narendra Modi to change his approach to governance

lected the leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on June 7, Narendra Modi is set to become Prime Minister for a third consecutive term. The swearing-in is to be on June 9. Though the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell short of a majority in the Lok Sabha, the NDA appears well poised for the third term, in terms of numbers and political compatibility among its partners. Key partners were effusive in their praise for Mr. Modi at the NDA meeting, who in turn struck all the conciliatory notes. He promised to strive for unanimity in all decisions taken by his next government, and underscored a commitment to 'sarv pantha sambhava' equality of all sects. Telugu Desam Party leader N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is set to return as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar – two partners as part of the pre-poll alliance that won the 2024 election and with the largest numbers after the BJP - showed no ambiguity in staying the course with the BJP. The alliance is off to a harmonious beginning, and it will require leadership and compromise by all parties to keep it that way. While all partners declared their respect for the renewed mandate for Mr. Modi, it is only natural that the caveat of coalition will apply too. The BJP's numbers are higher than its own under A.B. Vajpayee and of the Congress-led UPA governments, from 2004 to 2014.

Unanimity on all issues is not easy, but consultations can be, and those should go beyond the NDA's partners. Mr. Modi said he looked forward to more debates in the 18th Lok Sabha – a case that cannot be overstated, considering the erosion of parliamentary authority during the 17th Lok Sabha. Mr. Modi's second term had begun with a promise of seeking the trust of all – *sabka* vishwas, as he called it. That promise remained largely unrealised, particularly with regard to the religious minorities. There was no numerical restraint during the second term for Mr. Modi, but during his third, his government's survival will be dependent on non-BJP partners, necessitating compromises. The test of the democratic spirit will be in consensus building beyond the ruling coalition. The BJP, despite the setback it faced in the general election in heartland strongholds, expanded its footprint among new regions and communities in the south and the northeast, a point Mr. Modi noted in his speech at the NDA meeting. The Opposition too has emerged as a stronger presence in Parliament. The fresh mandate for Mr. Modi necessitates that he change his approach to governance and politics.

Change and continuity

Mexico's first woman President must crack down on organised crime

hen Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the leftist nationalist and leader of the Movement of National Rejuvenation The Centre is notional, the States the real entities

he results of the general election 2024 have thrown up a surprise. They portend greater democratisation in the country, with the regional parties doing well. These parties will share space on the ruling party benches as well as on the Opposition side in Parliament. This will help strengthen federalism, which is so crucial for a diverse nation such as India. It was badly fraying till recently.

Centre-State relations became contentious during the campaigning for the general election. The idea of '400 *paar*', 'one nation one election' and the Prime Minister's emphatic threat that the corrupt (i.e., Opposition leaders) will soon be in jail were perceived as threats to the Opposition-ruled States.

The Opposition-ruled States have been complaining about stepmotherly treatment by the Centre. Protests have been held in Delhi and the State capitals. The Supreme Court of India has said that 'a steady stream of States are compelled to approach it against the Centre'. Kerala has complained about the inadequate transfer of resources, Karnataka about drought relief and West Bengal about funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The attempt seems to be to show the Opposition-ruled States in a bad light.

The Supreme Court, expressing its helplessness, recently said that Centre-State issues need to be sorted out amicably. When the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 2014, it had talked of cooperative federalism. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 was an example of this when some States that had reservations about it, eventually agreed to its roll-out. But that was the last of it. With federalism fraying, discord has grown between the Centre and the Opposition-ruled States.

There is a huge diversity among the States – Assam is unlike Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh is very different from Tamil Nadu. A common approach is not conducive to the progress of such diverse States. They need greater autonomy to address their issues in their own unique ways. This is both democracy and federalism. So, a dominant Centre forcing its will on the States, leading to the deterioration in Centre-State relations, does not augur well for India.

Financing and conflict is one issue

States face three broad kinds of issues. Some of them can be dealt with by each State without impacting other States such as in education, health and social services. But infrastructure and water sharing require States to come to an agreement. Issues such as currency and defence require a common approach. The last two kinds of issues require a higher authority, in the form of the Centre, to bring about coordination and optimality.

Expenditures have to be financed to achieve goals, and that results in conflict. Revenue has to



Arun Kumar is a retired professor of economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and the author of 'Ground Scorching Tax' (2019) be raised through taxes, non-tax sources and borrowings. The Centre has been given a predominant role in raising resources due to the efficiency in collecting taxes centrally. Among the major taxes, personal income tax (PIT), corporation tax, customs duty and excise duty are collected by the Centre. GST is collected by both the Centre and the States and shared. So, the Centre controls most of the resources, and they have to be devolved to the States to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.

A Finance Commission is appointed to decide on: the devolution of funds from the Centre to the States, and the share of each State. The Centre sets up the Commission and has mostly set its terms of reference. This introduces a bias in favour of the Centre and becomes a source of conflict between the Centre and States. Further, there has been an implicit bias in the Commissions, that the States are not fiscally responsible. This reflects the Centre's bias – that the States are not doing what they should and that they make undue demands on the Centre.

The States also pitch their demands high to try and get a larger share of the revenues. They tend to show lower revenue collection and higher expenditures in the hope that there will be a greater allocation from the Commission. The Commission becomes an arbiter, and the States the supplicants.

Inter-State tussles, Centre-State relations The States cannot have a common position as they are at different stages of development and with vastly different resource positions. The rich States have greater resources while the poor ones need more resources in order to develop faster and also play catch up. So, the Finance Commission is supposed to devolve proportionately more funds to the poorer States. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the 15 Finance Commissions so far, the gap remains wide.

The rich States, which contribute more and get proportionately less, have resented this. What they forget is that the poorer States provide them the market, which enables them to grow faster. The poorer States also lose much of their savings which leak out to the rich States, accelerating their development. It is often said that as Mumbai contributes a bulk of the corporation and income taxes, it should get more. But, this is because Mumbai is the financial capital. So, the big corporations are based there and pay their tax in Mumbai. More revenue is contributed in an accounting sense, and not that production is taking place in Mumbai.

The Centre allocates resources to the States in two ways. First, on account of the Finance Commission award. Second, the Centre is notional while the States are real. Thus, all expenditures by the Centre are in some State. The amount spent in each State is also a transfer. This becomes another source of conflict. Expenditures lead to jobs and prosperity in a State. Benefits accrue in proportion to the funds spent. As a result, each State wants more expenditure in its territory. The Centre can play politics in the allocation of schemes and projects. For instance, it is accused of favouring Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The Opposition-ruled States have for long complained of step-motherly treatment.

To get more resources, the States have to fall in line with the Centre's diktat. This has taken a new form when the call is for a 'double engine *ki sarkar*', i.e., for the same political party to be governing at the Centre and the States. It is an admission that the Opposition-ruled States will be at a disadvantage. This undermines the autonomy of the States and also weakens federalism.

The autonomy of States is not to be confused with a freedom to do anything. It is circumscribed by the need to function within a national framework for wider good. It implies a fine balance between the common and the diverse.

Issues in federalism

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has begun work. It should try to reverse fraying federalism and strengthen the spirit of India as a 'Union of States'. This is not only a political task but also an economic one. The Commission could suggest that there is even-handed treatment of all the States by the Centre and also less friction among the rich and poor States when proportionately more resources are transferred to poor States so as to keep rising inequality in check.

The issue of governance, both at the Centre and in the States, needs to be flagged. It determines investment productivity and the pace of development. Corruption and cronyism lead to resources being wasted and a loss of social welfare.

To reduce the domination of the Centre over the States, the devolution of resources from the Centre to the States could be raised substantially from its current level of 41%. The Centre's role could be curtailed. For instance, the Public Distribution System or MGNREGS are joint schemes, but the Centre asserts that it be given credit. It has penalised States that have not done so.

The Centre's undue assertiveness undermines federalism. Funds with the Centre are public funds collected from the States and spent in the States. The Centre is notional and constitutionally created, while States and local bodies are the real entities, where economic activity occurs and resources are generated. The States have agreed to the Centre's constitutional position but that does not make them supplicants for their own funds. It is time that the utilisation of the country's resources is jointly decided by the Centre and the States on the basis of being equal partners.

This has become more feasible with the changed political situation after the results of the 2024 general election.

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Remoulding the Global Plastics Treaty

(Morena), became the President of Mexico in 2018, many warned that the Latin American country was on the path to become another Venezuela. But Mr. Obrador proved his critics wrong using populism with fiscal responsibility and pushing Mexico's polity, which was dominated by the pro-American, centre-right Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) for over seven decades, towards the Left. The Morena's surge helped Claudia Sheinbaum, the 61-year-old climate scientist who was endorsed by Mr. Obrador, make history last week as she was elected the first woman President of Mexico. The former Mexico Citv Mayor, known for her tough measures in tackling violent crimes, won 58.6% votes, while her rival, Xóchitl Gálvez, the joint candidate of three opposition parties, secured 28.4%. Morena also won a two-thirds majority in Parliament, which makes Ms. Sheinbaum the first leader in over 30 years who can push constitutional changes – a long-standing promise of Mr. Obrador – through Congress without the opposition's support. Ms. Sheinbaum, who campaigned on the promise of wealth distribution, tackling crime and building a stronger economy, said she will stay true to Mr. Obrador's legacy.

Mr. Obrador's victory in 2018 marked a paradigm shift in Mexico's politics. He promised to end widespread corruption and launch a massive public spending programme. But unlike several other populists in the region, he adopted a pragmatic approach seeking to bring in gradual changes. He rolled out cash handouts of about \$350 for the elderly and monthly scholarships of about \$50 for students, besides launching reforestation grants in rural areas, without jeopardising the country's economic stability. The Mexican peso rose to its strongest levels in almost a decade and investments flowed in. While economic expansion averaged at about 1%, unemployment fell to 2.8%, one of the country's alltime lows. Mr. Obrador remained largely popular despite criticisms of his failing to tackle violent crime and his intolerance towards dissent. Ms. Sheinbaum should be mindful of the criticisms her predecessor faced. There are concerns that the Morena's supermajority would lead to constitutional amendments, doing away with some checks and balances on executive power. The new President should bring the fiscal deficit, which ballooned in Mr. Obrador's last year in office, under check while continuing his social security measures. A bigger challenge would be to crack down on gangs that control drug trafficking to the U.S. Ms. Sheinbaum should use her strong mandate to offer a social contract that improves on Mr. Obrador's welfarism with a stronger emphasis on the Morena's social democracy.

YK

s discussions still continue for an international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, it becomes crucial to consider how it can support a fair transition for individuals who collect and recycle waste informally. According to the OECD Global Plastic Outlook, global production of plastic waste was 353 million tonnes in 2019 – more than double since it was in 2000, and is set to triple by 2060. Only 9% of this was recycled, 50% sent to landfills, 19% incinerated, and 22% disposed of in uncontrolled sites or dumps. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, of the 9% recycled, 85% was done by informal recycling workers.

These workers collect, sort and recover recyclable and reusable materials from general waste, alleviating municipal budgets of financial burdens around waste management and, at large, subsidising the environmental mandate of the producers, consumers and the government. The Centre for Environment Justice and Development has also observed that they promote circular waste management solutions and help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, valuably contributing to sustainability. Their efforts significantly reduce plastic content in landfills and dump sites, effectively preventing plastic leaking into the environment.

The need for recognition

Yet, these workers are often overlooked and remain highly vulnerable in plastic value chains. They face risks such as increasing privatisation of waste management, waste-to-energy or incineration projects, and exclusion through other public policy interventions in plastic waste management in the norms of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The informal waste and recovery sector (IWRS) is more than a minor player in worldwide

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The message of 2024

A truly federal structure should be evolved to avoid any possibility of majoritarian or dictatorial governance and tendencies in India in the future. India has had a narrow and providential escape from such a situation, thanks to an alert electorate and experience of the central Ø

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<u>Neethi P.</u>

is Senior Researcher at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore and an Advisory Member to the Karnataka Labour Policy Committee



is the Director,

Programme Design at Hasiru Dala, a social impact organisation that works with waste pickers and other waste workers in Karnataka

As an instrument to end plastic pollution, it needs to ensure social justice and equity principles for the informal recycling worker municipal solid waste management systems. According to the UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT), the informal sector accounts for 80% of municipal solid waste recovery in many cities.

A recent study by UN-Habitat and the University of Leeds estimates that around 60 million tonnes of plastic from municipal solid waste pollute the environment, including waterbodies, due to inadequate collection services and mismanagement of solid waste. Without the IWRS, the volume would be higher. However, as highlighted in the recent Leave No One Behind Report, strategies to reduce plastic pollution often neglect to effectively involve the recovery capacities, skills, and knowledge of the IWRS. This oversight worsens livelihood vulnerabilities and undermines existing informal recovery systems.

Global treaty, need for a just transition

The Global Plastics Treaty is a significant attempt to establish a legally binding agreement aimed at reducing and eliminating plastic pollution. The decision to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was made in early 2021 during the fifth UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. The INC's journey, beginning with an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in mid-2022, was followed by subsequent meetings in Uruguay, Paris, and Nairobi, with the fourth INC-4 in Canada in April this year. The final INC-5 meeting in South Korea will continue to see active participation from the International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP).

The IAWP, a vocal participant in the UNEA Plastic Treaty process, emphasises the importance of supporting the formalisation and integration of informal waste pickers into discussions on addressing plastics. It also advocates including waste pickers' perspectives and solutions at every stage of policy and law implementation.

These measures aim to acknowledge waste pickers' historical contributions, protect their rights, and promote effective and sustainable plastic waste management practices. There is no universally agreed-upon terminology for a just transition or a formal definition of the informal waste sector and its workforce. Clarifying these definitions is crucial.

India's voice is important

As a key representative from the Global South, India promotes an approach that enhances repair, reuse, refill, and recycling without necessarily eliminating the use of plastics altogether.

India has also stressed the importance of adopting country-specific circumstances and capacities. Hence, India's informal waste pickers, who are indispensable, remain central to the discussion.

We, therefore, need to rethink the formulation of our EPR norms and raise questions on how to integrate this informal worker cohort into the new legal framework.

As the final round of negotiations for the Global Plastics Treaty approaches the INC-5, a key question remains – on how a global instrument to end plastic pollution can enable a just transition for nearly 15 million people who informally collect and recover up to 58% of global recycled waste, thereby shaping a sustainable future. By incorporating their perspectives and ensuring their livelihoods are protected, the treaty can embody social justice and equity principles while leaving no one and no place behind.

The views expressed are personal

EDITOR governance of the last 10 vears A coalition

governance of the last 10 years. A coalition government is necessary if 'the India as we knew it' has to survive and progress. There need to be adequate checks and balances in place to ensure that the interests of all diverse sections are fully protected. **V. Rajan,** Thiruvananthapuram

The long shadow of a truncated mandate that looms large over the scheduled election of Narendra Modi for a third term in office will ensure that Mr. Modi will rule India looking over his shoulder often. His coalition partners are sure to have demands. The verdict of 2024 is a blessing in disguise for the proper functioning of Indian democracy. Mr. Modi will have to be mindful of the sensitivities and sensibilities in every corner of India. Hail the Indian electorate for such a wisdom-tinged verdict. **Cijo Joseph,**

Kozha, Kottayam, Kerala

There are many lessons in

the way the INDIA bloc has
 risen and the Bharatiya
 Janata Party has wilted to
 some degree. The people of
 India cannot be taken for
 granted. They voted on the
 basis of seeking answers to
 the burning issues of the
 day — price rise,
 unemployment, corruption
 and also farmer distress, to
 name a few. The Ayodhya

result drives home this point. The attempt to misguide people using the politics of polarisation failed miserably. Jahangir Ali,

Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

CSDS-LOKNITI POST-POLL SURVEY

Why the BJP underperformed in U.P.

Akhilesh Yadav's alternative social engineering formula, worry among voters that the Constitution will be changed, polarisation, and poor performance

Mirza Asmer Beg, Shashi Kant Pandey, & Akhilesh Pal

he INDIA coalition's performance in Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections has surprised everyone. The alliance has made deep inroads among all the major social groups except upper castes. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could win only 33 of the 75 seats it contested, and its allies won only one. On the other hand, the INDIA coalition won 43 seats.



The Lokniti-CSDS postpoll survey data show that the general/upper caste Brahmin, Rajput, and Vaishya voters largely favoured the BJP, while the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Muslim voters preferred the INDIA coalition. Close to nine of every 10 (89%) Rajput voters favoured the BJP. Yadav and Muslim voters consolidated in favour of the INDIA coalition along with a sizeable share of non-Jatav Dalit voters (Table 1).

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) lost support among all the social denominations including Jatavs, its main support category. The BSP's loss was a gain for the INDIA coali-



Time to rejoice: Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi at a joint election rally in Kannauj. (Right): BJP supporters celebrate Narendra Modi's victory from Varanasi. SANDEEP SAXENA; ANI

tion as the former's vote nation between Akhilesh shifted heavily towards the Yadav and Rahul Gandhi latter. got transferred to their cadres at the ground level

Wins and losses and this was reflected in The Congress bagged six the seat share. There were several facseats out of the 17 it contested. The better coorditors which were responsi-

ble for the poor performance of the BJP and the spectacular performance of the Samajwadi Party (SP). First, the BJP, known for its social engineering, was overpowered by Mr. Yadav's alternative social

engineering formula of 'PDA' under which he distributed tickets mostly to Pichhadas (backward communities) and Dalits and a few to Yadavs and Muslims in order to counter the allegation of being a Muslim-

Yadav party. The SP gave tickets to 32 OBCs, 16 Dalits, 10 upper caste candidates, and four Muslims.

