

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Humza Yousaf, the Pakistani-origin Scottish National Party leader who heads the devolved gov't in Scotland, announces his resignation, after days of political turmoil for the SNP-led gov't, P 13

A Vienna-based privacy campaign group says it will file a lawsuit against ChatGPT in Austria, claiming the 'hallucinating' flagship AI tool invents wrong answers, which creator OpenAI can't correct, P 13

Russian troops have captured or entered half a dozen villages on Ukraine's eastern front, highlighting deteriorating situation for outgunned Ukrainian forces as they wait for US military aid, P 13

Israel has agreed to listen to US concerns before it launches an invasion of the border city of Rafah in Gaza, says a White House national security spokesperson. Meanwhile, Israeli officials believe ICC is preparing to issue arrest warrants for senior gov't officials, P 13



3 kids among 9 dead in accident

Nine persons, including five women and three children, were killed and 23 injured when an overloaded pickup truck slammed into a parked truck in Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh early Monday. Police said the driver was drunk. **TNN**

In'tl drug ring busted, 48kg of heroin seized

Punjab police busted an international drug racket spanning five countries when they seized 48kg of heroin in Jalandhar and arrested 3 members of a family on Sunday. DGP Gaurav Yadav said on Monday. **TNN**

Ola to lay off 200, CEO quits in 3 mths

Ola Cabs is laying off 10%, or almost 200 employees, as part of its restructuring exercise ahead of a planned IPO, with its CEO Hemant Bakshi also quitting within three months of joining the company. **P 15**

'India share in services exports has doubled'

India's share in global services exports has more than doubled over the last 18 years and rise of global capability centres has played a crucial role in the expansion, a report by Goldman Sachs said on Monday. **P 15**

Sebi seeks ₹165cr from BSE as addl fee

BSE's shares crashed over 13% on Monday after markets regulator Sebi sought Rs 165 crore from it for wrongful benchmarking of fees for options contracts traded on it since 2007. Sensex rebounded sharply by 941 pts. **P 15**

Doctored video of Shah: Delhi cops call T'gana CM

Ask Reddy To Report On May 1 With His Mobile

Rajshankar Jha @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The special cell of Delhi Police has served a notice on Telangana CM Revanth Reddy in connection with its investigation over the circulation of a doctored video of Union home minister Amit Shah that was shared on social media handles of Telangana Congress.

Reddy has been asked to come to Delhi on May 1 with his mobile phone and join the probe. Failure to comply with the summons will attract penal/coercive criminal proceedings, the notice adds.

Delhi Police teams are camping in Hyderabad and

“After using ED, I-T dept, CBI, Modiji & Amit Shah are now using Delhi Police to win elections. A befitting reply will be given to the notices. I appeal to people of K'taka & T'gana (Cong-governed states) to show them (BJP) that we will not be afraid, by beating them in polls



—A Revanth Reddy, TELANGANA CM

“They (oppn) have created fake videos of me, Amitbhai, (JP) Naddaji and some of our (BJP) chief ministers. Using AI, they have put words in our mouth that we cannot even dream of uttering. I am making this charge with all seriousness. I want to make a special request to ECI to take stringent action —PM Modi



FULL COVERAGE | P 8 & 11

other places and in the process of sending out notices to at least six more people. Those already served notices are Satish Manne, Telangana Cong chairman (social media); state Cong secretary Shivakumar Ambala and Asma Tasleem, TPCC spokesperson, sources said.

On Sunday, police filed an FIR after its special cell's cyber unit received a complaint from

► Write to platforms, P 11

Covid vax can have side-effect: AstraZeneca in UK court docu

London: AstraZeneca has said in court documents that its Covid vaccine can cause a rare side-effect, the UK's Daily Telegraph reported. The statement by the pharmaceutical giant comes as it is being sued for over £100 million (a little over Rs 1,000 crore) in class action over claims its vaccine caused death and serious injury in 51 cases, according to court documents seen by the Daily Telegraph, reports Naomi Canton.

AstraZeneca is contesting the claims but has accepted, in a document to the high court in Feb, that its vaccine “can, in very rare cases, cause thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome”, which causes people to have clots and low platelet count. In India, the vaccine was sold under the brand name Covishield.

► 'Trigger for TTS', P 13

HC: Delhi gov't has 'come to a standstill' due to CM's absence

Lifts ₹5cr Bar To Provide Books To MCD School Kids

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi gov't has “come to a standstill” due to absence of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi high court said on Monday, underlining that “national and public interest” demands a CM can't be absent for a long stretch of time or for an uncertain period.

In a strongly worded order flagging the failure of Delhi gov't and MCD to provide textbooks, writing material and uniforms to nearly two lakh MCD school students in a timely manner, HC said Kejriwal's absence should not deprive children of their fundamental rights.

Brushing aside the claim by gov't that any financial power to the MCD commissio-

'POWER' REAL ISSUE

► Delhi HC says AAP gov't blaming other institutions for its inability to provide facilities to students amounts to 'shedding of crocodile tears'

► Takes 'judicial notice' of the fact that current MCD house has 'hardly transacted any business in the last one year'

► Says the real issues are 'power', 'control', 'turf dominance' and 'who takes the credit'

Why'd you ignore ED summons, SC asks Kejriwal

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for not appearing before ED despite repeated summonses after he argued that his arrest was illegal as the agency took the step without recording his statement, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

“Are you not contradicting yourself by saying that your statement under Section 50 of PMLA was not recorded? You don't appear on summons for recording of statement under Section 50 and then you say it was not recorded,” SC said. When the bench asked him why Kejriwal had not filed a plea for bail in the trial court, Singhvi said the CM had challenged his arrest, which had wider jurisdiction. **P 2**

Lucky draws to attract Bhopal voters to booths

With the turnout dropping by over 8.5% on an average in the first two phases in MP election officials have announced three lucky draws at every polling booth in Bhopal constituency on May 7. Those who

DANCE OF DEMOCRACY INSIDE JACKET & P 9

get inked stand the chance of winning diamond rings, laptops, refrigerators, televisions and dinner sets, reports Amarjeet Singh. There are 2,097 booths in Bhopal. That's well over 6,000 prizes. **INSIDE JACKET**

HDK: JD(S) will suspend MP Prajwal over scandal

Lawrence Milton, Ranjith Kandya and Udaya Sagar | TNN

Shivamogga/Hassan: Karnataka ex-CM HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) said Monday his nephew and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna will be suspended after Tuesday's core committee meeting in Hubballi, amid efforts to distance ex-PM HD Deve Gowda and himself from an alleged sex scandal involving the 33-year-old MP, who is seeking re-election in alliance with BJP.

The decision to take action against Prajwal for alleged transgressions was reportedly

made by JD(S) brass, including patriarch Gowda. HDK told reporters in Shivamogga that the matter was discussed with Gowda on Sunday.

The ex-CM acknowledged the case had embarrassed party functionaries, but sought to shield alliance partner BJP from the controversy. He said BJP had no involvement in the issue. Asked about Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's poster to PM Modi on the issue, Kumaraswamy said: “Did Modi campaign for Prajwal? How can it be linked to PM?”

► SIT to probe scandal, P 11

Cal HC sets aside Ganguly order in Suvendu kin case

Calcutta HC on Monday set aside an order passed by former judge Abhijit Ganguly, who has since joined BJP and is an LS candidate. He had fined a sub-divisional police officer Rs 5 lakh for allegedly “harassing” Krishnendu Adhikari, elder brother of BJP's Suvendu Adhikari. A division bench said the order was passed without giving “appropriate opportunity” to the state. The case will be heard afresh in June. **P 8**



Sandeshkhali: SC questions WB for opposing CBI probe

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday questioned West Bengal gov't for challenging the Calcutta high court order for a CBI probe into allegations of land grab, sexual assault and violence in Sandeshkhali and asked whether the state wanted to protect private persons accused in the case, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

At the outset of the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for West Bengal, sought adjournment saying the state wanted to place some important information regarding the case before the court,

Teacher scam: SC stays CBI probe against mins

SC Monday did not stay the Calcutta HC decision to junk appointment of over 25,000 teachers in Bengal but stopped further probe by CBI into the recruitment scam as a spooked state apprehended that the agency would destabilise TMC gov't by arresting the cabinet. **P 8**

which was relevant. The court asked, “Why should the state come as a petitioner for protecting the interest of some private individuals?” **P 8**

RBI frowns at overcharging by lenders

RBI Monday flagged instances of lenders fleecing consumers by unfairly levying interest charges and instructed them to desist from such practices and refund any excess interest they have collected through dubious means.

In a letter to banks and NBFCs, the regulator cited its onsite inspection, which revealed that some of the lenders had levied interest from the date of loan sanction instead of actual disbursement. **TNN**

► Date of disbursement, P 15

L&T Finance

Towards sustaining a greener future

L&T Finance Harvests Environmental Impact and Community Empowerment



1750+
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Empowering over
40L community members,
80% women

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Boosting Green Cover with income generation at grassroots level

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CDP- A- Leadership Category

MSCI- A



S&P Global- Performed in top decile in 'FBN Diversified Financial Services and Capital Markets Industry' in S&P Corporate Sustainability Assessment (Score as on January, 2024).

Public Interest Demands That CM Is Not Absent For A Long Time: HC

Takes 'Judicial Note' Of Fact That Hardly Any Biz Transacted By MCD House In A Yr

Continued from P1

Delhi HC said Delhi govt blaming other institutions for its inability to provide facilities to students amounted to "shedding of crocodile tears". Even as it took "judicial notice" of the fact that the current MCD house has "hardly transacted any business in the last one year", the court said the real issues were "power", "control", "turf dominance" and "who takes the credit". In its verdict, HC touched upon govt's justifications for the "logjam" in functioning of MCD, namely the absence of Kejriwal.

It said there was a "ring of truth" in the statement made by Delhi's urban development minister, Saurabh Bhargava, that any increase in the financial powers of the MCD commissioner required the CM's nod as it "amounts to an admission" that Delhi govt is at a standstill.

It stressed that "holders of constitutional posts have to every day take important as well as urgent decisions" listing free textbooks, writing material and uniform as well as replacement of broken chairs

'COMPLETE LACK OF APPRECIATION OF URGENCY IN MATTER'

Ring of truth in the statement by minister Saurabh Bhargava that any increase in financial power of MCD commissioner will require CM's approval. It amounts to an admission that Delhi govt, due to absence of CM, is at a standstill

A CM's post in any state, leave alone a buzzing capital city like Delhi, is not a ceremonial post. It is a post where the office holder (when in office) has to be virtually available 24x7 to deal with any crisis or natural disaster like flooding, fire, disease, etc

National interest and public interest demands that no person who holds this post is incommunicado, or absent for a long stretch of time or for an uncertain period of time

It is the CM's personal decision to continue to hold the

position despite being arrested. However, it does not mean that if CM is not available, fundamental rights of young children will be trampled upon

Receipt of free textbooks, writing material and uniform by school-going children is not only a legal right under RTE Act, but is also a part of fundamental right under Article 21A of Constitution

There is a complete lockjam in the decision-making process in MCD. Court also takes judicial notice of the fact that the current MCD House has hardly transacted any business in the last one year

Inability of Delhi govt to act with alacrity exhibits its indifference towards the plight of the students enrolled in MCD schools

Complete lack of appreciation of the urgency in the matter and apathy shown by both Delhi govt and Mayor for the well-being of the students and their statutory and fundamental rights

Delhi govt blaming other institutions amounts to nothing but 'shedding of crocodile tears'

Real issue is of 'power', 'control', 'turf dominance' and 'who takes the credit'



and tables in MCD schools as "an urgent and immediate decision which brooks no delay and which is not prohibited during (implementation of) model code of conduct".

The court further noted that the decision of the CM to continue despite having been arrested and his petition being dismissed by HC was a personal one. But it does not mean that "if the chief minister is not available, the fundamental rights of young children would be trampled upon and they would go through the first term (April 1 to May 10) without free textbooks, writing material and uniform," the bench underscored.

It observed that a CM's post in any state, leave alone a buzzing capital city like Delhi, was not a ceremonial one and that the office holder has to be virtually available 24x7 to deal with any crisis or natural disaster like flooding, fire and disease. "National interest and public interest demand that no person who holds this post is incommuni-

cated or absent for a long stretch of time or for an uncertain period of time. To say that no important decision can be taken during a model code of conduct is a misnomer," the court added.

HC was hearing a PIL by NGO Social Jurist, represented by advocate Ashok Agarwal, highlighting the non-supply of educational material and other statutory benefits to two lakh students in MCD schools even after commencement of the new academic session.

The MCD commissioner had earlier contended that non-distribution of the items was due to absence of a standing committee, which has the power to award contracts worth more than Rs 5 crore. He had told the court that in September last year, he wrote to Delhi govt seeking its nod for enhancement of its financial powers so that crucial tasks relating to the corporation are not stuck. Delhi govt had earlier said to address the void created by the absence of the committee, MCD had adopted a resolution in January that all functions of the committee shall be carried out by the house till then.

SC: Can't say statement not taken when you ignored summonses

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday questioned Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for not appearing before Enforcement Directorate despite repeated summonses after he argued that his arrest was illegal as the agency took the step without recording his statement.



CM Arvind Kejriwal

Are you not contradicting yourself by saying that your statement under Section 50 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was not recorded? You don't appear on summons for recording of statement under Section 50 and then you say it was not recorded," a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who appeared for Kejriwal.

Singhvi said non-cooperation by an accused in a probe could not be a ground for arrest and non-appearance following summons was not an admission of guilt. Questioning the timing of the arrest, he said the case was registered one-and-a-half years ago but Kejriwal was arrested after dates of the general elections were announced. He said the CM's name did not figure in the first nine statements given by other accused and but the name cropped up in the 10th statement and that became the ground for arrest.

SINGHVI SAYS
 Non-cooperation by an accused in a probe could not be a ground for arrest and non-appearance following summons was not an admission of guilt

Pitching his arguments on political lines, Singhvi said of the three approvers in the case, one joined the central governing party (BJP), the second joined the party's ally TDP and the third contributed to the party through electoral bonds.

When the bench asked him why Kejriwal had not filed an application for bail in the trial court, Singhvi said the CM had challenged his arrest, which had wider jurisdiction. Responding to ED's statement that the CM had accepted the remand ordered by the trial court, the lawyer clarified that when the arrest itself was under challenge, there was no question of accepting the remand.

Singhvi pointed out that on April 16, 2023, Kejriwal appeared before CBI in connection with the case and answered all queries.

Countering ED's submission that the CM could not be given special privilege, Singhvi said a CM had no less rights than a normal accused.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will continue on Tuesday.

In its reply affidavit filed in the apex court, ED had said Kejriwal was the kingpin and key conspirator of the alleged Delhi excise policy scam and had demanded kickbacks for changing the policy.

Accusing the Centre of "misusing" ED to "crush" its political opponents ahead of general elections, Kejriwal in his affidavit told the court that his arrest was "illegal, arbitrary and an unprecedented assault on the tenets of democracy based on free and fair elections and federalism".

On April 9, Delhi High Court had upheld Kejriwal's arrest and said there was no illegality about it and that ED was left with "little option" after he skipped repeated summonses and refused to join the investigation.

After HC intervention, MCD gets cracking

Vibha.Sharma @timesgroup.com



HOPE FLOATS: For students with Aadhaar problems, MCD has asked the post office to deposit the money for these children

New Delhi: Following Delhi High Court's directive to the commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to cover the expenses to provide school students with free uniforms and stationery without being restricted by the mandatory expenditure limit of Rs 5 crore, the civic body sprang to action on Monday.

"We will transfer the funds to the primary school students on a war footing," said an MCD official. "We have 6.5 lakh students studying up to Class V, and for 2024-25, Rs 70 crore had been set aside from which Rs 1,100 each would be transferred to the student's account to purchase school uniforms and stationery items. The proposal was awaiting the approval of the standing committee, which hasn't been formed."

There are 1,534 primary schools under MCD. MCD commissioner Gyanesh Bharti had submitted in court that he did not have the authority to sanction more than Rs 5 crore for any project. Only the standing committee could do so. The court's order allows fund allocation for this particular purpose without the committee's clearance.

"The money will be directly transferred to the students' bank accounts. In collaboration with banks, we had ensured the students all had operational bank accounts," said the official. "In cases where students do not have Aadhaar cards, we will organise camps at schools where these children can submit their documents and enrol for Aadhaar." The official added that the process will be completed in 15-20 days.

"As for textbooks, these are supplied by Delhi govt. As soon as the supply arrives, books will be immediately distributed to the students," said the official.

For students with Aadhaar problems, MCD has asked the post office to deposit the money for these children, said officials. In the 2023-24 academic year, two lakh of the 7.8 lakh municipal students did not receive money for stationery, uniforms and notebooks because they did not have operative bank accounts.

Kejriwal still CM by people's choice: AAP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Downplaying Delhi High Court's observations that a person holding the post of chief minister cannot be incommunicado or absent for an uncertain period, AAP's Rajya Sabha member, Sanjay Singh, on Monday said the decision that Arvind Kejriwal should continue to be chief minister even after being jailed was that of the people of Delhi.

Singh also accused BJP and lieutenant governor for the current crisis in Municipal Corporation of Delhi where all big-ticket projects are stuck in the absence of Standing Committee and said LG arbitrarily appointed aldermen to MCD without the aid and advice of the elected dispensation.

Presenting the party's side after Monday's court order regarding work being affected

due to the non-constitution of Standing Committee, Singh said, "Expressing my full respect towards the high court, I want to say Arvind Kejriwal is a true patriot. Nobody can raise questions on his patriotism. He is a victim of a political conspiracy."

"Kejriwal is serving the people of Delhi like a true patriot even in jail. It is the decision of the people of Delhi and party MLAs that he should remain CM," the MP said, adding that the same court had dismissed three PILs demanding his removal.

Arrested on March 21 by Enforcement Directorate in a Delhi excise policy-linked case, Kejriwal has been lodged in Tihar Jail since April 1.

Delhi Ministers meet Kejriwal in jail and get directions, said Singh. "The high court decision should be looked at from the perspective of the non-formation of the



Singh accused BJP and LG of stalling projects in MCD

Standing Committee due to LG's interference. All works are ongoing and our ministers are solving people's problems," he emphasised.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor, however, said Singh was "defending the indefensible" despite knowing that the entire administrative set up in the capital was on the "verge of collapse" due to Kejriwal's insistence to continue as CM. "There is no ideological rea-

son behind AAP not allowing the Standing Committee election. They fear losing the election," Kapoor claimed.

On Arvinder Singh Lovely resigning from the post of Delhi Congress chief and citing the party's tie-up with AAP for the Lok Sabha polls as one of the reasons, Singh said, "I am not going to lie... But with full responsibility, I will say that Lovely-ji played an important role in reaching a compromise and formation of an alliance between AAP and Congress in Delhi."

Singh added that he would also thank Lovely "for being the first opposition leader to reach CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence during his arrest".

On whether the resignation would have its impact on the chances of INDIA bloc in Delhi, Singh said it was an internal matter of Congress and its senior functionaries would find a solution to it.

Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Uttarakhand Medical Education University
 New Central Hope Town, Bhojwaha, Dehradun, 248011
 Website: www.hnbmu.ac.in | E-mail: info.hnbmu@gmail.com
 Ref. No.: 212/HNBUMU/2024-25 | Dated: 29-04-2024
Uttarakhand Nursing/Paramedical Entrance Examination-2024
 Online application for Uttarakhand State Nursing/Paramedical Entrance Examination-2024 will be available on the University website www.hnbmu.ac.in from 30.04.2024.
 Detailed information is available on the University website www.hnbmu.ac.in. Registrar

17-year-old girl crushed to death by DTC bus in Dwarka

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 17-year-old girl on her way back home on a bicycle was crushed to death under a DTC bus in Dwarka on Monday.

The police have arrested the driver and conductor. The girl, identified as Isha, lived with her family in Dwarka. Police received information about the incident between 4pm and 4.30pm near the Dabri powerhouse.

Deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka), Ankit Kumar Singh, said the girl's body got entangled under the bus. "The body of the girl was shifted to the hospital mortuary, awaiting post-mortem. Both the driver and the conductor of the bus have been apprehended. Appropriate legal action has been initiated."

During the inquiry it was found that the girl was going from Dwarka Sector 6 to Dabri, and when she reached near the Dabri powerhouse, she came under the bus. An investigator said her head was completely crushed under its wheels and the driver himself made the PCR call to inform the police about the accident.

Government of West Bengal
Office of the District Magistrate & District Election Officer, Purba Bardhaman
 Email ID: ddmbo.burdwan@gmail.com
Memo. No. 79 /Observer Cell Dated: 29.04.2024
 The following are the details of the Hon'ble Police Observer for 41-Bolpur (SC) PC for information to all concerned with respect to Parliament General Election, 2024.
 Those who are interested to visit Hon'ble Police Observer may visit him at the given time & venue.

Sl.	Name of the Police Observer	No. & Name of Parliamentary Constituency	Mobile Number of the Police Observer	e-Mail id of the Police Observer	Staying Place	Visiting Time & Venue
1	Mr. Vijay Singh, IPS	41-Bolpur (SC)	6296360586	policeobserver4142@gmail.com	Meghdoot Guest House Bolpur	Every day from 6 PM to 7 PM Meghdoot Guest House, Bolpur

District Magistrate & District Election Officer Purba Bardhaman
 Memo No.: 219(2)/ICA/PUB/BDN(ADVT) Date: 29.04.2024

'Shouldn't happen to any parent': Mom of youth who died in MCD parking lot

Siddhanta.Mishra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Sarita Devi is grappling with the immense sorrow of losing her 22-year-old son Kartik. He was electrocuted while trying to pump out water from an MCD parking lot in Sarai Julena.

Local people and a BJP councillor have said that the parking facility, built in 2016 at a cost of Rs 35 crore, is in an area with a high water table. The third basement of the lot has often been under water. The facility, as conceived, should be able to park 500 cars.

A senior MCD official said the contract for the parking lot was awarded to a company that failed to complete work on time and was subsequently blacklisted. "A proposal has already been placed before the corporation through the standing committee for the approval of a revised contractual amount for the remaining work," he said, adding that it was "not clear whether the person died due to electrocution".

For Sarita Devi, who lives a few metres from the parking lot, life changed on Saturday afternoon when she learnt about Kartik's death. Like any mother, she regrets that she did not know enough about what her boy did. Neighbours said Kartik, a pump operator, entered the parking basement around 2pm to clear the accumulated water when he suffered a fatal electric shock.

"I did not know exactly what he was doing. After he joined this job about one-and-a-half years ago, he was always in a hurry," she said. "This should not happen to any parent—the death of their young son in front of their eyes," she said. She has fainted several times since Saturday. Sarita and her eldest son, Dipanshu, were arranging for Kartik's wedding. "It was a weekend. Kartik was going to get wheat as our mother cooks special meals for us on Saturday and Sunday. He was so young. His whole life was ahead of him. The work was not great I knew, but he never told us that he has to enter water. Otherwise, I would not have allowed him to do it. This is a huge tragedy for us," Dipanshu said, breaking down.



Kartik (25) was electrocuted while trying to pump out water from the parking lot

Since it was made in 2016, the parking facility has faced water-related problems due to the high water table. "Kartik used to work with another person, pumping out the water accumulated in the basement. We do not use that basement and cars are parked only up to basement 2," a parking attendant said. On Monday, TOI found the third basement under water, and dark. The lot seems to be a place where scrapped cars were dumped. Rajpal Singh, a BJP councillor, said: "The groundwater table is high in the area. MCD knows the problem but has failed to



Kartik (25) was electrocuted while trying to pump out water from the parking lot

act." He said he had "raised the matter several times but there was no solution. It is painful to see that a family lost a young boy due to MCD's mismanagement." Deepak Boisaya, a resident, said the water was not rainwater. "MCD is hiding something. There was no rain in the last few days in our area to fill the basement... For the entire year, the basement is filled with water and the corporation has no solution," he said. Prem Chauhan, the AAP councillor who once entered the basement and did a live video from there, said that he will raise this matter in meetings.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, U.P. Lucknow
 9th floor, Academic Block, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226010
Advertisement No. - 04/Entrance-Exam Paramedical/ABVMU/2024 Date- 29.04.2024
 Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University (ABVMU), U.P. Lucknow is conducting Common Paramedical Entrance Test (CPET) for various Paramedical U.G (Bachelor)/ P.G (Master) Courses for the Academic Session 2024-25 for all Government and Private Colleges affiliated with ABVMU, Uttar Pradesh, SGPGIMS Lucknow, KGMU Lucknow and UPUMS Saifai.
 Details of information related to application is available on the ABVMU U.P. website https://abvmuup.edu.in
Start Date of Application (Online): 30-04-2024
Last Date of Application (Online): 10-06-2024 Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
 A) Bid reference no. - WBMSCL/NIT-251/2024, dated - 26/04/2024; West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bid for "Operation & Comprehensive Maintenance of Medical Gas Pipeline Systems (MGPS) at Panthali State General Hospital of West Bengal for 3 years". Last date of submission of bid (online) - 15.05.2024 up to 02.00 pm. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 02.00 pm on 30.04.2024. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cme@wbmsc.gov.in 54/- General Manager, WBMSCL ICA-7895(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Corrigendum
 Date Extension
 NIT No. WBPWD/EE/HED/NIT-42 of 2024-2025. Memo. 1088 Dt. 22.04.2024, Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_688483_1. Name of Work: Temporary Electrification work and other utility related to Infrastructural arrangement at DC/RC for General Election to the House of the People, 2024 at Jadunath High School, Howrah.
 NIT No. WBPWD/EE/HED/NIT-43 of 2024-2025. Memo. 1089 Dt. 22.04.2024, Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_688484_1. Name of Work: Temporary Electrification work and other utility related to Infrastructural arrangement at DC/RC for General Election to the House of the People, 2024 at Soverani Memorial College, Howrah. Last Date of Submission 30.04.2024. Intending bidder may download the Tender/Quotation documents from the website: www.pwd.wb.in Sd/- A. Das, Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Howrah Electrical Division, Govt. of West Bengal ICA-17909(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for supply and Commissioning of ENT Surgical Simulator Set at Department of ENT of Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata per details indicated in the table below:

Sl	Item (Qty.)	Bid Ref. No.	Last date of submission of online bid	Remarks
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Chandoliya Only Prominent Name To File Election Papers

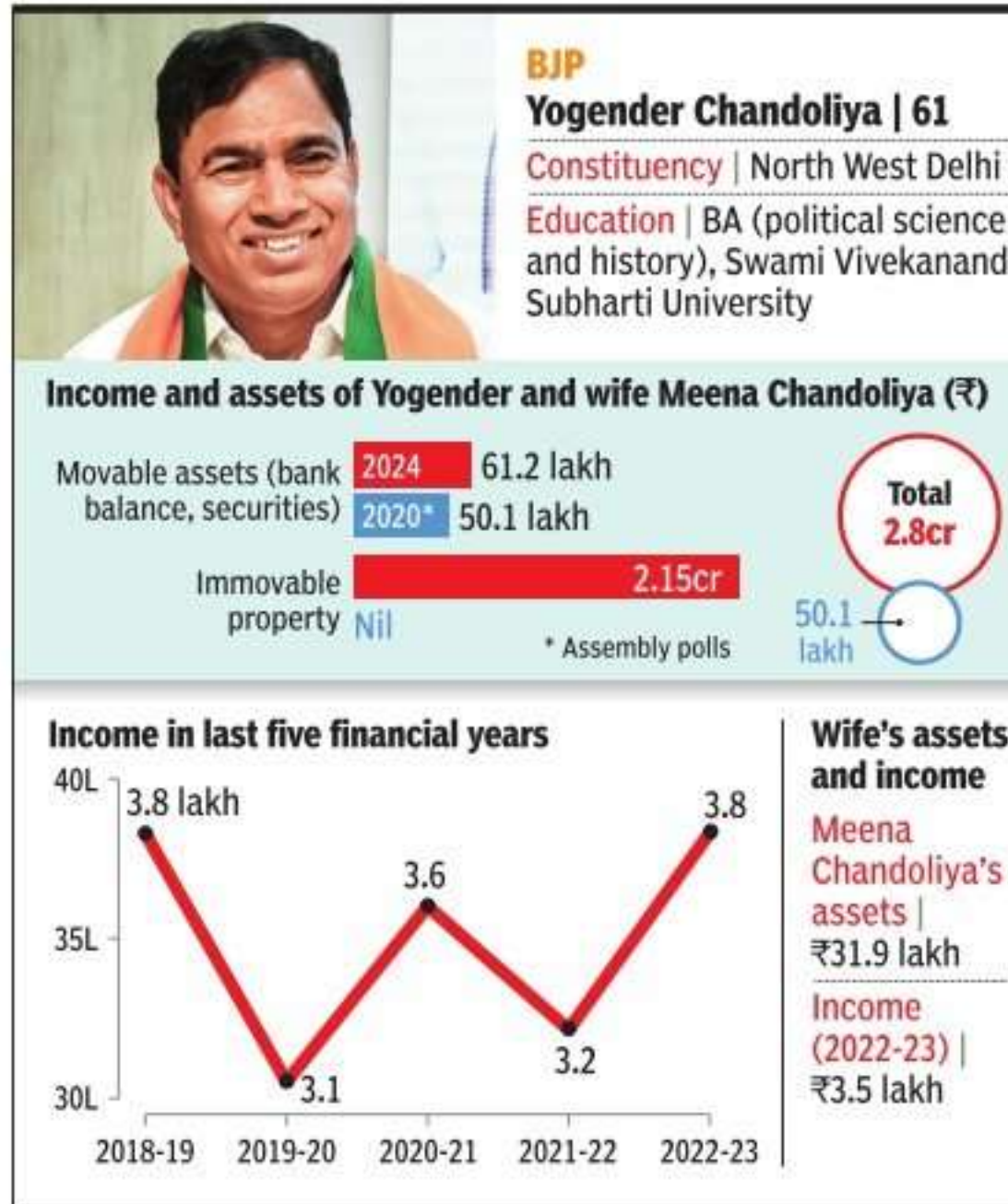
DAY 1: 15 Nominations Filed; Swaraj, Pahalwan Likely Next

Atul Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The election process for the city's seven Lok Sabha seats kicked off on Monday with the filing of 15 nominations on Day 1. While most of the nominations were filed by candidates representing unrecognised parties, Yogender Chandoliya (61) of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was the only one from a national or state party to submit his documents.

The former mayor of erstwhile North Delhi Municipal Corporation filed his candidature from the reserved Lok Sabha constituency of North West Delhi. While Chandoliya filed two sets of nominations — a common practice among functionaries of prominent parties to ensure they remain in fray even if one set of papers is rejected due to any discrepancy, his son Chitresh (35) filed nomination as a backup candidate. A candidate of an unrecognised party, too, filed two sets of nominations from Chandni Chowk seat.

According to election officials, 15 nomination forms of 13 candidates were received, including five from Chandni Chowk, four from North West



Delhi, and two each from West, North East and East Delhi constituencies. No nomination was received for South Delhi and New Delhi seats, officials said. The nomination process

for the May 25 election will continue till May 6, on all days except Sundays, the documents will be scrutinised on May 7 while the last date to withdraw the candidature is May 9. On Tuesday, BJP's New

Delhi candidate Bansuri Swaraj and AAP's South Delhi candidate Sahiram Pahalwan will file their nominations.

Chandoliya reached the office of the returning officer at Kanjhawala in a huge procession, accompanied by Rajasthan deputy CM Premchand Bairwa, Delhi Lok Sabha election in-charge Om Prakash Dhankar, co-in-charge Alka Gurjar and Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva.

A stage was set up at Mangolpuri's Ramliya Maidan where Chandoliya addressed party workers before filing his papers. "I have been a political worker for 40 years and will continue to remain one. My priority will be to expedite development work in my constituency. It is my commitment to remain available to the electorate all the time," Chandoliya said.

As per the nomination affidavit, Chandoliya completed his graduation in political science and history from Meerut-based Swami Vivekanand Subharti University in 2022. In the 2020 assembly election, Chandoliya had declared his educational qualification as '12th pass'. The total movable and immovable assets, including his wife's, stand at Rs 2.76 crore.

BJP files defamation suit against CM, Atishi over poaching charges

Vineet Upadhyay @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi BJP media head Praveen Shankar Kapoor has filed a defamation case against chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and minister Atishi, claiming that they had made false allegations of BJP trying to poach AAP MLAs.

The complaint has been filed before the court of additional chief metropolitan magistrate Tanya Bamniyal and was scheduled on Monday for pre-summoning evidence on May 4. According to it, the two politicians had made fabricated and manipulated statements accusing BJP of trying to buy AAP MLAs and topple Delhi govt with an intention to tarnish the reputation of BJP and its workers before common people.

Referring to a tweet by CM on Jan 27 and a press conference by Atishi on April 2, Kapoor's counsel, advocate Amit Tiwari, said the politicians had alleged that Rs 20-30 crore was offered by BJP to get MLAs from AAP.

Kejriwal, in a Tweet on Jan 27, alleged BJP had contacted seven of AAP's MLAs. He had also said he would be arrested soon, adding that 21 MLAs would be secured by BJP to make AAP govt fall.

"They are trying to por-

tray that BJP is trying to subvert govt by illegal means," submitted Tiwari, who was assisted by advocates Megha Sharma and Shoumendu Mukherji. "Whenever Enforcement Directorate (ED) approached AAP functionaries in relation to the excise policy case, baseless allegations were made by them to play the victim card. They damaged the reputation of BJP," Tiwari told the court.

Referring to 10th Schedule of the Constitution, he pointed out that only if two-thirds of the AAP MLAs joined hands with BJP, a BJP govt would have chances of survival. "If they (AAP) genuinely had any evidence, they would come forward with it," said Tiwari.

The counsel, who played the video of Atishi's press conference in the courtroom, also claimed the moment her name surfaced in the excise policy case, she also made similar allegations to divert people's attention.

In the press conference, Atishi had alleged that she was approached by BJP to join it or else she would be arrested by ED within a month. On April 3, Kapoor sent a legal notice to Atishi. BJP had demanded a public apology for claiming that the party had approached her through a "very close" person, asking her to switch sides.

'Atmosphere being created to make stay in party untenable'

Abhinav Rajput@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A day after resigning as Delhi Congress president, Arvinder Singh Lovely said that he wished to remain in the party but an atmosphere was being created to make his stay untenable. He also said that the high command was perturbed at the large number of former MLAs visiting his residence after his resignation.

With less than a month to go for voting, Lovely's resignation on Sunday rocked his party. For his sudden step, Lovely cited the party's alliance with AAP in Delhi, the high command's choices of Lok Sabha candidates and the lack of freedom to elect party functionaries according to his preferences.

Referring to Congress' central leadership, he said, "My resignation was accepted within four hours. There was a crowd at my residence yesterday, which included 35 former MLAs. Generally no one visits when you resign, but even today there was also a large crowd."

Asked if he would join BJP, Lovely said, "I have resigned from the post of Congress state president, not as Congress worker, provided they allow me to survive here."

He alleged a conspiracy on his ouster. "Since Congress was formed, never had a decision on a resignation been taken within four hours," he said. "The general secretary in charge of Delhi alleged I did it under BJP pressure. Doesn't he know that I joined BJP in 2017? If there was pressure, would I have returned to Congress?"

Lovely was referring to AICC general secretary Deepak Babaria. In his resignation letter, he had been critical of Babaria, accusing him of not allowing the state president to make appointments and forcing him to issue suspensions. In response, Babaria said, "I stopped Lovely in many instances because the people who should not have been promoted were getting promoted. And it was having a demoralising effect on the other party workers."

Asked how Congress could have



Lovely said he had resigned from the post of Congress state president, not as Congress worker, provided they (central leadership) allow him to survive there

fought the polls alone given that BJP had won all seven seats for two consecutive terms, Lovely said, "Congress workers were against the alliance. You cannot deny that (former minister) Ajay Maken alleged corruption in AAP (former state president) Anil Chaudhary even got an FIR registered and (former MP) Sandeep Dikshit opposed the alliance. However, I did not indulge in any blame game."

Despite the reservations against the alliance, Lovely claimed, when the high command decided on it, he had ensured the state unit fell in, unlike in Punjab. "They can recall that I ensured the unit agreed to their decisions even if it was wrong," he asserted.

He said he hasn't given AAP a clean chit even if he went on protest when CM Arvind Kejriwal was arrested. "Why are you not in an alliance in Punjab? Aren't you doing it only to win, something I noted in my resignation letter?"

He added, "In the three constituencies where Congress is fighting, they

are putting up Kejriwal's photos, not ours. What kind of alliance is this?"

