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# BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY

Strong leaders, laws, agencies bite citizens they vow to protect: Court pulls up ED

**NIRBHAY THAKUR** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

OBSERVING THAT "strong' leaders, laws and agencies generally come back to bite the very citizens they vow to protect", a Delhi court has come down heavily on the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for invoking a stringent provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to record the statement of a doctor, an "ordinary citizen", consulted by an accused in a PMLA case.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Courts made the observation while deciding an application for extension of interim bail of Amit Katyal, arrested by the ED last November in the land-for-jobs case.

The ED case stems from a CBI probe into allegations that people were given employment in the Railways when RJD leader Lalu Prasad was Railways minister in return for land parcels gifted or sold cheap to his family and associates.

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**STRONG MOMENTUM IN ECONOMY: FM** 

# Over ₹2 lakh cr: Highest monthly GST collection

Audits, anti-evasion measures help boost gross GST collections in April

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

GROSS GOODS and Services tax (GST) collections rose 12.4 per cent to touch a record-high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April (for yearend sales in March), data released by the Union Finance Ministry on Wednesday showed. The increase was driven mainly by 13.4 per cent year-on-year higher domestic transactions, along with a

higher compliance in the backdrop of anti-evasion measures and audits taken by authorities.

This is the highest level of GST collections recorded since the indirect tax reform kicked in almost seven years ago in July 2017, and the first time that the overall mop-up crossed the Rs 2 lakh crore mark. The previous highest level was registered in April 2023 at Rs 1.87 lakh crore, reflecting year-end sales of March 2023.

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THE STRONG pickup in gross GST collections was reflective of the year-end momentum that was visible last year too, while audits and investigations by both Central and state GST authorities aided the mop-up. Sustainability of this figure will depend on the consumption demand amid the rising heatwave.



## President In Ayodhya

President Droupadi Murmu offers prayers at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday. ANI REPORT, PAGE 5

## CM tells PM to cancel Prajwal diplomatic passport; MP seeks a week

**AKRAM M** & KIRAN PARASHAR BENGALURU, MAY 1

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday, urging the Centre to cancel the diplomatic passport of JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is at the centre of a sexual abuse case, and ensure his return by making use of diplomatic and police channels.

The letter came even as Prajwal, the grandson of JD(S) founder and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, sought seven days to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the allegations of sexual abuse against him. It also came on a day the SIT issued notices to the 33-year-old leader and his father H D Revanna, who are named as accused based on the complaint of one of the women. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

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**PANIC IN DELHI NCR AS SCHOOLS GET BOMB THREAT EMAIL** 

## Riding on his work as 4-time CM, 'Mama' looks at Delhi 2nd innings

**ANAND MOHAN J** DEWAS, MAY 1



SHIVRAJ SINGH Chouhan's apparent exhaustion from undertaking a 16-hour daily poll campaign dissipates

as a group of children runs towards his convov of bulletproof vehicles. As the crowd swells, the secu-



Chouhan on campaign trail in Vidisha. Anand Mohan I

rity arrangement is thrown into disarray. But this doesn't deter the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister, who rolls down the window and greets the children, while his wife Sadhna looks on. Chouhan, 65, is campaigning

in a part of the Dewas belt which falls under Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency, his home turf, where he has returned to contest the Lok Sabha polls after about 20 years.

A five-time MP from Vidisha, Chouhan went on to become the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Disquiet in Delhi over US, Aussie reports on 'Indian spy operations'

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

REPORTS in the US and Australian media about operations allegedly by Indian "intelligence officials" overseas has caught the establishment offguard and there is a sense of disquiet in New Delhi at what it sees as a "concerted pushback" from

ners, sources said. On Tuesday, the Australian

Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported that "Indian spies were kicked out of Australia after being caught trying to steal secrets about sensitive defence projects and airport security, as well as classified information on Australia's trade relationships".

The Australian and the Sydney Morning Herald said that two Indian "spies" were asked to leave.

"The so-called foreign 'nest of spies' disrupted by the Australian Security Intelligence **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## Mumbai school principal told to quit over her posts on Hamas-Israel conflict

**PALLAVI SMART** MUMBAI. MAY 1

THE PRINCIPAL of the Somaiya School in Mumbai has been asked by the school management to resign, allegedly over her posts on social media platform X on the issue of Palestine and the Hamas-Israel conflict.

Parveen Shaikh, who has had a 12-year association with the Somaiya School in Vidyayihar and became its principal 7 years

ago, has refused to resign "because I have given hundred per cent to the organisation".

Web portal OpIndia published a report on April 24, highlighting Shaikh's likes and comments, via her X handle, on posts that were pro-Palestine and sympathetic to Hamas.

Confirming that she was called by the management following the publication of the report, Shaikh said, "In a meeting held on April 26, the management

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

its key Western strategic part-

# In this corner of UP, Akhilesh & Dimple pick up the baton, and Mulayam's legacy

PAGE 1 **ANCHOR** 

**LALMANI VERMA** MAINPURI, KANNAUJ, MAY 1

SAMAJWADI PARTY chief Akhilesh Yadav has a lot at stake in the coming Lok Sabha elections. Politics is just one part of it. From two seats in the coming two phases, Akhilesh and wife Dimple are contesting. Both these con-

epaper indianexpress.com



Dimple Yadav campaigns in Mainpuri. Lalmani Verma

stituencies — Kannauj and Mainpuri, respectively — had been won in the past by SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.

As Akhilesh tries to fill his late father's shoes, the result in these two adjoining constituencies, which he has chosen to keep close home, will be closely tracked to see how far he has come.

In 2019, Dimple had lost from Kannauj, later winning the Mainpuri seat held by Mulayam CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# Over ₹2 lakh cr: Highest monthly GST collection

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the GST collection crossed the Rs 2 lakh crore benchmark "thanks to the strong momentum in the economy and efficient tax collections". She also said that there are no pending dues to states on account of settlement of Integrated GST the tax levied on all inter-state supplies of goods and services.

"An #IGST amount of ₹50,307 crore to Centre and ₹41,600 crore to States has been cleared. This #IGST settlement of ₹91,907 crore is ₹4,413 crore more than the actual net IGST collections of ₹87,494 crore and stands settled by the Central Government. There are NO DUES pending on account of IGST settlement to the States," Sitharaman posted on social media platform X.

After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue in April came in at Rs 1.92 lakh crore, an increase of 15.5 per cent from the corresponding period last year. "The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

This represents a significant 12.4% year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions (up 13.4%) and imports (up 8.3%)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

In the previous month, on a net basis, taking into account the impact of refunds, GST revenue had risen by 18.4 per cent to Rs 1.65 lakh crore and on a gross level rose 11.5 per cent to Rs 1.78 lakh crore in March. For the full financial year 2023-24, net GST revenue had stood at Rs 18.01 lakh crore, a growth of 13.4 per cent. State-wise data for April

showed that out of 38 states/Union territories (including Centre's jurisdiction), 19 states/ UTs recorded higher growth in GST collections than the national average of 12.4 per cent growth rate. In absolute terms, Maharashtra was at the top with collection of Rs 37,671 crore (13 per cent growth), followed by Karnataka with collection of Rs 15,978 crore (9 per cent growth), Gujarat with collection of Rs 13,301 crore (13 per cent growth),

Uttar Pradesh with Rs 12,290 crore collection (19 per cent growth), Tamil Nadu with Rs 12,210 crore (6 per cent growth) and Haryana with Rs 12,168 crore collection (21 per cent growth).

The north-eastern states registered a contraction in GST collections including Sikkim (-5 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (-16 per cent), Meghalaya (-2 per cent), and Nagaland (-3 per cent), along with Jammu & Kashmir (-2 per cent), Lakshadweep (-57 per cent) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (-30 per cent).

Tax experts said economic activity and audits by both central and state GST authorities have reflected in the record-high collection. "The consistent growth in GST collections with this one being the highest collection ever is a big cheer and reflects upon the strong domestic economy especially given the fact that growth on account of domestic transactions is 13.4% as compared to imports which is at 8.3%. Another significant reason for this growth could be linked to the deadline for GST

audits and corresponding notices issued during this year," Abhishek Jain, Partner & National Head, Indirect Tax, KPMG said.

While some part of the in-

creased collections is attributable to the financial year-end transactions, tax experts said it is also reflective of the improvement in GST compliance by businesses. "The relentless focus on GST audits by both central and state GST authorities together with the periodic drives to stamp out evasion has led to a large increase in the GST compliance focus of business across the country," MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India said, adding that significant increase in GST collections has been seen across all major producing and consuming states indicating that it is widespread and not restricted to a few industrial pockets. "Every component of the GST collection has contributed significantly...the concerted efforts of the GST officials including zero tolerance for non-filers, coupled with rigorous measures to combat fake invoicing and the registrations

lections in the state's coffers,' Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY

Going ahead, GST collections

are expected to be around the Rs 1.7-2 lakh crore mark, Shravan Shetty, Managing Director, Primus Partners said, adding that it should pick up in the festive season after the rainy season. "Key factors to consider for the coming months would be the current heat wave and the impact of it on manufacturing and services output. Also, the coming monsoon will impact the agricultural and rural economy which will determine GDP growth and GST collections in the second half of the year," he said.