Second, several State BJP leaders acknowledged that many sitting MPs of the party had not kept in

Table 1:		Party/	coalitio	on vote	d for in 2024
Caste-		INDIA	NDA	BSP	Others
community	Upper Caste	16	79	1	4
voting pattern	Yadav	82	15	2	2
in Uttar	Kurmi-Koeri	34	61	2	3
Pradesh in the	Other OBCs	34	59	3	4
Lok Sabha	Jatav	25	24	44	7
elections	Non-Jatav	56	29	15	1
(%)	Muslims	92	2	5	1



Unemployment was a major concern for the electorate. Frequent leaks of examination papers for government jobs further eroded public trust

touch with the electorate in their respective constituencies. Yet, the party renominated them. Consequently, as many as 26 sitting MPs lost the elections. Third, OBCs and Dalits feared that the BJP would change the Constitution after some leaders made statements to this effect. Their apprehension was further compounded by the BJP announcing its target of winning more than 400 seats (Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar). The party could not counter the Opposition's narrative that it wanted to change the Constitution and do away with reservation for OBCs and SC/STs. Fourth, the BJP tried un-

Mirza Asmer Beg teaches at Aligarh



Decoding the BJP's sweep in Odisha

Gyanaranjan Swain

With its near-clean sweep the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) go-

in Odisha (20 out of 21 seats), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has finally managed to entrench itself in the eastern parts of the country. It also displaced



ce of MPs al	ll cont	tributed to	the l	BJP's	loss	
Table 1:			Party/	coalitic	on vote	d for in 2024
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alactions		Naw Jahavi	FC	20	10	1

this issue by polarising the electorate. This did not cut much ice with the voters. The BJP leadership was expecting its welfare schemes to elicit a favoura-

ble response from voters. However, these schemes did not seem to have much traction. Unemployment was a major concern for the electorate. Moreover, frequent leaks of examination papers for government jobs further eroded public trust and led to frustration among the youth and their families.

The Modi magic

The most important factor was that the "Modi magic" appeared to have waned significantly. In the survey, when respondents were asked who they want as the Prime Minister after this Lok Sabha election, 36% said they wanted Rahul Gandhi and only 32% said that they would prefer Narendra Modi.

Muslim University, Shashi Kant Pandey teaches at BBA University, successfully to deflect the Lucknow and Akhilesh Pal teaches attention of voters from at Allahabad University

Social group (overall vote share)	Congress (17)	Congress Allies (27)	BJP (26)	BJP Allies (17)	Others (13)
Rural	16	32	23	13	15
Urban	18	19	30	24	09
Upper Castes	18	20	33	25	04
Marathas*	14	25	27	19	16
OBCs	11	28	33	17	11
Dalits	19	27	24	11	19

Table 1: In Maharashtra, who voted for whom in the

Table 1: Social profile of the voters and party support (%)

	TDP+	BJP	YSRCP		TDP+	BJP	YSRCP
	JSP				JSP		
Upper	27.8	5.6	55.6	Other BCs	43.3	14.3	35.7
Castes				Madiga	52	4	44
Reddy	29.6	5.6	62	Mala	41.5	9.2	47.7
Kamma	64	4	32	Other SCs	38.5	11.5	46.2
Kapu	47.2	15.1	28.3	STs	40.7	14.8	25.9
Golla and	47.5	3.4	44.1	Muslims	32.4	4.2	53.5
Kuruma				Christians	33.3	3.7	55.6
Goud	57.1	19	23.8	Others	47.1	15.9	25.5

A successful social alliance in Andhra

E. Venkatesu

The alliance of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Jana Sena Party (JSP) won the elections in Andhra Pradesh. The leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the strategies of TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and actor-turned politician Pawan Kayan, and the overwhelming support of the Backward Classes (BCs) and Kapus contributed to this win. The alliance won 21 Lok Sabha seats and 164 Assembly seats. The Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) of Iagan Mohan Reddy has been reduced to 11 seats in the Assembly and 4 seats in the Lok Sabha.

The social profile of the voters of the TDP allies and YSRCP is given in Table 1. The table shows that the TDP allies have got more than 60% of the vote share of the Gouds, Kammas, and Kapus; more than 50% of the vote share of Other BCs, Madigas, and Malas; and more than 30% of the vote share of the Christians, Muslims, the Reddy

YK

castes. More than 50% of the Reddy community, hand among rural voters. Its promise of providing Christians, upper castes, and Muslims voted for the ₹3,100 per quintal rice YSRCP. More than 40% of gave it a major boost. The the Malas, Other Schegrowing discontent of the duled Castes, Yadavs, and rural people towards the Madigas voted for the par-BJD organisation at the ty, as did more than 30% of

the other BCs, and more than 20% of the Kapus, Scheduled Tribes, and Gouds.

community, and upper

From the class point of view, four of the 10 of the poor, more than half of the lower middle class and middle class, and over six of every 10 of the rich voted for the TDP and its allies. In terms of age groups, the TDP alliance won more than half the votes of those below 25 and close to twothirds of the votes of those in the 26-35 age group. More than half the voters in the older age group supported the TDP-led alliance. The TDP alliance performed better among men than women. It performed equally well in urban and rural areas.

E. Venkatesu is Professor of Political Science, University of vernment, which ruled Odisha for nearly quarter of a century. There was a vacuum in the State due to the continuing decline of the Congress, which offered the BJP an opportunity to move in.

With its robust vote grassroots also contributed share of 45%, the BJP was to the BJP's rise. The BJD had invested able to attract most sections of the Odisha voters significantly in women voin substantial proportions. However, the BJD retained

ters through self-help groups. The Lokniti-CSDS over 46% of the vote share post-poll survey suggests in urban areas. This was a that this didn't help the reversal of the 2019 elecparty much: the BJP got tions when the BJP gained support from 43% of the more in urban areas and women voters in comparithe BJD in rural areas. This son to the BJD's 39%. The time, the BJP had an upper BJP had greater support among men (47%) than women.

The BJP managed to garner greater support from upper castes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), particularly "upper" OBCs.

Muslims in the Lok

Women 53 (+11)* 33(-1)

Muslim 73 (+13) 7 (+4)

*Figures in the parenthesis

reflect change from the 2019

election,

amounts were enhanced to

₹1,000 and ₹1,200, respec-

tively. This proved to be a

Sabha elections

Lok Sabha election

game-changer.

Sabha

"Lower" OBCs were equally divided between the BJP and the BJD (48% each). Dalits and Adivasis were a little more fragmented three ways: the Congress received support from 16% of the Dalits and 23% of the Adivasis. In sum, Odisha wit-

Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik congratulates Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his victory in Odisha. AN

Congratulations MODI JI

nessed a complete political turnaround this time. Previously, despite voting in favour of the BIP for parliamentary seats, voters returned the BJD to power in the State. This time, though, the BJD was completely displaced from power. Besides a routine

ical competition ensures, the strident campaign of the BJP including its criticism about an 'outsider' controlling the State government seems to have worked. That criticism also helped the BJP create a narrative of 'Odia Asmita (self-pride)'. The outcome helped the BJP consolidate its all-India presence. It also helped the party avoid a more serious dent in its seat tally in Parliament.

change of power that polit-

Gyanaranjan Swain Professor and Head, School of Political Science, GM University

implementation of the Citi-

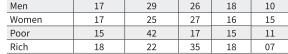
zenship (Amendment) Act,

2019, in West Bengal gave

the Trinamool enough

electoral mileage vis-à-vis

the BJP. The significant in-



29

26

18

* includes Maratha-Kunbis

Adivasis

Men

Lok Sabha elections? (%)

A reality check in Maharashtra

Rajeshwari Deshpande <u>& Nitin Birmal</u>

Maharashtra played a big role in the Lok Sabha elections by upsetting the victory march of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the national level. The result marked a resurrection of the Congress in the State. But to what extent do these political upheavals change the social equations in Maharashtra? The answer prompted by the National Election Studies (NES) data

nipulative strategies of the

BJP had led to the splinter-

ing of the two main State-

level political parties, the

Shiv Sena and the National-

ist Congress Party. These

strategies boomeranged

for the BJP and not only

created a dent in its seat

tally (9 as against 23 in

2019 and 2014), but also

quence for the BJP.

ban political and economic centres of the State in the Mumbai-Thane-Nashik

is 'only partially'. Let's recall that the ma-

region. The BJP has similarly

lost clout in the two comparatively backward regions of Vidarbha and Marathwada. Analysts of recent elections have suggested that the agrarian crisis (minimum support prices) and social crisis (Maratha reservations) affected the fate of the ruling coalition (Mahayuti) in these regions. However, our analysis of the NES data shows that despite its political decline, the ruling coalition has been able to retain its support among prominent social groups such as the Marathas and the Other Backward Class-

killed its dream of becoming the new political hegemon in the State. In its meticulous planning of the electoral contests, the BJP had encouraged the two Shiv Senas to fight against each other. These contestations have resulted in a strange political conse-

Now, the BJP in Maharashtra is mainly an urban party in terms of its social support base. Yet it has completely lost control over the most important ur-

es. At the same time, there is an opening for the rival coalition to win sizeable support from both the Marathas and the OBCs. The BJP still gets more support from the urban, rich, and upper caste citizens, but it has also been able to garner more than average support from tribal groups (Table 1). As per the NES data, the INDIA coalition mainly benefited

from votes of the poor, Dalits, and Muslims (included in 'others'). Raieshwari Deshpande teaches at Savitribai Phule Pune University and Nitin Birmal is the Lokniti state

coordinator for Maharashtra

The smart politics of the Trinamool

yotiprasad Chatterjee <u>& Suprio Basu</u>

Since its ascendance to power in West Bengal, the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)'s crafting and implementation of different welfare schemes, especially those that are women-centric, has remained the hallmark of the party's politics. Of particular importance this time was the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme, which provides cash assistance of ₹500 and ₹1,000, respectively, to women of general and Scheduled Caste/Sche-

aged 25 to 60 years. Just a few weeks before the Lok Hyderabad

BJP

the

Table 1: Vote share % of Trinamool and BJP among women and

duled Tribe categories

The Trinamool increased its seat share and vote share this election. As Table 1 shows, this is large-

ly due to a 10.6% increase in the vote share of women. Second, the charges of corruption levelled by the BJP proved to be an opportunity for the Trinamool to articulate Bengali regional aspirations. When the Central government allegedly stopped allocation of funds to some centrally sponsored schemes like MGNREGA due to the alleged corrupt practices of the Trinamool, the regional party took no time to label it as "BJP's Bangla Birodhi

crease in the Trinamool's (anti-Bengal attittude)" and called to defeat the national party in the election.

Showcasing the issue of deprivation and opposing support base among Muslims may point to this (Table 1). The politics of the Trinamool comprising welfare schemes and the narrative of regional deprivation throws light on the new direction of subnational politics in India. Jyotiprasad Chatterjee is Associate Professor at Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College and Suprio Basu is Assistant

Course Director SEAD, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani

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CSDS-LOKNITI POST-POLL SURVEY

BJP expands presence in T.N. but fails to force a major shift

With strong campaigning and outreach efforts, BJP made its presence felt in Tamil Nadu, yet it remains uncertain whether it can decisively alter the political landscape as it has not been able to consolidate support from any specific social group

Ananya Sharma <u>Naman Jaju</u>

10

n the long run, the outcome of the Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu may have tremendous significance for the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) foray into the politics of the State. However, in the immediate context, there seems to be limited gain for the BJP in terms of seats.

For a State where politics has been strictly divided between the two Dravidian parties, the BJP's success this time represents a major shift.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-led alliance managed a sweep with 39 seats, and this ensured that the BJP remained firmly away from a clear majority in the Lok Sabha. Thus, in a paradoxical outcome, Tamil Nadu both stalled the BJP and also opened up possibilities for it.

This achievement by the BJP was partly possible be-



Strong performance: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief M.K.Stalin campaigning in Chennai. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Vote by caste/community

	Voted for				
	Congress	DMK+	BJP	BJP+	AIADMK
Upper caste	12	26	13	7	27
OBCs	10	28	13	8	15
Dalits	13	29	12	4	19
Muslims	25	47			29
Christians	12	28	18	3	20

Note: Rest voted for other parties

cause the All India Anna In its determination to Dravida Munnetra Kazhabreach the State's bipolarigam (AIADMK) vacated the ty, the BJP ensured that space to challenge the Prime Minister Narendra DMK-led coalition. Modi would repeatedly visit the State and enhance the efforts of the State unit led by K. Annamalai. Over the past two years, Mr. Annamalai's "En Mann En Makkal Yatra" (My Land, My People Yatra) took the BJP across nearly every Assembly constituency.

Wide outreach

As the CSDS-Lokniti postpoll survey shows, during the campaign for the Lok Sabha election, the BJP aggressively reached out to voters through phone calls, text messages, social media

Compared with other contesting parties, the BJP's outreach was the largest as reported by the respondents; more than 60% said they had been contacted by the BJP through social media and 46% said were contacted thev through door-to-door campaign.

However, whether the BJP will be able to make a dent in the State's politics remains an open question because it has not been able to win over any particular social segment.

As of now, the post-poll survey suggests that the BJP's electoral support is spread uniformly across the upper castes, the OBCs, and Dalits.

With the help of its allies, including the Congress, the DMK has been able to retain a substantial chunk of all social sections in this election. In other words, despite its dramatic success in polling doubledigit vote percentage, the BJP has not been able to force any drastic reconfiguration of social forces as

yet. It is possible that the BJP gained mainly through the slight erosion of the bipolarity of the State. It remains to be seen if the entry of the BJP ends the bipolar competition in the State or if the BJP gradually eases out the AIADMK and positions itself as a major

player in State politics. The authors are researchers at CSDS-Lokniti

In threat to Cong., BJP gains from BRS loss in Telangana

H. Vageeshan T. Venkatesh

The decoupling of the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Telangana in 2018 has proved costly for the party that comes to power in the State elections.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) improved on its performance in the Assembly election, with more than a two-and-a-half times jump in its vote share.

This surge helped the BJP double its seats compared with the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

The inability of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to recover from its defeat in the Assembly election in 2023 left the party performing poorly in the Lok Sabha election. Additionally, many important leaders who joined the BRS (earlier TRS) a decade ago left the party for greener pastures in the Congress and the BJP.

The vote share of the BRS dropped to 17% in the Lok Sabha election from 38% in the Assembly election last year.

NDA holds ground in Bihar but vote share dips

How different caste/community voted in Telangana?

	Congress	BJP	BRS	AIMIM	Others
Upper caste	29	53	16		2
OBC	38	42	17		4
Scheduled Castes	45	24	21		11
Scheduled Tribes	58	29	9		4
Muslims	33	4	11	42	11
Others	47	25	23		5

Note: All figures in per cent

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi seems to have strategically transferred its votes to the BJP in at least three Lok Sabha constituencies

The BRS seems to have strategically transferred its votes to the BJP in at least three Lok Sabha constituencies.

Massive shift

BJP.

According to the survey, there has been a massive shift in OBC (42%) and upper caste votes (53%) to the

There is a high probability that this vote shift has

H. Vageeshan is Assistant Professor at NALSAR, Hyderabad, and T. Venkatesh is a PhD student at University of Hyderabad

come from the BRS. If this

trend continues, the BRS

may face even more diffi-

Telangana is consistent

with its focus on the Lok

Sabha polls. Three of the

eight MPs-elect from the

BJP in Telangana are from

the Backward Classes, four

from the upper castes, and

one from the Scheduled

The Congress, on the

other hand, was not able to

consolidate its victory in

the Assembly election and

conceded space to the BJP

in the Lok Sabha election.

Tribes.

This push by the BJP in

cult times ahead.

Extraordinary ascendance of BJP in Madhya Pradesh

Yatindra Singh Sisodia

In an unprecedented victory, the BJP achieved a clean sweep in Madhya Pradesh, winning all seats in the State. The BJP's vote share soared to 59%, while the Congress lagged at 32%, a striking difference of nearly 27 points.

The BJP's campaign prominently showcased issues such as the consecration of the Ram Mandir, the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir un der Article 370, and a new wave of welfarism intertwined with cultural nationalism and majoritarianism. The party effectively capitalised on these themes. The survey highlights that the BJP excelled in both rural and urban areas compared with the Congress. It also reveals the BJP's significant lead over

Vote by social demographics in 2024 Lok Sabha Election (%)

Congress	BJP	Others
28	62	9
41	53	6
31	59	10
34	60	6
20	72	8
28	63	9
23	71	6
36	53	11
24	70	5
	28 41 31 34 20 28 23 36	28 62 41 53 31 59 34 60 20 72 28 63 23 71 36 53

Sanjeer Alam **Rakesh Ranjan**

In a bipolar contest between the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Indian National Democratic, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in Bihar, the former performed quite well by securing about 47% of votes and 75% of seats (30 out of 40 seats). In a tough fight, the NDA managed to hold its ground.

