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After being stranded at Dubai airport, wrestlers Deepak Punia (pic) & Sujeet Kalakal arrive late in Kyrgyzstan, forced to miss Asia Olympic qualifiers as they fail to report for weigh-ins on time, P 20



US House of Reps advances long-stalled \$95bn aid package for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Republican Speaker Mike Johnson relies heavily on Democrats to overcome blockade from conservatives within his own party, who may now try to remove him, P 17

US vetoes resolution in UN Security Council on Palestinian bid for full UN membership. Israel lauds the stand, Palestinian side calls it 'unfair, immoral & unjustified', P 17

D Gukesh (pic) produces another fantastic performance to regain a share of the lead but Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi out of contention after 12th round of Candidates Chess, P 20

Turnout touches 64% in Ph 1 of LS polls, against 66% in '19

A First: Polling Booths In 56 **Bastar Villages**

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The first phase of polling for the 2024 general election - covering the largest chunk of 102 Lok Sabha seats across 21 states and UTs witnessed an encouraging turnout of 63.5% (as of 11pm),

► EDIT PAGE: Young, Bored and Not Voting

while remaining largely smooth and peaceful even in vulnerable areas like the Naxalhit Bastar region and West Bengal. Violence was reported in Manipur which still managed a turnout of 70.8%.

The overall turnout for these seats in 2019 was 66%. barring delimited seats in Assam and Outer Manipur, a few assembly segments of which went to the polls in the first phase this time.

Defying summer heat al-

A voter flaunts her inked finger at a polling station in Kalamati village in West Bengal's Cooch Behar on Friday

Sikkim (1) Tripura (1 seat) 81.5 (81.9% in 2019) (84.8%)LOWEST TURNOUTS (in %) U'khand (5)

Bihar (4)

55.9 48.8 (53.6%)(61.6%)DETAILS OF ALL STATES | P 20

CHHATTISGARH

67.6% (66.2% in 2019)

Barring an accidental grenade blast in which a CRPF jawan was killed & a Maoist IED explosion that injured an officer, polling peaceful in Bastar

71% turnout in Manipur despite violence; 4L boycott poll in Nagaland

VVPAT spools lying on the ground came in from Manipur ters in 20 assembly segments in which braved gunshots, goons and a boycott call to register a turnout of 70.8%. That number was powered mainly by booths set up for thousands of riot-displaced people in relief camps, reports Prabin Kalita. One

In Nagaland, over 4 lakh vosix districts in the east — making up over 30% of the state's electorate — did not cast their votes following a boycott call over the Centre's "failure" to create a separate zone with greater autonomy. P13

After 4 yrs, court

says 'yes' to bail

for Rana Kapoor

Tes Bank founder Rana

from a prison Friday, hours

after being granted bail by a

court in an alleged loan

fraud case. He was first ar-

rested in March 2020 in a mo-

ney laundering case by ED.

red a total of eight cases aga-

inst him related to alleged

frauds at Yes Bank. Kapoor

was lodged at the Taloja jail

in Navi Mumbai while the

trials in these cases are yet

Apple removes

WhatsApp from

China app store

A pple said Friday it had re-

1 moved Meta's WhatsApp

and Threads from its app sto-

re in China after being ordered to do so by Chinese govt,

which cited national securi-

ty concerns. Telegram and

Signal were also removed

from the store. Other Meta

apps, including Facebook,

Instagram and Messenger,

remained available to down-

load. Many other popular

apps like YouTube and X we-

to start. P16

ED and CBI have registe-

Kapoor was released

hotos and videos of broken voter in Thamanpokpi, Bish EVMs, ravaged booths and nupur, was injured in firing.

Cut travel to or via Dubai if not essential: India

⊺ndian embassy in UAE on Friday advised desi flyers travelling to or transiting through Dubai to reschedule non-essential travel till operations normalise following this week's heaviestever rainfall in the emirates. Air India cancelled its Friday flights to Dubai and AI Express halved its flights. India has about 75 flights per day to Dubai. P10

Case registered, 16 mths after rape

Tearly 16 months after a \ domestic help was allegedly gang-raped by four to five people and her tongue mutilated in Delhi's Govindpuri, police has finally registered a case following a court order. The woman's lawyer claimed she had to move court as there was no proper probe. P6

Kin of K'taka BJP functionary killed

our persons, including a BJP functionary's son and three of his relatives. were murdered in Karnataka's Gadag town in the early hours of Friday. They were stabbed to death multiple times by assailants, who had entered the house by breaking open one of the windows on the first floor. P10

4 held for hoisting saffron flag in UP

......

our persons were arrested Friday for trying to hoist a saffron flag on a platform used for functions by a particular community during the Ram Navami procession in Kannauj on April 17. When the procession reached Imam Chowk, a man suddenly climbed the platform and put up the flag, a cop said. TNN

Implement report on city hosps: HC

elhi HC has asked the chief secretary and principal secretary (health) to implement within a stipulated period measures suggested by a panel, including maintenance of two months' inventory of medicines and filling up vacant posts. The model code of conduct will not be a hindrance, it added. P2

Row as UK MP meets JKLF on Yasin trial

............

abour MP Rachel Hopkins has sparked outrage after meeting members of JKLF-UK and JKLF 'diplomatic bureau' chairman Zafar Khan to discuss the ongoingtrial of Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik. Overseas Friends of BJP UK president Kuldeep Shekhawat sa-

Those supplying 'aatank' struggling to get 'atta': Modi's veiled dig at Pak

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

most all over the country and

rain in J&K's Udhampur, peo-

ple came out in large num-

bers despite talk of a low-key

campaign. Sources said the

turnout is expected to go up

further, with long queues se-

en at many polling stations

well after polling hours. As

per rule, all voters who are

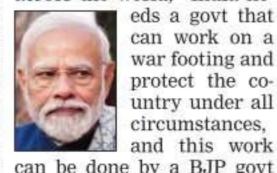
queued up at the polling sta-

tion when polling time ends

are allowed to cast their vote.

▶79.4% in Bengal, P 20

M Narendra Modi told an election rally in MP's Damoh on Friday that with "clouds of war" spreading across the world, "India needs a govt that



circumstances, and this work can be done by a BJP govt which returns to office with an absolute majority".

His remark comes against the backdrop of escalating tensions in West Asia.

While India is powering on as world's fastest developing nation, "one of our neighbours, which was a supplier of 'aatank (terrorism)', is

DANCE of DEMOCRACY > 'Not intimidated by ED probe threat, your grandma jailed us during Emergency': Kerala CM hits back at Rahul Gandhi | P 13

➤ In U-turn, MP's Chhindwara mayor who joined BJP on April 1 now tells people: 'Vote for Cong's Nakul Nath' | P 11

Couple's acrimonious marriage turns into an electoral battle in Andhra | P 10 SC verdicts that have

shaped our democracy | P 14 Why CPM is fancying its chances in Kerala | P 14

now struggling to procure 'atta' (flour)," Modi said, alluding to Pakistan, where inflation rate is as high as 20%.

▶'In nat'l interest', P 20

Earth doesn't belong to man, forests must be protected at all costs: SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court has ruled that Article 48A of the Constitution, envisaging protection of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife, has a direct nexus with citizens' right to life and asked govts to protect forests to save the country and the world from ill-effects of climate change, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and SVN Bhatti pulled up govt officials for being in cahoots with one Mohd Abdul Qasim, who had tried converting forest land for personal use since the 1980s in Kompally village in Andhra's Warangal district, and imposed a cost of Rs5lakh on Telangana govt for taking contradictory stands.

▶'Natural wealth', P 20

> A crime can't be wiped off by payment of compensation, says Delhi HC, refuses to quash FIR for attempt to murder on basis of settlement between the parties | P 2

> Delhi HC says making derogatory complaints to spouse's employer with intent to harm reputation, financial well-being amounts to cruelty. dissolves marriage | P 8

notice to Oreva Group for not answering queries on in the Morbi bridge collapse

IN THE COURTS

➤ Guj HC issues contempt rehabilitation of those affected > Guj HC reunites live-in

couple after woman forcibly

separated from boyfriend by

husband, father-in-law | P 16

Singapore orders recall of Everest

re also available. P17

fish curry masala

Cingapore Food Agency has directed the recall of India's Everest fish curry masala due to presence of ethylene oxide, a pesticide, beyond permissible limits, reports Asmita Dey. This follows a similar order of Hong Kong's Centre for Food Safety. Everest told TOI its products go through quality inspection by Spice Board of India before export, and its quality control team will lo-

ok into the matter. P10

Lovers, Believers, even Pyramids in fray in Great Indian Election

ndian Lovers Party from

Tamil Nadu, Indian Believers Party from Telangana, Indian Manush Party from Bengal, National Tiger Party from Bihar, Pyramid Party of India from Karnataka, Viroki Veer Indian Party from Maharashtra — they and dozens and dozens of political parties like them all over India are seeking your vote, undaunted by the fact that most likely you have never heard of them.

The world's largest election is nothing without its quirks, and quirks don't get much better than the eye-catching, jaw-dropping names DOD, SEASON '24 16 crore voters in Phase 1, 5 stories you shouldn't miss. TOI's Dance of Democracy, now also in video



unrecognised political parties (RUPPs). Per May 2022 EC data there were 2,796 RUPPs in India. Mortality among id it "is unacceptable". P17 : of what EC calls registered RUPPs is high. Many of them ▶Plurals Party in Bihar, P 20

contest an election or two and then wither away. Some don't contest elections at all. Since EC rules require a party to fight a poll within five years of registration, RUPPs that don't enter the fray get deregistered. But none of this takes anything away from their

entertainment value. You have to chuckle if you see a candidate from Twenty20 Party or Hitech party. Don't be alarmed, if you are allergic to leftwing revolutions, on knowing that Odisha has a Socialist Workers Party. Even CPM won't be particularly worried about it or by Odisha Communist Party.

Iran signals no retaliation after Israel strikes its city

Tehran Says 'Infiltrators' **Behind Attack**

Dubai/Jerusalem: Explosions echoed over an Iranian city on Friday in what sources described as an Israeli attack, but Tehran played down the incident and indicated it had no plans for retaliation - a response that appeared gauged towards averting region-wide war.

The limited scale of the ► EDIT: That's Enough

attack and Iran's muted response appeared to signal a successful effort by diplomats who have been working to avert all-out war since an Iranian drone and missile attack on Israel last Saturday.

Iranian media and officials described a small num-

CHINA-SUPPLIED REACTORS AT ISFAHAN

> Iran officials say airstrike hit a military airbase and N-site near Isfahan, air defences fired

Isfahan base has US-made F14 Tomcats purchased before 1979 Islamic Revolution. N-site has small Chinese-supplied research reactors, and handles fuel production and other activities for civilian N-programme

Neither side acknowledges strike officially - sign of both moving towards de-escalation G7 foreign ministers urge

for India after strike, P 10

the need for retaliation.

'all parties' to 'work to prevent further escalation'. Italy minister says Israel gave last-minute warning about drone strike

Israel had said it would retaliate after last Saturday's strikes, which caused no deaths as Israel and its allies shot down several missiles and drones

Tehran attacks were in response to presumed Israeli airstrike on April 1 in Damascus that killed several Iranian officers, including a top general

▶Sensex gains 599 after Wait-and-watch mode

ber of explosions, which they said resulted from air defences hitting three drones over the city of Isfahan in central Iran. Notably, they referred to the incident as an attack by "infiltrators", rather than by Israel, obviating falling below 72k, P 19 An Iranian official said there were no plans to respond against Israel. "The foreign source of the incident has not been confirmed. We have not received any external attack," the official said. REUTERS

►US distances itself, P 17

'Need insulin, will I risk paralysis by raising blood sugar': CM to court

Vineet.Upadhyay @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Asking a Delhi court to have insulin made available to him in jail and allow consultation with his doctors through videoconfetencing, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal through his lawyer said on Friday, "ED claimed that I want to increase my blood sugar level to get bail. Am I going to risk paralysis to get bail? Whatever food I have is as per the diet chart prepared by my doctor prior to arrest."

Kejriwal's lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi also told the court of special judge Ka-

'AS PER DIET CHART'

Kejriwal through his lawyer says he is consuming food as per the diet chart prepared by his doctor prior to his arrest He had mangoes only thrice and aaloo puri as Navratra prasad once in jail > Says ED 'petty', statements 'completely false and malicious'

Saturday: order on Monday veri Baweja that Kejriwal had mangoes just thrice in jail and consumed aaloo puri as a Navratra prasad once.

> Court tells jail authorities

and ED to file their replies by

After hearing the arguments, the court reserved its

Dy mayor race: 2 AAP councillors stay put

A AP councillors Narendra are yet to withdraw their nominations for the post of deputy mayor. While Vijay Kumar claimed there was "no democracy in the party", Narendra Kumar didn't disclose his reasons. AAP did not comment on the development. P7

order and asked the jail authorities and ED to file their replies by Saturday. It will pronounce an order on Monday.

▶ 'Can't I be allowed'? P 4

14-year-old boy beaten to death in Narela, 5 held

14-year-old boy was belaten to death in Delhi's Narela on suspicion of stealing batteries. Four people were arrested and a 17-yearold juvenile was detained.

The boy was taken to a nearby farmland in Lampur village where he was fatally assaulted. Two of the suspects left him on a stretcher at a hospital, which alerted police. His father told cops his son was abducted by Deepak, one of the suspects, and the juvenile.

Deepak, who runs a battery business, had employed the boy to deliver batteries to shopkeepers daily. When a battery went missing, Deepak confronted the boy, whipped him with a cable, took him to the farmland on a bike and killed him. P7

TISS suspends scholar over Parl protest

Dalit PhD scholar from TISS, Mumbai, has been suspended for two years and barred from all TISS campuses for participating in a demonstration outside Parliament in Jan under the banner of Progressive Students Forum (PSF)-TISS, which the institute considered a misuse of its

name, reports Yogita Rao. Ramadas K S is also accused of posting pamphlets on social media inviting viewers to the screening of the documentary 'Ram ke Naam' on Jan 26, which the institute deemed a "mark of dishonour and protest" against the Ayodhya Ram temple inauguration. Ramadas's fellowship sum and HRA is likely to be discontinued following the suspension. P10

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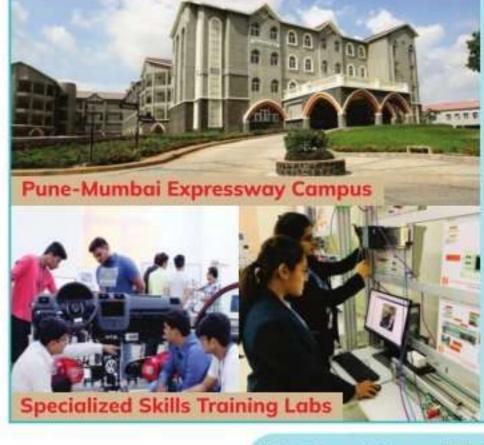
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temperatures will be around 39°C and 21°C

Domestic help's gang rape case registered after court direction | 6

ON FRIDAY (MODERATE CATEGORY)

Robotic surgery brings hope to women with breast cancer | 6



RECOMMENDATIONS

> Maintenance of minimum

medicines in essential drug list

Kendras in hospitals to procure

Adequate storage space for

pharmacy and consumables at

> Strengthening of Central

Procurement Agency and

making it accountable for

Bringing the entire system

under e-governance through

providing uninterrupted

and quality medicines/

Hospital Management

Information System

inventory of two months of

> Opening of Jan Aushadhi

medicines in exigencies

and consumables

all hospitals

consumables

BY THE COMMITTEE

'Crime cannot be wiped 2 Months' Stock To Pharmacies, HC Panel Lists Steps On Drugs... off by paying damages'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Crime cannot be "wiped off" by payment of compensation, Delhi High Court has said, refusing to quash an FIR for attempt to murder on the basis of a settlement between the parties.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta recently dismissed a petition by the accused persons asserting that the objective is to ensure that a serious offence under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is not repeated and a settlement does not encourage more criminal acts or endanger the welfare of society at large.

"In the present case, stab injuries were inflicted by the petitioners on the vital part of the body of respondent number 3 over a minor issue. Merely because respondent number 3 may have been compensated on settlement may not be sufficient ground for quas-

CAPFs/Govt. PSUs etc.

DELHI HIGH COURT SAYS

In the present case, stab injuries were inflicted by the petitioners on the vital part of the body of respondent number 3 over a minor issue. Merely because respondent number 3 may have been compensated on settlement may not be sufficient ground for quashing the proceedings

SUNSET 6.50PM (SAT)

SUNRISE 5.50AM (SUN)

hing the proceedings," the court noted, adding that it "needs to be kept in perspective that criminal law is designed for achieving social control and regulating the conduct of individuals within society. Crime cannot be said to be wiped off merely because of the payment of compensation."

The petitioners, who are accused in the FIR, had without pleading guilty sought to quash the FIR registered in 2019 on the grounds that the matter had been amicably settled between them and the victim had been compensated.

Appointment for the post of Engineering Officers in Delhi Police Housing

Corporation Limited on deputation basis.

It is proposed to fill up the post of 01 Assistant Executive Engineer(Civil) and 01 Assistant

Executive Engineer(Elect.) in Delhi Police Housing Corporation Limited (DPHCL), Room No.

1319, 13[™] Floor, Tower-II, New Delhi Police Hdqrs. Bldg., Jai Singh Road, New Delhi, on

deputation basis initially for a period of three years and extendable upto five years maximum by

Engineering officers working in various Ministries/Departments of Central Government and the

State Governments i.e., CPWD, MCD, PWD, DDA, DSIIDC, NDMC, DMRC, Delhi Jal Board,

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND DETAILS OF THE TECHNICAL POST OF ENGINEERING

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the plea on the ground that several stab injuries were inflicted by the petitioners on the vital parts of the injured over a minor issue.

In the order, the court said its powers for quashing cases should be carefully exercised for heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape and dacoity as these have a serious impact on society.

HC stated that the offence Delhi govt hospitals. under IPC Section 307 is regarded as heinous and serious because it is generally treated as crime against society

The prosecution opposed and not the individual alone.

JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS, ADEQUATE STORAGE SPACE AND MORE

No. of formulations

Committee Suggests Measures To Boost Delhi Govt Hospital Infrastructure

No. of drugs

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Maintenance of two months' inventory of medicines, which are part of the essential drug list, opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in hospitals to procure medicines in exigencies, adequate and standard pharmacy and consumable storage space at all hospitals, and strengthening the central procurement agency are some of the measures suggested by the six-member committee appointed by Delhi High Court in Feb to address the issues plaguing the infrastructure of

The committee, headed by Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences chancellor Dr SK Sarin, has suggested a host of short, intermediate and longterm — that can be implemented in state-run and MCD hospitals and dispensaries. Asking the chief secretary

and principal secretary (health) to implement the measures within a stipulated period as suggested by the committee, the court has also clarified that the model code of conduct, imposed due to the Lok Sabha polls, won't be a hindrance.

As immediate measures, which can be implemented within 30 days, the committee of doctors has also suggested that hospitals should have readymade rate contracts to meet up to 50% of the annual demand to ensure that there is a secure supply line for six months while the tendering process is on.

The committee has also recommended delegation of financial powers to medical di-

497 National List 2022 1,288 WHO 2023 Delhi Hospitals 2013 307 Delhi Dispensaries 2013 165 806 Central Procurement List (Delhi) 2022 1,520 30 | Therapeutic categories under which medicines are being divided SOME SUGGESTED DELETIONS FROM CPA LIST Existing Anaesthetic agents number 14 (33%) Suggested Analgesic 37 (58%) deletions Anti-allergic

21 rectors or superintendents to maintain at least 25% of the required supply and inventory.

While speaking in Delhi Assembly earlier this month, health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had referred to reports from the ground and feedback from legislators to emphasise that there was a severe shortage of medicines and consumables in Delhi govt hospitals and dispensaries and had alleged that the tender floated by the central procurement agency to get medicines had not been finalised as a "premeditated conspiracy".

Anti-epileptics

List of essential medicines

The Delhi chief secretary and senior officials of health and family welfare department and directorate of health services had, however, informed the minister the same morning that all essential medicines or their substitutes were available and me-

TIMES Special

dical directors and superintendents of hospitals were told to procure medicines at their end in case of shortage.

The committee has suggested that "delegation of financial powers of Rs 5 crore per annum to MS and directors to purchase medicines

...15% of vacancies to be filled in 30 days,

and consumables separate from equipment procurement be done to meet the emergency demands". It also suggested that Jan Aushadhi Kendras be opened in each hospital so that medicines may be procured from them in exigencies and adequate supply of drugs and consumables should be ensured at primary and secondary level

of health facilities as well. As short-term and intermediate measures, which can be implemented within a year, the committee recommended the construction of "adequate and standard pharmacy and consumable storage

> Maintaining availability of medicines and consumables by delegating financial powers to respective MD/MS

space and facility" on a prio-

rity basis in all hospitals by

bringing in the public welfa-

redepartment of Delhi govt. As long-term measures, to be implemented in 1-2 years, the committee suggested that the central procurement agency be strengthened and made accountable for providing uninterrupted and quality medicines and consumables to all hospitals, dispensaries and other health

establishments. "The entire system should be brought under e-governance, through the Hospital Management Information System of NIC," it added.

OFFICER TO BE FILLED-UP ON DEPUTATION BASIS IN DELHI POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED

No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	deputation/appointment	
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2.	Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical)	01	CR having four years experience as Junior Engineer(Elect.) at Pay Band-3, Pay Scale of Rs.15600-39100 + Grade Pay of Rs. 5400/- (Group A Entry) of 6th CPC now at Level 10 in Pay Matrix of 7th CPC).	

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Date of continuous appointment in Govt. service......

4. Period of regular service in the present grade...... 5. Permanent post and post against which permanently appointed

6. Educational and Technical qualification - Candidate should be qualified in the required field

(Please attach the copies of certificates duly attested).

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ii) Technical qualification iii) Experience: a) Length of Service...... b) Field of expertise.......

Brief service particulars: -

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i) Shri/Smt./Ms. ii) Complete CR dossiers are enclosed from the period

have been verified and he/she iii) The particulars of Bio-Data of Shri/Smt./Ms is eligible for the said post.

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advertisement in daily newspapers. > Appointment to these positions should be on the basis of deputation in terms of the orders in

force from time to time.

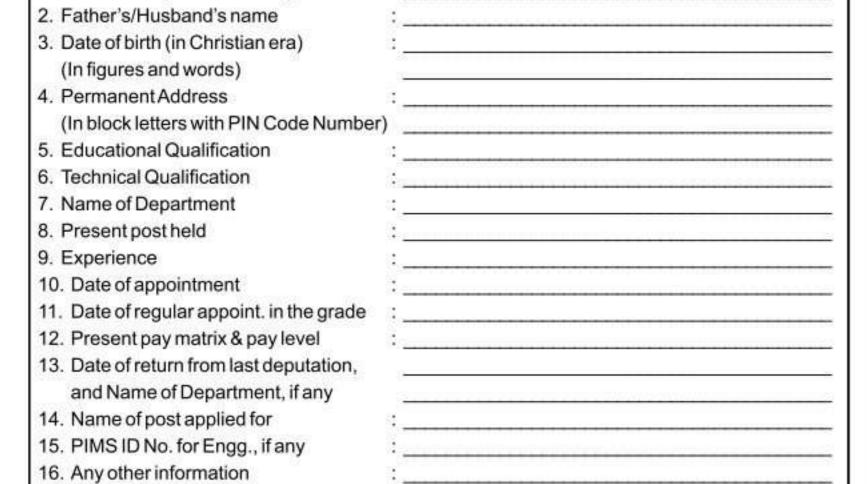
The terms and conditions of deputation employees to DPHCL will be decided in accordance

with the rules of the Central Government applicable on that date.

(AALAP PATEL) DY. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE GM(Ops.), DPHCL, New Delhi

Signature of the applicant

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE POST OF ENGINEERING OFFICERS Name in full (in block letters)



doctors' retirement age may go up to 70

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: To tide over the severe manpower shortage in state hospitals and dispensaries in the city, a six-member expert committee headed by Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences chancellor Dr S K Sarin, has suggested a slew of measures, among them filling up of 15% of the vacancies within 30 days and increasing the retirement age of clinicians to 70.

An internal assessment by Delhi govt's health and family welfare department showed that more than half of the sanctioned posts of medical professionals, including senior and junior resident doctors, nurses, paramedics and officials and ministerial staff, were vacant in eight hospitals run by autonomous bodies under Delhi govt and registered under the Societies Registration Act.

The posts of medical superintendents and medical directors in at least six hospitals registered under the Societies Act have been vacant for months. While Ch Brahm Prakash Ayurvedic Chikitsa Sansthan hasn't had a full-time MS or MD since May 2018, the post in Delhi State Cancer Institute has been unoccupied since Jan 2019.

Though the situation is slightly better in govt hospitals, it is still far from ideal. According to the report, 10 govt hospitals, including Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Dr Hedgewar Arogya Sansthan and Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, haven't had fulltime MS or MDs since last year.

Delhi has 39 state-run hospitals, eight run by autonomous bodies, 427 dispensaries, 546 mohalla clinics, 30 polyclinics and eight medical colleges.

The large number of vacancies of specialists and professionals are attributed to high attrition rates, absence of restrictions in the form of service rules to ensure the doctors don't leave the jobs midway and persistent vacancies that have not been filled over the years. Though govt hired doctors and specialists, both teaching and nonteaching, on a contractual basis for some important positions, retaining them in the job has always remained a challenge.

"A large number of private hospitals poached the doctors that we had hired on contracts as well as on permanent appointment by offering them hu- tion of clinical staff in Delhi

STATE GOVT 10 Delhi govt hospitals where Delhi govt hospitals C Society HEALTH where MD/MS need to hospitals where **FACILITIES** posts of MD/MS/ posts of MD/MS be replaced because of IN DELHI directors lying vacant completion of 3-year tenure lying vacant 39 Delhi govt **Vacancies in Delhi govt hospitals** hospitals Posts Sanctioned Vacant General duty medical officers Society hospitals Non-teaching specialists 729 427 Teaching specialists 538 Dispensaries 546 Junior resident doctors 340 Mohalla clinics Senior resident doctors 30 Polyclinics Nursing 8 5,226 Paramedical Medical colleges Vacancies in society hospitals Sanctioned Vacant 2,313 1,221 1,920 954 1,172 628 Officers/ Medical posts. Nursing Paramedics including SR/JR

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

Posting of non-teaching specialists/experts to institutions where machines and infrastructure available

- > Reappoint retired clinicians
- Hire or empanel consultants

those with available facilities.

- contract basis as faculty/
- regular specialists not available Make instruments requiring repair functional within 30 days > Hiring of doctors on

from private sector where

consultants by director/MS Engagement of outsourcing

ge pay packets and better work govt hospitals to 70 years. environments," said a health "While such a change can department official. "Doctors be implemented, it would be do start feeling frustrated afprudent to extend the tenure ter some time in the absence

of proper infrastructure, malists and reappoint those clinichinery and support staff." cians who have superannua-Suggesting ways for optited to carry out the required mising the existing resources services in the govt hospitals," in the hospitals, either run by the committee said. Delhi govt or those operated Hiring specialists from the by societies and the municipal private sector has also been corporation, the expert committee under Dr Sarin has recommended, as an immediate measure, moving non-teaching specialists from institu-

suggested by the committee. It recommended that such hiring should be done by publishing advertisements to attract talent and offering them apptions where they are not being ropriate remuneration, "Theoptimally used due to lack of se consultants should be given machines or infrastructure to a respectable designation and infrastructural support for providing the required servi-Since the upper age limit ces. A three-member committee could prepare service conditions for appointing consultants from the private sector,"

for faculty positions permitted by the National Medical Commission is 70 years, the panel has also recommended enhancing the age for superannuathe panel said in its report.

sure, the committee has suggested empanelment of private doctors as visiting consultants especially in radiology, anaestof the serving clinical speciahesia and some other specialties and paying them emoluments on a per patient or per procedure basis. For nursing and para-medical staff, the committee has suggested engaging outsourcing agencies on quality-cum-cost based selection and

Source: Health and family welfare department, govt of Delhi

paramedical staff

agencies to hire nursing and

> Senior residents to be

sent to district hospitals on

Hiring resident doctors

through regular weekly

walk-in interviews

rotational basis to meet need

ministerial/others

"Adequate clinical and paramedical staff should be made available at the primary and secondary health facilities throughout Delhi govt institutions," the report said.

immediate deployment.

Since regular hiring through the Union Public Service Commission and Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board takes time, the panel has recommended developing mechanisms to immediately fill the vacant posts of specialists As another immediate mea- (teaching/ non-teaching), me- the report said.

in OPD was severely affected by the shortage of pharmacists and

on contract basis.

non-computerisation of OPD registration counters, which results in long queues and inconvenience to the patients. It recommended urgent recruitment or outsourcing of data entry operators alongside the implementation of NIC's hospital management information system. It also recommended hiring on contract of qualified hospital

dical officers and paramedics

that distribution of medicines

The committee mentioned

administrators and managers essential for hospital operations and administrative matters pertaining to the procurement of medicines, equipment, maintenance and construction of buildings for expansion in the hospital, outsourcing of specialised manpower, coordination with other authorities.

The committee said these activities were currently being looked after by senior doctors in the hospital, which was adversely affecting patient care. "In view of the above, it is proposed to create a dedicated post of 1-2 managers in level twothree hospitals and two additional posts of deputy managers in level four hospitals. Their engagement is recommended on an emergent basis," the committee recommended.

To ensure the availability of necessary machines and equipment, the panel has recommended the transfer of unutilised gear to facilities where technical manpower was available to operate. It also suggested setting up a centralised command and control room with screen showing region-wise geo-mapping of all hospitals with dynamic details of available facilities and the creation of an application to provide precise and timely information about availability of emergency health services.

The committee has asked Delhi govt to procure at least five advanced cardiovascular life support ambulances for each district, installation of CT, MRI, PET scan, accelerator and other equipment on public-private partnership model and the purchase of equipment with five years of comprehensive management contract and a provision for a penalty to compensate for downtime.

"Fifteen per cent of the equipment requirements and the manpower requirements should be met within 30 days,"

Double Murder Case Gets Murkier

Kin Of Suspect Arrested For Dowry Offences, Sexual Assault Also Being Probed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police has booked the family members of the man arrested for the murder of his wife and her brother in east Delhi's Shakarpur on Wednesday for the offence of dowry-related death under Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code.

The family of the deceased woman had recorded their statements in front of a magistrate on Thursday and claimed that the dual murders were the result of a demand for dowry. With the cops suspecting that the crime scene had been tampered, more family members are likely to be arrested in the case.

The twin murders have become murkier with crime and forensic investigators revealing that both bodies were found in a semi-nude condition, with the portion below their waists bare. Police are awaiting the final autopsy report to confirm whether the two victims had been sexually assaulted. They are also delving deeper into the killer's claims that his wife had denied him conjugal relations. The two bodies had borne signs of extreme torture too.

Sources said that the preliminary findings of the woman's autopsy have revealed possible strangulation as the cause of death. A lot of facial injuries were also present,

SHAKARPUR SHOCKER

What happened

> Cops alerted about a double murder at a house in Shakarpur early Wednesday

- > Bodies were of a 30-year-oldwoman and her 17-year-old brother
- > Cops arrested the woman's husband for the murder
- The husband reportedly left home after the murders, came back and surrendered before police at the crime scene

All about polygraph test

Instruments are used to record the

changes in physiological processes

Machine records fluctuations in

Heartbeat, pulse rate, blood

suggesting she may have be-

en struck with fists or blunt

objects before being strang-

thrashed her was very an-

pressure, respiration,

electrical resistance

gry," the source said.

> Also known as lie-

No drugs are used,

statement given in

conscious state

detector test

Probe so far

- ➤ Investigators say bodies were found in semi-nude condition, with the portion below their waists bare
- Motive remains unclear with accused's conflicting statements, multiple versions and incoherent answers
- The crime scene
- was tampered with > Cops contemplating if they should approach court to conduct psychological assessment on the accused

Unanswered questions

- > If there was marital discord, why did the man kill his brother-in-law, who was supposedly sleeping?
- > Why were both the bodies in a semi-nude condition?
- > Were the victims sexually assaulted?
- > Why have cops ruled out the possibility

of a second suspect? > Was an outsider involved?

> Cops are still not opening up about the motive. Why?

> Both bodies had signs of extreme brutality. What could have been the reason for this carnage?

at least 20 stab wounds each.

lings were covered in stab injuries, on the head, eyebrows, neck, everywhere. We couldn't even dare to look at the bodies."

The FIR filed by police described how blood oozed from the woman's head and her face was bloodied. The forensic team collected 21 pieces of evidence from the two rooms at the crime scene, including a tablet, mobile phones, lighter, two belts, handkerchief and a screwdriver. The cops haven't been able to establish a motive strong enough for the two being brutalised. They are yet to address many unanswered questions, citing misleading statements given by the accused.

Police said they were planning to put the accused through a psychological assessment test. Senior officers are also contemplating a polygraph test because of the conflicting statements that the alleged murderer has made during detention. sources said on Friday. The cops may approach a court next week in this connection. The suspect has been sent to judicial custody for now. If required, he will be taken on remand again, said an investigator.

2 arrested for their role in ₹8.5L robbery

New Delhi: Two men have been arrested in connection with a robbery scheme of Rs 8.5 lakhs targeting a businessperson in north Delhi's Lahori Gate. Cops revealed on Friday that one of the suspects was an employee of the victim, who had hatched a conspiracy until a CCTV camera caught their bluff.

The accused were identified as Vishal (24) and Sagar Garg (24), both residents of Sonipat.

DCP (North) Manoj Meena said a complaint was filed on April 13. "Vishal alleged that during the business trip. as he and the victim were about to enter the car with the bag, an assailant approached from behind, snatched the bag from his left hand, and fled. said the senior police official.

"Vishal was observed conducting a recce in one of the CCTV footages with the other accused two hours prior to the incident. Upon interrogation, Vishal confessed that he and his colleague, Sagar, orchestrated the crime," police added.

Cops also recovered Rs7.32 lakh from their residence, TNN

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14-year-old boy critically stabbed by 3 men

New Delhi: A 14-year-old boy was critically stabbed by three men in northwest Delhi's Mahendra Park. Police received a PCR call at 12:06 pm about the admission of a boy to the hospital who was injured in a quarrel.

The complainant, Harsh, stated that on April 17, at 11:15 pm, he and his brother were walking in A block when they heard a quarrel and rushed to the spot. "They found that a scuffle was going on between two people, including the boy. In the meantime, Rehan arrived there with one Vicky and another boy and attacked the 14-year-old minor with fists, blows, and knives, then fled. He was stabbed three times by the group and has been admitted to the hospital," the officer said. A case under sections 307 (attempted murder) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC has been registered. TNN



New Delhi: Nearly 20,000 employees of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be deployed at 958 primary schools for Lok Sabha elections on May 25 in the city to perform various duties.

"A list of 19,540 staff has been uploaded on the portal of the chief electoral officer for election duty, including presiding officers and polling officers. Additionally, approximately 20,000 staff are to be deployed for setting up the polling booths at various locations," the civic body stated.

"While 958 MCD schools will be used as polling stations, one pink or model polling booth is to be set up in each assembly constituency. Furthermore, one booth for persons with a disability and one youth polling booth are to be set up in each parliamentary constituency," it added.

As per the directions, all civic facilities must be ensured at these booths. While MCD claimed to have received multiple directions from the Election Commission of India and CEO in this regard, as per requirement, the polling station should be set up on the building's ground floor to facilitate the voting of aged and differently-abled electors. TNN

excessive bleeding after being stabbed numerous times. "He was also strangled, but led. "The nature of injuries the cause of his death might be excessive bleeding from suggests that the person who the neck where he was stabbed with a screwdriver, possibly when sleeping," the source said. The two bodies had

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The woman's brother said, "The bodies of my sib-

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TWO LAWYERS IN NEW DELHI CONSTITUENCY — ONE A VETERAN OF ELECTORAL POLITICS AND THE OTHER MAKING HER DEBUT — ARGUE THEIR CASE FOR THE MANDATE

It Is BJP's Parivarvaad vs Modiji Ki Guarantee, AAP Our Janatavaad: Bharti Graft Main Issues: Swaraj

Atul Mathur & Abhinav Rajput TNN

rom a master's degree in → mathematics from IIT-Delhi and a flourishing legal career to three consecutive wins from the Malviya Nagar constituency in the assembly elections, Somnath Bharti, Aam Aadmi Party's candidate for the New Delhi parliamentary seat, has come a long way. He says BJP hopes to win 400 Lok Sabha seats only so it can change the Indian Constitution. Excerpts from an interview:

Why do you think your party selected you to contest from the prestigious New Delhi seat?