There has been a noticeable surge in notices on account of mismatch, reconciliation, erroneous input tax credit, and other investigations that have likely contributed to the uptick in collections, Krishan Arora, Partner, Indirect Taxes, Grant Thornton Bharat said. "As we celebrate this significant milestone, it is imperative to look ahead with cautious optimism. The sustainability of

this growth trajectory in the coming months would definitely be a key area for the government to watch out for. Factors such as evolving consumption patterns, regulatory changes, and global economic dynamics will undoubtedly influence the trajectory of GST collections," he said.

Overall, the total GST collec-

tions stood at Rs 2,10,267 crore in April, out of which Central GST (CGST) — the tax levied on intrastate supplies of goods and services by the Centre — was Rs 43,846 crore, State GST (SGST) — the tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the states was Rs 53,538 crore, IGST was Rs 99,623 crore (including Rs 37,826 crore collected on import of goods) and cess was Rs 13,260 crore (including Rs 1,008 crore col-

In April, the government settled Rs 50,307 crore to CGST and Rs 41,600 crore to SGST from IGST. As a result, the total revenue for the month post settlement was Rs 94,153 crore for CGST and Rs 95,138 crore for SGST.

lected on import of goods).

#### Mumbai school principal told to quit told me that it is a tough decision

for them to make, but this association was no longer tenable and they asked me to resign... I continued to work over the following days, but there was covert and overt pressure from management representatives to coerce me into resigning."

"I live in democratic India; I hold the principle of freedom of speech in high regard as it is a cornerstone of democracy. It is unimaginable that my expression would provoke such a malicious response, furthering their biased agenda." she said.

"I will not resign because I have given hundred per cent to the organisation," she said.

"The management has always been supportive and positive. They acknowledge my role in the school's growth and success and are happy with my work. They say this is a difficult decision for them," Shaikh said.

She said she was unaware of the web portal or the report until she was informed about it by the management. "It was puzzling to understand their interest in a school principal. I was not contacted before publication," she

She said there is no formal pro-

tocol or official policy on political remarks in public by employees of the Somaiya institution. But at a meeting in March, she said, it was clarified that "employees are permitted to express their personal views on their private social media accounts, provided they clearly state that these are personal opinions".

A spokesperson for the Somaiya Trust declined to comment on Shaikh's statement that she has been asked to resign.

The spokesperson maintained that the Trust would not like to comment beyond what has already been stated: "We were unaware of the sentiments expressed until it was brought to our notice today (April 24). We do not agree with such sentiments. It is certainly concerning. We are looking into the matter.'

Meanwhile, a section of the parents of students have reached out to the Trust, expressing their strong support to Shaikh for her "integrity, professionalism and role in steering the school towards growth".

"Her views on certain subjects do not make a difference," a parent said. "We see bright and confident children graduating from the school.'

### • Disquiet in Delhi over US, Aussie reports on 'Indian spy operations'

Organisation (ASIO) in 2020 was also accused of closely monitoring Indians living here and developing close relationships with current and former politicians," the ABC reported.

Just a day earlier, on Monday, *The Washington Post identified* the intelligence official involved in the assassination plot of pro-Khalistan Sikh separatist **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and** sought to establish links with top officials in the Indian intelligence and security establish-Ministry of External Affairs

official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the report makes "unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations" on a "serious matter". He also pointed to the "ongoing probe" by the high-level panel to look into security concerns shared by the US government on networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others.

According to ABC, ASIO Director-General Mike Burgess had "alluded" to the spy network in his annual threat assessment in 2012 but didn't disclose which country was allegedly behind it. Burgess had reportedly detailed how the spies cultivated and recruited an Australian government security clearance holder who had access to "sensitive details of defence technology," ABC reported.

The Indian government has not yet responded to ABC's revelations, especially since the Australian government has not

lent its weight behind the claims published in the media.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, when asked about the report that the Indian government was behind the "nest of spies," said Wednesday: "Well, you would be unsurprised to hear me respond that we don't comment on intelligence matters. But at a level of principle about democracy, I think you would have heard me and other Ministers on many occasions assert the importance of our democratic principles, assert the importance of ensuring that we maintain the resilience of our democracy, including in the face of any suggestion of foreign interference, and we have laws to deal with that. And to continue to say that we deeply value the multicultural fabric of the Australian community. It is a strength and we welcome people's continued engagement in

Sources said that there is a feeling shared in South Block and North Block (which house the Ministries of External and Home affairs) — that Western agencies are trying to "draw a red line" with India, a key partner in the Quad grouping.

our democracy."

That it is coming in the middle of a heated election season in India gives meat to New Delhi's belief that its Western partners are keen that the next government – post June 4 – will be more "sensitive" about its operations overseas, especially in those countries.

(WITH PTI)

## Cancel Prajwal's passport: CM

In the letter, Siddaramaiah said that Prajwal had fled the country after several women victims came forward to file complaints against him on April 28. "Sensing the impending police case and arrest, the accused Member of Parliament and NDA candidate for Lok Sabha, Prajwal Revanna, has fled the country and travelled abroad on April 27. It is learnt from reports that he is travelling abroad on his Diplomatic Passport," he said.

Getting him back to the country is of utmost importance "so that he faces investigation and trial as per the law of the land", Siddaramaiah said. He requested the Prime Minister to "kindly move the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs to take swift action to cancel his Diplomatic Passport and to take such other steps using Diplomatic and Police Channels of the Government of India as well as International Police agencies to ensure the swift return of the absconding Member Parliament...

Speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah accused the Central government of helping Prajwal flee the country. "To fly abroad, who issues passports? Who issues the visa? Did he leave without their (Centre's) knowledge... If they (BJP) are prowomen, why was he given a ticket despite knowing about all

this," he asked. On Wednesday, Prajwal said in a post on X that he was unable to appear before the SIT. "As I am not in Bangalore to attend the enquiry, I have communicated to CID Bangalore through my advocate. Truth will prevail soon," he

A letter addressed to SIT chief B K Singh by Prajwal's lawyer sought seven days for him to appear before the investigating of-

has significantly bolstered GST col-

Earlier in the day, the SIT team visited H D Revanna's residence at Holenarasipura and issued notices. "Revanna has informed the team that Prajwal, who is currently in Germany, will return to India on May 3 and is likely to appear before the police on May 4," he said.

Prajwal was suspended from the party on Tuesday in light of the allegations. The party announced that he will remain suspended from the party until the SIT submits its report.

Holenarasipura town police had registered a case after pen drives with 2,967 files went viral in Hassan constituency. A 47year-old woman filed a complaint with the police alleging that she was sexually abused by Prajwal and his father Revanna. The father-son duo were booked under IPC sections 354 (a) (sexual harassment), 354(d)(stalking), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 509 (intending to insult the modesty of any woman).

As videos of the alleged abuse continued to be shared on various online platforms, Dr Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women, said that those sharing the videos will face strict consequences. "The Women Commission has written to the police department urging them to take immediate and severe action against such individuals," she said in a post on X.

## Akhilesh & Dimple pick up the baton, and Mulayam's legacy

in a bypoll, necessitated due to his So, it all depends on how the OBC death.

Days to go for polling — Mainpuri votes on May 7 and Kannauj on May 13 — the Yadavs seem steadfast with the SP. But a section of the non-Yadav OBCs who stayed with the party due to Mulayam's sway seem to be slipping away.

Mulayam had won Mainpuri five times – 2019, 2014, 2009, 2004 and 1996. Dimple's win by 2.88 lakh votes in the December 2022 bypoll was huge, but was seen as largely a factor of sympathy vote, with the couple plus Akhilesh's uncle Shivpal appealing for votes in Mulayam's name.

#### Dimple Yadav

Dimple, who is still seen as an accidental politician, is largely on her own this time, with Akhilesh tackling his own campaign in Kannauj, plus shouldering the party's, and Shivpal busy at his son's seat in Badaun.

The slogans hailing "Netaji", as Mulayam was referred to, are not as omnipresent, but Dimple clearly knows it remains her calling card. A written appeal by her to voters made repeated references to Netaji, listed the works done by him, and vowed to take forward his ideology.

Among those who feel it is time to move on is Prabhu Ram Lodhi, belonging to Jatpura village, dominated by his OBC Lodh Rajput community. "Netaji used to treat everyone here like his family. But the party's current leaders are arrogant. My relatives in other constituencies vote for the BJP, and I may do the same."

Amar Singh Shakya, from adjoining OBC Shakya-dominated Imaliya village, is also reconsidering his options now that Mulayam is no longer around.

Dimple has been spending most of her time in non-Yadavdominated villages, including Jatwara and Imaliya. The two villages fall in the Bhongaon Assembly seat, where the BJP was considerably ahead even when Mulayam won the seat in 2019.