Even so, it suffered a loss both in terms of vote and seat share as compared with the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Its vote share dipped by six per-

Vote share by social background

	NDA	Change from 2019	INDIA	Change from 2019
Upper castes	53	-15	10	+2
Koeri+Kurmi	67	-12	19	+9
Yadav	26	+8	73	+9
Other OBCs	54	-21	14	<1
Dusadh/Pasi	65	-19	35	+28
Other SCs	58	-18	42	+38
Muslims	12	+6	87	+7

Note: In 2019, CPI(ML) was not part of INDIA (earlier UPA): RI MP and HAM(S) were part of UPA

ta reveal that there was a The NDA suffered a great deal of optimism among voters.

loss both in terms of vote and seat

tion with the performance of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. In the view of a majority of respondents (59%), the BJPled NDA government deserved another chance. However, and quite interestingly, when asked to differentiate which government's work – State or Union government - mattered more while deciding which party to vote for, about one-fourth (24%) of the respondents said that it was the work done by the State.

The number for Centre was six percentage points less (18%).

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)led alliance increased its vote share across the social

However, its gain among the Scheduled Castes is impressive. This is despite the Lok Janshakti Party and the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) being on the other side.

Given the demographic \top weight of the SCs, this is indeed a significant gain for the Opposition alliance.

The NDA, powered by a positive rating of the socalled "double-engine" government, held its ground. The Opposition alliance failed to significantly enhance its seats. Yet, there is a silver lining to it. It appears to have significantly gained among the subgroups which have largely been voting for the NDA for almost two decades.

(64%) of the respondents expressed their satisfacspectrum.

•	Muslims	86	6	8
N				
t-	Note: Figures in per cent			

the Congress among Hindu

voters. In contrast, Muslims predominantly supported the Congress, with an 80-point lead over the BJP. The Congress also performed better among Hin-Yatindra Singh Sisodia is Professor du Dalit voters. and Director, Madhya Pradesh

The BJP's victory can be

centage points, which tranattributed to a well-designed electoral campaign and a strategic focus on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's persona.

Institute of Social Science Research

slated into a loss of nine seats. Though the vote share of the Opposition IN-DIA bloc rose by six percentage points, it could add only eight more seats to what it had obtained in 2019. As a result, a huge gap in poll outcomes remained. The post-poll survey da-

in 10 (58%) respondents held that the financial condition of their households had improved during the past five years. Eight in 10 respondents said they were satisfied with their current financial condition.

For instance.

About an equal number of respondents (79%) asserted that they had re-

News

share as compared with the 2019 Lok Sabha election

ceived free ration. All this helped shape a positive image of the ruling alliance among most voters.

State or Centre? As many as two-thirds

This difference not only underscores the continued popularity of Nitish Kumar as an administrator but also his remarkable ability, as a politician, to take his supporters to whichever side of the political divide

he chooses to work with. Data indicate that the Sanjeer Alam is Associate Professor at CSDS, and Rakesh Ranian teaches political science at Patna University

'Modi is a majoritarian PM who has to work without a majority'

The NDA today is a coalition of contradictions, says senior RJD leader; he says the parties of the INDIA bloc will impact the political arena more powerfully in the coming days as there has been a revival of the collective in politics; stressing that people from almost every community have voted for the RJD in Bihar, the Rajya Sabha MP says such social inclusiveness is part of the party's DNA

INTERVIEW

Manoj K. Jha

Sobhana K. Nair

he essential story of this election is that "Brand Modi" with its "teflon coating" of invincibility has been shattered, says Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj K. Jha. He says the NDA today is a coalition of contradictions. Excerpts:

The INDIA bloc and, especially, the RJD fell short of the target it had set for itself in Bihar. What went wrong?

We were expecting at least 20 seats. Our seat tally is below our expectations

YK

and we will introspect. If didn't have any money. Peyou look closely there are eight to 10 seats that we lost by a margin of a few thousand votes. We need to compare the margin of our loss in 2024 with the 2019 data and therein lies the story. There may have

been regional variations, there are certain regions where we have done extremely well and certain others where our performance was not up to mark. But in each region, our vote share has gone up and new communities have joined us. We are headed in the right direction and you will see the impact in the upcoming Assembly

election in the State. And you will appreciate, it was an unequal battle. We had one helicopter and there were days we weren't sure about fuel for the next day. Most of the candidates ople fought this election. In 2019, we had only one seat and, today, the alliance has nine seats. But the essential story of this election is that Brand Modi with its teflon coating of invincibility has been shattered.

We won in spite of the vitriolic campaign run by BJP. The results, therefore, have to be seen in this context.

Tejashwi Yadav at the beginning of the campaign coined the phrase "MY-BAAP"

(Muslim. Yadav-Backward, aadhi aabadi (women), agda (forward caste) and the poor, in an effort to cast your net wider bevond your regular vote bank. Did you fail in this endeavour?



No, we did not fail. You might say we didn't succeed to the extent we expected. So far, booth-wise data are not available, but once the data come, they will illustrate that almost every community has voted for us. And let me tell you, Tejashwi Yadav is not going back from here. He is committed to this path. And that is why you will see, within the backward castes, new groups have

been added to our vote base. We have fielded Dalit candidates in general seats. And these kinds of experiments were not done over a single night. This is going to be part of our DNA and our political strategy going ahead.

Many are comparing the candidate selection of the RJD with that of Samajwadi Party. While the SP fielded only

Yadav candidates in five out of the 62 seats they contested, nearly 40% of your candidates were Yadavs. Could you have stitched a better social coalition in terms of candidates?

When success is not as per expectations, such analysis will be made. But you have to remember, the community you referred to has different strengths in Uttar Pradesh and different ones in Bihar. Then there is legacy too... that particular community has been part of our strategy together with other communities. I think this comparison has no merit. The fact of the matter is that in both States a larger social coalition was stitched. In U.P., it delivered better results. In Bihar, there have been regional variations, but in

• • •

each of the constituencies we are on an upward swing. This shows we are relevant and we are going to impact the political arena much more powerfully in the coming days.

What is the way forward for the INDIA bloc? Do you quietly sit out this term or do you work actively on dislodging the NDA government?

No political party can sit quietly and wait for things to happen in the natural course. We won't sit quietly because we believe this is a coalition of contradictions. Mr. Narendra Modi is a majoritarian Prime Minister who today has to work without a majority. Can he really contain his majoritarian streak? This will decide the future course of action, not only

for us but even for the ones supporting him. The two dominant supporting partners of the government - Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar – do not share the Prime Minister's communal vision. They don't believe in destroying institutions or in vendetta politics. In the past 10 years, we have seen that these are the pillars on which BJP was built by Mr. Modi and Mr. Amit Shah. Also, I am very glad that the BJP is now talking about "NDA", which had disappeared from their lexicon in the past 10 years. And now it is no longer "Modi sarkar" but "NDA sarkar". This is a paradigm shift. This is a revival of the collective in politics, which is exactly what we had been campaigning for. Democracies should never be about an individual.

News

From Page One

President invites Modi to form government

Mr. Kumar, known for his frequents flips from one side of the political divide to the other, said that he would "be with PM Modi at all times" and that the Opposition, which had "won a few seats now, will lose them all the next time", a remark that drew laughter from the assembled MPs and leaders.

After the NDA meeting, senior leaders of the alliance got into a huddle with BJP president J.P. Nadda, and senior BJP leaders Mr. Shah and Mr. Singh to discuss the allocation of portfolios and Ministries.

Mr. Modi said that his swearing-in would be held on June 9, alongside his new Council of Ministers and promised that, as in the past, the new government too would serve the people.

The swearing-in will be attended by the leaders of neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremasinghe, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, and Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kumar Dahal "Prachanda".

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

"There were signs of a more divided policy committee, with one additional member voting for a softening in stance as well as policy direction. The majority retained their cautious stance to guide inflation towards the 4% target on a durable basis, despite recent signs of disinflation," said Radhika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist, DBS Bank, commenting on the decision.

Higher growth forecast

According to the MPC, high-frequency indicators of domestic activity are showing resilience in 2024-25. The south-west monsoon is expected to be above normal, which augurs well for agriculture and rural demand but headwinds from geopolitical tensions, volatility in international commodity prices, and geoeconomic fragmentation pose risks to the outlook.

Taking various factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2024-25 was projected at 7.2% as compared with the earlier projection of 7%, with the first quarter (Q1) growth estimate at 7.3%; Q2 at 7.2%; Q3 at 7.3%; and Q4 at 7.2%. The risks are evenly balanced.

Emphasising that inflation has seen sequential moderation since February 2024, albeit in a narrow range from 5.1% in February to 4.8% in April 2024, the RBI Governor said that food inflation, however, remains elevated due to persistence of inflation pressures in vegetables, pulses, cereals, and spices.

"Looking ahead, overlapping shocks engendered by rising incidence of adverse climate events impart considerable uncertainty to the food inflation trajectory," he said, while announcing the MPC's decisions. He added that volatility in crude oil prices and financial markets, along with the firming up of non-energy commodity prices, pose upside risks to inflation. Taking various factors into account, CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5%, with Q1 at 4.9%; Q2 at 3.8%; Q3 at 4.6%; and Q4 at 4.5%. The risks are evenly balanced. Mr. Das emphasised that the path of disinflation has been interrupted by volatile and elevated food inflation due to adverse weather events. "Inflation is expected to temporarily fall below the target during Q2:2024-25 due to favourable base effect, before reversing subsequently. The MPC will remain resolute in its commitment to aligning inflation to the 4% target on a durable basis," he said.

Modi lays stress on consensus at NDA meet

JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar promises unswerving support for Modi, says he believes everything Bihar requires will be done; TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu acknowledges the role of BJP leaders in Andhra Pradesh victory; Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde hails 'Fevicol Bond' between Sena and BJP

Nistula Hebbar NEW DELHI

he spirit of an alliance government taking its place after 10 years of a single-party majority regime was very much in evidence at the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Parliamentary Party meeting held on Friday to elect Narendra Modi as its leader.

The proceedings kicked off with a grand welcome for Mr. Modi who was greeted and garlanded by NDA MPs and alliance party leaders, many of whom shared the main dais with him at the head of the Central Hall of the Old Parliament House (Samvidhan Sadan).

In his address to the MPs and leaders, Mr. Modi emphasised that he would strive to ensure "sarvamat" or consensus in all decisions of his next government, and said that the NDA wasn't just an agglomeration of parties but a grouping of those who put the nation first and were known, in the 22 States governed by these



Grand start: BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, J.P. Nadda, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, with Chandrababu Naidu, Nitish Kumar and Pawan Kalyan at NDA's Parliament Party meeting on Friday. BJP

parties, for good governance. "If we look at it in terms of numbers in the history of coalitions, this is the strongest coalition government," he said.

He also recalled stalwarts of the old NDA under former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, such as socialist leaders Sharad Yadav and George Fernandes, for their crucial contributions.

Andhra Pradesh Chief

Minister-elect N. Chandrababu Naidu, whose Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is the largest ally of the BJP in the NDA, also spoke on the theme, taking the time to acknowledge the effect of the joint campaign that the BJP, Jana Sena Party and the TDP undertook to gain the mandate in that State. "Home Minister [Amit Shah] came and addressed one meeting – a powerful

meeting which made a big

difference. Even Rajnath Singhji, Naddaji [BJP chief J.P. Nadda] and so many other leaders had come and addressed meetings which gave confidence to people that the Centre is with the State," he said.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, leader of the Janata Dal (United), the third largest party in the alliance, and known to change sides, made it a point to address the ele-

Modi meets Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi met BJP veterans L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi at their residences on Friday.

He visited Mr. Advani soon after being chosen as leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Parliamentary party, leader of the BJP Parliamentary party, and leader of the BJP in the

Lok Sabha. Then, he went to the residence of Mr. Joshi, a former BJP president. "Went to Advani ji's residence and sought his blessings. Every @BJP4India karyakarta is inspired by Advani ji's monumental efforts to strengthen the party," Mr. Modi later said in a post on X. "Called on Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji. I have learnt so much from him," he said.

phant in the room. "I will be with the PM at all times," he said, adding that his party was offering unswerving support to Mr. Modi. "We are assured that everything Bihar requires will be done and it is the Prime Minister who has served the country, and others who are making noises haven't done anything," he said. Maharashtra Chief Mi-

nister Eknath Shinde in-

voked late Shiv Sena leader Balasaheb Thackeray during his speech to underline the importance of the Sena-BJP alliance, considered one of the oldest in the NDA, which has continued in a modified form after the former's split. "What I will say is that the Sena-BJP alliance was forged by Balasaheb Thackeray based on a common ideology and it is a 'Fevicol Bond' that will not break," he said.

Parliament security breach: Delhi Police file chargesheet

<u>Ishita Mishra</u> NEW DELHI

Almost six months after six people were jailed under terror charges for breaching the security at the new Parliament building, the Delhi Police have filed a 1,800-page-long chargesheet against the suspects in a city court on Friday.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Akhand Pratap Singh, who appeared for the Delhi Police, submitted before the Additional Sessupplementary chargesheet on July 15. The court extended the judicial custody of all the six accused till Ju-

ly 15. A government source told The Hindu that no political party or terrorist organisation has been named in the chargesheet. The accused wanted to draw attention and "make their presence felt", the source said, quoting the document.

"Their protest was under the garb of anger

Parliament statues were moved to deny Opposition a place to protest: Congress

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, and Chhatrapati Shivaji, among others, have been relocated within the Parliament complex to ensure that Opposition parties cannot hold democratic protests, the Congress alleged on Friday.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh in a



Parliament premises as part of the redevelopment project, PT



The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) that will comprise the newly elected Lok Sabha members and Rajya Sabha members will meet on Saturday to elect its leader.

Currently, the CPP is headed by Sonia Gandhi, who has now moved to the Rajya Sabha after deciding not to contest from her traditional Rae Bareli seat in Uttar Pradesh

sions Judge Hardeep Kaur of the Patiala House Court that sanction for prosecution under Section 13 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) is awaited from the Centre; a supplementary chargesheet for the same will be filed by the police within

two weeks. Taking note of the submissions, the court listed the matter for filing of the

unemployment, against farmers' protest to name a few issues. They had a political motive. Though their affiliation to any political party is not mentioned in the chargesheet," the source said.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena accorded sanction to prosecute the six persons under sections 16 and 19 of the UAPA on Thursday.

post on X, said that such "stunts" cannot save Narendra Modi's "unstable government from falling". Mr. Ramesh also dismissed the Lok Sabha Secreta-

riat's explanation for relocating the statues as "wholly bogus" and said that it was a unilateral move, carried out without consulting any political party.

On Thursday, the Lok

Sabha Secretariat said that the statues were being relocated to a specially designated place within the complex so that it would be convenient for visitors to see them.

"For this reason, all these statues are being respectfully installed in a grand 'Prerna Sthal' in Parliament House premises. This 'Prerna Sthal' is being developed in such a way that the visitors coming to

Apart from re-electing Ms. Gandhi to head the Parliamentary Party, senior leaders are likely to press for Rahul Gandhi to accept the position of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP).

Sources indicated that newly elected MPs like K.C. Venugopal, Gaurav Gogoi, and Manickam Tagore among others may press for such a move.

Protest erupts after

body of missing

Beware of BJP's tactics, Aaditya warns TDP, JD(U)

Abhinay Deshpande MUMBAI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal (United), parties essential for the next government at the Centre, should demand the Lok Sabha Speaker post, suggested Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Friday.

He warned that once the BJP formed the government, it would attempt to destabilise its allies. He alluded to the splits orchestrated within the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party. "Having experienced the tactics of the BJP, the minute they form government with you, they will break the promises and try to break your parties too. You'll have experienced it earlier." "A humble suggestion to the possible allies of the BJP in the newly remembered NDA. Get the post of the Speaker," he said on X.

YK

Sheikh Hasina to be first of foreign leaders to arrive for Modi's swearing-in

<u>Suhasini Haidar</u> NEW DELHI

on Sunday evening. According to sources,

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will arrive in Delhi on Saturday, the first of the foreign dignitaries from the neighbourhood invited by Narendra Modi to attend his swearing-in

Ms. Hasina, who is due to land around noon, will arrive a day earlier than the

rest, as Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay will arrive on Sunday morning and Nepal's Prime Minister P.K. Dahal "Prachanda" later in the day. Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu is also expected to attend the swearing-in, accompanied by a large delegation in-

cluding senior Ministers. The decision to invite leaders of regional countries mirrors Mr. Modi's outreach to South Asian Association for Regional



Sheikh Hasina

Cooperation (SAARC) countries in 2014 and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries in 2019.

This time, officials say the government is focusing on India's close "neighbours and the Indian Ocean Region", with invitations being extended to leaders of countries like Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius as well as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, who were invited both the previous times.

However, leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan were only invited in 2014, and ties with both countries have subsequently deteriorated over a number of issues. All the leaders will attend the swearing-in on Sunday evening at the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt, and the subsequent reception.

For Monday, officials are working on schedules for call-ons by the External Affairs Minister and bilateral meetings with Mr. Modi and the visiting dignitaries.

Packed schedule

The new government will also have a packed foreign travel agenda in the weeks ahead, with Mr. Modi expected to fly to Italy to attend the G-7 outreach being hosted by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on June 13-14. He will also meet U.S. President Joe Biden, and leaders of the U.K., France, Germany, Canada, European Union and Japan at the event.

According to officials, Mr. Modi would not accept the invitation from Switzerland to attend the peace summit on June 14 but India will participate at a "se-

nior" level. Then, Mr. Modi will be in Kazakhstan on July 3-4 for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Astana, due to be attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and leaders from Central Asia, Turkey and Iran. All eyes will also be on this summit where Mr. Modi will make his first bilateral visit abroad in his third term; in 2014, he travelled to Bhutan and Nepal, and in 2019,

to Maldives and Sri Lanka. As The Hindu had reported earlier this week, Ms. Hasina, who was reelected in January has been keen to schedule her visit to Delhi as her first destination abroad, before travelling to Beijing in July.