When asked who his choices were having objected to the high command's selection for Kanhaiya Kumar for the North East Delhi constituency and Udit Raj for North West, Lovely said, "For five months, Congress workers obey all your orders. Today, when they're being denied nominations, you want me to remove them from the party. I am not ready for that. You induct another state president to do that."

Commenting on AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh's statement that Lovely was the main person in the alliance, the former Congress head said, "INDIA was formed in April last year when I was not the state president. Even when the second meeting took place a few months later, I wasn't the state president." He added, "Soon after I was made president, Sanjay Singh went to jail. So, how would he know? Does that mean that Singh used to come out of jail and see what was happening around?"

A day later, Cong calls allegations by Lovely baseless

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after he quit as Delhi unit president of the grand old party, Congress on Monday refuted allegations made by Arvinder Singh Lovely in his resignation letter. Calling the allegations "totally baseless", Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete questioned his "intentions" for taking this step in the middle of elections.

Congress plans to soon announce Lovely's replacement on the lines of an interim "working or acting" president.

"I would like to respond to many of his allegations but I will not. However, I want to say that there was no decision taken where he was not involved. The amount of access he had to the leadership and to the Congress president, I think very few would have that. All his allegations are baseless and we deny them vociferously," Shrinete said. "I feel in the middle of an election to do something like this directly raises questions on his (Lovely's) intentions," she added.

"In the middle of an election you (Lovely) resign, you try and create difficulties and action should be taken against someone else. Have you heard something like this?" Shrinete said when asked about allegations being raised by Lovely and some other ex-MLAs regarding AICC general secretary in-charge of Delhi, Deepak Babaria's decisions that have the potential to damage the prospects of Congress in elections.

Speaking to TOI, Lovely questioned the attacks being steered at him by senior Congress leaders and AAP members. "Senior leaders of Congress are making allegations against me. Why are they scared of me? I am an ordinary worker of the party now. I have made it clear that I have only resigned from the post of state president. I am very much a

CONG SPOKESPERSON

I would like to respond to many of his (Lovely's) allegations, but I will not. However, I want to say that there was no decision taken where he was not involved. The amount of access he had to the leadership and to the Congress president, I think very few would have that

member of the party."

Lovely in his resignation letter, among several other things, had trained his guns at Babaria for unilaterally vetoing decisions taken by senior Delhi unit leaders. Babaria has denied the allegations saying, "I stopped him at many places because the people who should not have been promoted were getting promoted. And it caused a demoralising effect on the other workers of the party..."

Student sexually harassed by professor, forced to leave campus, claims JNUSU

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union on Monday alleged that a female student was sexually harassed by a teacher, and inaction by the administration over the complaint forced her to leave the campus. JNUSU alleged that another complaint accusing the same teacher of "sexual and mental harassment" by the woman's batchmates also did not elicit an action by the internal complaints committee (ICC) of JNU.

They demanded that the administration expedite the proceedings of the complaints filed by the students and take action against the accused teacher.

"The professor in question has harassed the woman through constant

Vandana Mishra, ICC presiding officer, said an inquiry was under way and necessary steps were being taken

messages and calls, including lewd poems and requests for personal meetings. Upon her refusal to submit to him, he allegedly threatened her of failing his paper. The professor then went on to harass other female students so as to know about the survivor's whereabouts. The survivor was forced to leave the campus," the students' union alleged.

Vandana Mishra, ICC presiding officer, told PTI that an inquiry was

under way and necessary steps were being taken. "The due process of inquiry is ongoing. The required action/steps have been taken from the side of ICC," she said. The students union claimed that a sexual harassment complaint was filed by the survivor with ICC on April 10 against the accused. Another complaint was filed by a few batchmates of the survivor on April 15, accusing the teacher of sexually and mentally harassing them for knowing the whereabouts of the student.

Last month, a student of the university had complained that she was sexually harassed by four individuals, including two former students, in

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BOTH CONTESTANTS EXUDE CONFIDENCE IN A BATTLE FOR A SEAT WHERE BJP HAS HAD UPPER HAND IN RECENT TIMES

Modi Govt Did A Lot Bid To Finish Off AAP For Delhi: Malhotra Didn't Work: Kuldeep

Abhinav Rajput @timesgroup.com

Harsh Malhotra was nominated by BJP to replace Gautam Gambhir in the East Delhi constituency. Malhotra was a mayor in the trifurcated municipal corporation and this is his first election on the national stage. Excerpts from an interview.

What are the five main poll issues in your constituency?

Narendra Modi's govt has done a lot of work. There are the Sarai Kale Khan-Meerut expressway, Akshardham-Dehradun expressway, which is 75% complete, and the Rapid Rail Transit System from Sarai Kale Khan to Meerut. Also, under the Jaha Jhuggi Wahan Makan scheme, 4,000 houses will be provided to slum dwellers in Kalindi Colony.

What do you think of your rival from AAP?

His party promised to open 500 schools, 20 hospitals and 20 colleges, but not one hospital or college came up in his constituency. In contrast, an ESI hospital is being built by central govt in East Delhi. I visited my opponent's area and found the roads broken and supply of dirty water.

BJP has always changed its candidate in East Delhi. In 2014, it put up Mahesh Giri and in 2019, Gautam Gambhir. AAP alleges it is because they did not work for the people.

Gautamji left because he was busy with cricket, but he worked hard to clear the Ghazipur landfill despite not getting any support from Delhi govt.

AAP accuses your party of sending CM Arvind Kejriwal to jail because you fear his popularity.

BJP hasn't sent him to jail. ED and CBI are autonomous bodies. Delhi High Court has



Sanjeev Rastogi

MALHOTRA SAYS

His (Kuldeep Kumar) party promised 500 schools, 20 hospitals and 20 colleges, but not one hospital or college came up in his constituency

said there is evidence to keep him in jail. Kejriwal has told so many lies. In fact, he swore on his children's head that he wouldn't ally with Congress and now they are in alliance. There is corruption in Delhi Jal Board, so much money has been spent on his bungalow and the liquor scam is there for everyone to see.

But BJP also formed govts in alliance with politicians it accused of corruption, like in Maharashtra.

If anyone is corrupt, then the investigative agencies will get to the bottom of it. AAP's Sanjay Singh got bail. AAP also got an SC decision in its favour in Chandigarh municipal polls case. It's only when the decision is not in its favour that it makes all these allegations.

The Ghazipur landfill is aggravating the air and water quality of the area. People also are living in inhu-

man conditions in slums. Yes, there are areas like Ghazipur, Trilokpur and Kondli, where people don't get clean drinking water or have good roads and proper sewerage. Centre will do as much as it can. In 2025, when BJP wins Delhi assembly polls, these things will be remedied.

Atul Mathur@timesgroup.com

From a newspaper delivery boy to a small time worker who did odd jobs for AAP to leader of opposition in East Delhi Municipal Corporation and an MLA's post from Kondli — Kuldeep Kumar has come a long way. And though a scheduled caste, he has been given a ticket from an unreserved constituency. Excerpts from an interview:

What are the main election issues in East Delhi?

Law and order is a huge problem. Drug abuse has taken the shape of a pandemic. My priority will be to rehabilitate addicted children and put a stop to the sale of narcotics. Murders and rapes are also frequent in East Delhi. When Gautam Gambhirji was MP, the committee on law and order rarely met. I will make that committee active. I will also work as a bridge between Delhi govt and Delhi Development Authority. Delhi govt has a lot of funds and money will be to get land from DDA for hospitals, schools, community centres, libraries and mohalla clinics. I will also try to bring Delhi Metro to areas such as Mayapuri Vihar Phase III. Regularisation of unauthorised colonies and clearing the Ghazipur landfill are also priorities. I also commit to be available to people 24x7.

But will there be polls in 2025? The buzz is that Delhi Assembly will be dissolved.

In the current circumstances, there should be elections.

AAP says that since services are under LG, he should suspend the DJB CEO for any water crisis.

If they're able to give free power, why aren't they able to provide water? It's because they are in nexus with the tanker mafia. If the pipelines are 50 years old, why not change them? AAP's mindset is not focused on development. Whenever unable to do its work, the party blames Modiji and LG.

How is this poll different from earlier ones?

This poll is focused on national issues, including security, corruption and terrorism. As far as the poll being different over the years, now we use social media a lot for campaigns.



Jatin Kumar

KULDEEP KUMAR SAYS

Delhi govt has a lot of funds and money will be to get land from DDA for hospitals, schools, community centres, libraries and mohalla clinics

fills its promises of providing two crore jobs, checking price rise, providing pucca houses to the poor and depositing Rs 15 lakh in everyone's bank account.

Do you think the alliance with Congress will help?

Yes, being in alliance will definitely make a difference. There is a strong vote bank in Delhi now supporting the alliance candidates.

What kind of coordination do you have with Congress on the ground?

You can see one of their block presidents sitting with me (points towards a man who claimed to be from the Laxmi Nagar unit of Congress). This election is not about making Kuldeep Kumar win from East Delhi; it is about saving the Constitution, saving democracy. On one side there is an alliance which promises to give employment, bring down inflation and provide farmers with mini-

BJP sets up over 40 teams to boost voter outreach

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi unit of BJP has intensified its campaign ahead of Lok Sabha polls, forming more than 40 teams for voter outreach to different sections, including minorities.

The teams are holding regular meetings to ensure that speeches, social media campaigns, logistics, data, media, both work of candidates are prepared.

The teams are also working to bring a Delhi-specific manifesto. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, who heads the election management committee, said that the teams, headed by experienced leaders, will ensure that campaigning goes on smoothly on all seven Lok Sabha seats.

Delhi will vote on May 25. Nominating papers will be filed by candidates from April 29 to May 5.

"The campaign committees for specific purposes will discharge dual functions of monitoring involvement of leaders and workers of different departments and cells of the party as well as boosting voter outreach in view of the polls," Sachdeva said.

Party MLA from Ghonda Assembly constituency Ajay Mahawar has been appointed the convener of the election management committee of the party along with Rajiv Babbar, Gajendra Yadav and Yogita Singh as co-conveners.

Niraj Tiwari, who heads the

Purvanchal campaign committee, said that in view of the polls, the activists of the Purvanchal Morcha have been asked to reach out to voters in their respective Lok Sabha constituencies to spread awareness about the Modi government's welfare works in the city.

Tiwari, who is the co-head of the Jhuggi Jhopri (slum settlements) campaign team, said the issue of non-implementation of various schemes like the Ayushman Bharat health insurance plan and PM Awas Yojana by Kejriwal govt was being spread through the workers.

Senior Delhi BJP leader and MLA Vijender Gupta, who is co-head of the manifesto committee, said that work was under way to launch the document ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Delhi BJP is also planning to bring out a "chargetheet" against the ruling AAP in Delhi that will focus on various aspects of the nine years of chief ministership of Kejriwal, party functionaries said.

Heads and in-charges of teams for special contacts with professionals and eminent citizens, talking points of speeches of leaders, booth related work, beneficiary contact, transport facilities, publicity material, advertisements through TV, radio, FM channels, contact with women, youth, Scheduled Caste voters among others have also been deputed, party leaders said.



BJP plans to showcase the work of Modi govt to the people in a big way

In New Delhi's fight, age-old woes in focus

Abhinav Rajput & Siddhivi Singh | TNN

New Delhi: Naresh Suri, one of the earliest settlers in South Extension II, reminisces from the vintage couch in his house, which stands out with its old-world allure amidst the modern facades of neighbouring buildings. His residence may have preserved its heritage, but Suri still rues the changes in the decades.

"There was a time when I used to play cricket here, but now there is not enough space even for guests to park their cars," said Suri. "The population has increased more than 10 times, but the civic infrastructure has remained the same."

Though many of his friends are vocal about their admiration for PM Narendra Modi and CM Arvind Kejriwal, as the case may be, Suri himself only enumerates the problems of daily life in Delhi: burglaries, pollution, parking disputes, sanitation.

It seems a different world in Dasghara village, not far from Rajinder Nagar, where 20-year-old Sanjana cradles her six-month-old baby. A neighbour enquires about the water supply. "Water has finally come," Sanjana said, before telling TOI. "Bijli toh issi sarkar ke time se theek huye hai, but meethe pani ka issue abhi bhi hai aur roads ki halat aap dekhi hi rahi hain."

Dasghara's broken roads and littered lanes contrast sharply with the upscale South Extension in the New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. As BJP champions nationalism and Modi's Vikaspush image and AAP calls the polls a referendum on Kejriwal's arrest, both Suri and Sanjana, from starkly different backgrounds, talked of issues rather than leaders. Yet, college student Nakul of Malviya Nagar doubts issues will dominate the elections. At the

same time, there's also the dilemma of finalising which leader to support. "Yaha sab khud me leader hain, sab apne mobile me pura din videos dekhte aur apne hisab se sochte," he observed.

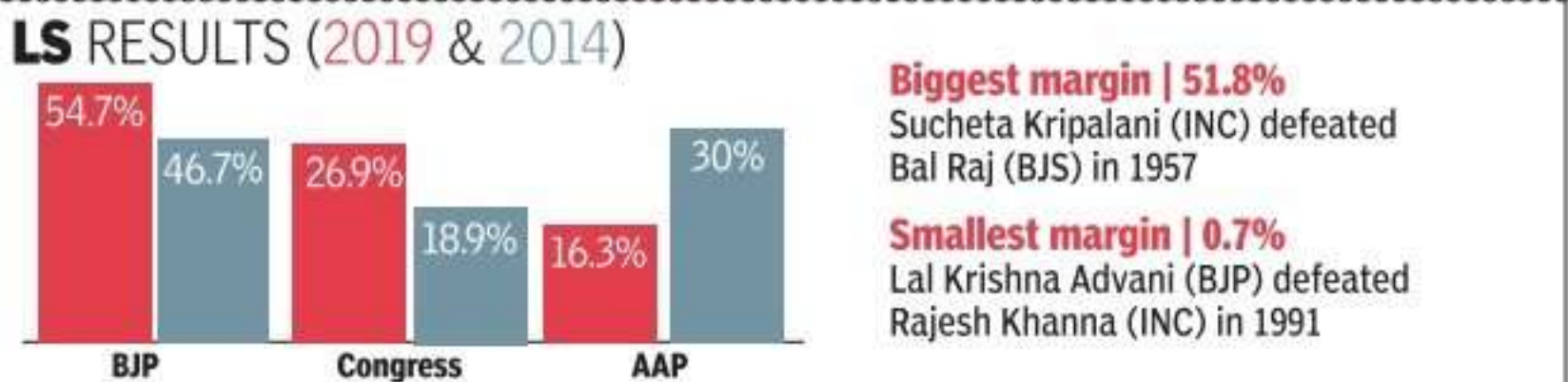
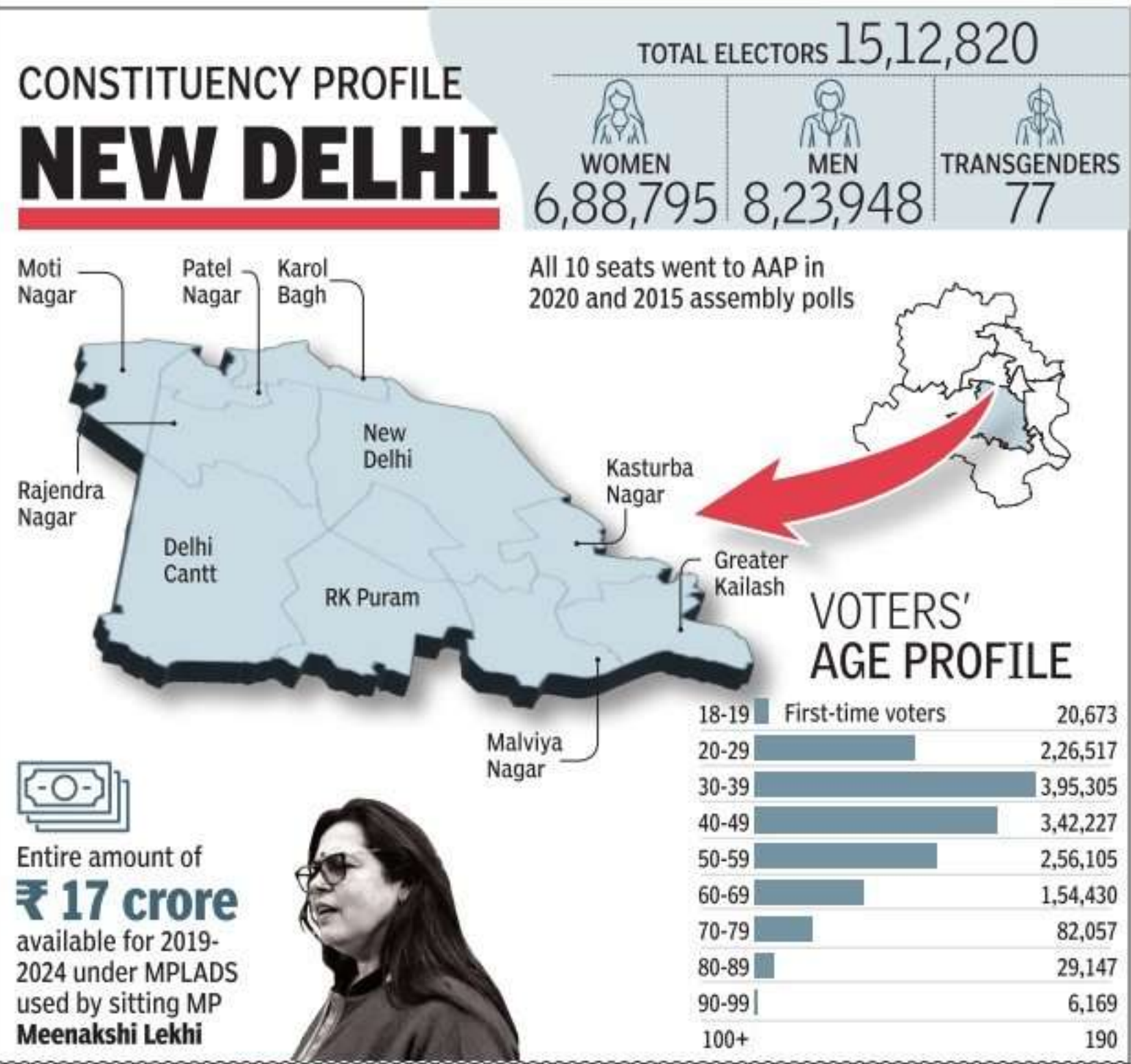
The New Delhi constituency, with 14 lakh voters, has been represented by BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi for the past two terms. The current contest has pitted Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of saffron stalwart Sushma Swaraj, against AAP's three-term MLA Somnath Bharti. AAP is hopeful this time because of its alliance with Congress.

The constituency has large chunk of Punjabi voters in areas like Rajinder Nagar, Greater Kailash, Patel Nagar and Moti Nagar, while commercial areas like Karol Bagh have sizeable trader populations. There are Jats in villages like Shahpur Jat and Poorvanchali people in pockets like Naraina.

There is also a large population of govt employees living in Kaka Nagar, Lodhi Road, Gole Market and DDU Marg. A legal officer working with govt said at Gole Market, "Congestion, encroachment of footpaths and traffic problems are constant. There are also instances of electricity being stolen by e-rickshaws vehicles for recharging batteries." She added, "There seems to be support for Bansuri Swaraj," and added, after a pause, "but events like CM's arrest will also influence public opinion."

Congestion is indeed a concern across the expansive constituency. But there are other common-man complaints too. Mudit Mathur, who lives in Khirki Extension, laments the lack of space and greenery, underscoring the citizens' frustration with the unchanged ground realities. "Do you see a tree here? There's no park, no playground; it is all so congested," he said.

The parties, however, are not focusing on caste and community as much as CM's arrest and free services, on one hand, and central govt boost to infrastructure and the Ram temple, on the other. So will voters focus on leaders and personalities or daily-life conveniences? Only the EVM machines will show the answers.



In terms of voters, New Delhi is the smallest parliamentary constituency in Delhi

Bollywood actors like Rajesh Khanna (1991, 1992, 1996), Shatrughan Sinha (1992) & Biswajit (2014) chose this constituency to pursue their Lok Sabha dream

Its demography changed due to various delimitation exercises, but it has remained a parliamentary constituency in Delhi since the first Lok Sabha elections in 1952

KEY ISSUES

- CENTRE VS STATE**: BJP's Bansuri Swaraj, much like her predecessor, has invoked the Modi factor. While AAP has made polls a referendum on CM's arrest, BJP wants to brand the party as corrupt
- WATER**: Parts of the constituency, especially villages and even some of the upscale areas, are facing a water crisis
- INFRASTRUCTURE**: Rapid commercialisation of neighbourhoods has led to congestion and security issues; not equipped to meet demands of the growing population

PROMISES

SOMNATH BHARTI | AAP

"If elected, I promise to expand mohalla groups to the entire New Delhi constituency. I will remain accessible, accountable and available to everyone. Poor law-and-order situation is a major concern. I want to strengthen the MP position so it can be used for the betterment of people. Through coordinated efforts with Congress, we aim to work in tandem with workers and local functionaries to save the Constitution"

BANSURI SWARAJ | BJP

"I promise to establish a startup hub in New Delhi to create jobs for youth and support women's self-help groups. Priorities include fast-tracking the desaling of commercial areas and implementing key schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana. We'll focus on easing traffic congestion around Dhaura Kuan and enhancing women's safety through drone surveillance in collaboration with Delhi Police"

BJP: Cong plans to strip OBCs of quota in favour of Muslims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, along with some party leaders and workers, staged a protest outside the Congress headquarters on Monday. He alleged that Congress was favouring the Muslim community and trying to divide the nation.

Carrying banners and posters, the BJP functionaries and workers marched from Mandir Marg to the Congress headquarters. They removed the barricades on the route. During the protest, they also burnt an effigy of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. A few protesters were detained by police.

Sachdeva said, "I never imagined that in a country where the majority population is over 80%, they would have to take to the streets to fight for their rights."

"Whenever Congress has come to power, it has worked to divide the nation. If the party attempts to snatch away the reservation given to the OBC and SC/ST communities by the Constitution, then it will not be tolerated," he alleged.

The Delhi BJP chief further claimed, "In Karnataka, 27% reservation is for the OBC society, but overnight, the word 'Muslim' is added to it. From govt jobs to all kinds of facilities, Congress has favoured the Muslim community, which is also happening in Kerala and Telangana."

Sachdeva said, "Today, even foreign po-

wers are eyeing to destabilise the country, so we have to knock on every door to talk about the policies and actions of Modi govt."

BJP functionary Sunil Yadav alleged, "Along with reservation for minorities, Congress is indulging in manipulation that the OBC Hindu society will not tolerate. Congress is trying to change our Constitution." "Until Rahul Gandhi comes forward and apologises to the people, our struggle will continue."

Another BJP functionary, Kapil Mishra, alleged, "Congress wants to crush the rights which BR Ambedkar had given to the OBC."

"They have done it in Karnataka where they have a govt," he claimed further.

"Today Congress has become the second face of the Muslim League. Whatever was there in the document of Muslim League, the same thing has been written by Congress in the manifesto of 2024," he claimed.

Hitting back, Congress functionary Abhishek Dutt said, "Lots of false information and lies are being peddled throughout the day by BJP on our manifesto. The truth is that Congress says 30 lakh jobs, 50% reservation for women in govt jobs and Rs 1 lakh apprenticeship scheme for graduates & diploma holders."

"BJP on the other hand, is fighting the polls on issues like Hindu-Muslim, meat and mangalsutra," he added.

Sunita, Atishi meet CM in jail; update him on schools, health

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi minister Atishi on Monday said she was directed by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure that the city's residents didn't face water crisis during summer.

After meeting the AAP national convener in jail, along with his wife Sunita Kejriwal, Atishi said that upon being asked about his well-being, Kejriwal told her not to worry about him. "I asked him how he was doing and how was his health. He told me not to worry about him and his health."

AAP had earlier said Delhi ministers would regularly meet Kejriwal in jail and discuss governance issues. Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had met Kejriwal last week, Atishi on Tuesday Delhi CM is lodged in Tihar Jail in a money laundering case linked to the now-withdrawn excise policy.

AAP functionaries had earlier claimed that Sunita's application to meet her husband was denied by the Tihar administration.

Atishi told reporters that CM inquired from her if schoolchildren were getting books. "He also asked me whether children were facing any



Atishi and Sunita Kejriwal at a recent INDIA bloc rally in Delhi

difficulty in studies and whether the problem of medicines in mohalla clinics had been resolved."

On ensuring adequate water supply during summer, Atishi said, "CM has asked to pay special attention to this matter. He has also given a message for women. He said he would come out soon and has promised that Rs 1,000 honorarium will be given to them soon. A plan for the scheme is being made by him."

Presenting the budget for the financial year 2024-25 in March, Delhi govt had announced a monthly honorarium scheme of Rs 1,000 for women

aged above 18.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor called Atishi's statements as "melodrama" and alleged that instead of worrying about people's needs, Kejriwal concentrated on generating money for AAP's political expansion during 2015-24.

On the Tihar authorities earlier denying permission to Sunita to meet her husband, Atishi charged that it was BJP's dictatorship. "Two people are allowed to meet in one go. We had permission to meet him, but all of a sudden they refused. What conspiracy is this?"

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL: FLOWERING TREES OFFER A VISUAL DELIGHT

Code Red! Gulmohar Steals Show Even As Capital Sizzles

Kushagra Dixit
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: As the scorching summer heat intensifies in Delhi, the vibrant orange-red blossoms of the Gulmohar tree take centre stage, adorning the city's canopy and gardens with their striking beauty. While most of the city's flowering trees succumb to the soaring temperatures, Gulmohar thrives, providing a fresh and colorful canopy during the peak of its flowering season.

Gulmohar, known by various names such as "fire tree, flame tree, gold mohr, royal poinciana, peacock flower and flamboyant," is globally renowned for its stunning scarlet blooms and fern-like leaves. Its captivating appearance has earned it a special place in the hearts of people, with its beauty even being compared with the exquisite serenity of Radha in Bangla.

Experts believe that the Gulmohar species likely arrived in India around 1850 in what was then Bombay, after being discovered by the French around 1828 in a surprisingly dry region of Madagascar. Despite its origins, this ornamental tree has adapted well to Delhi's climate and has been decorating the city for less than two centuries. While not common in all parts of Delhi, it can be found in areas like central Delhi, and across several parks and gardens.

The Gulmohar tree's beauty is not limited to the summer months. Its leaves begin to turn yellow in Nov, with fresh leaves appearing by the end of March and early April. Flowering commences in mid-to-late April, reaching its peak in early May. Naturalist Pradip Krishen notes, "The flowering will be over by end-May, but weaker flushes ripple through the rains. Pods remain on the tree for a long time; still there in March of the year following flowering."

Krishen points out that while most species dry out in the summers, Gulmohar and Amaltash are the large tree species that bloom during the peak summer months.



CR PARK



GULMOHAR PARK



NEHRU PARK

Other species, such as Bougainvillea and Champa, have many hybrids that also flower during this time. He explains, "It is a fairly brittle tree, it's not flexible and breaks easily, that's why you would see its branches breaking during strong winds. Also, nothing grows underneath the Gulmohar, because its leaves have chemicals which inhibit other plants."

According to experts, native trees flower in a way that allows them to drop their seeds by the monsoon season when conditions like moisture are supportive of germination. Although Gulmohar is not native to India, it behaves similarly. Its legume is very woody and hard, with the fruit formed this season falling the following year. While there is no clear record of when Gulmohar was brought to Delhi, it is estimated to have arrived after its introduction in Mumbai around 1850.

Ajay Kaushik, deputy director of the horticulture department at Delhi Tourism, remarks, "This is the best time for blooming of Gulmohar, and soon Amaltash with its yellow flowers in bunches will follow. These trees keep the city colourful through peak summers and define out city's canopy. They are admirable."

Naraina flyover to be partly shut from May 1

New Delhi: The Naraina flyover connecting Dhaula Kuan and Mayapuri is going to be partly shut from May 1 for repair works. The Delhi traffic police has issued an advisory for commuters. The opposite carriageway will continue to stay operational for

the movement of traffic. Traffic police has advised separate routes for ease of access. The first route suggest commuters to take Vande Matram Marg from Dhaula Kuan, turn left on Prof. Ramnath V. Marg, turn left from Rattanpuri

Chowk, on Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, then turn left from Loha Mandi T-Point on Goswami Girdhari Lal Marg and finally turn right from Naraina T-Point on to Ring Road for Mayapuri. The second route advises commuters to take Cariappa

Marg from Dhaula Kuan, then Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg - Jail Road till Lajwanti Chowk, then turn right on Satguru Ram Singh Marg till Mayapuri Chowk - Ring Road. Commuters are also advised to not park their vehicles by the side of the road.

Straight out of a web series: Gang throws out notes during chase

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: When police started chasing five members of a gang fleeing with a man's bag in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, they encountered a scene reminiscent of the web series Farzi in which men threw currency notes in the air to attract people and create an obstacle. However, in real life, the plan came to naught, and the cops managed to nab them.

The accused were identified as Daman, Praveen, his wife Sangeeta, Rohit and Sakshi. The complainant, Rajeev Singh, who works as a cash carrier for a shop owner in Karol Bagh, told police that he was out to deliver Rs 4.5 lakh on April 28. After delivering Rs 2.5 lakh at a location, he proceeded towards Gandhi Nagar. Singh arrived at the bustling Gandhi Nagar market at 3pm, where an e-rickshaw driver approached him, insisting on giving him a ride to Jheel Chowk. As Singh boarded the vehicle, he noticed that it already had four passengers — two women and two men.

During the journey, Singh grew increasingly wary of their behaviour. "He became suspicious of their activities," police said. The situation turned for worse when the passengers suddenly grabbed Singh's bag and threw him out of the moving e-rickshaw, and the vehicle made a swift escape.

Singh sought assistance from a passing scooter rider to follow the escaping e-rickshaw, he told police. However, he refrained from attempting

to halt or overtake the vehicle, fearing that the assailants might be carrying weapons. Instead, he hoped to locate a patrolling police officer and report the incident to him.

Upon spotting constable Rajkumar of Geeta Colony police station, Singh told him about the incident, who then proceeded to notify other officers through various communication channels, including WhatsApp. "Rajkumar took a head constable with him on his motorbike and initiated the chase. Meanwhile, two other officers positioned themselves at the next checkpoint to intercept the criminals," police said.

In a desperate attempt to avoid being caught, the accused resorted to the dramatic escape plan. One of the suspects opened the bag and scattered 25 thousand rupees into the air, hoping to create chaos and confusion among local people and the chasing police officers. At the same time, the rest of the accused, with the remaining cash, jumped out of the e-rickshaw and ran into a nearby field to escape.

The constable started pursuing the suspects on foot, leaving his motorcycle behind. Simultaneously, other officers began chasing the remaining accused. The coordinated effort led to the apprehension of all five people and the recovery of Rs 1.75 lakh in cash.

Deputy commissioner of police (Shahdara) Surender Chaudhary said they had registered a case under Section 395 (dacoity) of Indian Penal Code.

Bizman arrested for murdering friend in N Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 39-year-old businessman was arrested for murdering his friend in north Delhi, whom he suspected of stealing things from his company. Police said the accused was also angry that the victim used to talk to his wife.

Police received information about the incident at 12:34pm on April 27. The body was found on the roof of a

shop at Old Lajpat Rai Market, opposite the Red Fort. The deceased was identified as Manoj Kumar Gupta, aged 28. Deputy commissioner of police (North) Manoj Meena said that during the probe, they discovered that at the time of the incident, he was with his friend Gulab Jha who was taken into custody for questioning and confessed to his crime of murdering his friend. Jha was running a packa-

ging business, and the victim worked under his supervision. He believed that the victim was stealing things, which resulted in losses. The two individuals were consuming alcohol together when a heated argument erupted between them. It was during this altercation that the accused allegedly took the life of his friend. "Since the victim was heavily intoxicated, his head hit the floor and thereafter, Jha

got hold of a piece of glass bottle lying nearby and slashed the neck of the deceased repeatedly, leaving no chance of his survival and also took his mobile phone," police said. Jha told cops that the victim used to converse frequently with his wife. "Gupta annoyed Jha as he was frequently contacting his wife and trying to make proximity with her, and he was enraged by the act of his friend," the police said.



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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1400] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, मार्च 18, 2024/फाल्गुन 28, 1945
No. 1400] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024/PHALGUNA 28, 1945

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 18th March, 2024

S.O. 1469(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of No. Yet to be Assigned in the stretch of land from Km 5.8 to Km 16.9 Western side spur of Rampur - Rudrapur section connecting NH-24 to NH-87 bypassing Rampur town in the district of RAMPUR in the state of UTTAR PRADESH, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.


Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, ADM (F/R), RAMPUR in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE
Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling No. Yet to be Assigned in the stretch of land from Km. 5.8 to Km. 16.9 Western side spur of Rampur - Rudrapur section connecting NH-24 to NH-87 bypassing Rampur town in the district of RAMPUR in the state of UTTAR PRADESH.



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Note: Physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/PIU/RO and land owners may also see the notification there.

[F. No. 11020/1/2021/PIU-MBD/3A]
ABHAY JAIN, Dy. Secy.

Rain likely today, AQI turns poor

New Delhi: The city saw a warm Monday with the weather changing towards the evening to an overcast sky. The air quality also turned poor.

A forecast by India Meteorological Department (IMD) showed a western disturbance which could influence parts of Delhi-NCR in the early hours of Tuesday, which may lead to drizzling in some isolated areas.

Another approaching western disturbance, around May 4, is expected to be weak. Much like April, these passing western disturbances are expected to keep surface wind speed high, and the maximum temperature below 40 degrees Celsius.

The weather department expects the maximum temperature to drop slightly on Tuesday. It could hover around 37 degrees Celsius.

"There is another western disturbance expected due to which in the first week of May or at least this week. The daytime temperature will remain mostly below normal or hover around 38-37 degrees Celsius, one or two days it may drop further. However, the rising trend will return once the western disturbance passes," Kuldeep Srivastava, senior scientist at IMD, said.

On Monday, the city's base station at Safdarjung recorded the maximum temperature at 38.3 degrees Celsius, a degree below normal against 38.2 degrees a day earlier. The minimum was 22.8 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal and against 23.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

Delhi's air quality index (AQI) on Monday was 224, against 174 a day earlier. **TNW**

Fewer 40°C Days, But April Warmer Than Previous Year

Lack Of Rain Has Prevented A Significant Drop In Mercury

Kushagra Dixit
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The city has experienced an average maximum temperature of 37 degrees Celsius this month—slightly above the long-term average for the month and higher than previous April's average—despite surpassing the 40-degree Celsius mark only on one day.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there have been numerous days with temperatures around 38 and 39 degrees. The lack of rainfall has prevented a significant drop in mercury.

Last year, Delhi experienced cooler temperatures at the beginning of April, with temperatures dropping below 30 degrees Celsius, but it had four days with temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius or higher. The year 2022 saw an exceptional 16 days in April when the maximum temperature exceeded 40 degrees Celsius.



MAY THE MAY BE MERCIFUL ON MERCURY

In 2020, the maximum temperature crossed the 40-degree threshold only on one day in April. The monthly average maximum then was 35.3 degrees Celsius.

"This April, there were around five western disturbances, but they were all feeble and couldn't make a major impact on

the capital. However, it caused rain in the mountains. If there were showers, then it was mostly towards late evening or after the maximum temperature had been recorded. So the temperatures did not drop that significantly and daytime remained largely warm. However, despite the western disturbances being

weak, strong winds and clouding prevented the daytime temperature from crossing 40 degrees Celsius that often. The city saw winds of around 20-30 kmph for at least 15-16 days in April this year," said Kuldeep Srivastava, a scientist at IMD.

He added that the surface winds and cloudiness helped in keeping the daytime temperature constant or around 37-38 degrees Celsius.

The city recorded 7.5 mm of rainfall till April 29, which is likely to end the month in a rain deficit, similar to March (4.3 mm). The long-period average (LPA) for rainfall in April is 16.3 mm, while it is 17.4 mm for March.

In 2023, the highest maximum temperature in April was 40.6 degrees Celsius, while in 2022 it was 43.5 degrees Celsius, and in 2021 it was 42.2 degrees Celsius. This year, the mercury crossed the 40-degree mark only once, on April 26, reaching 40.5 degrees Celsius.

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Nitin and Shipra Aggarwal
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Jehaa chereee likhhaa tehaa hukam kamaahi ॥
As His decree is issued, so is His command obeyed.