In the 2022 Assembly elections, of the five segments in the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat, the SP won three and the BIP two. Akhilesh was elected MLA from Karhal while Mulayam's younger brother Shivpal Singh Yadav won from Jaswantnagar.

While the Yadavs number around 4.5 lakh in the seat, the Shakyas are second at 3.25 lakh, followed by the Lodh Rajputs at 2.15 lakh. The Dalits number around 1.2 lakh and the Muslims about 60,000, with the rest around 3.35 lakh voters being upper caste Thakurs and Brahmins.

vote gets split.

SP district president and former minister Alok Shakya has taken on the charge of ensuring that women from Shakya, Pal and Lodh communities are present prominently at Dimple's meetings. Lodh Rajput leader Kamal Verma talks of the BIP "insulting" his wife by denying her the Mainpuri Nagar Palika chairperson's post. He blames Jaiveer Singh, the sitting Mainpuri MLA and a Thakur leader, who is the BJP's Mainpuri Lok Sabha candi-The Dimple campaign has

Shakya, who was announced and then dropped by the BSP as its candidate from Mainpuri, and Congress leader Vineeta Shakya. Gulshan says this will be enough to chip away at the BJP's Shakya As regards the Lodh Rajputs, who hold the late BJP leader and

also roped in Gulshan Dev

former chief minister Kalyan Singh of the community in high regard, the SP is talking about how Mulayam helped Kalyan win the Lok Sabha seat from Etah in 2009 as an Independent, after Kalyan had quit the BIP. However, that does not cut

much ice with Jawahar Lal, a Lodh, of Jatwara village. Ahead of a Dimple public meeting, he says: "When Babuji (Kaylan Singh) died, Akhilesh did not go to his house to pay tribute. But when a mafia, Mukhtar Ansari, died, he, SP leaders visited Ghazipur." At a rally in Mainpuri last week, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi

Adityanth also raised this, while underlining how he and other BJP leaders had visited Saifai to pay tributes to Mulayam after his death. He called it an example of the SP's "bhed-bhao (discrimination)", suggesting it was "biased" towards Muslims.

One worry for Dimple will be BSP candidate Shiv Prasad Yadav, who is expected to cut into the SP's Yadav vote. Dimple told The Indian Express she was not worried about this, and would get votes across communities.

The BJP has never won the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat. Laying out their challenge, its district general secretary Bhupendra Yadav says: "The SP takes a decisive lead in Karhel and Jaswantnagar segments, where 90% of the voters are Yadavs.'

As per another BJP leader, the formula for the party to win would be: "90% of the Shakyas supporting the BJP, up from 60% now, and the BSP taking away more than 30,000 Yadav votes from the SP".

The BSP's Shiv Prasad Yadav,

## **VOTE SHARE (%)**

**MAINPURI 2014** 2019 59.64 53.75 23.14 44.09 **BSP** 14.29 KANNAUJ 2014 Party 42.11 49.37 SP 43.89 48.29 **BSP** 11.47 Note: SP and BSP were allies

in 2019: Source: EC

who runs a school and a dairy business, and has been trying his luck against the Mulayam family in elections for a while, says it would be wrong to rule him out. "I belong to the Ghosi sub-category among the Yadavs. The (Mulayam Singh) Yadav family has destroyed the Ghosis here,'

On May 2, BSP president Mayawati will be addressing a rally in Mainpuri. Akhilesh held programmes in Mainpuri on Wednesday, and will be returning for a rally Thursday. Back to Dimple, SP leaders say

they are facing a unique problem, of SP workers crowding her cavalcade, forcing them to issue appeals that only those concerned with the area she is passing through should be present.

Apart from Dimple, the curiosity is for the latest Yadav on the block: daughter Aditi, 21, a London-returned graduate, who is doing the rounds of the family

#### Akhilesh Yadav

FAMOUS for its itra and perfume industry, Kannauj is these days resonant with a new whiff. Akhilesh's last-minute decision to contest from here, replacing nephew and former Mainpuri MP Tei Pratap Yadav, apparently at the behest of local SP workers, has made Kannauj one of the hottest contests of the Lok Sabha elections in UP.

As per SP Kannauj district president Kaleem Khan, it was all planned, with the late decision meaning the BJP got no chance to change its candidate and sitting MP Subrat Pathak, in case it wanted to, after Akhilesh's nomination. Akhilesh has a point to prove, with Pathak having defeated Dimple from the seat in 2019.

"There were reports that the BIP would drop Pathak fearing a defeat against Akhilesh. But when the SP named Tej Pratap, they

thought they could defeat him. Now Akhileshji has made Pathak's defeat certain," says Kannauj sent a Yadav family

member to Parliament in every

election from 1999 to 2014, before Dimple's loss in 2019. While Muslims constitute 3 lakh voters in Kannauj, the Dalits number around 2.8 lakh, and Yadavs 2.5 lakh. The BJP won last time with a chunk of Yadav and

Dalit voters seen as backing it. Shivam Tiwari, who runs a unit manufacturing essential oils says Pathak won essentially because of the support of upper castes and Dalits. "He spoke up against the appearement of Yadavs and Muslims by the SP

government," he says. Mohd Nayab, an itra and perfume manufacturer, says they remain firm SP supporters "Because Akhilesh is also the SP national president, the contest has become rochak (interesting) Now SP workers are active in the

field. Earlier, they were not." Nayab adds that the perfume industry is suffering under the BJP's 10 years at the Centre. "The government is taking 18% tax (GST) but doing nothing for the

industry." Abhijeet C Kelkar, who has perfume showrooms in Pune and a manufacturing unit in Kannauj,

also complains about the taxes on a "kuteer udyog (cottage industry)" directly associated with farmers. The SP's Khan says that apart

from Muslims, the party is confident of getting votes of non-Yadav OBCs and upper castes too.

Prafull Kelkar, also a perfume manufacturer, in Bada Bajar area however, says that while it might be tougher for Pathak to repeat 2019, "I feel he will win because

Narendra Modi ji is a great brand. The BJP is more confident of Pathak's win due to the SP and BSP contesting separately this time. In 2019, when the two parties were allied and the Congress too had not put up a candidate against Dimple, he had still won the seat. "This election will be easier as the Dalit and Muslim votes will get divided between the BSF

and SP," says BJP leader Sharad

The BSP has fielded Imran Bin Zafar, a leather businessman, who had contested in 2014 from Kannauj as an Aam Aadmi Party candidate and got only 4,826 votes. Zafar is targeting the SP calling it "a B-team of the BJP", as much as the BJP. "The SP has no Muslim leadership. They take Muslim votes but give them no representation... Only BSP chief Mayawati is fighting the BJP."

## • Strong leaders, laws, agencies bite citizens they vow to protect: Court

Katyal, an alleged close associate of former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Teiashwi Yadav. had consulted doctors at the Apollo Hospital in Delhi and the Medanta in Gurgaon after being granted interim bail on February 5. He underwent bariatric surgery at the Medanta on April 9.

Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa, who appeared for Katyal, said that following the recording of statements, the doctor at Apollo Hospital was hesitant to treat his client and due to this he had to seek treatment at the Medanta. Pahwa also said this was an intrusion into Katyal's privacy regarding medical treatment.

In his order Tuesday, while declining extension of interim bail, Judge Gogne said, "...the ED, as an investigative agency, is bound by the rule of law and cannot be seen as acting mighty against the ordinary citizen who is not even a sus-

vow to protect. After the massuch laws are invariably alleged to average citizens," he said.

Relying on the discharge summary of Katyal from the Medanta, the court noted that he had undergone an "uneventful" procedure and was permitted a lifestyle which could be followed within the jail premises.

"If there are any lessons to be

learnt from history, it would be observed that 'strong' leaders, laws and agencies generally come back to bite the very citizens they culinity of the law has been expressed against the stated targets, have been employed against the

The court questioned the manner in which the ED dealt with "an ordinary citizen" (in this case, the doctor) who was unconnected to the proceeds of crime in

the case. "There was absolutely no iustification for the ED to subject an ordinary citizen to the stringent process of Section 50 without an iota of allegation of nexus of the doctors with the allegations of money laundering against accused Amit Katyal," Judge Gogne

> to avoid examining any of the doctors from government hospitals under Section 50 of the PMLA. "Probably being aware of the nontenability of the use of Section 50. the ED chose to play it safe qua the government doctors but readily brought the private doctors under the big shadow of Section 50," he said. He said citizens possess rights while the State has certain duties and this fundamental relationship cannot be inverted in an authoritarian way in a country like

He noted that the ED took care

Commenting on Katyal's right to privacy over not sharing his private medical records with other doctors, the court said that the actions of the ED would have been more appropriately protected if Katyal's medical records were verified under the court's directions.

Judge Gogne had earlier asked the ED why it could not wait for the court's orders like other agencies. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the ED, had then said that whatever the agency was doing was to assist the court. "Suppose the doctor is a friend of the accused... We have

to do such things then," he said. The court had also asked the ED if a person's private medical records could be shared across doctors. "Is it not an invasion of privacy? It seems as though the records of the accused reached 6-7 doctors," Judge Gogne said.