Plea in SC seeks probe into post-poll market crash

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A lawyer has filed an application in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to submit a report on the allegations of the stock market crash and loss to investors after the Lok Sabha election results.

Vishal Tiwari, the applicant, linked it to the Adani-Hindenberg case. He has asked for the SEBI investigation report into the Adani-Hindenberg case to be made public, saying citizens have a right to know.

Pointing to how the apex court had, in the Adani-Hindenberg case, highlighted the need for a foolproof regulatory framework to protect investors, the lawyer said the significant fall in the stock market and the reported loss of crores showed "nothing has changed".

•••

200 evacuated from Manipur's Jiribam district amid tension

<u>Abhinay Lakshman</u> NEW DELHI

lowed

to

tendent of Police.

visit the Parliament com-

plex view the statues of

these great persons conve-

niently and get inspired by

their life experiences," the

It added that the com-

plex came under the

Speaker's jurisdiction and

that statues had been shift-

ed inside the complex with

the Speaker's permission

statement said.

earlier as well.

Meitei man is found; About 200 civilians, mostarmed men attack ly from the Meitei com-Kuki-Zo villages munity and some from the Kuki-Zo community, were evacuated from their homes in Jiribam district of What followed on Manipur and moved to a Thursday night, Kuki-Zo camp for internally dis-CSOs said, was an attack placed persons over the on Uchathol Hmar Veng, last two days after violence Vengnuam Paite Veng and broke out in the wake of locals discovering the body

Songkoveng, three Kuki-Zo villages in Jiribam district of a Meitei man who had where a church was burnt gone missing weeks ago. down and homes vandal-Soon after the body was ised. The Kuki Inpi Manipur found, civil society organisations (CSOs) reported and other Kuki-Zo youth that locals had started a bodies issued statements

protest in front of the Jiricondemning the killing of bam police station, dethe Meitei man, who was manding that they be alidentified by locals as Soiprotect bam Saratkumar Singh. themselves with arms. They, however, added that With tensions rising, the Jisuspected Meitei radicals ribam District Magistrate had then allegedly attacked their villages desimposed Section 144 in the district, upon receiving a pite the identity of Mr. request from the Superin-Singh's killers being unknown.

THE HINDU

NRREE

12



Don't see myself contesting another LS election: Tharoor

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday said if the next Lok Sabha polls take place five years down the line, he does not see himself contesting another election for the Lower House as he believes that one needs to know when to step aside for the younger blood to come in. Mr. Tharoor added that for now, there are five years to serve and he is determined to do his best for the people he represents during that time. In Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha seat, Mr. Tharoor beat Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar by 16,077 votes to register his fourth-straight victory from the constituency. PTI

Delhi court denies bail to Kejriwal aide for second time

A Delhi court on Friday dismissed the second bail plea moved by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, who was arrested by the police on May 18 for allegedly assaulting Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal. The court noted that the victim was fearful regarding her safety and security, and that she also had apprehensions that Mr. Kumar would influence witnesses, if he was released on bail. The court also said the injuries suffered by the victim were apparent as per the medico-legal certificate, and the allegations levelled against Mr. Kumar were serious in nature. It had rejected Mr. Kumar's first regular bail plea on May 27.

CISF constable booked for 'slapping' Kangana Ranaut

The Punjab Police on Friday registered a case against constable Kulwinder Kaur of the Central Industrial Security Force for allegedly slapping MP-elect and actor Kangana Ranaut at the Chandigarh airport. Ms. Ranaut, who got elected as BJP MP from Mandi Lok Sabha seat in Himachal Pradesh, alleged that she was slapped by the accused on June 6. The constable, who has been suspended, was apparently upset over the actor's stance on the year-long farmers' protests. While Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha stood in support of the constable, BJP's Punjab unit termed the incident as most unfortunate.

2 cattle transporters killed in 'mob attack' in Chhattisgarh

The families of the victims, all from Uttar Pradesh, said the attack took place at Arang near Raipur; the police are waiting to record the statement of a man who is in hospital with serious injuries

Shubhomoy Sikdar RAIPUR

wo cattle transporters were killed and another was injured after allegedly being attacked by a mob at Arang near the Chhattisgarh capital of Raipur in the early hours of Friday.

The deceased were identified as Guddu Khan and Chand Miya Khan. The injured, Saddam Qureshi, has been admitted to a hospital. All three are from Uttar Pradesh

With Mr. Qureshi injured and unable to provide a statement till late on Friday evening, the sequence of events remained unclear, the police said. The families of the victims claimed that the three men had been attacked by a mob.

Shoaib, a relative who had come to visit Mr. Qureshi at the Raipur Hospital, said a mob had attacked the three men. He



The truck was on its way to Raipur from Mahasamund district in Chhattisgarh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

mentioned two calls - one that he received from Chand while another that his friend Mohsin got from Mr. Qureshi - to suggest that they were assaulted for nearly two hours.

'Pleading for help'

"Around 1.45 a.m., I got a call from Chand. It was a brief one where he said that he was being attacked by some people. He said the tyre of their vehicle had gone flat. But before he could provide any de-

tails, the call was disconnected. I suspect the attackers must have snatched his phone. I tried calling back Chand but the calls went unanswered," Mr. Shoaib said.

"In the second call with Mohsin that was received an hour later, and lasted 57 minutes, Saddam could be heard saying that his limbs were broken. He was pleading with the attackers to spare him. I was with Mohsin when he received the call. It seemed Saddam had put the phone in his pocket but had not disconnected it. We heard him continuously asking for water," Mr. Shoaib said.

A senior police officer said the incident took place between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. when the three were heading towards Raipur from Mahasamund district.

"We received information on the helpline that they were being chased by some people after which they were found lying below the Mahanadi bridge. While one of them died, the other two were rushed to a hospital in Mahasamund where another person died. The third person is in a serious condition and is being treated in a hospital in Raipur city and is not in a condition to give his statement," said Kirtan Rathore, Additional Supe-

rintendent of Police. Police said they are investigating how the men fell from the bridge.

4 medical students from Maharashtra drown in Russia

<u>Purnima Sah</u> MUMBAI

Four medical students from Maharashtra studying at Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University in Russia drowned in the

Volkhov river. The External Affairs Ministry said the unfortunate incident took place while the students were on an outing in Veliky Novgorod city.

A fifth member of the group, a girl student, survived and is undergoing medical care. All the students were in the 18-20 age group.

The local emergency services in Russia have recovered two bodies and are searching for two more.

deceased were The identified as Harshal Anantrao Desale from Bhadgaon in Jalgaon district; siblings Jishan Ashpak Pinjari and Jia Firoj Pinjari from Amalner in Jalgaon; and Malik Gulamgous Mohammad Yakub from Mumbai. The survivor is Nisha Bhupesh

recovered from the Volkhov river, while a fifth member of the group survived

Two bodies were

Sonawane from Pune.

The Ministry in an official release on Friday said, "Our Consulate in St. Petersburg remains in contact with the university and local authorities. Local emergency services have so far recovered two bodies from Volkhov river."

"We offer our condolences to the families. The search for the remaining two missing students continues. The five students involved in the accident belong to the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. Our Consulate in St. Petersburg is coordinating with local authorities for the repatriation of the mortal remains. The Consulate continues to be in contact with the families and the district administration in Jalgaon, Maharashtra," the Ministry stated.

At 38%, Trinamool Congress sent highest proportion of women to LS in 2024 polls

Moyurie Som KOLKATA

Amid a drop in the number of women elected to the Lok Sabha this time, the Trinamool Congress can boast of being the party with the highest percentage of woman MPs. Thirty-eight per cent of the newly elected Trinamool MPs are women, the highest among any political outfit in the country, according to data analysed by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)

West Bengal, pegged at over ₹210 crore. As many as 27 of the 29 Trinamool MPs, including Mr. Sinha, self-declared are crorepatis.

newly elected MPs from West Bengal have declared criminal cases against them, according to information gathered by the ADR from the affidavits of the candidates. Seven of them across political affiliations face charges of se-

SC-monitored probe needed into NEET 'irregularities': Cong.

Court's supervision into "irregularities" in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for medical courses and accused the BJP of cheating youth and playing with their future.

"We demand that a high-level investigation be conducted under the supervision of the Supreme Court so that our talented

Unnao rape case: court rejects ex-BJP leader's plea

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to suspend the 10-year jail term awarded to expelled Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar for the custodial death of the Unnao rape victim's father.

Sengar sought suspension of his sentence on the ground that he had already served almost six years and the prosecution's case against him was solely based on circumstantial evidence. The court noted that the accused had been convicted of raping the minor daughter of the deceased man and sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of his life in that case. On March 13, 2020, Sengar was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment, besides a fine of ₹10 lakh, in the case of death of the rape victim's father in custody. The girl's father was arrested at the behest of Sengar under the Arms Act and had died in custody on April 9, 2018, owing to police brutality.



More than half of the

rious criminal offences, namely murder, attempt to

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI The Congress on Friday demanded a high-level probe under the Supreme

Court sends man posing as extremist to judicial custody

An Agra court on Friday sent a person to judicial custody for allegedly inciting communal tension. The police had detained Dhirendra Raghav for making a video that showed him abusing one community while pretending to be an extremist. "A video which could disturb communal harmony, posted on Instagram, came to our notice. The New Agra Police Station team took the accused into custody and presented him in court which sent him to judicial custody," said Suraj Kumar Rai, Deputy Commissioner of Police City, Agra. Fact-checker Mohammed Zubair had flagged the video on Friday, tagging senior officials of the Uttar Pradesh Police.

The 18th Lok Sabha will have 74 woman MPs, down from 77 in the last term.

11 out of 12 won

The woman candidates of the Trinamool have delivered a high success rate in this Lok Sabha election. Of the 12 women fielded by the party this year, 11 won the electoral contest. Only in Bishnupur, the Trinamool's Sujata Mondal lost to the BJP's Saumitra Khan by 5,567 votes.

The woman MPs-elect from the Trinamool are Saayoni Ghosh from Jadav-

June Maliah from Midnapore, Sharmila Sarkar from Bardhaman Purba, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar from Barasat, Sajda Ahmed from Uluberia, Mala Roy from Kolkata Dakshin, Mitali Bag from Arambagh, and Pratima Mondal from Joynagar.

pur, Rachana Banerjee

from Hooghly, Satabdi Roy

from Birbhum, Mahua Moi-

Mahua Moitra

tra

90% crorepatis

Notably, 90% of the winning candidates from West Bengal are *crorepatis*. The Trinamool's Shatrughan Sinha, who won from Asansol, declared the highest total assets among all

winning candidates in

SCAN TO PLAY

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from Krishnanagar. murder, and crimes against women.

> percentage of "The tainted candidates has been increasing among MPs elected from West Bengal," noted Ujjaini Halim, State coordinator of West Bengal Election Watch, an initiative supported by the ADR. She said in 2009, there were seven (17%) MPs with criminal record (out of 42), which went up to eight (19%) in 2014, and 23 (55%) in 2019. In 2024, there are 22 (52%) MPs-elect with cri-

minal record.

SUDOKU

students appearing in NEET and other exams get justice," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also slammed the Narendra Modi government over the alleged irregularities and called for resolving the students' "legitimate complaints" through an investigation.

"First the NEET exam paper was leaked and now the students allege that there has been a scam in its results as well. Serious questions are being raised

ing to the fore. Why is the government ignoring the voice of lakhs of students? Students want answers to legitimate questions related to the rigging in the NEET exam results," Ms. Vadra said on X.

on six students of the same

centre getting 720 out of

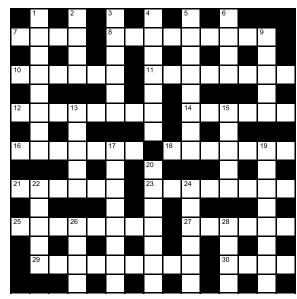
720 marks and many kinds

of irregularities are com-

Mallikarjun Kharge

The National Testing Agency has denied the accusations and said the changes made in National Council of Educational Research and Training textbooks and grace marks for losing time at examination centres were behind students scoring higher marks.





Across

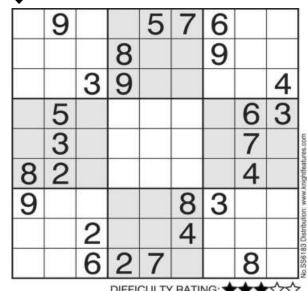
- 7 In a crash, rhino loses one pointed body part (4)
- Naval manoeuvres during a revolutionary's huge downfall in the mountains (9)
- 10 Hold a batch of eggs (6)
- Reputedly unlucky number... except when you shop at a 11 baker's (8)
- Roman fighter not happy following Egyptian god by starting to 12 duel for heat exchange device (8)

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

- 14 Ahead on winding road going around north west (6)
- **16** Sets right on redevelopment of Paris (7)
- 18 Cafe confrontation (4,3)
- 21 South American toiled has new bar (6)
- 23 Unnecessary pointer on ship (8)
- 25 Perhaps, 15 found inside controlling direction of movement (8)
- 27 Large bar in front of or behind vehicle (6)
- Father catches, with a request for silence, snake right in control 29 panel (9)

Down

- 1 When travelling, all get to pay here for using the road (8)
- 2 Tie knight on operating table (4)
- 3 Chinese entrepreneur at first sat around producing small pouch (6)
- 4 Successful assault on powerful equipment? (7)
- 5 Guy rocking boat carrying setter in Canadian province (8)
- **6** Northerner's duck, without hesitation (4)
- 9 Middle-Eastern ruler's fit to leave free time exercises (5)
- 13 State, "I had returned egg" (5)
- Revolutionary invention with CAD (5) 15
- I'm in Bern, wrongly producing Chinese currency (8) 17
- **19** For example, zip rapidly in front of English queen (8)
- English magi move mysteriously at start of show to show 20 mysteries (7)
- 22 Giddy cadet pretended (5)
- 24 Implants pre-assembled setting after pearls are lost (6)
- **26** Orient each street (4)
- 28 Catcall from setter accompanied by a cry of pain (4)



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Lord of Thirukkovalur

The word Maghavan, used in the eleventh mantra of the Apratiratha Sukta, refers to Lord Narayana, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. One interpretation of Maghavan is One who delights in His leelas. The divine kshetra of Thirukkovalur in Tamil Nadu, praised in the Divya Prabandham, can be seen in this context. The eleventh mantra talks of weapons, which can be inferred as referring to those of Mahavishnu. Thirukkovalur is the place where the first three Azhwars met. In the cramped space that the Azhwars were in, they could sense yet another person, which was none other than the Lord.

Usually, Vishnu holds the chakra in the right and the conch in the left hand, and Vishnu icons also reflect this. But Lord Trivikrama of Thirukkovalur holds the conch in the right hand and the chakra in the left. Vedanta Desika wrote a work called Dehaleesa Stuti in praise of the Thirukkovalur deity. Desika explains the reason for this reversal. An impression of the chakra and the conch are to be placed on the right and left shoulders, respectively, as part of a person's initiation into Sri Vaishnavism. Desika says it was to facilitate this that Trivikrama holds the weapons differently.

Desika refers to the Lord's leela of wiping out the sins of devotees.

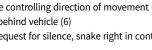


A ND-NDE

Solution to previous puzzle Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING:





30 O' Governor, do as asked (4)

NBRIÐR



'Expect commercial vehicle volumes to dip 4-7% this fiscal'

Hit by a high base of last year and weakness in demand, the domestic commercial vehicle industry is expected to witness a dip of 4-7% in wholesale volumes in the current fiscal compared with FY23, rating agency Icra said. The medium and heavy commercial vehicle (trucks) volumes are expected to contract by 4-7% year-on-year given the high base effect and the impact of the Lok Sabha polls on infrastructure activities in the first few months. PT

TVS Motor to inspect, rectify select iQube e-2-wheelers

TVS Motor Company (TVSM) will proactively inspect a select set of its electric two-wheelers iQube to ensure hassle-free experience for its customers. The company will inspect the bridge tubes of iQube manufactured between July 10 and September 9, 2023 to ensure the vehicle's ride handling was good over extended usage, the company said. TVSM will also carry out any rectification, if required, of the affected scooters at zero cost to the customer.

Insurance e-marketplace Bima Sugam phase 1 likely Apr. 2025'

The first phase of Bima Sugam is expected to be unveiled around April 2025, IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda told a meeting that reviewed the electronic marketplace project mooted by the regulator to make insurance more accessible, affordable and user-friendly. Significant progress was reported and filing formalities for the entity that is to be incorporated as a Section 8 (non-profit) company, Bima Sugam India Federation, have been completed.

RBI raising GDP view 'augurs well': StanChart's Daruwala

However, the slight revision in GDP growth forecast to 7.2% is still lower than BoB's forecast of 7.3-7.4% for FY25, says the bank's chief economist Madan Sabnavis; 'rate cuts likely in October'

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

he RBI's upward revision of its FY25 GDP growth estimate to 7.2% was encouraging, said Zarin Daruwala, CEO, India and South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank. "RBI's optimism on ru-

ral consumption boosts the basis for the forecast of an above-normal monsoon, augurs well for the agricultural sector and the overall rural economy. Its focus on inflation may give it room for rate cuts in the

Vellayan Subbiah

Subbiah

CHENNAI

The Hindu Bureau

Tube Investments of India

Ltd. (TII) Executive Vice

Chairman Vellayan Sub-

biah has bagged the EY

World Entrepreneur of the

Year 2024. He is only the

fourth Indian to bag this

prestigious global honour.