ਘਲੇ ਆਵਾਹਿ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਸਦੇ ਓਠੀ ਜਾਹੀ ॥
Ghale aavahi naanaka sade othee jaahi ॥
Those who are sent, come, O Nanak, when they are called back, they depart and go.

KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS
Tuesday, 30th April 2024

12th March 1936 - 26th April 2024

This is to inform you that our beloved mother
SARDARNI GURCHARAN KAUR KOHLI
W/o Late Sardar Harbans Singh Kohli
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In fond memory of the departed soul

Kirtan & Antim Ardas
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Bhagat Singh Puri
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You left us this day 14 years ago. You were the role model husband, father and grandfather.

Your memory ever so fresh, we continue to feel your presence in our midst. You are the inspiration for us. We endeavour to approximate the high standards you set.

Hardeep and Lakshmi Himayani, Hari, Amaya Zai and Jai Deep Tilotama, Danny and Leela Michelle Pradeep and Kaki Aliya, Siddharth and Leila Tanya, Vidur and Tara

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Transgender wing of AAP demands release of Kejriwal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: AAP's transgender wing held a protest in Delhi demanding release of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The protest was led by AAP MLA Dilip Pandey and transgender councillor Bobi. Kejriwal is lodged in Tihar jail on the charge of corruption in the now shelved liquor policy after a Delhi court on April 23 extended his judicial custody till May 7.

Several people from the transgender community gathered at Delhi Gate wearing AAP caps and tees with "Jail Ka Jawab Vote Se" written on them.

Bobi, who won the MCD election in Sultanpuri-A ward, said: "No money trail has been established. Still an elected CM has been put behind bars."

"No other person has done so much for Delhi like chief minister Kejriwal has done for every community. For transgenders, he even gave free passes to us in DTC which no one ever thought," Bobi said.

During the demonstration, MLA Dilip Pandey said: "It has become clear from the two phases of voting that BJP is losing. The people of Delhi and the country are now standing against the 'Jail Bhejo' (send to jail) policy of BJP," he said.

Pandey said: "It has never happened in India that the campaign song of any party was banned, but at the behest of BJP, the campaign song of the Aam Aadmi Party has been banned."

"All these symptoms reflect acceptance of defeat by BJP. The people of the country have understood this. The people of Delhi and the entire country are standing united against the high-handedness and dictatorship of the BJP," he said.

The people have stood against BJP's politics of sending opposition leaders to jail.

Pandey said that, so far, two phases of voting for Lok Sabha elections have taken place.

The voting trends of these two phases have made it clear that the BJP is losing in the Lok Sabha elections. The people of the country will answer the arrest with their votes, he said.

Over personal tiff, 21-yr-old sets fire to neighbour's house

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly setting his neighbour's house on fire over a personal dispute in the early hours of Monday in outer Delhi's Rani Bagh area. There were no casualties in the incident.

Police investigation revealed that the accused, identified as Samik, had set the two-wheeler parked outside the house on fire, which then spread to the house's air conditioning unit and engulfed the entire residence.

In CCTV footage that surfaced on social media, a man can be seen igniting the fire before fleeing the scene. Within minutes, the fire had engulfed the house.

A police officer said that the incident occurred around 4.15 am on Monday. "A team was rushed to the spot. It came to light that the family of four, including two children, sleeping inside the house had managed to escape with difficulty," they said.

"The people around tried to control the fire by pouring water on it in time, due to which the fire could not reach the upper floors. But by then all the goods were destroyed in the fire," said the officer.

The accused was identified and arrested under Section 436 (committing mischief by fire or any explosive substance) of the Indian Penal Code.

The accused has alleged that the neighbour abused his mother a few days ago, due to which he carried out the arson, police said.

Crime Patrol! Local Cops In Shahdara On Front Foot

Policemen To Achieve 5,000 Steps Per Day, App To Monitor

Siddhvi.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In an age when bikes and SUV patrols are the focus areas of police, foot patrolling — one of the traditional methods — is getting a fresh lease of life in Shahdara. The local beat cops are now required to achieve a minimum of 5,000 steps per day to ensure thorough coverage of their assigned areas. This initiative is supported by a dedicated foot patrolling application, facilitating real-time monitoring and documentation of patrol activities.

TIMES VIEW: This is a welcome step, literally. Foot patrolling enables cops to interact better and with more people, which in turn improves their information gathering network. It also makes them more visible, which lifts public morale and deters potential criminals. Walking on foot also helps police personnel stay in better shape. This is a win-win situation.

night robberies and theft cases. Foot patrolling has been a great tool for police across the globe for "street domination" and establishing close ties with the neighborhoods.

According to Surendra Choudhary, DCP of Shahdara, the application aims to enhance security and optimise police operations by enabling officers to closely track their movements within designated areas. "Its key features include meticulous recording

of steps taken, distances covered, and time spent on patrols, with real-time updates available only within officers' jurisdictions. The app also alerts officers to important areas, incidents and unchecked locations," he says.

The DCP adds that the overarching goal is to transition from reactive policing to proactive community engagement. The foot patrolling teams will recognise local crime patterns and find ways to stop

crime before it happens, which may include everything from spotting dark corners to keeping an eye on suspicious movements. The application, which will be installed on all the beat cops' phones, will not only ensure community safety but will also promote health of the policemen.

Officers added that the initiative, although in a nascent stage, has seen recent successes such as the swift resolution of a Rs2lakh robbery case that took place in Gandhi Nagar. The case was cracked easily, thanks to a foot patrolling officer's timely intervention.

Cops claimed that with the implementation of the app, a drop was seen in the number of night robbery cases, which went down from 1,969 cases last year to 1,300 this year. Burglary cases saw a dip of around 20% compared with the same period last year.

Another important element of the application is the visual documentation through geotagged image uploads, which provides valuable insights and records for analysis. "The app facilitates the sharing of unmonitored areas and locations are highlighted on the map. Critical zones like schools, hospitals and crime hotspots are prioritised, while real-time monitoring facilitates swift responses to emergencies or deviations from patrol routes," officers explained.

Senior cops added that the initiative was aimed at integrating technology seamlessly into policing operations by enhancing transparency, effectiveness and community trust. Officers are tasked not only with crime prevention but also with fostering close relationships with residents and merchants, investigating crimes, and providing guidance on crime prevention strategies.

STREET DOMINATION

THE INITIATIVE

Shahdara District Police App | Developed for effective foot patrolling
Target | Officers aim to complete 5,000 steps within their jurisdiction
Users | Over 700 users enrolled
Patrol timing | Conducted in morning, evening or night shifts for comprehensive coverage



BENEFITS

- > Community engagement
- > Allows better observation of suspicious activities
- > Quick reaction to incidents in congested areas
- > A better deterrent for potential criminals
- > Develops deeper understanding of neighbourhoods
- > Promotes physical exercise and fitness levels
- > More flexible response to changing circumstances and for quick navigation through areas that might be inaccessible to vehicles

KEY FUNCTIONS

Comprehensive surveillance | Precision in tracking ensures full coverage of designated areas
Real-time monitoring | Tracks officers' last known location for swift response and directing them to places of importance
Targeted surveillance | Strategic location mapping prioritises critical areas like locations with bad elements, schools and hospitals
Visual documentation | Geo-tagged images offer valuable records for analysing dark spots, sensitive areas, etc

2023 vs 2024
(Jan 1-Apr 15)
*As claimed by Shahdara police

- Robberies at night** | Down by 33% (1,969 cases to 1,300)
- Burglary cases** | Decrease by 20% (77 to 51)
- Snatching cases** | Workout rate increased from 36% to 65%

Turkish man in jail despite bail, bond amount cut

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court recently modified a bail order, reducing the bond amount to be furnished by a Turkish national languishing in jail since 2018 despite getting bail over a year ago.

Ebril Han was arrested by Narcotics Control Bureau in 2018 for allegedly having 1.3 lakh tramadol tablets in his possession and has been in custody since then. He was granted bail in Dec 2023, but could not furnish the bail bond.

While hearing an application moved by Han, the court of special judge (NDPS) Sudhir Kumar Sirohi said on April 26, "Condition of the bail has been modified to the extent that now accused has to furnish a personal bond in the sum of Rs 50,000 with one surety of like amount, the rest of conditions of order dated 14.12.2023 & 26.02.2024 will remain same."

Initially, in Dec 2023, the bond amount was Rs 1 lakh with two surety bonds of same amounts, which was modified to a bond of Rs 1 lakh with one surety bond of the like amount on Feb 26, 2024.

Han has been charged under various sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, for which the minimum punishment is 10 years, extendable up to 20 years. Advocate Rahul Sahani, appearing for the accused, submitted before the court that coming from poor social strata, Han couldn't furnish the bond.

The prosecution had argued that being a foreigner, the accused could abscond if granted bail. However, the court granted him conditional bail, imposing various conditions, including that the accused would file a certificate of assurance from the Turkish embassy, won't leave India, and would appear on every hearing.

Man gets life in jail for raping minor daughter

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sentenced a 44-year-old man convicted of raping his minor daughter to rigorous imprisonment for life, saying the crime was so "diabolical" that it outweighed the mitigating circumstances. It also observed that a life sentence would serve the interest of justice and the society, besides serving as a general deterrence, without destroying the convict.

Timely detection, treatment key for Fabry disease patients

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: "Timely detection and early intervention improve the quality of life of a patient suffering from the Fabry disease, a rare X-linked lysosomal disorder that results in excessive deposition of lipids in tissues," said Dr Arvind Chabra (31). He was diagnosed with the disease seven years ago at Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon. He now works as a medical officer at a private hospital in Jalandhar.

April is recognised as Fabry Awareness Month in many countries, including India. "To ensure that no life is put at stake, there is a need to create awareness about the disease," said Dr Chabra.

Dr Chabra told TOI that while he was doing his MBBS from Bareilly, he was diagnosed with Fabry. In 2018, he luckily got enrolled for receiving the life saving enzyme replacement therapy (ERT) in a humanitarian programme by a pharma company, which was started at Sir Gangaram Hospital.

"I had to visit Delhi twice a month...it was a very tough and challenging period for me..." he said, adding that though he was facing heat intolerance, numbness and joint pain since he was 6-7-year-old, no

DR CHABRA SAYS

Within 3-4 years of ERT, my condition improved drastically. I could tolerate heat and my joint pain got reduced to a great extent

doctor could identify the problem and they were completely unaware about the disease.

"When my brother was screened in 2017 at Medanta Hospital before he underwent renal transplantation, he was diagnosed with Fabry disease. At the same time, I was also screened and diagnosed for the same," he said.

"Within 3-4 years of ERT, my condition improved drastically. I could tolerate heat and my joint pain got reduced to a great extent. The life saving treatment saved my life and ensured that I can go on with my life and pursue my dreams," the doctor said. He is determined to now transform the lives of those around him as a medical professional.

He said, "We should start screening children who are weak, having recurrent fever, weight loss, infection and stable growth...they should get tested. Timely detection is the best option."

Lysosomal Storage Disorder Support Society founder Manjit Singh said that unfortunately Fabry disease is not detected on early onset as no symptoms appear from infantile age to even up to 20 years. In the intervening age growth, patients find some urinary infections, including stress on kidney functions, and take symptomatic treatment. This leads to severity to kidney ailments resulting in kidney failures one by one or both in many cases.

Some lucky patients in the age group of 25 to 35 are diagnosed by nephrologists with Fabry symptoms and are referred for Fabry missing enzyme treatment to genetics specialists.

He added that there is a huge need of awareness among the doctors and genetic physicians for Fabry disorder, which affects males only and comes from the mother's sleeping Lysosome genes. Fabry is fatal in nature if not treated on time.

Fabry disease is a rare genetic disorder that affects around 1 in 40,000 people worldwide. In India, Fabry is one of the rare diseases notified under Group 3(a) of National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021, which is one of the lysosomal storage disorders.

2x manpower to meet Dwarka Golf View Apartments deadline

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Aiming to complete the pending work at Dwarka Golf View Apartments by June 30, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) claims to have doubled the workforce at the site.

The authority has also engaged a nodal officer of assistant engineer rank at each tower. DDA vice-chairman Subhashish Panda visited the project site on April 25 and is monitoring the project, officials said.

Last month, some allottees moved the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) against DDA for delaying work at the site. They claimed that finishing and infrastructure works were still in progress at the complex and the authority had not obtained all statutory permissions, including a registration certificate from RERA, raising doubts that the project would be completed in a time-bound manner (June 30).

However, DDA managed to get the registration certificate on April 4.

"We are working on a war footing to finish the project by the end of June 2024. After receiving an enthusiastic response for flats at Dwarka Golf View Apartments, we are making all efforts to closely monitor the progress, quality of work and obtain all NoCs. The vice-chairman is taking stock of the development work every day," said an official.

For the first time, the authority has entered the luxury segment with the Festival Housing Scheme 2023 and offered penthouses, super HIG, and HIG flats in Dwarka Sector 19B through auction.

Buyers had the option of choosing a flat of their choice by paying the bidding amount, said officials. Under the scheme, all 14 penthouses and 170 super HIG flats offered were sold out. Besides, 940 HIG flats were also booked. The deadline for handing over these flats is June 30.

"We met the VC, who visited the premises to check the progress of work, on April 19 and raised two to three points. He listened to us patiently. We asked that the facility for power backup in flats (besides the common area) be provided. Officials assured us that they would look into the matter. Extended provision for solar panels and lift facilities was also discussed in the meeting. We are hopeful to get the allotments by June-end as it will take another 30-60 days thereafter to make changes as per requirement," said an allottee on condition of anonymity.

The allottee stated that the project's promoter was instructed by RERA to open an escrow account in a scheduled bank and transfer all funds collected from allottees by April 4. However, the promoter failed to comply, resulting in the issuance of a show cause notice.

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Do you want to protect accused in Sandeshkhali case, SC asks Bengal

'Why Should State Be Protecting Interest Of Some Pvt Individual?'

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday questioned West Bengal govt for challenging a Calcutta HC order for a CBI probe into allegations of land grab, sexual assault and violence in Sandeshkhali and asked whether the state wanted to protect private persons accused in the case.

At the outset of the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for West Bengal, sought adjournment saying the state wanted to place some important information regarding the case before the court which was very relevant.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, however, asked the state why it had challenged the HC order: "Why should the state come as a petitioner for protecting the interest of some private individual?" the bench asked.

Responding to the court's query, senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, also appearing for the state, said HC had made adverse remarks against the state govt that was the reason for challenging the verdict. He said it was

unfair on the part of HC to pass observations because the govt had taken full action. The court, however, asked him why the state did not approach HC to get the remarks expunged.

The bench deferred the hearing to after the summer recess in July and made it clear that pendency of the state's appeal in the SC would not be used as a ground for any purpose, which means the CBI probe can proceed. The main accused in the case is Trinamool Congress's Sheikh Shahjahan who has been suspended from the party.

While adjourning the hearing to July, the bench said in a lighter vein that the atmosphere would be more conducive for hearing at that time, referring to the fact that general elections would be over by then.

On April 10, Calcutta high court had ordered a CBI probe into the Sandeshkhali case. It also decided to monitor the investigation.

Challenging HC's order, the state said in its appeal, "The actions of the state govt in the present matter have been completely overlooked, while political voices have



Women during an agitation in Sandeshkhali in Feb

Bengal ministers linked to Shahjahan & proceeds of crimes, ED tells court

Enforcement Directorate Monday told a special PMLA court that at least two more Bengal ministers were on its radar for their alleged links to Sandeshkhali strongman Sheikh Shahjahan, arrested over complaints of sexual abuse and land grabbing. "There are two-three ministers who have links with Sheikh Shahjahan and we have evidence of their transactions with him. There is evidence which shows that proceeds of crime are linked to them," ED lawyer Abhijit Chakraborty said. **TNN**

been given supremacy in a court proceeding, which not only vitiates the matter at hand, but further will lead to biased investigation. HC heavily relies on the report of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and numerous affidavits of alleged victims to pass the directions, whereas the said report is not conclusive as the state is permitted to file its objections against the report.

"The said directions by Calcutta HC are unwarranted and not sustainable in the eyes of law and should be quashed by the SC. HC order, which on one hand has called for a report from the CBI on the investigation, has further painted the entire state machinery at fault attributing culpability of state officials in the land grabbing allegations, which prima facie are unwarranted."

Relief for WB mantris but SC refuses to stay HC order to sack 25k teachers

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New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday did not stay Calcutta HC decision to junk appointment of over 25,000 teachers in West Bengal but stopped further probe by CBI into the recruitment scam as a spooked state apprehended that the central agency would destabilise the TMC govt by arresting the entire cabinet during electioneering.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra stood firm in its prima facie view about massive irregularities in recruitment, as pointed out by an HC division bench, and brushed aside spirited arguments from an array of senior advocates — Rakesh Dwivedi, Neeraj K Kaul, Dushyant Dave, Mukul Rohatgi, P S Patwalia and Jai-



During polls, CBI will register FIRs and the entire cabinet will go to jail, Bengal govt told SC, which saw merit in this argument and stayed the HC direction

deep Gupta — who sought a complete stay of HC order cancelling the entire teacher selection process.

Dwivedi and Kaul, egged on by the state's counsel Ashta Sharma, argued that one of the 14 directions issued by HC — "CBI to undertake further investigations regarding

persons involved in the state govt approving creation of supernumerary posts to accommodate illegal appointments. If necessary, CBI will undertake custodial interrogation of such persons involved" — would lead to arrest of all ministers as the cabinet had approved the note on creation of supernumerary posts on humanitarian grounds for wait-listed candidates.

"During elections, CBI will register FIRs and the entire cabinet will go to jail," Dwivedi said. The bench saw merit in this argument and stayed this particular HC direction while posting the matter for further hearing on May 6. However, SC did not interfere with the other 13 directions to CBI.

Dwivedi, appearing for the state govt, said CBI found 8,000-odd recruitments to be irregular and asked how HC

could cancel the recruitment of 25,000-odd teachers on this basis. The bench said, "The whole process is replete with irregularities."

CJ Chandrachud added, "Look at the process by which the whole recruitment was done. Originally, NYSA (an agency) was appointed for scanning and evaluating OMR answer sheets). Then Data Scantach comes in and the staff selection commission says it does not know how the second agency came in. OMR sheets are destroyed by SSC. The mirror images (of OMR sheets) are not there on the server any more. People who are not on the panel are recruited. This is a complete fraud. Why were supernumerary posts created even after irregularities were found in the recruitment? Ultimately, HC direction to CBI is to probe further."

SC recalls order allowing MTP of 31-wk pregnant rape survivor, 14

New Delhi: In a rare instance, SC on Monday recalled its April 22 order, passed in exercise of its omnibus powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do complete justice, allowing termination of a 14-year-old girl's 31-week pregnancy caused by alleged sexual assault, reports **Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

A bench headed by CJ D Y Chandrachud, on a petition filed by the minor's mother, had asked the dean of Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital and Medical College, Sion, Mumbai, to carry out the MTP after it perused a medical board's report suggesting that though termination of an advanced pregnancy was risky, carrying on with the pregnancy to its full term may have a deleterious impact on the minor's mental and physical health.

After court passed the order setting the stage for MTP, the girl's mother vacillated between termination of a fully grown foetus or allowing her minor daughter to deliver a baby which would be put up for adoption. She wanted an assurance that MTP would not harm her daughter in any manner. But doctors explained the complications involved in terminating an advanced pregnancy. Recognising the dilemma, bench decided to have a video conference with the girl's parents, the team of doctors tasked with conducting the MTP, counsel for the mother and Bhati. After a discussion, bench agreed with the parents on taking the pregnancy to its full term.

SC: Keeping live location on by accused can't be bail condition

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Terming the bail condition imposed on an accused to keep his Google location live round the clock and share it with an law enforcement agency so that it could track his whereabouts "superfluous", Supreme Court on Monday said such a condition should not be imposed by courts. Many courts, including SC, have imposed such a condition in the recent past.

Going by an affidavit filed by Google, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said as per the company it was not possible for others to keep track of a person. "In view of the affidavit... this cannot be imposed



as a condition for grant of bail," the bench said.

The advocate appearing for Google told SC that location sharing wouldn't serve the purpose of tracking the whereabouts of an accused. He said a person could share the location of his house when he might not be there.

"We agree that there are two instances where this court has done it, but it can-

not be a condition for bail," the bench said and reserved its order on this aspect. SC had recently imposed this condition while granting bail to Shoma Sen in the Elgar Parishad case.

The court had agreed to look into the working of Google location to decide whether an accused could be forced to share his live location through phone with the police as a condition to get bail. The court had sought response from ED, which supported the condition imposed by Delhi HC on an accused in a money laundering case. SC was hearing an appeal filed by ED against grant of bail to the accused. It had earlier refused to stay the bail but questioned the condition.

₹60cr cannabis seized off Guj, Maha duo held

Rupali.Mukherjee @timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: Hashish (cannabis resin) weighing 173kg and valued at Rs 60.5 crore was seized from an Indian fishing boat off the Gujarat coast Sunday and its two crew members arrested, officials said. The seizure comes two days after heroin worth Rs 600 crore was confiscated from a Pakistani boat and its crew of 14 held.

Mangesh Tukaram and Haridas Ramnath Kular, residents of Beed in Maharashtra, took delivery of the hashish from a Pakistani speed boat, Gujarat Police's ATS said Monday. Following a tip-off, ATS mounted the operation with Coast Guard and NCB officials.

Officials suspect involvement of more people. Initial findings suggests the accused were coordinating with Pakistan-based drug syndicates. **TNN**

Oppn creating fake videos of Shah, me to disrupt poll: PM

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Satara/Solapur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the opposition on Monday of conspiring to disrupt the peaceful electoral process so far by circulating fake videos of the BJP brass, including him and home minister Amit Shah.

"They have created fake videos of me, Amitbhai, (JP) Naddaji and some of our chief ministers. Using AI, they have put words in our mouth that we cannot even dream of uttering," Modi said while campaigning in Maharashtra, coinciding with the arrest of an alleged Congress "war room coordinator" in Assam for sharing such a video of Shah.

"I am making this charge with all seriousness. I want to make a special request to the Election Commission of India to take stringent action," he said. The PM, who was campaigning in Satara for BJP candidate Udayanraje Bhonsle, urged the crowd not to commit the crime of sharing videos that appear doctored. "If you get these videos on WhatsApp, please alert us. Do not circulate. Approach police."



NDA supporters at a road show in Mumbai on Monday

Congman 'linked' to fake Shah video held

A 31-year-old man was arrested in Guwahati on Monday for allegedly sharing a "fake video" of Union home minister Amit Shah. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on X the arrest of Reetom Singh, who is associated with Assam Congress and functions as the party's "war room coordinator", according to his social media profile.

Incidentally, BJP on Monday filed three complaints with EC. It accused Congress of circulating a "deep fake and morphed" video of Shah to disrupt the electoral process. BJP also lodged a complaint against TMC, alleging that the party has resorted to violence as a tactic, and urged the poll panel to ensure a fair election in West Bengal. The third complaint is against Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete for "exploitation and misuse of innocent children for political gains, during the ongoing polls."

A BJP delegation, comprising Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and national media cell in-charge Anil Baluni, presented these complaints to EC. "Congress wants to derail the election process through a deep fake and morphed video (of Amit Shah). It has tried to create confusion among people by posting the video from its official handle," said Vaishnaw. **TNN**

13-year-old buried in J&K landslide, Jhelum in spate triggers alarm

Sanjay Khajuria & Saleem Pandit | TNN

Jammu/Srinagar: A 13-year-old boy was buried alive as a fresh landslide hit Karool area in Ramban district on Monday even as incessant rains battered Jammu's hilly areas, triggering landslides and shooting stones along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway while also damaging houses with 2km radius of the spot of subsidence in Pernote village. The Jhelum's rising water levels, meanwhile, kept Kashmir Valley on the edge. All border roads were closed due to fresh snowfall and avalanche threat.

"The minor was identified as Yaqoob Mir, a resident of Karool Ramban. His body is yet to be recovered," said an official. "Land subsidence in village Pernote has led to sinking in Nimnad and Telga wards. Residents are at



Jhelum's water level touched the 'alarm' mark of 17.43ft in south Kashmir's Sangam gauge at 9pm Monday

risk," Ramban deputy commissioner Bashir-ul-Haq Choudhary posted on X. As a precautionary measure, as many as 100 families were moved from affected areas in Pernote to safer places.

Jhelum's water level touched the 'alarm' mark of 17.43ft in south Kashmir's Sangam gauge at 9pm Monday. An irrigation and flood control department official said: "Flood alert is declared as soon as it crosses the 2ft-mark. A flood is declared when the water level breaches 25ft."

Arms cache intercepted by Assam Rifles on Myanmar border

New Delhi: A large quantity of arms, ammunition and other "war-like stores" was intercepted on Monday by Assam Rifles in Mon district of Nagaland close to the India-Myanmar border.

Acting upon intelligence inputs, Assam Rifles launched the search operation in the early hours that led to the apprehension of an individual and the seizure of 11 mortar tubes (81mm), four mortar tubes (106mm), 198 hand-held radio sets, a satellite phone, a Kenbo bike and a Bolero vehicle.

"Recovery of these heavy-caliber military grade weapons close to the border is a major success for the border sealing operation being carried out by Assam Rifles. It is also a major blow to the nefarious designs of inimical elements trying to disturb the peace in the region," an officer said. The apprehended individual and the seized arms were later handed over to the Nagaland Police. **TNN**

Nestle working on Cerelac with 'no added sugar'

Rupali.Mukherjee @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Under attack for high sugar content in baby food Cerelac sold in the country, the Swiss FMCG major is planning to launch the popular infant formula with "no added sugar" in India.

The company has already been on a journey to reduce it to a bare minimum, but this will gather momentum now, Nestle's chairman and managing director Suresh Narayanan said here Monday.

"Hopefully we would like to see a product with no added sugar...the journey to make our products more efficacious continues, and the direction of the company is very clear. The company has reduced sugar by 30% in the last five years...the journey

continues and what portion gets dropped over a period of time, the efficiency of science and R&D will tell. But in the end position, we would like to look at a product at some time hopefully with no added sugar."

Narayanan, who took charge of Nestle's Indian operations at the height of the Maggi controversy, claimed that Cerelac complies with local food norms, with the added sugar content in the baby food much lower than what India's food regulator permits, and in compliance with Codex, the international food standards body.

The FSSAI prescribes a maximum permissible level of added sugar to 13.6 gm per 100 gm of serving for baby cereal. On average, Nestle's Cerelac brand contains 7.1 grams (per 100 gm).

TN teacher held guilty in sexual favours case

Madurai: Six years after an audio clip — wherein Nirmala Devi, then an assistant professor at a Tamil Nadu college, was found luring girl students to offer sexual favours to senior officials — went viral, she was convicted by Srivilliputhur Mahila Court on Monday, reports **Arockiaraj J**. The court will pronounce the quantum of punishment Tuesday.

Two other accused in the case — V Murugan, assistant professor at Madurai Kamaraj University, and S Karuppasamy, a research scholar — were, however, acquitted for lack of evidence.

After the clip of her telephonic conversation with girl students went viral on social media, Nirmala — then assistant professor at Devanga Arts College in Aruppukottai — was arrested on April 16, 2016.

Amendments to tighten law on misleading drug ads stalled since '20

Rema.Nagarajan @timesgroup.com

While the Supreme Court has taken a serious view of misleading ads, amendments to strengthen the Drug and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 have been in limbo with the Union health ministry since February 2020. In response to an RTI application received last month that the matter was still "pending". The committee that drafted the amendment bill had

recommended the DMR(OA) (Amendment) Bill 2020 "in order to giving the sharper teeth (sic) and to keep pace with the changing time and technology". The main changes proposed were to enhance punishment and to increase the number of conditions for which ads for drugs claiming to diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat, or prevent would be prohibited from 54 to 78. The penalty was to increase from "imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both" for first conviction to "imprisonment which may extend to two years and fine

TIMES VIEW: Sitting on a bill that will benefit millions of people for four years betrays a lack of seriousness. Hopefully, the bill with the necessary amendments will be put before the legislature and cleared immediately after Parliament reconvenes.

up to ten lakh rupees". For subsequent convictions, penalty under DMRA is "imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both". The amendment proposed to increase it to imprisonment up to five years and fine up to fifty lakh rupees.

The health ministry had constituted the committee through an order dated December 10, 2019. It included representatives from Ayush ministry, consumer affairs department, information and broadcasting ministry and a few state drug controllers. The draft amendment bill was made public for comments on February 3, 2020, just when Covid struck.

All comments received were compiled by the CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation) and sent it to the ministry by the end of June 2020. A draft cabinet note was put up before the health minister in November 2020 and a slide presentation on the draft was made by the CDSCO on the request of the ministry. The next month, it was suggested that the draft be circulated among all states as they would be the ones to implement it. The file circulated some more till Covid put a stop to it.

It was next picked up in September 2022 when it was decided that a meeting ought to be held with the drug controller general of India on the matter. From the RTI re-

ply recently, it appears that there has been no progress after that.

The DMRA amendment was initiated on the recommendation of a Parliamentary standing committee, whose report tabled in March 2018 stated that "it is the need of the hour to strictly monitor and regulate the misleading advertisements for promoting the sale of AYUSH medicine".

Unlike the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1950, DMRA brings within its ambit medicines of all systems including Ayurvedic drugs. This is why many of the complaints

against Patanjali's drugs were filed under DMRA as they claimed to cure/treat diseases listed under the DMRA. "Despite the parliamentary committee's recommendation to enact a strong law to prevent misleading and illegal ads, it is clear from the file noting that I obtained through RTI, that there is no file movement since 2022. I complained to the Prime Minister's office and even after direction from the PMO, they are sitting on it," said Dr Babu, an ophthalmologist and RTI activist, who has filed several complaints against Patanjali ads for violating DMRA.

Plea to bar Modi from polls for 6 yrs devoid of merit: HC

Says EC Obligated To Take Independent View On Complaint

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Terming it "thoroughly misconceived" Delhi high court Monday dismissed a petition that sought directions to disqualify PM Narendra Modi from contesting elections for six years for allegedly seeking votes in the name of deities.

Justice Sachin Datta said the plea was "devoid of any merits" and pointed out that the petitioner had approached court while his plea before Election Commission is pending.

Petitioner Anand S Jondhale, a lawyer, had urged the court to act against Modi for allegedly seeking votes in the name of gods and places of worship, saying this amounted to violating the model code



The petitioner had urged the court to act against Modi for allegedly seeking votes in the name of gods and places of worship, saying this amounted to violating the MCC

of conduct and committing an offence under the Indian Penal Code and Representation of the People Act.

But HC said his plea is thoroughly misconceived and listed multiple reasons, including that once the petitioner submitted a complaint to EC on April 10, there was no reason for him to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of HC. "The petitioner presupposes that there has been a violation

of the model code of conduct. This presupposition is completely unjustified. It is not permissible for this court to direct EC to take a particular view on the petitioner complaint or any other complaint for that matter and issue peremptory directions as sought by the petitioner," the court noted.

It underlined that EC is obliged to take an independent view on the complaint of the petitioner and if he is ag-

grieved by it, he is free to take the recourse of appropriate remedy available under the law.

During the hearing, advocate Sidhant Kumar, representing EC, said the commission is receiving complaints every day and is processing these. Similarly, appropriate orders will be passed on the current plea. The petition said the PM delivered a speech in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, on April 9 where he "not only sought votes in the name of Hindu and Sikh deities and their places of worship but also made comments against opposition political parties as favouring Muslims."

He sought to restrain the prime minister from seeking votes in the name of religious deities and places of worship.

Reservation is 'atonement for our ancestors' sins': PM

Abhijit.Atre@timesgroup.com

Solapur: The responsibility of dispensing social justice to oppressed and backward sections is "atonement for the sins our ancestors may have committed", PM Modi said Monday in a retort to the opposition's allegation that BJP aims to do away with reservation over the long term.

"Check my record over the last five years. I have the numbers (in Parliament) on my side. But I never wanted to walk that path (revoking reservation)," the PM said in western Maharashtra's reserved constituency of Solapur, where BJP's Ram Satpute is taking on Praniti Shinde, daughter of Congress veteran and former Union minister Sushilkumar Shinde.

"Forget me, even Babasaheb Ambedkar (had he been alive) wouldn't be able to scrap reservation in India. I am committed to upholding that policy for all oppressed classes, SCs, STs and OBCs." Modi, who had famously



PM Modi interacts with people during his visit to Uttara Kannada on Monday. Modi said he had never wanted to revoke reservations

spoken about the new generation having to right the wrongs of previous generations while referring to social justice during a December 2015 speech in Parliament, said the only thing he would always oppose was reservation on religious lines, as envisioned by Congress.

At Satara, his next campaign stops in the region, the PM said he could give in writing that Congress's attempt to expand nationwide the "Karnataka mod-

el" of granting reservation to all Muslims through the OBC quota would fail. "Till Modi is alive, he won't allow such a reservation policy."

Citing schemes undertaken by the NDA govt for the uplift of Dalits and other backward communities, he said over 25 crore such people had come out of poverty in the past decade.

"Neeyat sahi hai to natije bhi sahi milte hai (an honest motive will yield a positive result)," the PM added.

POLL POT

Modi fan lands in wedding card soup

A groom found himself embroiled in controversy after his wedding invitation sparked debate over his political affiliation, police said on Monday. Uppinangady Police in Puttur taluk of Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka, responded to a complaint lodged by officials overseeing election code adherence. The focal point of contention was the tagline in the wedding invitation. "The best present you will give the couple is electing Modi as PM once again," it said. According to police, a complaint was lodged by one of the groom's relatives to EC regarding the tagline. EC officials visited the groom's residence on April 14. The groom explained that the invitations were printed on March 1, before election dates were announced. He clarified that the tagline expresses admiration for PM Modi and concern for the nation. The marriage took place on April 18.

Modi's third term will ensure UCC, says Shah in Bihar

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

Patna: Union home minister Amit Shah Monday said PM Narendra Modi's third term will ensure uniform civil code (UCC) in the country. Addressing election rallies in Jharkhand and Begusarai, Shah said the opposition would not be able to come to power and hence their claims like bringing back Article 370 and triple talaq would never fructify.

Shah recalled how Rahul Gandhi had opposed the abrogation of Article 370 in J&K and said Congress and its allies were against the Ram temple construction at Ayodhya and abolition of triple talaq.

He said both Congress and RJD chief Lalu Prasad have always acted against backward and extremely backward castes to promote dynastic rule and blamed them for ignoring former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur, who was honoured with the Bharat Ratna by NDA govt.

Targeting Congress, Shah said had the party not opposed the Mandal Commission report in 1990, members of the backward class would have got reservation in 1957 itself. "The grand old party shelved the Kaka Kelkar Committee report because of which the backwards suf-



Amit Shah with Giriraj Singh in Bihar's Begusarai on Monday

fered," he alleged. Shah also asked people whether they want a 'majboor' (compulsive) or a 'majboot' (strong) govt, which only Modi can provide.

"The opposition alliance doesn't even know its PM face and wants to run the country in turns on a yearly basis. While Lalu wants to make his son Tejashwi the Bihar CM, Sonia Gandhi is only interested in ensuring her son Rahul is India's PM," Shah said.

He reminded people of scams including the fodder scam, cobalt machine purchase scam, bitumen and land-for-railway-job scams while targeting opposition.

While rooting for BJP candidate Giriraj Singh in Begusarai, Shah praised his works as a minister in the Modi govt. (With inputs from CS Jha Azad in Madhubani)

Rohini, daughter who gave Lalu a kidney, files her poll nomination

Chhapra: Seeking to make her Lok Sabha debut, Rohini Acharya Monday filed her nomination papers as RJD candidate from Saran constituency that was once her father Lalu Prasad's fortress, reports H K Verma. Rohini, who is pitted against sitting MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy of BJP, was accompanied by Lalu, mother Rabri Devi, sister Misa Bharti, and brothers Tej and Tejashwi.

Addressing RJD supporters, she said she was happy to contest from the "prestigious seat of Saran for the rise of a new sun of development". Praising Tejaswi, she claimed he had provided jobs to over five lakh youths in 17 months when he was Bihar's deputy CM. She assured that she too would work for the people.

Speaking at the rally, Lalu expressed gratitude to the people of Saran, saying it was here that he had started his "rags to riches" journey in politics. Tejaswi reminded the people Rohini had saved Lalu's life by donating her kidney, and appealed to them to vote for her.