### • Riding on his work as 4-time CM, 'Mama' looks at Delhi second innings

longest-serving Madhya Pradesh CM, for four terms. The constituency near Bhopal has always been a BJP

third phase on May 7. Chouhan is pitted against Congress candidate and former MP Pratap Bhanu Sharma. In 2019, BJP's Ramakant Bhargava trounced the Congress's Shailendra Patel by over 5 lakh votes.

On what this election means for him, Chouhan tells The Indian Express: "This is my family. I am not a politician. We fight and live together like a family. There is no neta, security, nothing. There are only nephews and nieces, brothers and sisters. There is only love."

As the then CM, Chouhan had led the BJP to another resounding victory in the November 2023 Assembly elections. However, springing a surprise, the BJP leader-

ship replaced him with Ujjain MLA Mohan Yadav as the CM. Afterwards, for something" for himself.

Months after the change of guard, Chouhan's political future hung in the balance until the BJP decided to field him in the Lok Sabha elections from Vidisha. During a poll rally in Harda on April 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Chouhan, saying, "I want to take him (to Delhi) once again." Asked if he would shift to Delhi,

Chouhan says: "I never said I won't go. I am ready to do whatever work the party assigns." On whether he missed being the CM, he says, "Idon't miss anything about being a CM. I am enjoying my new role." Earlier in the day, at his home in

BJP INC 68.23 66.55 28.29 27.99 2014 2019 Source: EC

who had come to him with their grievances, and some former Congress leaders wishing to join the BIP. One of the Congress turncoats apologised for not joining the BJP earlier. Chouhan hugged him, saying, "So what if you are late, at least Bhopal, Chouhan met some villagers you came."

Since the Congress's debacle in the Assembly polls, the party has seen an exodus of its leaders and workers to the BJP. More than 2,000 Congress workers from Vidisha have also switched to the BJP fold.

Asked about such a large-scale induction, despite the BJP expressing confidence about a victory in the polls, Chouhan says: "This is an *an*dolan (movement) of nation building. It's not that only these many people should stay in the BJP. If someone wants to serve the country and wants to join the BJP, then he/she should do so.' He heads to Niwardi village in

Dewas where he pays floral tributes to the statue of tribal queen Rani Durgavati. From there, after every few kilometres on his campaign trail, he is greeted by groups of children donning the masks of Modi or him. At every gathering, Chouhan, popularly known as "Mama (maternal uncle)" in the state, is also greeted by several women, who shower petals on him and perform *aarti*.

Known for having launched various welfare schemes, such as the Ladli Behna Yojana, a Rs 1,250 monthly stipend for women from poor households, Chouhan now promises to make them "lakhpati behnas (rich sisters)". "I will make you *lakhpati behnas*. We won't stay poor. My sisters are my *devis*. I have come here to serve you," he tells a crowd at Machwas village.

"There were many hard decisions as CM. The women schemes were tough decisions to take," he tells The Indian Express.

With the temperature rising and a water crisis looming, most of the women flag their grievances about water scarcity. As he tells a gathering about his Delhi plans, some people shout, "paani ki kami hai (there is a water shortage)". Chouhan replies,

"Isiliye toh Dilli ja raha hun (That's why I am going to Delhi)." With his party raising the inher-

itance tax row to corner the Congress, Chouhan accuses the Opposition party of playing a "dangerous game". "This is not India's culture... We are not America... The inheritance accumulated by hard work, people give it to their children, he says. Asked whether he was concerned about the low voter turnout, he says, "The Congress is moving towards extinction. Do you see any sign of the Congress in this whole route? While one party is fighting with its whole might, the other party is not seen." On the takeaways from his four

terms as CM, Chouhan says: "The big takeaway is that serving the people is like worshipping God. If you truly serve the people, then you become part of the family. This has been my experience. Give love, share love. This world is filled with love. Love is God.'

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#### **VOTE SHARE (%)** when asked whether he would **IN VIDISHA** stronghold. switch to national politics, Chouhan Vidisha is going to polls in the said he would "rather die than ask

SKYWATCH

51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

### EMAILS CAME AT 4 AM, COPS RUSHED IN; LATER DECLARED IT A HOAX; RUSSIAN IP ADDRESS WAS USED

# Panic in Delhi as over 150 schools get bomb threat

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE NATIONAL capital was on high alert Wednesday after over 150 schools in Delhi-NCR got an identical message on their official IDs around 4 am — an email "threatening to blow up" the premises. The incident triggered mass evacuations of schools and panic among parents, even as Delhi Police officers and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) teams rushed to the spots. After a thorough check, it was declared a

Police officers said the email was sent to all schools in one go. Following a preliminary probe by the Delhi Police Special Cell's Counter-Intelligence Unit (CIU), the email was traced to a Russian IP address — mail.ru — and the role of an organised entity is being probed, said a senior officer.

The officer added, "A VPN was used to send the email to the schools; the perpetrator possibly hacked into the database of all schools that got the hoax email. This is being investigated."

An official said central agencies are "coordinating and sharing" information from Delhi as well as Noida police. "The National Investigation Agency is also looking at all the emails."

The official also said similar emails were received in other states in the last two days: "Emails were sent to airports and terminals across the country. On Monday, they were sent to hospitals in Delhi."

Said another officer, "The sender possibly used a 'dark web' browser to obtain the Russian VPN... internet service providers in India have been asked to share information about the email so that we can further backtrack it and send a notice to the foreign country."

#### 'Intention was to spread panic'

Senior police officers said all schools, including Sanskriti School in Chanakyapuri, DPS in R K Puram, and Vasant Kunj, received the email around 4 am with purported content that bombs had been placed inside these educational institutions and threatening to

blow them up. "Among other schools, Sanskriti School received two separate emails from two different users. The first mail, from mail.ru, came in the morning,

#### **CALLS FLOOD POLICE LINES**

South Delhi	18
Southeast Delhi	10
Southwest Delhi	20
Dwarka	20
Outer Delhi	8
Outer North Delhi	2
Shahdara	20
East Delhi	24
Northeast Delhi	3
Central Delhi	10
Rohini	5
New Delhi	1
North Delhi	2
North Delhi	2

but they received another mail at 1.42 pm from a Gmail user, in which the user wrote, 'The bomb will explode in 10 minutes'," a senior police officer, adding that they will approach Google for details.

Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalwa said that since the email was sent out at the same time, the intention was to spread panic among the people.

Reacting to the incident, Delhi Education Minister Atishi said: "Some schools received bomb threats today morning. Students have been evacuated and those premises are being searched by Delhi Police. So far nothing has been found in any of the schools.' Delhi L-G VK Saxena, who

visited DAV Public School in Model Town following the hoax email, said, "Delhi Police reached very quickly and the entire area has been cordoned off and search operations are going on. Dog squads, and bomb disposal units are also working. I want to assure the people... that Delhi Police is fully prepared and we will try to prevent any untoward incident from happening. Delhi Police has found out from where these emails are coming, investigation is underway. All I would like to say is that the culprits

will not be spared..." This is not the first time that Delhi schools have received hoax bomb threats. In most cases, the suspects were minor students of the same school, who were playing a prank or just "having fun". However, the scale of bomb scare messages this time is unprecedented

Supported By leducation Society (Regd.) Delhi

> Students being evacuated from Andhra Education Society, DDU Marg, in Delhi. Anil Sharma

#### **EDUCATION DEPT ISSUES ADVISORY**

New Delhi: After around 100 schools across **Delhi-NCR** received hoax bomb threats by email on Wednesday, the Delhi government's Directorate of Education issued an advisory asking schools to ensure timely checking of emails received on their official email ID and inform officials in the DoE and the Delhi Police if "anything unwanted is noticed".

**■** "The school authorities should inform parents and law-enforcement authorities concerned to initiate appropriate measures regarding safety and security of the students in the event of any impeding threats or challenges, well in time," the advisory also stated.

# For parents, tense moments till they saw kids at gate

**ARNABJITSUR** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

ANXIOUS PARENTS waiting outside school gates even as police personnel and fire tenders rushed in, loudspeakers broadcasting messages asking them to stay calm, dog squads combing every classroom and hall for possible threats — similar scenes of panic played out at over 150 schools across Delhi and NCR following bomb threat emails on Wednesday morning.

By noon, hundreds of calls and messages had gone out to parents asking them to take their children home. To quell anxiety, schools resorted to using loudspeakers to tell parents to wait for their child's name to be called out.