I didn't inherit a career in politics. I created my own place. I have a passion for standing up for what's right. For me politics is a nishkaam sewa (selfless work), a way to serve humanity. That is why Arvind ji gave me this seat to contest.

In my constituency, I am known for availability, accountability and accessibility. It has become my USP. The Malviya Nagar constituency is divided into 35 mohallas, each with a WhatsApp group that has a representative from every house. People post issues on the group and these are resolved within 24 hours. My constituency has some very high-profile people — judges, senior advocates, bureaucrats — and all are part



SOMNATH BHARTI SAYS

If elected, I promise to expand the mohalla groups to the entire constituency. I will remain accessible, accountable and available to everyone

of the WhatsApp groups.

New Delhi constituency that

you would like to work on? If elected, I promise to expand the mohalla groups to the entire New Delhi constituency. I will remain accessible, accountable and available to everyone. Poor law-and-order is a major concern here. After Ibecame an MLA, the LG stopped constituting the thana-le-

vel committees headed by the MLAs to discuss law-and-order concerns. Instead, dis-

trict-level committees headed by the MPs were formed. Delhi MPs have a bigger role to play than MPs in other states because law and order, police, DDA, land and services are central subjects. Only MPs will have control over them through Parliament. Nobody speaks about Delhi in Parliament. In the past fi-What are the issues in ve years, no MP raised his or

> her voice when the rights and powers of the people of Delhi were being diminished through amended laws or when the Anti-Corruption Branch was taken away from Delhi govt. That's why we need to be there in Parliament to ensure we are standing up for Delhi

like a rock whenever demo-

cracy is threatened. Our out-

going MPs never stood up when women were assaulted. DDA never built assets such as senior citizens' homes or women's centres. I will show how an MPs position can be used for the betterment of people.

You are an INDIA candidate. Is Congress helping you in your campaign?

This election is not about a particular party. It is about saving the Indian Constitution. Donations to parties meant quid pro quo for companies. BJP has used ED and CBI to silence opponents. Unemployment is increasing, inflation is sky rocketing. Over 11 lakh rich people migrated to other countries. That's why gations for BJP. One day, I re-AAP and Cong-

come together to stop BJP. We are talking gal cell being expanded and about winning all seven seats in Delhi, not four. Congress will have to work with us and we will work with Congress. Though coordination committees are still being formed by the two parties, unofficially the workers and local func- up in this environment. In tionaries have started wor- law, you end up helping peoking together. Everybody is ple. Politics widens the exworking together to save the Constitution.

■How do you see your rival Bansuri Swaraj of BJP? Modiji says to vote against

parivarvaad, but Bansuri herself is a product of nepotism. It is BJP's parivarvaad vs our janatavaad.

Atul Mathur & Abhinav Rajput TNN

aughter of former BJP stalwart Sushma Swarajand former governor Swaraj Kaushal, Bansuri Swaraj studied law in London and earned a master's degree from Oxford before returning to Delhi and working as a lawyer. Associated with BJP's legal cell, this will be her electoral. Excerpts from an interview:

Was joining politics always on the cards?

No, politics was never on my horizon. After joining the legal practice, I got the opportunity to work on several liticeived a call from ress decided to TOI INTERVIEW

the top leaders-

hip about the lewhether I wanted to join. It was like an order for me. Then I got the opportunity to become Delhi BJP secretary. Now, I've been nominated to represent New Delhi. Serving the people is not new to me. I grew panse of law. You serve the people in a larger capacity.

■ What went in your favour when the party chose you as the candidate?

You are asking the wrong person. I have never thought about it. I am a lawyer trained to deal with facts. I don't tro-

BANSURI SWARAJ SAYS

There is no pressure... Her's are large shoes to fill, but luckily, I am not even trying to fill them. There is one and only one Sushma Swaraj

uble my brain with conjectures. The fact is, that the party has given me this responsibility and I will discharge it to the best of my ability.

Does your mother's stature pressure you?

There is no pressure. I think people around me and those who know me are more bogged down by it. As an only child, my mother raised me to be independent. Of course,

her's are large shoes to fill, but luckily, I am not even trying to fill them. There is one and only one Sushma Swaraj.

■ What are the issues in your constituency?

My campaign is about Modiji's guarantee, saari guarantee poori hone ki guarantee (Modi's guarantee that all guarantees will be met) and sushasan ka aashwasan(assurance of good governance). There are two aspects to this: one, Modiji has fulfilled every promise enunciated in BJP's manifesto — Article 370, Ram mandir in Ayodhya, women's reservation bill, Citizen Amendment Act. The second is the vision of viksit Bharat. Even as we honour our traditions — building

the Mahakal corridor or de-

veloping the Kashi Vishveshwara temple—the PM is also inaugurating three semiconductor units and saying how Bharat will become a global leader in this.

There are local issues too. AAP's corruption is a paramount issue. Today, there is a long list - 'not of standard' drugs distributed in mohalla clinics and hospitals, fake pathology tests, corruption in construction of classrooms, liquor policy and a grand bungalow CM built for himself with public money. Arvind Kejriwal used to flash a black diary saying it had names of Congress stalwarts belonging to five hundred crore corruption club. AAP and Congress are now mirror images of each other. Kejriwal vowed never to ally with Congress but took a U-turn. What credibility does he have?

Do you think AAP govt's promise to give Rs 1.000 to all women voters every month will impact

how women vote? It's only a *chunavi jumla*. The state finance minister herself said it has yet to be passed by the Cabinet. The scheme will not be implemented before Sept-Oct. AAP leaders are U-turn experts. I don't believe a word they say. The announcement is just something they made keeping in mind the general elections. They never deliver on their promises.

Delhi BJP to

of priests in

host conclave

city on Sunday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP will

host a conclave of Hindu pri-

ests and seers to celebrate the

Hindu new year and construc-

tion of the Ram temple in Ay-

odhya at the Indira Gandhi In-

door Stadium on Sunday, par-

rendra Sachdeva said the

event will celebrate 100 days

of the consecration of the

Ramlalla idol and the const-

also speak about the impor-

tance of Santana Dharma,

Hindus, including over 5,000

seers and temple priests, will

gather at the stadium to chant

the Hanuman Chalisa, said

Karnail Singh, coordinator of

the temple cell of the Delhi BJP.

tral ministers and senior BJP

He said that several cen-

The seers at the event will

More than 31,000 devout

ruction of the temple.

party leaders said.

Delhi BJP president Vi-

ty leaders said.

CM: Can't I be allowed even 15 mins' VC with my doctor?

► Continued from P1

inghvi said the mangoes have been made to look like "sugar bullets" by ED. "No mangoes have been sent after April 8... Their sugar level is much less than brown rice or white rice," he said. Kejriwal's application had stated that out of 48 meals, only a small portion of fruit (mango) was sent thrice.

The senior advocate told the court that Kejriwal uses only sugar-free in his tea. "How petty, political and ridiculous can ED be? Their statements are completely false and malicious. Just because you have a lot of influence in the media, you are able to publish that I am having aaloo puri though this meal was sent once during pooja," he said. The application referred to a "media trial" in this context.

"Am I a gangster that I cannot even be allowed to have 15 minutes VC consultation with my doctor?" Singhvi asked. Kejriwal's application had pleaded that his wife, Sunita Kejriwal, should be allowed to join the consultation with Dr Ravichandra Rao through video conference.

However, special counsel Zoheb Hossain, appearing for ED, accused Kejriwal of misusing the legal mulaqat time. Opposing the submissions, ED said the diet prescribed for Kejriwal has no reference to any fruits or sweet items.

"The diet appears to be very regulated and strict. Therefore, there is a direct correlation between his submission that he is having an alarming rise in his sugar level and his diet," submitted the special counsel.

Advocate Abhijit Shankar, appearing for Tihar Jail, **JAIL COUNSEL SAYS**

The AIIMS report says he has to avoid mangoes, cheeku, banana etc. In fact, the home-cooked food should follow this diet. Otherwise, I will have to make a suggestion that home-cooked food should not be allowed as per the jail rules

told the court that Kejriwal was taking insulin earlier but stopped sometime back. "When he (Keiriwal) was admitted, he said he was taking insulin earlier but not anymore. On the whole, the blood sugar level has been maintained," he said.

Asserting that Kejriwal should follow the diet plan, the counsel for Tihar said: "There was no stipulation in his diet that he should have fruit or anything. In fact, he is not following the diet. We have also got an opinion from AIIMS. According to this, he should avoid mangoes."

He added that there was no need for insulin, claiming that if Kejriwal was administered insulin, his sugar level will go down drastically. "The AIIMS report says he has to avoid mangoes, cheeku, banana etc. In fact, the homecooked food should follow this diet. Otherwise, I will have to make a suggestion home-cooked should not be allowed as per the jail rules," he said.

The court then asked Singhvi if home-cooked food was sent to Kejriwal in accordance with the diet chart allowed by the court on April

1 and the former replied in affirmative. "Give me a comparative chart of your diet chart and the details given by the jail. It seems there are deviations, definitely," the court said.

The chief minister's application had stated that he had been able to start an "insulin reversal programme" from February 1 under careful medical supervision and administration of insulin was discontinued.

application explained that strict medical supervision of a diabetes expert helped in effectively regulating glucose levels, adding that medicines, food and exercise should be titrated (continuously measured and adjusted) daily using a continuous glucose monitoring sensor.

Due to such daily medical and dietary interventions and a tailor-made exercise regime, the applicant was successfully removed from exogenous insulin and switched to oral medication while maintaining optimal glucose levels during the programme, stated the application.

Meanwhile, AAP functionaries Sanjay Singh and Atishi held separate press conferences and alleged that Kejriwal was being "tortured" by not being provided insulin and other medicines.

They claimed that such acts used to be done by Britishers to freedom fighters lodged in jail. While Singh alleged a "deep conspiracy" had been hatched against Kejriwal and any accident could happen to him inside the jail, Atishi questioned the rationale behind the Tihar administration sharing Kejriwal's health details with ED.

Two doctors are monitoring CM's health regularly, claims Sachdeva

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Friday said the Aam Aadmi Party was running a stunt campaign to gather public sympathy for jailed chief minister Arvind Kejriwal by making allegations that he was not getting medici-

ly monitoring his health in jail, and according to the orders of the court, records were being maintained in jail.



"Eggs, bread, vegetables, halwa home for him to eat," he said. "Because this diet is inappropri-

ate for any diabetic patient and he is a prisoner of the ED department, the jail administration has probably informed the court through the ED administration." The Delhi BJP president said

Aam Aadmi Party functionaries, by repeatedly comparing Kejriwal to the great freedom fighters, had hurt the feelings of countrymen. "Atishi should know that Bhagat

Singh went to jail for the country's freedom while Kejriwal has gone to jail in a corruption matter," he said. Earlier in the day, minister Atishi had claimed that for the "first time in history of independent India,

to an accused in jail." "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central govt are hatching a big conspiracy against Arvind Kejriwal in jail by not providing insulin

insulin and other medicines presc-

ribed by doctor are not being given

and essential medicines," she said. She alleged that the Tihar administration and ED were opposing Kejriwal's appeal for insulin in court. "BJP should respond if Arvind Kejriwal appealed in court to provide insulin and other medicines, then why were central govt, ED, Tihar administration opposing it," she said.

MHA suspends secy to assembly over flyover land 'irregularities' including excess compensation to certain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Union home ministry has suspended secretary to the Delhi legislative assembly, Raj Kumar, for alleged irregularities in acquiring land for the Rani Jhansi Road flyover project during his tenure as land acquisition collector in Delhi govt. A 1995-batch Delhi, Andaman and Nico-

bar Islands Civil Services (DANICS) officer, Kumar, said it was an old case and he was not given any chance to explain himself.

Kumar's suspension and initiation of He said two doctors were regular- disciplinary proceedings against him was recommended to the President by LG last year on the basis of a report of a committee —comprising additional chief secretary in the land and building department, principal secretary of the revenue department, MCD commissioner and vigilance secretary — which investigated the alleged irregularities and submitted its report to the chief secretary in Aug last year.

> Since Kumar is a Group A officer, the case was first referred to the National Capital Civil Services Authority, and then sent to LG after its recommendation. The LG forwarded it to the Union home ministry.

> Sources said that on the basis of a letter of the chief secretary of Delhi in Sept 2021

parties during land acquisition and a blame game between various agencies on the irregularities, the Lokpal bench on November 3, 2022, asked the central vigilance commission to take note of all available documents and ongoing court cases and fix responsibility and recover excess payments.

The chief secretary, who is also the chief vigilance officer of Delhi, formed the committee of four IAS officers on May 2, 2023.

According to officials, the committee observed an excess compensation award was passed by the land acquisition commissioner to benefit private parties in two cases without taking note that the land parcels wereactually given to the current owners on lease. Saying the "misconduct" of Kumar was "serious" in nature, the panel recommended his suspension and the initiation of major penalty proceedings against him.

After a delay of almost 20 years since it was first conceived, the 1.8km Rani Jhansi grade separator, which connected Filmistan cinema hall with St Stephen's Hospital, was opened for traffic in 2018 and cost MCD Rs 724 crore. These delays were then attributed to technical glitches and poor coordination between various agencies, but allegations of corruption in the execution of

in which he acknowledged various lapses the project were also levelled. BJP claims Kejriwal deliberately departing from prescribed diet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Friday took a swipe at Arvind Kejriwal once again for his "food preferences" in jail as the party claimed that the jailed Delhi chief minister is not only deliberately eating "Aloo Poori" but even wolfed down eggs during Navratri despite being clinically diabetic.

"Ibelieve Kejriwal is mindful of what he should or shouldn't eat for someone who is a diabetic. However, what surprised me is that he even at eeggs during the Navratras. I thought he would have avoided eggs during Navratra as is customary. However, ultimately, it's a matter of his personal choice whether he wants to have eggs during Navratra or not," said BJP spokesperson Shazia Ilmi at a press conference.

During his submissions before the court earlier, the counsel for the Enforcement Directorate, claimed that Kejriwal had been deliberately departing from his clinically advised diet to bump up his sugar levels to make a stronger case for bail.

Hitting back at AAP, which claimed earlier that Kejriwal's health concerns were being deliberately ignored, the BJP spokesperson said, "Why would a responsible government agency bring harm to someone it is mandated to protect?"

Refuting AAP claims that the CM was being denied insulin, Shazia added, "As the prison manual says, an inmate cannot be administered an injection in jail. A medical assistant has been assigned to him, who administers him insulin as prescribed. The jail administration has confirmed as much."

leaders, including Sachdeva, will participate in the event. Senior BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the main objective of this event was to inform the youth about their culture and to convey a message among people about its importance. This programme

will be historic, he said.

The BJP is contesting the Lok Sabha polls in all seven seats in Delhi that it has won back to back with huge margins in 2014 and 2019. The party is pitted in a direct contest on all seats agianst candidates of the INDIA bloc partners AAP and Congress.

AAP is contesting in four of the seven parliamentary seats, while the Congress is contesting in the remaining three.

Armed police can travel on metro

New Delhi: Delhi Police has been granted permission to carry weapons while travelling on metro trains during the election periods.

According to sources, this measure will help them swiftly reach locations in case of emergencies arising during the general elections. "This initiative aims to ensure that police personnel can respond to situations quickly without being delayed by traffic congestion," the source said.

The decision was reached during a meeting between stakeholders and police officials. Insiders revealed that Delhi Police might be exempt from token requirements, but they would be obligated to inform DMRC about the specifics of the emergency and provide details of the personnel in advance. The officers will be in uniform and will pay for travel.

Recently, they held a mee-

BJP gives dramatic thrust, with some poetry, to poll campaign rates the benefits for the vo-

Abhinav.Rajput @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Artistes and poets are gearing up to take centerstage in an unconventional political outreach strategy for the Lok Sabha elections. Theatre groups Rajni and Rangmanch and poets such as KK Rajasthani and Manju Shakya have tweaked their scripts to suit the BJP campaign. They will traverse the city, reciting poetry and performing street plays. On Friday, they showcased glimpses of their performances to party leaders at the state BJP office.

With catchy one-liners like "Bagule ne wafadaari ki had kar di, machli ko suraksha dene ki haami bhar di (The heron crossed the limit of loyalty and agreed to protect the fish)' and "Haathi ke saath chuhe ko rakhna hamari majburi hai,

jaruri hai (We are compelled to keep a rat with an elephant since lightness is also necessary for a heavy weight)", Rajasthani hopes to strike a chord with the masses and bolster BJP's political campaign.

The poet, who is also in the real-estate business, admitted that in previous elections he worked for other political parties. "Humour always holds people's attention and if we mix it with politics, it becomes even more attractive," smiled Rajasthani.

Shakya's performance, centred on nationalism, started with the lines "Sabse pehle ho desh shada, baki sab uske baad rahe, jan gan man ke adhinayak hum, ye baat humesa yaad rahe (The country should come first. Everything else comes after that. We pray that our country remembers this)". Shakya, who used to te-



wajan ke saath halkapan bhi ach in a private school earlier, ON A DIFFERENT NOTE: Theatre groups and poets have tweaked their scripts to suit the BJP campaign

A POET SAYS

Humour always holds people's attention and if we mix it with politics, it becomes even more attractive

has been reading her poems at events for a decade now.

Poet Rashiq Gupta's opening line was, "Pehle dhyan desh ka kar ke button tumhe dabana hai, samajh gae matdan mein PM kise banana hai (You have to think about the country when pressing the voting machine button. Have you realised whom you have to elect PM?)"

Theatre group Rajni's play listed the benefits given by the Modi govt. It starts with a scene where a child is confused about whom to vote for He calls his relative who enume- would commence on May 1.

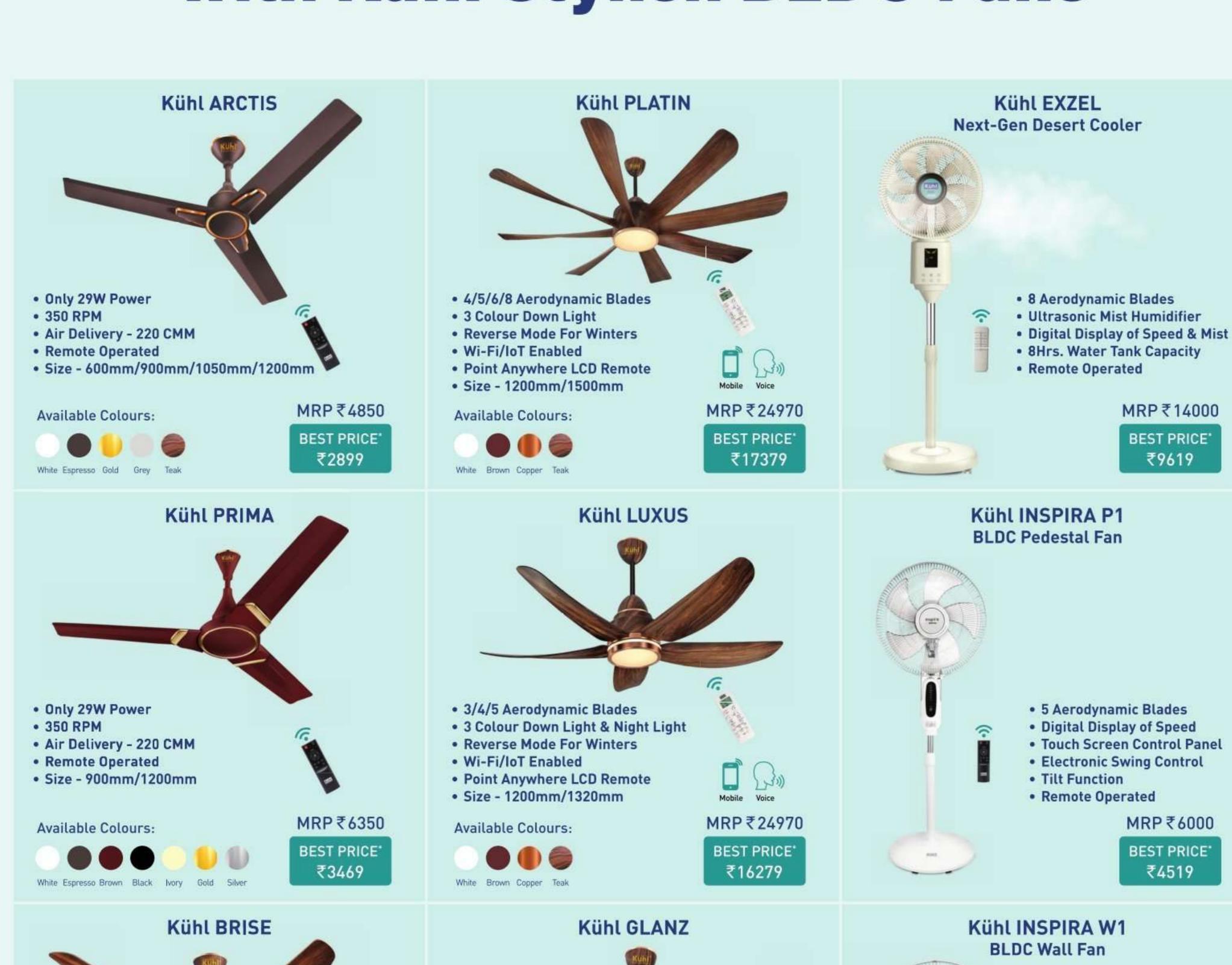
uth, such as the Mudra scheme and Start-Up India. Actor Alok said that the group performed for NGOs on social themes. The presentation of Rang-

manch was themed on a man who was upset because he didn't know where to get money to buy medicines for his ailing father. His neighbour tells him that he can buy affordable medicines at Prad-

hanmantri Jan Aushadhalay. BJP functionaries through the presentation and some of them suggested tightening the scripts to suit the party's messaging. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, who was present for the trial, said that the party would also organise puppet shows, magic shows, music concerts and flash mobs to highlight the achievements of the Modi govt. He said the campaign

ting to review preparedness and strategies regarding deployment, booth identifica-

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Domestic Help's Gang Rape Case Registered After Court Direction

Woman Was Allegedly Gang-Raped, Tongue Mutilated By 4-5 Men 16 Mths Ago

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Nearly 16 months after a domestic help was allegedly gang-raped and her tongue mutilated by attackers in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri, Delhi Police has registered a case following a court order.

The woman alleged that her female employer gave her a cold drink laced with sedatives, after which she was gang-raped by four to five people. A day later, she gained her senses and found herself admitted to a hospital by the woman employer and her husband, who threatened her with dire consequences. Somehow, the woman managed to escape.

The woman filed the complaint on July 27, 2023, and the police registered it on April 15, 2024, after the court order the same day.

In the complaint, the woman has said that she was employed as a

The woman alleged that her female employer gave her a cold drink laced with sedatives after which she was gang-raped by four to five people

domestic worker in a home in Govindpuri when she was sexually assaulted. Her employer operated a massage centre, frequented by many patrons.

On Dec 29, 2022, the woman employer told her to come to the house to prepare food in the evening as it was her daughter's birthday and that some guests would be there.

Between 8 pm and 9 pm, four to five people arrived, and one of the men persistently stared at her. He also touched the domestic help's hand on the pretext of asking for water. Later,

शान्ताकारं भुजगशयनं पद्मनाभं सुरेशं

विश्वाधारं गगनसदृशं मेघवर्णं शुभाङ्गम्।

लक्ष्मीकान्तं कमलनयनं योगिभिध्यानगम्यं

वन्दे विष्णुं भवभ्यहरं सर्वलोकैकनाथम्॥

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at Chinmaya Mission, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

In Loving Memory

Smt. Raj Rani Aggarwal (wife)

Pitambar Infovision Pvt Ltd (%)

they started dancing in the house, the complainant said.

She said that around the same time, her employer offered her a cold drink allegedly laced with some intoxicating substance.

After consuming it, the help lost consciousness. The following day, she found herself in a hospital in Gurgaon, with severe bruises and pain throughout her body. She had deep and severe injuries to her mouth, eyes, tongue, head and face. Her tongue was cut, rendering her voice inaudible. She was unable to speak.

"There was significant swelling and pain in my private parts, and I was covered in blood. The woman had admitted me under a false name. and neither she, nor her husband, had informed my family about the incident. They, along with others, conspired to portray the entire incident as an accident to conceal the gang rape," the complainant said. The woman's lawyer alleged that the gang rape happened inside a car in Gurgaon.

She also mentioned that when she confronted them, the couple threatened her with severe consequences. She repeatedly requested that she be allowed to contact her family.

A person helped the survivor contact her family. Eventually, the woman escaped from the hospital in the clothes provided by the facility and met her family. They admitted her to another hospital.

Her lawyer said that she took her time to recover somewhat from the assault and then file a complaint. But there was no proper investigation, so she had to move to court. "She is still recovering from the assault," the lawyer added. A senior police officer said the matter is under judicial monitoring.

Robotic surgery brings hope to women with breast cancer

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The procedure

- > Functionality of breast depends on the amount of original skin and nipple preserved after removal of cancerous portion
- > Surgical procedure involves removal of suspicious malignant tissue with adequate margins, preserving the overlying breast skin and nipple, if possible
- > Robotic assistance helps provide even better results and functionality while doing skin/nipple sparing mastectomy

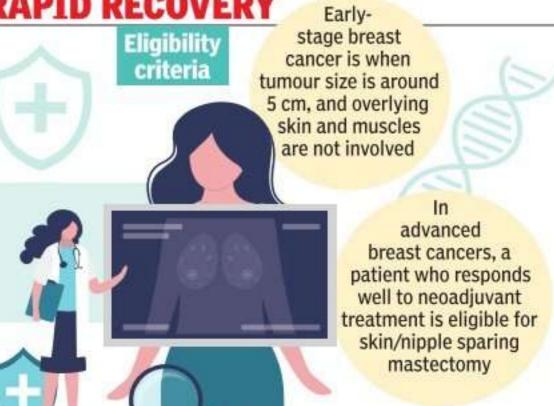
Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

Doctors at a private hospi-

tal in Delhi have carried out at

least 15 such surgeries in

tient's back to reconstruct the



Advantages of robotic assistance

Robotic arms provide better access at angles, which is not possible with retractors in open methodology Enhanced vision leads to precision in dissection

Incision placement is generally in skin creases like axillary (lateral) or inferior mammary creases, which is better than in conventional skin sparing procedures

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New Delhi: Certain breast cancer patients may no longer need to fear for their appearance post-surgery as "robot-assisted functional breast preservation surgery" not only preserves their breasts but also provides them with functional sensations and breasts similar to their original ones.

Sh. Subbash Chander Jair (Shamdi Wale) ••••

which a robotic arm was used to enter the breast from the armpit to remove the canceroremembered by whole family. us tissue. Simultaneously, tissue was harvested from the pa-

> breast with a single lateral mammary incision, preserving the breast skin as well as the nipple, if possible, thus preserving sensation.

"This procedure provides remarkably natural looking outcomes while preserving full breast sensation," Dr Mandeep Singh Malhotra, director of surgical oncology at CK Birla Hospital, who per-

forms these surgeries, said. This is not possible in open breast cancer surgery.

He added that this surgery offers more precise visualisation and smaller incisions, rapid recovery, lesser pain and better psychological outcomes due to preservation of skin, nipple and sensation of the breast.

While talking about eligibility criteria, he said, though loss of breast is morbid for women of any age and should be equally evaluated for breast preservation, this procedure is recommended for selected patients. These include women having early-stage breast cancer without involvement of overlying skin/nipple and those women who have responded very well to NeoAdjuvant Chemotherapy/Systemic Therapy.

Sharing her experience, a 29-year-old breast cancer patient told TOI that she was diagnosed when she was four months pregnant. "I thought my life was finished as my breast would be removed. But because of this surgery, I have just a small scar," she said.

Another patient who was diagnosed last year after Diwali, said that it was a nightmare after knowing about breast cancer as she was contemplating the removal of her breast but today she was back to normal, thanks to the new technology.

Comparing the robotic assisted surgery with open surgery, Dr Malhotra said that the average time in open surgery is around four hours while the procedure in robotic surgery takes around 2.5 to 3 hours. "The hospital stay is also reduced by 24-48 hours," he said.

According to a study published in Jan 2024, breast cancer survival in India has improved slightly, but it still lags behind that of developed countries. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in India, accounting for 28.2% of all female cancers, with an estimated 216,108 cases by 2022. The age-standardised incidence rate of female breast cancer has increased by 39.1% from 1990 to 2016, and this trend has been seen in every state of India over the past 26 years.

Delhi Cong discusses campaign strategy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Days after it declared the candidates for three seats, Delhi Congress on Friday held a meeting of senior party functionaries to plan election campaign strategy.

Apart from Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely and party's Delhi in-charge Deepak Babaria, the meeting was also attended by North East Delhi candidate Kanhaiya Kumar and former MLAs of the parliamentary constituency.

This was the first meeting of senior party functionaries since the announcement of the candidates. While Congress is contesting North East Delhi, North West Delhi and Chandni Chowk seats under the seat sharing arrangement with AAP.

A functionary said the party had decided to highlight inflation and unemployment as the failures of BJP govt of 10 years while talking to the electorate and discussing five justices and 25 promises made by Congress, if it is elected. "Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely exhorted party functionaries and workers to ensure the victory of not only the three party candidates but all 7 seats of Delhi with the assurance that Congress will fulfilits five Nyay (justices) and 25 guarantees," the party stated.

After the election strategy meet, a separate meeting of Delhi functionaries was held in Lovely's offices where, sources said, coordination issues within the party were discussed.

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



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Himanshu & Shalini Aggarwal

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

Saanvi Aggarwal

(Granddaughter)

ASC fraternity prays to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul & fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Mobile No: 9811180505,

9999077999. Mrs Kamal Solanki (Wife) Address: H. No-728, Sec-23A, Gurgaon-122017. DGST and all Members of ASC Association.



Maj. Subhash Bhatnagar (Maxi) Vippi 08.04.1940 - 20.04.2018

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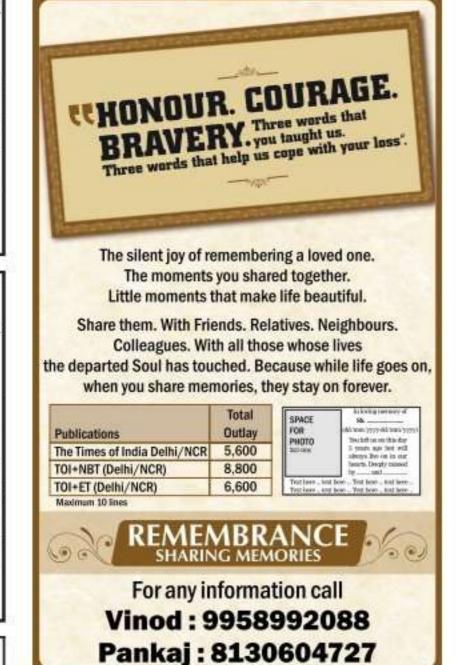
keeps us strong and bound together.Our hearts ache knowing that we can not hug you any more, but you continue to be our guiding light We miss you Papa, as you watch over us from heavens. Remembered dearly, by Family & Friends

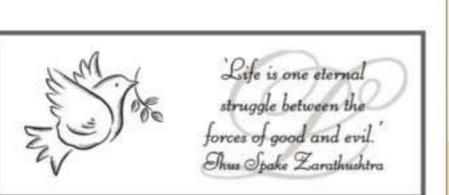


In the loving memory of Mrs. Shyami Rani Pahuja 26.02.1950 - 20.04.2021

You are missed everyday Your memory continues to make us smile. Your love and care can never be forgotten..

Jai Dayal Pahuja, Ranjana, Mahender, Bharti, Rahul, Lucky, Sanjeev, Sukriti, Reet, Gauranshi, Diaana





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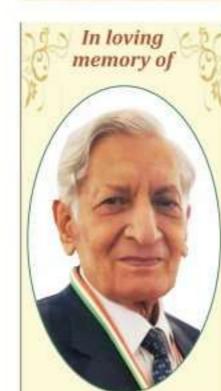
Varun & Anna Aggarwal

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(Grandson)

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

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you left us, but your love and guidance continue to shape our lives every day. Your laughter, wisdom, and kindness remain etched in our hearts forever. We miss you deeply, but we find solace in the beautiful memories we shared. Your legacy lives on in the values you instilled in us. You will always be cherished &

Fondly remembered by Family & Friends

remembered with love.



(24th Sep. 1927 - 18th Apr. 2024) She radiated grace in life and left us a legacy of love. We will always miss you and forever cherish you in our hearts. Please join us as we remember and celebrate her life April 20, 2024 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm

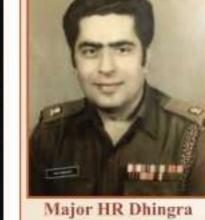
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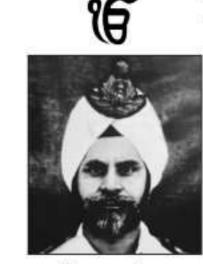
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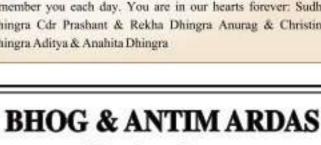
Remember all the laughter, We've shared throughout the years. Now I am contented That my life it was worthwhile, Knowing as I passed along the way I made somebody smile. When you are walking down the street And you've got me on your mind, I'm walking in your footsteps Only half a step behind. So please don't be unhappy Just because I'm out of sight, Remember that I'm with ou Each morning, noon and night. Major HR Dhingra (Rajput Regiment - 1965 & 1971 War Veteran) left for his heavenly abode Husband, Father, Dadu, Brother, Friend & Guide) Miss you and ber vou each day. You are in our hearts forever: Sudha Dhingra Cdr Prashant & Rekha Dhingra Anurag & Christina Dhingra Aditya & Anahita Dhingra

Don't remember me with sadness, Don't remember me with tears,



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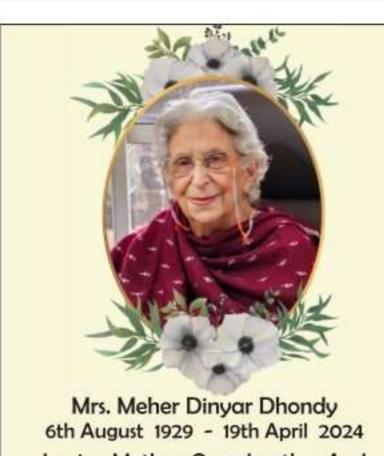
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New Delhi 110002

Dy Mayor Poll: AAP Has A Rebel Problem

No Democracy In Party: Trilokpuri Councillor

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Two AAP rebel councillors, Narendra Kumar from Manglapuri ward and Vijay Kumar from Trilokpuri ward, have not withdrawn their nominations for the election to the post of MCD deputy mayor, set to be held on April 26.

In a post on X on Friday evening, Vijay Kumar said: "I have filed a nomination, will fight the election and also win. I request you not to put pressure on my family. You people talk about democracy, but there is

no democracy in the party." On Friday morning too, he posted on X: "Filing a nomination is my personal decision, and I request not to involve my family in politics. It is my job to serve the public and do politics. The doors of my house are always open for you; you can come anytime, but I again request you not to put any kind of pressure on my family."

He tagged AAP minister Atishi, MP Sanjay Singh, MLA Durgesh Pathak, and former MLA Nitin Tyagi.

When asked about his notold TOI that he would contest and had no plan for withdrawing his name. He didn't disclose the reason for filing



Narendra Kumar and Vijay Kumar

the nomination.

On Thursday, Vijay Kumar's name for deputy mayor seat was proposed by AAP councillor Praveen Kumar and BJP councillor Suman Kumari. Narendra Kumar's name was proposed by AAP councillors Sudesh Kumar and Sunil Kumar Chaddha.

After meeting AAP minister Atishi and MP Sanjay Singh on Thursday, Vijay Kumar wrote, "I was and will be an AAP worker, not fight the mayor election, and CM Arvind Kejriwal is my leader." This post was deleted later.

In its response to Vijay Kumar's behaviour, AAP said: "We are fighting with a demonic power called BJP. They will try all deceitful tricks and tactics imaginable to unsettle AAP."

mination, Narendra Kumar negative politics over governance, "resorting to baseless tactics like imprisoning Arvind Kejriwal and attempting to dismantle our party."

AAP has the majority in change fake currency the MCD House with 134 of the amounting to \$12,000. 250 councillors belonging to the party. The party claimed tingthem to determine the that all nine Congress coun- source of counterfeit mocillors have extended support ney and searching for theto AAP, so winning both the ir Indian associates. A seats would be a cakewalk. But if these rebel councillors continue to contest, then the

results would be impacted. BJP has 105 seats, and the-siness, stated that on April re are two independent councillors. In the first mayoral election in Feb 2023, cross-voting happened even when the party has full majority. And now, when AAP is facing a cri-troduced himself as Mirosis of all sorts after the arrest dil Umarov, said they had of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, it will be a challenge for the party to keep the flock dian rupees. They claimed of councillors together.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that fissures were visible in AAP. "It clearly shows that all is not well in AAP, and they may disintegrate. Moreover, me notes had identical sethe absence of Congress councillors when the AAP candidates filed nominations indicates that the Congress-AAP alliance has failed to ce-It said that BJP prioritised ment itself at the ground le-call the police. They snat-

vel," Kapoor said. Jitender Kochar of Delhi hands and fled. I raised an Pradesh Congress Committee alarm and chased them said they had extended full- down with the help of polifledged support to AAP.