EY honours

TI's Vellayan



Comfort zone: Improvement in growth projections of RBI is positive for the markets, says IBA's Rao. PTI

coming months," she said. M. V. Rao, Chairman, Indian Banks' Association and MD & CEO, Central

The Hindu Bureau

With growing instances of

digital payment frauds

highlighting the need for a

system-wide approach to

prevent and mitigate them,

the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) has proposed to esta-

blish a Digital Payments In-

telligence Platform for net-

work level intelligence and

real-time data sharing

across the digital pay-

To take this initiative for-

ward a committee will be

constituted to examine va-

rious aspects of setting up

ments' ecosystem.

the Platform.

Reuters

MUMBAI

MUMBAI

Bank of India said, "Improvement in growth projections of RBI is positive for the markets.'

Digital payments intelligence

platform soon to curb fraud

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda said the revision in GDP forecast to 7.2% was still lower than BoB's 7.3-7.4% growth outlook for FY25.

'Data driven'

"While inflation is to average 4.5% for the year, there is concern on food inflation. But with growth being secure, it gives RBI room to not commence rate cuts now," he said.

"Our view is October can be the time when rate cut can be considered but will be fully data driven."

Sensex climbs MARKETS 2.2% to record after RBI lifts **GDP** forecast

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> MUMBAI

The S&P BSE Sensex surged on Friday to a new record closing high in the wake of the RBI raising its GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2%.

The 30-share Sensex gained 1,618.85 points, or 2.16%, to 76,693.36 supported by auto, technology and metal stocks. The previous all-time closing high was witnessed on June 3, when stocks surged following exit poll predictions that gave the BJP a robust majority. However, the actual results on June 4 that belied the polls triggered a sharp sell-off which saw the benchmark tumble almost 6%

The top Sensex gainers on Friday included M&M (5.83%), Wipro (5.09%), Tech Mahindra (4.5%), Infosys (4.13%) and Tata Steel (4.04%).

The NSE Nifty-50 index too advanced 2.05% to 23,290.15, a record close.

'Positive cues'

"The market picked up positive cues from the RBI MPC meeting where the committee revised the GDP growth forecast upwards underpinned by a resilient global economy, rural demand improvement, healthy capacity utilisation levels at industries, and robust business optimism," said Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox. Sectorally, all 13 indices

were in the green with auto, IT, metal and oil & gas stocks rising the most.

•		
	NATCH	
	FRIDAY	% CHANG
Sensex	76,693	2
US Dollar	83.40	0.
Gold	73,650	

Brent oil 79.82 NIFTY 50 PRICE CHANGE Adani Ente 3219.55 33.90 . 25.90 Adani Ports 1378.85 Apollo Hosp 6014.55.. . 52.55 Asian Paints 2927.70 ... 22.90 Axis Bank 1186.80 . 15.85 Bajaj Auto 9725.55 .24.10 Bajaj Finserv ... 41.25 1567.70 Bajaj Finance 7191.40 265.60 Bharti Airtel 1425.25 BPCL 599.80 ... 15.65 Britannia Ind 5463.55 ... 23.10 Cipla.. 1497.25 20.25 Coal India ...6.20 Divis Lab. 4524.05 Dr Reddys Lab 6061.30 170.35 Eicher Motors 4762.00 . 42.25 Grasim Ind. 2379.85 . 45.10 HCL Tech . 1431.50 . 34.00 HDFC Bank 1573.35 13.65 HDFC Life 562.95 ...7.70 Hero MotoCorp . 5581.85.. Hindalco. 680.35 Hind Unilever 2577.80 .28.20 ICICI Bank. . 1121.70 ... 11.30 IndusInd Bank 1492.10 Infosys . 1533.60 . 61.35 ITC... 439.153.75 JSW Steel . 912.15 Kotak Bank 1753.70 . 19.00 L&T.. 3532.50 LTIMindtree Ltd 4977.20 M&M. 2857.45 157.60 137.40 Maruti Suzuki 12810.90 NestleIndia. 2502.45 ... 31.05 NTPC. 360.60 . 10.85 ONGC 260.40 ...8.10 PowerGrid Corp. ...8.90 Reliance Ind .. 2939.90 ...76.70 SBI Life 1425.85 -17.00 State Bank . 829.95 .13.00 Shriram Finance Itd. 2497.95 Sun Pharma 1506.85 . 34.15 TataConsumerPro duct... 1135.65 -4.25 Tata Motors ... 970.50. ... 32.25 Tata Steel . . 178.906.85 3893.95 TCS.. 63.55 Tech Mahindra 1377.60 ... 60.15 . 3444.05 Titan.. UltraTech Cement 10463.15 408.20 .484.55.. Wipro.23.55 EXCHANGE RATES Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 07 CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL US Dollar. 90.57 90.92 British Pound . 106.39 . 106.81 53.66 53.45 Japanese Yen (100) Chinese Yuan. 11.48 Swiss Franc .93.46 .93.84 Singapore Dollar 61.82 . 62.06 Canadian Dollar 60.77 . 61.00 Malaysian Ringitt Australian Dollar 17.81 . 17.72 55.37 Source Indian Ban

⁺ 'Coalition govt., less stability to slow decision making'

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI



the majority mark of 272. Moody's Analytics said ough Prime Minister Na

ly

'Coalition may hit medium term fiscal consolidation'

India's medium-term fiscal

consolidation, critical to

any ratings upgrade, is like-

ly to get more challenging

as a new coalition govern-

ment comes to power, said

an analyst at Fitch Ratings.

PM Narendra Modi's BJP

"Our expectation is the



With the adoption of emandates for recurring payment, transactions have been increasing, and the RBI has proposed to include payments, such as replenishment of balances in Fastag, National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)



which are recurring in na-

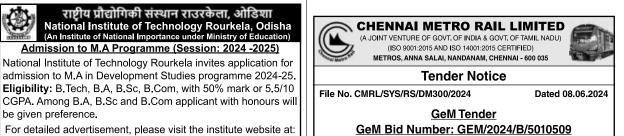
be given preference.



ture but without any fixed periodicity, in the e-mandate framework.

"This will enable customers to automatically replenish the balances in Fastag, NCMC, etc. if the balance goes below the threshold limit set by them. This will enhance convenience in making travel/mobility related payments," Governor Shaktikanta Das said. To encourage wider

adoption of UPI Lite, enabling quick small-value payments through an ondevice wallet, the RBI has proposed to bring it under the e-mandate framework.



Moody's Analytics on Friday said reduced political stability and the need for consensus building in a coalition government could slow decision-making and erode investor confidence in the near term.

In a post-election note, Moody's Analytics said the Lok Sabha election results mean dynamics are about to change in Parliament, as coalition partners will gain influence and leverage in policy decisions, allowing for a more inclusive approach to governance.

"The BJP will need to use the tools of negotiation and compromise to maintain a cohesive government. This will likely slow



decision-making and potentially dilute some of the party's key policy initiatives," it said in a note titled 'India Election Review: Voters Force the BIP into Coa-

lition Government'. The BJP won 303 seats in 2019, but bagged only 240 in the 2024 polls. The BJP-led NDA won 293 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, comfortably above rendra Modi secured a third term, the BJP's greatweakened position

marks a significant shift in the political landscape. Just how well forges new alliances to govern effectively and steer the economy will be closely watched, it added.

failed to secure a simple It said markets will want to see how the new-look majority in the Parliamengovernment goes about adtary elections, forcing him longstanding dressing to depend on support from challenges such as inflaregional parties. tion, high unemployment, socio-economic and disparities.

government will look to achieve 4.5% fiscal deficit The effectiveness of poltarget by 2025-26," Jeremy icies implemented by the Zook, director, Asia-Pacific Sovereigns at Fitch told coalition will determine In-Reuters. "Beyond FY26, dia's growth trajectory for the next five years, it said. we have little clarity."

uled advertisement nlease visit the institute website at or de http://www.nitrkl.ac.in →All Notice Starting date for online application: May 15th, 2024 (Wednesday) Last date for Online application : June 20th, 2024 (Thursday) Sd/- Registrar

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान राउरकेला, ओडिशा

Admission to M.A Programme (Session: 2024 - 2025)

	idambarana	r Port Authority i	GADSrDS(5823)/D. Da nvites applications for nt on regular ba	the following :-
SI. No	Class	Name of the Posts	Scale of Pay	No. of. Posts
1.	Class- I	Pilot	70,000 - 2,00,000	1 (Reserved (SC)

NHAI floats EoI for satellite-based tolling

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has invited expressions of interest for the implementation of a satellite-based electronic toll collection system.

Interested parties must have an average annual turnover of ₹1,000 crore over the last three financial years or the equivalent in foreign currency, and an experience of 10 years in electronic toll collection.

The winning entity will have to develop a geo-referenced map and a toll charging software for the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

In its tender document, **CM** YK



the NHAI said that it plans to implement the GNSSbased electronic toll collection system alongside RFID based Fastags currently being used by vehicles.

Each toll plaza will have two or more dedicated lanes for GNSS-ready vehicles, where barriers will remain open to ensure free flow of vehicles. The lanes will have advanced readers to identify GNSS vehicles.

Textile sector hails **QCO** relaxation

The Hindu Bureau COIMBATORE

The textile industry has welcomed the relaxation of the mandatory Quality Control Order (QCO) for polyester fibre, filament yarn and spun yarn imported under advance authorisation scheme by

EoUs and SEZ industries. In a press release, Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) Chairman S.K. Sundararaman said the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) issued QCO for polyester staple fibres, various filament yarns and spun yarn in a notification dated April 15, 2021 mandating every user to purchase the products only

Applications submitted by foreign firms for licences were pending before the BIS authorities impacting exporters Mr. Sundararaman welcomed the relaxation of QCO norms for import of viscose fibre and extending the relaxation for polyester staple fibre,

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORA (Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patial

rate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813) Website: www.pspcl.ii Mobile No. 96461-55525

E-Tender Enq. No. 525/P-3/EMPW-12621 dated 06.06.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3), GGSSTP, Roopnaga invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_121692_1 for Break-down/ Preventive maintenance & Overhauling of Bowl Mills (i.e. XRP-803 and HP-803), Raw Coal Feeders, mill reject system & its auxiliaries, preventive/ breakdown maintenance of coal pipes, removal/ clearing of mills reject, raw coal/coal dust from mills & R.C. Feeders areas, transportation of mill reject, coal dust etc from mill area to CHP yard for four units i.e. 4x210MW (Unit no. 3 to 6) of BHEL make at GGSSTP, Rupnaga

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated. 06.06.24/11:00AM onwards Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published online a https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-35/24 76155/12/2879/2023/34274

NJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd, Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mail Patiala Short Term Tender Enquiry No.: Q-4024/24-25/PO-T/CE-MM Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites Short Term E-tender of 50 Nos., Three Phase, 500 kVA, ISI Marked, EEL-2/Star-2, oil immersed, CRGO/ Amorphous core, Copper wound, distribution transformers complete with fitting as per PSPCL specifications & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 08.06.2024 onwards. Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online a https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C 269/24 76155/12/2890/2023/34305 •••

e-Tender No. C4-DM300/2024

CMRL invites open e-tender through Government e Marketplace (GeM) from reputed, experience, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through National Oper Competitive Tender (NOCT) under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technica and Financial) items wise evaluation for the Design, Manufacturing Supply. Installation, Testing & Commissioning for below mentioned Depot Machinery / Equipment works & associated Infrastructure works in Poonamallee Depot.

1) Bogie Turn Table

2) Bogie Testing Unit

Please visit website: https://gem.gov.in for further information

DIPR/1763/Tender/2024 Chief General Manager (RS / S&T)

होटल प्रबन्ध और खानपान प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान

(पर्यटन मंत्रालय के अधीन का स्वायत्त निकाय, भारत सरकार)

कोवलम, तिरूवनन्तपुरम, केरल

INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY

(AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER MINISTRY OF TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

KOVALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA PH:0471-2480283, www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in

REQUIRES

1) TEACHING ASSOCIATE

(On Contract) – Six Nos. (Food Production, F&B Service, House Keeping and **Accommodation Operations)**

2) Contract Faculty – Three Nos

(Accounts, Management Subjects & Yoga)

For eligibility conditions, application form and other details, please visit: www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in

Last date for receipt of application is on or before 20.06.2024.

Advt. 04/2024

PRINCIPAL

A ND-NDE



from BIS licence holders in local and export markets.

filament and spun yarn.

DUBAI

Yemen's Shia Houthi rebels detain 11 UN employees, officials say



Eleven Yemeni employees of United Nations agencies have been detained by Yemen's Houthi rebels under unclear circumstances, authorities said on Friday, as the rebels face increasing financial pressure and air strikes from a U.S.-led coalition. Others working for aid groups also likely have been taken.

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia destroys nearly 140 houses of of sea nomads



Malaysian security forces have destroyed nearly 140 houses belonging to an indigenous sea-dwelling community off Borneo island, a local government ministry said on Friday. Activists have condemned the action against the Bajau Laut. A rights NGO, Pusat KOMAS said that the Bajau Laut "face systemic discrimination". AFP

TOKYO

Japan lodges protest over China vessels near disputed islands



Tokyo lodged a protest with Beijing on Friday after four Chinese vessels that were believed to be armed approached Japan-controlled disputed islands in the East China Sea. The incident was "the first time four (Chinese) ships entered Japanese waters" around the Senkaku islands. Yoshimasa Havashi said. AP

PORT SUDAN

Sudan activists say about '40 dead' in shelling near Khartoum



Pro-democracy activists in Sudan reported on Friday that about 40 people were killed in "violent artillery fire" carried out the previous day by paramilitary forces on Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city. Sudan has been ravaged by war since 2023, when fighting broke out between the Army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. AFP

There is no such thing as 'president' of the Taiwan region: China Embassy

Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory; the government in Beijing is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, says the Embassy in Delhi, days after the self-ruled island's leader congratulated Prime Minister Modi

Suhasini Haidar Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

day after the Chinese Foreign Ministry objected to an exchange of congratulatory messages between Taiwanese President William Lai Ching-te and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chinese Embassy here reiterated Beijing's objection and declared Taiwan is an "inalienable part" of China. The protest by the Chinese mission came two days after Taiwan's President congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"There is no such thing as 'president' of the Taiwan region. Taiwan is an

William Lai Ching-te celebrating his election victory in Taipei, Taiwan in January. AP

inalienable part of China's territory. The Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. This is an undeniable fact, a universal consensus of the international community and a

basic norm in international

relations," said the Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India in a social media post on X. Several global leaders congratulated Mr. Modi after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a

Sabha election. On June 5, President Lai congratulated Mr. Modi on X, expressing Taiwan's resolve to expand partnership with India "on trade, technology and other sectors. Responding to the message, Mr. Modi thanked the Taiwanese leader and expressed hope for "closer ties" that would enhance "mutually beneficial economic and technological partnership." The Prime Minister did not address Mr. Lai as 'President'.

majority in the recent Lok

In response to a question from the media in Beijing about the exchange between the Taiwanese President and Mr. Modi, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday, "First of all, there is no such thing as 'president' of the Taiwan region." She said India has made "serious political commitments" about Beijing's long-held position on Taiwan.

Taiwan hits back

On Friday, Taiwanese Foreign Ministry hit back at Beijing saying, "China's outrage at a cordial exchange between the leaders of two democracies is utterly unjustified. Threats & intimidation never foster friendships. Taiwan remains dedicated to building partnerships with India underpinned by mutual

benefit and shared values."

As war enters ninth month, Israel pounds Gaza refugee camp



Saving life: Palestinians flee Rafah amid an Israeli military operation in the southern Gaza city on Friday. REUTERS

Agence France-Presse PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Israeli forces bombarded a Gaza refugee camp on Friday after a deadly strike on a UN-run school there, as the war sparked by Hamas's unprecedented attack on Israel entered its ninth month.

The conflict has killed thousands, laid waste to much of the Gaza Strip, uprooted most of its 2.4 million population and put them at risk of starvation.

Efforts to mediate the first ceasefire since a weeklong pause in November appear to have stalled, only a week after U.S. President Joe Biden offered a new roadmap. Hamas has yet to respond to Mr. Biden's proposal, while Israel has expressed openness to discussions but remains committed to destroy the Palestinian Isla-

Trump wants appeals court to reverse his conviction

Associated Press PHOENIX

Donald Trump returned to the campaign trail on Thursday with a trip to Arizona, his first appearance in a battleground state since he was convicted in a hush money scandal, repeating his critiques of the case against him as politically motivated and calling for his conviction to be overturned on appeal.

"Those appellate courts have to step up and straighten things out or we're not going to have a country anymore," Mr. Trump said at a Phoenix town hall organised by Turning Point, a conservative youth organisation.

Mr. Trump is expected to appeal last month's conviction on all 34 charges in his New York hush money trial, in which he became the first former American President to be convicted of felony crimes.

Mr. Trump's conviction infuriated his supporters, who pumped tens of millions of dollars into his campaign. He blames his conviction on President Joe Biden, and his allies are calling for revenge. "What are they going to campaign on?" Juan Arredondo of Peoria, Arizona said of the Democrats as he waited to get inside Mr. Trump's rally. "They can't campaign on the border. They can't campaign on the economy."