Waiting alongside other panic-stricken parents outside GD Goenka School in Sarita Vihar around noon, Sunita Verma (35), whose 14-year-old



Cleaning Yamuna, homes

for slum dwellers: East

son studies at the school, said: "I got to know about the bomb scare much before I received a call from the school administration as a lot of my friends' children study here. All of us rushed to school as we live nearby... the authorities did not tell us much and only declared a holiday for today... we are grateful that

nothing has been found by po-

A parent waiting outside St Giri Public School in Sarita Vihar. Rajender Sharma, 34, told *The* Indian Express, "My son and daughter study at the school... The authorities called me around 11 am to take back my children... then I saw the news... and I



(Left) Security personnel and a sniffer dog at DPS Noida following the hoax threat. (above) Students and parents outside Amity International School, Pushp Vihar.

rushed frantically to the school on my bike from Badarpur... I spoke to parents of my son's classmates and found out that several schools had received a

hoax bomb email." He added that he and his wife were very anxious on hearing about the incident. "The son of one my friends, who studies at Summer Fields School, was also sent back home after the school received a hoax bomb threat...." added Sharma.

I rushed here... By then, students

were evacuated from the build-

A parent, whose daughter studies at DTEA Senior Secondary School, RK Puram, said: "As soon as I heard about the threat,

they allowed students to go home with their parents." Schools, meanwhile, had their hands full evacuating students and answering parents queries. The Amity Group spokesper-

ing and taken to a nearby park.'

Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya,

Geeta Colony, said, "It was a

normal morning but all of a

sudden, we saw several parents

arriving at the gate... Our teach-

ers, however, told us to not

panic about the bomb threat...

Anjali, a Class IX student of

son said, "Amity Pushp Vihar and Saket also received bomb threats and have been evacuated on instructions from the police. The school has been closed for today till further instructions."

"Five schools in the Southwest district are evacuating schools," said Sudha Acharya Principal, ITL Public School and former chairperson of the **National Progressive Schools** Conference.

## I HEREBY

# **DECLARE**

#### MANOJTIWARI, BJP's Northeast Delhi candidate

#### **TOTAL ASSETS** ₹28.02 CR (2024)

Movable assets ₹10.5 cr Immovable assets ₹17.52 cr Liabilities ₹1.02 cr Pending criminal cases

Education Masters in Physical Education (M.P.Ed)



HARSH DEEP MALHOTRA,

BJP's East Delhi candidate

Movable assets ₹1.33 cr (including wife's) Immovable assets ₹2.75 cr Liabilities Pending criminal cases 0 LLB from Education

## Metro line to flyover: MP Manoj Tiwari lists work done in NE Delhi

**UPASIKA SINGHAL** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

TWO-TIME MP Manoj Tiwari filed his nomination from Northeast Delhi for the Lok Sabha elections Wednesday following a boisterous roadshow from Gokulpuri to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Nand Nagri. The event was attended by Union Defence Minister Rainath Singh and senior BIP leader Om Prakash Dhankar.

While addressing the crowd, the Bhojpuri filmstar-turnedpolitician highlighted some of the work he has done for the constituency in the last 10 years. "Sir, the last time you'd come here to inaugurate this office... since then a Metro line has come up... the flyover under which you drove has cut down traffic here by at least two hours," Tiwari told Singh.

Meanwhile, Singh attacked

the Opposition as he expressed confidence in the BIP winning all seven seats in Delhi once again.

"During independence. Mahatma Gandhi — our Bapu said that the Congress must be dismantled but the Congress had not heeded his advice then. I think the people of India shall fulfill this vision of Gandhi ji," Singh said.

The roadshow covered the roughly 6-km stretch between Gokulpuri and Nand Nagri, going via Maujpur-Babarpur and Durgapuri. Every few hundred metres, party workers stood on wooden stages to throw rose and marigold petals at the passing rally.

Attendees of the roadshow agreed that he would win the seat for the third time. "He's been present in our moments of happiness and sadness... people do take notice of such things. He's not been an absent MP," said Sonu Kumar (31).

Dhami with East Delhi candidate Harsh Malhotra, during their nomination rallies, Wednesday.



**GAYATHRI MANI** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

SLOGANS AND songs echoed in the lanes of Laxmi Nagar's Privadarshini Vihar as BIP's East Delhi candidate Harsh Malhotra started his roadshow to file his Lok Sabha poll nomination Wednesday. He was accompanied by Uttarakhand CM

Pushkar Singh. Addressing the gathering, Dhami said, "There is close connection between Delhi and Devbhoomi Uttarakhand... East Delhi has been a stronghold of BJP since the Jan Sangh era and we all have to bring Modi *ji* for

third time with 400 paar." Taking a dig at the INDIA bloc, AAP and congress, Dhami added, "...While PM Narendra Modi is working towards to make India vishwaguru, Congress wants to abolish the reservation system in the country and give their

rights to one particular religion... They are talking about accepting Muslim personal law instead of Uniform Civil Code... UCC has been implemented successfully in Uttarakhand. If you elect BIP again, it will be implemented

across the country..."

Meanwhile, Malhotra said, his first priority if he wins will be to construct houses for slum dwellers under the 'jahan jhuggi wahin makaan' scheme and cleaning the Yamuna. "I will work to fulfill the PM's vision... and construct 4,000 flats in my constituency... The AAP government is in the MCD now and they have been in power in Delhi for the last 10 years, but the height of garbage mountain is only increasing... they said it will be removed last year, now are saying it will take two

Malhotra, who replaced incumbent MP Gautam Gambhir, will be contesting against AAP's Kuldeep Kumar.

more years...," he added.



(Left) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Northeast Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari and (right) Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh

# 'Personal, not political': Cong pick Kanhaiya calls on Sunita

**GAYATHRI MANI** 

NEW DELHI, MAY 1

IN A meeting that he called "personal and not political," Congress's Northeast Delhi candidate Kanhaiya Kumar Wednesday paid a visit to Sunita Kejriwal, wife of Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, at their Civil

Lines residence. "Ye mulakaat chunavi nahi vaicharik hai (the meeting was not electoral but ideological)," said the student-turned-politician, adding, "Waise toh rajeeneeti mai aise mulaakat ko sistachar bolte hain par vyaktigat taur par ye meeting mere liye aatmiya tha... Today, there is a dictatorship in the country. Anyone is being picked up and put in jail without any reason. We are all fighting together against this."

Kumar goes up against BJP's sitting MP Manoj Tiwari. The Congress and AAP, INDIA allies, are fighting the polls together in Delhi in a 3:4 seat-sharing ratio.

Speaking about the meeting, AAP senior leader Durgesh Pathak, who has been given charge of AAP-Congress joint meetings and campaigns in Delhi, said, "Today, Kanhaiya ji met Sunita bhabhi and he shared his experience as he had also been (jailed) in Tihar..."

Taking a dig at the BJP, Kumar said, "The BJP-led central government is insulting the people of Delhi... Kejriwal, who was elected by the people, has been put in jail as part of a conspiracy. The people of Delhi will answer this."

Kumar also added that this election is not a fight over three



Kanhaiya Kumar with Delhi CM's wife Sunita Keiriwal at the latter's Civil Lines residence on Wednesday. Express

or four seats: "The INDIA bloc is contesting all 545 seats across the nation and seven seats in Delhi to

fight against the dictatorship." Asked about former DPCC president Arvinder Singh Lovely, who recently resigned from his post citing the AAP-Congress alliance and dissatisfaction over the choice of candidates for the Northeast and Northwest seats, Kumar said, "Neither did I receive that letter nor have I read it... you should see what is happening in the country under the BIP government rather than looking at a Congress leader resigning from his post... you saw what happened in Surat, Indore, Khajuraho... the people of Delhi are lucky that they have the right to vote... because nobody knows if they will get another chance to vote or not... people should vote... pure desh Surat jaise ban kar reh jayegi... hume is-

par charcha karna chahiye..."

When asked if Congress leaders leaving the party will affect the outcome of the election, Kumar said, "(this) is not a new thing... the new thing is threatening a candidate to get them on your side or trying to stop the elections..." He also said he will file his nomina-

tion once the dates are finalised. Pathak added that the AAP and Congress will together work for the polls. "The INDIA blocheld a mega rally in Delhi on March 31.. Now, all party workers, from AAP and Congress, will hold meetings together at the booth- and wardlevels and campaigns... We will go to the public and answer any questions they have," he added.

"Today, there is a dictatorship in the country... Opposition leaders are being jailed... their nominations being cancelled... These are scenes we only used to see in Amitabh Bachchan and Mithun Chakraborty's movies," he added.

Delhi University

#### **AIIMS students** protest 21-yr-old's suicide, claim she was humiliated for failing exams

New Delhi: A day after a 21-year-old B.Sc Nursing student at AI-IMS Delhi allegedly committed suicide, her batchmates staged a protest outside the Director's office, claiming that she had been humiliated for not clearing three papers in the exams.

After the protest by nearly 400 Nursing and Paramedical students who alleged that two teachers had harassed the woman, AI-IMS PRO Dr Rima Dada said that the administration has asked them to share their grievances, and that a panel that has been formed would look into the issues.

The woman, who was a firstyear student of the institute and belonged to Sheikhpura in Bihar, was reportedly preparing for Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam. Police said earlier that she left a note which said that she was in depression due to her nursing studies and preparation for the BPSC exam.