Anindya Chattopadhyay

to trade fake currency, held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two Uzbek nationals have been arrested in Connaught Place for allegedly attempting to ex-

Police are interrogasum of Rs 4.5 lakh was recovered from them.

The complainant, who runs a money exchange bu-17, around 8pm, he was in his shop when two foreign nationals, aged around 30-32 years, approached him.

One of the men, who inaround \$10,120 that they wanted to exchange for Into be tourists.

"Umarov handed me a bundle of \$100 notes. I noticed some irregularities in the quality and printing of a few notes. I found that sorial numbers," the complainant stated.

"I asked them where they had obtained the dollars and told them I would ched the notes from my ce officers," he said.

Uzbek men try NDMC takes steps to curb water woes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken several steps to overcome any shortage of potable water in the areas under its jurisdiction.

"The water supply division has taken advance steps to meet the demand of shortage of potable water in the NDMC areas, including JJ clusters. NDMC is now geared up to me-

et the demand of potable water in the areas," said council member Kuljeet Singh Chahal on Friday.

According to Chahal, there are 41 clusters having 9,711 jhuggies under NDMC and direct potable water facilities are already provided through centralised water connection pipes in these clusters for three to five hours daily. "We are aware that during the summer season

TERI School of Advanced Studies

Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Deemed to be University

consumption of water increases, while supply of the water reduces. To meet the requirement of demand of water of JJ dwellers, water supply division is providing 25 water tankers," said Chahal.

As and when the demand or complaint of shortage of water is received in the control room, the tankers will reach the JJ clusters within half an hour, he added.



(Under section 3 of the UGC Act) LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY **EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

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APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

Gurugram, Haryana Apparel Export Promotion Council has openings for 'Young Professionals' at its Head Office, Apparel House, Institutional Area, Sector 44, Gurugram (Haryana) initially on a two year's contract.

For further details please visit to the career section of the Council's official website www.aepcindia.com. Interested candidates may send their latest resume at careers@aepcindia.com within 10 days.

SOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender 5-Notice

Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. 03/2024-2025 and 2024_PHED_688374_1 to 16 for Construction of temporary Latrine, Vat etc. at different Police Station for Parliament General Election 2024 for different Sub-Division, under Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 24.04.2024 at 15:00 IST. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T7824(3)/2024

e-Tender S-Notice

e Tender S-Notice is invited by the Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. 04/2024-2025 and 2024_PHED_688431_1 to 15 for Construction of temporary Latrine, Vat etc. at different Police Station for Parliament General Election 2024 for different Sub-Division, under Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 25.04.2024 at 15:00 IST. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. ICA-T7830(3)/2024



Contact No. 8657573336, 8657573337, 9869087617

for the work of :- 1) "Temporary E.I. Work and DG Set on hire basis for commodation of CAPF at various locations of BASUDEBPUR PS and NOAPARA PS, under Barrackpore Police Commissionerate, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Loksabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas--Phase-II. 2) "Temporary E.I. Work and DG Set on hire basis for accommodation of CAPF at various locations of BHATPARA PS, under Barrackpore Police Commissionerate, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Loksabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas--Phase-II." 3) "Temporary E.I. Work and DG Set on hire basis for accommodation of CAPF at various locations of JAGADDAL PS, under Barrackpore Police Commissionerate, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Loksabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas--Phase-II." 4) "Temporary E.I. Work and DG Set on hire basis for accommodation of CAPF at various locations of JETIA PS and HALISAHAR PS, under Barrackpore Police Commissionerate, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Loksabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas--Phase-II. NIT No: 1) WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIQ-43/24-25. 2) WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIQ-44/24-25. 3) WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/ e-NIQ-45/24-25. 4) WBPWD/EE/N24/ EL/e-NIQ-46/24-25. Tender Id 2024_WBPWD_688383_1 2024_WBPWD_688384_1 2024_WBPWD_688392_1 2024_WBPWD_688397_1. Pre Bid Meeting Date: NIL. Bid Submission start date (Online): 18/04/2024. Bid Submission Closing date (Online): 30/04/2024. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D, NORTH

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE



SLIGHT RESPITE: The city is yet to see the maximum temperature crossing the 40-degree mark

Delhi sweats through hottest day of the season at 39.4°C

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The city experienced the hottest day of the season on Friday at 39.4 degrees Celsius. The day also saw clear skies and minimal winds. Some areas, including Lodhi Road, saw traces of rain which, however, had a negligible effect on the scorching heat.

The maximum temperature at the city's base station, Safdarjung, was 39.4 degrees Celsius on Friday, three notches above normal, compared with 39.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Pusa was the warmest area at 40.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Pitampura at 40.3 degrees Celsius.

Delhi recorded the hottest day of the season on April 12 too, at 39.4 degrees Celsius. However, the city is yet to see

Delhi has received 2.9 mm of rainfall this month. The long-period average for rainfall in April rainfall is 16.3 mm

the maximum temperature touching or crossing the 40 degrees Celsius-mark.

The minimum temperature on Friday was 24.3 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal, against 20.9 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

The India Meteorological Department had issued a yellow alert for drizzling with gusty winds for Friday. It, however, did not materialise unsome areas.

rature might fluctuate between 38 and 39 degrees Celsius. Another western disturbance is expected around April 22, which will lead to cloudiness and thus control the maximum temperature from rising for a day," said Kuldeep Srivastava, senior scientist at the India Meteorological De-

partment (IMD). Delhi has received 2.9 mm of rainfall this month. The long-period average for rainfall in April rainfall is 16.3 mm. Last year, Delhi recorded 20.1 mm of rainfall in April.

As per the IMD, the maximum temperature may rise up to 41 degrees Celsius within the next 4-5 days.

til late afternoon. The drizzle Meanwhile, Delhi's air quwas too light to be recorded in ality remained moderate on Friday. The air quality index (AQI) was 183, against 163 a "There are no chances of rain on Saturday. The tempeday earlier. 14-year-old beaten to death in Narela; 4 men, minor nabbed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 14-year-old boy has been beaten to death in outer north Delhi's Narela area on the suspicion of stealing batteries. Suspects Deepak (26), Ayush (19), Shivansh (19) and Mohit (21) have been arrested and a 17-year-old boy apprehended in this case, police said.

The minor was taken to the agricultural land in Lampur village, where he was thrashed till his death. Two suspects admitted the victim to a hospital, which informed police about the admission of a teenager who was declared dead on April 1, a senior police officer said

During inquiry, cops obtained the deceased's phone. "A call was received on that phone. The caller claimed to be Vishal's father, and he was informed about the situation. He subsequently came to the hospital and identified the body," said Ravi Kumar Singh, DCP

(outer north). The deceased's father informed police that his son had be-

DCP SAYS

On March 31, Deepak and his minor accomplice went to Vishal's house to inquire about the missing batteries, supplied for lights. There they met the boy. Vishal agreed to meet them later near a pond in Bankner village after charging his phone

pak (the son of a soldier) and the juvenile. Based on this, a case under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC was registered, the officer said.

"During investigation, we detained one accused, Mota alias Deepak, a resident of Swatantra Nagar. He revealed that he runs a battery business, renting batteries for lights to shopkeepers for a fee of Rs 10. He had employed Vishal to deliver the batteries to shopkeepers daily," the DCP said, other suspects we-

re nabbed at Deepak's behest. Deepak suspected Vishal and his friend Sahil of stealing the batteries. "On March 31, around 2.30 pm, he and his minor accomplice went to Vishal's house to inquire about

they encountered the boy. Vishal agreed to meet them later near a pond in Bankner village after charging his phone," the officer said.

Sahil, Vishal's friend, was also summoned to the pond. After questioning Sahil, Deepak and his friend savagely beat Vishal with a cable in Sahil's presence. Deepak then called his other friends, Mohit, Ayush, and another boy. They forcefully took Vishal on a motorcycle to Lampur village, police said.

There, they continued to beat Vishal until he died. To evade the police, Deepak and the juvenile transported the victim to a hospital and abandoned him on a stretcher after providing false information, en kidnapped allegedly by Dee- the missing batteries. There, police added.



2 Years Product Warranty. 5 Years Product Warranty is available only on Arioso BLDC Plus Fan. ^The conventional

fan of 75W vs BLDC fan of 35W. Unit cost may depend on load type, location, and no. of used units etc. Images of

the products shown are for representation purposes only. Actual colours/sizes of the products may vary. For more

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Charming narrative lifts this saga

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Do Aur Do Pyaar (Drama) Cast: Vidya Balan, Pratik Gandhi, Ileana D'Cruz, Sendhil Ramamurthy Direction: Shirsha Guha Thakurta **Duration:** 2 hours 19 minutes Language: Hindi (UA)

A couple is having secret affairs to overcome the boredom in their marriage. A trip out of town rekindles their chemistry, and the tables turn. Torn between their lovers and spouses, will they resolve their issues or separate as they have quietly planned?

ased on the film *The Lovers*, this romantic comedy introduces us to two couples: Kavya (Vidya Balan) and Vikram (Sendhil Ramamurthy) and Aniruddh (Pratik Gandhi) and Nora (Ileana D'Cruz). But the scene segues into Kavya and Aniruddh trapped in mundane domesticity as a married couple. The film explores their journey as they navigate separation plans and a trip to Ooty for Kavya's grandfather's funeral. This unexpected turn rekindles their own marital spark, forcing them to confront a difficult choice.

While the premise of rediscovering love or choosing between spouses and lovers isn't groundbreaking, director Shirsha Guha Thakurta injects a refreshing perspective.



The film avoids moralising or melodrama, opting for a lighthearted approach even when dealing with adultery.

Debutante director Thakurta and the writing team, Suprotim Sengupta and Eisha A Chopra, weave a light narrative peppered with humour, even during tense moments. Aniruddh's nervous slip-up, calling his fatherin-law "Appam" mixing Appa and Uncle is one of the many examples.

While the first half breezes by, the film stumbles slightly in the second half. Kavya and

Aniruddh's attempts to juggle their rekindled romance and their existing relationships become repetitive. The narrative also loses momentum in the second act, with the initial flashes of brilliance fading.

The film boasts of skillful treatment, the credit for which goes to cinematographer Kartik Vijay, ISC. A slick soundtrack by performers and non-film artistes like Lost Stories, The Local Train (Tu Hai Kahan sung by Lucky Ali), When Chai Met Toast, Abhishek-Ananya, and Subhajit Mukherjee adds loftiness to the narrative.

The film's true strength lies in its lead cast. Vidya Balan and Pratik Gandhi share undeniable chemistry, captivating viewers with their passionate reunion, the portrayal of a failing marriage, or the brewing tension. Ileana D'Cruz, as a "whiny," at times ditzy but easily pleased girlfriend, stands out. Sendhil Ramamurthy as the hotshot and artistic photographer is convincing.

Do Aur Do Pyaar falters with its uneven pacing, especially in the latter half. Despite this, the stellar performances, humour-infused script, and beautiful visuals make it a watchable romantic comedy.

- Dhaval Roy

To review any movie and check show timings visit etimes.in

Appu (Animation, Drama) ***

Cast: Voiceovers by Jasleen Singh, Prosenjit Ganguly, Sonal Kaushal, Samay Thakkar, Rupa Bhimani, Sabina Malik Direction: Prosenjit Ganguly, Ajay Velu, **Duration:** 1 hour 32 minutes

Language: Hindi, English (U)

The tale follows the endearing adventures of a spirited baby elephant calf named Appu, who embarks on a heroic odyssey, discovering his inner strength and unwavering determination to safeguard his family and species.

ppu is a heartfelt film with a powerful message about the importance of protecting our planet's wildlife. Visually, the film shines with its storybook-like quality, which will appeal to young audiences. However, the storytelling is predictable and amateurish for adults. While the tracks are visually captivating, they contribute to the film's length without adding much enjoyment, and the background score lacks innovation.

DU to start PG admissions from April 25:

Delhi University (DU) will start admissions for

post graduation (PG) courses for the

varsity officials said on Friday. The

academic session 2024-25 from April 25,

registration for admissions into the PG

for objecting to settlement of his claims.

documents before the Nominated Judge

after verification of original records.

The Hon'ble Nominated Judge

Helios Finance and Investment (Under Revival)

of Investment are given below for kind perusal and for settlement of my claim.

Dated this 19th day of April 2024



Writer Prosenjit Ganguly, who has co-directed the film with Ajay Velu, Archisman Kar employs the usual premise of teamwork, courage, overcoming of fears, kindness, etc. Through Appu's (Jasleen Singh) journey, the filmmakers shed light on the severity of elephant poaching and the alarming decline of these majestic

creatures due to the demand for their tusks. When Appu's father, Kannan (Samay Thakkar), is captured by hunters, Appu defies

the odds and embarks on a mission to rescue his father from the clutches of notorious poachers. Along the way, he is joined by the talkative dog Tiger (Prosenjit Ganguly) and a fugitive little girl, Neena (Sonal Kaushal).

The antagonist, Don (Manoj Pandey), who resembles Gabbar, comes across as trite, but the visuals and the vibrant jungle setting enhance the narrative.

The film suffers from overdramatic dialogues, which detract from the enjoyment of watching this first Indian 4K animated film. For instance, "apno ko khone ka dard samajhti hoon (I know the pain of losing your own people)". However, the voiceover artists excel in bringing their characters to life and conveying the emotional depth of the story.

Despite its formulaic story and occasional flaws, Appu effectively conveys the #ElephantLivesMatter message, which advocates for the conservation and preservation of our planet's natural heritage. Overall, while the film may not break new ground in terms of storytelling, its essential message and endearing characters make it worth watching.

Archika Khurana

GOOD *** VERY GOOD ***

Luv You Shankar (Adventure, Animation, Drama) Cast: Mann Gandhi, Shreyas Talpade, Tanishaa Mukerji, Abhimanyu Singh, Hemant Pandey Direction: Rajiv S Ruia **Duration:** 1 hour 58 minutes

Language: Hindi (UA)

Following an accident, Shivansh, an 8-year-old, comes to the realization that he was once Rudra, a devotee of Lord Shiva, whose life was unjustly ended by Siddheshwar, a fraudulent Guru. Determined to seek justice for his past life, Shivansh embarks on a journey to avenge Rudra's death.

uv You Shankar is a mediocre film that falls flat, offering little to engage its audience. Its elementary storyline fails to hold interest, leaving viewers yearning for the film to get over at the earliest. While seemingly aimed at children, its unimaginative plot, average performances, and substandard animation risk alienating even its youngest viewers, ultimately rendering it a disappointment for all.



The story revolves around 8-year-old Shivansh (Mann Gandhi), residing in London with his parents. An accident lands him in the hospital, where the treating doctor reveals to his parents that his unconscious ramblings hint at a past life in Banaras. Upon visiting Banaras, Shivansh reunites with Madhav (Hemant Pandey), his closest friend from a previous life, and discovers his true identity as Rudra (Shreyas Talpade), a devout follower of Lord Shiva, who was killed by Siddhu (Abhimanyu Singh), now a fraudulent Guru named Siddheshwar. When Siddhu's allies attempt to harm him. Shivansh is miraculously rescued by Lord Shiva, solidifying his determination to seek vengeance.

Incorporating a touch of animation, this drama features fine actors such as Shreyas Talpade and Abhimanyu Singh, yet their performances fall short of expectations. However, Hemant Pandey's portrayal of Madhav stands out, adding some excitement to the narrative, while Sanjay Mishra's cameo manages to inject humour into the final moments. Mann Gandhi's portrayal of Shivansh is strictly ok, although unremarkable, and Tanishaa's brief appearance as Shreyas' character's wife leaves little impact.

Director Sanjay S Ruia has revisited the formula that he had earlier used in My Friend Ganesha, but this time it lacks the same impact. The film begins in London and later transitions to Banaras but the makers have failed to capture the essence of both cities. The animated depiction of Lord Shiva falls short of its potential, highlighting a missed opportunity to utilize advanced technology for a more credible and captivating visual. While Luv You Shankar initially shows promise with flashy glimpses of past events, the hope for an engaging plot quickly fades away, turning the film into a disappointment.

OUTSTANDING ****

Abhishek Srivastava

MASTERPIECE ****

RATING SCALE

TRASH * BELOW AVERAGE ★★ AVERAGE ***

Helios Finance and Investment Ltd. (Under Revival)

Company Petition --- 17/1999

Advertisement of Notice to Creditors to Prove their Claim

of order dated 07.04.2023, passed by Hon'ble Patna High Court in Company Petition No. 17 of 1999,

to submit proofs of their respective debts or claims against the above named company in prescribed

format (download from the website/typed copy of notice published in the newspaper or obtain from

the Patna office) by delivering at the office of Hon'ble nominated Judge within three months from the

date of the publication of this notice or sending by post so as to reach at the claim settlement office,

Patna before the due date alongwith an affidavit proving the debt for claim with their respective name,

addresses and particulars of debt or claim. Any creditors who fails to submit his affidavit of proofs within

the time limited as aforesaid will not be considered for the benefit of any amount against his claims or

Any creditors who has sent his proofs, if so required shall appear in person before the Hon'ble

The claimants must attach an self attested or photocopy with proper attestation of receipt/passbook/

certificate or any other proofs, issued by the company against their deposit. The claim will be settled

Format of Claim Form

I am submitting my documents of deposit/Investment on affidavit for its repayment/settlement as directed vide

order dated 07.04.2023, passed by Hon'ble Patna High Court in Company Petition No. 17 of 1999. My details

Claimant's Bank A/c NoBank Name:Branch NameIFSC Code......

Original Deposit Receipt/Passbook No./Certificate No

I declare that the document of investment furnished herewith is correct, If any thing contradicting or falsifying

Aadhar No PAN No. (Not Mandatory)

the above is found, I shall be held accountable for any penal action or refund of paid amount.

Nominated Judge at such time and place as shall be specified and shall produce original

Notice is hereby given to all the creditors/Investors of Helios Finance and Investment Ltd. in the light

courses will remain open till May 25.

ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★

The dates for the UG admissions will be

LLB courses. The PG admissions this time will also include courses on MA Hindu Studies, MA Public Health, MA Chinese Studies, MA Korean Studies and Master in Fine Arts. The press conference was also attended by

Derogatory complaint to spouse's employer is cruelty, says HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has held that making derogatory complaints to a spouse's employer with the intent to harm their professional reputation and financial well-being amounts to cruelty.

A bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna in a recent order dissolved the marriage between a couple while noting that making such complaints demonstrates lack of mutual respect and goodwill, which is crucial for a healthy marriage.

It was hearing an appeal by the husband against a family court order that refused to grant him divorce.

He contended that he endured severe mental torture and anguish in the relationship and alleged that the wife sent complaints to

his employer with the intention of causing him embarrassment and humiliation in front of his colleagues. "Whether the complaints were false or

true, irrespective of this fact, making derogatory complaints to the employer or spouse, with intent to harm their professional reputation and financial well-being, is nothing but cruelty," HC noted.

"Making such complaints demonstrates a lack of mutual respect and goodwill, which is crucial for a healthy marriage. Merely stating that such complaints were made after the parties separated, in no manner absolves a spouse from the guilt of committing cruelty," it further noted.

As per the plea, the couple got married in Jan 2011 but began living separately in Sept 2011. HC took into account the husband's allegation that the wife sent a message using defamatory language for her father-in-law and opined that it showed a lack of respect and consideration within the relationship.

It said the wife's conduct led to the inevitable conclusion that her behaviour caused serious concern in the husband's mind, disturbing his mental peace and making it untenable for the parties to sustain their marital relationship.

SEARCH OF MISSING

Family certificate issued by competent authority in case of successor.

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), Namely: Mahtab Alam S/o Rifaquddin, R/o H.No. G-10/202, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi Aged: 32 years, has been missing from the above address since 02.04.2024 In this regard a GD No. 45-A Dated 05.04.2024, has been lodged at P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.

Documents to be attached with claim form

Copy of Aadhar 3. Copy Of PAN (If Available)

Photo copy of Deposit Receipt/Passbook/Certificate

His physical description is as under: Mahtab Alam Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Height: 5'6" Feet, Built: Medium, Wearing: Purpal color Shirt and Black color Pant.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform to the following at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No. :011-24368638 or 24368641

P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi DP/4304/SD/2024 Ph: 8010085267, 8750870833

Addressing a press conference, Dean of Admissions Haneet Gandhi said that DU will start the admissions for undergraduate (UG) courses in the second phase after the CUET-UG examinations are over.

Sd/- Justice Shivaji Pandey (Retd.)

Hon'ble Nominated Judge

Claim Settlement Office, Shop No.-208, 2" Floor

Maharaja Kameshwar Singh Complex, Frazer Road, Patna-1

Phone No.- 6203424646, 0612-4143407

E-mail-heliosfinance.nic12@gmail.com

Website- www.heliosclaim.org

Full Signature of Investor:

DatePlace

State..... Phone No.....

Full Address:

declared by middle of May, she added. According to officials, this year admissions will be done on a total of 13,500 seats for PG courses, consisting 120 seats each for three B.Tech and 60 seats each for BA LLB and BBA

Govt. of Bihar

Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh. PTI Water Resources Department

Email: mmcwrd@gmail.com. Memo No. - FMISC/07/2024-437

Short Eol Notice No.- 01/2024-25. Expression of Interest

"Selection of consultant for Consultancy Services for Management support to the Mathematical Modelling Center (MMC) under Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar."

 Water Resource Department, Government of Bihar has developed its own Centre of Excellence (COE) in Water Resources Development and Management as Mathematical Modelling Centre at Patna. The overall objective of the proposed Consultancy Services is to develop sustainable internal capacity in the Water Resources Department to independently carry out mathematical modelling for various facts of water resources development including flood and sediment management, erosion management of Ganga basin in general and rivers of Bihar like Kosi, Bagmati, Mahananda Gandak and others.

Mathematical Modelling Centre (MMC) invites eligible consultant to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultant must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, Name, in the business, name and qualification of experts likely to be associated, Financial statement for the last five years; details of similar and related assignments, performance certificates from clients for similar or related assignments executed in the

3. Interested Consultants may upload/submit their proposal as scheduled below: -				
SI. No.	Information	Detail		
1.	Website for submission of online offer.	http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in		
2.	Date and Time for submission of online offer.	25.04.24 to 10.05.24 upto 15:00 hrs IST.		
3.	Date and Time for opening of offer.	10.05.24 15:30 hrs IST.		

- The draft terms of reference is available on website http://fmis.bih.nic, http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in and http://wrd.bih.nic.in. Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address given below from 10.00-17.00 hours on all working days. This notice for Expression of Interest has also been posted on websites http://fmis.bih.nic.in, http://wrd.bih.nic.in, http://prdbihar.gov.in and http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in.
- Expression of Interest containing the project profile, invitation of qualification and criteria for evaluation may be obtained from the website http://wrd.fmiscwrdbihar.gov.in and http://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
- a) The BSEDC Processing Fee of Rs. 590/- (Rupees Five Hundred Ninety) inclusive of all taxes has to be paid through e-payment mode only by online payment gateway. b) For any support related to e-procurement process, agencies may contact at following toll free no. or address:-

Toll Free No. 1800 572 6571 Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

m junction services limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. Shashtri Nagar, Patna-800014.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR- 000200 (WRD) 2024-25

(Prashant kumar) Mathematical Modelling Centre FMISC, 2nd Floor, Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Anisabad, Patna-800002

लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024- मतदान महात्योहार, बिहार है तैयार

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male Namely Sachin S/o Arun Kumar R/o H.No 211-Bl block, gali No.1, Shiv Mandir Road Swaroop Nagar, Delhi, has been missing /kidnapped from his house since: 24.03.2024 In this regard, a case DD No. 45A dated. 30.03.2024 has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under.

Sachin Age: 26 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion:

Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: thin, Wearing: Mehroom Colour Shirt and purpal color payjama and Hawai Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing male then please inform P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638,24368641 DP/4537/ON/2024

Sd/-S.H.O. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Tel No. 011-9971399899



one girl, Namely: Anisa D/o Bittu Ram R/o Mohalla Teer Garan Kasba, Charthawal, Muzaffar Nagar, U.P., Aged: About 18 years, has been missing from Area New Delhi Railway Station, since 13.04.2024. In this regard, a DD No. 62A, Dated 15.04.2024, has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Her physical

description is as under: Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Height: 5'2" Feet Built: Normal, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit and Salwar. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform to the following at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi DP/4577/Rly/2024 Ph.: 011-23744073, 23363622, 8750871305



Anisa



Government of Jammu & Kashmi DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY, KASHMIR

Cancellation Notice.

No-Dshk/Acctts/24-25/582 Dt- 16.04.2024

Reference - 1. E-Procurement Notice for sale of

wool issued vide no. e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTTS/23-24/1137(E) Dt-

No:-DSHK/ACCTTS/23-24/1137(E) Dt-

Chairman

Divisional Level Purchase Committee

Sheep Husbandry Department

19.01.2024 is hereby cancelled.

DIP No:DIPK-126/24/18.04.2024

1st Corrigendum Tender Notice No.: Dy.CE/C/AGC/ TN/2024/09 Dated: 16.04.2024 ollowing modification in above tende notice is made in tender No. Dy/CE/C AGC/TN/2024/09 dated: 16.04.2024

NIT Header Field Name : JV Firm Allowed Existing Value: No Modified Value: Yes

689/24 (D)

BURARI: Land of Khasra No.777, 777/1 Extended Lal Dora, Village Burari, North Delhi

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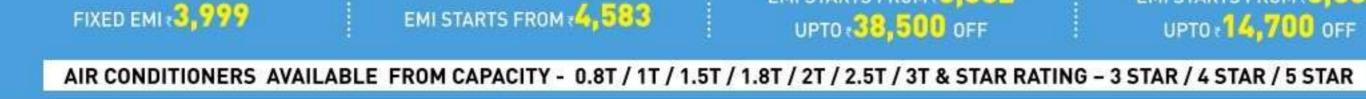
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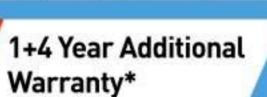
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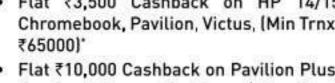








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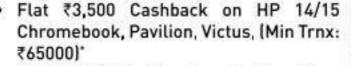
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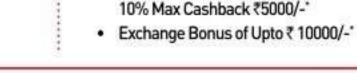
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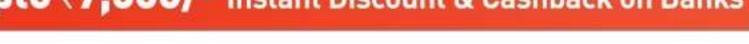














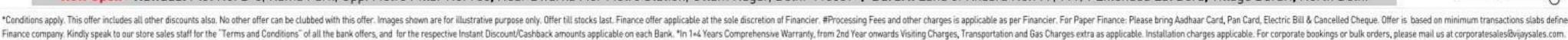


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a bilateral agreement signed

and Iran seemed keen to avoid

further escalation with the lat-

ter playing down the Israeli ac-

tion and indicating it had no

plans to retaliate. Iranian

media and officials described

a small number of explosions,

which they said resulted from

air defences hitting three

drones over the city of Isfahan

in central Iran. Notably, ac-

cording to a Reuters report,

they referred to the incident as

an attack by "infiltrators".

rather than by Israel, obviat-

ing the need for retaliation.

Fortunately, both Israel

last year in May.

TISS student

India in wait-and-watch mode after limited Israeli hit on Iran

No Decision On Evacuation At The Moment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Following Israel's retaliatory strike on Iran, Indian govt is closely monitoring the situation but whether it asks Indian nationals in the two countries to leave will depend on whether there is any further escalation.

While Israel did launch an air strike on Iran, its actions so far have been limited in scope, intended perhaps to not escalate further. Iran has denied any of its military or nuclear facilities took a hit in the Israeli action.

For India, if indeed the situation worsens, the top priority would be to safely evacuate Indian nationals in both the countries. India had earlier issued an advisory, but it was restricted to asking Indian nationals to not travel to both



Iranians at an anti-Israel rally after prayers in Tehran on Friday acute labour shortage, under

the countries till further notice. MEA had also urged Indians residing in Iran and Israel to exercise caution and restrict their movement.

While US asked its embassy staff to restrict movement, Australia Friday told its citizens to leave Iran and Israel citing "threat of military reprisals and terrorist attacks".

"All options are on the table but it's a wait and watch approach for the time being," said a govt source who spoke on condition of anonymity. India hadearlier also put on hold a proposal to allow thousands of India construction workers to go to Israel, which is facing

Tel Aviv till end of month

New Delhi: Air India's Tel Aviv flights will remain suspended till April 30 due to escalating Israel-Iran conflict. Most airlines, including AI, are avoiding Iranian airspace as much as possible.

No Al flight to

AI had first suspended Tel Aviv flights after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct 7 last year. The flights were resumed on March 3, only to be stopped again last weekend.

In a statement extending the suspensions, AI cited "the emerging situation in the West Asia". "We are extending support to our passengers with a one-time waiver on rescheduling and cancellation charges.... at Air India, safety remains top priority."

Other international carriers have also stopped Israel flights. SWISS has decided to suspend its Zurich-Tel Aviv services till April 25. TNN

suspended for 2 yrs for protest outside Parl

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A Dalit PhD scholar from TISS, Mumbai, has been suspended for two years and his entry across all the institute's campuses barred for participating in a demonstration outside Parliament in Jan under the banner of Progressive Students Forum (PSF)-TISS, which the institute considered a misuse of its name. Additionally, the student stands accused of posting pamphlets on social media inviting viewers to the screening of the documentary 'Ram ke Naam' on Jan 26, which the institute deemed a "mark of dishonour and protest against the Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya.'

Ramadas KS is former general secretary of PSF and member of the Students' Fed-

TIMES VIEW: Institutes of learning should foster a culture of openness where every school of political thought can be spoken of and heard. We need not agree with a particular view, but we should always defend one's right to articulate it. In the long run, suspending someone for views deemed unpalatable will hurt the institute as much as the student. It's a slippery slope the institute should avoid stepping into.

eration of India. He bagged a national fellowship for the scheduled castes for excelling in the UGC-NET exam. The fellowship sum along with HRA (Rs 48,000/month) is likely to be discontinued following the suspension. Ramadas was pursuing his PhD in growth and evolution of plantation workers.

An institute official said the student has repeatedly indulged in "unlawful" activities. Ramadas was served a show-cause notice on March 7 and, based on his response and investigation by a committee, the suspension letter was issued on Thursday.

Singapore recalls desi masala, says pesticide present beyond limit

Asmita Dey TNN

Mumbai: Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has recalled India's 'Everest fish curry masala' due to the presence of ethylene oxide, a pesticide that is not authorised for use in food, beyond permissible limits and advised buyers against consuming it. It followed a similar notification by the Centre for Food Safety in Hong Kong. The importer, Sp Muthiah & Sons, has been directed to recall the products, SFA said in a statement on April 18.

The 57-year old brand founded by late Vadilal Bhai Shah is India's largest manufacturer of pure and blended spices and is present in more than 80 countries globally.

In a statement to **TOI**, the company said that all its products go through stringent checks before despatch shipment goes through quality inspection by the Spice Board of India, it said.

"We strictly follow the highest hygiene and food safety standards and norms laid down by the authorities concerned and statutory bodies like the Indian Spice Board. FSSAI and others. However, we are awaiting an official communication to understand the issue and our quality control team will look into the matter," it added.

SPICE ROUT?

Everest, which competes with players like MDH Spices and Catch Foods in India's branded spices market, is pegged by analysts at well over Rs 20,000 crore and has been endorsed by Bollywood biggies like Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. Everest's current revenues are estimated to be over Rs 3,000 crore. Industry sources said that fish curry masala does not contribute and before export. Every to the company's sales significantly and the move is unlikely to have any major impact on its business.

Reschedule non-essential **Dubai trips, says** embassy in UAE

New Delhi: The Indian embassy in UAE Friday advised those flying to or via Dubai to reschedule non-essential travel till operations, hit by Monday's heavy rain, normalise, reports Saurabh Sinha. The airport "has temporarily limited the number of inbound flights".

Following the advisory, Air India cancelled its Friday flights to Dubai. AI Express said it had "adjusted flight operations to continue with the maximum permissible reduced capacity of 50%..."

Dubai-based Emirates. which is used by a large number of flyers travelling between India and rest of the world via DXB, also suspended check-ins for all customers in its network "with onward connections through Dubai until 11.59pm GMT, April 19".

India has about 75 flights per day to Dubai, operated by Indian and UAE carriers. Air India group has 250 weekly flights, while Emirates has 167.

AI is offering passengers free rescheduling or full refund for cancellation.

AP couple's toxic marriage turns into poll battle

Srikakulam: A couple's acrimonious marriage has turned into an electoral battle in Andhra Pradesh, with the wife threatening to contest against her husband, who has been fielded by YSRCP from Tekkali assembly constituency in Srikakulam district.

In a video that has gone viral, Duvvada Vani, a zila parishad member, is heard saying she would contest against

her hus-

Duvvada

Srinivas.

earlier

Vani was

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econd File Dt.22.3.2003 in respect of Half

hare of the said 'PROPERTY', executed by Smt. Suresh Jindal in favour of Smt. Meena Jain, which includes the another

Agreement to Sell Dt. 22.3.2003. My client

have filed the necessary NCR, vide LR

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aims proven legal then my client shall be able for all damages. The Intending buyer

of said property shall not be responsible

or any sort of claims, losses and

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made incharge for the constituency by YSRCP, indicating she would be given a poll ticket from Tekkali. However, the party fielded her husband instead.

Vani announced her intention to run



DUVVADA VS DUVVADA: Vani and husband Srinivas are staring at a poll face-off

against her husband during her birthday celebrations earlier this week, with her supporters indicating she would file nomination on April 22, if the party did not change its mind and nominate her.

Itall began in April 2023, when YSRCP announced Srinivas's candidature. Vani lodged a complaint with the party, questioning his attitude. YSRCP then replaced him with Vani. However, after the poll schedule was announced in March, the party decided to field Srinivas,

prompting Vani's rebellion.

Interestingly, the couple had been happily married for around three decades, and the differences between them cropped up only after the party picked Srinivas as its nominee last year. Since then, they have been living separately.

While Srinivas is a lawyer, Vani is in the running for the Srikakulam zilla parishad vice-chairman's post. Her father, Sampath Raghava Rao, was a senior Congress leader from north coastal Andhra. Srinivas was elected to the AP legis-

lative council in 2021. Earlier, he contested the assembly elections in 2014 on a YSRCP ticket, but lost to TDP's former minister and current state president Kinjarapur Accchennaidu.

He began his political career as a youth Congress leader in 2001 and was affiliated with Chiranjeevi's Praja Rajyam Party in 2009. He returned to Congress and also had a brief stint with TDP. He has faced electoral defeats twice.

Assailants break into K'taka BJP neta's house at night, leave 4 dead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gadag: Four persons, including a BJP functionary's son, were killed in Karnataka's Gadag town on Friday.

The victims are Kartik Bakale, 27, son of Gadag-Betgeri city municipal council vicepresident (BJP) Sunanda Bakale, and relatives Parashuram Hadimani, 58, his wife Laxmibai, 50, and their daughter Akanksha, 17. Kartik's father Prakash was the council's ex-vice-president.

Police said family members heard banging on the door around 2.15am. Fearing an attack by robbers, they Protests erupt over MCA student's murder The killing of MCA student Neha Hiremath, 24, on Thursday

sparked an outrage in many north Karnataka districts on Friday. She was stabbed 10 times by Fayaz Kondunaik, 24, who claimed to be her former friend. BJP and Hindu groups staged a dharna and condemned Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara's statement that there was a "love affair" between the two. Students from many schools and colleges forged a human chain on Hubballi-Dharwad road, throwing traffic out of gear for several hours. TNN

called police. However, the assailants entered the house by breaking open a window of a room on the first floor in which the Hadimanis were sleeping and stabbed them. Hearing their screams, Kartik, who was sleeping on the ground floor, rushed up only to be killed. The assailants then rushed downstairs and tried to break open Prakash's door. By this time cops arrived, and the killers fled.

Cops ruled out robbery being the crime's motive.

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Shah picks 12.39pm 'vijay muhurat' to file his papers

Seeks Second Successive MP Term From Gandhinagar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: At the stroke of 12.39pm on Friday, Union home minister Amit Shah filed his nomination seeking a second successive term in Parliament from Gandhinagar, the seat that he said had nurtured his political career for 30 years, helping him rise from a "humble booth worker" of BJP to an MP.