Russia's economy is growing even after sanctions, says Putin



Biden says sorry to Zelenskyy for holding up military aid

Associated Press



against Russia's invasion, and he thanked lawmakers for coming together to ap-

Associated Press ST. PETERSBURG

President Vladimir Putin said Friday that the Russian economy is growing despite heavy international sanctions and the country has expanded economic ties with countries in Africa, the West Asia and Asia, as he sought to court investors. Addressing the Presidents of Bolivia and Zimbabwe and business leaders at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, he said Russia "remains one of the key participants in world trade," despite the fact that the country is under sanctions for sending troops into Ukraine.

The forum has been used by Russia for decades

No

IPR/ 1791/TENDER/202

CM YK



as a showcase for touting the country's development, though Western officials and investors have steered clear of the session since sanctions cut off much of Russia's trade with Western Europe, the U.S. and their allies.

sia's economic growth is the fighting in Ukraine – now as important to the Kremlin economically as it is politically.



Vladimir Putin. AP

cond World War". had attended ceremonies

marking the 80th anniver-The main driver of Russary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, where Mr. Biden had drawn common cause between the allied forces that helped free Europe from Nazi Germany



tance that let Russia make

gains on the battlefield.

A day earlier, the two

The apology came as port Ukraine against Rus-Mr. Biden met in Paris with sia's invasion and Mr. Ze-Ukrainian President Vololenskyy had been greeted dymyr Zelenskyy, who apwith a rapt ovation. "I apologise for those pealed for bipartisan U.S. support going forward weeks of not knowing "like it was during the Se-

what's going to happen in terms of funding," Mr. Biden said, referring to the six-month holdup by conservative Republicans in Congress to a \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine.

and today's effort to sup-

Mr. Zelenskyy pressed for all Americans to support his country's defence

prove the weapons package, which has allowed Ukraine to stem Russian advances in recent weeks. "It's very important that

in this unity, United States of America, all American people stay with Ukraine like it was during the Second World War," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

The United States is by far Kyiv's biggest supplier of wartime support, and Ukraine is trying to fend off an intense Russian offensive in eastern areas of the country. The push is focused on the Ukrainian border regions of Kharkiv and Donetsk, but Ukrainian officials say it could spread as Russia's bigger army seeks to make its advantage tell.

mist group. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit Is-

said the Nuseirat camp came under attack again as Gaza faced Israeli attacks from land, sea, and air. Israel's Army said on Friday it had killed 17 militants in Thursday's air

rael and key regional

partners Egypt, Jordan and

Qatar from Monday on his

eighth Middle East trip

since the war began, the

in Deir al-Balah, central Ga-

za, said at least 37 people

were killed in Thursday's

Israeli strike on the UN-run

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA,

said hundreds of displaced

Gazans were sheltering at

the school, which was "hit

without prior warning".

UN Secretary-General An-

tonio Guterres described

A day after the school

was struck, eyewitnesses

the strike as "horrific".

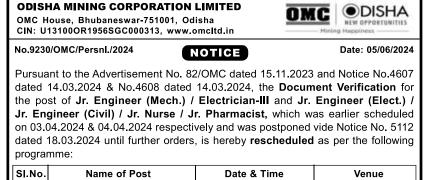
school in Nuseirat camp.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital

State Department said.

strike on a UN school in central Gaza, raising its previous toll from nine.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY <u>e -TENDER NOTICE No.</u> <u>EM/PED-11/2024</u> <u>No.EM/PED/TECH-63/2023/128.</u> <u>Dt. 04.06.24</u>	PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (Regd, Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala- 147001 Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813) Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-55525
Name of the work : "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Smart Energy Meters at Paradip Port Authority". Estimated Cost :Rs.1,10,79,900/ Last Date & time of submission of bid : Dt.24/06/2024 up to 16:30 Hrs.	E-Tender Enq. No. 528/P-3/EMPW-12665 dated 06.06.24 Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3), GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_121700_1 for Operation, Breakdown/ Preventive Mtc. and Overhauling of Wet Ash Handling Equipments of 4x210 MW units at GGSSTP Rupnagar.
Refer our website for details: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/ app. Executive Engineer (E), (PED-II) PPA/PR/09/2024-2025,0t.06/06/2024	For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated. 06.06.24/05:00PM onwards. Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-31/24 76155/12/2875/2023/34262



SI.No.	Name of Post	Date & Time	Venue
01	Jr. Engineer (Mech.)	21.06.2024	IDCOL Auditorium,
02	Electrician-III	10.00 AM to 01.00 PM	IDCOL House,
03	Jr. Engineer (Elect.)		Near IG Park,
04	Jr. Engineer (Civil)	22.06.2024	Unit-II,
05	Jr. Nurse	10.00 AM to 01.00 PM	Ashok Nagar,
06	Jr. Pharmacist		Bhubaneswar

The provisionally shortlisted candidates for Document Verification in respect of the post of Jr. Engineer (Mech.) / Jr. Engineer (Elect.) / Jr. Engineer (Civil) / Jr. Nurse / Jr. Pharmacist / Electrician-III, as notified vide Notice No.4608 dated 14.03.2024 {available in OMC website (https://omcltd.in)}, are advised to remain present for Document Verification along with the required documents (as notified vide Notice No.4608 dated 14.03.2024) as per the above schedule.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (P&A)

NB : The provisionally shortlisted candidates are advised to visit the OMCL's website (https://omcltd.in) regularly for further updates.

OIPR-30005/11/0020/2425

	OFFICE OF THE SU	JPERINTENDING ENGINE	EER PWD CIRCLE KOTA Date: 04-06-24		aavin' THE	(ALLA)
	0.004	Notice Inviting Bid	Date: 04-00-24			
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	• MA (Media Studies)	• PG Diploma in Public Health and Mass Communication
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CAD-178 :

Weekend Sport

If he wants to do it, I think he will be a very good candidate Sourav Ganguly Former India captain

Is Gautam **Gambhir the** right man to take India's reins?

The former opener has won trophies as both player and coach. So, it's no surprise that his name is doing the rounds as a probable successor to Rahul Dravid

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

n the all-encompassing gaze that surrounds cricket, practitioners of that sport often get slotted into convenient stereotypes. Grim, boisterous, classy and bohemian are some of the traits jostling in a long list. Gautam Gambhir, with his serious visage, is usually placed in that strict headmaster or serious first-bencher zone.

It is not that Gambhir cannot smile, he does, but soon he lapses into the world-is-on-myshoulders demeanour. And just like Ravi Shastri, often seen as a commentator with a booming voice and a man leading a rousing life, Gambhir too finds himself in a category where his behavioural attributes tend to overshadow who he really is.

Holding his own

For starters, Shastri was a fine cricketer, a batter with Test tons in England, Pakistan, the West Indies and Australia, a handy left-arm spinner, a winner of several accolades and a member of champion sides in the 1980s. Gambhir too held his own in an Indian batting line-up lit up by Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar,

and 97 respectively. India won both those titles and added heft to M.S. Dhoni's leadership.

I would love

to coach the

Indian team.

There is no

honour. You

representing

140 crore

Indians...

how can it

get bigger

than that?

GAUTAM

GAMBHIR

bigger

are

Yet, Gambhir's odd flashes of anger get highlighted, masking the basic fact that he was a solid player. His 436-ball 137 that helped India hold on to a draw against New Zealand in the Napier Test in 2009 is the stuff of legend. His Test career may have drawn to a close in 2016, as a tendency to fall over in his final batting stride made him vulnerable, but there is no mistaking the value Gambhir offered the Indian unit.

He stayed relevant, leading Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to two IPL titles and often topping the team's run-charts. Now in his current role as mentor, he has again galvanised KKR and guided Shreyas Iyer's men to the victor's podium. This is a man who has relished significant team-triumphs both as a player and as a coach. Consequently, it is no surprise that his name is doing the rounds as a probable successor to Rahul Dravid as the Indian team's coach.

But then again we get caught up about whether his lips crease into a smile! Many years ago, during his formative phase, Gambhir had come down to Bengaluru for a domestic game and in an impromptu meeting at the KSCA Clubhouse reception, he came across as this soft-spoken intense player. He was fully aware of what he wanted to do both as an individual and as a member of a team. Much like Dravid, Gambhir had this fierce focus, the sport consumed him.

be in a siege mentality just to dig into his inner reserves. Often rival teams lapsed into silence when the Aussie legend strode out to bat and that upset him. He wanted the rude word and the odd sledge.

Gambhir was akin to that; pin him against the wall, throw in some expletives and then watch him strike back. Sehwag's trigger may be old Hindi songs but for Gambhir, anger was a tool to unleash his inner gladiator. When it was still sheathed in velvet gloves, it was fine. But when euphemisms weren't adequate, he presented a nasty spectacle.

Equally, it didn't help when in his previous foray as a BJP MP, Gambhir got into slanging matches with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on X (formerly Twitter). The former star's words were vitriolic and the burning rage was too obvious. To reconcile this Gambhir with the one who spoke softly years ago and who always acknowledged a familiar face with a nod of his head was always difficult.

Still deep down he cared. Perhaps he felt slighted that in Indian cricket's leadership stakes he never got his due as the Dhoni era obliterated the captaincy ambitions of many fellow players. Others seemed to have made their peace but not Gambhir, who is just like Dravid, a man never comfortable with personality cults. The result was that at times Gambhir came across as petulant, like when he said one shot did not win India the World Cup. Everyone knew that it was a reference to Dhoni's winning six off Nuwan Kulasekara at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. This simmering rage at old slights, perceived or genuine, began to define the Gambhir persona. However, as a former player, he kept giving back to the game as a coach. Having gone through the ebb and flow of cricket, he does have empathy, which is essential to be a good mentor. He has stressed that it would be an honour to represent India again but in the garb of a coach.

An unforgiving job

Guiding the senior Indian squad can be cumbersome. John Wright used to jog more on days he got angry and later at night would quaff a beer and strum his guitar. Gary Kirsten did not reveal much, but was a firm hand on many a shoulder. Greg Chappell, being the alpha male he is, perhaps overplayed his role and the team's prima donnas got angry.

Even Anil Kumble, with his excellent work ethic, could not forge an ideal bond with the tempestuous Kohli, which Shastri managed. At 42, does Gambhir have the credentials? Yes he does. Does that mean he will be the perfect replacement for the retiring Dravid? We never know but let us not judge him on whether he smiles and offers sunshine. He isn't an Archies greeting card.

His last days as an international cricketer weren't great but the overall memory linked to him is that of a good player with the odd streaks of an all-consuming anger. Maybe a bit of that fire will be good in the Indian dressing room as long as it is within limits. Wright once held Sehwag by his collar - it is not ideal, but within a dressing room, reality and raw emotions are the eternal truths. Franchise owner Shah Rukh Khan's hug and forehead kiss to Gambhir after KKR won the latest IPL title in Chennai is perhaps a hint that beneath that outer coating of silence and storm, there may lurk a gentle love. Perhaps a trait only his peers, wards and a Bollywood superstar truly know.

Test Bowling

Plaver

VIJAY SONEJI

Sourav Ganguly and V.V.S. Laxman.

The former India opener, a left-hander adept at both stonewalling and scoring, may not have had the southpaw's effervescence that was intrinsic to Ganguly, but he was remarkably effective. 4,154 Test runs averaging 41.95 and an ODI yield of 5,238 runs at 39.68 do tell a distinguished tale. Importantly, be it the 2007 ICC World T20 final against Pakistan or the 2011 World Cup summit clash involving Sri Lanka, it was Gambhir who top-scored for India, with 75

A refuge and an outlet

Points Win

Sensitive to the world, he sought refuge in the game and at times it also became an outlet for him to vent. The run-ins with fellow Delhi lad Virat Kohli in IPL games is well chronicled. It is famously said of Steve Waugh that he preferred to

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

Player



Age	Points	Event

1	Novak Djokovic	37	9,960	18	R
2	Jannik Sinner	22	8,770	19	y
3	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,300	17	
4	Alexander Zverev	27	6,305	25	
5	Daniil Medvedev	28	6,295	19	
6	Andrey Rublev	26	4,700	24	
7	Casper Ruud	25	4,425	24	
8	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,885	24	
9	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,700	25	
10	Grigor Dimitrov	33	3,555	21	
11	Alex de Minaur	25	3,490	25	
12	Taylor Fritz	26	2,980	25	
13	Holger Rune	21	2,700	23	
14	Tommy Paul	27	2,655	24	
15	Ben Shelton	21	2,500	24	



mkumar Ramanathar Rank 95 🔻 1 spo Rank 329 🔺 14 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	lga Swiatek	22	11,695	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	26	8,138	17
3	Coco Gauff	20	7,638	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	5,673	19
5	Jessica Pegula	30	4,550	22
6	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,143	18
7	Maria Sakkari	28	3,980	24
8	Qinwen Zheng	21	3,945	21
9	Ons Jabeur	29	3,748	23
10	Danielle Collins	30	3,472	20
11	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,318	23
12	Madison Keys	29	3,283	16
13	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,258	24
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,983	25
15	Jasmine Paolini	28	2,898	27



YK

Points	Events	GOL
9,960	18	- Nour
8,770	19	1 1 1 1 1 1 1
		1000

	1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	169	5
1	2	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	138	1
/	3	Lando Norris	McLaren	113	1
	4	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	108	1
	5	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	107	0
	6	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	71	0
	7	George Russell	Mercedes	54	0
	8	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	42	0
	9	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	33	0
	10	Yuki Tsunoda	RB	19	0
	11	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	11	0
	12	Oliver Bearman	Ferrari	6	0
	13	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	6	0
	14	Daniel Ricciardo	RB	5	0
	15	Alex Albon	Williams	2	0
	16	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	1	0
	17	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	1	0
	18	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	1	0
	19	Zhou Guanyu	Sauber	0	0
	20	Valtteri Bottas	Sauber	0	0

Team

F1 Drivers' standings

Driver

en	Charles Leo

F1 Constructors' standings

		0	
Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Red Bull	276	5
2	Ferrari	252	2
3	McLaren	184	1
4	Mercedes	96	0
5	Aston Martin	44	0
6	RB	24	0
7	Haas	7	0
8	Williams	2	0
9	Alpine	2	0
10	Kick Sauber	0	0

adminton	Men's	ranking	
Plaver			

	,		
1	Viktor Axelsen	101,270	17
2	Shi Yu Qi	98,215	18
3	Jonatan Christie	91,727	19
4	Li Shi Feng	86,756	20
5	Anders Antonsen	84,081	23
6	Kodai Naraoka	82,497	21
7	Lee Zii Jia	75,486	24
8	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	75,058	18
9	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	74,635	19
10	Prannoy H. S.	71,102	20
11	Chou Tien Chen	66,127	31
12	Kenta Nishimoto	65,992	26
13	Loh Kean Yew	65,193	24
14	Lakshya Sen	61,718	21
15	Lu Guang Zu	58,791	22

Points



Points

Events



#	Player	Rati
1	Kane Williamson	85
2	Joe Root	82
3	Babar Azam	76
3	Daryl Mitchell	76
5	Steve Smith	75
6	Rohit Sharma	75
7	Yashasvi Jaiswal	74
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	73

	i tuyei	in a comp	eureer best		i tayei
1	Kane Williamson	859	919	1	R. Ashwin
2	Joe Root	824	923	2	Josh Hazlev
3	Babar Azam	768	882	2	Jasprit Bum
3	Daryl Mitchell	768	804	4	Kagiso Raba
5	Steve Smith	757	947	5	Pat Cummir
6	Rohit Sharma	751	813	6	Nathan Lyo
7	Yashasvi Jaiswal	740	740	7	Ravindra Ja
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	739	783	8	James Ande
9	Virat Kohli	737	937	9	Shaheen Af
10	Harry Brook	735	773	10	Kyle Jamies

1	R. Ashwin	870	904	
2	Josh Hazlewood	847	864	
2	Jasprit Bumrah	847	881	
4	Kagiso Rabada	834	902	
5	Pat Cummins	820	914	
6	Nathan Lyon	801	801	
7	Ravindra Jadeja	788	899	
8	James Anderson	739	903	
9	Shaheen Afridi	733	836	
10	Kyle Jamieson	729	836	

Rating Career best

00	I Batting		
#	Player	Rating	Care
1	Babar Azam	824	8
2	Shubman Gill	801	8
3	Virat Kohli	768	9
4	Harry Tector	746	7
4	Rohit Sharma	746	8
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	7
7	David Warner	723	8

Pathum Nissanka

Rassie van der Dussen 701

Dawid Malan

10

OD	I Bowling		
#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727
3	Adam Zampa	686	695
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
6	Mohammad Nabi	656	657
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760
9	Trent Boult	643	775
10	Bernard Scholtz	642	642
	# 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Keshav Maharaj Josh Hazlewood Adam Zampa Mohammed Siraj Jasprit Bumrah Mohammad Nabi Shaheen Afridi Kuldeep Yadav Trent Boult	#PlayerRating1Keshav Maharaj7162Josh Hazlewood6883Adam Zampa6864Mohammed Siraj6785Jasprit Bumrah6656Mohammad Nabi6567Shaheen Afridi6508Kuldeep Yadav643

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	795	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	766	875
4	Babar Azam	765	896
5	Aiden Markram	722	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Jos Buttler	713	724
8	Brandon King	702	687
9	Reeza Hendricks	685	674
10	Rilee Rossouw	661	915

711

707

T2	0I Bowling		
#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	715	715
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	681	681
3	Axar Patel	660	660
4	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
5	Josh Hazlewood	654	806
6	Maheesh Theekshana	651	684
7	Rashid Khan	649	816
8	Anrich Nortje	647	695
9	Akeal Hosein	641	683
10	Fazalhaq Farooqi	636	692

Badminton Women's ranking Player

3 4

5

Top

	An Se Young	111,417	16
	Chen Yu Fei	104,282	18
	Carolina Marin	93,736	17
	Tai Tzu Ying	92,221	20
	Akane Yamaguchi	86,607	14
	Wang Zhi Yi	80,865	21
	Han Yue	77,059	24
	He Bing Jiao	74,868	17
	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	73,862	22
0	Beiwen Zhang	68,556	24
1	Aya Ohori	63,007	24
2	P.V. Sindhu	62,602	19
3	Ratchanok Intanon	62,343	20
4	Kim Ga Eun	61,940	20
5	Supanida Katethong	60,734	28



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– THE HINDU –

Weekend Sport

Cole Palmer's star continues to rise

While the 22-year-old's skill, athleticism and ball-striking are eye-catching, it's his mental strength under pressure that suggests he could become a true world-beater

<u>Associated Press</u> <u>Agence France-Presse</u>

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ast month, Chelsea captain Reece James made a startling declaration. "Cole Palmer is one of the best in the world, I think personally," James said. "At [Manchester] City, he didn't play as much as he would like but he has come here and taken the chance with both hands."