Prez was not allowed to attend temple event as she is an adivasi: Rahul

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: Congress' Rahul Gandhi said President Droupadi Murmu was not allowed to attend Ram Temple inauguration because she is an adivasi.

"Our President is an adivasi. She is the head of state and the highest in protocol. But when Parliament inauguration happened and when Ram Temple inauguration took place, she was not allowed to attend. It is a matter of shame. She was not allowed to enter either Ram Temple or the Parliament. Why? Because she is an adivasi," Gandhi alleged.

He was addressing an election rally on Monday in Gujarat's Patan. "Congress will augment partic-

ipation of those from SCs, STs, OBCs and poor from general category by conducting a caste census and economic survey if voted to power," Rahul said.

He alleged that BJP and RSS want to change the Constitution and that the 2024 elections is a contest to decide whether the Constitution, and democracy, would be saved or not.

"Ninety per cent of the country's population comprises SCs, STs, OBCs and poor from the general category, but you will not find their representation in the corporate and media (sectors), private hospitals, private universities or as bureaucrats in govt. We will first do a caste survey and economic survey after coming to power," he said.

'Bhakti aatma' reason for Maha 'instability': PM

Pune: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday stood on NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar's Maharashtra turf and let fly a barb about a "bhakti aatma (wandering soul) with unfulfilled dreams trying to destroy that of others, including family members", reports Anurag Bende.

Modi, campaigning in Pune for Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra, said without taking names that "a Maharashtra politician known for his big ambitions" had become so "unsettled" that he was ready to destabilise the state and the country.

Sunetra, whose husband is Pawar's nephew, is contesting Baramati LS seat against the latter's daughter Supriya Sule.

"The bhakti aatma started playing this game 45 years ago. Since then, Maharashtra has been witnessing instability," Modi said, blaming him for several CMs not being able to last their elected terms.

Mukhtar mention attracts trouble

Samajwadi Party's Sambhal candidate Zia Ur Rahman Barq, the grandson of incumbent MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq, sought votes in the name of the "sacrifice" of gangsters-turned-politicians Atiq Ahmad, Mukhtar Ansari and Md Shahabuddin. An FIR was lodged against him late on Monday for the speech. He also sought votes mentioning the alleged "ill-treatment" meted out to veteran SP leader Azam Khan and his family. Zia was felled by the party after his grandfather died in March. "Situation in Sambhal, the entire state and country is not hidden from anyone. When Yogi 'maharaj' came to Bilari (a town in Sambhal), he intimidated people with a bulldozer. He is a victim of misunderstanding, we'll make their engine fail this election," Zia said at Mohalla Chaman Sarai in Sambhal's Sadar area on Sunday night.

CCTV fails in TN strongroom

Two days after a CCTV camera in a strongroom malfunctioned in TN's Nilgiris, a similar incident in Erode's strongroom disrupted live streaming from a camera for an hour early Monday, prompting DMK to write to the CEC to prevent a security breach. One CCTV camera, of the 220 in a strongroom in IRTT engineering college, malfunctioned at midnight but was restored within an hour, said the Erode district collector and election officer Raja Gopal Sunkara. "A technical error caused the malfunction," Sunkara added.

Rajnath's Grand Nomination Spectacle



Defence minister Rajnath Singh filed his nomination on Monday seeking a third term as Lucknow MP following a carnival-like road show peppered with music and slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram', 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Rajnath Singh zindabad'. Singh was accompanied by CMs Yogi Adityanath and Pushkar Singh Dhami, among others

Irani files papers from Amethi

Amethi: Union minister and BJP MP Smriti Irani, who wrested the Amethi Lok Sabha seat from Rahul Gandhi in 2019, filed her nomination papers Monday, seeking a second straight term from the constituency that was earlier a pocket borough of the Nehru-Gandhi family. Attacking Rahul, who represented the constituency from 2004 to 2019, Irani said, "There was a time when, due to the missing MP, farmers of Amethi had to face lathis for 15 years for fertiliser. The prime minister freed the farmers from this serious problem by building a fertiliser centre here." TNN

Timed to Rahul's MP visit, another Cong MLA may exit to join BJP

Suchandana.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Bhopal: Speculation swirled that Congress might suffer another shock in Madhya Pradesh when former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi arrives to campaign in Bhopal on Tuesday, after the party's Indore candidate Akshay Kanti Bam's "betrayal" as he withdrew his nomination and switched allegiance to BJP on Monday.

Amidst rumours circulating for a month, there is anticipation that a second Congress MLA could defect to BJP, with the timing synchronised to coincide with Rahul's visit for maximum impact. The speculated MLA is a

veteran Congress functionary from Chambal who served as a minister in the Digvijaya Singh-led state govt in the 1990s. Efforts were made by Digvijaya to dissuade the MLA from leaving Congress, with a series of meetings held for this purpose, sources said.

REVOLVING DOOR

The outcome of these efforts remains to be seen on Tuesday. Aligned with Jyotiraditya Scindia's faction, the party functionary remained with Congress when Scindia joined BJP in March 2020 along with 22 MLAs, leading to the downfall of the Kamal Nath-led govt. He wasn't an

MLA then. However, after becoming an MLA, sources said he has been cosying up to BJP.

If the defection happens, it would mark the second Congress MLA to quit within six months following the assembly elections. On March 29, Kamlesh Shah, a three-time MLA for Amarwara in Chhindwara, left Congress to join BJP. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to arrive in Gwalior from New Delhi around 11.50am on Tuesday. From there, Gandhi will proceed to MP's Bhopal, where he is slated to address a public meeting in support of his party candidate Phool Singh Baraiya — who is contesting against BJP MP Sandhya Rai.

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<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">HITACHI</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">5 Years Comprehensive Warranty</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">ZERO DOWN PAYMENT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">CASHBACK UPTO ₹2,500</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">viqe</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">ZERO DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">VOLTAS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">60 Months Comprehensive Warranty</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">ZERO DOWN PAYMENT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">CASHBACK UPTO ₹3,000</p>

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 1620242025 Dated: 26.04.2024

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-

E-Tender Notice No.:1620242025-34 Approx Cost (In ₹): ₹2,23,36,580.24

Name of Work: Dismantling & Sale of abandoned structure under DEN/EP/RYJ, as & where possible including all released ferrous, wooden material etc. including disposal of unusable material / Malba as directed by Engineer In-charge

Earnest Money (In ₹): ₹ 2,61,700.00, **Date & Time of Closing of tender:** 20.05.2024 at 15:00 PM, **Completion Period:** 06 Months, **Nature of work:** Any Civil Engineering works.1) For full details and submission of tenders, please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

757/24(DG)
@CPNCR @northcentralrailway www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) **Jharna Sarula @ Jarina W/o Mujaffar Saeula (2) Mujaffar Ali S/o Lt. Lal Miya Sarul both R/o H.No. 5889, Indira Gali No. 5, Subhash Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi** have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 57/2012 U/s 308/323/341/506/34 IPC, PS Gandhi Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) **Jharna Sarula @ Jarina (2) Mujaffar Ali** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) **Jharna Sarula @ Jarina (2) Mujaffar Ali** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Jharna Sarula @ Jarina (2) Mujaffar Ali** of case FIR No. 57/2012 U/s 308/323/341/506/34 IPC, PS Gandhi Nagar, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **31.05.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Sushant Changotra
Additional Session Judge-05
Room No. 30
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/5032/SHD/2024(Court Matter)

MAHAGENCO

NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER

Procurement of Non Torrefied Biomass Pellets on for Power Station basis for Co-firing with coal for Bhusawal thermal power plant of Mahagenco

TENDER NO.: CE/FM/EE2/Biomass/2024/BTPS/47981
Rfx No.- 3000047981

Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd. is state power generation utility. Mahagenco invites online Bids (Two bid system i.e. Separate bid for technical/commercial & price bid) for Procurement of Non Torrefied Biomass Pellets on for Power Station basis for Co-firing with coal for Bhusawal thermal power plant of Mahagenco.

The Bid specification will be available for downloading from 30.04.2024 (16:00 hrs) on website <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in> after completion of online vendor registration process. Registration fee is Rs. 5000/- + Taxes Extra & Tender fee is Rs. 5000/- + Taxes Extra.

1) Period of Contract : 3 Years extendable by further 1 year.
2) Estimated Quantity : 2,07,400 MT/Year
3) Sale of tender from : 30.04.2024 (16:00 Hrs.)
4) Last Date of payment of tender fees on <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in> : 15.05.2024 (up to 16:00 Hrs.)
5) Due date of Submission of bids : 16.05.2024 (up to 16:00 Hrs.)
6) Due date for opening of techno-commercial bids : 16.05.2024 (up to 17:00 Hrs.)

Detailed tender can be viewed on <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in>
MAHAGENCO reserves the right to cancel/ withdraw this invitation for Bids without assigning any reason for such decision.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER (FM)

Contact Details:
For e-tendering help-022-26474211 (Extension-3657 & 2492), 9167640613
For Tender Info- Phone No.: 9324213682 / 8879105798
Email: cefmc@mahagenco.in

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E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-1

The pre-bid clarification of the E-Tender for "Augmentation of 220 kV Substation Jhajhra (from 2x160 MVA to 3x160 MVA Transformer at 220/132 kV Voltage level and 2x80 MVA to 3x80 MVA Transformer at 132/33 kV Voltage level)" against tender specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-15/2023-24 has been uploaded on e tender website and the last date of submission of E-Tender is hereby extended upto **09.05.2024 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCUL_171323_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
RO 701/HQ/PTCUL Date: 29.04.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)
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Corrigendum

In reference to advertisement No. I-33/ER/ACAD/2023-2024 for the Hepatobiliary Diseases & Liver Transplant Unit, it is notified that the department may be read as "Hepatobiliary Diseases and Liver Transplant Unit under the department of Surgical Gastroenterology" instead of "Hepatobiliary Diseases & Liver Transplant Unit" and preference will be given to candidates with experience in liver transplantation in parentheses. The details of advertisement can be viewed on www.sggpims.org.in

Further last date of receiving of application only for Sr. no. 34 of main advertisement is now extended till 10th May, 2024. The cut-off date for determining the qualifications and experience is hereby fixed as 10th May, 2024.

Advt. No. I/01/ER/ACAD/2024-25 DIRECTOR

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo) name **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** age about 45 years was found dead at Near Sardar Patel Jheel, Gram Sabha Pooth Kalan, Delhi on 25.02.2024 at 7:43:04 hrs. In this regard a DD No. 19-A Dated 25.02.2024 has been lodged at PS Begumpur, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** about 45 years, **Height:** 5' 2" ft. approx., **Complexion:** Shallow.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-
SHO
Website:<http://cbl.nic.in> PS: Begumpur, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in Ph.: 011-27579033, 27581177
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob.: 8750870323
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/3165/RD/2024

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e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No.: IRCON/2065/KSP/ELECT/Gen-T&P/03 Date 01.05.2024
e-Tender for and on behalf of West Central Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Internal External Electrification of Residential quarters, platform lighting, Station buildings, HTLT power supply arrangement, solar plants, power line modification etc. for balance general electrical work in Katri-Singrauli section and Supply of Tools & Plants in connection to Katri Singrauli Doubling Project of West Central Railway."

Estimated Cost of the Work ₹ 11,06,28,288/-
Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission 21.05.2024, 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website: <https://tenders.gov.in/eprocureapp>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Chief General Manager (Elect.), IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
1st Floor, Above Maruti Suzuki Showroom, Near Jhunjhni Police Station, NH-7, Jabalpur Road, Katri-483501

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rohit @ Rahul, S/o Sh. Balbir Singh, R/o C-6/216,217 Top Floor, C Block, Sultanpuri Delhi 2nd Add C-3/99, Sultanpuri, Nithari C-Block Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 760/2015 U/s 356/379/411 IPC, P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rohit @ Rahul** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rohit @ Rahul** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rohit @ Rahul of FIR No. 760/2015 U/s 356/379/411 IPC, P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.07.2024**.

By Order
Ms Sanya Dalal
Metropolitan Magistrate-01
Room No.102,1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Dehli

DP/4184/OD/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Sanjeev, S/o: Shashi Kant, R/o: Jhuggi No. 6, Nand Lal, Gopalpur Village, Timarpur, Delhi** has been missing since 20.05.2016 from his home. In this regard FIR No. 273/2016, Dated 27.05.2016 has been registered at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Sanjeev, Age: 29 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Red Colour T-Shirt, Black Colour Jeans and Slipper in Feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Timarpur, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Timarpur, Delhi
Ph: 011-23812734, 8750870130

DP/4988/N/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Lakshay Khullar, S/o Sh. Padam Bhushan, R/o I-71, Gali No. 4, Som Bazar, Vijay Vihar, Phase-2, Rohini, Delhi** has committed the offences (or is suspected to have committed) in case FIR No. 13534/21, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Lakshay Khullar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Lakshay Khullar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Lakshay Khullar** accused of FIR No. 13534/21, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. North Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.06.2024**.

By Order
Ms. Ebbani Aggarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate (N/W)
Room No. 107, First Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/4898/RD/2024

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age : Around 40 years, Height : 5'8", Face: Oval, Complexion : Shallow, Build: Normal, wearing red colour suit-salwar**, was found dead on 25.04.2024 Near Public Toilet, Under Flyover, Khajuri Khas, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 0029A dated 25.04.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO : P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-22968700, 22960459, 08750870706

DP/5019/NE/24

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Sr. DE/ETRD/Aggra for and on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on-line only (e-Tendering) for the following work:

S N	Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate Cost	Earnest Money
1	AGCTRD/202401	Shifting of 66 kV Transmission Line due to construction of two-lane ROB at LC 588 & 571 on New Delhi - Palwal section.	Rs. 27627634.60	Rs. 288100/-

Period of completion: Twelve months. 1. For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Tender can only be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 15:30 Hrs. on date 17.05.2024 753/24 (D)

North central railways @ www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPNCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Priti Chouhan W/o Satish Chouhan R/o Plot No. 27D, C-Block, Parvash Nagar, Village Mubarakpur Dabas, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 691/21 dated 06.08.2021 u/s 25 NDPS Act. P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Priti Chouhan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Priti Chouhan** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Priti Chouhan** accused of FIR No. 691/21 dated 06.08.2021 u/s 25 NDPS Act. P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **01.06.2024**.

By Order: Satbir Singh Lamba
Additional Session Judge,
Room No. 132, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/4884/OD/24

15L Char Dham yatra bookings registered in a fortnight: Scorching speculation that Char Dham yatra will witness a dip following opening of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, its advance booking exceeded the 15 lakh mark in just a fortnight, officials said. TNN

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

- Provision of Anti-Crash Barrier on ROB in Railway portion in the section of ADEN/GZB and ADEN/SMQL jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-II
- Augmentation of signal workshop/GZB by provision of improvement to administrative block, block shop, foundry shop and replacement of doors & windows, valley gutter & Rain water pipe etc under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II
- Provision of hardonite flooring in various workshop of EMU car shed under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-II
- Up gradation of Electric loco shed GZB by provision of repair to boundary wall and complete replacement of roofing in various sheds and WRP etc. along with improvement of other civil items e.g. doors, windows, shutters etc under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-II
- Up-gradation of signal workshop/GZB by provision of hardonite flooring & repair to shed/roof, road, toilets, water booths and improvement of drainage facilities and boundary wall by provision of concertina coil etc. under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II

Approx. Cost of work As per NIT on IREPS
Earnest Money to be Deposit As per NIT on IREPS
Cost of tender document ₹ 0.00/-
Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender 21.05.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen www.ireps.gov.in

Allocation	
26304203 & 20426203	

*The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
*For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
*No manual offers are acceptable.
*Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.
No. 128-W/2024 Tender Notice/NIT 01/02/03/04/05/2024/W-2
Dated: 29.04.2024 1279/2024

Serving Customers With A Smile

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited

(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उद्यम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
CIN No. L40101HP1988GOI008409

Notices Inviting Tender (NIT)

NIT No.: SJVN/CC-Delhi/LO/CS&P/4384 Date: 04.04.2024
SJVN Limited hereby invites ONLINE bids from the eligible bidders for "Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of SJVN's 47.60 MW (56 x850 kW) Khirvi Wind Power Station (KWPS) at Khirvi/Kombhane Villages, Taluka Akole, District Ahmednagar in the State of Maharashtra for 05 (five) years". The NIT Document can be downloaded from the websites www.sjvn.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in and GEM portal (Bid No. GEM/2024/B/4836144 dt 03.04.2024 to 02.05.2024 till 19:00 Hrs (IST)). The Bid is to be submitted ONLINE on the GEM Portal i.e. <https://gem.gov.in>. The prospective bidders are requested to remain updated through above mentioned websites for any clarification or notification concerned with this NIT, as no further information will be published in respect of this NIT through any other media.
Last Date & Time for submission of bids : 02.05.2024 till 19:00 Hrs
Date & Time of opening of bids : 02.05.2024 at 19:30 Hrs

Dy. General Manager (C&P)
6th Floor, Tower1, NBCC Office Complex,
East Kidwai Nagar New Delhi-110023. Ph- 011-61901906/61901953
Our Shared Vision: 25000 MW by 2030; 50000 MW by 2040

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: Approx 50-55 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Build: Medium, Injury Mark: Face crushed, Head separated from body and burn mark on right hand, was wearing Green colour Lower, Red & Blue & Yellow colour Check Shirt, Black colour Shoes and Yellow colour Blue linedar Gamcha**, was found dead at KM Pole No. 11/13, 11/15 Up main line, under Karnal bypass flyover at Railway Line. In this regard a DD No. 35A, dated 26.04.2024, has been lodged at P.S. Subji Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. His dead body has been preserved in Subji Mandi Mortuary for 72 Hrs. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Subji Mandi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 7678485707 9625614517

DP/5047/Rly/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anil Bhardwaj S/o Sh. Satpal Bhardwaj R/o H.No. G-342, Ram Park, Khanpur Road, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 602/2014 U/s 33 Ex. Act, P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Anil Bhardwaj** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anil Bhardwaj** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anil Bhardwaj** of case FIR No. 602/2014 U/s 33 Ex. Act, P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **31.05.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Himanshu Sehloth
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Room No. 213, 2nd Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/5066/NW/2024(Court Matter)

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited

(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उद्यम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
CIN No. L40101HP1988GOI008409

Notice Inviting Request for Selection (RIS)

RIS No.: SJVN/CC-Delhi/REIA/2024-25/SOLAR-2 Date: 30.04.2024
SJVN Limited has been designated as a Renewable Energy Implementing Agency (REIA) vide Office Memorandum F. No. 283/33/2020-GRID SOLAR dated 24.04.2023 issued by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India. SJVN Limited hereby invites ONLINE bids from the eligible bidders for "Selection of Solar Power Developers for setting up of 1200 MW ISTs-connected Solar Power Projects anywhere in India under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding". The Request for Selection (RIS) Document can be downloaded from the websites www.sjvn.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in and the e-tendering Portal: <https://www.bharat-electronicstender.com>, from 01.05.2024 to 17.06.2024 till 18:00 Hrs (IST). The Bid is to be submitted ONLINE on the e-tendering portal i.e. <https://www.bharat-electronicstender.com>. The prospective bidders are requested to remain updated through above mentioned websites for any clarification or notification concerned with this RIS, as no further information will be published in respect of this RIS through any other media.
Last Date & Time for submission of bids : 17.06.2024 till 18:00 Hrs
Date & Time of opening of Technical bids : 21.06.2024 at 11:00 Hrs

Dy. General Manager (C&P)
6th Floor, Tower1, NBCC Office Complex,
East Kidwai Nagar New Delhi-110023. Ph- 011-61901906/61901953
Our Shared Vision: 25000 MW by 2030; 50000 MW by 2040

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Two Packet system for the following work:

- Name of work and location:** "Balance work for Const. of four lane ROB having single span 1x64.05 M (Bow String steel girder) c/c of pier and balance work of approach of already pushed Limited Height Subway along the ROB in lieu of L-xing No.61 at Km 99/23-25 near Kohand Railway station on Delhi-Ambala section of Northern Railway"
- Completion period of the work :** 09 (Nine) months
- Approx. Cost of work :** Rs. 1583.50 Lakhs
- Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 9.41,800/-
- Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website :** Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 06.05.2024 to 21.05.2024 upto 11.30 hrs.
- Last date/Time of upload of tenders :** 21.05.2024 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website i.e. 06.05.2024 to 21.05.2024.
- Date and time of opening of tender :** 21.05.2024 at 11.30 hours

No.: 524-Acs/Balance work/ROB-61/Kohand/CSB Dated: 29.04.2024 1277/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

After defection of candidate, MP Cong chief draws criticism

Indore: With Congress candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrawing his nomination, Indore is the second constituency in MP where BJP has got a near walkover after Khajuraho, where the SP candidate forgot to sign the nomination papers, reports Sagar Choukse.

Bam sprung the last-minute surprise on Congress after seeking votes for himself under the party banner on Monday morning — the last day for withdrawal of nominations. Towards afternoon, he suddenly vanished. Concern began mounting in the Congress camp.

Congress workers were stunned when Bam was seen entering the district election office, escorted by BJP MLA Ramesh Mendola. Outside, waiting in an SUV, was state minister Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Bam, a businessman, ignored media questions after stepping out of the election office, where Congress and BJP workers came to blows. Less than an hour later, Vijayvargiya posted a photograph on X showing him, Bam and Mendola, all smiling in a car. Vijayvargiya hosted a joint press conference with Bam, who announced that he was impressed by PM Narendra Modi's 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' concept. "I have just changed my path. I have chosen the path where there are people with patriotism to reach the goals," he said.

In Congress, there was confusion, bedlam and plenty of finger-pointing, mostly at PCC chief Jitu Patwari. Party's Indore unit working president Devendra Singh fumed. "Bam was campaigning in Choithram Mandi area with me in the morning. He betrayed the party in the afternoon. I'd always questioned the party's decision to ignore genuine and dedicated party leaders and field Bam, solely on the basis of his wealth. I had predicted that he would withdraw."

Tough for even a non-believer Muslim to come under ISA

► Continued from P 1

The woman said she had a brother who was afflicted with Down Syndrome and she and her father, a widower, took care of him. She said as per Shariat, daughter gets just half the share of what sons are entitled to as successors of their father, which in this case meant the son would receive two-thirds of her father's property and she would get one-third.

Her counsel Prashant Padmanabhan argued that if "something happened to the son", then his share would not go to her or her daughter, but to some relative of her father. "There is no authority where my father can go and say that he is a non-believer Muslim and that he would like to give effect to an equitable succession through the secular ISA," he said.

After reading Section 3 of the Shariat law, the bench said if the father does not make a declaration that he is a Muslim, he could escape the rigours of Muslim personal law. But the CJ-led bench then looked at Section 58 of the ISA, which provides that "testamentary succession (wills) to the property of any Muhammadan" will not be covered by this legislation.

The bench realised that even if a non-believer Muslim attempts to wriggle out of the rigours of discriminatory succession rights under the Shariat law, he would still find it difficult to bring himself under the umbrella of ISA.

4 convicted in hooch case that killed 106

Mumbai: Observing that this was a tragic incident which caused death of 106 persons and injuries including permanent loss of eyesight to 75, a sessions court on Monday convicted four of 14 accused in the 2015 Malvani hooch tragedy case. Accused were found guilty under culpable homicide charge which attracts a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. They were acquitted of murder charge. Quantum of sentence is likely to be pronounced on May 6, reports Rebecca Samervel.

Ex-IPS officer moves SC over dismissal of his candidacy

New Delhi: Former IPS officer and Birbhum BJP candidate Debashish Dhar on Monday sought urgent hearing of his petition challenging the returning officer's decision to reject his nomination papers and alleged that this was done to help Trinamool Congress candidate get a walkover in the sensitive Lok Sabha seat.

Advocate Nidhesh Gupta pleaded with a bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud for an urgent listing, alleging that the RO had frivolously rejected Dhar's nomination papers on grounds that he had not attached "no dues certificate" from Bengal govt.

A 2010 Bengal cadre officer, Dhar resigned from service on March 21. On March 27, the President accepted his resignation and home ministry had written to state govt to settle all dues of Dhar. The state released him from service without issuing a no dues certificate. On April 24, he filed his nomination, but two days later it was rejected by the RO. TNN

Delhi court issues fresh summons to BBC UK office

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sent a fresh summons to BBC at its UK address as previous attempts to serve summons were unsuccessful. The matter will be heard in Aug 2024.

District judge Ruchika Singla's court, noting that summons issued to BBC were not received, directed on April 27 that the same "be issued afresh on UK address" in compliance with an order dated July 7, 2023 on filing of PF "within seven days". In July 2023, the court had issued summons to BBC in a defamation suit filed by BJP politician Binay Kumar Singh requesting that the UK national broadcaster be restrained from publishing a recent documentary on PM Modi or any other material related to RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The suit says allegations made in the documentary against RSS & VHP are motivated by malicious intent to defame the organisations, its members. TNN

4 'walls' seen in excavation at Bhojshala, says Hindu side

Indore/Mhow: ASI carried out excavations at four of eight blocks inside the Bhojshala main building on Monday. Hindu representative Gopal Sharma said a wall-like structure has become visible and portions of four such walls are now seen, one of which is 50 feet long.

Excavation was done on the northern and southern sides and workers were removing soil and silt very slowly, he said, adding that inscriptions inside the Kamal Maula Dargah were traced on paper rolls and walls were treated with chemicals.

A portion of a broken statue-like structure was excavated in the central hall, believed to be the sanctum sanctorum by Hindus. Soil removal work may take two-three days more, he said. Reacting to the survey, Dhar Shahar Qazi Waqar Sadiq said, "ASI is violating SC orders in relation to survey as they are doing physical excavation which could harm the monument." TNN

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

S&T WORK
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, South East Central Railway, Nagpur, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for execution of work mentioned below. Name of the work: S&T work in connection with TTR(CS+CMSC) without PSC layout (1 in 12) in Tumsar Road and Mundikoti yard of Nagpur Division of SECR. E-Tender Notice No.: ST-TTR-CS-CMSC-TMR-MNU-24, Dt. 26.04.2024. Tender Value: ₹ 1,07,42,721/-. Bid Security: ₹ 2,03,700/-. Completion Period: 18 (Eighteen) Months. Submission of tender: Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto 15.00 Hours on 20.05.2024 only. Details are available on our website www.irps.gov.in. APEX/04/17 DSTE/IN/CP Clean India Drive एकदम स्वच्छता की ओर

After CBI & ED, they're now using cops: Reddy

Urges Voters To Defeat BJP, Show They Aren't Scared

Roushan.Ali@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy said on Monday that PM Narendra Modi and Union minister Amit Shah, who were "using CBI, I-T and ED" to intimidate opposition leaders, have now started to "use even Delhi Police to win elections". The CM's retort came minutes after Delhi Police served notices on him and four other Congress members over an alleged doctored video of Shah.

Revanth has been targeting BJP govt's policies and had called Modi "a cobra" three days ago at a public meeting in Zahirabad Lok Sabha constituency. He used the word "cobra" to drive home his claim that Modi holds grudges and would make farmers pay for compelling him to retract the three contentious farm laws and for apologising to them.

When Delhi Police arrived in Hyderabad, the TPCC president was away, campaigning in Sedam, in Karnataka's Gulbarga Lok Sabha constituency, along with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi. "Just received information from Telangana Congress office (Gandhi Bhavan) in Hyderabad that Delhi Police came to arrest me. But no one is getting scared here. A befitting reply will be given to the notices... I appeal to people of Karnataka and Telangana to unite, defeat BJP in LS polls and show them that we are not scared," he said.

"This election is between

Police write to social media platforms seeking details of video, its originator

► Continued from P 1

Delhi Police have also written to X and other social media platforms seeking details of the video as they look for the originator and the individual who made this clip go viral, sources added. In the FIR lodged by them, police have invoked IPC sections pertaining to forgery, provocation for rioting and promoting enmity between different groups besides section 66-C of IT Act.

Earlier on Monday, Delhi Police brass assembled to review the case. Another team landed in Hyderabad at noon and visited Gandhi Bhavan (Telangana Congress headquarters) and served the notice under Section 91/160 of CrPc. The notice reads: "We require the following details/documents: The video tweeted/re-tweeted by you on your X handle, the mobile/laptop/tablet or any other electronic device through which you have created/uploaded/tweeted this video on your X account and any electronic device used by you for the purpose of recording of this video before uploading and tweeting the same," it further reads.



Revanth said this election is between Karnataka and Gujarat; and called Kharge 'dhartiputra'

Karnataka and Gujarat. Kharge is your 'dhartiputra' (son of the soil). Sonia Gandhi has made him AICC president. The time has come for you to stand by him. People of Gujarat stood by Modi and Shah and gave them all 26 MP seats in Gujarat in 2019. Now, people of Karnataka should give at least 26 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats to Congress in Karnataka," he said.

"Congress' Rahul Gandhi walked for over 4,000 km, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, following which Congress came to power in Karnataka and Te-

langana. Congress govt in Karnataka and Telangana have implemented five guarantees each in their respective states," Revanth said.

"People of Karnataka had given BJP 25 of 28 Lok Sabha seats in 2019, one each to JD(S) and an independent supported by BJP. But what have BJP, Modi and Shah given to Karnataka? They have not solved the drinking water problem in Bengaluru and Congress govt had to go to Supreme Court to get its due share of central funds. Now, if you vote for BJP, SCs, STs and OBCs will lose their reservation. If Congress is voted to office, reservation will continue even for minorities. In fact, OBC reservation will go up based on their population," the CM added.

Congress advocate Ramachandra Reddy received Delhi Police notices and sought 15 days to reply. He asked Delhi Police to provide a copy of the FIR. "The video could have been fabricated in BJP's video factory. People of Telangana are smart and will teach Modi and Shah a lesson," TPCC senior vice president G Niranjan said.

HDK hints at a plot against brother, nephew

► Continued from P 1

This follows a 47-year-old woman lodging Sunday a police complaint against the son and grandson Gowda — former minister HD Revanna and Prajwal, respectively — accusing them of sexually harassing her and her daughter when they worked in the Revanna household between 2019 and 2022.

Early last week, videos circulated via pen drives purportedly showing sexual exploitation of several women. Prajwal had approached police alleging that the videos in question were created using deepfake to defame him



Prajwal had approached police alleging that the videos in question were created using deepfake to defame him

sure both JD(S) and BJP. Congress functionaries accused the two parties of fielding Prajwal from Hassan despite a letter from a BJP leader in Holenarasipura asking his party to not entertain the Revanna family.

Demonstrations were held in Hassan and Holenarasipura, native town of Revanna, as Congress members and various organisations staged protests.

Protesters asserted that numerous women who have faced sexual harassment are hesitant to report due to the influential status of the Revanna family.

They urged the district administration to establish a helpline to safeguard and encourage more women to step forward and lodge complaints.

Responding to the protesters' memorandum, Hassan DC C Sathyabhama assured full cooperation to SIT and pledged protection to women seeking assistance. "It was during election time that a pen drive was found and it was forwarded to the Hassan SP. After that, an FIR was registered," she said.

5 students from B'loru colleges drown: Five students drowned in Sangama on Monday. Police, fire and emergency services personnel fished the bodies and sent them for autopsy. TNN

VALLABHBHAI PATEL CHEST INSTITUTE
University of Delhi, Delhi-110007
Tel.: 011-27402400, 27667102, Fax No.011-27666549

Applications are invited for the appointment to the following temporary posts to be engaged on contract basis for a period of one year (extendable up to 3 years based on requirement & satisfactory performance) in CCRYN funded research project entitled "To explore the effects of Yoga and Pulmonary Rehabilitation in patients with Interstitial lung disease and examine their molecular basis" under Prof. Vishal Bansal, Department of Physiology, V.P. Chest Institute, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007

S. No.	Post	No. of posts	Remuneration Per month	Age Limit
1.	Senior Research Fellow	01	Rs. 35,000/- + 27% HRA	40 years
2.	Junior Research Fellow	01	Rs. 30,000/- + 27% HRA	40 years
3.	Yoga Therapist	01	Rs. 30,000/- (Consolidated)	40 years

For details, please visit Institute's website: www.vpci.org.in. Any further addendum/corrigendum shall be hosted on the institute's website only.

Prof. Vishal Bansal
Principal Investigator

CBC 17169/12/0001/2425

Ministry of MSME Govt. of India
Indo German Tool Room, 291/B-302/A, Sector E, Industrial Area, Sanwer Road, Indore-452015 (MP)
E-mail ID: itrg@igtr-indore.com web : <http://www.igtr-indore.com>
Phone: (0731)4210703/4/8/7

Required Facilities for Online & Offline for Various Training Programme On Honorary Basis
Kindly Apply for following subjects -

- Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
- Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking
- Digital Marketing
- Hospital Management
- Export Management
- Electric Vehicle & charging station
- Medico Legal Aspects in Healthcare Practices
- Cyber Law & Cyber crime investigation
- Data Forensic
- Gem Registration & E Marketing
- Solar Energy
- Cyber Law & Cyber crime
- Gold Valuation
- Artificial Intelligence Reinforcement Learning in python.
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for business
- Artificial Intelligence for financial accounting & auditing

Minimum 1 or 2 Years Experience is required
Contact: 9755162902, 9584817708 Apply on: patogm@igtr-indore.com

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CASH & ACCOUNTS-II

NOTICE to nationalized banks for investment of an amount of **Rs. 36,20,57,128/- (Rs. Thirty-Six Crore Twenty Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight Only plus interest accrued)** 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 91 DAYS. Interested Nationalized Banks are requested to quote in sealed cover, the highest CALLABLE rate of interest valid till 06.05.2024, for this deposit in accordance with the prescribed format and hand over personally to the undersigned upto 5.00 p.m. on 03.05.2024. No offer will be accepted after 5.00 p.m.

For more details, prescribed format and instructions, log on to www.supremecourtindia.nic.in

(TAPAN KISHORE SHARMA)
Drawing & Disbursing Officer,
Supreme Court of India

Place : New Delhi
Date : 29.04.2024

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700 032

Advt. No. : SDP/01/2024-25

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata invites applications for various Certification Courses under the CSIR-Integrated Skill Initiative -
Course Duration : 02 weeks (from 3rd June 2024 - 14th June 2024).
Online Application Period : 22nd April 2024 to 13 May 2024.
For online application process : <https://iicb.res.in/sdp>
Administrative Officer

ICMR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH)
Jamal Osmania Post, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007, TS.