Shah marked the "vijay muhurat" in which he handed his nomination papers to district collector MK Dave by iterating that this Lok Sabha election was all about giving Prime Minister Narendra Modiaresoundingthirdmandate to create a strong foundation for "Viksit Bharat".

Accompanied by Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and other state BJP functionaries, he said Modi's third term would be his most significant one.

DECLARED ASSETS

Amit Shah | 59 | BJP GANDHINAGAR

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: Second year

INCOME: Self: Rs 75.09 lakh; Wife: Rs 39.55 lakh (2022-23)

MOVABLE PROPERTY: Self: Rs 20.34 cr (including Rs 15.77 cr in inheritance which includes 770g of gold, 7 carats of diamond jewellery, 25kg of silver, 160g of self-earned gold jewellery); Wife: Rs 22.46 crore (including 1,620g of gold jewellery, 63 carats of diamond jewellery)

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Self: Rs 16.32 crore; Wife: Rs 6.55 crore LIABILITIES: Self: Rs 15.77 lakh; Wife: Rs 26.33 lakh

CRIMINAL CASE: Three cases

country by 2047 and No. 1 in all as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and sectors. The next five years Lal Krishna Advani. He are crucial if we want to mentioned being a registered achieve that because the past voter in the constituency. 10 years were spent bringing the country out of the pit dug ber of Parliament, I was an

Shah said he was grateful to the party for renominating him from the Gandhinagar "He (Modi) has resolved to constituency, previously rep-sought their votes," he said. turn India into a developed resented by stalwarts such

by the erstwhile UPA govt."

Chandrakant Patil | 69 | BJP

NAVSARI

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: Turner course from Industrial Training

INCOME: Self: Rs 53.03 lakh; Wife: Rs 17.22 cr; HUF: Rs 28.41 lakh (2022-23)

MOVABLE PROPERTY: Self: Rs 16.27 cr (including a car, a tractor, 89.98 carats of diamond jewellery, 1,287.38g of gold jewellery, a 2,014g gold idol, 22.34kg of silver); Wife: Rs 11.73 crore (including 38.59 carats of diamond jewellery; 1,292g of gold jewellery, 35.21kg of silver furniture and 8,200g of silver utensils); HUF: Rs 1.27 crore (including 162g of gold)

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Self: Rs 4 cr: Wife: Rs 6.22 crore LIABILITIES: Self: Rs 2.56 crore;

"Before becoming an mem-

MLA representing assembly

segments of this seat. The peo-

ple of Gandhinagar gave me

their blessings whenever I

Wife: Rs 19.96 lakh CRIMINAL CASES: Nil

CONG, ANAND

Amit Chavda | 48

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: Diploma in chemical engineering

INCOME: Self: Rs 15.81 lakh; Wife: Rs 11.02 lakh (2022-23)

MOVABLE PROPERTY: Self: Rs 82.38 lakh: Wife: Rs 83.22 lakh (two twowheelers, one car, 100g of gold and 1kg of silver)

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Self: Rs 1.72 crore; Wife: Nil

LIABILITIES: Self: Rs 6.2 lakh; Wife: Nil

CRIMINAL CASES: NII

(Figures have been rounded off)

projects worth Rs 22,000 crore had been undertaken in his constituency since 2019.

A day earlier, Shah held three roadshows in the constituency, culminating in a rally at Vejalpur in Ahmedabad.

Shah won the Gandhinagar seat in 2019 by a whopping margin of 5.56 lakh votes. Sonal Patel of Congress is Shah pointed out that his rival in the May 7 election.



Getting excellent feedback, clear people across India voting for NDA, says Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Pali: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led BJP in celebrating the "strong" turnout in the first phase of polling claiming the trend clearly pointed to a clear path for the NDA govt to win a third term.

As the first phase of Lok Sabha elections ended on Friday, PM Modi asserted that it is clear that the people across India are voting for the BJPled NDA in record numbers.

"First phase, great response! Thank you to all those who have voted today. Getting EXCELLENT feedback from today's voting. It's clear that people across India are voting for NDA in record numbers,"

the Prime Minister said on X. BJP exuded confidence even when the polling was still underway, with home minister

Amit Shah asserting that the enthusiastic turnout showed that the party was headed for a landslide victory.

"Higher the graph

of heat goes, the higher the graph of BJP's seats will also go. In the first phase of voting, bumper voting is taking place across the country and whoever goes to vote comes back raising slogans of Modi-Modi," the home minister said

at a rally in Pali, Rajasthan. After polling on 102 Lok Sabha constituencies in the first phase on Friday, the BJP said that the party is set to spring a surprise in states like

Tamil Nadu and West Bengal states, two states where the poll percentage has gone up, while the party said that it will repeat the success it had attained in other states in 2019.

"Our party is set for a giant leap in states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal where as we are strongly placed in rest of the states where polling took place," said BJP national spokesperson and RS MP Sudhanshu Trivedi at a presser.

The BJP functionary said that from north to south, east to west there is unprecedented support of PM Modi as people have made up their mind to see Modi as PM for a third time. "There is visible current in favour of BJP whereas Congress has gone into power off mode," he said.

2 elderly voters die of cardiac arrest

wo senior citizens voters died of cardiac arrest at separate polling booths in Salem and Kallakurichi districts of Tamil Nadu on Friday. R Chinnaponnu (77) collapsed after getting her finger inked.

Her son rushed her to a govt hospital, but doctors declared her dead. In Salem Lok Sabha constituency, N Palanisamy (69) of Suramangalam suffered a cardiac arrest while casting his vote. "He collapsed in a polling booth," said a cop. TNN

From Cong to BJP to Cong in 19 days: Chhindwara mayor's flip-flops

Bhopal: If Chhindwara is the hottest seat in MP this Lok Sabha polls, the talking point of voting day was the U-turn of local mayor Vikram Ahake, a long-time Congressman

who joined BJP on April 1. Ahake issued a video

message, appealing to people of Chhindwara to vote for Congress candidate Nakul Nath. As polling began on Friday, Ahake's video started going around on social media.

"A few days ago, I joined a party but since then, I have been feeling suffocated. I felt I was not doing what is right to the person who developed Chhindwara, Kamal Nath has helped the people of Chhindwara in difficult times, be it for education, medical treat-

ment or for development,"

Ahake said in the message. "I don't know what the future holds. But today, I want to stand up for Kamal Nathji and Nakul Nathji. They made me what I am. I want to appeal

to you to give Nakul Nath an

overwhelming victory." TNN

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Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt. for & on behalf of the President of India invites OPEN E-FENDER on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following works. Tenderer may submit their original/revised offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually Tender No. & App. Cost | Bid Security Date of Closing Money (in Rs.) Period (in Months)

1 | RE/UMB/Civil/Gr-248-014 | 14.30 Lakh Execution of balance Tower wagon siding works at Chandausi station in Gr. 248 of NR in connection with Railway

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/RE/AMBALA CANTT No.: PR-34/2024 (Kaka) FOR & ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, सर्कुलर रोड, राँची–834001

झारखण्ड संयुक्त असैनिक सेवा प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा-2023 (विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2024) के संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना।

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा आयोजित झारखण्ड संयुक्त असैनिक सेवा प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा-2023 (विज्ञापन संख्या-01 / 2024) के प्रथम प्रश्न-पत्र एवं द्वितीय प्रश्न-पत्र का 'मॉडल उत्तर' आयोग के वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।

2. उक्त के आलोक में अभ्यर्थियों से प्राप्त आपत्ति / सुझाव पर आयोग द्वारा विशय–विशेशज्ञों के समीक्षोपरान्त प्रथम प्रश्न-पत्र एवं द्वितीय प्रश्न-पत्र का अंतिम रूप से संशोधित मॉडल उत्तर आयोग के वेबसाईट www.jpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

3. यह प्रेस विज्ञप्ति आयोग के वेबसाईट www.ipsc.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

PR.NO.323916 Jharkhand Public Service Commission(24-25):D

ह0 /- परीक्षा नियंत्रक, झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, राँची।







National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2024

Admission to 5-year Integrated MSc Programmes in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics at NISER (Bhubaneswar) and UM-DAE CEBS (Mumbai) (Autonomous institutions under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India)

The National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) is a compulsory test for admission to the 5-year Integrated MSc programme in basic sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics at National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar and University of Mumbai - Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (UM-DAE CEBS), Mumbai. NEST 2024 will be conducted in over 120 towns and cities all over India on June 30, 2024 (Sunday).

The candidates admitted to the programme are eligible to receive an annual scholarship of Rs 60,000 through DISHA program of Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. In addition, the scholarship recipients receive a grant of Rs.20,000 per annum for summer internship. Candidates selected by DST for the INSPIRE-SHE program are endorsed for INSPIRE scholarship by NISER and CEBS.

For detailed information on NEST 2024 application procedure and previous years' question papers please visit NEST 2024 website: www.nestexam.in

Application: Through ONLINE portal ONLY. Visit www.nestexam.in to apply. Online portal is open and accepting

registration & closes on May 31, 2024

Address for correspondence : The Chief Coordinator, NEST 2024 NISER Bhubaneswar, P.O.: Jatni, Dist: Khurda, Odisha - 752050, India E-mail: nest-exam@niser.ac.in

Website: www.nestexam.in

Examination:

ONLINE/computer based ONLY. Date of examination: June 30, 2024 (Sunday) Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (1st session) 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM (2nd session) Results announcement: July 10, 2024

Fees structure and mode of payment:

Male (SC and ST categories): Rs.700/-Female (all categories): Rs.700/-Divyangjan candidates: Rs.700/-Pay ONLY via Net banking/ Credit card/ Debit card/ UPI

Male (General and OBC categories): Rs.1400/-

Particulars 31, 2023 (Audited) (Audited) (Audited) 3,483.04 Total Income from Operations 1,391.64 1,253.20 1,036.32 4,965.29 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 479.67 386.14 288.38 1,685.24 1,139.25 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 479.67 386.14 288.38 1,685.24 1,139.25 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 337.38 1,252.23 864.63 335.54 253.62 Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] 251.99 424.69 290.23 1,095.43 825.89 Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹ 10/- each) 2,284.60 2,687.76 2,284.60 2,687.76 2,687.76 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) 5,871.66 5,446.80 3,650.57 5,871.66 3.650.57 Securities Premium Account (net) 863.63 863.63 863.63 9. Net worth 5,935.17 8,134.56 8,559.43 5,935.17 8,559.43 Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt 49,686.86 41,700.70 40,165.28 49,686.86 40,165.28 Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares 12. 5.80 5.13 6.77 5.80 Debt Equity Ratio 6.77 Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -A. Basic: 1.25 1.38 1.11 5.16 3.78 1.38 1.11 5.16 3.78 B. Diluted: 1.25 Capital Redemption Reserve 15. Debenture Redemption Reserve 397.75 432.69 397.97 397.75 397.97 16. Debt Service Coverage Ratio Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable

Not Applicable

EXTRACT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31.03.2024

Quarter ended

March 31, 2024

Notes:

Date: 19.04.2024

Place: New Delhi

Interest Service Coverage Ratio

The above results have been recommended by the Audit Committee of Directors and approved by Board of Director in their respective meetings held on 19.04.2024 and have been audited by the Statutory Auditors of the Company

Not Applicable

The above is an extract of the detailed format of guarterly and anual financial results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33&52 of the SEBI LODR Regulations. The full format of the said financial results are available on the website of the Company www.ireda.in and on the websites of Stock Exchanges www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com.

c) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the SEBI LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to Stock Exchanges and can be accessed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.

Not Applicable

Not Applicable

Not Applicable

For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors

Pradip Kumar Das Chairman & Managing Director DIN No. 07448576

INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Registered Office: 1st Floor, Core-4A, East Court, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003, Tel: 011-24682206-19, Fax: 011-24682202 Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066, Tel: 011-26717400- 12, Fax: 011-26717416 Business Centre: NBCC Office Complex, Office Block No. II, Plate B, 7th Floor, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi- 110023, Tel: 011-24347729-99 Website: www.ireda.in, CIN: L65100DL1987GOI027265







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Pusa Road, Fully Furnished, 4 Car Parking

© 9650254545

South Delhi PROPERTY

WELL APPOINTED LOWER GROUND FLOOR (LGF) FOR PROFESSIONALS / INVESTORS 3500 sq ft LGF with abundant Natural Light and Ventilation,

No Seepage, 5 Bathrooms, 2 Kitchenettes. Property is on a 50 ft wide road. 10 ft wide entrance. 50 yds from the mkt. 300 yds from Kailash Colony metro Station. ★ The LGF can be Split into 2 portions with separate entrances.

 Ideal for Professionals (ie: Doctors, CA's, Architects, Lawyers Suitable also for Investor looking for Rental Income + Capital Appreciation in South Delhi.

Colonel Nayar # 9810080343

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2,38,000 4.14.000 AXIS BANK SHOPPER STOP 1,60,000 DOMINOS (Full Build) 5,70,000 BANDHAN BANK 3,08,000 MULTIPLEX 11,50,000 ICICI BANK

WANTED 500 SQ YARDS PLOT **DLF PHASE 1 & 2 IN GURGAON**

NARESH AGGARWAL PROP 9810159600, 9650244077

FOR SALE

GURGAON

ONE Hectare Land Sohna Ballabgarh Proper Mumbai Expressway Main Road Hills view immediate sale 7303758899 7982397837 Broker Excuse.

FESTYLE RESIDENCES 9811007756

TATA LA VIDA 3 BHK + Sr size 2217 Sqft 2 car parking on Dwarka Expressway 0 KM from Delhi Brand new & Ready

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502 sqyd brand new Dlf City Phase -1, on 18mtr. Road, Vaastu compliant,

Lift With Stilt Parking @Reasonable Price.

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IN GURGAON INVESTMENT STARTS 50 LACS

ONWARDS*

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AMIT **PROPERTIES** 9899335988

9891963536 DLF-3 SALE W Blk

Plot/North 400yds/max chq, T Blk 505yds Close to MA nr city club, V Blk/ 3bhk G.fir Crnr/1500sqft.

Dholera

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INVEST IN Authority approved residential plots near international airport : inv. Starts from 11 lacs

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AMBIENCE CAITRIONA 4BHK, 5BHK

DLF PHASE-1 PLOTS: 500 /1000 SQ.YDS. CREST: 4BHK, 5BHK

PALM SPRINGS- 4BHK,5BHK VILLAS **MANOJ SHARMA** 9810779402

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Fire NOC & CLU Approved

Direct Deal

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TENANT RENT/M DD Reg 56,000/-Planet Cosmo Axis Bank 2.08 Lacs Gonzo Retail SBI Bank **Dominos** 2.15 Lacs NITERRA 2.88 Lacs Indp. Bldg. Swiss Beauty 2.91 Lacs Indp. Bldg. Rank PLC

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Behind 82 Acres TCS Campus (Sec-155) Plot Size 300 Sq Yard & above, on 45 mtr wide road in Sector 156, Noida

©@ 98110 62061

PLOT Contact Owner 99999-67463

PLOT FOR Sale, CONTACT 9873034789

Owner-99999-67463

Dlf Ph2+prem. Intr, K Blk 300 sqyd, 4 BHK+5 Bath+ Srvnt(Ownr Cvl Engr)

3BR Unfurnished flat in Dwarka Delhi available for sale Those interested may should not respond

> Kaul

Rohini. DDA Liaison Freehold of Plots.

Ms.

ROHINI BUY /Sell Plots Alloted by DDA Sec-1-38. Liaison / Collabor ation/ New Allotment Investment. # 9873409999

D/D+3BED+2Toilet Lift Prkg, H.No. 242-243, Pkt A-1, Sec-4, Rohini 32+ 32=64 Sqmt, 85 Lac-FF, 82-SF, 1.15Cr-TF, with loan

SPACE Available For ranchisee/Lease in Rama Vihar, Sector 39 Rohini, Delhi 110081 Area: 31200 sq.ft

Building as per **Government Norms** having lift, 23 spacious rooms, **Play Ground**

HOUSE & 78-2727-6161 BUY SELL Rent Dera Mandi Ansal Villa Asola Chtrpur DLF Bhati MTD Vkunj Jonapur Sainik

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CONTACT: MR. DITESH KUMAR

PRIME LOCATION

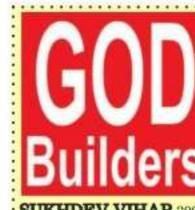
THREE SIDE OPEN

At Below Market Rate :> 590 Sqyd

Contact: 9811760088 / 7011519023

JANGPURA Extn.Lawyers Pref.Area. Ready/Bkg Park facing premium Floors. Area 300/250/200 sq.yds. Chopra Associates. 9650992839, 9650702839

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



SUKHDEV VIHAR 300 east facing 16.25cr. brokers welcome Rahul 9990866669, Rishab 8595076589.

VASANT VIHAR / DEF GF + Bsmt, Ready FF/ SF, 4 Beds, Lift, Parking, CC.

........................ Contact: MOHIT **SACHDEVA**

9873348936 DEF COL 400, Bsmt+G.F Triplex, Ready 5000 sq.ft

like Indp. Bungalow, Crnr. Sep. Lift, Stilt Prkg. Also for Sale 217/325 T.F+Terr

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FINANCERS ALERT-Vas Kunj-3bhk GF 2.50,GK 1FF 500y@5.5,CR Prk 7bhk @4.5,K.Col 3rd@7.5,Def Col GF@7.5,Goa villa @6cr.

Owner 9868960811 VASANT KUNJ D-3.

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Interested Parties May Contact

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G-BLOCK, SUSHANT LOK-II, SECTOR-57, NEAR BY HONGKONG MARKET,

MAHARANI BAGH on Sale @ Reasonable

LUV

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Building on Sale.Rented to Multiple Brands I.e. Vijay Sales, Cult, Zudio, Italian Restaurant, call know mor

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200/250/300/400y basement: ,Ground,1st,2nd, 3rd with



South Extn 500y 3rd+Terr

WEST FACING

600 SQ YARDS PLEASE CONTACT ARIEL ESTATE AGENCY

9625303080 AGRA

Prime Land of Approx 10 Acres with more than 700 feet Front on NH 2 Agra), with Boundary Wall Etc Available for Sale/ JV. CLU under 143 done. Suitable for Ploting/ industrial / warehousing (LOI Available) etc. Asking Price is 5 Cr/Acre.

FLOORS

GREATER KAILASH-I/II 1000y B-Block Bsmt+Ground 550yd Third+ Terrace Garden

Contact: Mr. Ashim Dua: 8572609193

Mr. J.S Anand: 9811544448

504, Fifth Floor, Barakhamba Tower, New Delhi-110001

800y N-Blk 1st Floor Brand New VASANT VIHAR 800 Sq.Yds Prime Location

SUNDER NAGAR 867yds Well Built-up 3 Stories

PANCHSHEEL PARK

1200 Sq.Yds N-Block Non ASI

BUNGALOWS

GOLF LINKS

375 Sq.Yds Park Face

MALCHA MARG

500yds Park/North-East Face

ANAND LOK

800 Sq. Yards

AMRITSAR

Prime Property for Outright 9818004988

3650 Sq. Yard 3 Side Open 125 Ft. Front Built up area 16,000 Sq. Ft Commercial Property at GT Road, Amritsar (within 1 km of Mall of Amritsar)

CLU done. M: 91-82880-45304 **GHAZIABAD**

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HARYANA FOR Sale 21205 sqyds with CLU (16849 sqyds) on wide Shyamabad Rd, Nr Bahal-

garh-Sonipat Rd, Sonipat. Best location # 9466202537

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DEHRADUN Cont.:7895388446 **PUNJAB** JALANDHAR (Punjab) 500 sq yards house, prime

Contact 076960-94649

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Estate Phase- 1, Pin 144022.

CONTACT

FLATS FOR Sale of 900 1400sft loan facility 50-80% DDA Site-I, New Rajinder Nagar Flats. 1.20 Cr to 5.50 Cr. East Patel Nagar Flats.

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FOR Rent to Banks & MNC's Available Aprox 1800 Sq.Ft at Main Road- Nai Sarak (Chandini Chowk), 45 Ft Front facing Main Road both on 1st and 2nd floor (with roof right), Opp. Arun Vastra Bhadar, Separate Bathrooms. Stairs from Main Road Contact - 9910009859.

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Road, New Delhi. Those interested kindly Contact Mob:

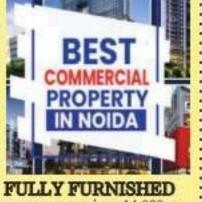
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: 9810276222

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comm. premises 14,000sq ft. Built up Area for Rent at ETT 2, Sector 132 Noida .

SEC-50 Noida For Rent/Lease,

171 Mtr, Duplex, FF, 4BR 4 Bath

2 Parking and Basement also. A

gated sector, 24-hour security

#9311188310, 9313555698 **Renting Noida**

Contact 9350868866, 0120-4263422

5800 SFT. Each 1st & 2nd floor Industl. Bldg. Furn'd AC, Eco-friendly power ba ckup, Ready to move. Near Metro Stn, 80' Road Ample parking D-89, Sec-2, Noida

NORTH DELHI

.

Contact Contact Owner

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9289788843

289788843 SOUTH DELHI

AVAIL. Defence Colony Newly Built High-end floor, 4BHK with ACs, 5 Baths, SQ. parking, security, etc for lease to diplomats/established corporates. Chopra Assoc 9650992839, 9650702839

> Contact Owner

SPACE FOR RENT Commercial Space on Ground Floor 1600 Sq.Feet. E-15, East of Kailash, Next to Kailash Colony Metro Station, New Delhi-110065

INTERCLUB Harish Taneja

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

LUV SHROFF

97171-67033

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Assured Returns - 8 to 12% (Since 1985) 9810327243, 9811257394

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20.00 Lacs Rajeev Saluja | 99100-72803 98104-92803

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GOVT. APPROVED COMMERCIAL PLOT

GURGAON



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price For more details and

PRE-RENTED Indpnd.

SAKET BUILDER Floors 3BHK & 4 BHK.



89206-30362 G.K 500Y Bmt+GF Triplx P'Sheel Park 500y 3rd+Ter HauzKhas Enc 500 3rd+Ter: Kailash Col 500y 3rd+Terr

PLOTS FOR SALE IN SOUTH DELHI. 1200 SQ YARDS

SOUTH FACING

MAHARANI BAGH 800y Bmt+GF Sep D'way New PANCHSHEEL PARK

NITI BAGH 800yd Park Third+Terrace VASANT VIHAR

800/1200y Bmt+GF/ 3rd +Ter

400y Bmt+GF/1st Flr, N/E Fac

DWARKA DWARKA Sector- 12 Retail Space 263 Sq. ft. Ground Floor Available for Lease . Contact Owner # 9958414801,

DLF

sq.ft in A+ Grade Buldngs on Golf Course Extn Rd. Call JLS 981823 0051

FOR LEASE Office space

Areas 5000,10,000 & 15,000

GURGAON 6 Acres Urben Agri Land at Khetawas Dist. Farukh Nagar. nr Dronacharya Colge, 900ft.

Frmhse, storge, prkg. 9311128853

Frntag on 40 ft. rd for rent-

Owner 9910384740 9910056962 OFFICE SPACE For

Rent. Newly built, 1650sqft

fully furnd, DLF Corporate :

Greens, Sec-74-A Gurgaon.

Suitable for Tech firm

Call owner: 8686863552 GURGAON OFFICE Warehouse/ Factory for Lease in IDC Tower Gurgaon. Prime Loc. close to NH8, near IFFCO Chowk in HSIIDC Sect-16. New Construction with Lift Fire NOC, Building Comoletion, Huge Parkng 4

Flors each of 3200 Sq.Ft.

Cvrd area (14000 Sq.Ft).

Contact: 9871098146

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New Interiors, 9000 sq.ft,

for lease NH-8 facing, Sign-

age avail. Other tenants MNC. Next to Radisson Hotel. Covered car parks.

INTERNATIONAL 1,05,000 SQFT, APPROVED WAREHOUSE ON BILASPUR TAURU ROAD WITH 12MTR HEIGHT, MODERN AMENITIES AND FIRE NOC

OFFICE SPACE Lease, Golf Course Ext.Rd. Gurg9999499496 for

Future Khan Market of Gurgaon

ample parking for office prime location Qutab Institutional Area New Delhi-110016 Contact 01146064127/9868231959 DRIVE-IN Space, for lease CR Park GF 900 sq. ft. & LGF 4500 sq. ft. suitable for FIIs/ Storage

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South Delhi 26600 Sq. ft. with



& Distribution Companies etc.

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HIGH-STREET Retail Shops/SCO's, Golf Course Ext. Rd. Gurgaon, Area 550 sqft to 8000sqft 16ft, Double



9810004386 13,300 SQ.FT for Lease GF&LGF fully AC & power Backup, Car Prkg. Next to

MG Rd, B/w Chattarpur &

Sultanpur Metro Station.

Estate Essentials

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Lajpat 3 GF 6000sqf

Lawyer Sunder Ngr 867

sqy FF4 BHK+ terrace, Jor

Bagh 375 sqy TF+Terrace

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SqMt, 10000 Sqft BUA, park

facing,4 floors, functional, at

sec-80, Noida. Mint condition,

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Contact Owner 8860242358

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necessary action will be taken

once these are received," news

agency ANI quoted the state's

chief electoral officer Pradeep

stituency in the valley wrap-

ped up polling, 13 assembly

segments of the Outer Mani-

pur seat will go to polls in the

second phase on April 26. Fri-

day's electoral exercise was in

the other 15 assembly seg-

the valley and hill populations

since May last year has created

a divide that continues to cause

subdued, with minimal cam-

paigning by the principal con-

tenders in the BJP-governed

only large campaign activity

socio-political tremors.

of the election.

The ethnic conflict between

The run-up to the polls was

ments of the constituency.

While Inner Manipur con-

Jha as saying.

Manipur defies blazing guns & boycott call, clocks 70% voting

3 Held For Firing **During Bid To** Capture Booth

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: Conflict-scarred Manipur braved gunshots, goons and calls for a poll boycott in some pockets to end the first phase of elections to two Lok Sabha seats with a turnout in excess of 70.79%. led by booths set up for thousands of riot-displaced people still living in relief camps.

An elderly voter awaiting his turn at a polling station in Bishnupur district's Thamanpokpi was wounded in firing during a suspected booth-capture attempt after hitch-free polling during the first few hours. Police arrested three suspects and seized a firearm and five bullets from them.

Kangpokpi, one of the hill districts, reported a turnout way lower than the state average as the poll boycott announced by multiple community organisations kicked in. Saikul, one among three assembly segments of Outer Manipur constituency, had a little over 19% of voters show (38.14%) and Saitu (29.81%) were the other two laggards,

The rest of the hills, includ-



A vandalized polling station at Khurai in Manipur's Imphal East on Friday

ing Churachandpur, seemed to make up for Kangpokpi's lack of enthusiasm with a significantly higher voting percentage. Overall, voters in the valley outnumbered those in the hill districts.

There were reports of armed men trying to force election agents of a particular political party out of stations at Uripok and Iroishemba in Imphal West district, which is part of the Inner Manipur constituency. Voters at Iroishemba retaliated to the intimidation by vandalising a booth.

In Imphal East's Khurai, some VVPAT units were damaged in a backlash against alleged proxy voting by goons. "We have received a few re-

ports of some damage to idation or attempts to influen- Shah's April 15 rally was the ce voters. We are seeking reports from the districts and

Pinarayi Vijayan & Rahul Gandhi

not faced interrogation. It

was your follower who had

referred a fabricated case to

CBI as part of political ven-

detta. It was later dismissed

by the vigilance dept. The

CBI had questioned and they

too came to the same conclu-

sion. You (Congress) were in

power then. You check with

those who were in govt then

and you will know that we

were not shaken on hearing

about the probe. Don't try to

intimidate us by talking

about jail, probe or Central

cisms against Rahul had been

over the failure to take a strong

stand against CAA. "Where

was Congress when there was

a nationwide stir against

CAA?Why was the issue not

mentioned during Bharat Jo-

do Nyay Yatra?" he asked.

Vijavan said that his criti-

agencies," Vijayan said.

"We are not ones who have

he added

Turnout nil in 6 Nagaland dists after bandh call

Mukut.Das@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: Not one of over four lakh voters in eastern Nagaland turned up in elections to the state's lone Lok Sabha seat on Friday following a boycott and shutdown call by Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (EN-PO) over the Centre's "failure" to fulfil its long-standing demand to create a separate zone with greater autonomy.

The 20 MLAs of the region, comprising six districts, also did not vote. The EC website showed zero turnout in the 20 assembly segments till 8pm. The six districts make up over 30% of the state's 13.25 lakh voters.

CM Neiphiu Rio indicated that he did not want "any confrontation". "ENPO had issued a strict order. Let us see what will happen," Rio said after casting his vote. The CM warned, however, of "appropriate action as per law against those who prevented people from exercising their state. Home minister Amit has already issued a showcause notice to ENPO over the shutdown call," Rio said.

Your grandma jailed us for 1.5 yrs: Pinarayi dig at Rahul over ED jibe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode: In a sharp retort to Congress's Rahul Gandhi, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan said he and other Left leaders cannot be intimidated by jail threat or probe by Central agencies.

Rahul said in Kannur on Thursday that CMs of two states are now in jail, but Vijayan has not even been questioned by ED despite corruption charges.

Speaking at an LDF election rally here on Friday, Vijayan said Rahul's "grandmother had jailed us for oneand-a-half years (during the Emergency) when she

reigned over the country". "Rahul Gandhi is worried why Kerala chief minister is not being interrogated or taken into custody and why no case is being registered. Rahul Gandhi... you had a name in the past. You should not create a situation that shows that you have not changed," Vijayan said.

Left leaders are not like former Congress leader Ashok Chavan, who joined BJP after reportedly saying that they cannot go there (to jail),

Naxal-hit Bastar gives ballots the thumbs-up, records 64% turnout

Rashmi.Drolia@timesgroup.com

Raipur: Over 64% of Bastar's 14 lakh electorate defied the Maoist threat and turned up to vote by 5pm in the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls on Friday. This figure is expected to rise. This election is being

held in the backdrop of the most aggressive anti-Maoist operations in nearly two decades of insurgency. As many as 62 Maoists have been eliminated since the polling dates were declared on March 12, including 29 in a single encounter in Kanker on Tuesday. Never before have Maoists been hit so hard ahead of any election.

Over 60,000 security personnel, nearly half of whom were central forces deployed from other states, stood guard as the Maoist-hit region gave a thumbs up to democracy. Barring two incidents in Bijapur — an accidental grenade explosion that killed a CRPF jawan and a Maoist IED blast that injured an officer — polling

was conducted peacefully. Voting started at 7am. It

was after 9.30am that polling



picked up and by 11am, the turnout touched Around 2pm, it had shot up to 43%, a polling official told TOI. Polling ended at 3pm in Kondagaon, Dantewada, Bijapur, Konta and Narayanpur segments of Bastar constituency. In Jagdalpur, it went on till 5pm.

Bastar range IG P Sundarraj and divisional commissioner Shyam Dhawade voted at Haathkachora polling booth in Jagdalpur. Congress candidate Kawasi Lakhma and BJP's Mahesh Kashyap cast their votes in Nagaras in Sukma and Kalcha in Bastar.

Elderly people came in wheelchairs and on crutches. Since it's marriage season, several brides and grooms were seen in queue to cast their vote, decked in wedding finery.

Doc-turned-neta stops canvassing for C-sec surgery

Vijayawada: Doctor-turnedpolitician Gottipati Lakshmi, who is contesting on a TDP ticketfrom Darsi assembly seat, has proved that her profession is more important than politics. She took to her professional responsibilities on top of political compulsions and attended to a pregnant woman to deliver a baby, leaving her campaign mid way, reports Srikanth Aluri.

Lakshmi was amid electioneering when she received a message from her supporters that a pregnant woman had developed complications and she required a C-section surgery immediately. Lakshmi rushed to the patient's rescue and performed the surgery on her.

LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU NOW IT'S MY TURN TO SHOW YOU THE FINGER POLLING BOOTH

13 years after cop assault, trial starts against ex-BJD MP

Cuttack: A special court in Cuttack started trial Friday against former BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, who recently quit the party to join BJP, for assaulting an on-duty cop in Odisha 13 years back, reports Lalmohan Patnaik.

An MP/MLA court had framed charges against Mahtab on March 21 under sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. The judge had issued summons to witnesses to record evidence, paving the way for the start of the trial.

Ajit books Baramati ground, forces uncle & Sule to hunt for new venue for 1st time in 4 decades

Alim.Shaikh@timesgroup.com

Pune: For over 40 years, the concluding election rally for Baramati Lok Sabha and assembly seats has been held at a ground near a canal in Christian Colony in Baramati town. The extended Pawar family has followed a tradition, where they gather for lunch first and then head to the ground where patriarch Sharad Pawar addresses the crowd of supporters.

This time, the tradition stands broken. The veteran politician's nephew and Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, whose wife Sunetra Pawar is locked in a high-profile electoral battle against Pawar senior's daughter and sitting MP Supriya Sule, has already booked the ground, owned by a private trust, to hold a concluding rally for his wife.



The extended Pawar family used to gather for lunch first and then head to the ground where Sharad Pawar addressed the crowd of supporters

forced to find an alternative venue for their final election rally on May 5 on their home turf.

Sule said like the party name and symbol, Ajit Pawar had taken away the ground, too, from the veteran. "It is disappointing and we will redefine it in a new way. This tradition of holding a fi-Pawar and his daughter are now nal rally at this ground was started by same village on Saturday.

Sharad Pawar even before Ajit Pawar came into politics," she said.

A senior NCP functionary from Baramati, on the condition of anonymity, said, "There's no question about who will get it (the rally ground), because we are the real NCP, and it has been recognised by the Election Commission as well. The tradition to hold the rally at this ground has been followed for over 40 years by NCP and

we will continue it this time too." The Pawar family has another tradition. Candidates have started their official campaign from a Hanuman temple in Kanheri village of Baramati ever since

Pawar first contested an election in 1967. On Friday, Sule officially kicked off her campaign from Kanheri followed by a public rally with Pawar. Sunetra Pawar will also start her canvassing from the

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BATTLEGROUND INDIA APRIL 19-JUNE 4, 2024

SC verdicts that've shaped India's democracy

Speaker. SC in Nov 1975 upheld

Supreme Court on Thursday reiterated its faith in EVMs while reserving judgment on a plea for 100% EVM-VVPAT verification. This was the latest in a long list of court interventions, going back 72 years, that have shaped and enriched India's democracy. Dhananjay Mahapatra does a quick recap of the landmark judgments

1952: Months before the first general elections, in Jan 1952, SC in the Ponnuswami case ruled that the word 'election' in Article

329 (b) of the

Constitution

"connotes the

entire elec-

toral process

commencing

with the issue

of the notifi-

cation calling

the election

and culminat-

ing in the dec-

laration of

result, and

that the elec-

toral process

Madras Decision ELECTION

could not be interfered with at any intermediary stage by Courts". As a result, an aggrieved candidate can challenge poll anomalies only through an election petition after declaration of results.

1971: When Congress split in 1969 and factions headed by Jagjivan Ram and S Nijalingappa laid claim to the party name, Election Commission (EC) ruled in the Jagjivan Ram faction's favour on finding that it enjoyed majority support of Congress MPs, MLAs and delegates.

Later, in the Sadiq Ali case (1971), SC upheld EC's methodology: "...there were obvious diffi-

Indira's election, but partly struck down the 39th amendment Act, as far as it barred courts the primary members and in ascertaining their wishes... It can be legitimately considered that members of All India Con-

views of the primary members." EC ruled on the recent splits in Shiv Sena and NCP on the same basis as it did in the Congress case of 1969.

gress Committee and the dele-

gates reflected by and large the

1975: On June 12, 1975, Allahabad HC quashed PM Indira Gandhi's election from Rae Bareli, leading to declaration of Emergency. During pendency of PM's appeal in SC, Parliament passed Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 1975, once started culties in ascertaining who were changing several Repre-

from entertaining election petisentation of People (RP) Act provisions. Parliament also enacted tions against PM and Speaker. the 39th Constitutional Amend-1977/1995: In July 1977, SC in ment Act, barring courts from scrutinising elections of PM and

Narendra Kheni case ruled that no addition or deletion to a voter list could be carried out by a returning officer or EC after the last date for filing nominations. Changes made after this date, it said, "must be visited with fatal-

ity". In Mohinder Singh Gill (1977) and T N Seshan (1995) cases, SC reiterated EC's supremacy in superintending the conduct of polls and the CEC's captaining authority over the Commission.

2002/2004: The turn of the century saw SC deliver a slew of landmark decisions protecting and expanding voter rights. In 2002, in Union of India vs Association for Democratic Reforms, it ruled that electors have a fundamental right to know the antecedents of candidates, including

> qualification kicks in automatically and a legislator can get back their seat if a higher forum stays conviction and sentence. Sept 2013: In PUCL case, SC introduced none of the above (NOTA) option for voters, saying it was "extremely important" to let a voter "express his disapproval with the kind of candidates that are being put up by the

their criminal re-

cord, education

level and wealth.