"...She was studying hard to clear the exams... she was suffering from depression," said a fellow student, adding that it was difficult for the woman to study as the course material for Nursing studies was in English, and she had a Hindi-medium background. Dr Dada said: "It has been de-

cided that there will be two clinical psychologists for students pursuing this course."

## **BLAME ALLIANCE WITH AAP, LOK SABHA PICKS**

# Delhi Congress gets another jolt as 2 former MLAs resign

**JATIN ANAND** & SAMAN HUSAIN NEW DELHI, MAY 1

AFTER DELHI Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely stepped down from the post, blaming the alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the decision to field "outsiders" such as Kanhaiya Kumar and Udit Raj in the Lok Sabha elections, two more resignations jolted the state unit Wednesday. Citing the same objections,

ex-MLAs Naseeb Singh and Neeraj Basoya, who represented Vishwas Nagar and Kasturba Nagar, respectively, in the past tendered their resignations to Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge. While Singh was the AICC-appointed observer for the Northwest Delhi seat, Basoya was AICC observer for West Delhi. Their resignations come a day after Devender Yadav, in-charge of Punjab, was appointed DPCC interim president. Last week, former Delhi

Congress minister Rajkumar Chauhan had taken the same route. Congress sources continued to maintain that more resignations would follow.

While those who've left have not joined the BJP or any other opposition party so far, sources claimed rebel Delhi Congress leaders were likely to do so after the filing of nominations for the Lok Sabha polls end on May 6. As per sources among the rebel MLAs, forming "an anti-corruption outfit" specifically against the AAP government was also "a possibility".

Speaking to *The Indian* Express, Singh said: "Is this what politics has come to that you (Congress high command) are standing beside a party which ran you into the ground on the basis of just propaganda and false allegations? You chose them over the family of Ahmed Patel in Gujarat? My self-respect did not allow me to continue like this."

"This person (Arvind Kejriwal) wanted to snatch Rajiv Gandhi's Bharat Ratna, announced that he would take just two hours interrogating Sonia Gandhi and Sheila Dikshit and they would accept they were corrupt... We can't even convince our own family to vote for the (AAP-Congress) alliance, how can we convince our workers?" he asked.

Basoya questioned the



**Ex-Congress MLAs Neeraj** Basova, Naseeb Singh. Facebook

Congress high command's decision to ally with the AAP and of being unsuccessful in communicating and convincing its cadre in the city of the objective behind it. "When Sonia ji was the president, decisions used to be made on the basis of consensus, unlike now... let alone convincing, they (the high command) have not even been able to communicate how to move ahead with the alliance," Basoya told The Indian Express.

"This was the best time to revive the Congress in Delhi but they decided to do this instead... AAP is responsible for the political death of the Congress on the basis of lies... Overnight, we are supposed to forget how they abused our leaders, including Sonia ji, and stand together with them?" he asked.

Both leaders had met Lovely

on the day of his resignation. While speculation regarding a "new front" gained credence among a section of the Delhi Congress, insiders "in support of the high command" called those exiting "at this crucial juncture" "opportunists" trying to secure "BJP tickets" for the 2025 Assembly elections.

A senior Delhi Congress leader said: "There were around 40 Congress MLAs who won in 2003 of whom six are no longer alive: four are in BIP: two in AAP: four, including Lovely, have more or less left the party -- which leaves around 24. They seem to have their numbers wrong... These are just opportunists trying to secure a BJP ticket for the Assembly polls.' In his resignation, Basoya

said the AAP-Congress alliance was bringing "disrepute and embarrassment" to Delhi Congress workers. Singh termed the AAP "a haven of corruption" and accused the high command of exhibiting "a total disregard for the views of Delhi Congress leaders" by allying with it and by fielding "two complete outsiders" who had "no connection" with its ideology from the Northwest and Northeast Delhi seats.

# 'Set for LS polls': AAP-Cong campaign panel holds meet **GAYATHRI MANI**

NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE AAP and the Congress's coordination committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the strategy for joint campaigns and meetings ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, amid the ongoing internal friction being faced by the Congress.

Senior AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, meanwhile, said that the party and Congress will coordinate in the Assembly segments as well.

Highlighting that both the parties have made a commitment to each other, Sandeep Pathak — also the AAP national general secretary (Organisation)

– said: "We have created a system in which we will cooperate in campaigning for each other and contest elections together. This will be implemented first at the Lok Sabha level, and then, we shall coordinate at the Assembly

Bringing Durgesh Pathak — an old and trusted hand — to the forefront, the AAP has designed its strategic plans on the ground for joint campaigning and meetings with the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Pathak, also the MCD in-charge of AAP, played a crucial role in the civic elections in December 2023. He has been associated with the party since



AAP's Durgesh Pathak along with party workers during a meeting, Wednesday. X/@ipathak25

the launch of 'India Against Corruption' movement in 2007.

Pathak on Wednesday ac-Congress's companied Northeast Delhi candidate Kanhaiya Kumar as he paid a visit to Sunita Kejriwal, wife of Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, at the latter's Civil Lines residence.

The Tuesday conclave, marked by strategic discussions on future election campaigns, was also attended by Sandeep Pathak and Deepak Babaria, Congress coordination committee in-charge, with other members of both the parties.

Speaking about the 'coordination panel' meeting, Sandeep Pathak said: "Many meetings have already taken place between the AAP and the Congress... we conducted a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the election campaign coordination at grassroot levels... The top leadership from the Congress Delhi and Haryana units were present at this meeting."

Taking a dig at the BJP, the AAP leader said: "We have to lib erate India from the Modi government's dictatorship. The Central government is dismantling government institutions one by one. All the constitutional agencies are working at the whims and fancies of the Central government."

Durgesh Pathak, meanwhile, asserted: "Several rounds of meetings have taken place... both the party leaders and workers will coordinate properly and start campaigning at the ground level..."

> **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

## HC stays circular stopping Vote for fellow Haryanvi: Gurgaon MP daughter's message to voters pvt schools from hiking fee

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE DELHI High Court, in an interim order, stayed the operation of a circular by the state government's Directorate of Education (DoE), which restrained 'unaided private schools' located on land allotted by the government from increasing fees without prior sanction.

A single-judge bench of Justice C Hari Shankar, in its April 29 order, issued notice to the DoE in a petition filed by the 'Action Committee Unaided Recognised Private Schools', challenging the

March 27 circular and its application for interim relief. It, thereafter, said: "Till the next date of hearing, the operation of the impugned circular dated 27 March, 2024, issued by the DoE shall stand stayed." The matter is next listed on July 31. It has granted four weeks to the DoE to file its response to the petition.

"Any incomplete proposal shall be summarily rejected," states the proposal, adding that these proposals will be "scrutinised by the Director..." "Such schools are strictly directed not to increase any fee until the sanction is conveyed to their proposal by (the) DoE," states the circular.

#### **AISWARYA RAJ** GURGAON, MAY 1

TRAVELLING DOWN a kaccha road with over a dozen vehicles and speakers playing music with the words Iai Shri Ram, BIP's Gurgaon Lok Sabha candidate Rao Inderjit Singh's daughter, Arti Singh Rao, had one message for residents: Vote for your fellow Haryanvi.

The 43-year-old was campaigning for her father — who is the sitting MP — in Sohna's remote villages on Wednesday. Calling Congress candidate Raj Babbar an outsider, Arti, who is a member of the BJP state executive in Haryana, said: "The

Congress has declared a new candidate because they couldn't find one in Gurgaon. No one wants to contest. You might have seen this new candidate in films, but the youth would not have seen him. We are from South Haryana as is our family, our roots and our blood. It has been known since the time of Rao Tula Ram ji. We don't know of the Congress candidate, where he is and where he will go, or if he knows anything about our region and villages. So what is the purpose of voting for him?" Rao Inderjit is a descendant

of Rao Tula Ram, the former king of the Ahirwal region. His father Rao Birender Singh served as Haryana's second CM in 1967.



Arti Singh Rao visited Sohna villages on Wednesday. Express

Arti, who has been working with her father for over a decade. had earlier said she would con-

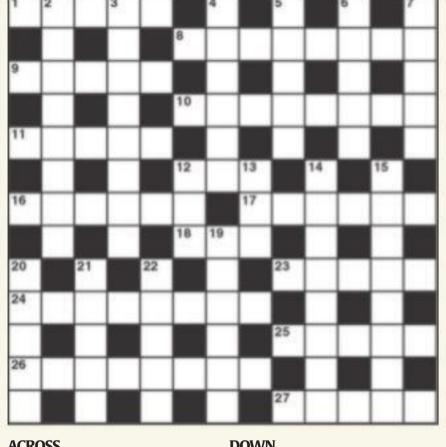
test the 2024 Assembly polls. On Tuesday, she visited Pataudi among other places while her father campaigned in Rewari on Wednesday. Gurgaon has 25.3 lakh voters, of which over 55% of voters are from rural areas, making it an important base for politicians to focus on. At Hajipur, Arti was met with

grievances from the public. "... the national highway passing by the area was downgraded to a state highway. A single-lane road from Rewari to Aligarh should be made into a two-lane one. We hope behenji informs Rao sahab of this," said locals.