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission into NIN Common Entrance Test - NCE-2024 (ONLINE) for 2-year M.Sc (Applied Nutrition) & M.Sc (Sports Nutrition) at ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad "under the aegis of ACISIR".
Last date: 20th May, 2024. Please see the website <https://www.nin.res.in> for notification and link for application.
Sd/- SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय
गृह विभाग (कारा)

राज्य के कारा निर्माणशालाओं के खाद्य उद्योग में उपयोग होने वाले कच्चे मालों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की ई0 निविदा सं0 कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/01 (2024-25) (PR No 000034/24-25) की समय सारणी में संशोधन करने से संबंधित सूचना।
पी0आर0 सं0 - 000034/24-25

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय, गृह विभाग (कारा), बिहार, पटना द्वारा खाद्य उद्योग में उपयोग होने वाले कच्चे मालों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की ई0 निविदा सं0 कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/01 (2024-25) (PR No 000034/24-25) के द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित की गयी थी।
अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा की समय सारणी में निम्नवत् संशोधन किया जाता है :-
निविदा का नाम Selection of Agency for supply of raw materials for Food industries in various Jails of Bihar
ई-निविदा संख्या कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/01 (2024-25)
संशोधित ई-निविदा तिथि

S.N	Activity	Date/Time : Duration
1.	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 18/03/2024 to 03/06/2024 till 17:00 Hrs.
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting (Attending Pre - Bid meeting is not compulsory)	On 28/05/2024 at 15:30 Hrs. In the Office of Inspector General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Old Secretariat, Patna-800015
3.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	Upto 03/06/2024 till 17:00 Hrs.
4.	Date & time for opening of	06/06/2024 at 14:30 Hrs
5.	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority.
6.	Nodal Officer	Sri Rajeev Kumar Singh AIG (HQ), Prisons and Correctional Services. Mobile no - 7250448267

नोट :- संशोधित ई-निविदा तिथि अगले आदेश तक प्रभावी रहेगी। ई-निविदा की अंतिम तिथि से पहले ससमय ऑनलाईन EMD के मुगतान करने एवं ई-निविदा समर्पित करने की जिम्मेदारी संवेदक की होगी।
उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
PR-000366 (Home) 2024-25
लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024- चुनाव महात्योहार, बिहार है तैयार

बिहार सरकार

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय
गृह विभाग (कारा)

राज्य के कारा निर्माणशालाओं के काष्ठ उद्योग में उपयोग होने वाले कच्चे मालों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की ई0 निविदा सं0 कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/05 (2024-25) (PR No 000031/24-25) की समय सारणी में संशोधन करने से संबंधित सूचना
पी0आर0 सं0 - 000031/24-25

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय, गृह विभाग (कारा), बिहार, पटना द्वारा काष्ठ उद्योग में उपयोग होने वाले कच्चे मालों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की ई0 निविदा सं0 कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/05 (2024-25) (PR No 000031/24-25) के द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित की गयी थी।
अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा की समय सारणी में निम्नवत् संशोधन किया जाता है :-
निविदा का नाम Selection of Agency for supply of raw materials for Wood industries in various Jails of Bihar
ई-निविदा संख्या कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/05 (2024-25)
संशोधित ई-निविदा तिथि

S.N	Activity	Date/Time : Duration
1.	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 18/03/2024 to 03/06/2024 till 17:00 Hrs.
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting (Attending Pre - Bid meeting is not compulsory)	On 28/05/2024 at 15:30 Hrs. In the Office of Inspector General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Old Secretariat, Patna-800015
3.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	Upto 03/06/2024 till 17:00 Hrs.
4.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	06/06/2024 at 14:50 Hrs
5.	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority.
6.	Nodal Officer	Sri Rajeev Kumar Singh AIG (HQ), Prisons and Correctional Services. Mobile no - 7250448267

नोट :- संशोधित ई-निविदा तिथि अगले आदेश तक प्रभावी रहेगी। ई-निविदा की अंतिम तिथि से पहले ससमय ऑनलाईन EMD के मुगतान करने एवं ई-निविदा समर्पित करने की जिम्मेदारी संवेदक की होगी।
उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
PR.No.000369 (Home) 2024-25
लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024- चुनाव का पर्व, देश का गर्व

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय
गृह विभाग (कारा)

राज्य के कारा निर्माणशालाओं के प्रिंटिंग प्रेस उद्योग में उपयोग होने वाले कच्चे मालों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की ई0 निविदा सं0 कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/04 (2024-25) (PR No 000030/24-25) की समय सारणी में संशोधन करने से संबंधित सूचना
पी0आर0 सं0 - 000030/24-25

कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ निरीक्षणालय, गृह विभाग (कारा), बिहार, पटना द्वारा प्रिंटिंग प्रेस उद्योग में उपयोग होने वाले कच्चे मालों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 की ई0 निविदा सं0 कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/04 (2024-25) (PR No 000030/24-25) के द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित की गयी थी।
अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा की समय सारणी में निम्नवत् संशोधन किया जाता है :-
निविदा का नाम Selection of Agency for supply of raw materials for Printing Press industries in various Jails of Bihar
ई-निविदा संख्या कारा/क्रय-04-4/2024/04 (2024-25)
संशोधित ई-निविदा तिथि

S.N	Activity	Date/Time : Duration
1.	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 18/03/2024 to 03/06/2024 till 17:00 Hrs.
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting (Attending Pre - Bid meeting is not compulsory)	On 28/05/2024 at 15:30 Hrs. In the Office of Inspector General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Old Secretariat, Patna-800015
3.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	Upto 03/06/2024 till 17:00 Hrs.
4.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	06/06/2024 at 14:45 Hrs
5.	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority.
6.	Nodal Officer	Sri Rajeev Kumar Singh AIG (HQ), Prisons and Correctional Services. Mobile no - 7250448267

नोट :- संशोधित ई-निविदा तिथि अगले आदेश तक प्रभावी रहेगी। ई-निविदा की अंतिम तिथि से पहले ससमय ऑनलाईन EMD के मुगतान करने एवं ई-निविदा समर्पित करने की जिम्मेदारी संवेदक की होगी।
उक्त सूचना [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
PR.No. 000368 (B&C) 2024-25
लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024 - चुनाव का पर्व, देश का गर्व।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
PIU
पटना नगर निगम, पटना

शुद्धि पत्र-4

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-160, दिनांक-22.02.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-20/PIU-PMC/2023-24, जिसका PR No.-018108(B&C)2023-24 है। जिसकी तिथियों में अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नांकित परिवर्तन किया जाता है। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

क्र0	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	निविदा प्रारंभ करने की तिथि एवं समय	30.04.2024 समय 10:00 बजे पूर्वहन से।	15.05.2024 समय 10:00 बजे पूर्वहन से।
2	संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	15.05.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराहन तक।	31.05.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराहन तक।
3	Pre-Bid Meeting की तिथि एवं समय	04.05.2024 को पूर्वाहन 11:00 बजे से 1:00 बजे अपराहन तक।	20.05.2024 को पूर्वाहन 11:00 बजे से 1:00 बजे अपराहन तक।
4	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि	15.05.2024 समय 4:00 बजे अपराहन।	31.05.2024 समय 4:00 बजे अपराहन।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।
PR-000373 (B & C) 2024-25
लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024 - चुनाव का पर्व, देश का गर्व।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
PIU
पटना नगर निगम

Advertisement No. 36/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Finance)
in
SJVN Limited
Last date of submission of application by applicants is
24th May, 2024.
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is
03rd June, 2024.
For details login to website
<http://pesb.gov.in>

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 460001, Maharashtra, India, WebSite - www.westerncoal.in

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Limited (www.coalindia.in), respective Subsidiary Company (WCL, www.westerncoal.in), CIL e-procurement portal (<https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>) and Central Public Procurement Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>). Bids for the tender can be submitted through <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> only. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, are published on <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> only. In addition, procurement is also being done through GeM Portal (<https://gem.gov.in>).

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSME - TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process & Product Development Centre, Agra
Government of India Society (EFC New Delhi)

OFFLINE TRAINING ON Master Chat GPT: Upgrade Your Knowledge with AI Chat bots
Dates: 04th - 05th May, 2024 (Weekend)

Welcome to the Mastering ChatGPT course. In this comprehensive program, we'll dive deep into the capabilities of ChatGPT and explore how it can revolutionize your productivity. Whether you're an educator, developer, or business professional, this course will equip you with the skills to effectively harness the power of AI language models.

Course Fees :- Rs. 4500/- Including GST

OFFLINE TRAINING ON Digital Marketing with AI Tools
Dates: 11th - 12th May, 2024 (Weekend)

Digital Marketing with AI, where you will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to leverage the power of AI, create compelling content, and design eye-catching visuals for effective digital marketing campaigns. This course is designed for marketers, content creators, and graphic designers who want to stay ahead in the digital landscape by integrating AI, Content and design seamlessly.

Course Fees :- Rs. 4500/- Including GST

Timing: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE
Venue: Br. MSME DFO, 2nd floor, MSME-TDC PPDC, EFC New Delhi, Opp. Haldiram L Block, Outer Circle Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001
For More Details, Course Content and Online Registration
Contact Number - 9810371728, 7983607199, 9677692445
E-mail- kathir.@dcmsme.gov.in, msspdpdc@delhi@gmail.com
Certificate will be awarded.

UGC-NET exam postponed to June 18

The UGC-NET exam will now be held on June 18 instead of June 16, the National Testing Agency has notified. The postponement was done based on representation from aspirants that the dates for UPSC Prelims and NET exams are clashing. NTA said the exam centre cities will be displayed on NTA website(s) 10 days prior to the test. **TNN**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Usha Goel W/o Ramesh Goel (2) Gaurav S/o Naresh Kumar (3) Parveen Goel S/o Naresh Goel, (4) Mukesh Goel S/o Lt. Sh. Bhoj Raj Goel (5) Shelly Goel W/o Mahesh Goel R/o D-28 Tandon Road Adarsh Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No.163/05 U/S 498A/406/34 IPC P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi, and it has been returned a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused (1) Usha Goel (2) Gaurav (3) Parveen Goel (4) Mukesh Goel (5) Shelly Goel cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Usha Goel (2) Gaurav (3) Parveen Goel (4) Mukesh Goel (5) Shelly Goel has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Usha Goel (2) Gaurav (3) Parveen Goel (4) Mukesh Goel (5) Shelly Goel Case FIR No.163/05 U/S 498A/406/34 IPC P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.06.2024
By Order
Ms. Preeti Rajoria
Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahila Court-02,
Room No. 18, Ground Floor
North West Rohini Court, Delhi
DPI/4726/NW/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)
Provision of Telecom Facilities for Provision of Telecom Facilities for Upgrade of maintenance facilities including provision of covered shed on Washing Cum Pit-lines to facilitate high-speed train's maintenance at Coaching Maintenance Complex at Anand Vihar, Delhi Division.
Name of work with its location
App. cost of the work (₹)
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)
Address of the office
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-998 Dated: 29/04/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED (See section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Naushad Khan S/o Sh. Nishar Khan R/O Azad Colony, Dalkola PS- Dalkola, Dist: North Dinajpur, West Bengal, & AT-103, Kharsa No-200, Master Colony Sahibabad, Dist:- Ghaziabad has committed the offence in case CC.No. 13/2018 U/S 3RP(UP) Act at Railway Protection Force Post Anand Vihar Terminal, Delhi which is punishable and a Warrant of arrest issued there upon has been returned unexecuted stating that the said accused Naushad Khan can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Naushad Khan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said Warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Naushad Khan is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.06.2024.
By Order
Shri CHATINDER SINGH
Metropolitan Magistrate Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Amid Singapore & HK row, FSSAI focus shifts to spices

DurgeshNandan.Jha
@timesgroup.com

FSSAI ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY



New Delhi: Food Safety Standards Authority of India has decided to step up surveillance this year of spices and culinary herbs, fruits and vegetables, salmonella in fish products and fortified rice amid heightened scrutiny of Indian masala brands such as MDH and Everest. The samples will be collected from mandis, malls and mom-and-pop stores across the country as the regulator seeks to enforce better compliance of standards. Some of the product categories have been under watch over the past few years too with spices becoming a major focus area this year in the wake of developments in Singapore and Hong Kong after alleged detection of carcinogenic pesticide ethylene oxide (EtO) in some samples. EtO is used by the spice industry to reduce microbial contamination, such as that of E.coli and Salmonella. Another report by Public

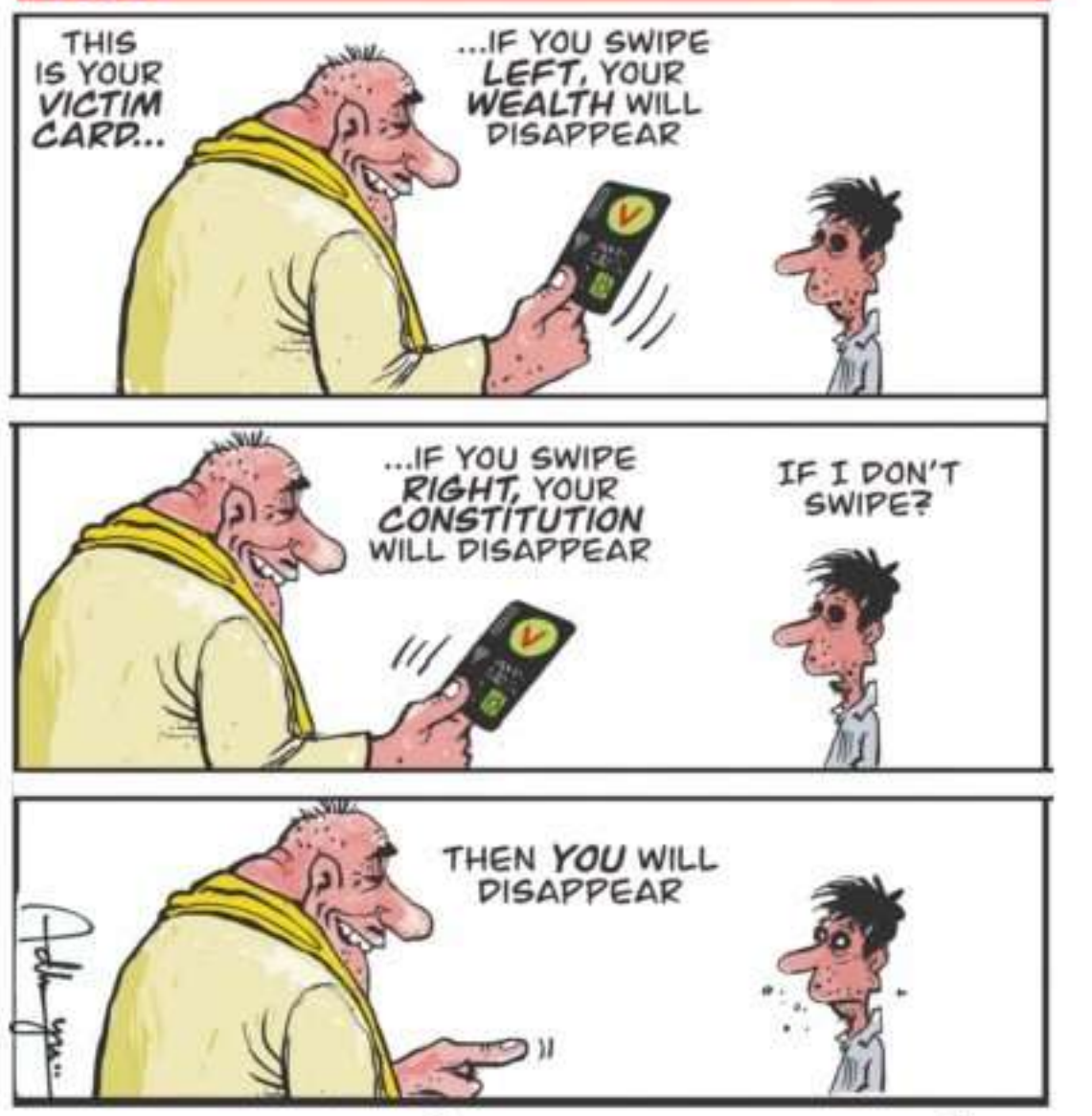
Eye, a Swiss body and International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) claimed Nestle India was adding sugar and honey to infant milk and cereal products sold in countries like India. Of the samples tested by FSSAI from 2020-21 and 2022-23, nearly one out of four food samples was found non-complying. Officials, however, clarified not all samples found to be non-complying are unsafe. "A sample can be declared non-complying for various reasons. This includes misbranding where a product and its content aren't described properly, below the standard product and when products are considered unsafe to consume. Maximum defaulters fall in the first and second category," a senior FSSAI official said. Over the years the number of samples picked up has increased from a little under 1.1 lakh in 2020-21 to 4.5 lakh in 2023-24. According to FSSAI Act, if samples are found sub-standard and misbranded, maximum penalty can be levied up to Rs 5 lakh for sub-standard food, up to Rs 3 lakh for misbranded food and up to Rs 10 lakh for misleading advertisements. "If samples are found unsafe, food businesses can be prosecuted under Section 59 of FSS Act, 2006 where a three-month jail term with penalty up to Rs 3 lakh can be levied where failure does not result in injury," the official explained.

US Pannun plot probe involves CIA, FBI, others

Continued from P 1

RAW officer Vikram Yadav, who was on deputation from CRPF allegedly forwarded details of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, including his address in New York, said a Washington Post report, citing sources and a US indictment. The official is now back with the central paramilitary force. Given his background, Yadav "lacked training and skills" needed for an operation that meant going up against sophisticated US counter-intelligence capabilities, the Post said. According to the report, senior officials at US justice department and FBI had pushed to prosecute Yadav, a step that would have implicated RAW in a murder-for-hire conspiracy. "But while a US indictment unsealed in Nov contained the bombshell allegation that the plot was directed by an Indian official, it referred to Yadav as only an unnamed co-conspirator, CC-1, and made no mention of the Indian spy agency," it said. "Higher-ranking RAW officials have also been implicated, according to current and former Western security officials, as part of a sprawling investigation by the CIA, FBI and other agencies that has mapped potential links to Modi's inner circle," the report said.

TOT LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



47 new fires raze 78ha forest land; Nainital blaze contained: Govt

forest fire within 36 hours. In Nainital, the battle against the flames required reinforcement as 30 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) members joined forces with the district administration to combat the inferno. Meanwhile, the Army, having deployed personnel in Almora and Nainital, recalled them as the situation improved, a defence spokesperson said. The assurance of safety was reiterated by Nainital divisional forest officer (DFO) Chandrashekhar Joshi. He said, "The Nainital division witnessed 28 forest fire incidents, impacting approximately 33 hectares of woodland. All the fires are now effectively contained. A total of 11 individuals have been charged under the Indian Forest Act in connection with these incidents. Meanwhile, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama convened a meeting with the administration, issuing strict directives to combat the infernos. Dhama reiterated that all tourist spots across the state, notably Nainital, remain devoid of any threat. (With inputs by Kalyan Das in Dehradun)

Modi doubles down on attack against Cong 'vote-bank politics'

Continued from P 1

Modi harked back to Balakot in Bagalkot, recounting with amusement initial rumours about an airstrike happening in the similar-sounding north Karnataka district after word got out of warplanes hitting terror targets. The Navanagar rally, Modi's fifth campaign stop in north Karnataka in 24 hours, saw him doubling down, once again, on his tirade against Congress for its votebank politics, including "reservation for Muslims" in violation of the Constitution. Modi said Congress snatched slices of the quota pie from Dalits, SC/STs and OBCs and handed these to Muslims by putting them on the OBC list. "BJP is ramp-



A girl, identified as Nagaratna Meti, with an image of the PM with his late mother. The PM asked SPG commandos to get him the photo with the child's name and address on it, and promised to write to her

ing up the share of SC/ST/OBC representation by encouraging them to enter public life, which Congress is unable to tolerate." Modi started his speech in Kannada, invoking the deity Badami Banashankari, saint Basavanna and Siddeshwar Swamiji of Jnanayogashrama. When a girl in the audience, later identified as Nagaratna Meti, held up an image of the PM with his late mother. The PM asked SPG commandos to get him the photo with the child's name and address on it, and promised to write to her. Party candidates PC Gaddigoudar (Bagalkot) and Ramesh Jigajinagi (Bijapur) shared the dais along with BJP's state president BY Vijayendra, former CM BS Yediyurappa, and a few ex-ministers. North Karnataka will vote during the third phase of elections on May 7.

Canada PM seen smiling at SFJ rally

Continued from P 1

During Trudeau's address, pro-Khalistan Sikhs demanded the prosecution of Indian high commissioner Sanjay Verma for "orchestrating the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar". In a video released by SFJ, Trudeau was seen smiling at the chants of "Khalistan zindabad". SFJ chief Pannun said, "Trudeau's address is reassuring that pro-Khalistan Sikhs' right to campaign for liberation of Punjab from Indian occupation was protected under Canadian Charter of Rights and the liberal govt will always stand with Canadian Sikhs."

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I Shobha Rani w/o Rajesh Nar d/o Shiv Lal, s/o 875/4, U.E. Gurgaon am confirming that my name is Shobha Chaudhary Nar for all future purposes

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I Sachin Bhargava S/o Late Pradeep Kumar Bhargava R/O Tata Primanti Gurgaon has changed my name from Sachin Bhargava to Sachin Kumar for all future purposes.
I Shamsul Qamar Ansari S/o Mahmood Ansari R/O 53-54 Rashid Market Extension have changed my name from Shamsul Qamar Ansari to Shamsul Qamar Ansari for all future purposes.
I Davinder Bahl S/o Late Radha Krishna Bahl R/O B-14/A, Vijay Nagar, Dr. Mukhe rjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed the name of my minor daughter Vani Bahl, aged 14 years, to Vaani Bahl & hereafter she shall be known as Vaani Bahl.
I TARUN KUMAR S/O BENI MADHAVA RAM R/O RAJOKRI, NEW DELHI-110038 changed my name from TARUN KUMAR SHARMA to TARUN KUMAR vide Affidavit dated 27 April 2024 at SESSION COURT, KAPASHERA, NEW DELHI.
I Poonam, daughter of Raj Singh and i am wife of Amit Kataria changing my name from Poonam to Poonam Kataria.
I ,THANKI W/O PK AJAY KUMAR BETHEL HOUSE, PALAPPURU, KALLIVOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA HAS CHANGED MY NAME FROM THANKI TO THANKI T VIDE AFFIDAVIT No.IN-DL79612930923295W ISSUED AT NEW DELHI COURT DATED 26 APR 24
I ,Harish Kumar S/o Sh. Girdhai Lal R/o Flat No.-81, Sarojini Nagar Market, Delhi-110023 notify that Harish Kumar and Harish Khemani both names belong to one and the same person, i.e. mine.
I hereto knownas Radha Krishna Pillai R/o G-179, GF G-block, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmili Delhi-95 have changed my name & shall hereafter be known as Ramya Radhakrishnan.

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I Poonam, daughter of Raj Singh and i am wife of Amit Kataria changing my name from Poonam to Poonam Kataria.
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I hereto knownas Radha Krishna Pillai R/o G-179, GF G-block, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmili Delhi-95 have changed my name & shall hereafter be known as Ramya Radhakrishnan.

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ICC Arrest Warrant Against Bibi?

Israel Believes PM And Many Senior Govt Officials' Name On Warrant On Charges Related To Conflict With Hamas

Israeli officials increasingly believe that the International Criminal Court is preparing to issue arrest warrants for senior government officials on charges related to the conflict with Hamas, according to five Israeli and foreign officials. The Israeli and foreign officials also believe the court is weighing arrest warrants for members of Hamas.

If the court proceeds, the Israeli officials could potentially be accused of preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and pursuing an excessively harsh response to the Hamas-led Oct 7 attacks on Israel, according to two of the five officials, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity. Israeli officials said they believe that PM Benjamin Netanyahu is among those who might be named in a warrant. It is not clear who might be charged from Hamas or what crimes would be cited. The officials did not disclose the nature of the information that led them to be concerned about potential ICC action.

Arrest warrants from the court would probably be seen in much of the world as a humbling moral rebuke, particularly to Israel, which for months has faced international backlash over its conduct in Gaza. It could also affect Israel's policies as the country presses its military campaign against Hamas.

The Israeli and foreign officials said they didn't know what stage the process was in. Any warrants would require approval from a panel of judges and would not necessarily result in a trial or even the targets' immediate arrest.



A woman sits with a child inside a house damaged by air strikes in Rafah

'5 Israeli military units violated rights norms'

The US state department said Monday that it has found five units of the Israeli military responsible for gross violations of human rights in incidents that took place outside of Gaza before conflict broke out in Oct. Four of the units have effectively remediated the violations, while Israel has submitted additional information regarding the fifth unit, state department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said. US weapons sales to units will not be affected, he said. He did not offer specifics.

Israeli air strikes on Rafah kill 22 people

Israeli air strikes on the Gaza city of Rafah have killed at least 22 people, including six women and five children, Palestinian officials said. One of the children killed in the strikes overnight into Monday was just 5 days old. Israel has regularly carried out strikes on Rafah since the start of the war and has threatened to send in ground troops, saying Rafah is the last major Hamas stronghold in the enclave. Over a million Gazans have sought refuge in the city on the Egyptian border.

Israel appears to soften stance in ceasefire talks

Israel has reduced the number of hostages that it wants Hamas to free during the first phase of a new truce in Gaza, according to three Israeli officials, offering a hint of hope for ceasefire negotiations that could restart as soon as Tuesday.

For months, Israel had demanded that Hamas release at least 40 hostages — women, older people and those who are seriously ill — in order to secure a new truce. Now the Israeli government is prepared to settle for only 33, according to the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The change was prompted partly by the fact that Israel now believes that some of the 40 have died in captivity, according to one of the officials.

The shift has raised expectations that Hamas and Israel might be edging closer to sealing their first truce since a week-long ceasefire in Nov, when Hamas released 105 captives in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners. A senior Hamas official, Izzat al-Rishq, said Monday that Hamas was studying a new Israeli proposal, but did not say what the proposal was.



US secretary of state Antony Blinken said Israel must still do more to increase humanitarian aid for Gaza and added that he would use his current West Asia trip — his seventh since Oct 7 — to press the matter

Hamas and its allies captured roughly 240 Israelis and foreigners in their attack on Oct 7. Over 130 hostages are believed to still be held in Gaza, but some are thought to have died. Negotiations over a new pause, mediated by Egypt and Qatar, have stalled for months over disagreements about the number of hostages and prisoners who should be exchanged.

Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, said at the World Economic Forum in Riyadh, on Monday that Israel had made an "extraordinarily generous" offer and that Hamas alone stood in the way of a deal.

Scientist behind China's first Covid vax expelled from parliament for graft

Beijing: China's top scientist, who developed the first inactivated Covid-19 vaccine at the height of pandemic in the country in 2020, has been stripped of his membership in the National People's Congress (NPC) due to serious discipline and law violations, official media reported in Beijing on Monday.

The charge of serious discipline and law violations is a common euphemism for corruption under the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) disciplinary practice.

Yang Xiaoming is the chairman of China National Pharmaceutical Group's vaccine subsidiary China National Biotech Group (CNBG). The 62-year-old is a veteran researcher who headed the CNBG — a vaccine subsidiary of state-owned Sinopharm — and led a team that developed Sinopharm's BBIB-P-CorV vaccine, China's first coronavirus shot approved for general use. According to a statement by NPC, Yang is already being investigated by the party disciplinary body — the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

The Sinopharm shot and Sinovac Biotech's CoronaVac were the most widely used in China and the leading Covid-19 vaccines exported by the country.

Another former Sinopharm senior executive, Zhou Bin, who once served as the company's deputy general manager, was placed under investigation by the CCDI in Jan.

Ukraine retreats from eastern front; Nato chief blames aid delay

Kyiv: Russian troops have captured or entered around a half-dozen villages on Ukraine's eastern front over the past week, highlighting the deteriorating situation in the region for outgunned and outnumbered Ukrainian forces as they wait for long-needed US military aid.

"The situation at the front has worsened," Gen. Oleksandr Syrsky, Ukraine's top commander, said in a statement Sunday in which he announced that his troops had retreated from two villages west of Avdiivka, a Ukrainian stronghold in the east that Russia seized earlier this year, and another village farther south.

Military experts say Moscow's recent advances reflect its desire to exploit a window of opportunity to press ahead with attacks before the first batch of a new US military aid package arrives in Ukraine to help relieve its troops. Congress recently approved \$60 billion in military aid for Ukraine, and President Biden signed it last week.

During a visit to Kyiv on Monday, Nato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said the many months it took Congress to approve new military aid to Ukraine and Europe's failure to deliver ammunition on time had led to "serious consequences on the battlefield." "When we



LOVE & WAR: A soldier bids farewell to his partner after end of a short break from frontline duty

Russia jamming GPS? Finair suspends flights to Estonia city

Finair said Monday it was suspending flights to the Estonian city of Tartu for one month due to GPS interference that the Estonian foreign minister labelled a Russian "hybrid attack". All flights to Tartu were suspended between April 29 and May 31 while "an alternative approach solution that doesn't require a GPS signal can be put in place," the Finnish carrier said. GPS interference can "prevent the aircraft from approaching and landing", it said. Last week two Finnair flights headed for Tartu had to turn back to Helsinki due to GPS interference, it said.

are not delivering as we should, then Ukrainians are paying the price," he said.

Humza Yousaf quits as Scotland first minister after just 13 months in office

Naomi Canton

London: British Pakistani Scottish first minister Humza Yousaf was overwhelmed with emotion as he announced his resignation on Monday ahead of two no-confidence votes

tabled this week, one in him and one in his gov. The motions were tabled by the Tories and Labour after Yousaf last Thursday abruptly terminated the power-sharing cooperation agreement his party, SNP, had with the Greens in a dispute over climate pledges which left the SNP as a minority gov.

In his resignation speech, Yousaf said: "I could never have dreamt that one day I would have the privilege of leading my country. People who looked like me were not in positions of political influence, let alone leading govts, when I was younger. For those who decry that multicultu-

ralism has failed across the UK, I would suggest the evidence is to the contrary."

He made history 13 months ago when he became the first Muslim and first person of colour to hold the role. His father emigrated to UK from Pakistan's Punjab province and his mother is of Kenyan-Pakistani-Punjabi descent. As he spoke about the toll politics had taken on his family, he nearly broke into tears.

Anas Sarwar, Pakistani-origin Scottish Labour leader, called for an election and said Labour's no-confidence motion in the SNP gov still stands. Yousaf saw SNP support plummet under his tenure. Most recently he faced widespread criticism for a hate crime act introduced this month which critics decried as a clampdown on free speech which led to the police being deluged with complaints about

Yousaf himself in relation to a speech he made criticising Scotland for filling its senior positions with "white people".

The Scottish parliament has 28 days to nominate a replacement or else an election will be called.

SNP MSP Kate Forbes, who was raised by Christian missionaries in India, is one of the names being put forward. The former finance secretary was taken out of her primary school in Glasgow and moved to Ludhiana, in Punjab, aged 10, where her father was involved in Bible teaching and managing the finances of a group of mission hospitals. She has spoken of the culture shock she experienced there sharing a classroom with 60 Indian children and getting slapped with a ruler for poor grades. She is a member of the Free Church of Scotland and faces some opposition within SNP ranks owing to her socially conservative views.



Humza Yousaf

Anti-war stir: US colleges raise questions on outsiders' role

Los Angeles: Colleges around the US implored pro-Palestinian student protesters to clear out tent encampments with rising levels of urgency Monday as classes wrap up for the semester and campuses prepare for graduation ceremonies.

Protests were still active at a number of campuses. Near George Washington University, protesters at an encampment breached and dismantled the barriers Monday used to secure University Yard. Protesters at Yale University set up a new encampment with dozens of tents Sunday afternoon, nearly a week after police arrested nearly 50 demonstrators and cleared a similar camp.

At least one school, the University of Southern California, cancelled its main graduation ceremony this spring. Others are asking the protests to resolve peacefully so they can hold their ceremonies. Protesters on

both sides of the rancorous debate shouted and shoved each other during duelling demonstrations Sunday at the University of California, Los Angeles.

About 275 people were arrested Saturday at various campuses, including Indiana University at Bloomington, Arizona State University and Washington University in St. Louis. The number of arrests nationwide has surpassed 900 since New York police removed a pro-Palestinian protest encampment at Columbia University and arrested more than 100 demonstrators on April 18.

Colleges have cited property damage, outside provocateurs, antisemitic expressions or just failures to heed warnings as reasons to arrest students. Many school leaders have insisted that people outside their colleges are stoking the confrontations, despite limited evidence backing their claims. In



Students rally outside La Sorbonne univ in Paris with a Palestinian flag

many cases, the groups of protesters have mostly involved students and university employees, but a notable exception was at Washington University on Saturday. Of the 100 arrests made, only 23 were students and four were employees, the university said Sunday.

Paris police clear protesters at Sorbonne university

Police moved in to clear dozens of protesters who had set up tents in a courtyard at the Sorbonne University in Paris on Monday to protest against the war in Gaza. The demonstration took place three days after protests at the capital's elite Sciences Po university and came in the wake of rallies in campuses across the US against the conflict. "Police brought down tents, grabbed students by the collar and dragged them on the ground," a student said. A police source confirmed they had intervened. "This operation, which lasted only a few minutes, was carried out peacefully without incident," the source said. The university, one of the world's oldest, closed its buildings for the days.

Clear encampment or face suspension: Columbia to students

Columbia University has given students until 2 pm (local time) Monday to clear out from the pro-Palestinian encampment that has occupied a central lawn on its campus for nearly two weeks, warning them that they will face immediate suspension if they do not leave by then. Students will not be punished for their participation if they sign a form promising not to break any university rules through the end of the next academic year. The warning came after Columbia prez Nemat Shafiq said protest organisers and academic staff couldn't reach an agreement that would break a stalemate over the encampment, which the administration says violates university rules.

Depardieu briefly detained by police over 'sex assaults'

Paris: French police are no longer holding actor Gerard Depardieu following a day of reported questioning on Monday over accusations by two women that he sexually assaulted them on movie sets, his lawyer said.

Broadcaster BFMTV and the daily Le Parisien had earlier reported that the 75-year-old actor was summoned Monday morning by police and placed in custody. Speaking to reporters as he was leaving the police station in the 14th district of Paris the actor's lawyer, Christian Saint-Palais, said: "The police custody is over. He is no longer held in the police station."

Depardieu has denied wrongdoing. In an open letter last Oct, he said: "I have never, ever abused a woman." BFMTV and Le Parisien reported that the police summons relates to accusations of sexual assault filed by two women who accuse him of groping during filming — one in 2014, the other in 2021.

45 DIE IN DAM BURST IN KENYA



At least 45 people died when a makeshift dam burst its banks near a town in Kenya's Rift Valley in the early hours of Monday, police said, as torrential rains and floods battered the country. The disaster raises the toll over the March-May wet season in Kenya to more than 120 as heavier than usual rainfall

pounded East Africa, compounded by the El Nino weather pattern. Residents said the accident occurred in the dead of night near Mai Mahiu, in Nakuru county, sending water gushing down a hill and engulfing everything in its path. The deluge cut off a road, uprooted trees, washed away homes & sent vehicles flying.

Ecuador says it has sued Mexico over asylum to ex-veep

Quito: Ecuador's foreign ministry said on Monday it has sued Mexico at the International Court of Justice over Mexico's granting of asylum to former Ecuadorean vice-president Jorge Glas. Glas, twice convicted of corruption and now facing fresh charges, was arrested this month during a raid by police on Mexico's Quito embassy, where he had been living since Dec. The raid drew international criticism and Mexico has already sued Ecuador at the ICJ over the incident.

Ecuador's representatives at the court in The Hague presented the lawsuit, the foreign ministry said in the statement, "for a series of violations by Mexico of a series of international obligations, for the conduct of the country since Dec 17, 2023." The suit also mentions "insulting" statements by Mexican Prez Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the ministry added.

'AZ vaccine, in rare cases, can be a trigger for TTS'

Continued from P1

In India, the vaccine was sold under the brand name Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune. When contacted, SII declined to comment.

One of the claimants is Jamie Scott, a father of two, who was left with a permanent brain injury after developing a blood clot after he received the AstraZeneca vaccine in April 2021. He said it prevented him from working.

The product information relating to the vaccine — developed with Oxford University — was updated in April 2021, with the approval of the UK regulator MHRA, to include the possibility that it is capable, in very rare cases, of being a trigger for thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). AstraZeneca points out that this update was well-documented and publicly available,

Daily Telegraph reported. The vaccine is no longer used in the UK. Lawyers representing families suing the drugs company argue that the vaccine was not as safe as individuals were entitled to expect. They are suing it under the Consumer Protection Act of 1987, arguing the maximum £12,000 payout they could get from the UK-govt-run vaccine compensation scheme is inadequate.

Figures obtained by the UK newspaper under a Freedom of Information request show that out of 163 payouts made by the UK gov't scheme by Feb this year, at least 158 went to those who had taken the AstraZeneca jab. An AstraZeneca spokesperson told TO: "The vaccine has continuously been shown to have an acceptable safety profile and regulators around the world consistently state that at the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks of extremely rare potential side effects."

AROUND THE WORLD



THE LAST OF ROLLING STONES? The Rolling Stones kicked off their North America tour at a packed venue in Houston on Sunday, with people travelling from various cities to watch one of the world's most enduring rock bands amid worries that this could be their last tour. The group has been touring for over 60 years. Frontman Mick Jagger and lead guitarist Keith Richards are both 80, with guitarist Ronnie Wood not far behind at 76. Drummer Charlie Watts died in 2021

ChatGPT faces lawsuit in Austria for 'hallucinating' wrong answers

A Vienna-based privacy campaign group said Monday it would file a complaint against ChatGPT in Austria, claiming the "hallucinating" flagship AI tool invents wrong answers, which creator OpenAI cannot correct. NOYB ("None of Your Business") said there was no way to guarantee the programme provided accurate information. "ChatGPT keeps hallucinating — and not even OpenAI can stop it," the group said. The company has openly acknowledged it cannot correct inaccurate information produced by its generative AI tool and has failed to explain when the data comes from and what ChatGPT stores about individuals, said the group. Such errors are unacceptable for

information about individuals because EU law stipulates that personal data must be accurate, NOYB argued. ChatGPT "repeatedly provided incorrect information" about the birth date of NOYB founder Max Schrems "instead of telling users that it doesn't have the necessary data", said the group.

Burkina Faso halts foreign media over massacre reports. Burkina Faso has suspended a swathe of international news organisations, some indefinitely, for airing accusations of an army massacre of civilians. Among those named are French newspaper Le Monde, UK publication Guardian, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle and French broadcaster TV5 Monde. They were suspended for reporting on a Human Rights Watch statement accusing soldiers of killing 223 people in attacks on two villages on Feb 25. The military of Burkina Faso has dismissed it as "baseless".