SC said the right to

be informed sup-

plements the right

to choose and it

flows from the fun-

damental right to

freedom of speech

brought a Bill and

introduced Section

The NDA govt

33B in RP Act to exempt candi-

dates from declaring criminal

antecedents. In 2004, SC struck

down this provision as unconsti-

tutional and mandated candidates

to declare criminal cases pending

July 2013: In Lily Thomas case,

SC struck down Section 8(4) of RP

Act that allowed MPs and MLAs

to continue as legislators even

after being convicted in corrup-

tion cases or sentenced to two or

more years in other criminal

cases, if they appealed in a higher

forum within 90 days of the con-

viction. After SC's ruling, dis-

political parties" as growing dis-

approval would gradually bring

against them, including FIRs.

and expression.

SC allows negative ballot, voters can now say no candidate is worth it



political parties will be forced to accept the will of the people and field candidates who are known for their integrity". NOTA has not fared well in elections.

Oct 2013: In Subramanian Swamy case, SC forced an initially reluctant EC to implement, in a phased manner, the introduction of voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) in EVMs. SC said, "We are satisfied that the 'paper trail' is an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections. The confidence of the voters in the EVMs can be achieved only with the introduction of the 'paper trail'. EVMs with VVPAT system ensure the accuracy of the voting system."

2014: SC in Manoj Narula case advised PM and CMs not to make persons with criminal antecedents ministers, keeping in view their role in the council of ministers and the sanctity of the oath they take. "This is what the Constitution suggests and that is the constitutional expectation from the PM. Rest has to be left to the wisdom of the PM. We say nothing more, nothing less," SC said.

RECENT IMPORTANT VERDICTS

EC Appointments

> On March 2, 2023, an SC constitution bench unanimously ruled that selection of CEC and ECs would be done by a 3-member panel comprising the PM, Leader of Opposition and CJI. Later in the year, govt passed an Act on appointment of CEC/ ECs that replaced CJI with a Union cabinet minister. On Jan 12, 2024, SC declined to stay the new law. Court refused to intervene in the selection of 2 ECs in March although it berated the govt for the 'hurry' in which the appointments were made.

Electoral Bonds

> On Feb 15, 2024, a 5-judge bench led by CJI D Y Chandrachud struck down the electoral bonds scheme providing anonymity to political donors as 'unconstitutional' and violative of voters' right to information under Article 19(1)(a). Electoral bonds as a mode of poll funding were introduced in 2017. The judgment and court's subsequent stern directions to State Bank of India led to EB data coming into public domain.

about "systemic change and the Why CPM is fancying its chances in Kerala

₹his time, not only are the stakes high for CPM in Kerala, but also its chances.

In 2019, the party won just one out of the 20 seats in Kerala. In Bengal and Tripura two states where CPM was in office for decades – the party became a marginal player and is unlikely to do much better in these polls. But in Kerala, CPM feels it has a fighting chance to improve its tally and become a bit more relevant nationally.

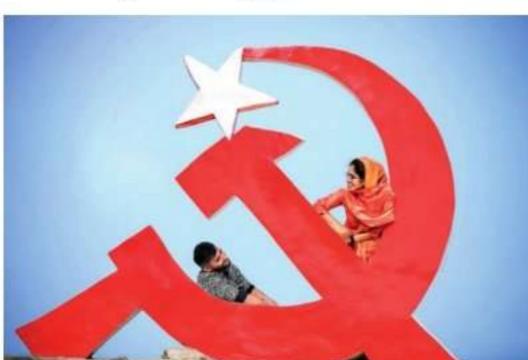
Taking no chances, the party has fielded several heavyweights — Thomas Isaac, KK Shailaja, MV Jayarajan and K Radhakrishnan among others - to wrest back seats from Congress in constituencies considered Left strongholds.

More importantly, seeking much-needed consolidation of minority votes (Muslims and Christians account for 47% of the state's population), CPM is going ballistic against CAA and casting itself as the "champion of secularism". By banking on Christian and Muslim voters as well as its traditional Ezhava community (the largest Hindu community in Kerala) supporters, the party expects to win five to eight seats in Kerala this time.

Until the Kerala assembly polls in 2021, CPM was known to field candidates, even cardholding party members, as 'Independents' in certain constituencies that are not their strongholds. This was done to lure the electorate voting for 'others', especially a section of Christian and Muslim communities who are hesitant to vote for the party's hammer, sickle and star symbol. But this time, CPM has also fielded non-party persons under its symbol - KS Hamza in Ponnani, Joice George in Idukki and M Mukesh in Kollam.

It is certain that the party is pinning its hopes on its increased influence among the minority communities, especially Muslims. "But that alone is not the reason for fielding Independent candidates under its party symbol. The Election Commission will count only the votes which the CPM candidates win and that too under its party symbol. In the current Lok Sabha, the party has just three MPs which is an alltime low in the history of CPM," said Jacob George,

noted political analyst This time, CPM took the lead in setting the agenda for the April 26 polls. The Supreme Court verdict on electoral bonds seems to have opened a Pandora's Box and CPM, as one of the petition-

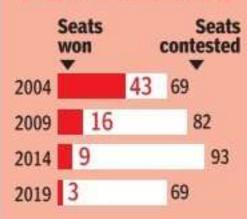


WISH UPON A STAR: Seeking the much-needed consolidation of minority votes, CPM is going ballistic against CAA and casting itself as the 'champion of secularism'

ers in the case, cashed in on it. "We are the only party other than CPI which decided not to receive electoral bonds. We are functioning with funds donated by the masses whereas BJP and Congress run their parties using funds given by the corporates," said M V Govindan, CPM's Kerala

state secretary. Given the fact that the party could make inroads into the strongholds of the minorities, especially Muslims, CPM has been keen on opposing CAA right from the outset. To this end, the party

PARTY'S LS POLL PERFORMANCE



has already planned mega meets in all the 14 districts of Kerala to protest the Union govt's move to implement CAA. "When we were invited to the consecration of Ram idol at Ayodhya, we made it clear that we will not attend the function as it is against secularism. At the same time, those like Congress were vacillating till the last minute," Govindan said.

Convincing voters that CPM has got a larger role at the national level in the current scenario is not easy. Yet, that is the mantle the party wants to wear, the 'real' protector of the Tricolour and secularism. "Our priority is to dethrone the fascist BJP government at the Centre which is being controlled by RSS. Congress, the major opposition party in the country, couldn't lead the campaign against the dictatorial BJP govt. In West Bengal, BJP has 18 MPs but Congress failed to explore the possibilities of forming an alliance with Trinamool Congress and Left parties on the lines of the alliance in Tamil Nadu. It is at this juncture that importance of CPM at the national level increases," says CPM polit-

buro member MA Baby. CPM's campaigns and Kerala govt's initiatives like moving a resolution in the assembly against CAA have helped it win the confidence of some sections in the Muslim community. Organisations like Samastha Kerala Jemiyyathul Ulama, an outfit of Sunni scholars that enjoys substantial support among Muslims in the state, have drawn closer to CPM. The issues stemming from women's

entry in Sabarimala and sub-

sequent Hindu backlash was a major setback for CPM in 2019 polls, but now it's a thing

of the past. At the same time, the major hurdle for CPM in this election is the corruption charges against the Left Democratic Front (LDF) govt in the state. Many central agencies are probing corruption charges against several leading CPM functionaries. Nepotism and corruption charges against its leaders, including chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his daughter Veena Vijayan, is giving a tough time to CPM cadres on campaign trail. Continuing financial woes have applied the brakes on many of the state govt's welfare schemes, like disbursement of pensions and distribution of essential commodities through the public distribution system at subsidised rates, and this too is working against CPM's prospects.

To what extent and how the increasing influence of BJP in the state is going to affect CPM's chances is not fully clear. The CPM, however, is content to go with the traditional view that BJP's gains will be at Congress' expense. But the hope that the party's tally would be better than last time seems to have infused enthusiasm into the party leadership as well as the rank and file.

THEN IS NOW **RK LAXMAN** TOI ARCHIVES BY WAY OF GIVING YOU STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE I'VE MADE THREE OF YOUR LOYAL FOLLOWERS CABINET MEMBERS! THERE WILL BE

SURROUND SOUND



At 15,000 ft, world's highest poll station has 52 voters

At an altitude that leaves voters breathless — both from the view and the lack of oxygen - Tashigang stands tall as the world's highest polling station in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district, part of the Mandi parliamentary constituency. With just 52 determined voters registered for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, up from 45 last time, this Himalayan booth at 15,256 ft above sea level defies all odds to participate in the democratic process. Tashigang remains covered in snow for six months. Every election, EC sets up a model polling booth here, with a selfie point with the Himalayas in the background. AGENCIES



1984 J P Shukla, an Independent candidate contesting from Lucknow Lok Sabha constituency solicits a traffic constable's vote at the Hazratgani Crossing. Data over the years show voters' trust in Independent candidates has been diminishing, with more than 99% of them losing their deposits since 1991. Data compiled by the Election Commission of India shows that since Independence, even as the number of Independent candidates has remained high, numbers of those winning polls have come down from over 6% in 1951 and 8% in 1957, to around 0.11 % in 2019

In Assam, an EVM finds itself in deep water

Talk about getting weighed down by democracy. An SUV rushing an EVM to a booth mid-voting sank partially in a river in Assam's Lakhimpur constituency on Friday. "The vehicle was being carried by a mechanised boat across Deopani river when water levels rose and current suddenly increased. The boat sank under the force of the water, and the vehicle also sank partially," an official said. The driver and a polling officer accompanying the EVM managed to get out before water gushed into the vehicle. The EVM was being ferried to Amarpur area in Sadiya as a replacement. AGENCIES

Lone voter casts ballot in border village

The unique Malam polling station in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh recorded 100% polling with the lone female voter exercising her constitutional right on Friday. Sokela Tayang, 44, cast her vote around 1pm, an official said. For the single voter, a team of polling officials trekked nearly 40km through treacherous terrain and set up a booth in the remote station. The village falls under Hayuliang assembly constituency in Anjaw district bordering China and in Arunachal East LS seat. AGENCIES

Up against big players, Azad stirred up Nagina's poll pot

@timesgroup.com

t's as if a spell has been cast on the people," said Kafeel Ansari. It sounded better untranslated, in the Hindi that he used in a charming accent from nowhere. "Jaise kisi ne hawa mein phoonkh mari ho."

Sitting under a tree in Hargaon Chandan that lined a wide road coming from Nagina city, Ansari, the zila panchayat member who once fought the assembly elections on a Samajwadi Party ticket - and lost — was talking about Chandrashekhar Azad, the David from his eponymous Azad Samaj Party now up against Goliaths, BJP, SP-Congress, BSP.

Azad, a moustache-twirling sturdy man, sunglasses adorning a resolute face that some consider handsome, shot into mobile screen fame — later carving out a legitimate place for himself in Dalit iconography in Saharanpur and adjoining districts of UP — when he took on upper caste men in 2017 with a chutzpah that the other Dalit symbol of hope and power, Mayawati, had relinquished. He was an instant sensation. It helped that his rebellion, backed by education and training as an advocate, came at a time when reports of Dalits being tied to poles and whipped in public



Chandrashekhar Azad (third from left) was in the fray as an Azad Samaj Party nominee after his attempts to tie up with the INDIA bloc failed. Nagina went to polls on Friday

social hierarchy were coming in from many parts of the country.

The Bhim Army founder, a man who once affixed Ravan to his name he quietly dropped it somewhere along the way, the metaphor sitting uncomfortably as Ram rose once again in Ayodhya and beyond walked a blazing path after that, with Dalits, especially in pockets of western UP, inscribing his name on wedding cards like a presiding deity and hoisting framed photos in drawing rooms alongside Ambedkar's.

But Azad, not yet 40, soon realised that viral WhatsApp fordemonstrations of unbreachable wards and backward politics were

not as organically linked as he once may have perceived. He began to cosy up to the big boys and girls of the political arena — Congress, SP, BSP—and was largely fobbed off. For this Lok Sabha polls, talks with Akhilesh Yadav looked promising initially but in the end, Azad was once again left alone. SP has gone with a retired additional judge called Manoj Kumar and BSP with Surendra Pal Singh. BJP, meanwhile, has reposed faith in Om Kumar, a threetime MLA from the region. In 2019, the reserved seat was won by BSP, then in an alliance with SP.

FROM ADVOCATE **TO DALIT ICON**

> Relinquished by Mayawati, Chandrashekhar Azad carved a place for himself in Dalit iconography in Saharanpur and adjoining districts of UP by taking on upper caste men in 2017

His education and training as an advocate helped at a time when atrocities on Dalits were being reported from many parts of the country

Nagina, where he is contesting from, has a large presence of Muslims at 43%, followed by Dalits (21%)

bol, the kettle) sab par haavi hai, said Ganga Ram, 56, who works at Ambika Plywood in Najibabad, a town near Nagina. Asked why he feels Azad will overwhelm everyone else, he grinned. "Don't you need tea from the kettle to start your day? All of us do." Sitting next to him, Ratan Singh, 78, raised his hand in glory and announced loudly after an initial hesitation that he has the biggest kettle at home. The old man from Jalabpur Gudal village gesticulated to show just how big. Others around him smiled indulgently at his child-like exuberance.

Whoever wins, it is Azad who "Iss baar, ketli (Azad's poll sym- has infused drama and purpose in was mostly alone, too, then."

the election process underway at Nagina, turning the seat into one of UP's most talked about contests. At Rampur Dass village, even BJP supporters mention his name often. Kuljit Chauhan, who said his vote won't "move away from kamal", is happy people are talking about Nagina. "These polls are about him (Azad).' Raisuddin Sayyed Ahmed, 68,

who runs Mehboob Wood, said that if the Muslim vote doesn't split in the constituency that has a large presence of his community at 43%, followed by Dalits, 21%, Nagina's result could "surprise many". He added: "We are from a generation that went with Netaji (Mulayam Singh). But he's gone. His party isn't the same today. In contrast, BJP is a stronger party now than before. They have the men and machinery. They could win in the end."

Azad himself is careful with what he says. He told TOI: "I always wanted to be part of INDIA bloc, but I was not included. I am now independent of any ideology or party line. Whosoever has heard my name knows that I take strong stands and that is my strength."

Aslam Mohammad, an elderly

man who said he'd seen Mayawati riding a cycle in 1989 in undivided Bijnor - Nagina later became a separate Lok Sabha seat—said Azad reminded him of her. "She

BRS, Cong most corrupt, says Rajnath in T'gana

Sribala.Vadlapatla@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Defence minister Rajnath Singh declared on Friday that Telangana had decided to thwart attempts by governing Congress and rival BRS to crush "pro-Modi" wave.

"It (efforts to foil Modi wave) won't work as people have already picked who to vote for," he said, calling both rivals "most corrupt parties that engage in appease-

EASTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to the Notice No.

S.4/S/DAP/2024-25 Dated 18.04.2024

for the advertisement of E-Auction

programme for Malda Division for the

month of April '2024, published earlier

in this newspaper by Chief Materials

Manager/ADMN, a partial modification

will be made as under: Existing Auction

date of Malda Division: 25.04.2024. Modified Auction date of Malda

Division: 30.04.2024. All other terms &

Tender Notice is also available at websites :

www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : CE @EasternRailway

⊕ @easternrailwayheadquarter

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 624

notified that the following

Corrigendum No-1

First corrigendum to tender notice no.

JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-68

corrections are made in the tender

invited by Divisional Railway Manager

(Works) North Central Railway, Jhansi

vide Tender Notice no. JHS-ENGG-HQ-

024-68 at. 16.04.2024, which is due to be opened on 09.05.2024, the following

Existing Tender Description of work.

Jhansi Division: Providing and

erecting "W" metal cattle barrier along

the track to prevent CRO in Jhansi-

Parauna section under ADEN/HQ-

Division: Providing and erecting 'W

metal cattle barrier along the track to

prevent CRO in Jhansi-Kanpur

Modified Tender Description of work.

Jhansi Division: Providing and

erecting "W" metal cattle barrier along

the track to prevent CRO in Jhansi-

Parauna section under ADEN/HQ-

I/JHS. Other terms and conditions of the

original tender notification shall remain

www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 🗵 @CPRONCR

No- DRM/C/Agra/Catg./e-auction/24

Auction

Catalogue No.

AGRA-

AGRA-

MPS-24-01

Catering Stalls | CATG-24-11

700/24 (AN)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-North

Central Railway, Agra invites E-Auction for 11 Catering Stalls and 01 MPS a

Name of Station Categor

A-1

D

A-1

पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड

(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (जानपद) परि०एवंअनु० कार्यालय, विद्युत भवन, नजदीक-आई०एस०बी०टी०,

क्रॉसिंग, सहारनपुर रोड़, माजरा, देहरादून-248002, दूरभाष सं. 7088117360

Platform of various Railway Stations over Agra Division for a period of Five years.

Mathura Jn.

Mandawar

Kosikalan

Agra Cantt.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing Module of

IREPS website. (www.ireps.gov.in) for more details. The Lot-wise details are

💢 @CPRONCR 🚹 North central railways 🚇 @ cproncrly 🕥 @northcentralrailway 🧱 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.

निविदा विस्तारित सूचना 1-55/SE(C)O&M/E-Tender/PTCUL/D.Dun/2023-24

निविदा सं0 55/SE(C)O&M/E-Tender/PTCUL/D.Dun/2023-24 की

डाउनलोडिंग, प्राप्ति एवं खुलने की तिथि क्रमशः दिनांक 30.04.2024 तक विस्तारित

की जाती है। निविदाएं दिनांक 30.04.2024 समय 1:00 बजे तक अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

(जानपद) परि०एवंअन्0, पिटकुल, विद्युत भवन, माजरा, देहरादून के कार्यालय में प्राप्त

की जाएगी। तथा निविदा के तकनीकी भाग को उसी दिन दिनांक 30.04.2024 समय

निविदा सम्बन्धित अन्य विस्तृत विवरण ई-निविदा वेबसाईट

www.uktenders.gov.in/PTCUL एवं ई-निविदा सूचना पिटकुल की वेबसाइट

ई--निविदा से सम्बन्धित जानकारी हेत् अथवा किसी भी सहायता के लिए PH.No. 91-

8899890000, +0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 0120-

"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through

E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of

under ADEN/JHI. (NIT 03-W-IV-24-25)

(1) Rs. 3,24,300.00

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/01&03-W-IV/24-25 Date: 16.04.2024

submission of tender | 26.04.2024 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering

(E-Procurement Systems)

Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of

India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items

Brief Description

nobile DTH auto tracking antenna

Trusat 500 or SR 1500 or similar hybrid

phased array antenna) with shock

Absortion Antenna base and power

supply system and with DTH set TopBox

with one year subscription, Detailed

specification for Satellite based mobile

DTH(a) Satellite based mobile DTH

auto tracking antenna (Trusat 500 or SR

1500 or Similar hybrid phased array

antenna) (b) Antenna Base with

Shockabsorption system for satellite

based mobile DTH auto tracking

antenna. (c) Power supply system rating

12volts/15 Amps (Meanwell make or

similar) (d) Set Top Box (DTH) with One

Serving Customers With A Smile

1169/2024

year subscription.

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www. ireps.gov.in

93245724 Supply and installation of satellite based 06 No.

TTR (TWS+WCMSC) Complete renewal of points & crossing

of on PSC sleepers in the section of Sr. DEN-IV on DLI-BTI

km. 3/6-4 near Devi Lal Chock at Jind on JHI-PNP section

Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 hrs. on

2. Construction of LHS with roof covering for pedestrian at

President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

section. (NIT 01-W-IV-24-25)

Approx. cost of work. (1) Rs. 3,48,64,286.60

and opening of tender 10.05.2024

Website particulars, published e-tender,

notice location etc. complete details of

tender can be seen and web site where

the tender form can be downloaded

4:00 बजे जानपदीय कार्यो हेत् पंजीकृत इच्छुक फर्मी के समक्ष खोला जायेगा।

पत्रांकः १४१ / अधी०अभि०(जानपद)परि०एवंअनु० / पिटकुल / दे०दून० / टी-1

www.ptcul.org से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

6277787 से सम्पर्क स्थापित करें।

दिनांक: 18.04.2024

Name of

work with

its location

Earnest money

Sr. No. Tender No.

for details.

No manual offer will be entertained.

Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93245724/2024 Date: 16.04.2024

Date and Time of

Nadbai

Bhandai

Chata

available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

Raja Ki Mandi

correction is being made -

section.

Category

STORES-05/2024-25

conditions will remain unchanged.

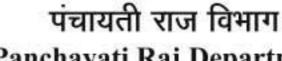


Secunderabad BJP candidate and BJPTelangana chief G Kishan Reddy, Singh held up his party "as most dem-

ocratic" in country and took a dig at opposition, saying they have no agenda. "There was no trace of corruption in last one decade during NDA tenure. Centre has

pushed digital transactions all over the country and made everything

transparent," Singh said. He said only BJP will make a difference in lives of Telangana people. "The more BJP MPs are sent to Parliament from the state, the better the people's lives will be," he added. He urged people to vote for Kishan Reddy, the outgoing MP, again. "Kishan has worked very hard and no one can challenge him," Singh said.



Panchayati Raj Department Office Address: New Secretariat, Vikas Bhawan,

Bailey Road, Patna-800015 Tel. No.: - 0612-2202229, E-mail ID: secy-panchayat-bih@nic.in

RFP/TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Tender Ref. No.: - 5P/6th SFC-10-01/2024/2516, dated 15.03.2024 Published Date: 16.03.2024 (published in Newspaper vide PR- 020069 (Panchayati Raj) 2023-24)

e-Proc Tender No.:- 59767

Govt. of Bihar

Notice of Cancellation: The RFP/Tender for "Appointment of Programme Management Agency (PMA) for assistance in Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Schemes (Central/State) being implemented by Panchayati Raj Department through deployment of professionals (human resources) at State" stands cancelled due to unavoidable reasons (ref. RFP clause 12.19- Withdrawal of Bid and also as mentioned in E-Tender Notice, page. No. 01 and Notice Inviting Request for Proposal, page. No. 05 of the RFP). This is issued with approval of the Competent Authority.

The Cancellation Notice can also be viewed on the following websites:

e-Proc 0.2 portal: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/ PRD Website: https://state.bihar.gov.in/biharprd/

(Preeti Tongria) Additional Secretary Panchayati Raj Department,

Government of Bihar

INDIAN RAILWAYS

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

रेल मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(रेलवे बोर्ड) RAILWAY BOARD

Sub: E-Tender No. TKP-1-2024 for Supply of Long rail

exchange (unloading and loading) System and its Annual

Maintenance Contract for 05 (Five) years (Existing EURs to be

provided by Indian Railways).

1. Electronic bids are invited for E-Tender Notice No. TKP-1-2024, on behalf of the

President of India, for Supply of "Long rail exchange (unloading and loading)

System and its Annual Maintenance Contract for 05 (Five) years (Existing EURs

2. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.in for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e- bids.

E-Tender Notice

Notice No. 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/E-Tender Notice/2024/523 Date 16.04.2024

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer/TRD/N. C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on

behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender, the

Description of work: 25 kV OHE modification work due to

construction of 4 Lane ROB near Subedarganj Railway Station and

construction of. FOB at Jhinjhak & Kurastikalan Railway Station

over IR & DFCCIL Lines of Prayagraj Division (Third Call)

Completion Period: 12 Months, Bidding System: Single Packet,

Tender Closing date & Time: 09.05.2024 & 14.00 Hrs.

Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above

E-Tenders shall be available on Website www.ireps.gov.in 21days prior

to the date of opening of the tender. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids

shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors

are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with

Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available

North central railways 🗵 @CPRONCR 📗 @north central railway 🏥 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Engineer/Const./North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on

behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on

prescribed form for the following works upto 15:00 hrs. on 10.05.2024. The

Name of work: Supply and Stacking of track ballast as per IR

specification, in between Banda (Ex) - Atarra (Ex) in connection with

Approx. cost of work (Rs.): 159506600/- Bid Security (Rs.): 947500/-

Completion Period: 09 Months, Tender Closing Date & Time: 10.05.2024.

15:00 hrs., Date of Opening of tender: 10.05.2024, 15:30 hrs., Type of

tendering: Open Tender (Two Packet System). Note:- 1. The Complete

information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on

Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender

opening date i.e. 10.05.2024. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-bids shall not

be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required

to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature

Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. The Bid Security shall be

deposited either in case through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank

Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned

in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per given

proforma in favour of FA & CAO/C/NCR/PRYJ as given in Tender

Document and shall be valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity

period. 4. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally

shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other

form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall

not be considered. 5. Joint Venture (JV) /Consortiums/MOUs shall be

considered for the tender having cost more than 10 Cr. 6. Documents being

attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. The tenderers shall

submit a certificate as give in tender document in standard format for all items

without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily

rejected. 8. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of

credential, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by

the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attesttion

shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). Only those

documents which are declared explicitly by the tenderer as "documents

supporting the claim qualifying the laid sown eligibility criteria" will be

considered for evaluation his/their tender. In case of any wrong information

submitted by the tenderer, the contract will be terminated, Bid Security (BS),

Performance Guarantee (PG and Security Deposit (SD) of contract will be

forfeited and agency will be banned for doing business on entire Indian

Railway for five (5) years. 9. GST Act & rules issued from time to time by the

Government authorities shall be applicable. 10. In case of any difficulty

helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 11. Tender

online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 10.05.2024 and will be opened at

🖪 North central railways 🏶 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 🤌 @northcentralrailway 💥 @ CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Opening date & Time: 09.05.2024 & 15.00 Hrs.

on the website of IREPS may be approached.

details of the tenders are as under:-

doubling project of KID-MKP section

Tender No.: CEN-2024-25-01

Advertised value

₹ 1.25.10.215.65

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 6200

Tender

Notice

No. & Date

PR- 000235 (Panchayati Raj) 2024-25

लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन २०२४- कोई मतदाता न छूटे

No. 2018/Track-I(P)/RSP-EUR/Vol. I

to be provided by Indian Railways)".

details of the tenders are as under:

T.No.

230-TRD-WC-913-2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

Name of work with its location: Painting of Br. No. 249 (12x61.0m) of North & South line on DLI-GZB section. Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 2,88,89,654.66

Earnest Money: Rs. 2,94,500/ Completion period of the work: (06) Six Months Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender : Upto 15.00 hrs

Dated: 18.04.2024

Date

10.05.2024

Time 11.00

10.05.2024

Time 15.00

Station Total No. Auction Code of Stalls Starting Time

MTJ 02

RKM 02

MURD 02

KSV 01

BHA 01

CHJ 01

AGC 01

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (जानपद) परि०एवंअन्0

Azadi Ka Amat Mahotsa

(2) Rs. 3,56,74,857.06

1172/2024

Qty. Closing Date

回然回

15:30 hrs. on same day.

14.05.2024

(2) Rs. 3,28,400.00

Above tender available on

IREPS site i.e.

www.ireps.gov.in

02

NBI

on 10.05.2024 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs. on same day Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in No.: 32-W-BR-NO-249-DLI-GZB Date: 16.04.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Department of Agriculture

Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna. (State Horticulture Mission) 2" Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna-800001 Phone Fax: 0612-2521776, e-mail: dir-bhds-bih@nic.in,



Through e-procurement mode only over (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) e-Tender for empanelment and fixation of rate for Supply/installation of Poly House, Shade Net and Mulch Film in 2024-25 in the State of Bihar.

Bihar Horticulture Development Society (BHDS) invites online bids from reputed and experienced organizations for empanelment as well as rate fixation for supply/ installation of the Poly House, Shade Net and Mulch Film from reputed Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/Firms/Agencies/Govt./Companies. The interested specialized organizations/firms/companies, which are involved and having experience of in related activities towards horticulture/ agriculture and allied activities may apply. A panel of technically qualified firms will be prepared by BHDS. Empanelled firms will be eligible for /supply/ installation of the different components mentioned above under different schemes executed by BHDS in the state.

The filled e-tender for technical & financial bid should be uploaded on the website: eproc2.bihar.gov.in by the bidder, while EMD and tender fee must be sent

SN	Particulars	Details	
1.	Start Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	06.05.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)	
2.	Date, Time, and place for attending pre- bid meeting. The mode of meeting will be hybrid (physical and virtual)	13.05.2024 May (12:00 Hrs), Place for physical pre-bid meeting-Department of Agriculture, Directorate of Horticulture, 2nd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna – 800001. Link for virtual pre-bid meeting will be published on BHDS website http://horticulture.bihar.gov.in	
3.	Last Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	29.05.2024 (12:00 Hrs.)	
4.	Last Date & Time for submission/uploading of offer/Bid	29.05.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)	
5.	Date and time of Technical bid opening	29.05.2024 (15:30 Hrs.)	
6.	Date and time of Financial bid opening	To be intimated to technically successful bidder (s) only	
7.	Nodal officer/Contact person for queries	Shilpi , ADAE, Mobile No. : 7903677826	
8.	Mode of Selection	Least Cost Based Selection – LCBS(L1)	
9.	It is mandatory to submit the EMD through online mode (NEFT/RTGS)		

Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna reserves the right to revise/change/cancel the Tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

Mission Director For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar State Horticulture Mission Bihar, Patna PR- 000223 (Agriculture) 2024-25

लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024— मतदान महात्योहार, बिहार है तैयार

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Re-Invitation of Tenders through E-Tendering

(E-Procurement System) Amount Completion Date & time Name of work period of for submission Cost of of Earnest with its location the work of tender & Money opening of tender Replacement of top flange plate of girder, cross Upto 15.00 hrs 222A-36-DLI frame at Br. No. 222A (2x12.2m) on MB-GZB 1 2,18,700 on 13.05.2024 .37,30,825.73 section & Strengthening of rail & cross girder Opening of

Note: Above tenders are available on website, IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in, where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.

19.04.2024 providing screen over web of cross girder on Br.No

Date:18.04.2024

1162/24

Bid Security

₹ 2,12,600/-

Dated: 16.04.2024

section under jurisdiction of AXEN/BL/TKJ.

36 UP (3x30.5M) & 36 DN (4x30.5m) on GZB-SRE

1176/2024 Serving Customers With A Smile

tender after

15.00 hrs on

same day

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) CIN: U74999KA2019G0I122175 A Government of India Company under Department of Space)

ISRO Headquarters Campus, New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560 094 NewSpace India limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under Department of Space (DOS) invites tender for "SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF IT-INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FOR ESTABLISHING **VESSEL COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT SYSTEM**

SURVEILLANCE (MCS)" Tender No: NSIL/RFP/VCS/ MCS/ 2024/ 01 dated 20th April 2024 For more details, please visit our website

www.nsilindia.co.in

(VCS) FOR MONITORING, CONTROL &

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU 0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email - sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SHO P/S R.S. Pura intimated that accused namely Vivek Kumar S/O Hans Raj R/O Kotli Gala Bana, Tehsil R.S. Pura, District Jammu had gone missing, since 03.11.2023. Accordingly, his missing report was entered at P/S R.S. Pura, Jammu vide DDR No. 05 dated 03.11.2023. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of above named missing is being published for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll:-Name S/O Address

Vivek Kumar : Hans Raj Kotli Gala Bana, Tehsil R.S. Pura, District Jammu

Height 5'6" : 21 years Wheatish Normal Oval

Complexion Built Face Eyes Black : Pent, Shirt

Dress Contacts/Telephone Numbers :-

DPO, Jammu: 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578 SSP Jammu Mail I.D: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

PCR Jammu: 0191-2542000

SP Hgrs., Jammu: 0191-2439919 SDPO R.S. Pura: 01923-250240

SHO P/S R.S. Pura: 01923-250221

For Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu. DIP No:DIP/J-169/24/18/04/2024

GOVT. RAILWAYS POLICE KATRA No:-Rlys/Katra/CB f-99/24/3945-56 Dated: 15/04/2024

Look out notice

As reported by SHO P/s GRP Katra vide signal No. 174/5-1/P/S GRPK dated 14-04-2024 today at about 10:10 hrs an information received at P/s

GRP Katra through reliable sources that one un indentified male person age about 40-42 yrs run over by train swaraj express no. 12478 (down track) at platform no. 04 of railway station Katra and died on spot. The dead body of deceased person shifted to mortuary room CHC Katra for identification postmortem. On this instant an inquest proceeding has been initiated vide DDR no 05 dated 14-04-2024 at p/s GRP Katra, the photograph enclosed/ descriptive roll of deceased tabled are as under :-

Description Age 40-42 Height = 5 feet 6 Inch

Attrite = Green check shirt and black paint Colour = wheatish

The photograph and description roll of un-identified male body is above mentioned table for the information of police establishment/ public in general

for identification and any person have information related with his identification as well as legal heirs, same may be shared on below telephone numbers, further also requested that if any missing report of aforesaid unidentified male person has been entered in your respective police units/ jurisdictions, the information thereof may kindly be shared on below email/ telephone number.

> Sr. Superintendent of Police, Railways, Katra.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Cancellation of Tender

Due to administrative reason NIT No. 1-W-Dy.CETMCL-UTV-01-24-25 dated 12.04.2024 for the under noted work to be opened on 07.05.2024 is hereby

cancelled. The name of work and other details are as under:-POH of Track Machines UTV, 2001, 2002, 2004, 3061 and 10072 at TMMD KKDE.

LKO and TKD working under Dy.CE/TMC/Line/NR". Tender Cost: Rs. 2,38,90,909.88

No.: 1-W/Dy.CE/TMC/L/NDLS/Tender Corresp. Dated: 19.04.2024 1177/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

G2@ **NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY** Tender Notice No. 0920242025 Dated: 17.04.2024

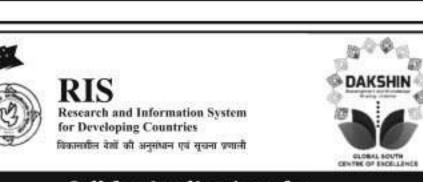
E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites online open tenders (E-Tender) as

detailed below-Approx Cost (In Rs.) E-Tender Notice No. Earnest Money (In Rs.) 0920242025-14 Rs. 1,32,72,983.42 Rs. 2,16,400.00 Name of work: Rehabilitation of GM Banglow at Leader Road, Prayagraj.

Date & Time of closing of Tender: 09.05.2024 at 15:00 PM, Completion Period: 04 Months, Nature of work: *Building work. NOTE-(1) For full details and submission of tenders, please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. * Special condition must be read along with this.

CPRONCR Manorthcentralrailway Morth central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in



Call for Applications for ADVISER (DIGITAL SOLUTIONS)

Applications are invited from interested candidates for the position of Adviser (Digital Solutions) of DAKSHIN (The Global South Centre of Excellence) at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

Initially, the engagement of selected candidates would be for a period of one year, which may be extended further depending on assessment of overall performance.

Remuneration: Equivalent to the post of Associate Professor. Detailed advertisement, including qualifications and experience, for the post may be viewed from RIS website at www.ris.org.in.

Interested candidates may send their CVs and other supporting documents, including academic qualifications and experience certificates to RIS by email: recruitment@ris.org.in latest by 30 April 2024. Those applied earlier, need not apply.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA **CASH & ACCOUNTS-II**

NOTICE to nationalized banks for investment of an amount of Rs. 10,84,88,071/- (Rs.Ten Crore Eighty Four Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Seventy One only) plus interest accrued thereon IN FIXED DEPOSIT.

All the Nationalized Banks are informed that the above mentioned amount is to be invested in Fixed Deposit for a period of ONE YEAR. Interested Nationalized Banks are requested to quote in sealed cover, the highest CALLABLE rate of interest valid till 25.04.2024, for this deposit in accordance with the prescribed format and hand over personally to the undersigned upto 5.00 p.m. on 23.04.2024. No offer will be accepted after 5.00 p.m.

For more details, prescribed format and instructions, log on to www.supremecourtofindia.nic.in

Place: New Delhi Date: 18.04.2024 (TAPAN KISHORE SHARMA) Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Supreme Court of India



Notice for Empanelment for

(i) LMC (ii) PE Laying for CGD GAIL Gas Limited intends to empanel capable Contractors for (i) LMC including GI Installation Works (ii) Laying of PE Pipelines including associated Works for City Gas Distribution.