Even accounting for the sort of hyperbole teammates sometimes bestow on one another, the compliment offered a sense of the impact Palmer has had at Stamford Bridge. With 22 goals and 11 assists in 33 Premier League games, he powered Chelsea out of the bottom half of the points table and into a qualification spot for the European Conference League.

Awing his mates

Palmer appeared genuinely surprised by James' compliment, saying: "I wouldn't go that far. But it's nice to hear. It's all new to me. This is my first season playing properly in the league."

James isn't the only footballer to be awed by Palmer's quality after a look at close quarters. Both Phil Foden and Kieran Trippier recently spoke about the 22-year-old's special talent.

"I always knew [Palmer] would have a brilliant career," City prodigy Foden said of his England and former City teammate. "You can see it straight away when you've got a top player. With Cole, it's effortless. Slows play down, shifts to the side, chops with fake shots. You can see the instinct straight away in a player. He was one of the best in the five-a-sides [in training]."

Newcastle full-back Trippier, who trained with Palmer this week as England prepares for the Euros, was similarly struck. "He's really surprised me, a top-quality player," said Trippier. "It's just how he finds the pockets [of space]. His awareness for where other people are and how clever he is for such a young age. I am really happy that I've trained with him, he's been quality."

While Palmer's skill, athleticism and ball-striking are eye-catching, it's his mental strength, especially his response to pressure, that suggests he could become a true world-beater.

In the 2023-24 season, he often stepped up in the most trying circumstances. In a very challenging environment at Chelsea – there was a lot of churn after the club spent £400 million to bring in 13 new players last year, with over £1 billion splashed out over the past two years – Palmer looked a class above his teammates, especially the new recruits. Mauricio Pochettino, who was sacked as Chelsea manager after the season, said Palmer had stood out from his teammates, thanks to his ability to deal with the pressures of playing for the London club. With fans turning on the manager and the club's US owners after a string of poor results, Palmer largely carried the Blues on his One of Cole's basic skills is his mentality, his capacity to deal with

the pressure. It's amazing the way he can deal with the pressure

manager

the pressure MAURICIO POCHETTINO Former Chelsea



I didn't expect the season to have gone as well as it did, but I'm just really thankful that it did. Let's hope it can continue COLE PALMER

shoulders and inspired the turnaround.

Thriving in adversity

"If you ask me about Palmer, not all the players have the same process to be settled at the club or to perform," Pochettino said during the season, when he was asked why the other players were struggling. "We are in a process that the main group, the main young players, struggle a little bit to deal with the pressure to play for Chelsea. One of Cole's basic skills is his mentality, his capacity to deal with the pressure. It's amazing the way he can deal with the pressure."

Indeed, Palmer thrived when his team needed him the most. Nowhere was this better illustrated than in the 4-3 home win over Manchester United in April, when he scored twice in stoppage time to complete a hat-trick and turn a madcap contest on its head. "He is a player with amazing talent, a player that understands the game. He has the quality and the talent to see the situation and to read the game in another aspect," Pochettino said.

The Blues looked a completely different side without Palmer. When the influential attacking midfielder was ruled out of the game against Arsenal, Chelsea was blown away 5-0 without appearing as if it could go toe-to-toe with its London rival.

Clearly, Palmer's surprise move from treblewinning City in 2023 has paid off. He scored for City in the Community Shield in August and again in the UEFA Super Cup but joined freespending Chelsea in a deal worth up to £42.5 million on transfer deadline day, September 1.

"I just thought for my career I have to get regular game-time," Palmer said. "It was a big move for me. I'd never been out of Manchester, not even on loan, so to move on my own was a big thing. Who knows what would have happened if I had stayed? Maybe I would have played more, maybe not. But I think the decision that I made to go to Chelsea so far is paying off."

It's ironic that Palmer, a United fan who came through the City youth ranks, has found his feet in London, not Manchester. And it's his performances at Chelsea that have catapulted him into the reckoning for a spot in the England team at the Euros. He opened his international goal account with a typically nerveless penalty in the warm-up win over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Man for the big stage?

Given Palmer's ability under pressure, he could be just what England needs on the big stage. He has already tasted international success – he was a part of a star-studded junior team that won the European Under-21 Championship last summer. His versatility – he can play as a No. 10, a rightsided attacking midfielder, a winger and, if needed, a striker – makes him a particularly attractive option for any international coach looking to cover multiple bases in a squad.

Both the summer and the 2024-25 season will test Palmer – players after a breakthrough season tend to be scouted more carefully and planned for, even as the expectations rise – but he appears to have both the physical and mental ability to face these challenges. "Personally, it's been a very good season for me," Palmer told Chelsea's official website. "I've enjoyed it. I didn't really have targets, but I had something in my head that if I did play then I would like 10 goals and 10 assists. That was after I started playing because I just wanted to play. I didn't expect this season to have gone as well as it has, but I'm just really thankful that it has. Let's hope it can continue."



GAME THEORY

Lethal sharpshooters: Spain and Italy

This week, we conclude our look at the highest goal-scorers in the top four European leagues in the 2023-24 season, with LaLiga and Serie A:

4

LAUTARO MARTÍNEZ DUSAN VLAHOVIC

SORLOT

LALIGA TOP SCORERS

					1000
Player	Club	Appearances	xG	Goals	17.00
Artem Dovbyk	Girona	36	23.94	24	
Alexander Sorloth	Villarreal	34	14.37	23	A + 5 -
Jude Bellingham	Real Madrid	28	11.7	19	Pistol I
Robert Lewandowski	Barcelona	35	18.85	19	
Ante Budimir	Osasuna	33	15.48	17	6
Antoine Griezmann	Atletico	33	13.11	16	
Youssef En-Nesyri	Sevilla	33	12.7	16	
Alvaro Morata	Atletico	32	16.02	15	
Borja Mayoral	Getafe	27	11.76	15	and the second
Vinicius Junior	Real Madrid	26	15.64	15	and the second second
					6

SERIE A TOP SCORERS

YK

Player	Club	Appearances	xG	Goals
Lautaro Martínez	Inter	33	18.78	24
Dusan Vlahovic	Juventus	33	18.01	16
Olivier Giroud	AC Milan	35	15.48	15
Victor Osimhen	Napoli	25	16.85	15
Albert Gudmundsson	Genoa	35	10.18	14
Hakan Calhanoglu	Inter	32	10.1	13
Marcus Thuram	Inter	35	14.82	13
Paulo Dybala	Roma	28	11.58	13
Romelu Lukaku	Roma	32	12.38	13
Christian Pulisic	AC Milan	36	8.42	12
Duvan Zapata	Torino	35	13.02	12
Gianluca Scamacca	Atalanta	29	7.92	12
Nicolas Gonzalez	Fiorentina	29	11.25	12
Teun Koopmeiners	Atalanta	34	7.32	12

Note: xG is expected goals, a metric designed to measure the probability of a shot resulting in a goal | SOURCE: WHOSCORED.COM



With Cole, it's effortless.

Slows play down, shifts

to the side, chops with

fake shots. You can see

away in a player. He is

one of the best in the

the instinct straight



Guts and grit

The FIM Motocross World Championship, the premier competition for motocross racing, is closing in on seven decades, having been flagged off in 1957.

The championship originally featured three classes (engine capacity: 125cc, 250cc, 500cc). With the more environmentfriendly four-stroke engine technology growing in prominence in the noughties, the championship switched to two classes: MXGP and MX2. MXGP, depicted in this

photograph, is open to riders of any age and allows machinery

•••

ranging from 250cc two-strokes to 450cc four-strokes. MX2, on the other hand, is for riders younger than 23 and features machinery from 125cc two-strokes to 250cc four-strokes. Motocross is an off-road motorsport, contested on natural tracks consisting of man-made obstacles and jumps. As a result, rider skill and fitness play a defining role, with some experts contending that these factors are more instrumental to success than machine performance. The 2024 MXGP calendar comprises 20 rounds, with races in Asia and South America, in addition to European venues.



AFP

STAYING GROUNDED

Our focus would be on playing India now: USA skipper Monank



USA skipper Monank Patel is certain that the epochal T20 World Cup win over Pakistan will open "many doors" for them, but wants to keep emotions in check and focus on the next assignment against India. "I am happy with the win against Pakistan. Our focus would be on playing against India now," Monank said.

TIME TO INTROSPECT

Babar admits that Pakistan took things 'a little lightly' against USA



Stunned by USA in the T20 World Cup, an upset Pakistan captain Babar Azam conceded that his side was guilty of taking things "a little lightly" and failed to come good in any department. "When you come to a tournament, you do the best preparation. When you play a team like this, you tend to take things a little lightly," he said.

WELL PREPARED

Will leave no stone unturned in ensuring safety: Nassau officials



K.R. DEEPAK

All measures — including increased patrol and inter-departmental security detail - are in place to ensure the safe conduct of the high-profile ICC Men's T20 World Cup India-Pakistan clash on Sunday at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, Nassau County officials stated.

TOP EFFORT

Skipper Berrington guides Scotland past Namibia



Richie Berrington hit an unbeaten 47 to guide Scotland to a five-wicket win over Namibia in its T20 WC game in Barbados. The scores: Namibia 155/9 in 20 overs (Erasmus 52, Green 28, Wheal 3/33) lost to Scotland 157/5 in 18.3 overs (Berrington 47 n.o., Leask 35); Toss: Namibia; PoM: Leask.

A self-assured Hardik bodes well for India

The all-rounder hit the ground running with a three-wicket haul against Ireland; the Mumbai Indians skipper says he is happy to start the tournament on a good note

T20 WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

ardik Pandya has had it tough in the last few months. Troubles began when his move from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indians for IPL 2024 did not go down well with MI fans.

The all-rounder, who was lauded as an astute skipper for taking GT to the IPL title in 2022, had replaced fan favourite Rohit Sharma at the helm. Supporters made their displeasure known, booing Hardik during matches.

The noise is bound to have affected Hardik, who performed poorly with bat and ball in the tournament.

There were fears that Hardik's slump would continue when he wore the national jersey at the T20 World Cup. His spot as the all-rounder was especially crucial to the team balance



Vital cog: Hardik being in form — after a tough IPL 2024 — is crucial for team balance. K.R. DEEPAK

him, but Hardik did his part by landing it consiscomeback was complete. tently in the right areas. The tough times in IPL His first scalp came with 2024 forced Hardik to in-

a classic inswinger which trospect. foxed Lorcan Tucker. A "I'm very happy to start a good note Everything hint of away swing next up proved too good for Curtis Campher.

The early stage of the bcci.tv. India batting coach Vikram Rathour was pleased to have a fit-andfiring Hardik ready for du-

"Hardik looked really good. He's been bowling

England needs to fire on all cylinders against Australia

<u>Ayan Acharya</u> BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Every sport thrives on rivalries and such competitions become the lifeblood of the game. Australia versus England is one of them.

A new chapter in this rivalry is set to be written at the Kensington Oval on Saturday when the two clash in a Group-B game.

England bowler Mark Wood has already said that the meeting with Australia is "huge" after his team's washout against Scotland. On the other hand, Australia registered a 39-run win over Oman in its opener.

The key match-up on Saturday will be the one between Travis Head and the pace duo of Wood and Jofra Archer. Head, who had a scintillating IPL campaign with Sunrisers Hyderabad where he even smashed а 39-ball hundred, has shown that he has the ability to treat all deliveries with equal disdain. Since the left-hander tends to stay leg-side of the ball, the English quicks could look to bowl slightly full on a leg-stump line with protection at deep square-leg and long-on during the PowerPlay. This



Raring to go: Starc, who had an IPL to remember, will look to deliver big against archrival England. GETTY IMAGES

Today's matches



full deliveries to disrupt Head's rhythm.

Jos Buttler's side is packed with power-hitters from one to eight. The

start before teeing off. Given the bevy of right-handers in the English ranks. Australia might consider playing left-arm spinner

17

Gordon. AP

Canada holds its nerve, shocks Ireland

Agence France-Presse NEW YORK

Canada won its first T20 World Cup match when it stunned Ireland by 12 runs in a Group-A game on Friday. Defending a score of 137, the non-Test nation bowled and fielded well to hold Ireland to 125 for seven.

Ireland collapsed spectacularly to 59 for six and needed 64 runs from five overs for a win. George Dockrell and Mark Adair reduced the target to 17 off the last six balls. But Canada's Jeremy Gordon held his nerve, conceding just three runs and dismissing Adair with the second ball of the 20th over.

Much to the relief of Indian fans, Hardik delivered

with the ball in the opening game against Ireland here. The pitch no doubt aided

Mark Adair fell soon after, giving Hardik satisfying returns of three for 27.

falls into place for people who work hard.

"I had to spend time within myself and identify who I was," Hardik told

really well. He looks fit enough to go through four overs, and he's been bowling with pace and some accuracy," Rathour said.

be a midwicket fielder as a catching option for mistimed shots – could prove effective. Wood and Archer could also vary the pace on

strategy – there could also

make-up of the top three -Phil Salt will open and Will Jacks will walk in at No. 3 – will allow the England skipper to be watchful at the

Ashton Agar. The match will be played on a fresh pitch which is expected to fa-

The scores: Canada 137/7 in 20 overs (Kirton 49, Movva 37, Young 2/32, McCarthy 2/24) bt Ireland 125/7 in 20 overs (Dockrell 30 n.o., Adair 34, Gordon 2/16, Heyliger 2/18); Toss: Ireland; PoM: Kirton.

Mental scars will remain for Pakistan after USA game: Sidhu



Cannot wait... Sidhu, Balaji and Harbhajan share their views ahead of Sunday's India-Pakistan clash. K.R. DEEPAK

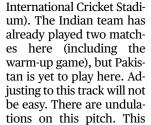
Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

international Former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu believes that India holds the edge over Pakistan in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash which will be held here on Sunday.

"On their day, Pakistan can beat the best in the world. But there are other factors to consider. Pakistan has lost to the USA. The mental scars will remain," former India batter Sidhu said in a 'Press Room' initiative hosted by Star Sports.

"Pakistan will also have to adjust to conditions at this venue (Nassau County

YK (



will play on the mind of batters," Sidhu said. The 60-year-old did not

agree with the view that the tricky New York pitch is a poor advertisement for cricket in the USA. "This is the first time

that we are seeing the ball dominate, and not the bat. So what are you complaining about? This is the real test. Take it as a challenge," said Sidhu.

Netravalkar living the dream as the toast of the cricket world

Amol Karhadkar

He has worn India's blues, albeit in an Under-19 World Cup, with K.L. Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Harshal Patel and Javdev Unadkat as his teammates. He has proudly adorned the Lion's Crest – the famed Mumbai cricket logo - in all three formats. He has played with Yuvraj Singh, against Virat Kohli and Rahul Dravid and has the likes of Rahul and Joe Root in his illustrious list of dismissals.

He is also a software developer for an IT giant, based in California.

Saurabh Netravalkar has been combining two dreams, even after relocating to USA to pursue academics at the prestigious Cornell University in 2015. On Thursday night, Ne-

travalkar emerged the toast of the cricket world, starring in the co-host's stunning victory against former champion Pakistan to set the T20 World Cup alight.

If his figures of 4-0-18-2 had been instrumental in restricting Pakistan to 159 for seven up front, Netravalkar - the left-arm pacer - came back to defend 18 runs in the Super Over, conceding 13 to complete a dream that he had cherished for a long time.



Serious business: Netravalkar has been combining two dreams – even after relocating to USA to study at Cornell University. GETTY IMAGES

Netravalkar and his colleagues had been eyeing such performance for the last couple of years. "Do not consider us as alsorans. We are seriously targetting making the Super Eights first up and then we'll take it from there," Netravalkar had told The Hindu last month.

While a majority of Indian representation in USA's team is dominated by a group of professional cricketers who have relocated to further their cricket career, Netravalkar - being from the slightly older generation – is an exception.