Stowaway cat gets from Utah to California in Amazon returns package

Galena, a 6-year-old cat, was found in an Amazon warehouse a week after she climbed into a 3-by-3-foot cardboard box at her owner's home. When Carrie Clark got a phone call on April 17 from a veterinarian in California informing her that her pet, which had vanished from her Utah home a week earlier, had been found some 500 miles (804km) away, her first reaction was disbelief. "I could not believe that it was true," Clark said in an interview on Sunday night. "I told

her: I think this is a prank." It wasn't. Galena, her 6-year-old American shorthair, had sneaked inside a 3-by-3-foot cardboard Amazon returns package alongside five pairs of steel-toed boots. Then the cat was transported two states away to one of the company's warehouses, where it was discovered by Amazon employees. Galena survived the unexpected journey without any food or water, Clark said. Despite her ordeal, Galena was in relatively good health with no issues

apart from mild dehydration, Clark said. Two factors had helped: One seam on the box had come unglued, allowing oxygen to circulate, and mild weather kept Galena from overheating or freezing. Clark said she thought that Galena got into the box while her husband was packing it, by jumping inside when he left to fetch some tape to seal it up. "She doesn't meow a lot and she loves boxes, so for her, she was really happy in that moment. Although I'm sure that wasn't the case later on."



Galena travelled more than 804km in a 3-by-3-foot cardboard box along with five pairs of steel-toed boots

Since the box already weighed over 30 pounds, Clark and her husband did not notice the

added weight of a stowaway when they mailed it on April 10, she said. But they did quickly notice that their shy, indoor cat was missing that same day. After days of searching the house and the neighbourhood turned up nothing, worst-case scenarios started running through her mind, Clark said. Had Galena darted outside? Had she been snatched up by a predator? "We had absolutely no idea what had happened," Clark said. Then she received the call from a veterinarian in Riversi-

de, Calif. An Amazon employee, Brandy Hunter, had brought Galena in, and the veterinarian identified her through her microchip and contacted Clark. Hunter wrote on Facebook. "We have gotten some pretty crazy things in my time but never anything like this!" Amazon did not immediately respond to requests for comment. When Clark got the call, she and her husband quickly booked a flight to California to be reunited with Galena. "It was such a miraculous moment." nvt

**A thought for today***Voting rights are preservative
for all other rights*

RAPHAEL WARNOCK

Turnout Talk

Lot of chatter & questions about lower voter participation. Remember, electorate is bigger this time

Two phases of elections are behind us. Turnout's lower than 2019's so far. So, the Indian poll punditry is having a ball. Everyone wears a selector's hat ahead of selectors' picking the India cricket XI. Similarly, come Lok Sabha elections, Indians turn psephologists – with much flair, and abundant political 'insight', not infrequently free of fact.

Why they vote | Knowhow hangs heavy, as hot as the air – in living rooms and workplaces, in college canteens and academic deep-dives, among random surveyors and reporters, local party workers, cabbies and autowallahs, and of course the chatterati, who may not necessarily be the voterati. This year's Big Questions? Why are turnouts low? And whatever could it mean? In 2019, which saw the highest turnout ever at 67.4%, CSDS-Lokniti surveys suggested urban middle-classes were mobilised to vote too. But, the josh seems missing this year, it's said. Hat doffed to *aam* voters, who ensure every election is nothing like the earlier one.



Why they don't vote | This year, there's an overdrive to get the voter out. Is the relentless pressure to vote off-putting? Is there too much song and dance about your 'duty' to vote? Could low quality political discourse be a deterrent? With elections drawn out over 44 days, is there poll fatigue? Does heat play a role? Do unprincipled politicians switching parties at a record clip dampen enthusiasm? Is trust wavering in the process of voting? Is the telly tamasha soul-sapping? Are candidate profiles weak? Are there too many criminals and crooks, with just enough clout to stay out of jail?

Low vote? | There are very many strands to why voters vote. Famously for caste, creed, and religion too, of late. If 2014 was pitted as the call for 'development', 2019's turnout was an inspired mobilisation of voters. This year so far, political parties and EC are tearing their hair out to get more people to polling booths. The electorate is more polarised than ever. Many seem deeply and loudly political. Support for parties and protests have continued apace. And yet, seemingly, fewer people are voting.

But is even that a fact? The size of the electorate is bigger: 968.8m compared to 896m in 2019 – up by 72.8m electors. Which begs the question whether turnout in the neighbourhood of 60% can, in truth, be termed 'low'? That is perhaps the only question we need to ask at this point.

The X Factor

Politicians love social media. For voters, and for democracy, the waters are more muddied

BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday joined the long list of politicians who are using social media platform X. The party's star on this platform is KT Rama Rao who has over four million followers.

Frictionless communication | Politicians across the world have been quick to identify the potential of social media platforms. It offers an effective way to reach out to the electorate without having to give up control on how the message is put out. Social media is political oxygen. Donald Trump couldn't keep away from it after he was ejected from some social media platforms in 2021. His company now has its own social media platform, Truth Social.

Special features | Recent research on social media identified features that make them different from older communication modes. Entry barriers are negligible for politicians who want to reach out. Even on the other side, access costs fall all the time. Moreover, the penetration of mobile internet has meant that the consumption of social media messages has become more convenient than ever before. It's an indispensable tool for contemporary politicians.

Downsides aplenty | Social media's attraction comes from the near absence of checks and balances on users. Also, the platforms have been largely spared legal accountability for content they host. It's led to a proliferation of misinformation and now deepfakes that are designed to cause trouble. Algorithms of social media platforms that amplify posts peddling fake news only worsen the situation. It's likely that the absence of adequate checks and balances appeals to politicians and a new breed of proxies who are classified as influencers.

2024 is the year when most major democracies have elections. Common to all elections is anxiety about social media's potential negative impact.

Happiness from subsidy

It's complicated by factors such as neighbour's envy

Anupam Manur

I am a relatively poor man. Govt does a lot for me. Or at least in my name. In Bengaluru, for example, govt has kept the price of water low, so that I can afford it.

Though it costs them roughly ₹100 a kilolitre to provide, they charge everybody only about ₹10 and give a subsidy to cover the rest. Honourable intentions, no doubt, for which I am sincerely grateful. What hurts me a little bit is that my supremely rich neighbours also use this subsidy in large amounts. To wash their grand cars and water their sprawling lawns.

Worse, because of all this subsidy, I'm told that the water agency (BWSSB) is more broke than I am and in severe debt. This means that they usually don't have the money to lay down pipes to areas on the outskirts of the city.

Interestingly, though the agency is broke, some of its employees are not. There's an unofficial BWSSB Employees Vikas Yojana, to which many of us have contributed in exchange for a piped connection. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the prosperity of my fellow Indians.

While the water is affordable, its supply is notoriously unreliable. We are increasing the durability of the pipes by using them sparingly. Many of us end up hiring a water tanker or filling our vessels at the local water plant at about twenty times the price that my Mercedes Benz washing neighbour pays. The intentions are good though.

Finally, as our water agency is broke, it struggles to carry out maintenance. More than 30% of the water meant for our homes is lost in leakages. Another chunk is stolen by generous contributions to the Vikas Yojana.

All of these contributions take a heavier toll on my limited wallet than on my neighbours. So, with gratitude, I request respected govt not to punish us any more with its good intentions.

What's worse, the water that does end up coming through our underused pipes is often contaminated with gutter water. To overcome this, like our rich neighbour, I too might have to make another type of contribution – this time to purchase our dear Hema Malini's water purifiers. Else, an upset stomach during a water shortage crisis can be very tricky to manage.

America's Sugar Rush

US govt pumped in more stimulus during Covid than other countries. That's still keeping American economy looking strong. But when the effect wears off, the landing may come fast

Ruchir Sharma



US economic growth has defied the once universal expectation that Federal Reserve rate hikes would trigger a recession. First economists dialled those forecasts back to a "soft landing", now they are talking about "no landing".

Conventional forecasting models have been more off the mark than usual in this post-pandemic recovery. But why? Perhaps the most overlooked explanation for American resilience is that, far more than other countries, developed and developing, US kept stimulating its economy well after the recession of 2020 was over.

Trump and Biden, both bountiful | Some of that fiscal and monetary stimulus is still coursing through the system, keeping growth artificially high, and making inflation for both consumer and asset prices significantly more persistent in US than in its peers.

After the pandemic struck, presidents Trump and Biden unleashed around \$10 trillion in new spending, \$8 trillion of that after the brief, lockdown-induced recession of early 2020 was over. US govt spending has been running at a yearly level around \$2 trillion higher than its pre-pandemic norm, and is on course to set records as a share of GDP.

Meanwhile, the rest of the developed world has been heading in a different direction. In the years since the start of the pandemic, rising deficits amounted to a cumulative 40% of GDP in US, twice the average in Europe, and a third higher than in UK.

By some estimates, fiscal stimulus accounted for more than a third of US growth in 2023; without it, US would not look like such a marvel compared to other developed economies – and to developing economies as well.

India's fiscal stimulus, more calibrated | GOI raised spending during the pandemic to address some of the health needs created by the virus, and to help businesses through a hard lockdown – but not beyond. By the end of 2023, US deficit was up by 4% of GDP over pre-pandemic levels, or about three times the increase in developing countries including India.

One result is that India's public debt is up by about 8 points as a share of GDP – half the increase in US.

Another is that, while swings in inflation have barely widened in large emerging economies including India, they have grown roughly fivefold in US.

Even more under-appreciated than the boost from runaway govt spending is the way monetary growth has been supercharging the economy and the financial markets. The Fed created so much money during the pandemic that by some measures the excess has still not been fully absorbed by the economy.

Liquidity hangover | The broad measure of money supply known as M2, which includes cash held in money market accounts and bank deposits, as well

odd combination – higher stock valuations despite higher rates – has not happened in any period of Fed rate hikes going back to the late 1950s.

Housing party | A similar levitation act is visible in the US housing market; despite higher mortgage rates, prices have risen steadily, and faster than in other developed nations. Since 2020, total net worth of US households has risen by nearly \$40tn to \$157tn, driven by home and stock prices.

For the better off, this "wealth effect" is a happy turn. A recent poll showed that more Americans plan to vacation abroad this summer than at any time since records began in the 1960s. For the less well off, who summer closer to home, do not own a home and tend to be younger, these conditions are less felicitous.

There are of course other reasonable explanations for US resilience, including the surge in immigration and the AI boom. Moreover, many American debtors are paying fixed rates and won't get hit by hikes until they need to refinance their loans. New govt incentives are drawing billions in investment to subsidised industries, from green tech to computer chips.

Heat is on, who's melting? | But this much seems clear: with both consumer prices and asset prices more elevated in US than its peers, the economy is overheated and the Fed has less room to cut rates than expected. As long as interest rates remain higher for longer, US will be asking for worse trouble if it keeps running deficits close to 6% of GDP; that is twice the pre-pandemic average for US, and six times the median for western Europe. US cannot sustain such aggressive stimulus indefinitely, and govt spending is already slowing.

Economics though is far from an exact science, and it is hard to know when exactly the sugar rush from the past stimulus will wear off. But once it does, the landing may come faster than any conventional model suggests now.

The writer is an author and global investor

What We Lose When Words Become Weapons

We argue to wound others and win, rather than to learn together. This is as true in TV debates or social media as in social settings. Our sages and scholars knew better

Prasoon Joshi



Legend has it that an erudite sage travelled through a village where a respected scholar resided. Their disciples planned a debate to establish who had the better mind. A crowd gathered, expecting a fiery interaction. To everyone's surprise, they acknowledged each other and walked back to their respective abodes. Later, when a younger disciple asked why he hadn't engaged in debate, the sage said: "Woh jaanta tha main jaanta hoon, main jaanta hoon woh jaanta tha" (He knew that I know, I know that he knew). The two men had recognised each other's calibre in that brief meeting and understood that a point needn't be proved just for the sake of it. Graceful silence said it all.

This episode remains relevant even now. Much has been written about the art and science of debate in ancient India, taking the forms of samvada, vada, jalpa and vitanda. The story of Sulabha teaching the haughty King Janaka the art of measured debate is a masterclass on speech and even intention.

In our world, winning an argument and defeating the other is highly prized. "I decimated him/ I killed it/ destroyed his premise/ udaa ke phenk diya" – are oft-heard phrases, be it in a boardroom, on broadcast media or social media or a casual gathering. These platforms benefit the few who have mastered the lexicon of debates and rebuttals. Instead of deliberation, the aim is to overpower and pulp, through tone and pitch and body language. Those trained in debate eclipse others, irrespective of innate smarts and skill. A genuine deep dive into the matter is rarely seen.

Let's explore a few aspects of such argumentation, where the aim is pure domination.

Thought violence | Most of our interactions now occur at the level of thought and speech. The brain increasingly governs the world. Thread by thread, the fabric of our inner universe is shaped by speech.

Examining an argument can give you an insight into its construct. Are the words sharp? Do they attack, cut or wound? Do they demean the other? You see where we are going with this exploration. The word can be a brutal weapon. So, can winning an argument be a form



of sophisticated violence? Have you engaged in thought violence and been aware of it?

Thought scars | A physical wound heals but leaves a scar, and so does a nasty argument. When a child is hurt, he cries in pain, revealing his wound. An adult braves it out, hiding the pain caused by sharp arguments. But we all are carrying these thought scars.

Where do these violent thoughts and words emanate from? Is it from the same base impulse that drives physical violence? This animal instinct could be born out of our 'vikar', forgetting the fact that our authentic self is 'nirvikaar', an incorruptible form of energy.

Many schools of thought have ruminated on the

brutality of arguments. Take the fascinating ideas of anekantavada and syat in Jain philosophy. Scholars translate anekantavada as the principle of 'many-sidedness or non-onesidedness'. According to this, no single statement can be the absolute truth in understanding the nature of reality; the existence of mutually opposing groups of thoughts is given ample space. The word 'syat' is for multiplicity and relativism. It respects other schools of thought by warning us against the extensive use of 'eva' or 'only'. It explores the truth patiently and gently. It is an attitude of tolerance, justice, and respect for the other. These concepts are in stark contrast to the word wars we see today.

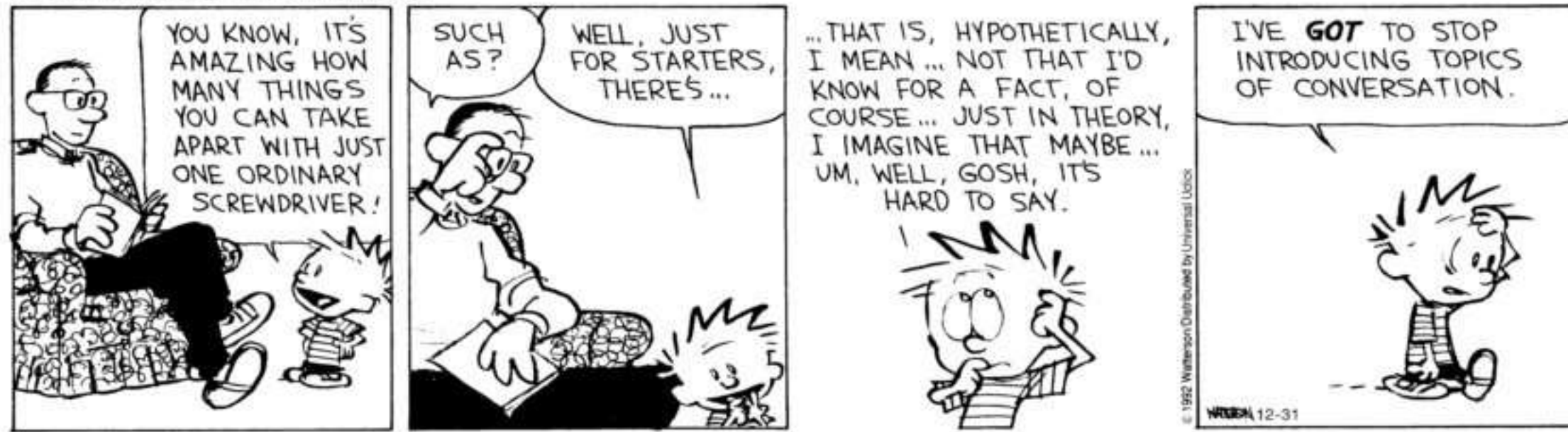
Virtual violence | The virtual world makes it easier to indulge in violence of words and thoughts. In virtual interactions, physical separation allows for greater expression of verbal violence.

Silence as violence | Interestingly, there can even be violence in silence and inaction. When someone is expectantly waiting for a response and the other hard-heartedly restrains from responding, this can be maun hinsa.

Reflecting and seeking | All this takes us deeper into where the intention is born. If we search for the truth at all levels of intention, thought, and expression, we must evaluate the line between debate and discussion, victory and vehemence, ego and substance.

The increasing weaponisation of thought and speech in our public and private universes needs to be acknowledged, to resolve it. Our ahankara or ego bloats because we are not in touch with our true side, which can't be violent. In the mutual quest for truth, neither arbiters nor spectators, nor din, nor polemics, need to be involved. Transcending our supremacy-seeking ego and making ourselves one with creation would result in the cessation of violence, at the physical and mental level.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I am going to be happy in it.

Groucho Marx

Unlocking The Masterclass On Spirituality

Jaya Row

Spirituality has become a buzzword. But, it is the most misunderstood concept. Spirituality has nothing to do with your lifestyle, vocation or location. It is an understanding of your real personality.

Your body, mind, and intellect are your matter layers. It is like wearing a vest, shirt, and jacket. The real you is Spirit, Atman. You are spiritual when you identify with Spirit and not the matter components. Ignorant of Spirit you identify with body, mind, intellect. As you think so you become. Thus, you reduce the mighty, all-pervading, all-powerful Atman to a limited, finite, dependent entity. Identify with Spirit and you become all-powerful.

The formula is human – desire = God. We all have desires. But the more desires you fulfil, the more you create. The truth is, desire has no place in life. You get what

you deserve, not what you desire. Spirituality helps you gain merit. You become more deserving when you tap into your potential. As you move to higher realms, your lower desires get fulfilled automatically. Thus, being spiritual helps you gain more of the world. It takes you to the Transcendental and gives you the world on a platter.

Even a talented footballer needs to learn the rules of the game to become an outstanding player. Similarly, Vedanta teaches you the rules of the game. This is absolutely essential to achieve success, be happy and realise your potential.

In modern life, we have become selfish and self-centred. Life revolves around my goals, my needs, my dreams. Thought of self is the greatest obstacle to success, happiness as well as growth. What are you working for? Just pay

cheque and profit? Then you will be mediocre. The greatest achievers were dedicated to a higher goal. Don Bradman did not play cricket for money. Ustad Bismillah Khan was passionate about music. Einstein was totally immersed in Physics. The highest quality of action is performed to get to the Transcendental. Eric Lidl, nicknamed the Flying Scotsman, won many Olympic Golds in athletics. His philosophy was simple – God made me to run and I will run for God! He established records that were difficult to break. He was unbeatable!

Vedanta helps achieve self-sufficiency, which results in wonderful relationships. You cease to live life like a creeper; dependent and miserable. You live like a magnificent banyan tree, majestic and independent. You love people unconditionally, with no expectation,

no frustration and no bitterness. Vedanta develops the intellect and gives clarity of thought. You understand your purpose in life and move towards it with determination and consistency. You grow into a towering personality.

Everything in the world passes. The body ages and dies. All the wealth you accumulate so painstakingly can go in an instant. Relationships do not last. Intellectual ideas change. These changes traumatise you and leave you heartbroken. Only the Spirit within is permanent. It always was, always is and always will be in the future.

As you identify with Spirit and find your anchor in the permanent, the fluctuations in the world do not affect you. You enjoy the changes as you are no longer dependent on the world. You find happiness within that cannot be taken away by anything in the world. You become powerful, happy, and independent.



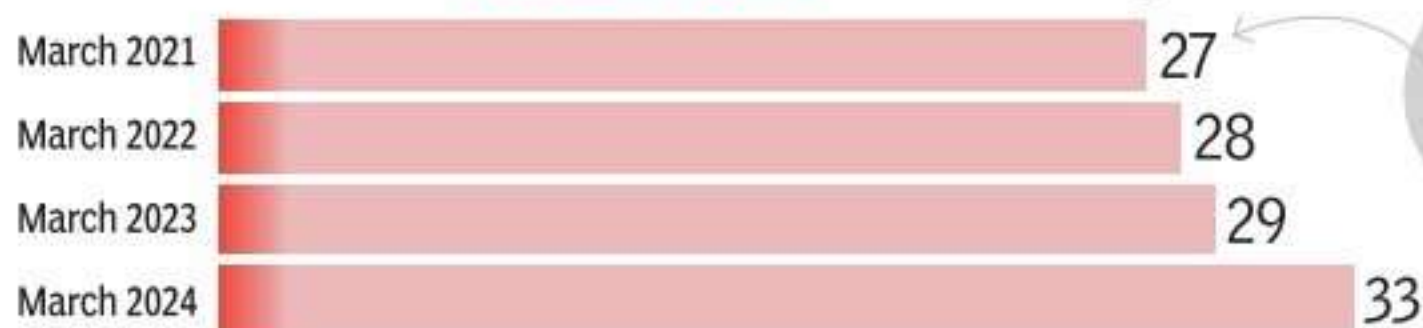
- About a third of all S&P 500 stock trades are now executed in the final 10 minutes of a trading session — up from 27% in 2021
- The trend may be hurting liquidity and distorting prices
- The phenomenon is driven by index funds, which typically buy and sell shares at the close, since the last prices of the day are used to set the benchmarks they aim to replicate

Source: Bloomberg; *Figures include % of volume traded in closing auction



● The extent to which any closing distortions should cause concern is uncertain and the debate is not clear cut

% of stock trades executed at close have been rising



Last 10 mins as % of volume*

● Assets in passive equity funds have surged over the past decade to more than \$11.5tn in the US alone, shifting ever-more trading to the end of the session

Sensex jumps over 900 pts on global cues, steady Q4 results

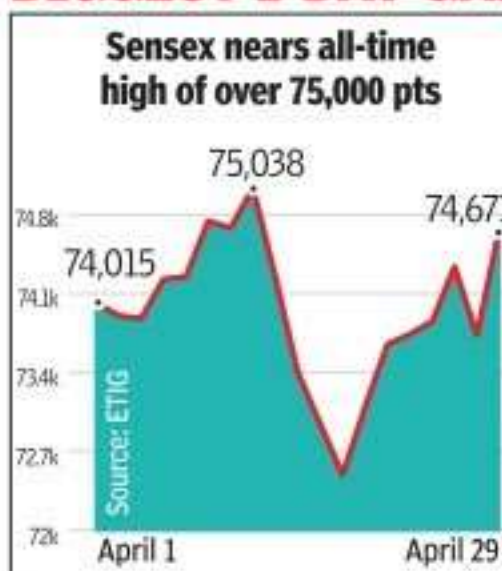
Bank Nifty Index Touches All-Time High | Eyes On US Fed Meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Across the board buying lifted Sensex by 941 points on Monday to close at 74,671, with financials leading. No news of escalation of geopolitical tensions in West Asia, softening of govt bond yields in the US and some steady corporate performance in the domestic market over the weekend added to the positive sentiment on Dalal Street as markets opened for trading. After steady trades in the early hours, leading indices gained strength and rallied to close near the day's highs.

Sensex touched an intraday high at 74,721 points and closed near that level, up 1.3% on the day. On the NSE, Nifty gained 223 points or 1% to close at 22,643 points. Some short covering also helped the ga-

BIGGEST 1-DAY GAIN IN 2 MONTHS



- India VIX — a gauge for volatility — jumped 12%, not deterring local investors from taking the indices higher
- Monday's rally made investors richer by nearly ₹3 lakh crore, with BSE's market capitalisation now at ₹413.2 lakh crore
- While ICICI Bank contributed 317 points to the day's rally, HDFC Bank (126 pts) and SBI (83 pts) were the next biggest gainers

ins during closing hours, market players said. The surge on Monday was the biggest since March 1 (1,245 points). According to Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services, Indian markets rebounded, aided by upbeat earnings by US tech sector leaders and a drop in US 10-year yields. Do-

mestically, the Bank Nifty index outperformed, driven by strong performance of some of the banks during the fourth quarter that ended in March. "An ease in tensions (in West Asia), coupled with stable earnings, is expected to maintain positive market sentiment." On Monday, the Bank Nif-

ty scaled a new life-high at 49,474 points. The day's session also saw India VIX — a gauge for volatility — jump by 12%, but that didn't stop local investors from taking the indices higher, dealers said. Monday's rally made investors richer by nearly ₹3 lakh crore, with BSE's market capitalisation now at ₹413.2 lakh crore, official data showed. The day's gains came mainly on the back of buying by speculators and non-institutional investors. According to BSE data, domestic institutions and foreign funds were net buyers at Rs 692 crore and Rs 169 crore respectively.

Going forward, the decision late on Wednesday by the US Fed's rate setting committee and the non-farm payroll data for the US could dictate markets' trend, Nair said.

Wipro CEO Pallia to get \$4.5-7mn in annual salary

Shilpa.Phadnis@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Srinu Pallia, Wipro's newly-appointed CEO, is set to receive annual compensation ranging from \$4.5 million to \$7 million, as disclosed in the shareholders' notice posted on the BSE on Monday. Pallia, a 32-year veteran of the company, assumed the role of CEO and MD on April 7 for a five-year term. He succeeds Thierry Delaporte, who departed before his tenure was scheduled to conclude in 2025.

Throughout his career at Wipro, Pallia has held various key positions, including as the president of Wipro's consumer business unit, global head of business applications services, and most recently, CEO of the strategic market unit known as Americas 1. Pallia will be based in the US and reports to Wipro chairman Rishad Premji.

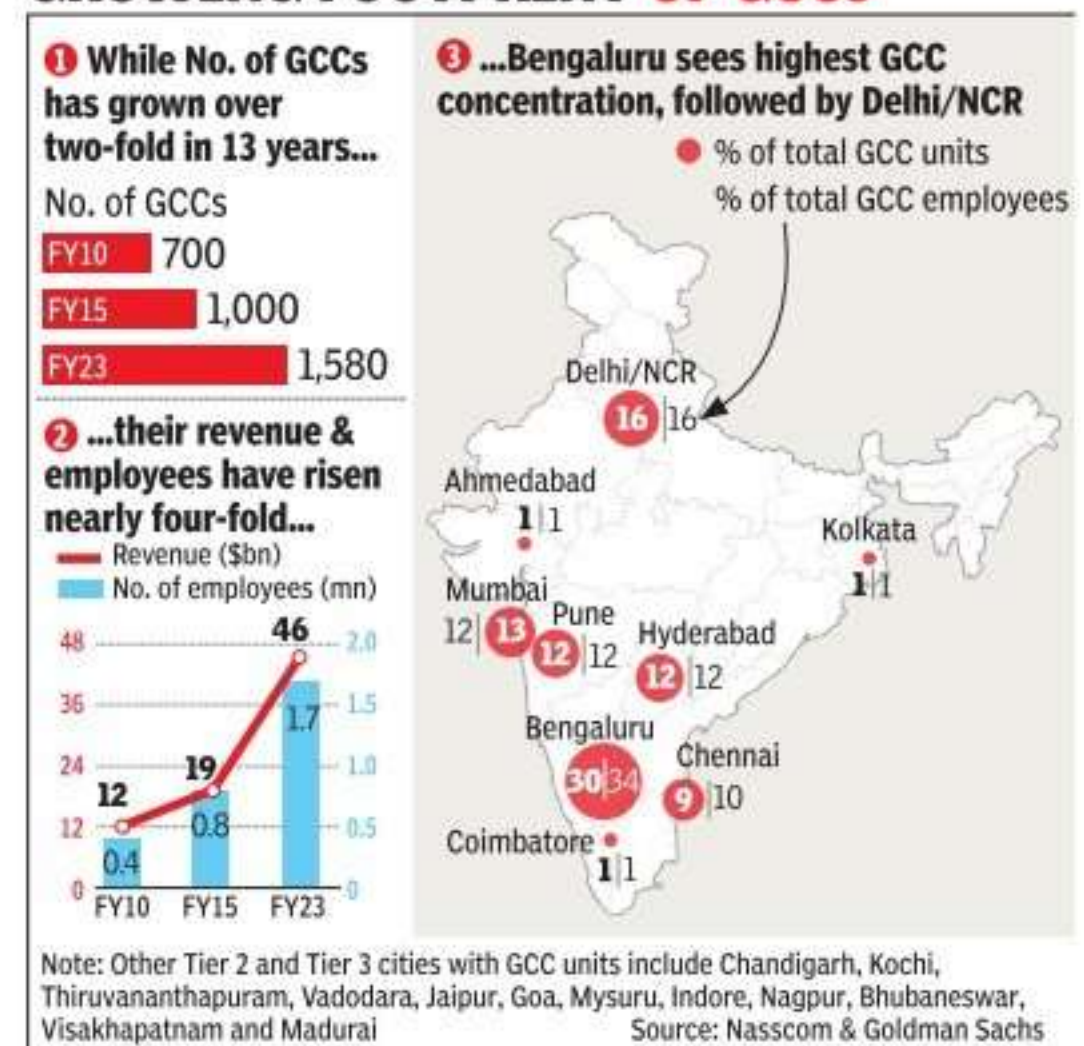
Pallia's compensation package comprises a base salary ranging from \$1.7 million to \$3 million, along with a target variable pay of \$1.7 million to \$3 million per year. In contrast, Delaporte — one of the highest-paid CEOs in the Indian IT sector — saw a slight decrease in his salary to \$10 million in FY24 from \$10.5 million in the year before. Wipro's board has approved a cash compensation payment of \$4.3 million to Delaporte.

India emerges as world's services factory: Report

Share In Global Services Exports More Than Doubles In Last 18 Yrs, Says Goldman Sachs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

GROWING FOOTPRINT OF GCCs



New Delhi: India's share in global services exports has more than doubled over the last 18 years and rise of global capability centres (GCCs) has played a crucial role in the expansion, a global report said on Monday.

The proliferation of GCCs has given a boost to real estate, expanded services exports, added to economic growth, created jobs and led to rapid increase in revenues for these firms. GCCs are specialised offshore entities set up by companies operating across the world and these centres support a raft of business processes, including IT, human resources, finance, analytics, among others.

"Revenues of GCCs in India have grown nearly 4x at a CAGR of 11.4% over last 13 years to \$46 billion as of FY23. The number of GCCs has more than doubled from 700 to 1,580 over the same time period, with the sector adding around 1.3 million employees (1.6% CAGR), taking the total employee headcount to 1.7 million in FY23," says the report by Goldman Sachs titled "India's rise as the emerging services factory of the world."

we expect strong growth in high-value services to continue. We expect the growth in high-value services to domestically drive top-end discretionary consumption and commercial and residential real estate demand," according to the report.

It said India's services exports grew to nearly \$340 billion in 2023 at a CAGR of around 11% from 2005 (nearly double global growth) outpacing goods export growth.

"As a result, India's share in global services exports rose from under 2% in 2005 to 4.6% in 2023, while India's share in goods exports only increased from 1% in 2005 to 1.8% in 2023," said the report.

It said within services, computer services remain the dominant sub-sector, accounting for nearly half of India's services exports in 2023. However, professional consulting exports have been the fastest growing sector.

BSE's stock crashes 13% after Sebi seeks fee difference of around ₹165cr

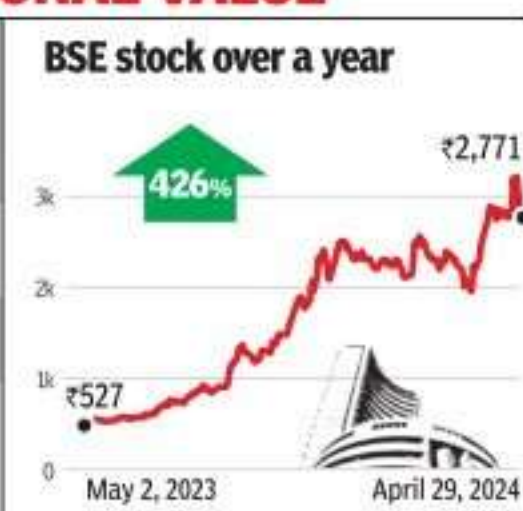
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Stock exchange BSE's shares crashed over 13% on Monday after markets regulator Sebi sought additional amount (estimated at Rs 165 crore) for wrongful benchmarking of fees for options contracts traded on it since fiscal 2007. While the BSE paid regulatory fees based on 'premium value' of options contracts, Sebi has demanded fees based on 'notional value'. The NSE has been paying this fee based on notional value, which is always higher than premium value.

The difference between premium and notional value arises in case of options contracts and not in cash and futures trading. For instance, a sensex options contract of 75,000

PREMIUM VS NOTIONAL VALUE

- Since FY07, the BSE has been paying regulatory fee to Sebi on 'premium value'. Sebi has sought the fee on 'notional value'
- Notional value on options is higher than premium value
- BSE's costs under this head could rise for FY25 and FY26 too
- BSE's stock lost 19% intraday on Monday on fears of higher costs leading to lower profits



strike price is traded at Rs 100. Here, Rs 75,000 is the notional value while the premium value is Rs 100. Currently, Sebi charges Re 1 per Rs 100-lakh turnover on all purchase and sales transactions in the securities other than debt securities. For debt securities, the charge is Re 0.25 per Rs 10 lakh worth of turnover, a report by ICICI Securities said.

According to the I-Sec report, the rise in cost due to higher regulatory fee could shave off about 20% from BSE's net profit for fiscal 2025 and fiscal 2026. This higher cost could be managed by hiking trading costs by about 30%. "However, this sensitivity is subjective to estimates and has many levers of options volume growth, options cost growth and also develop-

ment in premium to notional turnover," the report said.

MCX, which has also been served a similar letter by Sebi, saw its stock close over 2.4% down on Monday. According to estimates, the BSE will have to pay regulatory fee worth about Rs 165 crore (excluding GST) while for MCX, the financial burden will be limited to about Rs 1.8 crore (excluding GST).

Sebi had sent letters to the bourses on Friday demanding higher regulatory fee for the past 16 years after it was detected that there was a wrongful benchmarking of the fee by these exchanges. On Monday, the BSE stock slid to an intraday low at Rs 2,612 (down 18.6%). The BSE on Monday said that it was "evaluating the validity, or otherwise, of the claim according to Sebi communication."

Manipal buys 87% in Kolkata hospital chain for ₹1,400cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Manipal Hospitals, the second-largest healthcare provider in India, has entered into an agreement to acquire an 87% stake in Medica Synergie, a hospital chain based in Kolkata. While the financial details of the transaction were not disclosed, sources informed TOI that the deal is estimated to be worth Rs 1,400 crore.

Following the acquisition of Medica, Manipal Hospitals will serve 7 million patients annually across 37 hospitals in 19 cities. The addition of Medica has increased the number of hospital beds from 9,500 to over 10,500. Two recent acquisitions — Medica Synergie and AMRI — have positioned Manipal Hospitals as the largest hospital chain in eastern India, focusing on tertiary and quaternary healthcare.

In a recent development, Manipal Hospitals acquired an 84% stake in AMRI (Advanced Medical Research Institute) Hospitals, also based in Kolkata, for Rs 2,400 crore. Dilip Jose, MD, and CEO of Manipal Hospitals, said, "With this acquisition, Manipal Hospitals builds on its strong presence in Eastern India, enabling us to expand our reach and meet the healthcare needs of this underserved region."

Ola to lay off 10% employees, CEO quits in 3 months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Ola Cabs is laying off 10% or close to 200 employees as part of its restructuring exercise ahead of a planned initial public offering, with its CEO Hemant Bakshi also quitting within three months of joining the company.

The company is looking to file its draft IPO papers with Sebi in three months, and get listed on the bourses later this year.

The decision to prune its workforce comes weeks after Ola shut down operations in some countries in a bid to tone its functions. In a letter to employees which was reviewed by TOI, founder Bhavish Aggarwal said the restructuring exercise is aimed at "improving profitability" and preparing the company for the "next phase of growth".

The latest move will impact the support teams and comes amid an increased focus on deployment of AI in the company's opera-

tions. Aggarwal said the company has made substantial investments in areas of AI and technology, leading to significant cost advantages. "We will continue to focus on these areas to ensure that we build cutting edge products and services across our business verticals. These changes will result in certain roles within the company becoming redundant," he said.