Contractors having relevant experience are requested to submit necessary documents for empanelment. For Relevant documents and criteria visit website https://gailgas.com/empanelment/ empanelLand. Last Date & Time for Submission of response:

13.05.2024. Any revision, clarification, addendum, corrigendum, time-extension, future requirement etc. will be hosted on website www.gailgas.com only. Interested parties are requested to visit the website regularly. Corporate Office 3rd Floor, Infohub Building, GAIL Jubilee Tower, B-

35&36, Sector - 1, NOIDA - 201301 (UP) Registered Office: GAIL Bhawan, 16, Bhikaiji Cama Place, R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066

CIN NUMBER: U40200DL2008G0l178614

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

namely Swati Sharma @ Shalu W/o Sanjeev Sharma R/o H. No. 70-71, Ordinence Factory, Murad Nagar, Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and 2nd Address: V-103/5, Gali No. 7, Arvind Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 92/2013 U/s 448/454/380/411 IPC registered at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Swati Sharma @ Shalu could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Swati Sharma @ Shalu has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Swati Sharma @ Shalu is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.05.2024. By Order Ms. Aayushi Saxena,

DP/3074/NE/2024

Metropolitan Magistrate-05, (Court Notice)

Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Room No. 07

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

person(s) Vijay Kumar S/o Bal Kishan R/o Jhuggi No. 5/6, M-Block, J.J. Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 208/2021, U/s 33/38/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Rajouri Garden, Distt. West, New Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Vijay Kumar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Vijay Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Vijay Kumar of FIR No. 208/2021, U/s 33/38/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Rajouri Garden, Distt. West, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 20.05.2024 at 10:00 AM.

> By Order Ms. Milan Goel Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-02 (West), Room No. 356 Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Email: ssprlyskatra@jkpolice.gov.in Fax 01991-232001 Phone No. 01991-232001 Liaise line: ssprlyskatra@jkpolice.gov.in PCR GRP Katra phone No. 9469503575

Sanjay Kumar Kotwal-IPS

DP/4398/WD/2024 (Court Matter)

Heatwaves in India are 30 times more likely now than they'd be without climate change'

body cannot sweat as the air is

saturated — this means the body

can't cool down. Then, you really

need to be in a cool place. However,

not everyone has access to such

heat' — people shouldn't work out-

doors in this and it can also be com-

pounded with the urban heat effect.

Is there a link between climate change

■ Yes — air quality and climate

change are produced essentially by

the same activities like transport,

construction, industry, etc. The

emissions from these produce

greenhouse gases like carbon diox-

ide (CO₂) and pollutants like fine

particles, nitrogen oxide, etc. The

latter impact our health as chemical

compounds — so, reducing CO2

emissions helps reduce air pollu-

tion, a significant co-benefit.

and air quality?

cooling, so such epi-

sodes pose a tremen-

dous risk to the most

vulnerable people

who could even per-

ish. This is 'wet bulb

Robert Vautard is co-chair of the IPCC's Working Group I and senior climate scientist at IPSL, Paris. Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at **Times Evoke**, he discusses heatwaves — and their causes:

What is the core of your work?

■ I'm co-chair of the IPCC Working Group I on physical science with Xiaoye Zhang, I also research



climate extremes and study the relationships between these events and climate change.

Parts of India are getting heatwave alerts in April - is this climate change?

Yes. We've done three attribution studies, in 2016, 2022 and 2023, on India with the World Weather Attribution network. In 2022, a huge heatwave and extremely anomalous temperatures occurred in India from March to end-April. We could attribute this to climate change in that such a situation is getting more frequent and probable due to greenhouse gas rises. Last April saw a very humid heatwave especially over parts of eastern India along the coast. That brought heat stress indices to the limit of what the body can tolerate

— these exceeded 'dangerous' heat index values, nearing 'extremely dangerous'. Our conclusion was that such events are now 30 times more probable than they'd have been without climate change.

Climate sceptics argue India is very hot - how is climate change driving this? I usually do not fight against

climate sceptics. We actually don't



IN THEIR LOFTY SHADE: Trees, a refuge in heating cities, must be protected

have many in Europe as the region is undergoing an extremely fast increase of temperatures. India is around two degrees warmer than it used to be — and to climate sceptics, I'd say that scientists aren't driven by politics but by the truth. Models, statistical tools and observations allow us to make this definite link. For such an attribu-

FOSSIL FUELLED: THE WEATHER GOT WARMER & WEIRDER... Monthly Temperature Anomalies (1940 to 2024) show a steadily spiking graph, reaching an almost 1° C increase globally as fossil fuels grow -0.5°C Sep 4 May 14, March 15, Jan 15, 1940 2006 2024 Data Courtesy: Our World in Data

TIMES

tion study, we compare the statistics of heatwaves with climatological models, including those which don't rep-resent historical observations. We look at the trends

and statistics in these and previous periods, exploring the difference. We compare two very different groups of

events thus, those with climate change and those without it, a similar approach being used in epidemiology, etc. All this confirms that India is certainly a hot country, especially before the monsoon — but it is also true that its heat is increasing.

What are the most dangerous threats posed by such heatwaves?

These include health risks which is a primary threat — the greatest danger here is from humid heat because in dry heat events, which usually occur inland, people can cope by drinking fluids. When the heat comes with high humidity, the

Has the world now definitively crossed the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold?

■ Not yet — currently, we estimate the level of global warming to be between 1.2° C and 1.3° C. In the sense of the Paris Agreement, '1.5 degrees C' means the long term - it is not a target for a single year. We will cross this when every other year will exceed this measure that's expected in about 10 years. We might have a small spillover in that we could exceed 1.5° C and then return back but exceeding it will expose many countries to potential tipping points, species extinctions as with corals and very severe climate impacts. Frankly, it will be very difficult not to cross this but if we do, 1.6° C is better than 1.7 which is better than 1.8 and so on.

What adaptations can people make now against such heatwaves?

■ India is relatively well-placed with heat plans but further preventions include hospitals being prepared. There must also be solidarity between people to help each other access hydration and cool places. In the long term, housing is crucial to reduce heat. Policy makers need strong heat plans, forecasts and preventions — India has good systems already.

Fossil fuel companies worldwide are set to increase their output in 2024 what is your view?

As the IPCC Report says, 'Projected'



SHIFT THEIR SHIFT: Construction workers face risk in wet bulb events

CO₂ emissions from existing fossil fuel infrastructure without additional abatement would exceed the remaining carbon budget for 1.5° C'.

This means taking into account all the facilities and installations for the extraction of current fossil fuels through their lifetime will lead us beyond 1.5 degrees — hence, new extractions will definitely not help.

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke.

Kudos, TE, for bringing us such enriching articles! I loved Erika Rappaport's interview (13th April) about tea. It's astounding that the tea industry claims it is the second most popular drink on Earth after water! It also made me grateful towards tea labourers who work so hard to bring us that cup. I am eagerly awaiting the next TE!

- Nivedita Rana, Delhi

I have been an admirer of TE for quite some time and it's fascinating to learn about a beverage that's become a lifeline for people worldwide

- TE's conversation with Jonathan Morris gave insights about the origins of coffee, its changing commercial uses, its globalisation and how today's climate change is affecting its growth. Here's to more, TE!

- Akhil Verma, Dewas

I really look forward to my TE every weekend. The content is very interesting and informative. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the history of tea with my morning cup. As TE puts it, let's become more informed to make products more sustainable. Thank you for such a beautiful TE page!

 Eswar Sagar, Hyderabad I really liked Jonathan Morris' bracing replies on what to think when we see our morning coffee... imagine, there are 25 stages involved from a bean to a cup - and we're all connected through this huge chain of labour. What a novel idea, TE!

- Usha Ponnappa, Bengaluru

I simply love Times Evoke and was amazed reading the 'global epic of tea' and how India paid with indentured labour and damaged ecology for British plantations. Looking forward to reading more such articles, TE.

- Anup Ray, Mumbai

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

Rana Kapoor gets bail, walks out of jail after 4 years

Mumbai: Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor was released from a prison on Friday, hours after being granted bail by a court in an alleged loan fraud case. Kapoor was first arrested in March 2020 in a money laundering case by ED.

ED and CBI have registered a total of eight cases against him related to alleged frauds at Yes Bank. He was lodged at the Taloja jail in neighboring Navi Mumbai while the trials in these cases are yet to start. He had

bail in seven cases earlier. M G Deshpande, special judge for CBI

cases, granted Kapoor bail earlier in the day while noting that the trial in the present case was pending, and his incarnation was no longer required. The detailed

order was not available yet. CBI had alleged that Kapoor, then managing director and chief executive officer of Yes Bank Limited (YBL), obtained "illegal gratification" (bribe) in the form of a property located at a prime location in Delhi at a price much less than its market value for sanctioning a loan. The property belonging to Avantha Realty Ltd (ARL) was already mortgaged for a loan taken by the company from Yes Bank, PTI

Man separates wife from live-in partner, **HC** reunites them

In a rare case, Gujarat high court has reunited a live-in couple separated by the woman's estranged husband. The woman's partner took legal recourse for her custody after she was forcibly taken away by her husband and kept in her maternal home.

The couple, living together in Amreli district's Khambha town since Jan this year, had met after the woman returned to her maternal home due to matrimonial discord, leaving a son behind with her husband. A bench of Justices AY

Kogje and SJ Dave directed police to bring the woman before court. Appearing before the judges on April 8, the woman chose to accompany her live-in partner. "Since high court was in the habeas corpus jurisdiction, it just followed the wish of the corpus (plea) and allowed her to go with the petitioner," Rathin Raval, the partner's lawyer who filed the plea, said.

Looking at the history of violence in this case, the lawyer also requested police protection for the couple. HC ordered such protection till they reached the home of the partner, TNN

IISER to hold own entrance test on June 9

New Delhi: In a major change in eligibility criteria for admissions to IISERs, the autonomous centrally funded institutions have moved out of JEE Advanced's ambit, reports Manash Gohain.

From this year, the admissions to BS-MS (Dual Degree) and four-year BS degree programmes in the seven IISERs will be based on IISER Aptitude Test.

The online application window will remain open till May 13, 2024 and the test will be conducted on June 9, 2024.

Ex-banker gets 7-year jail, ₹15cr fine for forgery

New Delhi: A CBI court in Gujarat imposed the highest fine so far, Rs 15.1 crore, and sentenced an ex-bank manager to seven-year jail in a case of forgery. The order came 23 years after an FIR was registered in the case, reports Rajshekhar Jha.

Accused Preeti Vijay Sahijwani, then senior manager of IOB was posted at Vastrapur branch at the time of commission of crime. The order was pronounced the special judge for CBI cases, Gandhinagar on Thursday.

• 2003 and 2010,

THE MANY WAYS MONSOON AFFECTS YOUR LIFE

TOI Explains

Vishwa Mohan & Surojit Gupta | TNN

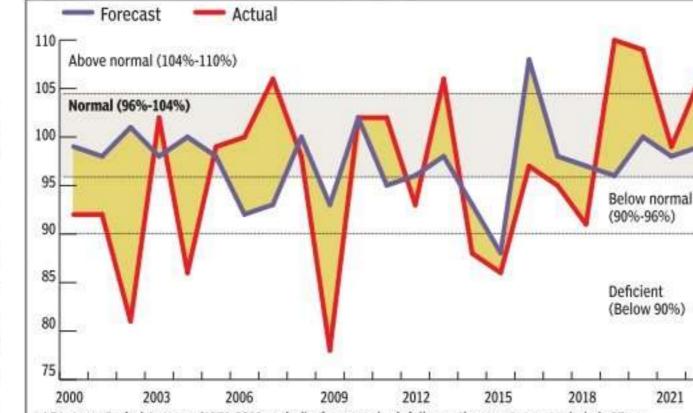
Normer President Pranab Mukherjee, who was earlier a finance minister, had once remarked that the monsoon season (June-Sept) was India's true finance minister, indicating the significance of rain during the period for the country. A lot has changed since then - large parts of India's agriculture have been droughtproofed through irrigation networks, better varieties of seeds are being used — but the importance of summer (southwest) monsoon remains high, for some old and some new reasons. It contributes 70% of the country's rainfall and still supports farming sector to a large extent, recharges ground water and greens energy supply by making hydro power viable. Changing food consumption pattern, more open trade and increased role of sentiments in the economy have altered the way monsoon impacts our economic life. But first, what exactly is a normal monsoon?

Normal or above normal? The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted on Monday that the

country is "most likely" to experience 'above normal' rainfall. The seasonal rainfall is likely to be 106% of long period average (LPA) with a model error of \pm 5%. The LPA of seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1971-2020 is 87cm.

Factors indicating good rainfall

IMD believes the gradual weakening of El Nino (cli-



mate pattern associated with warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean), expected development of La Nina (climate pattern associated with the periodic cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific), positive Indian

Who's tinance minister?

Monsoon

(Forecast with a model error of either +/- 5% or +/-4%)

Ocean Dipole (IOD) below normal snow cover northern over hemisphere will ensure good rain this monsoon.

> El Nino (means

LPA: Long Period Average (1971-2020 period) of seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is 87cm 'little boy' in Spanish): It occurs on average every two to seven years, and typically lasts nine to 12 months. It influences weather and storm patterns in different parts of the world. The current El Nino event, which developed in June 2023 and peaked in December, was at its strongest between

> The Met department says moderate El Nino conditions are currently prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region. The latest climate model forecasts indicate that El Nino conditions are likely to weaken further to neutral El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) condition in the early part of the monsoon season.

> > Source: IMD, Crisil

NORMAL? WHEN & WHERE

Across four months and four regions, rainfall varied hugely-making all-India average misleading from a local perspective

Nov and Jan this year.

Region	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
All India	-10	5	-10	-6	-6
Northwest	42	31	3	2	1
Central	-6	12	-10	0	0
East -Northeast	-18	-25	-17	-18	-18
South	-45	5	-17	-9	-8

La Nina (means 'little girl' in Spanish): La Nina is linked to good monsoon rainfall in the Indian sub-continent. IMD says La Nina conditions are likely to develop during the second half (Aug-Sept) of the monsoon season. Records show that the summer monsoon was either 'normal' or 'above normal' in most of the last 22 La Nina years since 1954, except 1974 and 2000 when it was below normal. Data from 1951 to 2023 shows that out of nine years when La Nina was preceded by El Nino, the summer monsoon seasonal rainfall was 'above normal' in two years, 'excess' in five years and on the positive side of 'normal' in two years.

IOD: It is one of the dominant modes of variability of the tropical Indian Ocean. It is an ocean-atmosphere interaction which is very similar to El Nino. It is, therefore, also known as Indian Nino. It's defined as the difference in sea surface temperatures between the eastern and western regions of Indian Ocean and can significantly impact weather

patterns in the Indian

sub-continent and elsewhere, including southeast Asia and Australia. IMD says neutral IOD conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean and the latest climate model forecasts indicate that positive IOD conditions are likely to develop during the latter part of the southwest monsoon season.

FY24

Normal for country may not be normal for your city

Instead of quantitative rainfall over the country as a whole, it's the distribution of fairly good rainfall across states that matters the most. Though IMD's latest forecast predicted good rainfall in the 'monsoon core zone' (rainfed agriculture region of India), its other rounds of forecasts next month and at the end of June, July and August will give a fairly clear indication of spatial distribution of rainfall.

Impact on farming

Water-guzzling paddy is the main crop of the monsoon season beginning June. Though states like Punjab, Har-

RAINS, FARMING & YOUR BUDGET

Year		all (% departure from LPA)	Headline Inflation	Food Inflation	Agriculture GDP growth
FY00	-2.6	Normal	3.5	0.4	2.
FY01	-6.2	Below Normal	3.7	1.4	(0)
FY02	-6.7	Below Normal	4.3	2.8	
FY03	-20.9	Deficient	4.1	2.7	-6.
FY04	3.3	Normal	3.8	3.7	
FY05	-9.6	Below Normal	3.9	2.2	0.:
FY06	0.4	Normal	4.2	4.2	4.
FY07	3.4	Normal	6.8	9.1	2.5
FY08	11.3	Above Normal	6.2	8.5	5.
FY09	3.3	Normal	9.1	12.3	-0.:
FY10	-18.3	Deficient	12.3	15.1	-0.
FY11	5	Above Normal	10.5	10	8.8
FY12	4.9	Above Normal	8.4	6.4	6.4
FY13	-3.6	Normal	9.9	11.1	1.
FY14	8.6	Above Normal	9.4	12.1	5.
FY15	-10.1	Below Normal	5.9	6.4	-0.
FY16	-12.7	Below Normal	4.9	4.9	0.
FY17	-0.3	Normal	4.5	4.2	6.
FY18	-5	Below Normal	3.6	1.8	6.0
FY19	-9	Below Normal	3.4	0.1	2.
FY20	10	Above Normal	4.8	6.7	6.
FY21	9	Above Normal	6.2	7.7	100
FY22	-1	Normal	5.5	3.8	4.
FY23	6	Above Normal	6.7	6.6	4.

RK Laxman | TOI Archives

5.4



Below Normal

That's right, I belong to the weather bureau weather forecast section. How did you guess?

age to sow fairly large areas of land even during the 'below normal' monsoon season as they have robust irrigation networks and they use substantial yana and western Uttar Pradesh man- amount of groundwater with the help power generation.

two years of severe rainfall deficiency, saw very different inflation rates though farm output fell in both the years Monsoon is key,

but not the only factor influencing farming and prices. Food stocks, their supply management and trade now play a bigger role than ever in cushioning impact of rainfall variation

of subsidised fuel, the states in 'monsoon core zone' that largely depend on monsoon rain suffer. It also reflects in their output of Rabi (winter sown) crops such as wheat and mustard. Rabi crops benefit from good monsoon rain as it not only fills reservoirs and water bodies for irrigation during winter but also provides enough moisture content in the soil.

Drought years, when the country gets less than 90% of LPA, on the

other hand, affects the entire country. If we look at the past 10 years' data, the deficient (drought) monsoon years of 2014 and 2015 resulted in a decline in overall food-grain production. Growing efforts to make the country drought-proof through measures such as expanding the irrigation network, water conservation, precision irrigation (drip and sprinkler) and use of drought-resistant seeds, however, have resulted in cushioning the impact of 'below normal' monsoon rains.

How monsoon impacts economy The Indian economy, growing at 7% for

three consecutive years, is expected to benefit immensely from a good monsoon. A bumper harvest adds to rural prosperity and triggers demand for everything — from motorcycles to mobile phones. It also helps calm prices as supplies improve. Robust rain also helps in reducing the demand for diesel used in the farm sector. It helps in recharging reservoirs and groundwater levels and also leads to greater hydro

EVERY MAN GOTTA RIGHT TO DECIDE HIS **OWN DESTINY**

- BOB MARLEY

O DICAPRIO WAS APPROACHED TO PLAY DC VILLIAN LEX LUTHOR, HARRY STYLES' STALKER WHO SENT HIM 8000 CARDS IN LESS GAVE IDEA OF SUPERMAN FIGHTING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE: DIRECTOR THAN A MONTH JAILED, BANNED FROM SEEING HIM PERFORM

US Distances Itself From Attack On Iran, Says De-escalation Top Focus

Italy Says Tel Aviv Informed Washington Last Minute; Blinken Won't Admit, Says No Role

S secretary of state Antony Blinken repeatedly declined to confirm a reported Israeli attack on Iran on Friday, saying Washington has not been involved in any offensive operations and it was committed to de-escalating tensions in the region. "I'm not going to speak to that except to say that the US has not been involved in any offensive operations," Blinken said at a news conference capping a gathering of G7 foreign ministers on Italian island of Capri.

"What we're focused on is our work to de-escalate tensions, to de-escalate from any potential conflicts," Blinken said. He would not even directly confirm the Israeli strike, whichappeared to be the country's first military response to Iran's attack last weekend, referring instead to "reported events", and he would not say whether the US had been notified in advance of the Israeli action.

Shortly before he spoke, Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, told reporters that the US had been "informed at the last minute" of the Israeli strike. "But there was no involvement on the part of the United States," Tajani said. "It was simply information which was provided," adding that he believed the G7's collective efforts deserved credit for "the small scale of the event."

A senior US official said on Friday that Israel had notified the US through multiple channels shortly before its attack against Iran. Israel gave the administration an alert moments before its warplanes struck the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus on April 1, but the official said the latest attack was expected given all the warnings Israel had issued during the week. "We were not surprised," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Publicly, Biden officials were tight-lipped about the strike to avoid getting the US pulled into the conflict between Iran

Washington vetoes

Palestinian bid for

recognition as full



CULTURAL SITE | It is one of Iran's most famous and historic cities. known for its beautiful turquoise and purple tiled mosques, picturesque arched bridges and Grand Bazaar

> TEHRAN PLAYS DOWN ATTACK | In Iran, news reports made no mention of Israel, and state TV appeared dismissive about the scale. An analyst told state TV that mini drones flown by 'infiltrators from inside Iran' had been shot down



The province of Isfahan also contains the Natanz uranium enrichment site

WHY THE ESCALATION? The latest development comes following a large Iranian strike on Israeli territory last weekend that included more than 300 missiles and drones. That Iranian attack was launched in response to an Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Syria on April 1

TARGETED IN 2023 TOO | In Jan 2023, Israel carried out a drone attack on a military facility in the middle of Isfahan, according to senior US intel officials. The facility's purpose and damage extent remain unclear. At the time, Iran confirmed the attack, claiming it targeted an ammo plant and was repelled by air defences, with minimal damage

and Israel, the official said Israel, too, said nothing about Friday's drone attacks on the Iranian city of Isfahan There was also no word from Tel Aviv as to whether further action might be planned. Apart from direct strikes on Iranian territory, it has other ways of attacking, including cyberattacks and strikes on

small N-research

facilities and is a

medium-range

missiles - which

can reach Israel

and beyond - are

assembled there. A

air defence battery

has also been seen

in Isfahan

Russian-made S-300

centre of weapons

production. Shahab

AIR BASE FOR F-14

TOMCATS | An air base

that is home to a fleet of

US-made F-14 Tomcats,

purchased by American-

backed Iranian govt before

the 1979 Islamic revolution

Iranian proxies elsewhere.

In Iran, news reports on Friday's incident made no mention of Israel, and state television carried analysts and pundits who appeared dismissive about the scale. Shortly after midnight, "three drones were observed in the sky over Isfahan. The air defence system became active and destro-

yed these drones in the sky". Iranian state TV said. By morning, Iran had reopened airports and airspace that were shut during the strikes.

Small drones

near here

Isfahan

A strike hit a

millitary air

QUADCOPTERS USED?

use of quadcopters -

Some reports suggested

drones with 4 rotors, have

a short flight range and

can explode on impact

Israeli media avoided quoting Israeli officials directly, instead referring to foreign media reports that cited Israeli sources as confirming Israel was behind the attacks. Some Israe-

lis suggested the aim was to demonstrate the capability to attack without causing harm.

Violence between Israel and Iranian proxies across the West Asia has intensified throughout six months of bloodshed in Gaza, raising fears the longstanding foes' shadow war could spiral into a direct conflict. NYT&REUTERS

US House advances Ukraine-Israel package after rare bipartisan show, far-right fumes

UN member state The House took a critical The US blocked the UN Sestep on Friday toward approving a long-stalled curity Council on Thurspackage of aid to Ukraine, Isday from moving forward rael and other American alon a Palestinian bid to be recoglies, as Democrats supplied nised as a full member state at the crucial votes to push the the UN, quashing an effort by Palestinian allies to get the legislation past Republican opposition so that it could be world body to back the effort. considered on the floor. The vote was 12 in favour of the

The 316-94 vote cleared the resolution and one — the US way for the House to bring up opposed, with abstentions from Britain and Switzerland. the aid package, teeing up separate votes on Saturday on ea-After the vote, Palestinian envoy to the UN Riyad Mansch of its parts. But passage of our delivered a passionate those measures, each of which enjoys bipartisan support address asserting the Palestinian people's right to self-defrom different coalitions, was not in doubt, making Friday's termination. A spokesperson action the key indicator that for the US state department said, "It remains the US view that the most expeditious path

the legislation will prevail. The rule for considering the bill — historically a straight party-line vote passed with more Democratic than Republican support, but it also won a majority of GOP votes, making it clear that de-



Speaker Mike Johnson has put his job on line to push through the aid plan

spite a pocket of deep resistance from the far right, there is broad bipartisan backing for the \$95.3 billion package.

The vote was an enormous victory in the long effort to fund Ukraine as it battles against Russian aggression, a major priority of Prez Biden that has met with bitter resistance from the right. It was a triumph against the forces of isolationism within the GOP and a major moment of bipartisan consensus in a Congress

that for the past year has been mostly defined by its dysfunction. But it came only after Speaker Mike Johnson, who put his own job on the line to push through the plan over his party's objections, was forced to turn to Democrats in a significant breach of custom in the House, further imperiling his position even as he paved the way for the legislation to be voted on and approved.

It was the second time during this Congress that Republicans have had to rely on Democratic votes in the House to even bring to the floor legislation to address a critical issue. They did so last year to allow for a vote to suspend the debt ceiling bill and avoid a catastrophic federal default.

Many Republicans spoke on Friday in favour of the legislation to send aid to Ukraine and Israel. But the far-right flank of the Republican confer-

ence, which has wielded out sized power in a tiny majority, spoke out to oppose the bill "I'm concerned that the speaker's cut a deal with the Democrats to fund foreign wars rather than secure our border," said Representative Thomas Massie, Republican of Kentucky, one of the most vocal opponents of the legislation who has threatened to vote to oust Johnson because of it.

In order to steer around opposition from members of his own party, Johnson broke down the package into three pieces, adding a fourth bill to sweeten the deal for conservatives. The rule was critical to-Johnson's strategy, because it allows separate votes on aid to Israel and aid to Ukraine, which are supported by different coalitions, but then folds them together without requiring lawmakers to cast an up-or-do-Wn vote on the entire bill, NYT

talk Yasin Malik trial, triggers row **Naomi Canton** London: A Labour MP has sparked outrage after meeting members of Jammu Kashmir

Britain MP meets

JKLF members to

Liberation Front (JKLF) UK and JKLF "diplomatic bureau" chairman Zafar Khan in



declared an unlawful association in India for inciting terror and abetting secessionism in J&K.

Rachel Hopkins, who represents Luton South, which has a large Mirpuri diaspora, wrote on X: "This afternoon JKLF UK and my constituent Zafar Khan held an important meeting to update us on Yasin Malik's ongoing trial and appeal against death sentence. I continue to stand up for Kashmiris and their right to self-determination." JKLF chairman Malik was given a life sentence in 2022 after pleading guilty to charges relating to terrorism and sedition. NIA appealed, and is seeking death penalty.

Overseas Friends of BJP UK president Kuldeep Shekhawat told TOI the move by the Labour MP "is unacceptable as JKLF is a banned organisation in India" and that "this proves Labour's continued support to extremism and policy of interference in India's internal affairs". Vinod Tikoo, volunteer at Jammu Kashmir Study Centre UK, told TOI: "For an MP to host Yasin's sympathisers in the UK parliament is murder of democracy." Friends of India Society International UK said: "It's appalling to see a British MP sympathising and intentionally disregarding the multitude of facts regarding Yasin Malik and his terror-affiliated organisation, JKLF, to cater to vote-bank politics."

Person sets self on fire outside NY court where Trump trial is on

New York: A man set himself on fire on Friday outside the New York courthouse where Donald Trump's historic hush-money trial was taking place, witnesses said.

A witness said he first heard the man throwing pamphlets into the air, then saw him douse himself from a can and light himself on fire. The witness said the man burned for several minutes. CNN reporters said they saw a man engulfed in flames for more than three minutes. "I see a totally charred human being. one of them said on air.

The shocking development came shortly after jury selection for the trial was completed, clearing the way for prosecutors and defence attorneys to make opening statements next week in a case stemming from hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels. The 12 jurors, along with six alternates, will consider evidence in a first-ever trial to determine whether an ex-US prez is guilty of breaking the law. REUTERS

5 Japan nationals escape unhurt as latest Pak attack targets foreigners

Karachi: Five Japanese nationals working for Suzuki Motors had a lucky escape when their van was targeted by a suicide bomber and a gunman in a suicide attack in Pakistan's port city on Friday, police said, in the latest terrorist attack on foreign natio-

DIG East Azfar Mahesar said the terrorists tried to hit the vehicle carrying Japanese nationals working with Pakistan Suzuki Motors. "All five Japanese remained safe," he said. "The Japanese nationals were on the way to the Export Processing Zone from their residence

China makes Apple remove Whatsapp and Threads from app store

Hong Kong: Apple said it had removed Meta's WhatsApp messaging app and its Threads social media app from App Store in China to comply with orders from Chinese authorities. The apps were removed Friday after Chinese officials cited unspecified national security concerns. Their removal comes amid elevated tensions between the US and China over trade, technology and national security.

The US has threatened to ban TikTok over national security concerns. But while TikTok, owned by Chinese technology firm Byte-Dance, is used by millions in the US, WhatsApp and Threads are not commonly used in China. Instead, the messaging app WeChat, owned by Chinese company Tencent, reigns supreme.

Other Meta apps, including Facebook, Instagram and Messenger, remained available for download, although use of such foreign apps is blocked in China due to its "Great Firewall" network of filters that restrict use of foreign websites such as Google and Facebook.

"The Cyberspace Administration of China ordered the removal of these apps from the China storefront based on their national security concerns," Apple said in a statement. "We are obligated to follow the laws in the countries where we operate, even when we disagree." A spokesman for Meta referred to "Apple for comment."

Apple, previously the world's top smartphone maker, recently lost the top spot to Korean rival Samsung Electronics. The US firm has run into headwinds in China, one of its top three



A person briefed on the situation said the Chinese govt had found content on the apps about Prez Xi that was inflammatory and violated country's cybersecurity laws

markets, with sales slumping after Chinese govt agencies and employees of state-owned companies were ordered not to bring Apple devices to work. Apple has been diversifying its manufacturing bases outside China. Its CEO Tim Cook has been visiting Southeast Asia this week, traveling to Hanoi, Jakarta and Singapore.

A person briefed on the situation said the Chinese govt had found content on WhatsApp and Threads about Prez Xi Jinping, that was inflammatory and violated the country's cybersecurity laws. The specifics of what was in the content was unclear, the person said.

Other apps had also been removed from Apple's App Store in China on Friday, including Signal, which is based in the US, and Telegram, based in Dubai, UAE, according to Appfigures, a market research firm that analyses the digital economy.

WhatsApp had been downloaded 15 million times on iPhones in China since 2017, while Threads had been downloaded 470,000 times, reports Appfigures. AP

100+ Columbia students held for Israel protest, may face suspension

ore than 100 pro-Palestinian protesters ■ were arrested on Thursday on the campus of Columbia University after its president authorised New York police to clear an encampment set up by students demonstrating against Israel's actions in Gaza.

Columbia University prez Nemat Minouche Shafik, who a day earlier came under fire from Republicans, at a House of Repre- trespassing. sentatives committee hea-

ring on antisemitism on campus, said she had authorised police to clear dozens of tents set up by protesters on Wednesday morning. Shafik said the protesters had violated the school's rules and policies aga-

inst holding unauthorised demonstrations, and were unwilling to engage with administrators. New York City mayor

Eric Adams said police made over 108 arrests without vio-

AROUND THE WORLD



Columbia University on Friday

lence or injuries. Police said the arrests were related to Columbia said it had

started to suspend students who took part in the encampment, considered an unauthorised protest. At least three students — Isra Hirsi, Maryam Iqbal, and Soph Dinu — received suspension notices from Barnard College, affiliated to Columbia, for participating. Hirsi is the daughter of Rep Ilhan Omar, who expressed support for protesters during Wednesday's hearing at which Shafik testified. REUTERS

Echoes of calm reverberate amid fears of a broader war

orld leaders on Friday urged Israel and Iran to de-escalate tensions after Israel struck an Iranian military base.

toward statehood for the Pa-

lestinian people is through di-

rect negotiations between Is-

rael and the Palestinian Aut-

hority with the support of the

US and other partners." NYT

PM Rishi Sunak of Britain, whose military participated in defending Israel against Iran's attack, said: "Significant escalation is not in anyone's interests — what we want to see is calm heads prevail across the region."

Ursula von der Leyen, prez of the European Commission, said: "It is absolutely essential that the region remains stable and that all sides refrain from further action."

Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, said G7 nations had changed the agenda of its meeting Friday in Capri to "address the Iran issue and put priority attention on the Middle East." He added, "The



in Isfahan province on Friday hours after an apparent Israeli strike

escalation." The G7 also warned of new sanctions against Iran for its attack on Israel.

UN secretary-general Antonio Gueterres called for an end to the strikes. Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said, "There have been telephone contacts between the leadership of Russia and Iran, our representatives and the Israelis. We made it clear, we

not want escalation."

Jordan, which has been criticised for playing a role in intercepting Iran's attack, issued a pointed plea: "Israeli-Iranian retaliations must end." A senior Hamas official said, "We call for the scale of engagement against (Israeli) occupation to be expanded in response to the war of genocide in Gaza and the escalapolitical goal of the G7 is de-told the Israelis that Iran does tion in the region." AGENCIES | binet divisions and strong war-ted on X, "Feeble". REUTERS

Israel's apparent strike 'split' war cabinet: Report

srael's apparent strike on Iran after days of prevarication was small and appeared calibrated to dial back risks of a major war, even if the sheer fact it happened at all shattered a taboo of direct attacks that Tehran broke days earlier.

Netanyahu's war cabinet had initially approved plans for a strike on Monday night inside Iranian territory to respond forcefully to last Saturday's missile and drones from Iran, but held back at the last-minu-

owledge of the situation said. By then, the sources said, the three voting members of the war cabinet had already ruled out the most drastic response — a strike on strategic sites including Iran's nuclear facilities whose destruction would almost certainly provoke a wider regional conflict. Facing ca-

te, three sources with kn-

nings from partners including the US and in the Gulf not to escalate, and aware of the need to keep international opinion on Israel's side, the plans to hit back were then postponed twice, the sources said. Two war cabinet meetings were also delayed twice, officials said. Reuters spoke to a dozen so-

urces in Israel, Iran and in the Gulf region, as well as the US, who described six frantic days of efforts in the Gulf, the US and among some of Israel's war planners to limit the response to Iran's first ever di-

While satisfying Israel's moderates, its neighbours and global partners, the measured strike was met with dismay from hardliners in Netanya hu's cabinet. National security minister Itamar Ben Gvir, whose ultranationalist party is a key prop in PM's coalition, pos-

rect attack on its arch rival.

nals in the country. in Zamzama, Clifton," he said.

Jinnah Hospital officials said three people were brought to the facility in critical conditions. One of the injured, a 45-year-old security guard, succumbed to his injuries while another injured was shifted to the ventilator, Geo News quoted the hospital ad-

Sunak vows to end 'sick leave culture': 2.8m Britons inactive M Rishi Sunak unveiled planned welfare reforms Friday to end Britain's "sick note culture", in an apparent

pitch to keep his beleaguered Conservatives in power at an election due this year. Sunak said the reforms were needed to tackle an unprecedented rise in economic inactivity and ensure benefits are better targeted. The issue of people not working is safe territory for Sunak's pro-business party that likes to depict its rivals as big-spenders. "We need to change the sick note culture so the default becomes what work you can do, not what you can't," Sunak said. There are 2.8 million people "economically inactive" due to long-term sick-

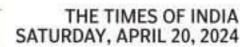
New AI tool predicts when new recruits will quit jobs Bosses worried about turnover or wondering how long a new hire will stick around can

ness, a near-record high.



world record for parachuting from the Earth's stratosphere from a height of 34,450 feet to North Pole in a mission to test a new communications system for use in the Arctic

now turn to AI for a heads-up on who may be next out the door. A new tool by Japanese researchers to help managers provide targeted support to staff to stop them from leaving, analyses data on those who have left and of present staff to create a turnover model for firms. The data predicts who is at risk of quitting "in percentage points".





A thought for today

War was not a game where masters would keep her from sustaining any real harm. War was a nightmare

That's Enough

Israel, Iran should now stand down

gain sending the international community into a tizzy, Israel reportedly carried out a direct strike against Iran yesterday. Although Tel Aviv hasn't officially owned up to the strike – which unconfirmed reports say was carried out by drones targeting an Iranian military base - it led to a spike in oil prices and panic in some international markets. Iran too has been dismissive about the attack, which was limited in nature.

Problem Israel | There's even speculation that the Israeli drones were launched from within Iranian territory. If true, this would mean



Tel Aviv wanted to demonstrate it could infiltrate Tehran's domain in response to Iran's April 13 missile and drone launches against Israel. However, right-wing Israeli politicians like national security minister Ben Gvir weren't happy with the scale of the Israeli strike. This has been the problem with Netanyahu govt-it's

allowed the Israeli far-right to pressure it into escalatory tactics, both in Gaza and now with Iran.

Problem Iran | Tehran has taken on the mantle of defending Palestinians. And with its array of militias, it can cause much regional disturbance. Plus, Iran's current hardline govt can't afford to lose face vis-à-vis Israeli strikes. This means Tehran can't be seen as not having the last word in any military exchange.

Military sparring | So far the military strikes from both Israel and Iran, have either been advertised well in advance, allowing the other side enough time to prepare, or have been low in scale. But things could go wrong quickly. What if the Iranian April 13 strikes had caused serious damage in Israel? What if Israelis hit an Iranian nuclear facility? The escalation matrix could spin out of control.