To this, Arti read out a list of projects under Singh, emphasising on Majra AIIMS, the foundation stone of which was laid by PM Narendra Modi in February. "People in South Haryana have to go to either Jaipur AIIMS, which is frequented by Rajasthanis, or Delhi AIIMS which treats the whole country. With the AIIMS in Rewari, people of South Haryana can seek treatment in their own region," she said.

Meanwhile, Congress's Babbar started his campaigning by visiting Gurgaon's Sheetla Mata Mandir. On being called an "outsider", he said his forefathers migrated from Pakistan to India and landed in Ambala. "I might be born in Agra but many of my relatives are in Faridabad and my sister is in Gurgaon. My relationship with the city is not a flimsy claim, but when my ancestors came to India, they came to

#### **CROSSWORD 5353**



#### **ACROSS**

**1** Hated kind of duty? (5) 8 Fair and square initially in accommodation(8) **9** Broken grid I fixed (5) **10** Study to invite scorn (8) 11 Spoils what may be of antiquarian interest (5) **12** Not far at sea from being sick 16 Wan friend takes cover

17 Puzzle set in game (6) **18** Earth study?(3) 23 Propeller guard (5) **24** His relations make the headlines (8)

**25** Not bound to relax (5) **26** Doing little work as there's direction missing (8) **27** Worn by the widow taken out by a gardener

**DOWN 2** Back number (8)

**3** Does it figure in the band? (8) **4** Wages get stopped in settlement (3-3) **5** Girl hit out at journalist (5) 6 Sort of lead mother will follow in principle (5) **7** It may be in number three cabin(5)

12 Not even curious (3) **13** Part of England is marshy (3) **14** Reveal the record to be unsuccessful(8) 15 Put into water and simmered perhaps (8) **19** Players ordered off (6)

**20** The effrontery of some bandsmen (5) 21 A papal order to cause dismay

**22** Went to pieces when penniless (5)

Solutions Crossword 5352 Across: 1 Avant-garde, 6 Wear, 10 Malta, 11 Returning, 12 Fiendish, 13 Apart, 15 Padlock, 17 Slumber, 19 Supreme, 21 Creases, 22 Rebel, 24 Especial, 27 Plain Jane, 28 Badge, 29 Eden, 30 Ill-starred Down: 1 Arms, 2 All tied up, 3 Train, 4 Airsick, 5 Ditches, 7 Erica, 8 Right dress, 9 Treasure, 14 Apostrophe, 16 Overland, 18 Bystander, 20 Eyeball, 21 Coppers, 23 Brave, 25 Cobra, 26 Mead.

#### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis







### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson



NATURE DOESN'T CARE IF PEOPLE LIVE OR DIE. IT REFUSES TO BE TAMED. IT DOES WHATEVER IT WANTS AND ACTS LIKE PEOPLE DON'T MATTER. IT WON'T CONFIRM OUR RIGHT TO BE HERE.







## **MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong















## **JUMBLED WORDS**

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given guip. We are to seek wisdom and understanding only in the \_\_\_\_\_. - Robert Hall (6,2,4)

**RSAEO MONDAY ALIST ILTFGH** 

> Answer: We are to seek wisdom and understanding only in the length of days. SOLUTION: AROSE, TAILS, DYNAMO, FLIGHT

#### Difficulty Level 4s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal SUDOKU rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level	
1s = Very easy; 2s =	Eas
3s = Medium; 4s =	Hard
5s = Very Hard;	
6s = Genius	

			1		5	8	
			1	6			
		5		6	9		
8					8		5
1			8	5			3
9							4
		4	2		1		
			4	3			
	6	3		9			

4	8	3	5	2	9	7	6	
5	1	7	8	4	6	2	3	
6	9	2	7	3	1	5	4	
8	3	5	4	6	7	9	1	Ī
2	7	1	3	9	8	6	5	Ī
9	6	4	1	5	2	3	8	Ī
3	5	9	2	1	4	8	7	Ī
7	4	6	9	8	3	1	2	Ī
1	2	8	6	7	5	4	9	Ī

## **DAY TODAY**

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)** 

Mercury, the planet of communication, has now picked itself up and dusted itself down after recent bruising encounters. Seldom have you been so determined

to get your point across, and had such power. **TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)** You can be as self-

interested as the next person, yet there's something noble and idealistic about your wisdom and genuine friendship. We will all gain if you continue to act with such generosity of spirit, even in ways which may not be clear for a very long time.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)** Your lot in life, at the moment, may be

rather dull and many Geminians are quite frankly bored. You could do worse than rouse yourself and arrange an adventure, even if only a weekend break, to get away from your routine. There's nothing wrong with being an escapist.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Although, in

astrological tradition, adverse and challenging aspects denote times of strife, discord and confusion, vou must see such perils as the grit which eventually produces the pearl of great wisdom and success. In other words, you'll rise to the challenge.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) There is no escaping the fact

that tension is mounting, as it always does before the Moon aligns with your sign. You can do no better than consciously maintain an optimistic and tolerant spirit in the face of whatever doubts or irritations afflict your daily life.

#### **VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)** Suspicions about



sadness over a recent event. Whatever your personal situation, you are approaching a short period when the answers will only be found by looking within. You'll soon discover the part you played in creating current conditions.

Haryana," he said.

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) Nostalgia seems to be an important ingredient at the present time. Many of you will gain from a sentimental trip to the past, not necessarily this week, but

hopefully within a month.

What you really have to do is recover old feelings and relive glorious memories. SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Even those lucky Scorpios who are gentlemen or ladies

of leisure will be caught up in the general rush to achieve a deeply-held worldly desire. This is no time for regrets

or uncertainty, and you should try not to be distracted by irrelevant memories. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) Today's stars really are excellent in that

they encourage certain key Sagittarian aspirations, notably the instinctive desire for travel and adventure. Be warned. though, that entrenched positions and dogmatic battles

are looming, and that might

need to change your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) There is everything to gain from taking a calculated financial risk, just as long as you take full responsibility. Even if you incur a small loss, you will have clarified your

priorities and personal needs.

After all, sometimes you have to learn from your mistakes. AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Even peaceable Aquarians are sure to be involved in some sort of fracas over the next week. There may be no other advice than to raise the drawbridge and prepare a defensive position. But, while you're about it, there are other important actions you can

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Now is a perfect

take, like acquiring new

practical skills.

time to pay attention to your physical needs and well-being. Make a fresh start as far as diet and exercise are

concerned and remember that the astrological approach to health has more to do with prevention than cure, and with maintaining a sensible balance in your emotions.

# GOVT & POLITICS

# President offers prayers at Ram temple: Living 'Misconceived': Top court symbol of the ideals of Indian culture, society

**MAULSHREE SETH** LUCKNOW, MAY 1

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu visited Ayodhya Wednesday where she prayed before the idol of Ram Lalla in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple. This was her first visit to Ayodhya following the conse-

cration of the idol in the temple

in January this year.

The President, whose aircraft landed around 4.30 pm at the Maharishi Valmiki International Airport where she was received by UP Governor Anandiben Patel, offered prayers at the Hanuman Garhi temple and then at the Ram temple.

She performed aarti on the ghats of the Saryu river in the evening. She also visited the Kuber Teela. In a post on X, Rashtrapati Bhavan said, "President Droupadi Murmu visited Kuber Teela and offered Pooja. She also paid obeisance to



President Droupadi Murmu attends an *aarti* at a ghat of the Saryu river in Ayodhya on Wednesday. PTI

the statue of the celestial bird Jatayu who is so revered in our tradition as a symbol of the value of collective caring among the divine, human beings and other

Ayodhya's roads and the Saryu ghat wore a festive look,

decorated to welcome the President.

In a post later, referring to her visit to the Ram temple, the President said: "It is not possible for me to put into words the divine experience of seeing the child form of Lord Sri Ram in Ayodhya."

Referring to the Ram temple as the "living symbol of the ideals of Indian culture and society", she said "it would continue to inspire countrymen to work for the benefit of all".

"I consider it a divine blessing that I got the opportunity to pray to Lord Sri Ram for the welfare of my countrymen," she said.

Earlier in the day, Shri Ram Ianmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai, rejecting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claim that the President was not invited to the Ram temple consecration ceremony on January 22 because she was a tribal, said, "... I have

to deny it as Rahul ji does not know the facts. Honourable President as well as former President Ram Nath Kovind were both given invitations at their residences." Rai also said that SCs, STs, OBCs were represented at the ceremony.

Ever since the inauguration of the Ram temple, the Congress leadership, which did not attend the event, has on multiple occasions said that the function was meant for the elite, and that the poor, Dalits, tribals and OBCs were not invited.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who recently accused the government of ignoring President Murmu and her predecessor President Kovind because they are ST and SC, again targeted the Prime Minister over the issue Wednesday. At a rally in Yadgir in Karnataka, Kharge said: "After how many days was President Murmu invited to Ayodhya for the darshan of Lord Ram?"