AHEAD OF PLANNED IPO

The company claims to have already posted an operating profit of Rs 250 crore on a standalone basis in FY23, against a loss of Rs 66 crore in the previous year. "Profitability is a lucrative proposition for the public markets and the firm wants to further build on it," a source aware of the company's thinking said. Subsidiary Ola Electric has already filed draft IPO papers with Sebi and aims to raise Rs 5,500 crore through issuance of new shares.

StanChart consumer banking head to join Jio Fin

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The head of consumer banking (India) at Standard Chartered Bank, Kusal Roy, has tendered his resignation and is expected to join Jio Financial Services. The development comes amid Jio Financial Services' recent announcement of forthcoming consumer-focused initiatives to be launched soon.

Roy, who assumed his role at StanChart Bank in 2020 after leading Tata Capital, has been a career banker. He was earlier with ICICI Bank and Citibank. StanChart confirmed Roy's exit in response to an emailed query. The announcement of Roy's departure coincides with the unveiling of a slew of initiatives by Jio Financial Services, as revealed by its MD & CEO Hitesh Sethia, following the company's recent financial results published on April 19.

"Jio Finance, our NBFC, is well positioned to capture the lending market opportunity by adopting a digital-first business model to cater to consumers and businesses," Sethia said. JFS has announced its foray into mutual funds and wealth management in partnership with Blackrock.

UltraTech's Q4 net profit rises 35% to ₹2.3k cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: UltraTech Cement posted a 35% increase in quarterly profit to Rs 2,259 crore on the back of lower input costs and higher volume growth. Revenue climbed 9% to Rs 20,419 crore in Q4 FY24.

India's largest cement company's imported fuel consumption cost was 13% lower than the year-ago period, while it recorded a volume growth of 11%. Its capacity utilisation stood at 98%. UltraTech's net debt increased by Rs 77 crore at the end of March 31, after it had spent over Rs 9,400 crore on capital expenditure.

It plans to augment its annual cement capacity to 200 million tonne, including its overseas capacity of 5.4 million tonne, from 153 million tonne. It has announced the acquisition of a grinding unit in Parli from India Cements.

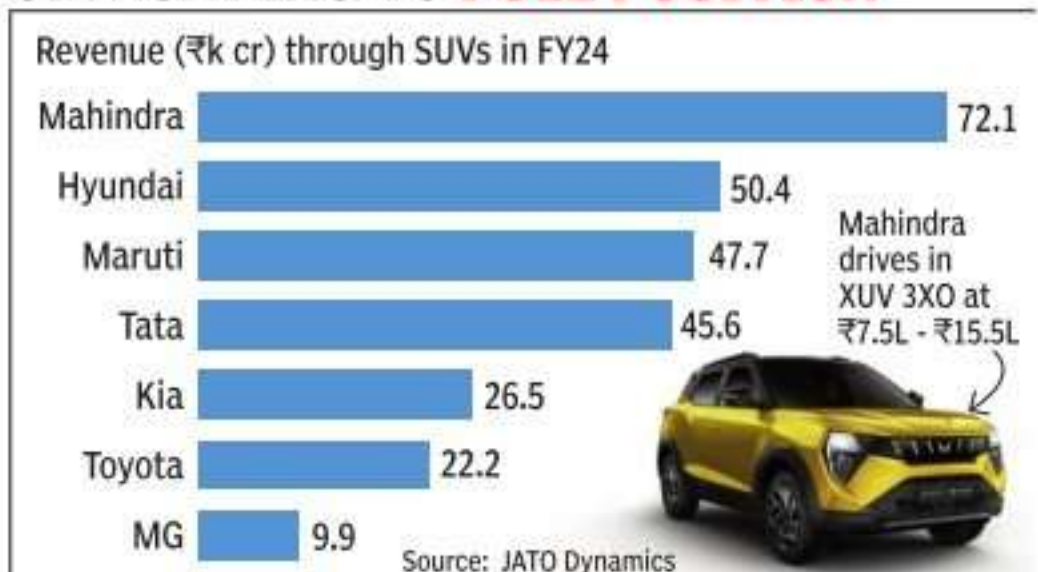
M&M becomes revenue leader in SUV category

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New Delhi: The surge in SUVs has made Mahindra & Mahindra one of the biggest gainers in Indian automotive industry. The company, which till a few years back, was struggling to get its act together with previous-gen Scorpio as only flagship, has staged a turnaround and emerged as the revenue leader in SUV category, ahead of some of its formidable rivals, such as, Toyota, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Kia and Maruti Suzuki.

Mahindra has been on a roll since the success of models, such as, XUV700, Thar, and Scorpio-N. The company's revenues in the SUV business in FY23-24 stood at Rs 72,109.5 crore compared to second-biggest player Hyundai's Rs 50,421

OFFROADING TO POLE POSITION



of Mahindra's automotive and farm divisions, said the company expects to take volume leadership in the category with 3XO. Ravi Bhatia, president of JATO Dynamics in India, said Mahindra has successfully aligned its product portfolio and branding strategies to capitalise on SUV trend.

Two foreign banks optimistic on BJP show

Sitharaman Bats For Continuity, Wants Growth To Percolate To Grassroots

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Two multinational banks, Nomura and HSBC, have said that the upcoming general elections in India polls point to continuity at the Centre, and have called for tougher reforms, including those related to land and labour, to spur growth.

The reports coincided with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's statement, underscoring the need for a stable govt to achieve the goal of becoming a developed country by 2047. "We have to make efforts, so the GDP grows, and the benefits reach to all. GDP growth doesn't happen automatically... efforts are required at micro and macro levels and on the ground," she said at a university in Vizag.

In a research report, Nomura analysts Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi said opinion polls were pointing towards continuity in the Lok Sabha polls, which also suggests policy continuity. While estimating average annual GDP growth of 7% between 2024-28, Nomura said, govt may consider the more politically contentious reforms around land, labour, and capital, judicial reforms, as well as simplifying direct and indirect tax administration, including bringing electricity, oil & gas, and alcohol under the GST ambit.

HSBC economist Pranjul Bhandari went a step further to suggest that BJP's tally may increase from 303 in 2019 to 323 seats this time, with the NDA coalition reaching 377.



Bhandari said that implementing easy-to-moderate reforms can deliver 6.5% growth over the medium term. "For growth over 7.5%, moderate-to-hard reforms will be necessary," the HSBC report said.

The report categorises infrastructure, facilitating business in electronics and EVs, and privatising some PSUs as easy reforms. Moderate reforms entail improving local govt funding, simplifying tax systems, and upgrading infrastructure financing models. Difficult reforms involve subsidies, implementing land and labour reforms, and modernising education and healthcare systems.

PM Narendra Modi has asked civil servants to ready a 100-day plan that he intends to announce if he secures a third term in office. The pace of reforms — as well as decisions related to privatisation and asset monetisation — have slowed down for over a year as govt got into the election mode. BJP has gone to town on the economic performance, something Sitharaman also underlined on Monday as she sought to rebut her predecessor P Chidambaram's claims.

► From P 1

RBI on Monday warned lenders to not levy interest from the date of loan sanction, instead of actual disbursement. In a home loan or other loans, there is often a lag between sanction and disbursement and charging it from the date of sanction imposes additional interest cost on the borrower.

Charging interest from the date of loan sanction or loan agreement execution rather than from the date of actual disbursement is a violation of fair lending practices norms. Customers end up paying interest on money they haven't received, which inflates the cost of borrowing. Second, in the case of loans disbursed by cheque, charging interest from the date of the cheque rather than when it's cashed or deposited can lead to custo-

mers being charged for funds they haven't accessed. These practices result in customers paying more than they should for borrowing money and eroding trust in the lending institution. Similarly, RBI said it had come across instances where banks or NBFCs were levying interest for the entire month even if the loan was disbursed or repaid within the month. Again, customers end up paying more interest than they should, as they are being charged for days when the loan has already been repaid.

Besides, they were collecting advance instalments while still charging interest on the full loan amount. Recovering interest on full loan amounts, even in cases where the instalment was paid in advance, results in overcharging, as customers are paying interest on loan amounts they have not received or utilized. For example, if a customer takes out a loan of Rs10,000 and the repayment schedule requires monthly instalments over a period of 12 months, the lender collects two instalments in advance, totalling Rs2,000, at the time of loan disbursement. Despite only receiving Rs 8,000, the lender calculates interest charges based on the full Rs 10,000 loan amount.

According to RBI, the 2003 guidelines on the Fair Practices Code advocate fairness and transparency in charging interest rates. However, these do not prescribe any standard practice with the objective of providing adequate freedom to lenders regarding their loan pricing policy.

In its letter, RBI said that non-standard practices of charging interest "are not in consonance with the spirit of fairness and transparency".

Real's 'Bestia Negra' Bayern Are Also Their Lucky Charm. They Have Knocked Out The German Giants In The Three Most Recent Tangles, Going On To Lift The Trophy

IN THE RUNNING

Munich: Real Madrid have their sights set on a Liga and Champions League double, but to lift the latter they must find a way past Bayern Munich, their "bestia negra" - "black beast".

Carlo Ancelotti's side travel to Bavaria for the semifinals first leg clash on Tuesday, in a fixture dubbed the 'European Clasico', the most repeated in the competition's history.

Despite Madrid's forbidding nickname for Bayern, they have shaded the Bundesliga side across their 26 encounters, with 12 wins to Bayern's 11. In the last decade Madrid clearly have the edge on the German giants. The record 14-time winners knocked out Bayern in each of their three most recent tangles, in the semi-finals in 2014 and 2018, and the quarter-finals in 2017.

Real went on to win the Champions League every time. Ancelotti was on the receiving end in 2017, when Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick knocked his Bayern side out in extra-time at the Santiago Bernabeu. A few months later Bayern sacked the Italian, with Madrid's return to the Allianz Arena a chance for the competition's most decorated coach to prove a point to his former employers.

With Bayern losing their grip on the Bundesliga title to upstarts Bayer Leverkusen this season, the relative quality of Ancelotti's all-too-brief era is missed. Back then, Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso was a key part of Bayern's spine - how times change.

Ancelotti argued the refereeing was bad on that night, with Bayern midfielder Arturo Vidal harshly dismissed, and one of Ronaldo's goals offside. It was another example of Madrid somehow finding a way to win in Europe from tricky situations. Bayern, six-time Champions League winners, have only lifted the trophy once since their 2013 triumph over Borussia Dortmund at Wembley. By contrast, Los Blancos have won it five times in that period.

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said last week Madrid's success breeds more success, after they showed steel to overcome champions Manchester City on penalties in the quarter-finals. "When you have won so much, you play with more calm, less desperation, more confidence," said the Barcelona coach.

Those qualities are what Ancelotti will encourage his team to show in Munich on Tuesday. No team from outside of Spain has beaten Madrid on more occasions than Bayern's 11 wins.

"They've had a tough season but right now they are probably in their best moment and they have Harry Kane, who scores a lot," said Ancelotti. "We have to battle, but we're delighted to play it, and with a lot of confidence." AFP

"You need luck, momentum, freedom, the whole package to overcome Real Madrid in the semis. If it only came down to experience, then I wouldn't have a chance" - Thomas Tuchel, Bayern coach

"WE SHOWED THE ATTITUDE AND COMMITMENT DEMANDED BY THIS JERSEY (IN THE QUARTERS AGAINST CITY). THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL COMPETITION FOR US." - Carlo Ancelotti, REAL COACH

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Bayern	Wins	Real
11	12	
3	Draw	3
39	Goals	41

FORM GUIDE

REAL MADRID

(All comps, most recent first):

W	W	W	W	D	L
W	W	D	W	D	W

36 Real Madrid have won 36 of their 47 games in all competitions in 2023/24, suffering only two defeats - both against Atletico.

13 Bayern are through to their 21st European Cup/Champions League semi-final with this the 13th of those in the Champions League era.

17 Real have made the last-four stage a record 33rd time with their 17th CL semifinal appearance also unrivalled.

LET'S FACE IT: Bellingham (L) and Kane will be in opposition camps



English stars have eye on Wembley final

If Harry Kane is to win the Champions League with Bayern Munich and claim a first career trophy, he will have to get past Real Madrid and England teammate Jude Bellingham.

A decade apart in age, the duo have walked hugely different paths so far in their careers. Kane has been the only light to consistently shine in a faltering Bayern side this season. Less than a year after leaving Germany, Bellingham has established himself alongside Kane and a handful of others as a member of the footballing elite. And while they will seek to join forces in the summer, they will battle it out on Tuesday to get to Wembley - England's national stadium and the location of this season's Champions League final.

Bellingham has carried an injury-hit Madrid through difficult parts of the season and kept them on course for the league title with crucial goals, including late winners in both Clasico fixtures in La Liga.

Kane said he hoped Bellingham

"He's a great player, as I've said before. Of course, he's had an amazing season himself. But from my point of view, I hope he's quiet in the next two games." - Harry Kane, BAYERN STRIKER

had a night off on Tuesday. "From my point of view, I hope he's quiet in the next two games," he said.

Kane and Bellingham were "keeping it professional" and had not spoken before Tuesday's match, but would "catch up before the game and after the game".

Kane and Bellingham have never faced each other before, but have played alongside one another 22 times, losing just four matches.

Kane said he would "hopefully (score) a few" goals against Madrid. "I'm looking forward to the atmosphere - the atmosphere against Arsenal (in the quarterfinal) was incredible. I'm expecting it'll go another level up and I'm quite excited," he said. AFP

Monaco loss means PSG can take champagne out of ice

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain produced one of the most dominant seasons in the history of the French league despite clinching a record-extending 12th league title in an anticlimactic fashion.

Second-placed Monaco's 3-2 loss at Lyon on Sunday gave PSG an unassailable 12-point lead with just three rounds left. PSG had wasted the chance to celebrate with its supporters at home by drawing 3-3 with struggling Le Havre on Saturday.

For the first time in years, PSG this season looked like a genuine team on the field instead of relying on flashes of brilliance from its superstars.

But splashing the cash again played a big role in PSG's success. The Parisian club's budget this season is as large as the budgets of Marseille, Lyon and Monaco combined. The dominant season bears the fingerprints of PSG strategic adviser Luis Campos, the mastermind who previously helped Monaco and



HAND IT TO THEM! Kylian Mbappe (L) has a good support cast this season

Lille build winning squads as their sporting director. Instead of signing superstars, PSG focused on adding more depth to the squad.

Luis Enrique has turned PSG into a team harder to beat, conceding 0.93 goals per game compared to 1.05 last season. PSG has scored slightly more goals per game than last season despite the departures of Neymar and Messi.

On paper, there was more pressure on Kylian Mbappe to score goals. But a different approach helped PSG spread the goals and assists around. AFP

THIAGO SILVA TO LEAVE CHELSEA

London: Brazilian defender Thiago Silva will leave Chelsea at the end of the season after a "dream" four-year spell at Stamford Bridge. Silva announced his farewell on Monday in an emotional video message on Chelsea's website.

The 39-year-old centre-back arrived on a free transfer in August 2020 after leaving Paris Saint-Germain. "My sons play for Chelsea. I hope they can continue their careers here," he said.

Mumbai set up Bagan final

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Mumbai: Jorge Pereyra Diaz wanted to lap up every second of it. The Argentinian striker had just given Mumbai the lead in the second leg of their Indian Super League semifinal against FC Goa, putting the Islanders 4-2 ahead on aggregate, and he was in the mood to celebrate.

Joining him were thousands of Mumbai City fans who made sure their delight was heard around the 7000-capacity Mumbai Football Arena. They had to wait until the 69th minute for that joyous moment, and it was to get even better seven minutes from the end of regulation time.

This time it was Lallianzuala Chhangte who timed his run perfectly from inside his half to latch on to a sublime assist from Vikram Partap Singh, deftly take it past Goa goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh, and tap the ball into the net to make it 2-0. For the second time in five days, Goa were left crestfallen.

They had been looking



good to arrive here with a 2-0 lead from their first leg at Fatorda last Wednesday. In a matter of six crazy minutes in the closing stages of the game, the Gaurs watched in agony as Chhangte and Vikram turned that lead into a 3-2 win in favour of the Islanders.

Despite that slap in the face, Manolo Marquez's side would have come to Mumbai encouraged by their form on the road, having scored in

their last nine away games. It's another matter that they were up against the league's meanest defence, and the latter eventually won.

Mumbai's 2-0 victory on Monday and a 5-2 win on aggregate has earned them the right to take on Mohun Bagan Super Giant in Saturday's final. Petr Kratky's side will look at it as a chance to avenge their narrow defeat to the Kolkata giants a fortnight ago on the last day of the league stage which saw Bagan thwart Mumbai's hopes of becoming the first team to defend the League Winners Shield.

For now though, the Islanders will cherish a win they had to work extremely hard for, against an opponent who has challenged them each time they have met this season.

They may have endured a nightmare finish to the first leg of this semifinal but Goa managed to make a positive start here, looking clearly to their American winger Noah Sadaoui to launch attacks down the left channel.

Norway Oly champion's father charged with domestic violence

GJERT INGEBRIGTSEN, PATRIARCH OF A FAMOUS FAMILY OF RUNNERS, HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE POLICE

Oslo: Norwegian police said Monday that Gjert Ingebrigtsen, father and former coach of 1,500m Olympic champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen, had been charged with domestic violence against a family member. Jakob Ingebrigtsen and two of his brothers, Henrik and Filip, who are also athletes, shocked Norway last October when they accused their father of being violent.

"We grew up with a very aggressive and authoritarian father, who used physical violence and threats as part of his upbringing," the brothers wrote in an op-ed for newspaper VG.

"We still feel a sense of discomfort and fear that we have felt since childhood," they added. Police opened a probe into the abuse claims and on Monday said prosecutors had decided to charge Gjert Ingebrigtsen, 58, with domestic violence against one of his children.

According to a source close to the case, the acts in question do not concern the trio of known athletes but another, younger child.

Over a period of four years, from 2018 to 2022, Gjert Ingebrigtsen allegedly manhandled, insulted, threatened and hit the child in the face with his hand or with a towel.

Responding to questions,



WE STILL FEEL A SENSE OF DISCOMFORT AND FEAR THAT WE HAVE FELT SINCE CHILDHOOD - Brothers (from left) Filip, Jakob and Henrik Ingebrigtsen WROTE IN AN OP-ED FOR A NEWSPAPER

Therese Braut Vage, who led the investigation, would not confirm this account.

Police said they had closed investigations into other events concerning the six other children in the home either due to a lack of evidence or, in one case, because the statute of limitations having expired.

Gjert, who coached Jakob until after the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo - where Jakob won the gold - has always denied the accusations against him.

"As far as the dismissed cases, we agree that there is no evidence to prove that Ingebrigtsen committed any wrongdoing," his lawyer John Christian Elden said on Monday. "For the rest, Ingebrigts-

en disputes the description of the facts on which the indictment is based - and he therefore does not admit his guilt," he continued in an email.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen is the most successful of the three brothers, twice winning gold in the world championships 5000m in 2022 and 2023, as well as the Olympic 1500m gold.

The 23-year-old is also preparing for the Olympic Games in Paris this summer.

Henrik, 33, and Filip, 31, were European champions in the 1500m in 2012 and 2016 respectively. After breaking with his sons, Gjert Ingebrigtsen shocked Norwegian athletics by becoming the trainer of another runner, Narve Gilje Nordas. AP

Rory, Shane rally to win playoff

New Orleans: Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry received a standing ovation at historic, creole French Quarter restaurant Arnaud's on the eve of their final round at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans team event. They also had the largest, loudest galleries at the TPC Louisiana, where the charismatic, 34-year-old McIlroy, had not previously played.

"He's getting old, but he still moves the needle a little bit," Lowry joked as McIlroy chuckled. "Rory brings a crowd and people love him and we've gotten a lot of love in New Orleans. We've had just the best week."

McIlroy and Lowry won Sunday, beating Chad Ramey and Martin Trainer with a nifty par on the first hole of a playoff. Trainer pushed a 6-foot par putt to the right of the cup to end it, with Lowry lifting a laughing McIlroy off the ground with a bear hug on the green. "To win any PGA Tour event is very cool, but to do it with one of your closest



Rory McIlroy (R) and Shane Lowry celebrate their Zurich Classic success

friends - we've known each other for a long, long time, probably like over 20 years," McIlroy said. "To think about where we met and where we've come from, to be on this stage and do this together - really, really cool journey that we've been a part of." AP

India blank England on way to last eight

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Defending champions India reached the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup with a 5-0 victory against England, their second in Group C, in Chengdu, China on Monday. From Group C, Indonesia also reached the last eight after beating Thailand on Monday and England on Saturday. The winners of the tie between India and Indonesia on Wednesday will decide the group toppers.

India's victory was on expected lines as none of the



English players, except the doubles outfit of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy, are in the top-100. World No. 9 HS Prannoy

Shooters offer hope amidst gloomy Oly medal projection

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New Delhi: Indian shooters have a chance to sing their redemption song at the Paris Olympics. And, if India want to surpass its best-ever tally of seven medals, won at the Tokyo Games, the country's shooters will have to come up with something special in Paris after securing an unprecedented 21 quota places across rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines with one more expected in men's trap through the ranking criteria.

India will be sending its largest-ever shooting contingent to Paris (15 had participated in Tokyo) and the sheer number of shooters who have qualified for the Games has offered hope of a strong medal show at the Chateaux ranges.

After returning empty-handed from the previous two editions of the Games - in Tokyo they had 19 shots with 15 quotas - this time, the squad boasts of a unique mix of youth and experience with the likes of Akhil Sheoran, Elavenil Valarivan, Anjum Moudgil, Maheshwari Chauhan, Swapnil Kusale, Manu Bhaker, Divyansh Panwar, Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu, Mehuli Ghosh and Esha Singh, among others, who have been international shooters for years.

The squad is one of the youngest with the median age of shooters being in early 20s and just four Olympians making the cut. The remarkable



In-form shooters like Sift Kaur Samra could fetch Oly medals

high experienced by the Indian shooters at the Hangzhou Asiad provides another reason to feel confident about their chances in Paris. India secured its highest-ever medals tally in shooting - 22 - at the Asiad with seven gold as compared to nine gold won across all editions till 2018.

India's sports administrators have been struggling to identify genuine medal prospects for Paris and their worry stems from problems plaguing some other disciplines. After the high of Tokyo where they missed the bronze in a heart-breaking play-off loss to Great Britain, Indian women's hockey team failed to qualify for Paris this time, leaving all hopes resting on the men's squad.

The upheaval in the wrestling federation (WFT) has ensured that the country's preparations remain far from ideal with the medal hopes resting solely on the shoulders of young Antim Panghal. None of the

men's freestyle and Greco-roman wrestlers have so far been able to book the Paris ticket.

In weightlifting, India will have sole representation in Mirabai Chanu. Mirabai has been struggling for form after returning from a thigh injury and her chances of finishing on the podium in Paris look doubtful.

In boxing, none of the men's pugilists has so far made the cut for Paris with just one more qualification tournament remaining and it will largely depend on Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain to finish among the medalists.

In badminton, the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be among the front-runners for an Olympic medal, with some hope from singles players HS Prannoy and an out-of-form PV Sindhu.

It's only in athletics where reigning Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra looks a medal certainty. Amidst all this, shooters offer a realistic hope of landing at least 3-4 medals. The National Rifle Association of India's selection policy has been designed in such a way that in-form shooters like Sift Kaur Samra are given weightage for selection. Going by international scores and rankings, the squad represents a bouquet of world-class shooters. On the technical front, foreign coaches like Thomas Farnik (rifle) have helped the shooters sort out technical deficiencies, leading to improved results.

THOMAS CUP

saw against Thailand that one result here and that can affect us. I am happy to give a winning start as it also helps my confidence," Prannoy said.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty struggled past Ben Lane and Sean Vandy 21-17, 19-21, 21-15. "It's always difficult to play a left-right combination as we hardly practice against such combinations in India. But we hung in there and this win will help us in the tournament," Satwik said.

World No. 25 Kidambi Srikanth downed World No. 198 Nadeem Dalvi 21-16, 21-11 in

31 minutes. "I feel I have played easy opponents so far. But from now, we will face better opponents and I have to be at my best," Srikanth said.

MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila eased past Rory Easton and Alex Green 21-17, 21-19 to make it 4-0 before Kiran George ensured a clean sweep for India with a 21-18, 21-12 victory against Chohan Kayan.

RESULT (Thomas Cup, Group C): India bt England 5-0 (Prannoy bt Huang 21-15, 21-15; Satwik-Chirag bt Ben-Sean 21-17, 19-21, 21-15; Srikanth bt Dalvi 21-16, 21-11; Arjun-Dhruv bt Easton-Green 21-17, 21-19; George bt Kayan 21-18, 21-12).

SEVEN INDIAN SHUTTLERS IN PARIS OLYMPICS

There was no last-minute surprise as the shuttlers booked their slots for Paris Olympics on expected lines. India earned their full quota of two in men's singles while no team made the cut in mixed doubles, reports M Ratnakar. HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen qualified in men's singles, PV Sindhu will be featuring in her third Olympics, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and

Chirag Shetty in men's doubles and Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto will compete in women's doubles.

The biggest losers were Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand. Despite a better win-loss record against Ashwini-Tanisha, the duo lost out on ranking points as they missed tournaments due to injuries. The Olympic qualification window was from May 1, 2023 to Apr 28, 2024. Prannoy (No. 9) and Lakshya (No. 13) completed the quota in singles. In women's singles, Sindhu is No. 12.

ARCHER DEEPIKA BACK IN CORE GROUP OF TOPS

New Delhi: Former world No. 1 archer Deepika Kumari, who won a silver at the just-concluded World Cup in Shanghai, has been re-



Deepika Kumari (R) and Anshu Malik (L) are back in the core group

SENTHILKUMAR WINS BATCH OPEN SQUASH

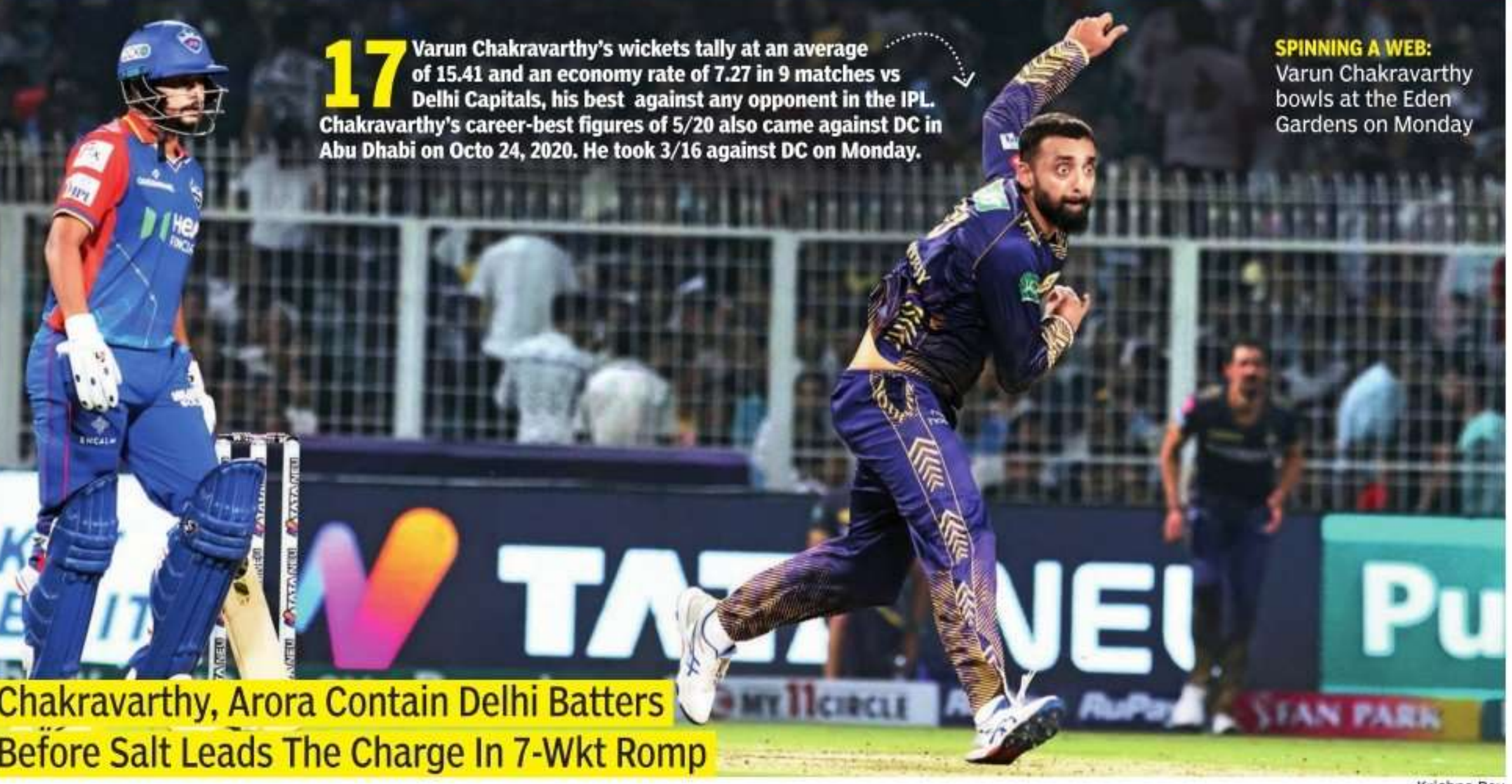
Paris: India's Velavan Senthilkumar secured his eighth Professional Squash Association Tour title by winning the Batch Open Challenger event here.

World No. 58 Senthilkumar beat Frenchman Melvil Scianimanico 11-6, 11-9, 11-6

ahead of the Paris Games, the sports ministry announced on Monday. Deepika, who missed the entire season last year after becoming a mother in December 2022, recently made a comeback. So far, only Dhruv Bommadevara has qualified for the Games in the men's individual event. Only one qualifying tournament is left to be held and it will take place in Antalya on June 15 and 16. Another archer, Mrinal Chauhan, has been added to the TOPS development group.



in the final on Sunday. "Melvil played really well and there was a lot of crowd support for him as well. I had to be sharp from the start till the end, and I'm glad I could do that," said top seed Senthilkumar who hails from Chennai. PTI



17 Varun Chakravarthy's wickets tally at an average of 15.41 and an economy rate of 7.27 in 9 matches vs Delhi Capitals, his best against any opponent in the IPL. Chakravarthy's career-best figures of 5/20 also came against DC in Abu Dhabi on Oct 24, 2020. He took 3/16 against DC on Monday.

SPINNING A WEB: Varun Chakravarthy bowls at the Eden Gardens on Monday

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
RR	9	8	1	0.694	16
KKR	9	6	3	1.096	12
CSK	9	5	4	0.810	10
SRH	9	5	4	0.075	10
LSG	9	5	4	0.059	10
DC	11	5	6	-0.442	10
GT	10	4	6	-1.113	8
PBKS	9	3	6	-0.187	6
MI	9	3	6	-0.261	6
RCB	10	3	7	-0.415	6

SCOREBOARD
DC: P Shaw c Salt b Arora 13, J Fraser-McGurk c Iyer b Starc 12, A Porel b Rana 18, S Hope b Arora 6, R Pant c Iyer b Chakravarthy 27, Axar b Narine 15, T Stubbs c Salt b Chakravarthy 4, K Kushagra c Salt b Varun 1, K Yadav not out 35, R Salam c Iyer b Rana 8, L Williams not out 1; **Extras** (lb3, nb1, w5); **13; Total (20 ov): RR: 7.65; 153/9; FoW: 1-17, 2-30, 3-37, 4-68, 5-93, 6-99, 7-101, 8-111, 9-140; Bowling:** Starc 3-0-43-1, Arora 4-0-29-2, Rana 4-0-28-2, Narine 4-0-24-1, Chakravarthy 4-0-16-3, Russell 1-0-10-0
KKR: P Salt b Axar 68, S Narine c Fraser-McGurk b Axar 15, R Singh c Kuldeep b Williams 11, S Iyer not out 33, V Iyer not out 26; **Extras** (lb2, nb1, w1); **4; Total (16.3 ov): RR: 9.51; 157/3; FoW: 1-79, 2-96, 3-100; Bowling:** Williams 3-0-38-1, Khaleel 3-0-28-0, Rasikh 2-3-0-30-0, Axar 4-0-25-2, Kuldeep 4-0-34-0
Result: KKR won by 7 wickets (with 21 balls remaining)

LSG get Mayank boost ahead of Mumbai clash

Fazal Khan | TNN



Lucknow: In a shot in the arm for Lucknow Super Giants, young pace sensation Mayank Yadav, who got injured earlier in the season, is all set to play against Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

"He has passed all the fitness tests and is in the probable XI for the match. He is looking good and is ready to bowl again," bowling coach Morne Morkel said on match eve. MI hold the penultimate spot among the 10 teams playing the IPL. According to head-to-head stats, LSG have dominated MI. Though LSG may seem to have the upper hand, MI, however, are desperate as they need to win all their remaining five matches to keep their playoff hopes alive.

On the other hand, Lucknow will also be eager to add two crucial points to their tally of 10 to keep their chances strong. LSG won back-to-back matches against Chennai Super Kings, both at home and away, but then lost their next match at home to table-topper Rajasthan Royals last Saturday. LSG put up a fighting total of 196 but RR chased it down easily, thanks to the batting efforts of skipper Sanju Samson and Dhruv Jurel.

LSG's skipper KL Rahul has been in form, smashing three half-centuries this season, and he will look to be aggressive against MI to lay the foundation for a good total. Another top-order batter, the off-colour Quinton de Kock, will be eager to find form against MI.

Allrounder Marcus Stoinis played brilliant innings against CSK but went back to the pavilion for a duck against RR. But then he was impressive with his bowling and claimed a crucial wicket in one

2 KL Rahul is the only Lucknow batter to score two hundreds (an identical 103*) vs Mumbai — at the Brabourne stadium on April 16 2022 and at the Wankhede on April 24 (both in 2022).

4-38 Naveen-ul-Haq's figures in the 'eliminator' in Chennai on May 24, 2023 are the best by a Lucknow bowler vs Mumbai.

over against RR. His contribution could be vital against MI. Allrounder Deepak Hooda too seems to have found form, smashing a half-century against RR. His role as a batsman is crucial for LSG. Devdutt Padikkal has not performed well but designated finisher Nicholas Pooran has to step up. As for MI, they have been struggling since the beginning under new captain Hardik Pandya. If they lose another two matches, they will be out of the race.

KKR make short work of DC

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Kolkata: In a script totally different from recent IPL matches at this venue, where 200-plus scores were made in each of the last six innings, Delhi Capitals struggled to get going, managing just 153/9 after deciding to bat first against Kolkata at the Eden Gardens on Monday.

The hosts recorded a seven-wicket victory, getting to 157 and losing just three wickets in 16.3 overs to stay firmly on the playoff path. It seemed the two teams batted on different tracks as KKR opener Phil Salt provided another great start. DC failed to seize the initiative as Lizaad Williams dropped Salt on his individual score of 15 in the second over after going

69 Sunil Narine's tally for KKR at an average of 19.94, including one five-wicket haul and three four-wicket hauls in 58 matches at Eden Gardens, Kolkata is an IPL record for a bowler at a single venue. Narine has broken the record of Lasith malinga, who took 68 wickets (ave 17.33) in 43 matches for Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium.

woods, but the wicketkeeper-batter never looked threatening. He was lucky to survive on 18, skying one while trying to go for a lofted sweep off Varun Chakravarthy's first ball, but Rana dropped an easy chance at short fine leg.

However, the wicketkeeper-batter was not able to capitalise and departed for 27 off 20 balls in Chakravarthy's next over. It was Chakravarthy who did maximum damage in the middle overs, keeping things tight and also having dangerman Tristan Stubbs caught behind off the first delivery of his third over to reduce DC to 99 for six.

Chakravarthy also had Kumar Kushagra, who came in as an impact player replacing Shaw, caught behind before he could get going.

of Angkrish Raghuvanshi, struck twice on the other end, getting Prithvi Shaw caught by Salt down the legside in the second over and then getting Shai Hope bowled in his next. Much depended on skipper Rishabh Pant to get DC out of the

Deshpande, unsung hero, tames SRH's flamboyant lineup

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Chennai: Prior to the home match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday, Chennai Super Kings bagged only nine wickets in the Powerplay, the lowest this season till that point. CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad admitted that the team "lost momentum" in a few games because of lack of wickets and bowling impact in the first six overs.