In fact, when he boarded a flight from Mumbai for his master's nine years ago, he had not even packed his

cricketing kit. With playing international cricket for India continually becoming a distant dream, Netravalkar - an IT engineer - chose to keep cricket behind and prioritise academics.

"I never thought I would be able to play competitive cricket again when I came here for masters but I started working and came to California, I was introduced to the weekend league culture and the cricket bug bit me harder. All those six- or eight-hour car drives at the start of my stint in the USA are worth it now that I am playing the World Cup. I wanted to play for India but nevertheless, I will be playing against India," he says.

Alcaraz outduels Sinner to reach French Open final

vour the batters.

Associated Press PARIS

Carlos Alcaraz reached his first French Open final by beating Jannik Sinner 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 on Friday, making the 21-year-old from Spain the youngest man to reach a Grand Slam title match on three surfaces.

Alcaraz won the U.S. Open in 2022 on hard courts, Wimbledon in 2023 on grass and now will play for the championship on the red clay at Roland Garros.

Sinner entered the semifinals with a 13-0 record in Grand Slam play in 2024 after winning the Australian Open in January. But the 22year-old Italian also showed up in Paris with a lingering hip injury that forced him to sit out the clay-court tournament in Rome last month.

Against Sinner, Alcaraz kept falling behind and kept turning things around. Before dealing with some physical issues that required multiple visits from a trainer, Sinner led by a break and a set at 2-0 in the second. Alcaraz then took five games in a row and evened things.

Alcaraz also was troubled in the third set, flexing

•••

caraz was on his way.

Both he and Sinner are seen as the future of men's tennis. The present isn't too chants of each man's first name from the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd.

Incredible battle: Alcaraz, trailing at one stage, turned the tables on Sinner in an epic five-setter. GETTY IMAGES

his right hand as it began to cramp, and Sinner went up two sets to one. But Alcaraz never wavered.

In the fifth set, Alcaraz moved out front by sliding until he could reach across his body to snap a backhand passing winner for a break point. A forehand winner – one of his 30 in the match – made it 2-0 at the three-and-a-half-hour mark, earning a yell of "Vamos!" from his coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Soon, it was 3-0, and Al-

shabby, either. Even though this was not necessarily the most aesthetically pleasing of their nine head-to-head meetings - Sinner now leads 5-4 – and they combined for 102 unforced errors, there were moments of brilliance that generated duelling clap-accompanied

THE HINDU **Sport**

NBRIÐR

18



Celtics overpower Mavericks in game one of NBA Finals

Kristaps Porzingis returned from a 10-game absence to record 20 points off the bench as the Boston Celtics snuffed a second-half rally to beat the Dallas Mavericks 107-89 on Thursday night in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. Jaylen Brown led the Celtics with 22 points while Jayson Tatum chipped in with 16 points and Derrick White netted 15 points.

Lakshya bows out in the last eight in Indonesia Open

India's challenge ended at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament with Lakshya Sen bowing out in the quarterfinals in Jakarta on Friday. Lakshya, ranked 14th in the world, fought hard before going down 22-24, 18-21 against World No. 5 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in 61 minutes. Antonsen now enjoys a 3-2 head-to-head record against the Indian.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Indonesia Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 10.30 a.m

Hockey: Pro League, India vs Germany (Women), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 2.30 p.m.;India vs Germany, 9.30 p.m. Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.

T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. 10.30 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Sunday) Formula One: Canadian GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro

App & FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Swiatek takes on Paolini in a bid to extend her Paris reign

The Pole has won both the previous meetings with the 12th seed, although the last of those was at the 2022 US Open and the Italian is enjoying by far the best year of her career



Gunning for glory: Swiatek has won all four of her previous Grand Slam finals and will bid to extend that run against Paolini. GETTY IMAGES

FRENCH OPEN Agence France-Presse PARIS

Garros.

the journey is similar.

That's obviously really nice

anybody to compare me to

Rafa because for me he's

above everybody, and he's

years, but I'm proud of my-

self that I'm playing consis-

tently here and that I'm

mentioned in the same

sentence as Rafa. That's

"We'll see in couple of

"I would never expect

for me," said Swiatek.

a total legend.

ga Swiatek goes into Saturday's French Open final as the overwhelming favourite in her quest for a third successive Roland Garros title against surprise challenger Jasmine Paolini of Italy.

Swiatek, the World No. 1 from Poland, is attempting to become the fourth woman in the Open era to lift the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen four times - after Justine Henin, Chris Evert and Steffi Graf.

Carlsen defeats Firouzja, stays in

lead; Pragg beats Caruana

Only two have won the cool." French Open three years in The 23-year-old Swiatek a row - Henin (2005-07) has won all four of her preand Monica Seles (1990-92) vious Grand Slam finals - but Swiatek's supremacy and will bid to extend that

on the clay in Paris has atrun against Paolini. Swiatek has won both tracted comparisons with Rafael Nadal, winner of 14 her previous meetings with men's titles and who holds 12th seed Paolini, although a 112-4 record at Roland the last of those was at the 2022 US Open and the Italian is enjoying by far the "We'll see in 14 years if

best year of her career. Paolini, 28, will be appearing in her first Grand Slam final after defeating Australian

compatriot

Maria Sharapova.

January.

Open

Errani lost the 2012 final to

Paolini is the first Italian

woman through to a Grand

Slam final since Flavia Pen-

netta beat Roberta Vinci to

"I was watching the oth-

er Italians make it in the fi-

nals, and also won Grand

Slams, but (to) imagine

that can be myself was

win the 2015 US Open.

Russian 17-year-old sensation Mirra Andreeva in the last four. That came after she knocked out former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, the only player to beat Swiatek on clay this season.

It is an astonishing transformation for a player who had never gone beyond the second round of a major before the start of this year. tough," said Paolini.

The World No. 15 had

SNAPSHOTS

Divya goes into the sole lead at World juniors

Top seed Divya Deshmukh defeated Ayan Allahverdiyeva to move into the sole lead at the end of the sixth round of the World junior girls' chess championship at Gandhinagar on Friday. She has 5.5 points.

Important results (sixth round): Open: Jose Gabriel

(Pol) 4.5 drew with Sachi Jain 4.5; Narmin Abdinova (Aze) 5 bt bt V. Rindhiya 4; Lucia Striskova (Svk) 4 lost to Rakshitta Ravi 4.5; Mrudul Dehankar 3.5 lost to Sofia Hryzlova (Sui) 4.5; Anna Zhurova (FIDE) 4.5 bt Oshini Gunawardhana 3.5: Lala Shohradova (Tkm) 4 drew with Anastasia Grozdanovic (Srb) 4.

Sift Kaur strikes bronze in Munich

Jon-Hermann Hegg (Nor) 449.9 (595); 8. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 408.9 (592): 40. Swapnil Kusale 586. RPO: Akhil Sheoran 590; Niraj Kumar 590. Women: 1. Seonaid Mcintosh (GBR) 466.7 (593); 2. Han Jiayu (Chn) 462.6 (596 EWR); 3. Sift Kaur Samra 452.9 (593); 19. Ashi Chouksey 590; 26. Anjum Moudgil 589. RPO: Nischal 588.

Sakshi Padekar 458.0 (579), 3. Nupur Kumrawat 443.6 (573).

Antim and Anshu in finals of Budapest wrestling

Antim Panghal (53kg) and Anshu Malik (57kg) entered their respective finals, while Vinesh Phogat (50kg) finished outside the medal brackets in the **Ranking Series wrestling**

Formula One test S. Dipak Ragav year. CHENNAI The driver from Benga-It was the day Kush Maini luru said he felt pressure going into the test, trying

Kush buoyant

after maiden

had been waiting for since he started racing, and it came true on Wednesday when he tested a 2022 Alpine F1 car at the Red Bull Ring in Austria.

"It was amazing. An F1 car is a fine piece of engineering, giving the driver confidence to get up to speed easily. In a way, it is easier to drive the F1 car as you can tweak many settings," said Kush, who is part of the Alpine Young Driver Academy.

won a total of four matches "In the first session, I in 16 Grand Slam appeawas able to hit my targets a rances before advancing to lot quicker than I thought the fourth round of the and in the second session, I was pushing and almost in right on pace," added the 23-year-old currently com-Now she is one win away from an improbable peting in Formula 2.

title as she tries to emulate The test comes at a time Francesca when Alpine F1 has a va-Schiavone, who won the cant seat for 2025, with Es-2010 French Open. Paoliteban Ocon set to leave the ni's doubles partner Sara team at the end of this

ween going quick while not making mistakes. "It was almost like make or break because F1 teams don't have a lot of time, so you can't afford to have a crash. Having a successful test and Alpine being happy with my feedback and professionalism brings me closer. If I am in the fight for the F2 title, I can be a serious contender." Though Kush started the F2 season strongly with

to find the balance bet-

two podiums, he has had a poor run in the last two races but is hopeful of turning it around as it holds the key to his future. "Alpine knows I am capable, but you still have to show the world, and that's where I have a chance in F2," said Kush.

(FIA F2 championship is live on Fancode)



Revving it up: Kush testing the 2022 Alpine F1 car at the Red Bull **Ring. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

Nagal enters semifinals in Germany

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sumit Nagal beat Ivan Gaikhov 6-1, 7-6(4) in the quarterfinals of the €120,950 Challenger tennis tournament in Heilbronn, Germa-

Sports Bureau

CHESS

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen beat Alireza Firouzja of France in the penultimate round of the Norway Chess tournament at Stavanger on Thursday. After the classical game was drawn, the local superstar won in Armageddon with black pieces in 46 moves to increase his lead at the top of the table.



ny, on Friday

Other results: €120,950 Challenger, Heilbronn, Germany: Pre-quarterfinals: Nagal bt Javier Cosano (Esp) 6-4,

6-1 \$25,000 ITF men, Cordoba,

Spain: Doubles: Semifinals: Siddhant Banthia & Tennyson Whiting (USA) bt Pedro Marcos & Benjamin Lopez (Esp) 6-3, 4-6, [10-6]

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: Quarterfinals: Manish

Sureshkumar bt Nicolas Ifi (Bel) 6-2.7-5.

Women: Quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Salakthip Ounmuang (Tha) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

\$60,000 ITF women, Sumter, USA: Pre-quarterfinals: Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Katrina Scott (USA) 6-4, 2-6, 6-1.

\$40,000 ITF women, Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal: **Ouarterfinals:** Eudice Chong (Hkg) bt Ankita Rain 6-3. 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Madrid: Doubles: Ouarterfinals: Ana Candiotto (Bra) & Anastasia Iamachkine (Per) bt Luiz Fullana (Bra) & Madhurima Sawant 3-6, 6-3, [10-5].

\$15,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: First round: Saumya Vig bt Amanda Elkin (Mex) 2-6, 6-2, [12-10]; Sharmada Balu bt Karolina Lincer (Pol) 2-6, 6-2. [10-6]; Riya Bhatia bt Maria Uribe (Col) 6-2, 7-5.

Maan wins singles title

Sports Bureau

Maan Kesharwani beat Oges Theyjo 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 in the ₹250,000 AITA men's tennis final in Panchgani on Friday. Aditya Balsekar and Dharmil Shah beat Abhinansu Borthakur and Vilasier Khate 5-7, 6-1, [10-6] in the doubles final.

Carlsen moved to 16 points, 1.5 more than the second placed Hikaru Nakamura of the United States.

The day's other game was also decided by Armageddon as R. Praggnanandhaa defeated Fabiano Caruana of the United States. The Chennai teenager was in third position with 13 points.

World champion Ju Wenjun of China retained her lead in the women's



Welcome win: World champion Ding, who is at the bottom of the table, got the better of second-placed Nakamura. NORWAY CHESS

event. She beat Koneru (9) and Cramling (6.5). Humpy in Armageddon and was on 16 points. The results (ninth round):

Ju's compatriot Lei Ting-Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 12 jie, who defeated R. Vaishlost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 16; ali in the classical game, Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 14.5 lost and Ukraine's Anna Muzhto Ding Liren (Chn) 6; Fabiano chuk, who overcame Pia Caruana (USA) 10.5 lost to R. Cramling of Sweden in Ar-Praggnanandhaa 13. mageddon, were in joint Women: Lei Tingjie (Chn) 14.5 bt second place with 14.5

points each.

R. Vaishali 11.5; Koneru Humpy 9 lost to Ju Weniun (Chn) 16: Pia Vaishali was on 11.5 Cramling (Swe) 6.5 lost to Anna points, followed by Humpy Muzychuk (Ukr) 14.5.

Cardoso (Col) 5 drew with Kazybek Nogerbek (Kaz) 5; Aleksey Grebnev (FIDE) 4.5 drew with Daniel Quizon (Phi) 4.5; Vuppala Praneeth 4.5 drew with Pranav Anand 4.5; Mayank Chakraborty 4 lost to Rudik Makarian (FIDE) 5; Marius Fromm (Ger) 4.5 drew with Rudik Makarian (FIDE) 4.5; L.M.S.T. De Silva (SL) 5 bt Jan Sbuelj (Slo) 3.5; Gleb Dudin (Hun) 4.5 bt Simon Rybka (Slo) 3.5; Emin Ohanyan (Arm) 4.5 bt Aleksandr Domalchuk-Jonasson (Isl) 3.5; Artiom Stribuk (FIDE) 4.5 bt L.R. Srihari 3.5; Mamikon Gharibyan (Arm) 4.5 bt Tarun Kanyamarala (Irl) 3.5. Girls: Ayan Allahverdiyeva (Aze) 4.5 lost to Divya Deshmukh 5.5;

Mrittika Mallick 4 lost to Mariam Mkrtchvan (Arm) 5: Beloslava Krasteva (Bul) 4 lost to Ksenia Norman (FIDE) 5; Martyna Wikar

Asian Games gold medallist Sift Kaur Samra shot the bronze in women's rifle 3-position event in the World Cup which concluded in Munich, Germany, on

Friday. Sift missed the chance to win the silver medal by 0.1 point to Han Jiayu of China who had shot a world record equalling 596 in qualification.

The eventual gold medallist Seonaid Mcintosh of Britain was far too ahead to catch as she won with a 5.1 point margin.

The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Ole Halvorsan (Nor) 464.3 (594); 2. Istvan Peni (Hun) 464.1 (593); 3.

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for Vibhuti Vibhuti Bhatia beat Naamya Kapoor in both the women's and junior finals to clinch the gold in sports pistol in the 22nd Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal. Vibhuti beat Naamy 31-29 for the women's title and the more lively junior final 38-37.

Women: 1. Vibhuti Bhatia 31

Vibhuti 38 (580), 2. Naamya 37

1. Priva 461.4 (581), 2. Vidarsa

Prachi Gaikwad 461.6 (581), 2.

Vinod 461.1 (581), 3. Manini

(577), 3. Divanshi 27 (577).

Double delight

event in Budapest on Friday. Antim beat Uzbekistan's Sakbjamal Esbosynova 10-0 and Poland's Katarzyna Krawczyk 3-1 to set up a title clash with Sweden's Emma Jonna Malmgren. Anshu defeated Moldova's Anastasia Nichita 6-5 and Oi Zhang of China 2-1 to set a final date with Kexin Hong.

The results: 25m sports pistol: Vinesh got past Colombia's (580), 2. Naamya Kapoor 29 (577), Alisson Cardozo Rev 10-0 3. Divanshi 23 (577). Juniors: 1. before losing 5-0 to China's Asian Games bronze medallist Jiang 50m rifle 3-position: Women: Zhu. Zhu's exit in the next round ended the scope of Vinesh's second shot at a Kaushik 448.6 (581). Juniors: 1. medal.

Panghal to train in India for Paris Games

Y. B. Sarangi KOLKATA

Unlike most of the Olympicbound athletes, who opt to train abroad before the big event, boxer Amit Panghal prefers training in home conditions prior to Paris 2024.

A former World championships silver medallist and a World No. 1, Panghal won the 51kg quota place in the only chance he got. He wants to follow his own plans to script success in Paris.

"I will not go abroad. I find it difficult as far as food is concerned. I will train here with boxers from heavier weights because they have better endurance, speed, and power than me. If I can handle them here, I can handle my opponents in the Olympics," Panghal,



Game plan: Panghal feels that training with boxers from heavier weights will help him better handle his opponents in the Olympics.

sant experience during a

pre-Olympics camp in Italy

and performed below par

in the Tokyo Olympics in

2021 - trained with his bas-

ics coach Anil Dhankhar

and Cuban B.I. Fernandes.

food and training, especial-

ly with boxers with whom I

was going to fight, in the

past. There is no issue,

specifically with diet, when

"I had problems with

the Commonwealth Games champion, told *The Hindu*.

"I would like to do high altitude training, maybe at Shilaru for two-three weeks, to improve my fitness."

Instead of accompanying the rest of the Indian squad to Bangkok for a camp ahead of the second World Olympic qualifier, Panghal - who had unplea-

I train in India.

"I have been training with Fernandes. I had requested the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to let me train in India and they agreed. I was provided with sparring partners."

His customised training has helped Panghal analyse his game well and find ways to improve it. One such example is his success in cutting down the rest period between two rounds of a bout. "I have started taking a break of 40 seconds instead of one minute during the training. If you noticed, during the Olympic qualifier, I used to get up before the one-minute break was complete. The idea was that if I recovered in 40 seconds, I could be more relaxed over a minute during tournaments."