Cool heads needed | War between Israel and Iran will be hugely damaging to both and burn West Asia. No Israeli or Iranian wants that. Thus, the best way for temperatures to cool is for Israel to wind down its Gaza operation and for Iran to rein in its militias. Tel Aviv and Tehran have scored enough political and military points. Tit-for-tat strikes must end now.

Vasuki's Tales

Not a land of snake-charmers, but a land snakes have charmed

colossal 50-ft snake fossil called Vasuki indicus was discovered in Kutch, the largest find of the madtsoiidae species that lived ▲ across the southern hemisphere some 47 million years ago. It's a clue not only into primaeval snake species, but also of how continental land masses shifted and collided, and species dispersed and evolved around the world. "We have been able to show that we have some of the most remarkable snakes in India," said the scientists who studied the fossil. We certainly do, no surprises there.

Snakes may be somewhat maligned in Christianity and Islam. But they have been potent symbols across most ancient and indigenous cultures. They often signify protection and healing, right from the Greek

symbol of a staff with a serpent that represents modern medicine. Mythologists and psychologists have dwelt on the rich ambiguities of the snake motif, of danger, guarding treasure, of sexuality, of awakening potential.

India has its own fount of snake legends in Hinduism, Buddhism and indigenous traditions. Vasuki was the great serpent who became the rope to churn the ocean, Vishnu rests on a great snake. Serpent worship is an ecological tradition that became entwined with more recent religious forms, like the sacred groves in Kerala. The icchhadhari naagins of Bombay cinema and popular dance moves attest to this lingering fascination in popular culture too. We're not the land of snake-charmers, we're the land snakes have charmed.

Our Prehistory Is Made To Order

Theories about early humans are reflections of current biases, agendas

SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

ow did humanity emerge? Theories of the deep past have shaped our history and present, says The Invention of Prehistory: Empire, Violence and Our Obsession with Human Origins by Stefanos Geroulanos. And these theories are self-serving fictions.

All the influential stories we have been told are tied to the wishes and fears of the storytellers. From the 'violent state of nature' to accounts of dinosaurs and floods, from 'man the tool maker' to 'primitive communism', from 'mitochondrial Eve' to the 'reptilian brain', we've been spinning yarns based on vanishingly little evidence.

Because so little is known or knowable. prehistory is more a narcissistic fantasy than a field of inquiry - unlike, say, a history of World War I. We search for what we share with hominids from tens and hundreds of thousands of years ago, and try to establish something meaningful about 'human nature'.

Take enduring concepts like the 'state of nature' and the 'ages of man', that have been useful to the West. Indigenous people were

usually cast as the representatives of 'natural man'. Human evolution is seen as a matter of life stages. The past, the child-stage, can be seen as a lost purity, or a blank slate in need of rational instruction. The East was described as 'humanity's cradle', to whom Christianity would bring maturity.

Prehistory, as a field, was born in the tumultuous 1860s. Through the 19th century, human progress was choreographed in stages of three: savage, barbarian and civilised, or

Why did homo sapiens, anatomically modern humans, outlast other hominids? Their experiences are supposed to answer questions about what our essential nature is, or whether violence is ingrained, or whether peace, love and non-hierarchy was our early state. Was there a matriarchy that was displaced by property, marriage and monogamy? Communist and capitalist theories have wrangled over this to prove the other side aberrant. 'Man the hunter' theories had long held sway, in line with the biases of the 19th century, with new theories vehemently dismantling

> Another powerful idea is that of the veneer civilisation' behind which we are all brutish and instinctual. Instinct became the opposite of reason: we have reason, they have instinct. It was used in army pamphlets around World War I, to claim the enemy was a predator and that our side needs to tap into 'primal instincts' too. It excused the modern savagery of the 'civilised' by putting the blame on humans' earliest

ancestors-with little evidence to suggest those early

humans had been savage themselves. The book does not deny the advances in understanding the deep past. There have been solid findings in understanding the Neanderthal genome, in migration patterns and so on. But reliable science is harder to identify with all the glib storytelling. Cherrypicking facts and projecting our own values onto early humans to speculate about 'human nature' is the problem. Historically, it has only served to bolster hierarchy, conquest later, the Stone, Bronze, Iron Ages. and the workings of power.

Young, Bored & Not Voting

No surprise that only 38% of 18-year-olds bothered to register as voters. They respond to a good contest or a cause. Both are missing in these elections

Dipankar Gupta



Only 38% of the freshly minted 18-year-olds have registered themselves as voters for the 2024 elections. This has the experts worried. Have the young lost interest in democracy? Is

the future bleak in their hands? Actually, none of the above, and the

young are not damaged goods. It's their youth that makes them wary of dull routine, which voting day can become. In a flash that changes if there's a glorious crusade attached to an election. When that happens, polling becomes a carnival and the turnout of voters below 25 can put older adults to shame.

Otherwise, elections are for old folks; people who brood and chew the manifesto cud over and over again. Let them trudge to the polling booth in the same boring way they have led their lives. Without the drum roll of a campaign when a competitor must be vanquished, voting is a dull affair!

The 2024 elections have failed to give young voters that zing for they believe they know the outcome already. Therefore, as in the past, their numbers will lag behind in voting statistics. In Bihar, Delhi and UP, less than 25% of the just-turned 18 have registered as voters. Bihar is the lowest at 17% but politically alive Maharashtra is not much better at 22%.

Contrast this scenario with 2014 when young voters swamped booths to give BJP an absolute majority. Overall votes polled by the 18-25 age group was 2% higher than national average and in the case of votes polled for BJP, it was 3% more than it was for general voters. Unlike the past, this time around, young voters were not behind the curve.

In 2014, those born after the great

first shot at voting and weren't they lucky? Till then, all they saw, from the age-barred sidelines, were sloppy, potbellied aging fighters slugging it out in full-blown fatigue. Outcomes of these duels were inconsequential and the victor always won by a split decision.

Now, at last in 2014, the young felt they had a clear mission to accomplish. On the one side there was a charismatic. articulate, outsider against an ancient

reform of 1991, were ready to get their why between 2014 and 2019, BJP's support 68%. This was not just a 7% bump up, but also contributed to a 4% increase in the proportion BJP gathered nationwide that year.

When Election Commission and others wonder how best to get young people to vote, they overlook the significant fact that they are now addressing a crowd that thinks differently. The hormones coursing among the 18- to

killed and there was the fear of Sikh among young voters jumped from 61% to militancy, new voters sensed a campaign and voter turnout shot up to a high 64%. This record was bested only in 2014.

The young Indian is not unique in this respect. It has been observed, globally, that the overwhelming bulk of voters are middle-aged. In this respect, the very old and the very young are probably singing the same song, for the enthusiasm to vote goes down as a person crosses over from being middle-aged to geriatric.

> In US too, persistent youth apathy is disturbed only when there's an election with a cause and an enemy to be vanquished. Clinton and Obama won with ladles of youth support and so did Biden against Trump. The states that recorded the highest number of youth voters in 2020 were New Jersey, Minnesota, Colorado and Maine, and Biden won them all.

> The young may not beat the alarm clock and wake up on election day in sleepless excitement, like their elders, but they are not politically disconnected. They enter the fray only when there's thunder and fury and ideological partisanship is out in the open. This is why they are the life and soul of public demonstrations everywhere, though they are slow to vote.

In India, the youth led the charge in the Nirbhaya agitation and also in Anna Hazare's campa ign. In France, while just 13% of

youth voted in the 2021 municipal elections, yet in 2019, during the 'yellow vest' strike, they had gathered a million people on the streets of Paris. Likewise, it was the youth again that steered the 2011 'Occupy Wall Street Movement' in US.

Give the 18-year-olds a good fight and they will come out swinging on election day. The young hate to punch below their weight.

worthy, now well past his prime, but 25-year-olds seek a cause and not a supported by the establishment. The process. If the 2024 elections have failed young sensing a thrilling battle, stepped to amp them up it's because the young into the breach to give

the challenger a clear

win. The mood shift

Special Series on Elections was evident six months before polls. Modi's victory needed consolidation lest safely suggest that the rise in voting

don't see a competition at all. Though there are no accurate figures on

age-related voting in This sentiment held in 2019 too because earlier Indian elections, yet one might it slip back into the hands of the same inert numbers is because of the youth. In 1984, people who ruled earlier. This explains for example, after Indira Gandhi was

The writer is a sociologist

Impactful In IPL, Irrelevant For India

India's T20 team lacks all-rounders. Impact Players bury chances of unearthing one. Entertainment gets priority. World Cup gets short shrift

Avijit.Ghosh@timesgroup.com



Now a seductive 17, IPL has become cricket's biggest business idea since Kerry Packer's World Series in the late 1970s. And not just

because it is currently valued at \$10.7 billion by Brand Finance, the brand valuation consultancy. The game-changing marriage of willow and glitz has delivered more moolah to more cricketers, spawned similar templates in other sports, including kabaddi, and spearheaded franchisee-driven cricket culture worldwide.

IPL club owners have acquired teams in both traditional cricket centres (South Africa, West Indies) and emerging markets (UAE, US).

On the pitch, it's been an orgy of entertainment this edition. Six hitting is at an all-time high like BSE Sensex. In 2009, an average 8.5 maximums were struck per game. In the first 30 games of 2024, the average has zoomed to about 17.5. Its spillover reflects in scores; the 260 mark has been breached on five occasions.

In another era, it would have been a decent total in a 50 over match. Mayank Yaday, Shashank Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ashutosh Sharma – the game keeps throwing up potential stars and one-night heroes; all picked up for a measly ₹20 lakh. Every third contest has as many surprises as a Game of Thrones episode. No wonder, even in election season, viewership continues to surge.

Which is why IPL is not only BCCI's cash cow No. 1 but also its playing

calendar's centrepoint. But the nagging question is: has it helped in making Team India a T20 superpower on the pitch?

India's lone T20 WC triumph happened in 2007 before IPL arrived in 2008. In the seven editions since, India has entered the final only once (2014) and semifinal twice (2016 and 2022).

A common feature in India's WC winning teams of 1983 (ODI), 2007 and 2011 (ODIs) was a wealth of all-rounders. But in recent years, India has suffered a shortage of quality multi-dimensional players in T20 cricket. Hardik Pandya is an exception. But despite his tendency to break down, little effort has been made to groom replacements.

Introducing Impact Players, mid-game substitutes similar to football, in IPL won't help, as captain Rohit Sharma has correctly pointed out. Rather than remedy the

FLYING: Mayank Yadav shortage of all-rounders, the concept enables IPL teams

to bypass the problem. Will Impact Players help Team India's cause in the World Cup, where there's no such rule?

Take the case of Shivam Dube. A power hitter, the World Cup probable

bowling skills in IPL to be of more value to Team India, if selected. But since Impact Players were instituted in 2023, he hasn't bowled a single delivery in IPL.

could have tested and upgraded his

Shortage of high performing all-rounders isn't Team India's lone weak spot. In

recent T20 World Cups, India has often floundered in pressure games. That's what happened against New Zealand and Pakistan in 2021. Again, against England in the 2022

semifinals, the top

six batters, barring

Pandya, failed to take

charge. Between them,

the bowlers couldn't manage a single wicket. In contrast, unheralded Mathew Wade produced the innings of a lifetime to turn the tide in favour of eventual champion Australia against Pakistan in the 2021 WC semifinal.

Strong teams bat deep, possess abundant bowling options, and field and catch out of their skins. But most of Team India's specialist bowlers are one-trick ponies: sub-par fielders who can hardly bat. Compare this with defending champion England. Adil Rashid, slated first-class centuries in his resume. The World Cup squad is likely to be

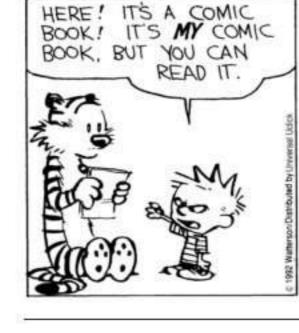
to bat at No. 11 in the 2022 final, has 10

announced early next month. Selectors need to be brave in their choices. Remember, a new captain in a team filled with newbies, including Rohit Sharma, won us our only WC in the game's bonzai version. Serial underperformers in high-pressure knock-out games need to be weeded out. We have stuck too long with the consistently faltering superstars who are also superbrands. Team India needs cricketers who privilege team needs over self-preservation.

India also needs in-form, hungry players who relish pressure. It's good to see Rishabh Pant rapidly discover his 'muchness'. This IPL has also seen the maturing of Riyan Parag and the emergence of Mayank, the kid with lightning in his arms. Currently injured, he should be handed a BCCI fast bowlers contract, enabling him to avail of NCA's restoration facilities. It is also time to revive the old Kul-Cha (Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzi Chahal) combo, the best T20 spinners in India. And what about Rahul Tewatia, whose game awareness and match-winning efforts, seldom gets the amount of attention it deserves?

In 2021, IPL finished just two days before the World Cup; this time the gap's five days. Even though some players are likely to leave early, is this the best way to be primed for Team India? In a T20 World Cup year, the national team has played only 3 T20s - that too in Jan. With the players engaged in nine weeks of intense club cricket, who prepares for the World Cup? It's clear who's winning the country vs club debate.

Calvin & Hobbes

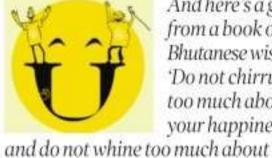


JUST MAKE SURE YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN AND ACID-FREE, AND ONLY TOUCH THE MYLAR BAG, AND USE THESE STERILIZED TONGS TO TURN THE PAGES, AND TRY NOT TO EXHALE TOO MUCH MOISTURE, OK ? DON'T MESS





Sacredspace



And here's a gem from a book of Bhutanese wisdom: 'Do not chirrup too much about your happiness.

your unhappiness.' Which makes me think: Happiness shared is an act of compassion; happiness flaunted, an act of violence.

Ruskin Bond

Ridvan, Dawn Of A New Dispensation

Sheriar Nooreyezdan

any holy scriptures promise the advent of a redeemer to restore the fervour of faith in men's hearts, end injustice and inequity, and unite mankind.

Accordingly, the Hindus await their promised Kalki avatar, the Buddhists the advent of Maitreya Amitabha, Zoroastrians for Shahbahram, Jews, Christians and Muslims for their Messiah, Christ-returned, and Imam Mehdi, respectively. Scriptures also indicate the time and describe world conditions for the promised advent. The general condition is described to be the darkened spiritual horizons, the sinking of man into the mire of materialism, the decline in fervour of faith, and point to the mid-19th century as the time of the advent.

History reveals accounts of two

events of religious significance during the predicted time. The first was the announcement in 1844 by the Bab in Iran, of the imminent advent of the promised Manifestation. In heralding the advent with convincing proofs from the Quran and Hadith, the Bab attracted thousands of believers but also the wrath of the clergy. Upon his execution in 1850, the mantle of leadership of the followers of the Bab fell upon Mirza Husayn Ali, an eminent

scholar and avid follower THE SPEAKING TREE of the Bab. Mirza Husayn Ali too was arrested and imprisoned in a dark dungeon, where He was blessed with the divine intimation of his Prophethood. Providentially saved from execution, he was exiled, as a prisoner first to Baghdad and eventually to the prison called for the cessation of

colony of Akka in Palestine.

The second event of religious significance was the momentous proclamation of Mirza Husayn Ali as the promised millennial Manifestation, in a garden named Ridvan, on the outskirts of Baghdad, over a 12-day period between April 21 and May 2,

> 1863. Thenceforth he was titled Baha'u'llah, meaning the 'glory of God'. The anniversary of that historic declaration is celebrated by the Baha'i community as Ridvan, over 12 days as the dawn of a new

During the 40 years of imprisonment, an ocean of revelation flowed from the pen of Baha'u'llah. Describing humanity as "the leaves of one tree and the fruits of one branch", Baha'u'llah

dispensation.

empire-building, urging the end of wars and ushering in an era of peace. While yet a prisoner, Baha'u'llah unveiled God's redemptive plan for mankind. He outlined a plan for the establishment and preservation of universal peace through a federal system of world government, a world judiciary and executive with its own army to ensure peace, equitable sharing of the world's natural resources, a global economy with a single world currency, and universal education with a world auxiliary language. God's plan is slowly but surely being

inadvertently implemented. We are being driven towards our ultimate destiny of spiritual unification. Vasudhaiva kutumbakam is in the making, when the world will happily chant, "The earth is one country and mankind its citizens."

April 20 is the first day of Ridvan

Source: ETIG, CDSL, RBI, Refinitiv

TIMES BUSINESS

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

The Week That Was... Sensex (73,088) **▼ 1.6**% S&P 500° 2.6% MSCI Emerging Mkt V 2.2%

A BSE Group A Gainers Dhani Elecon 20% Shilpa Medicare (*As of 12am; BSE Group A comprises most traded stocks)

Max Healthcare Crisil Tata Comm.

Bitcoin

FPI Inflows ₹18.6k cr ¥ Rupee vs \$ 83.47 (no change) \$643bn

Volatility Watch Choe Volatility Index popped above 20 for first time since Oct (*Week ended April 12)

Rupee hit a record low

Tata Sons seeks IPO waiver from RBI after cutting debt

Co Rejigs Its Balance Sheet In Bid To Avoid Mandatory Listing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A month after raising over Rs 9,000 crore from TCS stake sale, Tata Sons has approached RBI seeking an exemption from a mandatory IPO. The holding company of the \$150-billion salt-tosoftware Tata Group has informed RBI, in the fresh proposal, that it has reduced its debt significantly.

Tata Sons needs to cut its debt entirely to cease to be listed as an 'upper layer' NBFC to avoid a listing under RBI rules. According to Tata Sons' FY23 report, it has debt of Rs 21,909 crore and cash & bank balances of Rs 451 crore on its books. The debt figures have improved significantly in the last 12 months.

Last month, Tata Sons raised about Rs 9,362 crore (\$1.1 billion) from selling the shares of its cash cow unit TCS and used the proceeds to pay off loans to foreign and do-

Forex reserves

drop 1st time

in 8 weeks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: India's foreign ex-

change reserves fell for the first

time in eight weeks to \$643.2 billion as of April 12 from 648.6 bil-

This is the steepest fall over three months, after rising \$32.5

billion in the previous seven

weeks. The decline comes after

the RBI sold dollars in the fore-

ign exchange market when the

rupee came under pressure due

to geopolitical tensions in West

Asia, coupled with indications

that interest rates in the US

cy assets result from the RBI's

intervention and fluctuations

in the value of foreign assets.

The domestic currency, which

had weakened to 83.54, closed at

83.47 on Friday. During the re-

ported week, the rupee depreci-

ated by 0.1% against the dollar.

Rupee rises by

7 paise vs \$ on

RBI support

Mumbai: The rupee appreci-

ated 7 paise to close at 83.47

against the dollar on Friday,

tracking a strong rebound in

domestic equities. Forex tra-

ders said the domestic curren-

cy fell in early trade on risk

aversion in global markets

amid geopolitical tensions in

the West Asia. However, the

rupee recovered on reports of

RBI intervention to defend a

sharp fall in the local unit,

they added. At the interbank

foreign exchange market, the

local unit opened at 83.58 aga-

inst the greenback. The unit

Changes in foreign curren-

may remain higher for longer.

lion-a drop of \$5.4 billion.

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST Tata Sons may have to list in 2 yrs, look at mega IPO

Tata Sons may explore options to avoid upper-layer NBFC tag

mestic lenders.

Tata Sons declined to comment, while RBI didn't respond to TOI's emailed query

till the time of going to press. RBI rules require Tata Sons, which is registered as a core investment company (CIC) with the banking regulator, to be listed by Sept 2025. But the company, controlled by a group of public foundations, Tata Trusts,

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Israel's strike on

Iran on Friday morning spo-

oked Dalal Street investors,

and the resultant selling pul-

led the sensex down by over

650 points in early trades,

with the index falling below

the 72k mark after almost a

month. However, the absence

of any official confirmation

of the strike from Israel led to

buying at lower levels that

helped the sensex close at

73,088 points, up 599 points.

The recovery was also sup-

ported by short covering,

at 22,147 points, up 151 po-

ints. The day's rally added

about Rs 50,000 crore to in-

vestors' wealth with BSE's

market capitalisation now

Swati.Bharadwaj

@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Tit for tat stri-

kes in West Asia sent gold

prices surging to near record

highs of \$2,418/ounce in in-

ternational markets (Comex

Spot) on Friday, catapulting

24K gold prices in local mar-

kets to new lifetime highs of

over Rs 74,000/10gm exclu-

ding GST. Spot prices of 24K

gold in Delhi markets were

quoting at Rs 74,100 during

the day and were reigning

higher at Rs 74,200 in Mum-

On the NSE, Nifty closed

market players said.

at Rs 400 lakh crore.

has been exploring options

Tata Sons looking at debt

rejig to avoid IPO next year

Tata Sons looks to sell ₹9k cr

TCS shares to reduce debt

to avoid the IPO. According to RBI, for the CIC status, a firm has to meet two conditions: First, it has to have an asset size of more than Rs 100 crore, and second, it has to have public funds. If either of the two conditions fail, then it cannot continue to be registered as a CIC with the regulator.

Tata Sons' assets are ma-

Sensex gains 599 pts after

falling below 72k intraday

20,000 Source: NSDL, Refinitiv

According to Ajit Mish-

ra of Religare Broking, we-

ak global cues triggered a

gap-down start for the Indi-

an market followed by a

muted move in the first

half. "However, gradual re-

covery in the heavywe-

ights across sectors pared

Gold crosses ₹74k/10gm in local

markets amid West Asia turmoil

GOLD IS UP OVER 18% IN '24

for (June futures) remained

at Rs 72,898, much below its

all-time high levels of Rs

73,958 recorded on April 12,

2024, when international spot

prices hit an all-time high of

\$2,432 after Iran's retaliatory

Domestic Funds Step In When Foreign Ones Sell

Net investment in stocks (Rs crore) Foreign funds Domestic funds

ting companies like TCS, Tata Motors and Tata Steel, and they are worth more than Rs 100 crore. According to its FY23 report, the book value of its investments was Rs 1.3 lakh crore. So, Tata Sons is looking to retire borrowings by becoming debt free, which will enable it to deregister as a CIC from RBI. The move will help Tata

inly its investments in opera-

Sons to 'neatly sidestep' RBI's rules, freeing itself from being considered as a CIC and an 'upper layer' NBFC, exempting it from going for an IPO, TOI had reported in its March 8 edition. In 2017, Tata Sons had converted itself to a privately held company from a public one amid a board battle between then chairman Cyrus Mistry and Tata Trusts. Even as Tata Sons looks to avoid the IPO, its subsidiary Tata Capital Financial Services is gearing up for an RBI-mandated IPO.

all the losses and pushed

witnessed a mixed trend on

the sectoral front with fi-

nancials, metals and ban-

king stocks performing well

while realty and pharma

struck targets in Iran raised

the risk of a wider regional

conflict pushing gold higher

and higher. In the domestic

market, prices surged to a

new record high. Delays in

the probable timing of a Fe-

deral Reserve pivot have be-

en largely ignored by gold,

which has continued to rise

in response to escalating geo-

political risks," said Saumil

Gandhi of HDFC Securities.

uncertainty is likely to keep

an upside bias in gold for the short term. Comex Spot Gold

"We believe geopolitical

closed lower, Mishra said.

The day's session also

the index in the green."

profit rises 6% to ₹311cr in March gtr TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jio Financial

Mumbai: Jio Financial Services has reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 311 crore for the quarter ended in March 2024, which is a 5.7% increase compared to the Rs 294 crore reported last year. For the full financial year, the company reported a net profit of Rs 1,605 crore, which is multifold increase compared to the Rs 13 crore reported in

the previous year. During its presentation to analysts, Jio Financial said that it has a lending business pipeline that includes a variety of products such as home loans, loans against property and securities. The company will also provide financing through leasing for products like AirFiber, solar panels, phones, laptops, and EV batteries.

Jio Payments Bank has launched its debit card and a revamped savings account and plans to expand its business correspondent network. Recently, the payments company has launched its merchant mobile app and has started offering voice boxes to shopkeepers for QR Code payments. At present, Jio Financial is limited to the distribution of insurance products from other companies. The company is also using insurance to offer extended warranties for consumer durables and mobile phones.

Infy's bumper dividend will fetch Murthy's grandkid ₹4.2cr

New Delhi: Ekagrah Rohan Murty, N R Narayana Murthy's five-month-old grandson who was gifted 15 lakh shares by the Infosys founder recently, is set to earn Rs 4.2 crore, thanks to the Bengaluru-IT company declaring a bumper final and special dividend totalling Rs 28 per share.

Murthy had gifted 15 lakh shares to Ekagrah valued at Rs 240 crore at that time, making the five-month-old the voungest millionaire shareholder of India's second-largest IT company. On Thursday, the Infosys board recommended a final dividend of Rs 20 per share and additionally a special dividend of Rs 8 per share for

the financial year 2024. "The total payout over FY20-FY24 will be 85% of free cash flow, in line with our capital allocation policy announced earlier." Infosys said in its Q4 earnings release. The record date for the purpose of the annual general meeting and payment of final dividend and special dividend is May 31, 2024. The dividend will be paid on July 1, 2024, Infosys informed. Back-of-the-envelope calculations show that with the dividend at the rate of Rs 28 per share, youngest millionaire Ekagrah is set to earn Rs

ABFRL board nod to demerge **Madura Fashion** & Lifestyle biz

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) on Friday said its board has approved a proposal to demerge Madura Fashion & Lifestyle business, while it plans to raise Rs 2,500 crore equity capital

with promoter participation. Earlier this month, the company announced plans to demerge its fast fashion and retail business Madura Fashion & Lifestyle into a separate listed entity to unlock opportunities for value creation. The board authorised the management to evaluate

"The demerger will be implemented through an NCLT scheme of arrangement, and upon its completion, all shareholders of ABFRL will have identical shareholdings in both the companies," the company sa-

Top 3 IT cos report 64k fall in FY24 headcount

First Drop In 20 Yrs Led By Pullback Of Talent **After Excessive Hiring During Covid: Expert**

Veena Mani & Shilpa Phadnis TNN

Bengaluru: For more than two decades, they've been the biggest hirers of engineering and technology talent. But in the financial year that ended this March, the combined headcount of TCS, Infosys and Wipro dropped by nearly 64,000.

And the early indications for the ongoing financial year aren't good either. Infosys expects revenue growth between 1% and 3% for the full year, and Wipro anticipates that revenue could drop by 1.5%, and may at best rise by 0.5%, in the June quarter. If those forecasts hold, it won't be good news for engineering graduates.

Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO of IT consulting firm Everest Group, believes that the headcount reductions are driven by the ongoing pullback of talent after excessive hiring during the Covid boom and the ongoing industry contraction in demand.

The US economy is doing well, but, as TCS CEO K Krithivasan recently said, US enterprises continue to be worried about a possible slowdown or recession, which is keeping them from making big IT spends.

Wipro's chief of HR,

> Combined headcount of TCS, Infosys / It doesn't take a and Wipro - the biggest hirers for two decades - drops by nearly 64,000 Infosys expects its revenue growth between 1% & 3%, Wipro anticipates revenue could drop by 1.5%; forecasts not good news for engineering grads > IT industry experts believe that headcount reductions are driven

by ongoing pullback of talent after

excessive hiring during Covid boom

rocket scientist to conclude that a million of the 7 million Indian employees (including GCCs) supporting routinebased testing and coding work could be eliminated in the next couple of years Phil Fersht CEO OF HFS RESEARCH

Saurabh Govil, also attributes the headcount reduction to the demand environment, but he says operational efficiency too has improved, requiring fewer people. Infosys CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka too ascribes the lower headcount to the changing demand environment over the past year.

Phil Fersht, CEO of USbased IT advisory HfS Research, however, believes Gen AI is also playing a role in IT staffing demand. He says one major US enterprise has just concluded it can remove 15% of its IT staff from application testing by running an LLM (large language model) against its testing processes. "And this is just the start. When you consider that 20-30% of revenues for Indianheritage IT services providers involve testing and quality assurance, it's clear that

there is growing pressure to weave Gen AI into breadand-butter IT areas like testing, routine maintenance, and development. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to conclude that a million of the 7 million Indian employees (including GCCs) supporting routine-based testing and coding work could be eliminated in the next couple of years," he says.

Govil says currently the IT services portfolio is still manpower intensive, but "in the long term, as we move to AI, there can be divergence in terms of headcount."

The good news is that glocapability centres (GCCs) of MNCs are hiring. Newer GCCs are constantly establishing bases in India. Last year, they accounted for much of the hiring in the tech industry. That trend may continue into this year.

Wipro's growth lags peers, co cautious about recovery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: It's an uphill task for the hiker. Wipro's new CEO, Srini Pallia, faces significant challenges as the performance company's lags behind its peers across various finan-

cial metrics. Despite

this, Wipro's shares rose 3% in early trading on the NYSE, reflecting a realistic growth forecast in a volatile demand environment.

In the March quarter, Wipro's revenue declined by 0.3% sequentially in constant currency, attributed to ongoing weakness in the banking, financial services, manufacturing, and communications sectors. IT firms remain cautious about the near-term recovery of discretionary spending, indicating continued pressure.

For 2023-24, Wipro's revenue declined by 4.4% in cons-

tant currency, a significant drop compared to the modest growth rates of 3.4% and 1.4% achieved by its peers, TCS and Infosys, respectively, "Last yearposed big challenges for the whole industry. It has affected

> Wipro's performance too. The economic environment is still uncertain, and there might be more challenges in the short term." Wipro CEO Sri-

ni Pallia said in the earnings press conference on Friday.

Pallia stated that while the organizational structure and strategy remain unchanged, he has identified five immediate priorities to accelerate growth. These include enhancing large deal momentum, strengthening relationships with key clients and partners. focusing on industry-specific offerings and business solutions, building talent scale, simplifying the operating model, and emphasizing execution rigour with speed.

Wipro's IT services margins expanded by 40 basis points sequentially to 16.4%, primarily due to reduced subcontractor costs offsetting the impact of two months of wage hikes. The company's total bookings grew by 5.5% in constant currency to \$14.9 billion in the 2023-24 financial year, while its large deal bookings increased by 17.4% to \$4.6 billion.

However, Wipro's revenue growth forecast for the June quarter was below expectations, guiding for a growth of -1.5% to 0.5%, lower than market anticipation and signalling stress in the demand environment. Wipro's headcount continued to decline for the sixth consecutive quarter, with a reduction of 6,180 employees in the March quarter. Over FY24, the company's workforce decreased by 24,516 to 2.3 lakh employees as automation gives more headroom to drive efficiency.

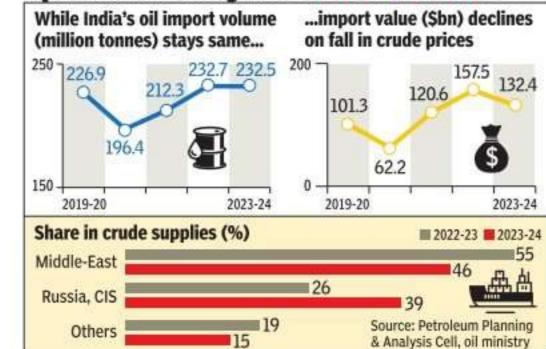
hit an intraday high of 83.44 bai and Hyderabad markets. strike against Israel. has support at \$2,365-2340," against the dollar. AGENCIES Gandhi added. However, prices on MCX "Reports that Israel had 4.2 crore. AGENCIES Conflict unlikely to hit oil supply

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A disruption in oil and gas shipments from West Asia looks improbable at this point of hostility between Israel and Iran, but it could lead to inflationary pressure as speculators play on risk premia to keep prices on the boil. Benchmark Brent had

surged past \$90 per barrel in the wake of Iran's April 13 missile attack on Israel but soon slipped to \$87. On Friday, Brent declined further to \$86.4 after Teheran played down reported Israeli attacks on Isfahan, raising hope against escalation of hostilities in the region.

Oil minister Hardeep Puri had an extended telecon lasting 30 minutes with Opec secretrary general Hai Tham al-Ghais to discuss the recent oil market volatility and its implications for international energy stability. High oil prices or market volatility impact the government's math as India meets 83% of its oil Speculators May Fuel Price Pressure While India's oil import volume on fall in crude prices (million tonnes) stays same... 232.7 232.5



ports. It is particularly vulnerable to conflicts in West Asia, which was the source of 46% of total oil shipments in 2023-24. The country also imports nearly half of its natural gas and LPG, a majority of which comes from Qatar and Saudi Arabia, respectively.

"There are two aspects physical supply and price. Production oil/refined products and shipping have not oil is available. As for pricing, the market works on 'sentiment', which is fickle in nature. Speculators exploit any conflict situation to make a quick buck. That is why you see Brent shoot up one day after Iran's missile attack and down subsequently when Is-

ted lines," a top executive of a refining company told TOI. He also played down the requirements through im- been disrupted anywhere. So impact on refining margins world doesn't want.

rael did not retaliate on expec-

because of higher shipping and insurance costs due to escalation in risk premia. "Like traders, shippers and insurers also play on the sentiment. At most, the impact per barrel could be 2-3 cents for shipments from West Asia and 3-4 cents for longer routes," he said.

Ratnagiri Refineries and Petrochemicals CEO and former HPCL chairman M K Surana too did not see any supply disruption but saw volatility ahead because the conflict renews the risk premia. "The market had adjus-

ted to the war in Ukraine and Israel's Gaza operation. The Iran conflict renews risk premia, which moves with the news," he said, adding the only scenario in which supplies will get disrupted is if Iran blocks the Hormuz Strait, through which a third of seaborne oil traded globally pass. "I don't think things will come to that as it could potentially lead to the conflict spreading, which the

within 12 months of demerger

the vertical demerger.

: Id in a statement. AGENCIES

Credit growth outstrips deposit increase in FY24

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The competition for deposits among banks is likely to continue as the gap between deposits and bank credit growth persisted into March 2024

According to data relea-

sed by RBI, bank credit growth exceeded the increase in deposits in FY24 by Rs 2 lakh crore. Data in RBI's weekly statistical supplement showed outstanding bank deposits at Rs 210 lakh crore on April 5, representing an increase of Rs 26 lakh crore or 14% from the end of the previous financial year. Meanwhile, bank credit rose 20% to Rs 166 lakh crore during the same period.

One indication of the fight for deposits is the shift of money from savings accounts to fixed deposits, where banks have been offering higher rates. Of the Rs 25.5 lakh increase in deposits during the year, only Rs 3.8 lakh were added to savings accounts, while the remaining Rs 21.7 lakh were added to fixed deposits.

The pace of growth in : bank credit is the highest in dit grew by 24%.

more than a decade. This is due to the merger of HDFC Bank with HDFC, which has added over three percentage points to the increase in bank credit. Without the merger, the rise in bank deposits would have been 13.2%, and the increase in credit would have been 16.1%, which is still higher than 15.8% last year.

The HDFC-HDFC Bank merger has significantly increased bank lending to the housing sector while reducing bank lending to the leased by the RBI on Friday. NBFC sector.

According to CareEdge ratings, bank credit growth is expected to moderate to 14-14.5% in FY25 as the impact of HDFC-HDFC Bank merger will dissipate by the second quarter. The rating agency has forecasted a 16% credit growth for FY24, excluding the impact of the HDFC-HDFC Bank merger.

The highest growth in bank credit was recorded in the financial year ending March 2007, when the in-

'Robust growth led **RBI** to keep rates on hold'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das cited robust growth in the economy. supported by an upturn in manufacturing and



nor's views during the monetary policy committee meeting held a fortnight ago were revealed in the minutes of the meeting, which were re-

The RBI governor's and other members' comments are being seen as hawkish and have dashed expectations of a rate cut in 2024.

Shreya Sodhani, an economist with Barclays, said the MPC minutes showed that members who had been hawkish have dialled up their hawkishness a notch, advocating patience on inflation and uncertainties amid robust growth. "With the MPC seeing no urgency to cut rates, we doubt RBI will front-run the Fed dustry's loan book grew by in pivoting. We, therefore, 27%. A year later, bank cre- now expect rate cuts from Q4 24, she said.

ikaru Nakamura is hoping that either he or his American will end Ian Nepomniachtchi's run of 40 unbeaten games in the last three Candidates tournament.

Even if that doesn't happen over the course of next two days (Saturday and Sunday) in Toronto, India's 17-year-old D Gukesh is well placed to get a shot at the title. For, his own compatriot R Praggnanandhaa held



Nepo to a draw in the 12th round on Thursday before Friday's rest day. That meant Gukesh's win over Nijat Abasov with black pieces took him to pole position with 33-year-old Nepo on 7.5 points and two rounds to go.