After being blasted for two sixes in his first three deliveries — one each by Head and Abhishek — the 28-year-old staged a stunning comeback with a three-wicket burst in his first spell. Deshpande kept the ball away from the hitting arcs of the opening batters and the decision to bowl well outside the off-stump "paid dividends" as Head and Abhishek fell cheaply.



CSK'S SURPRISE WEAPON: Tushar Deshpande (right) took 4/27 against Sunrisers Hyderabad

are seeing many high-scoring games. The only thing that can derail batting lineups is wickets. One wicket can change the momentum of the game in the Powerplay. Both the Sunrisers openers are in terrific form and it worked out for me," Deshpande, a Mumbai boy, added.

up like SRH, which is very aggressive in the Powerplay. With the dew coming into play, it was always going to be a challenge for the bowlers. But I backed myself and stayed patient with my line and length," said Deshpande. CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has been backing Deshpande since the beginning of the season, said, "He (Deshpande) bowled really well and has been working hard throughout the season. "Even last year and the year before that, he did well. His hard work is paying off this time."

GAIKWAD IS ONE STEP AHEAD OF BOWLERS: HUSSEY

Chennai: The ability to remain one step ahead of the bowlers has allowed Ruturaj Gaikwad to flourish, reckons CSK batting coach Michael Hussey.

After an unbeaten 108 in the previous game, skipper Gaikwad was on the cusp of another century on Sunday but fell two runs short against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "Gaikwad is such a wonderful player. He is a brilliant timer of the ball. I've been asking him what his secret is in terms of his placement, since he always finds the gaps," Hussey said after the win over SRH.

"He is a smart batsman as well. He knows when to attack and when to soak up pressure. He plays spin and seam well. He can score all around the ground. He's almost one step ahead of the bowlers a lot of times. He is wonderful to watch. We're very thankful he is in our team," Hussey added. "It has been challenging for him as well. He has taken over as captain, to which you have to take your hat off to him. He is succeeding the greatest of all time in this country," Hussey said. PTI

'T20 is batter-friendly but this is a whole new level'

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Chennai: The season is yet to reach the 50-match mark but has already witnessed as many as eight 250-plus scores. To put things in perspective, the 250-run barrier was breached only twice in the first 16 editions of the IPL. In the ongoing season, the batters have been ruling the roost, with records getting shattered every other day.

The usage of the highly-debated 'Impact Player' rule and flat nature of the pitches have allowed the batters to operate with a lot of freedom. The majority of the bowlers have been taking a pounding and have nowhere to hide in a tournament which is becoming a boundary-hitting exhibition. The T20 format has evolved to such an extent that top bowlers are now content with executing a defensive plan.

in a batter-dominated format. "I think that T20 has always kind of erred on the batting side. There are more 200-vs-200 games than 120-vs-120 ones. It has just gone to a whole new level this season," said Cummins on Sunday.

"It is not Test cricket where the ball is swinging around. There is not much sideways movement, there is not much in the pitches. A lot of times, the best way to get a wicket is by trying to defend. Batters are getting better with hitting the ball out of the stadiums, if we (bowlers) miss. They are getting confident enough to do it," Cummins added.

"But still, when you have big totals like we (SRH) have had, you feel like you can make an impact by going for nine runs an over. That could be match-winning." According to Cummins, the best way for SRH to win the IPL is by continuing to go hammer and tongs throughout an innings. "The way we set up, that (going hard) is our best chance. We have some really aggressive batters. It is not random slogging, our guys pick the bowlers (to target). We talk about match-ups that suit the batters. If there is a green light, then the batters can go for it. If it is not the right match-up, be smart about it."

GALLERY

Madrid Open: Nadal beats Cachin to reach 4th round

Madrid: Rafael Nadal survived a second set wobble to defeat Pedro Cachin 6-1 6-7(5) 6-3 in the Madrid Open third round on Monday. Nadal, who beat 10th seed Alex de Minaur in the second round, held his nerve as he was tested by the 91st-ranked Argentine. Earlier, Daniil Medvedev came from behind to defeat Sebastian Korda 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3. Among the women, top-ranked Iga Swiatek remained on track for a first Madrid title by dispatching Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-1, 6-0.

London Marathon receives world record 840,000 applications

London Marathon organisers said they received 840,318 applications for the 2025 race, breaking the world record of 578,374 set in last year's public ballot. More than 53,000 runners completed the 44th edition of the marathon last week, a record for the event, with Oly Champ Peres Jephchirchir setting a women-only world record.

'Premier League clubs vote in favour of spending cap'

EPL clubs have agreed in principle to implement a spending cap after receiving majority support with a final vote expected in June, the BBC reported on Monday. The clubs have tentatively agreed to put a limit on how much money they can spend with the cap based on how much money the lowest-earning club makes from television rights.

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: Thomas & Uber Cup, 7 am & 2.30 pm (Jio); **CRICKET:** IPL, LSG vs MI, 7.30 pm (Star, Jio); Bangladesh Women vs India, 2nd T20I, 3.30 pm (Fancode); Pakistan Women vs WI, 3rd T20I, 8 pm (Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** Champions League, Bayern vs Real Madrid, 12.30 am Wednesday (Sony); **TENNIS:** Madrid Open, 2.30 pm (Sony)

T20 World Cup: Ravindra, Henry make it to Williamson-led NZ squad

Auckland: Kane Williamson will lead New Zealand in the T20 World Cup for the fourth time while opener Devon Conway, recovering from a thumb injury, has also been named in the 15-man provisional squad for the ICC event in USA and Caribbean in June.

Conway was ruled out of the ongoing IPL due to a thumb injury he suffered in February. Bowler Matt Henry and batting allrounder Rachin Ravindra are the only two members of the 15 without T20 World Cup experience.

This will be Williamson's sixth appearance in a T20 World Cup squad. His experience is bettered only by Tim Southee, who has earned selection in his seventh T20 World Cup squad and currently sits as the leading wicket-taker in the history of T20 Internationals. Seasoned Trent Boult, who opted out of a NZC central contract, has been selected in his fifth T20 World Cup squad. The squad also boasts significant recent experience in the conditions with 13 of the 15-man group featuring in the team's last tour to the West Indies in 2022. As well as that, six of the squad members have also featured in the Caribbean Premier League T20 competition.

Alongside the 15 players selected in the tournament squad, pace bowler Ben Sears will travel and train with the team as an injury cover. Adam Milne was ruled out following surgery to repair an ankle injury, and Kyle Jamieson was also unavailable for selection as he continues to rehabilitate his back injury. "I'd like to congratulate everyone named today. It's a special time representing your country at



WELL DESERVED: Rachin Ravindra and Matt Henry will play in their first T20 WC



PHOTOS: TOI & Getty Images

“We expect the venues in the West Indies to offer quite varied conditions and feel we've selected a squad with the scope to adapt to those conditions. Matt and Rachin both have worked exceptionally hard on their skills across the phases of a T20 game.”

GARY STEAD | HEAD COACH, NZ

a world tournament," said Blackcaps head coach Gary Stead. "We expect the venues in the West Indies to offer quite varied conditions and feel we've selected a

Kirsten targets one trophy in his two-year stint as Pak coach

Karachi: Pakistan's newly appointed head coach Gary Kirsten has set a simple target for the national cricket team — it has to win at least one out of three upcoming ICC events in next three years.

Among the marquee events lined up between now and 2026, there are two T20 World Cups in 2024 (Americas) and 2026 (India) along with the 2025 ODI Champions Trophy which PCB will be hosting and the World Cup winning former India head coach wants Babar Azam and his men to annex one.

The former South Africa batter is expected to take charge of his new job from May 22 ahead of Pakistan's tour of England. "If you can win one of those three ICC events, that will be an amazing achievement on its own, whether it's the upcoming event (T20 World Cup) or it is two years from now," Kirsten said in a PCB Podcast, when asked about his targets during his tenure. Pakistan will play in three ICC events — two T20 World Cups and one Champions Trophy. "My job is to make sure that the team operates at its best. If the team is operating at its best, we will always have a good chance of winning a trophy. So for me, it will be really important to understand where is the team now and where does it need to go to be able to compete right at the top of the pile, and that's winning ICC events," said the 56-year-old former left-handed batsman.

Don't try to be something that you're not: Gillespie's message to Pakistan team

Lahore: Pakistan's new head coach of the Test side Jason Gillespie wants "gifted" players of the team to stay "authentic" and not alter their game to suit a specific method, saying they just need to stay positive and aggressive to go through the grind of Test cricket. The 49-year-old Gillespie, who coached Yorkshire to the County Championship title in 2014 and 2015, has signed a two-year contract. "I simply want the Pakistan cricket team to play the style of cricket that's going to suit them; for me, that's important. My philosophy is — don't try to be something that you're



MAKING THINGS CLEAR: Gary Kirsten (left) and Jason Gillespie were appointed Pakistan's white-ball and red-ball coach by the PCB on Sunday

not!" Gillespie was quoted as saying in a PCB podcast. "You've got to be authentic in how you go about it. I will go out there and say: just be positive, aggressive, entertaining. Play with a smile on your faces and entertain our fans. There are going to be times when you have to grind it out, and that's what Test cricket is. It's a test of your skills, mental capacity, and patience. There are times to attack and times to soak up some periods of cricket from the opposition."

PCB finalises Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi as venues for Champions Trophy

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board has earmarked Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi as venues for next year's Champions Trophy, continuing to insist that the tournament will stay in the country despite speculation of a 'hybrid model' being under consideration to ensure India's participation. The Champions Trophy, which was last held in England in 2017, is expected to be held tentatively in February-March next year. India have not yet confirmed participation and there is speculation that the ICC could use the 'hybrid model' and hold India's matches at a neutral venue if the team does not get government clearance to travel. AGENCIES



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MARUTI SUZUKI

India fumes at Trudeau taking part in pro-Khalistan event

MEA Summons Canadian Envoy To Log Protest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ministry of external affairs summoned the Canadian deputy high commissioner on Monday and strongly protested the unabashed chanting of separatist pro-Khalistan slogans at an event addressed by Canadian PM Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau addressing a 'Khalsa Day' gathering in Toronto, which flaunted 'Modi wanted' banners, has left the Indian intelligence establishment alarmed, sources said. The banners were allegedly put up by secessionist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), which has called for the killing of terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June last year to be avenged, and has incited violence against Indian diplomats in Canada.

Addressing the event, Trudeau vowed to protect the

'ENCOURAGING CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE'

Ministry of external affairs summons Canadian deputy high commissioner, lodges 'strong protest' over pro-Khalistan slogans raised at Sunday's event in Toronto at which Trudeau spoke

Says such 'continued expressions not only impact India-Canada relations but also encourage a climate of violence and criminality in Canada'

At the event, Trudeau vowed to protect rights and freedoms of Sikhs

India and Canada are just months past the diplomatic spat over Trudeau's statement that there were "credible allegations" about Indian involvement in the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Vancouver in June 2023. He has not presented evidence so far



rights and freedoms of Sikhs. India has in the past blamed Trudeau's "vote-bank politics" for Canada's reluctance to rein in pro-Khalistan leaders who continue to target Indian interests in the country.

A huge banner at the event identified PM Narendra Modi, defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S Jaishankar as "Nijjar's killers".

Trudeau pushed bilateral

ties into a downward spiral by saying Canadian law enforcement had uncovered a "plot" by India to eliminate Nijjar, wanted for terrorist crimes and who has been blamed for the killing of a Sikh for taking control of a rich gurdwara.

Trudeau, who also raised his allegation with Modi, is yet to back the claim he made in public that Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Security Intelligence

Agency had got evidence of India's hand in Nijjar's killing and had identified those who pulled the trigger.

Also, while he said that he had got the evidence from a fellow member of Five Eyes Alliance, an Anglosphere intelligence group comprising US, UK, New Zealand and Australia, other members of the grouping haven't allowed the episode to cast a shadow on their ties with New Delhi.

The latest incident triggered an angry protest from MEA which conveyed gov't "deep concern and strong protest" as disturbing actions were being allowed to continue unchecked at the event.

The govt said the unchecked separatist activity once again illustrated the political space that has been given in Canada to separatism, extremism and violence. "Their continued expressions not only impact India-Canada relations but also encourage a climate of violence and criminality in Canada to the detriment of its own citizens," it added.

► Smiling at SFJ rally, P 12

Ahead of poll, Cong's candidate for Indore withdraws, joins BJP

Was Slapped With Murder Bid Charge A Few Days Ago

Sagar.Choukse @timesgroup.com

Indore: Congress suffered a stunning blow as its Indore candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination for the LS polls and joined BJP on Monday, hours after leading a Congress campaign rally.

► Another Cong MLA in MP may switch to BJP, P 9

BJP's sitting MP Shankar Lalwani now has no real challenger left in Indore. It's the first time ever that Congress doesn't have a candidate in this seat. Indore votes May 13 and the last day for filing of nomination was April 25. Congress will now have to find someone among the 13 non-BJP contestants left in the fray to support.

PCC chief Jitu Patwari, who is also from Indore, accused BJP of pressure politics. "Recently a case of attempted murder was registered against

Papers rejected, BJP nominee moves SC

Former IPS officer and Birmahum BJP candidate Debashish Dhar Monday sought urgent hearing of his plea challenging the returning officer's decision to reject his nomination and alleged this was done to help the TMC candidate get a walkover. His advocate said the RO "frivolously" rejected Dhar's nomination papers on the ground that he had not attached 'no dues certificate' from Bengal govt. P 11

Bam in an old case. He was terrorised by various means and forced to withdraw the nomination," Patwari alleged in Gwalior. On April 24, a local court had ordered addition of attempt-to-murder charges against Bam in a 17-year-old case in Indore's Khajrana area. BJP had, in fact, objected to Bam's nomination on the day of scrutiny, referring to this court order and accusing him of hiding facts in the affidavit.

► Flak for MP Cong chief, P 10

US report names RAW man involved in alleged plot to take out Pannun

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A report in Washington Post, a US newspaper, has claimed that a Research and Analysis Wing officer, Vikram Yadav, instructed a hired hit team to kill US-based Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

According to the report, "US intelligence agencies have assessed that the operation targeting Pannun was approved by the RAW chief at the time, Samant Goel." It adds that Yadav was transferred back to CRPF after the Pannun plot unravelled last year.

There was no response by the Indian govt to the assertions made in the report till late Monday night.

US authorities had last year indicted an Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, for the plot, alleging that he was acting at the behest of an Indian official they referred to in the indictment as CC-1.

SERIOUS MATTER: WH

RAW officer Vikram Yadav 'forwarded' details of Pannun, including NY address, says Washington Post report

Yadav 'lacked training & skills' needed for op, it says

Indictment unsealed in Nov referred to Yadav only as unnamed co-conspirator CC-1, made no mention of RAW

Reported plot is a serious matter, says White House

Gupta is currently in a jail in Prague, where he was detained last year by Czech and US agencies. While India had formed a high-level committee in Nov to probe the information shared by the US about the role of the Indian official, saying it had a bearing on India's security too, the govt has so far not revealed any of its findings.

► FBI, CIA in probe, P 12

'Modi fights from front, told Pak about Balakot strike before world knew'

Bagalkot: PM Modi revealed on Monday the untold story of how he ensured Pakistan was the first to officially hear about the 2019 Balakot airstrike, linking it to BJP-governed "new India's policy of looking an adversary in the eye and speaking the truth rather than resorting to stealth", reports Gururaj Jamkhandi.

"I instructed our forces to notify media about the airstrike, albeit after I had informed Pakistani authorities over phone that we have carried out an airstrike, killed these many people and caused this much destruction. But they wouldn't take calls," he said at a rally in Navanagar in Bagalkot, north Karnataka. "I then directed the forces to postpone disclosure until after I managed to contact them... Modi doesn't believe in hiding or attacking from behind, he fights openly."

► Attack on Cong, P 12



PM pays tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji at a rally in Satara

Quota is atoning for ancestors' sins: PM

The responsibility of dispensing justice to oppressed and backward sections, including through reservation, is "atonement for the sins our ancestors may have committed", PM Modi said at rallies in Maharashtra on Monday. Accusing Congress of trying to cut into OBC quota to appease Muslims, he said, "Till Modi is alive, he won't allow such a reservation policy." P 9

Can Succession Act be applied to 'non-believer Muslims'? SC to examine

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a contentious issue — why provisions of the secular Indian Succession Act (ISA) do not apply to a non-believer Muslim who wants to divide his property equitably among his children by discarding Muslim Personal (Shariat) Application Act's succession provision that privileges sons, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

As a Muslim woman narrated the pitiable state she and her father, both non-believers in Islam, found themselves in regarding the division of property, a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud changed tack from "we can't give a declaration that a non-believer Muslim would be governed by ISA" and said the petition had raised an important issue for adjudication by the SC.

"How can a secular law not apply to Muslims?" the bench asked and posted the matter for further hearing in the se-

IN THE COURTS

SC recalls its April 22 order allowing termination of 31-week pregnancy, 14-yr-old to take it to full term | P 8

Bail condition for accused to share Google PIN for live location 'superfluous', can't be imposed, says SC | P 8

'Thoroughly misconceived', says Del HC while rejecting petition for 6-yr ban on Modi from contesting polls | P 9

SC to hear J'khand ex-CM Soren's plea for interim bail, seeks ED reply | P 9

Mahila court in TN convicts asst prof for luring college girls to do sexual favours

cond week of July. The bench issued notice to the Union govt and requested attorney general R Venkataramani to depute a law officer to assist the court.

► Tough for even..., P 10

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BATTLEGROUND INDIA | APRIL 19-JUNE 4, 2024

Rane returns to Konkan poll arena for swansong, takes on 'alma mater' Sena

Priyanka.Kakodkar
timesgroup.com

The serene coastal belt of Konkan, 350km from Mumbai, is the backdrop of a defining battle between the two Shiv Senas. It's in the Sena stronghold of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg that Union micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) minister Narayan Rane, once a trusted aide of Sena founder Bal Thackeray, will take on sitting MP Vinayak Raut of Uddhav Thackeray's party, Shiv Sena (UBT).

At 72, Rane has returned to poll politics after a decade. Initially reluctant, he has been pushed into the battle as BJP, with barely any presence in this belt, looks to expand its Lok Sabha representation in Maharashtra. "BJP compelled me. I am contesting to fulfil the responsibility given by my party. This will be my last election," he told TOI on a campaign trail.

Rane was once considered invincible in this region. He won six assembly polls in succession from here. The former chief minister's winning streak continued even after he left Shiv Sena and joined Congress in 2005 following differences with Uddhav Thackeray. But his electoral star began waning after he lost assembly polls

from Konkan in 2014, and then, a bypoll in Mumbai in 2015. Subsequently, Rane left Congress and floated his own party, Maharashtra Swabhiman Paksha, which merged with BJP in 2019. He was elected to Rajya Sabha with BJP's support. His son Nitesh won Kankavli seat — one of the six assembly segments in Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha constituency — in 2019 and is a BJP MLA. His elder son Nilesh won the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg LS seat in 2009 as a Congress candidate but lost the polls in 2014 and 2019.

In a career spanning four decades which includes a stint as Sena chief minister and multiple terms in both state and Union cabinets, Rane faces his first Lok Sabha poll, but it is a tough contest. The BJP-triggered split of Shiv Sena in 2022 has generated sympathy for Uddhav Thackeray's party and anger towards both BJP and Rane, as a former party insider-turned-foe.

Konkan has long been a citadel of Shiv Sena, which was founded in Mumbai in 1966 on a wave of nativist sentiment. The lack of industry in the region drove Konkani migrants to Mumbai. They formed a bedrock of support for a party founded on the 'sons of the soil' principle, helping it spread its wings in their own hometowns.



HITCHING A SAFFRON RIDE: Narayan Rane (left), along with Goa CM Pramod Sawant (centre), in Ratnagiri earlier this month

The constituency was earlier divided into Rajapur and Ratnagiri, and had a history of socialist and Congress representation. Janata Dal leader Madhu Dandavate was MP from Rajapur from 1971 to 1989. However, 1985 onwards, it has been a Shiv Sena territory with Suresh Prabhu and Anant Geete winning from Rajapur and Ratnagiri.

In 2009, Suresh Prabhu lost to Narayan Rane's son Nilesh, then a Congress candidate, after a newly demarcated constituency of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg was carved out. But by 2014, the seat was back with the undivided Shiv Sena's Vinayak Raut.

At the rickshaw stands and retail shops in Ratnagiri, the split in Shiv Sena resonates. "This is a Shiv Sena stronghold. BJP has broken the party. People will light the mashaal (Uddhav Thackeray's party symbol) and take revenge against traitors," says rickshaw driver Shivaji Chavan.

Rane is dismissive of the sympathy factor. "What sympathy? Uddhav Thackeray's ministers and MLAs left him because he insulted them. His party will sink like the Titanic in the elections," he says.

Rane's opponent Vinayak Raut of Shiv Sena (UBT) hits back. "Traitors will be wiped out of Konkan this time. Rane

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg
Maharashtra



Year	Winner	Runner Up
2019	Vinayak Raut (Shiv Sena)	Nilesh Rane (MSP)
2014	Vinayak Raut (Shiv Sena)	Nilesh Rane (Congress)
2009	Nilesh Rane (Cong)	Suresh Prabhu (Shiv Sena)

*Maharashtra Swabhiman Paksh

will also pay the price for the strong-arm tactics used by his family to get their way," he says.

Raut, who won the last two elections, is hoping for a hat-trick. He won the 2019 elections against Nilesh by a margin of almost 1.8 lakh votes. But Nilesh had then contested as a Swabhiman Paksh candidate and still managed 2.8 lakh votes.

Price rise and lack of employment in Konkan are burn-

ing issues here. "Most young people still go to Mumbai, Pune or Kolhapur for work. There are no major industries, tourism is not developed and there is poor connectivity. The Mumbai-Goa highway is incomplete after a decade," said a businessman who did not want to be named.

Protests against an oil refinery project plan at Barsu village in Rajapur have also snowballed into an issue. The protesters have decided to oppose Rane and back Raut. "We are campaigning for Raut because BJP at the Centre and state has supported this project. We do not want a polluting industry here," says Kashinath Gole of Barsu Solgaon Refinery Virodhi Sanghatna.

The final challenge for Rane lies within the Mahayuti alliance. The seat saw a protracted tug of war with CM Eknath Shinde demanding it for his Shiv Sena. His candidate was industries minister Uday Samant's brother Kiran Samant.

Will Shinde's Shiv Sena work against Rane? Samant assures. "We have sorted this out and are 100% with Rane." As he prepares for his last electoral race, Rane says he is sure of a victory. "People want Prime Minister Modi for a third term, and they want me as MP. They are waiting for polling day to vote for me."

SURROUND SOUND

A diamond ring for your vote

Vote and you may get lucky if you are a Bhopali. Worried by the low polling in the first two phases of Lok Sabha elections, officials have announced three lucky draws in Bhopal constituency on voting day.

Those who get inked stand the chance of winning diamond rings, refrigerators, televisions and other goodies. Bhopal votes in the third phase on May 7.

Polling has been very low in MP this time, dropping by over 8.5% on average in the first two rounds. Bhopalis have never been very gung-ho voters — in 2019, where there was a surge in voting elsewhere, Bhopal turnout was only 65.7%.

Officials feel that the hope of a reward will draw voters out of homes this time, on a day when the mercury is expected to cross 40°C.

"On polling day, we will hold three lucky draws at every polling booth — at 10am, 2pm and 6pm. One winner in each of these draws will get a prize. And then, a day or two after the election, we will hold a mega draw where big prizes will be distributed to the winners," district election officer, collector Kauslendra Vikram Singh, told TOI on Monday.

There are 2,097 polling booths in Bhopal parliamentary constituency. That's well over 6,000 prizes, not to talk of the bumper prizes.

"We are collecting these gifts and prizes under CSR. On polling day, a BLO and a volunteer will be deployed at each booth (for the lottery). Every booth will have a coupon booklet and the duo will ensure that voters write their name and mobile number and collect a coupon after they get inked. We will contact the voters and give them their gifts after each draw," Singh said.

"We will also facilitate the first voter in every booth," assistant nodal officer for SVEEP in Bhopal, Ritesh Sharma, told TOI.

The date for the post-election mega draw is yet to be decided but it will be probably after May 9, said Sharma. "So far, we have received 35 items, including five diamond rings, a laptop, a refrigerator, eight dinner sets and two mobile phones. We are aiming to get two-wheelers. We are hopeful that there will be enough gifts," he added. — Amarjeet Singh



Officials have announced a lucky draw every two hours on voting day in Bhopal

Why caste quota is a hot button in K'taka politics

Cheethan Kumar & B V Shivashankar | TNN

PM Modi may have sparked a row by accusing Congress of snatching reservation from OBCs and SC/STs to give it to Muslims, but in Karnataka, which he cited as an example, the issue has dominated multiple elections, including the 2023 assembly polls that Congress won.

In fact, the action in Karnataka precedes the demand for a caste census by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, which came on the heels of a statewide survey in Bihar.

Responding to the PM's criticism, Kharge told TOI: "While it is popularly being called a caste census, what we are proposing to do is a socio-economic and educational survey that aims to assess and identify communities eligible for welfare schemes. We've already implemented several schemes like MGNREGA, which aren't based on caste but on needs of all communities. Modi is making the issue communal solely for electoral gain."

Karnataka has been at the forefront of the caste survey issue — much like with 'guarantees' this season — and a report on it was submitted by a commission headed by Jayaprakash Hegde, now Congress candidate from Udipi-Chikmagalur. The Siddaramaiah govt accepted the report but is yet to implement its recommendations.

Campaign plots of LS polls in Karnataka include the OBC narrative. If Siddaramaiah with his Ahinda credentials is Congress's lead actor, BJP has been projecting PM Modi as the OBC face.

Shivraj Thangadagi, Karnataka backward classes welfare minister, told TOI: "Our govt has done what none had before by accepting the report. Its implementation will not only benefit backward communities but also the party, by sticking to its commitment. The concerns of other communities will be addressed while implementing this."

Union home minister Amit Shah and Karnataka leader of opposition R Ashoka have reiterated how BJP was with OBCs with Modi being "sabse bada (biggest) OBC" during their campaigns in the state.

Nationally, Nitish Kumar — who had commissioned the Bihar caste survey — leaving INDIA and Congress being concerned about caste matrices across states may have seen the party use the OBC card cautiously, but it has included it in its national manifesto, while BJP continues to actively woo these communities.

"Congress didn't tolerate leaders from extremely backward classes. In 1987, Congress refused to accept Karpoori Thakurji as opposition leader whom we honoured a few days ago with Bharat Ratna. These days, Congress colleagues express concern about the number of people

DOMINANT CASTES DEMAND BIGGER PIECE OF PIE

Quota Categories Post 1994-95	Current Turmoil
Cat 1 95 communities, 4% reservation	2015 Kantharaju Commission report said state's 6cr population had 9.8% Lingayats, 8.2% Vokkaligas and 9% Kurubas
Cat 2A 102 communities, including Kurubas, 15% reservation	While Vokkaligas claimed their popn was 15%, Lingayats said they were 17% and that Kurubas, the caste then CM Siddaramaiah belongs to, couldn't be more than 5-6%
Cat 2B Muslims, 4% reservation	BJP's Basavaraj Bommai govt in Dec 2022 removed
Cat 3A Mainly Vokkaligas, 4% reservation	
Cat 3B Lingayats, Christians, Maratha, etc, 5% reservation	



Rahul Gandhi and Kharge have repeatedly called for a nationwide caste census

from backward classes in govt, where they're positioned... But I'm surprised they don't notice the biggest OBC (referring to himself)," Modi told Parliament on Feb 5.

The PM referring to himself as the biggest OBC came close on the heels of Rahul claiming that Modi's 'Teli' caste was not part of other backward classes.

National Scene
India's first proper caste enumeration was under the British in 1931. Subsequently, while the Constitution addressed education and job reservations for SC/STs, the first independent govt realised there were numerous underprivileged backward communities, resulting in the Kaka Kalekar commission in 1953, which recommended a caste-wise census enumeration in the 1961 Census.

But it was Mandal Commission's 1980 report that proved pivotal, identifying 3,742 OBC communities and recommending 52% quotas — though only 27% reservations were implemented by V P Singh's govt in 1989 amid violent protests and legal battles.

A landmark 1993 Supreme Court judgment (Indira Sawhney case) capped overall reservations at 50% but allowed exceptions. It also introduced the 'creamy layer' excluded from reservation, based on annual income limits, currently Rs 8 lakh.

port, included some Lingayat sub-castes and, again, the 1990 O Chinnappa Reddy commission included Muslims, Vokkaligas and Lingayats, but the latter two were dissatisfied with the representation. This finally led to creation of a permanent BC commission, with the first in 1994 led by Kudur Narayana Pai.

The Chinnappa Reddy report recommendation was implemented in 1994-95 and has since been used as the matrix for reservations in the state.

And in 2015, CM Siddaramaiah set up the H Kantharaju commission to carry out a socio-economic educational survey, commonly called caste survey. While Siddaramaiah's tenure ended before the report could be submitted, leaked contents created heartburn among Vokkaligas and Lingayats. Subsequent govt didn't accept the report citing reasons, including a technicality that the member-secretary hadn't signed it. This prompted the Jayaprakash Hegde commission to revisit the Kantharaju panel report.

The Hegde commission has since submitted its report to the Siddaramaiah govt.

In between, BJP's Basavaraj Bommai govt had in Dec 2022 rejigged the categories based on which existing reservation was being implemented. It removed Muslims and added an additional quota for Vokkaligas and Lingayats. But its implementation is stalled as a case is pending before Supreme Court.

To address this, the T Venkataswamy commission was formed, which, in its 1986 re-



1989 | Maneka Gandhi campaigns with actor Raj Babbar at Gajraya village in Pilibhit. Both then with Janata Dal there. Maneka contested her first election in 1984 in Amethi as an Independent but lost to Rajiv Gandhi. In 1989, she won her first LS election from Pilibhit. Her journey with BJP started in 2004 after she won in Pilibhit on the party's ticket. BJP has retained her from Sultanpur seat in UP this time. Meanwhile, Babbar began his political career with Janata Dal but later joined SP, which gave him an RS seat from 1994 to 1999. In 2008, he joined Congress. He is a contender for Congress's ticket in Gurgaon constituency.

Deposits lost, not drive: Party defending men's honour to contest 3 UP seats

Unlike other political parties, winning or losing elections does not matter to Mera Adhikar Rashtriya Dal (MARD), which has jumped into the electoral battle to defend men's honour.

Despite consistently losing deposits, MARD has been marching on since it was formed in 2018. The party has released its 'MANifesto' for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls with the slogan "Beton ke samman me, 'mard' utre maidan me" (In honour of sons, men have stepped on to the battleground).

The party has so far announced candidates for three seats — Lucknow, Ranchi and Gorakhpur. When asked about the fate of his party candidates contesting polls this time, MARD party national general secretary Ashutosh Kumar Pandey candidly accepts, "This time too, they can lose their deposits."

Malkajgiri: Where North meets East and West in the South

Koride.Mahesh@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Want a slice of India? This keenly contested Lok Sabha constituency, spread along the fringes of Greater Hyderabad, is where you want to be.

Here the mouthwatering aroma of Hyderabadi biryani vies with appetising smells of idli vada sambhar, bisi bele bath and Chettinad chicken to tickle your tastebuds, while pungent smells of macher jhol meld with those of mien curry, and puranpoli does a jugalbandi with litti chokha and daal baati churma.

Welcome to 'Mini India', as Malkajgiri LS constituency is popularly known. A fine example of unity in diversity, nearly half its total electorate base comprises migrants from nearly 10 other states that have, over the decades and centuries, made this place their home.

Malkajgiri has a huge population of Andhra-origin Telugus, who account for nearly 34% of its total LS voter base, with healthy dollops of Tamilians, Malayalees, Kannadigas, Bengalis, Maharashtrians, Biharis and Marwaris thrown in.

But Malkajgiri's biggest claim to fame is its standing as India's largest LS seat by number of voters, at around 32 lakh. It has more than

double the number than any other seat in Telangana. On average, the remaining 16 LS seats in Telangana have around 14 lakh voters each.

Malkajgiri LS seat came into existence in 2008 after delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, with the first LS polls being held here in 2009. It is made up of seven assembly segments — Malkajgiri, Medchal, Quthbullapur, Kukatpally, Uppal, Lal Bahadur Nagar and Secunderabad Cantonment.

So what's the secret sauce behind Malkajgiri's voter heft? It is home to elector-heavy assembly segments such as Quthbullapur and Medchal, which have the second and third highest voter counts in Telangana, respectively. With over 6 lakh voters, Quthbullapur is just a few thousands behind Telangana's largest assembly segment — Serilingampally, that falls under Chevella LS seat.

No surprise then that this microcosm of India is the cynosure of all eyes — netas, political parties and poll pundits alike in these elections. One of the four LS seats in Greater Hyderabad, Malkajgiri is prestigious for all the three major parties in the fray — BJP, Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

While BJP has fielded former

SLICE OF INDIA

WHY MALKAJGIRI IS A KEY SEAT
32 Lakh Electorate | India's largest LS constituency in terms of voter population
Migrant Magnet | Has voters who have settled here from Andhra Pradesh, TN, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, etc. Migration began in Nizam's reign with laying of rly line
Industry Hub | Houses ECIL, which makes EVMs, other PSUs such as BEL, & many pvt enterprises
Defence Centre | Houses Secunderabad Cantonment, which brings personnel from across India



2019	Vote Share (%)
A Revanth Reddy (Cong)	38.6
Marri Rajashekar Reddy (TRS, now BRS)	37.9
Naraparaju Ramchander Rao (BJP)	19.5

minister Eatala Rajender; Congress has put up Vikarabad ZP chairperson Sunitha Mahender Reddy and BRS has Ragidi Laxma Reddy contesting from here.

PM Modi chose to campaign here during a road show last month and the 2019 polls saw senior BJP leaders such as Amit Shah troop in for high decibel campaigns.

Telangana CMA Revanth Reddy, who won this seat in the 2019 LS polls before he quit in December last year after becoming CM, too, is putting in extra efforts to secure this seat for Congress.

As the constituency houses a significant number of non-Telugus, political leaders from other states too are regularly shipped in by parties to woo voters of their respective communities.

For instance, BJP's TN chief K Annamalai was brought in to campaign for the party's candidate for the 2023 assembly polls in the Secunderabad Cantonment segment.

Here's another spicy poll tidbit — its Uppal segment houses ECIL (Electronics Corporation of India

Ltd), which manufactures electronic voting machines (EVMs).

ECIL is just one of the various public sector enterprises, including BEL and erstwhile IDPL, that set up shop here, spawning not just private enterprises but serving as a magnet for migrants from across the country. "The industries here provide employment to lakhs. More industrial areas and clusters are located in Quthbullapur, Medchal and Uppal assembly constituencies in Malkajgiri LS," explains Chepur Venkateswar Rao, a local leader.

What also makes this constituency significant is that the Secunderabad Cantonment falls under its limits. With this, defence personnel from various states, especially north India, and thousands of ex-defence families have chosen to settle down post-retirement in Malkajgiri LS areas such as Defence Colony, Sainikpuri, Vayupuri and Yapral.

There are other migrants who came here a lot earlier: "Arava Malas and other Tamilians came during the Nizam's reign and worked in laying railway lines (later for Indian Railways). Their numbers are high in Malkajgiri and Secunderabad Cantonment assembly constituencies," points out Ramadugu Kalyana Krishna, a resident of Malkajgiri.

Tamilians and Keralites have also settled down in huge numbers in Ammuguda, Yapral and Alwal areas, apart from other places in the city. "Of the nearly seven lakh Malayalees in Greater Hyderabad, about three lakh are concentrated in areas such as Malkajgiri, Saifilguda, Gautamnagar, Anandbagh, Boduppal, Dilukhnagar, Kukatpally in this constituency," estimates Ramachandran Nair V K, president of Sangamam, a Malayali cultural organisation based in Dammaiguda.

Ramachandran adds that 50% of the Malayalees settled in Hyderabad, especially in Secunderabad, came to work in Indian Railways and later settled down here.

Kannadigas are also present in big numbers in Malkajgiri, Saifilguda and other areas, while Bengalis reside in Malkajgiri and Quthbullapur assembly segments.

B T Srinivasan, general secretary, United Federation of Resident Welfare Organisations, said though many non-Telugus are settled across the country, the highest number of Tamilians, Keralites, Bengalis and people from other states settled down in Secunderabad and places in and around Malkajgiri, making it a unique LS constituency in the country with a multi-cultural mix.