Nakamura, 36, joined them by beat- other in the last ing Frenchman Alireza Firouzja for rounds (see box), a three-way tie. As Gukesh's another countrymate Vidit Gujrathi lost to Fabiano Caruana (7 points), it gave a fresh lease of life to the latter's campaign. Caruana is just half a point behind the three leaders in this eight-player field.

With no place for numeric tiebreak and the provision for rapid tiebreaks (on Monday night) if the players on top tally same number

made in such a way that players of same nationality won't play against each thanks to Bobby Fischer's allegations of fixed draws by the Soviet players in the Candidates cycle of 1962-63. But Pragg can help Gukesh's

cause by getting half a point or full point against Caruana on Saturday.

of China for the Nepomniachtchi vs H Nakamura World crown later R Praggnanandhaa vs F Caruana this year. Nakamura, the oldest player in V Gujrathi vs N Abasov the meet, has won D Gukesh vs A Firouzja four of the last five Round 14 (Apr 21) games, underlining jaw-dropping H Nakamura vs D Gukesh fighting spirit. In the A Firouzja vs V Gujrathi same phase, Nepo N Abasov vs R Praggnanandhaa

games respectively. The Fide presenter asked three leaders about the factors that would Now, it's a case of four players— play decisive role in the remaining

RESULTS (ROUND 12) OPEN: Nijat Abasov (3) lost to D

Gukesh (7.5); Fabiano Caruana (7) bt Vidit Gujrathi (5); Ian Nepomniachthi (7.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (6); Hikaru Nakamura (7.5) bt Alireza Firouzja (4.5); WOMEN: Aleksandra Goryachkina (6) drew with Koneru Humpy (6); Anna Muzychuk (4.5) lost to R Vaishali (5.5); Nurgyuaal Salimova (4.5) drew with Zhongyi Tan (8); Kateryna Lagno (6) drew with Tingjei Lei (7.5).

too since you can't win games if your opponent plays perfectly."

Gukesh said, "A bit of everything, points after 14 rounds, things are set three veteran elite GMs and one fear- two rounds. Nakamura said, "Prob- including luck. The person who plays less youngster—in the reckoning to ably experience." Caruana said, well and manages to remain focused, The pairings of the Candidates are challenge world champion Ding Liren "Nerves. And you will need some luck will have a pretty good chance."

Delayed wrestlers denied participation in Oly qualifiers spearhead the country's

Sabi.Hussain @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India's chances of securing more quota places in wrestling for the Paris Games on Friday suffered a major jolt on Friday.

Leading wrestlers Deepak Punia and Sujeet Kalakal were forced to miss the Asian Olympic qualifying event after reporting late for their mandatory weigh-ins at the competition venue in Bishkek following flight delays in Dubai due to unprecedented rains that lashed major parts of the gulf nation for over two days beginning Tuesday.

While Tokyo Olympian and Birmingham CWG gold medallist Punia was scheduled to compete in the men's freestyle 86kg division, promising talent Kalakal was to

challenge in the men's 65kg class. Unfortunately, both have to return to India without

competing. The two were left stranded at the Dubai airport terminal with no proper food since the-

ir arrival from Dagestan in **DUBAI FLOODS**

Russia on Tuesday. The two wrestlers were training in Dagestan for the Olympic qualifiers and had tickets to fly from Makhachkala to Bishkek via Dubai for the Asian meet – the second-last qualifying tournament for the Paris Games. They were accompanied by their Russian coach Kamal Malikov and phy-

sio Shubham Gupta. They were booked on a connecting flight from Dubai to Bishkek by the Indian authori-

ties on Thursday evening. The flight was supposed to reach Bishkek at 5:30 am local time and the two wrestlers then had to report for their weigh-ins at 8 am at the venue. Their respective bouts were scheduled later in the day.

However, their flight to Kyrgyz capital got delayed owing to bad weather in Dubai and the wrestlers missed their weigh-ins. Malikov, along with other Indian coaches who are in Bishkek for the continental event, requested the organisers to allow the duo to compete in the qualifiers, but their plea was turned down. This has resulted in the country missing out on two possible quotas from the Asian meet.

World Qualifiers, scheduled in Turkey in May, will be last chance for wrestlers to qualify for Paris Games.

Olympic bodies slam track and field's move to reward Paris gold winners \$50k

lympic sports bodies criticized World Athletics on Friday for promising to pay \$50,000 for each track and field gold lion from the IOC for the Tomedal won at the Paris Olym- kyo Olympics held in 2021. pics. Last week's move by the track body and its president Sebastian Coe broke tradition because the International Olympic Committee does not pay prize money, though many state governments and national Olympic bodies do.

"For many, this move undermines the values of Olympism and the uniqueness of the games," the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, known by the acronym ASO-IF, said Friday. It also fueled speculation about the IOC presidential contest next year when Thomas Bach's 12year limit expires. However, his allies want the Olympic Charter changed to let him stay while Coe turns 68 this year and could be stopped by age limit rules.

Coe, a two-time Olympic champion in the men's 1,500m, pledged \$2.4 million — \$50,000 for each of 48 gold

medals in track and field from his sport's share of the IOC's multi-billion dollar income. WA got about \$39.5 mil-Coe said the money acknowledged that "athletes are the stars of the show."

"There has been consensus that Olympic revenues should, at least for the more commercially successful and financially independent IFs, be invested as a priority into development and integrity matters," said ASOIF, based in the Olympic home city Lausanne, Switzerland.

The timing of Coe's pledge also surprised many as it came one day after the ASOIF annual meeting, held in Birmingham, and he is a member of its ruling council. "During the last days, ASOIF's membership has expressed several concerns about World Athletics' announcement. One cannot and should not put a price on an Olympic gold medal and, in many cases, Olympic medalists indirectly benefit from commercial endorse-

ments," ASOIF said. AP

Odisha come from behind to reach ISL semis

Sudeshna.Ghosh @timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The first knockout of Indian Super League Playoffs lived up to its billing as an extra-time winner from Isak Vanlalruatfela on Friday earned Odisha FC a place in the two-legged semifinal against Mohun Bagan Super Giants.

In a show of grit in Bhubaneswar, Sergio Lobera's hosts held on against a more impressive Kerala Blasters to claim the playoff clash 2-1 to the joy of the home crowd at Kalinga Stadium after the tie ended 1-1 in regulation time.

Both teams began with earnestness for the spot in the semifinal against the Shield champions. But the defenders, on both sides, looked to have brought a little more of it on the pitch as they denied attacks to be reflected on the scoreline.

While Odisha ended up with better possession in the first half, the only shot on goal came from Blasters' Hormipam Ruivah in the 22nd minute when he headed a superb cross from Freddy Lallawmawma straight into the hands of Amrinder Singh in Odisha goal.

Gukesh's accuracy, technique resembles Karpov queenside bishop on the start

F Caruana vs I Nepomniachtchi



ukesh (Black) played Nimzo Indian ■against Nijat Abasov's Queen's Gambit and opted for an extremely rare option 4... h7-h6 against the Botvinnik system 4. Qc2. However the Azerbaijani seemed to be well prepared against this system as he responded quickly with a novelty (7.g2-g3) recom- utes for 15...Qc7 and 30 minmended by computers.

fication, Gukesh created imdoubling White's pawns on unexpected move was the accuracy and technique re-

fending his weaknesses sucavoiding simplification.

As White had better activ- queenside. ity, development and centre control, Black had to keep the position closed and nuetralise White's initiative before weak enemy pawns.

utes for 16...Bxe4!!, a seem-

the queenside, gaining some strongest one and became the sembled that of the legendtempos. Though Abasov was turning point of the game. in an advantageous position Despite gaining the activity, after the opening, Gukesh, Abasov was unable to give who is extremely good at de- a single threat in the game thereafter. Gukesh opened up cessfully, had succeeded in the queenside 20...b6-b5 and started penetration on the

Round 13 (Apr 20)

exchanged queens and won a queenside pawn. Though Abasov had an 'advantage of launching an attack against two bishops against a bishop and a knight', his bishops The Indian took 15 min-could hit nothing but air. In order to avoid loss of a second pawn, Abasov had to ex-In order to avoid simpli- ingly senseless move, giving change rooks with 43.Rc2 but up a powerful bishop. Howev- Gukesh went on to win with Black had already completed queenside. balance in the position by er, as the engines reveal, this precise technique. Gukesh's his development after 19....

ary Anatoly Karpov.

and Gukesh have

won one and two

a quiet affair without much action. The Russian played the unambitious exchange variation against the French defence. Caruana (White) played his first good game With 26...Qc6! the Indian in the tournament when he outplayed Gujrathi from an equal position after the opening phase in the Closed Italian game. Gujrathi made a novelty 12....Re8!, based on an idea by Victor Kortchnoi Qd7 while White still had the

ing square clearly reflects of Nepo vs Pragg game was the depth of Gujrathi's home preparation. However, when Indian's 20....Ne7 (instead of the natural 20...Nf6) changed the script.

With 23.Qc5, Caruana penetrated effectively into Gujrathi's camp through the weak dark squares. Gujrathi's attempts to control the dark squares with 32... c5 boomeranged after Caruana's 33.Re5! The Indian gave up a pawn to create some counterand followed it up with a well play but there was no relief. timed-central pawn break Gujrathi hastened the defeat 13...d6-d5!. The fact that by moving the king to the

(Pravin Thipsay is a GM and an Arjuna awardee)

TIMES NATION

PM: Decision to get oil from Russia in national interest

'Our Govt Doesn't Bow Before Anyone' ▶ Continued from P1

ur principle is nation first," the PM said, justifying India's move to disregard international pressure and purchase oil from Russia after the latter's invasion of Ukraine in Feb 2022. "We took this decision in national interest to ensure that people of our country get cheapoil and farmers get adequate fertilisers," the PM said, adding: "Today, our country has a govt that neither comes under pressure nor bows before anyone.'

It was the PM's fourth visit to MP in a fortnight. In his last meeting in MP, five days ago, he had attacked INDIA bloc, saying one of its constituents wanted to eliminate India's nuclear arsenal. On Friday, he alleged that Congress had kept the defence sector weak for decades. "The entire country has seen how they (INDIA bloc) deployed their whole strength so that our Air Force was not strengthened and Rafale fighter jets



PM Modi with UP CM Yogi Adityanath in Amroha on Friday. He mocked Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav as two 'shehzades'

Learn from Babri litigant Ansari: PM slams oppn for skipping Ram temple ceremony

M Modi on Friday attacked opposition for their absence from the consecration ceremont at Ram temple in Ayodhya on Jan 22, saying they should learn from the litigant from the Muslim side in the Ayodhya case, Igbal Ansari, who attended the ceremony despite losing the case in 2019.

"Can one believe that these vote-hungry people rejected the invitation for the consecration ceremony?" he said. Modi accused opposition of "abusing" Ram temple and Sanatan dharma and calling Ram bhakts "pakhandi" (hypocrites). TNN

did not come to the country. Had Congress govt been there, Indian-made Tejas fighter planes would not have soared into the skies.'

"This year, India sold arms worth Rs 21,000 crore to other countries ... At this moment, the first consignment of Brahmos is going to the Philippines today. I congratulate all citizens for this," Modi said.

In UP's Amroha, the PM recalled his visit to Dwarka where he had dived into the sea off the Gujarat coast to perform puja. "Congress

leaders had ridiculed me by saying that there was nothing to be worshipped beneath the sea. How can leaders doing politics in the name of Yaduvansh (followers of Lord Krishna) in UP and Bihar align with such people," he said, a reference to SP president Akhilesh Yaday and RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav. He added that opposition leaders have "only cheated Dalits and OBC in the name of social justice".

Attacking the alliance of Akhilesh's SP & Congress in UP, he said: "Two 'shehzades' are busy shooting a film which has already been rejected in UP." He added that the opposition always goes "parivarwaad (nepotism), bhrashtachar (corruption) and tushtikaran (communal appeasement) while seeking votes in UP".

Later, addressing a rally in Wardha, without directly naming Rahul, the PM said that Congress knew it wasn't going to win Lok Sabha polls and so its "yuvraj" was threatening to set the country aflame after the poll results. He was referring to Congress's claim that "India will be ablaze if Narendra Modi gets a third term as prime minister".

Plurals Party in **Bihar counts** 'Kantianism' as its ideology

▶ Continued from P1

ll parties are boastful, telling tall tales to vot-A ers, but few describe themselves as the best party, except perhaps, Sabse Acchi Party. A very different signalling comes from UP's Aapki Apni Party, no boast here, just telling you it's your own party.

Perhaps, a little more serious enterprise is the Right To Recall Party, contesting in Gujarat. Indian election law doesn't allow voters the right to recall their representatives that's wrong, thunders this party. Only, no one's listening. Neither is anyone listening to Haryana's Aarakshan Virodhi Party, which opposes reservation in a state where Jats are aggressively demanding quotas.

The list of odd-named parties is very long. Let's end with Plurals Party, in Bihar. Led by a lady, it's "ideology" is, it says, "progressivism", "liberalism", "decentralisation" and — wait for this—"Kantianism".

The last is presumably a nod to German philosopher Immanuel Kant. "Kantian" philosophy in Bihar's 'kaante ki takkar' poll battles - you can't get quirkier than that.

Court shuts graft of C'garh ex-CM

Raipur: A trial court in Raipur has approved a closure report filed by EOW-ACB after finding no case of disproportionate assets against ex-IRS officer Aman Singh and his wife Yasmin Singh. Singh was principal secretary to ex-Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh.

Probe did not validate the accusations against the couple. The closure report was submitted by EOW in Dec last year, before the current BJP administration took over. Criminal lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani, who represented Singhs, said the FIR under the then Baghel govt was used to "unjustly target the couple, forcing them to under-

Bengal sees violence-free polling, posts 79.4% voting

▶ Continued from P 1

lection Commission has worked hard over the past couple of years to make a smooth and peaceful Lok Sabha election a reality. The first phase turnout is encouraging and should enthuse voters to come out in even higher numbers in the remaining phases, a senior EC functionary told TOI.

West Bengal, which has a history of poll violence and clashes between rival party workers, saw peaceful polling on Friday barring stray altercations in Cooch Behar. EC said none of these incidents had any effect on polling, as evident from the 79.4% turnout recorded across the three parliamentary constituencies of Alipurduars, Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri.

Tripura too saw incidentfree polling with the voter turnout touching 81.5% and Sikkim logged 80%, while other states where turnouts soared beyond 70% included Manipur, Puducherry (78.3%), Meghalaya (74.5%) and Assam (73.4%). Udhampur saw polling of 67.9% despite rain and terror threats.

In Bastar constituency of Chhattisgarh, voters defied threats from Left-wing extremists to clock a 67% turnout. As many as 56 villages in Bastar had polling booths set up for the first time in a LS poll. Like all turnouts put out on Friday, the one in Bastar remains tentative and is expected to go up further as polling parties return from interior areas and submit their reports.

Manipur, where ethnic violence has been a major law and order concern since mid-2023, saw by-and-large peaceful polling and an overall turnout of 70.8%. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar,

which have traditionally been low-to-moderate states, maintained the trend with 60.3% and 48.9% voting respectively. Rajasthan too had lower turnout than the national average at 57.3%, as did Maharashtra at 61.2%. Nagaland (56.9%) and Mizoram (56.6%), which usually

HOW VOTES WERE CAST

State (seats)	2019 turnout	2024 turnout (at 11 pm)
Andaman & Nicobar (1)	65.1	63.9
Arunachal Pradesh (2)	81.1	69.8
Assam	-	73.4
Bihar (4)	53.6	48.8
Chhattisgarh (1)	66.2	67.5
Jammu & Kashmir (1)	70	67.9
Lakshadweep (1)	85.2	59
Madhya Pradesh (6)	75	67
Maharashtra (5)	64	61.8
Manipur (2)	82.5	70.8
Meghalaya (2)	71.4	74.5
Mizoram (1)	63	56.6
Nagaland (1)	82.9	56.9
Puducherry (1)	81.2	78.3
Rajasthan (12)	63.9	57.2
Sikkim (1)	81	80
Tamil Nadu (39)	72.4	69.1
Tripura (1)	81.9	81.5
Uttar Pradesh (8)	66.6	60.2
Uttarakhand (5)	61.6	55.8
West Bengal (3)	84.8	79.4
Grand Total (97)*	66	63.5 (at 11 pm)

 Five Assam seats Turnout of only Inner Manipur included not included because because polling for Outer Manipur will be in two phases (15 assembly segments held in Phase 1 they have been redrawn since 2019 today and 13 segments in Phase 2 on April 26)

parliamentary seats going to polls in Phase 2 on April 26, reports Bharti Jain. This is slightly more than the 8.2% women representation among candidates for 102 constituencies that voted on Friday.

Just 8.6% women in fray in Phase 2 polls

Kerala has the highest number of women candidates (25) across 14 of its 20 parliamentary constituencies going to polls in Phase 2. followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka where 21 women each are in fray across their eight and 11 (of total 14) constituencies, respectively.

There are 10 women in contest across six of the eight parliamentary constituencies of UP going to polls in Phase 2, while seven women are in fray across six of Rajasthan's 13 LS seats.

MP's six constituencies have just five female contestants. West Bengal's three constituencies, Bihar's five and Chhattisgarh's three have three women each in fray. Assam and Tripura have two women among total 70 candidates, while only one of the 22 contestants fighting in Jammu is a woman.

some disappointment. Tamil Nadu, where polling for all 39 seats was held, recorded

69.1% turnout. Recounting the vivid pictures of democracy in action during Phase 1, EC shared how the Shompen tribe of Great Nicobar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands made history by casting their votes for the first time in a general election. Meanwhile, an elder-

ly couple in Mizoram reaf-

together. In Arunachal Pradesh, an elderly woman trekked to the polling station rather than settle for the home voting facility. In Bodh Gaya, Buddhist monks proudly displayed their inked fingers

With the first phase over, polling for Lok Sabha has been completed for 10 states/UTs, and assembly polls wound up in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The latter states recorded a turnout of 68% and 66% in

Must give due importance to natural wealth: SC Dhananjay.Mahapatra state policy, while Article 51A Justices J B Pardiwala and so, as they represent the col-

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New Delhi: Supreme Court also criticised how a well-reasoned order of an Andhra Pradesh HC judge, who opted for AP HC after the state's bifurcation, was impermissibly reversed by a judge of Telangana HC while entertaining a petition seeking review of the earlier judgment that had denied Qasim any right over forest land.

Quoting a 1854 letter of a tribal chief to the then US President saying that "earth does not belong to man; man belongs to earth", the bench said, "Article 48A imposes a clear mandate upon the state (g) correspondingly casts a duty upon a citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for fellow living creatures." This is a second verdict in two months where SC has sought to elevate environment protection to the same pedestal as fundamental rights.

Last month, in a case dealing with protection of Great Indian Bustard, the court had underscored the importance of protection of environment although it also said this had to be balanced with the need to ensure faster development. A bench of Chief Jusas a directive principle of tice D Y Chandrachud and 21 of the Constitution. We say other factors," it said.

Manoj Mishra had said, "Climate change may impact the constitutional guarantee of right to equality. Without a clean environment which is stable and unimpacted by vagaries of climate change, right to life is not fully realised. Right to health is impacted due to factors such as air pollution, shifts in vectorborne diseases, rising temperatures, droughts, shortages in food supplies due to crop

failure, storms and flooding." In the Telangana matter, writing the 60-page judgment, Justice Sundresh said, "These two provisions qua a forest ought to be understood in light of Articles 14, 19 and lective conscience of the Constitution. If the continued existence and protection of forests is in interest of humanity, various species, and nature, then there can be no other interpretation than to read the constitutional ethos into these provisions. SC said the anthropocen-

tric approach must give way to ecocentric approach. "Wealth of a country must be seen not only from the perspective of mere revenue, augmented through its industries and business activities. Rather, it must be seen by giving due importance to its natural wealth which contributes much more than the

case against aide

: go trials for years". TNN & AGENCIES : See high turnout, witnessed firmed their vow to vote the assembly polls.



Captain Rahul's 53-Ball 82 & 134-Run Stand With De Kock Fashions Team's 8-Wicket Win Over Fancied CSK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

L Rahul probably hasn't sealed his spot in the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup in June just yet. But as selection day comes close, the Lucknow Super Giants captain is reminding the selectors that he should be given a serious thought.

The right-hander brought all his class to the table against a Chennai Super Kings attack that has been more than potent in this IPL so far to help his team notch up an eightwicket win. The Ekana pitch also had a little bit in it for the pacers and 177-run chase against CSK is never straight-forward.

But Rahul (82 off 53 balls; 9x4, 3x6) showed that it isn't that difficult after all if a batter chooses not to pre-determine against the canny CSK bowlers. Playing most deliveries on merit, the Karnataka stylist kept finding the gaps with incredible ease. His opening partner Quinton de Kock (54 off 43 balls), too, found form and they put up 134 runs off 15 overs that all but killed the game off.

But Rahul was the aggressor in fashionable in T20s these days the partnership and the beauty of the effort was that there was no brutality in it. Beautifully balanced at the crease, he looked to time the ball and look for the gaps. When the boundaries didn't flow, Rahul and Quinton were not shy to look for the singles and twos, an art that's becoming un-

uns put on by Quinton de lock and KL Rahul for the first wicket, LSG's highest stand vs CSK and 2nd-highest for any wicket behind the 210 (unbroken) by the same pair vs KKR on May 18, 2022.

Rahul, his 35th fifty in the IPL and

innings, the highest strike rate among batters who have played at least 5 innings this season.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's strike rate

while scoring 87 runs off 34 balls

without being dismissed in 5 IPL

second highest IPL score behind the 62 not out off 28 balls vs RCB at Wankhede Stadium on April 25, 2021. His only other IPL fifty is the 50 off 35 balls vs SRH in Dubai (DICS) on Oct 2, 2020.

Dismissals effected by Lokesh Rahul to become the second LSG wicketkeeper after Quinton de Kock (vs SRH in Hyderabad on May 13, 2023) to accomplish the feat in an IPL match.

SCOREBOARD

CSK: A Rahane b Pandya 36, R Ravindra b Mohsin 0, R Gaikwad c Rahul b Thakur 17, R Jadeja not out 57, S Dube c Rahul b Stoinis 3, S Rizvi st Rahul b Pandya 1, M Ali c Badoni b Bishnoi 30, MS Dhoni not out 28; Extras (lb1, w3): 4; Total (20 ov; RR 8.80): 176/6; FoW: 1-4, 2-33, 3-68, 4-87, 5-90, 6-141; Bowling: Henry 3-0-26-0, Mohsin 4-0-37-1, Thakur 4-0-45-1, Pandya 3-0-16-2, Bishnoi 4-0-44-1, Stoinis 2-0-7-1

LSG: O de Kock c Dhoni b Mustafizur 54, KL Rahul c Jadeja b Pathirana 82, N Pooran not out 23, M Stoinis not out 8; Extras (lb3, nb1, w9): 13; Total (19 ov; RR: 9.47): 180/2; FoW: 1-134, 2-161; Bowling: Chahar 3-0-26-0, Deshpande 4-0-42-0, Mustafizur 4-0-43-1, Jadeja 3-0-32-0, Pathirana 4-0-29-1, Moeen 1-0-5-0

Result: LSG won by 8 wickets (with 6 balls remaining)

0.677 RR 1.399 0.529 0.502 SRH 0.123 LSG -0.074DC MI -0.133-1.303-0.251 PBKS 7 2 5 7 1 6 -1.185

matches won by SRH, including the last 3 (1 each in 2018, 2019 2023) while losing 1 out of 6 played against DC at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. DC's only win came by 6 wickets on May 2, 2017.

wickets taken by DC's opening bowlers this season at 26.11 in 7 matches (strike rate 17.2) - the joint-most alongside KKR, RR and PBKS. In comparison, SRH's opening bowlers have taken just 7 wickets in 6 matches at 56.71 (SR 33.4).

Average of opening pairs while scoring 320 runs, including a 100-plus stand and another of 50plus, in six innings - the only team to manage an average of 50-plus in this IPL. In comparison, Delhi's openers have put on 254 runs in seven innings at an average of 36.28, including one stand of 93 vs CSK at Visakhapatnam on March 31.

-Stats: Rajesh Kumar

needed to take any unnecessary risks. hand of Jadeja plucked the ball out Khan and right-armer Yash Thakur After the South African finally of thin air. got the wickets of Rachin Ravindra Delhi's power games begin

part not to throw their wickets away. off a superb catch at point to dismiss

It meant that by the time the deadly the right-hander. The full-blooded

slinger Matheesha Pathirana came cut off Pathirana would have raced

on to bowl, neither Rahul nor Quinton to the fence but the outstretched left-

got out, Rahul got a few more quick

runs and was looking good for a cen-

tury when Ravindra Jadeja pulled

Can DC Match Hard-Hitting rushed from the airport on Thursday afternoon to the stadium just to get an under **Sunrisers On A Flat Pitch?**

While the left-right combination

helped, there was intent on the duo's

CLINCHING THE CHASE

against CSK on Friday

KL Rahul in action

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New Delhi: Rishabh Pant looked at home at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday evening. He batted for over an hour under lights, sharpening his power game through the offto move up the points table, know that 'power game' will be the operative phrase when they turn up against Sunrisers Hyderabad

The pitch here has produced a deluge of runs since the ODI World Cup last Oct-Nov. It was a sight to watch SRH's Travis Head and Pant bat in adjacent nets for a while. "We don't mind having a shootout tomorrow if it's a high-scoring game against Sunrisers," Capitals coach Ricky Ponting said.

noon to the stadium just to get an understanding of the pitch. Interestingly, most of Capitals' wins over the last two seasons have come in low-scoring or moderately highscoring games. Their power game, particularly in the middle, has lagged. The return

"We are batting as well as any team. The

'Fan reaction will decide fate of impact player'



That, though, didn't stop the LSG and Ruturaj Gaikwad early on with

In the middle-overs, left-arm

spinner Krunal Pandya (2/16 off 3

overs) kept it tight. But Moeen, with

three sixes off Bishnoi, and MS

Dhoni (28 not out off 9 balls) took

CSK to a competitive total.

march as they finished the job in the the moving ball which didn't allow

19th over. While Rahul and Quinton CSK to run off to a fast start.

deserve all the praise for a superb

batting show, the Lucknow pacers

did a good job in the first half of the

CSK innings. Left-arm pacer Mohsin

'Impact-player rule needs to be scrapped at domestic level'

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

er' rule is under fire after that we won't develop allround-India captain Rohit Sharma said it was impeding the ers. Now, former Mumbai wicketkeeper Sulakshan Kulkarni, who was the head coach of Tamil Nadu last season, has called for the scrapping of the rule from the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy tournament for the same reason.

"I was asked for a few suggestions to improve domestic cricket by the BCCI and I've recommended that the 'impact-player' rule should be he is in poor form." scrapped from the Mushtaq Ali T20 trophy from next season," Kulkarni told **TOI**. "If this rule isn't in place in in- this innovative rule, introternational cricket, which duced by the BCCI last season. means that it won't be there in the T20 World Cup, why is 200-plus scores in the IPL this it being used in the IPL?"

Explaining why he doesn't approve of the rule, which allows for a player to be substituted by a 12th player — a bowler or a batter — at any

stage of the match according to the situation, Kulkarni said: Mumbai: IPL's 'impact play- "It's a rule which will ensure ers in domestic cricket. Look at Shivam Dube. He bowled a fair growth of domestic allround- bit in the Ranji Trophy this season (12 wickets for Mumbai in 5 matches @ 12.08), but has not bowled a single ball in the IPL. If he doesn't bowl, how does he make a case to be picked for Team India in the T20 World Cup as an allrounder? "Even the likes of Venkatesh Iyer and Riyan Parag are not getting to bowl. The only Indian allrounder who is bowling in the IPL is Hardik Pandya, and

> Kulkarni pointed out that the plethora of 200-plus scores in this IPL is directly due to

"You look at the number of time. This is nothing but a direct result of the 'impact-player' rule. It has made the contest between bat and ball completely lopsided and boring," Kulkarni said.

GALLERY

Norris takes sprint pole in **Chinese GP**

Shanghai: A fearless "all or nothing" lap from McLaren's Lando Norris in wet and wild conditions Friday denied Lewis Hamilton pole position for the Chinese Grand Prix sprint race. Hamilton thought he had claimed Shanghai pole in his Mercedes when Norris's lap of 1min 57.940sec on intermediate wet tyres was deleted for exceeding track limits, only to be dramatically reinstated a

Dipa finishes fourth at Apparatus WC: Gymnast Dipa Karmakar on Friday signed off with another fourth place finish in women's vault final at the FIG Apparatus World Cup, a Paris Olympics qualifying event in Doha. The 30-yearold, who had finished fourth at the Baku Apparatus World Cup last month, once again missed out on a medal by a whisker. AGENCIES

minute later.

ACTION TODAY

ATHLETICS: Diamond League, Xiamen, 4.30 pm (Jiocinema) AUTO: F1 Chinese GP, Qualifying 12.30 pm (Fancode) BASKETBALL: NBA, 5 am (Jiocinema) CHESS: Candidates, Rd 13, 11.45 pm (FIDE, chess24 Youtube)

CRICKET: IPL, Delhi vs Hyderabad, 7.30 pm (Star Sports, Jiocinema); Pakistan vs NZ, 2nd T201, 8 pm (Fancode) FOOTBALL: ISL, FC Goa vs

Chennaiyin FC, 7.30 pm (Jiocinema); FA Cup, Semis. Manchester City vs Chelsea, 9.30 pm (Sony Sports); EPL, Luton Town vs Brentford: Sheffield United vs Burnley, 7.30 pm; Wolves vs Arsenal 12.30 am Sunday (Star Sports); La Liga, 5.30 pm (Jiocinema) TENNIS: ATP Barcelona Open,

2.30 pm (Eurosport, Tennis TV); WTA Rouen, 3 pm (WTA TV)

side, and also sat down with the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) staff for a long chat. The pitch looks fresh and so does Pant. Delhi Capitals, who are looking

SRH's batters are on a roll this season and it looks like Capitals have to do all the work going into the match. Ponting claimed he and team director Souray Ganguly

last four on Thursday.

well in the final in Dublin.

cle escape this time.

a seventh-minute penalty in

the second leg in Bergamo

after Trent Alexander-Ar-

nold's cross hit Matteo Rug-

geri's arm. However, Klopp's

men couldn't breach the stub-

born Atalanta defence again.

for Liverpool, whose Premier

League title challenge was

damaged by a shock home

his failure to land the one ma-

jor trophy to elude him dur-

ing nine years with Liver-

pool, Atalanta can dream of

winning the second silver-

ware in their 116-year history

maiden European final, Gian

Piero Gasperini's team will

face Marseille in their first

European semifinal since the

first Bundesliga title last week-

Fresh from clinching their

1988 Cup Winners' Cup.

Bidding to reach their

after the 1963 Coppa Italia.

on Sunday.

defeat against Crystal Palace

While Klopp contemplates

It has been a brutal week

ATALANTA SEND

of Pant this season has added stability. lowest we've got I think is 167 and that was when we were bowled out chasing 270. We expect that they are going to go really hard at the top of the order. We are happy to try and match them," Ponting said.

Wiuth India captain Rohit Sharma criticising the 'Impact Player' rule, saying it would stunt the development of allrounders, Ponting too was asked about his opinion on the matter. "Impact player is taking the allrounders out of the game. For a coach and for the players, it's probably not ideal. But I think a lot of what this game tries to do is entertain people. The T20 game is an entertainment package. It's probably better asking the spectator what they think about the impact player," Ponting said



NAGELSMANN TO REMAIN GERMANY **COACH TILL 2026**

Berlin: Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann has extended his contract by two years, taking him beyond the upcoming European Championship and through the 2026 World Cup. It also ends the possibility of Nagelsmann returning to Bayern Munich, who are looking for a new coach for next season after deciding to part ways with Thomas Tuchel. Nagelsmann was the reported favourite following Xabi Alonso's decision to stay with Bayer Leverkusen, but now Bayern will need to look elsewhere after two high-profile rejections.

The German soccer federation said its supervisory board and shareholders



unanimously to keep Nagelsmann in charge of the national team after Euro 2024,

which Germany is hosting.

fans says she and other Paris Saint-Germain supporters were while entering Barcelona's match earlier this week.

breasts, buttocks and groin were Stadium on Tuesday night. Other

In a letter Thursday, the organization called on "relevant

"It's unacceptable that spectators, fans and women in general were particularly targeted by these intrusive and humiliating searches that constitute sexual aggression,"



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Panaji: Julio Baptista was part of the famed Real Madrid squads of the 2000s era that had Galacticos or superstars jostling for the world's attention. The Brazilian forward shared the dressing room with the likes of Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Raul. It perhaps proved too intimidating when he joined from Sevilla FC, as a season later he was loaned to Arsenal. On his return to Los Blancos. though, he scored the winner against Barcelona in El Clasico and helped his side win

the 2007-08 league title. "I have been fortunate to be part of great teams and they've been important moments in my career," Baptista told TOI during a global media interaction arranged by LaLiga. "There cannot be a comparison between the Galacticos and the current team. I feel that being at Madrid drives players (forward) since the (media) impact is so huge. It's something that you may not have with other teams."

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez abandoned his 'Galactico' transfer policy to build sustainable teams but could break the bank to complete the transfer of Kylian Mbappe. Should, as highlytista feels Madrid will be- come to Madrid."

come even more stronger. "It will give them a broader range (of attacking options), make them complete and help breach that gap in attack," said Baptista, referring to the exits of Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema

that have left a void upfront. Madrid have won LaLiga twice in the last four years and the Uefa Champions League five times in a hugely successful decade. This season, there could be more. They are now in the semifinals of the Champions League and can have at least one hand on the LaLiga crown should they put it across Barcelona on Sunday.

"Any team can win, but I think Real Madrid have the advantage in terms of mental strength. The mental factor plays an important role in games like the Clasico and Barcelona's Champions League exit will hurt. Madrid players are euphoric after making it to the semis," said Baptista.

Barcelona's adventure in the Champions League came to a painful end at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). Madrid, on the other hand, fought hard to stave off the challenge of Manchester City on penalties.

"It hurts to exit the Champions League and see that your rivals have progressed," expected, the transfer go said Baptista. "Let's see how through next season, Bap- Barca players feel when they

PSG FANS UPSET OVER 'ABUSIVE SEARCHES' AT BARCA STADIUM

Paris: The director of a group that advocates for female sports subjected to "abusive" searches stadium for a Champions League

Anoush Morel, the director of Her Game Too France, told L'Equipe and RMC Sport that her touched by a female security officer during a pat-down at the Lluís Companys Olympic women reported similarly aggressive searches, she said.

authorities" to take action.

the letter read. AGENCIES



scare from West Ham before advancing 3-1 on aggregate.

In the semifinals, Xabi

Alonso's side will play Roma, who saw off Italian rivals AC Milan 3-1 on aggregate. Leverkusen won the first

leg 2-0 but West Ham made the perfect start in east London when Michail Antonio met Jarrod Bowen's pin-point cross with a close-range header in the 13th minute. West Ham eventually ran

out of steam and Jeremie Frimpong struck in the 89th minute with a shot that deflected in off Aaron Cresswell. Leverkusen are into their

second successive Europa League semifinal, while West Ham's exit means for only the third time in the 21st century, England will have no teams in the Champions League and end, Leverkusen survived a Europa League last four.

Leverkusen's 44-game unbeaten run in all competitions has taken them to the brink of an incredible treble, finally ridding the club of the 'Neverkusen' tag that mocked their decades of underachievement. **RESULTS:** (Quarterfinals, 2nd

leg): Atalanta 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Salah 7-pen). Atalanta win 3-1 on aggregate; Marseille 1 (Moumbagna 79) bt Benfica 0 AET. 2-2 on aggregate, Marseille win 4-2 on penalties; Roma 2 (Mancini 12, Dybala 22) bt AC Milan 1 (Gabbia 85). Roma win 3-1 on aggregate; West Ham 1 (Antonio 13) drew with Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Frimpong 89). Leverkusen win 3-1 on aggregate.

SEMIFINAL LINE-UP Marseille vs Atalanta; Roma vs Bayer Leverkusen. Dates: May 2 & 9. AGENCIES

on the league." -Jurgen Klopp COACH, LIVERPOOL We've knocked out a great team and a great coach. We did it by putting in two performances in which we really gave

everything. So much heart."

-Gian Piero Gasperini

COACH, ATALANTA

talanta players celebrati

their win over Liverpool in

We didn't lose the

game or tie tonight,

Bergamo on Thursday

we lost it at home. They

deserved to go through.

deserve to go through.

When you win a tie against

us 3-1 in this way then you

Disappointed that we didn't

go through but I'm not angry

or frustrated or anything like

that. Now we need to focus

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K L Rahul (82 off 53) and Quinton De Kock (54 off 43) guide Lucknow to a 8-wicket win over Chennai (176/6), P 21

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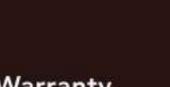
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