# Registry returns Centre's plea on spectrum verdict

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI. MAY 1

THE SUPREME Court Registry has refused to receive the Centre's "application seeking clarification" of the February 2012 judgement in the 2G case in which the top court had directed that spectrum allocation should be done through auctions. The Centre's plea had sought the allocation of spectrum through other administrative processes as well.

The SC Registry, however, is learnt to have returned the plea, terming it misconceived and an attempt to seek a review of the judgement in the guise of asking for clarification. The Registry said this in its note while declining to take up the plea.

Noting that the government had withdrawn a review petition against the judgement in May 2012, the Registry said it is once again trying to get the matter with similar prayers heard after a long delay.

has an option to appeal against the refusal under the SC Rules of 2013, which say: "The Registrar may refuse to receive a petition on the ground that it discloses no reasonable cause or is frivolous or contains scandalous matter, but the petitioner may within fifteen days of the making of such

order, appeal by way of motion, from such refusal to the Court".

The Centre's plea, moved last week, had said that the Department Telecommunications has been

assigning mobile access spectrum through regular spectrum auctions, in line with the 2012 judgement. But it said that the "assignment of spectrum is required not only for commercial telecommunication services, but also for non-commercial use for the discharge of sovereign and public interest functions such as security, safety, disaster preparedness, etc."

The plea added: "There are also specific sui generis categories of usage, including commercial use of spectrum where, technical and economic conditions of the use affect the feasibility of auction as a means of assignment of spectrum and thus auction as the exclusive mode may present some issues in the

relevant assignment." The "assignment", it said, "may require to be undertaken Sources said the Centre still administratively due to economic conditions such as demand being lower than supply or due to technical conditions such as spectrum for space communication, where it would be more optimal and efficient for spectrum to be shared by multiple players, rather than being broken up into smaller blocks for

sole purpose of exclusive assignment by auction".

The government said there is an urgent requirement for the SC "to clarify that in the situations specified... and other similar circumstances, the assignment of spectrum through administrative process may be undertaken if so determined through due process in accordance with law, if such assignment is in pursuit of governmental functions, or public interest so requires, or auction may not be preferred due to technical or economic reasons".

The SC had in February 2012 quashed the 2G licences granted to different companies by the then UPA government.

The Centre said that the SC while answering a presidential reference in September 2012 had said that the use of the term 'perhaps' in the February judgement "suggests that the recommendation of auction for alienation of natural resources was never intended to be taken as an absolute or blanket statement applicable across all natural resources, but simply a conclusion made at first blush over the attractiveness of a method like auction ni disposal of natural resources. The choice of the word 'perhaps' suggests that the learned Judges considered situations requiring a method other than auction as conceivable and desirable".

Presiding officer

suspended over

votes to BJP in

mock polling

video of multiple

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 



### **BUYING TIME**

THE BIP and Congress party presidents were recently served notice by the Election Commission over alleged Model Code of Conduct violations by their top leaders — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. Their replies were expected on Monday, but the parties sought more time from the EC. Although the Commission usually responds to deadline extension requests on the same day, Monday was unusually busy with party delegation visits. EC's decision on the request wasn't formally communicated even on Tuesday. Finally, on Wednesday, it is learnt, the Commission wrote to both BJP and Congress, giving them seven more days to file their replies. They now have to respond by 11am on May 6.

#### Daughter's Debut

WITH A court ruling on Ghazipur MP Afzal Ansari's eligibility to fight elections from the seat awaited, the Ansari family has already picked a "backup" candidate — his eldest daughter, 32-year-old Nusrat Ansari. Afzal is the brother of gangsterturned-politician late Mukhtar Ansari. Nusrat, who has already started campaigning in Ghazipur, will become the first woman from the family to enter politics. A graduate from Lady Shri Ram College for Women in New Delhi, Nusrat had met Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav when he visited the family after Mukhtar's death and the latter encouraged her to enter politics. All eyes are now on the Allahabad High Court which is scheduled to hear Afzal's matter.

### TECH SHIFT

THE SUPREME Court in the last few weeks has seen some technological shifts — from integrating WhatsApp messaging services with the court's IT systems to finally migrating to a new website. Lawyers now get WhatsApp updates on new filings, court orders in their respective cases. While a new website was launched earlier, the old one continued to be operational and was being used more than the new one. On Wednesday, the old website was removed, completing the migration to a new website with easier access to e-services.



### POLL MOVES

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign in Malda, Wednesday. Express

# TMC removes Kunal Ghosh as general secretary, hours after he shared stage with BJP candidate

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, MAY 1

THE TRINAMOOL Congress (TMC) leadership Wednesday removed its leader Kunal Ghosh as the party's state general secretary, hours after he shared the stage with former TMC MLA turned BJP Lok Sabha candidate Tapas Roy and praised him.

In a statement, the TMC said, "Recently, Mr. Kunal Ghosh has been expressing views that do not align with those of the party. It is important to clarify that these are his personal opinions and should not be attributed to the party. Only statements issued from AITC headquarters should be considered the official position of the party."

It further said, "Mr. Ghosh was previously relieved from his role as party spokesperson. Now, he has been removed from the position of General Secretary of the state organisation. We urge all me-



Ghosh (left) praised BJP's Tapas Roy (left) at a blood donation camp in Kolkata.

dia outlets not to conflate his views with those of the party, as doing so may necessitate legal action."

The decision came after Ghosh was seen participating in a blood donation camp in the city in which BIP candidate from Kolkata Uttar Tapas Roy was a part. Roy quit the TMC in March and the BJP made him a Lok Sabha candidate.

At the blood donation event, Ghosh said: "Let us keep politics aside today. We tried our best till the last moment to keep him (Roy) in the party. But he chose

otherwise. However, Tapas da is an able leader whose house remains open for party workers all the time. He is always available for the people. It is unfortunate that we are going on different paths but I cannot keep him even an inch behind our party candidate Sudip Bandyopadhyay. He is a mass leader."

Ghosh was earlier removed as the party's state spokesperson after he expressed his displeasure over the candidature of certain TMC leaders. After the controversy Thursday, Ghosh declined to spell out his next move, saying he would like to "continue in the party in future". The former Rajya Sabha member said he had already expressed his desire to resign as party spokesperson and state general secretary in March.

Roy said he stood by Kunal Ghosh following the development. "This is nothing but TMC promoting its narrow-minded politics," he told mediapersons.

# Cong: Decision on Amethi, Raebareli candidates soon

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

AMID MOUNTING suspense over the Amethi and Rae Bareli Lok Sabha seats, the Congress Wednesday asserted that "nobody is scared" and a decision on the matter would be announced in the next 24-30 hours.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the party's central election committee (CEC) has empowered Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to finalise the candidates for Amethi and Rarbareli.

"My expectation is that in the next 24-30 hours, the Congress president will finalise and a decision taken by him will be announced," Ramesh said in response to a question at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here. "Till that is done all the information, all so-called office orders are fake," he said.

Asked about the delay in tak-

ing a decision and if the Congress was "scared" in fielding Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, Ramesh said: "There is no delay. Has the BIP not announced its candidates in Raebareli? Smriti Irani is a sitting MP. Nobody is scared, discussions are ongoing, the Congress president has been authorised. There is no delay, there is time till May 3," he said.

Pradesh has already urged the central election committee and the party leadership to field Rahul Gandhi from Amethi and Priyanka from Rae Bareli. The CEC members had also

Pradesh Congress during its last meeting on Saturday. Amethi was represented by Rahul Gandhi from 2004 till

supported the view of the Uttar

2019, when he was defeated by BJP's Smriti Irani. He currently represents Wayanad in Kerala.

The Amethi and Raebareli constituencies go to polls on May 20 in the fifth round of the polls.

Doctored Shah video: Delhi Police

summons Jharkhand Cong chief

#### GUWAHATI, MAY 1 The district election officer (DEO) in Assam's Karimganj Lok Sabha constituency has suspended the presiding officer of a polling station after a video purportedly showing a polling agent voting The state leadership in Uttar five times on an electronic voting machine (EVM) for the BJP candidate was widely circulated.

**ASSAM** 

In a statement issued on Sunday, the DEO's office said the video was recorded during a "mock poll" before the actual voting on April 26 in the constituency. The DEO suspended the presiding officer Nazrul Haque Tapadar for "gross negligence and dereliction of duty" The order stated that it was the duty of the presiding officer to ensure that no one carried mobile phones to the polling booth

recorded using a mobile phone. In the video making the rounds on social media, Abdul Sahid — a polling agent for Independent candidate Abdul Hameed — can be seen pressing the button for BIP candidate and sitting MP Kripanath Mallah five

yet the video in question was

"As per procedure, polling

DGM - I/c (II&IP)

#### Ranchi: Iharkhand Congress Police's Intelligence Fusion & president Rajesh Thakur was Strategic Operations (IFSO) office times in a row. summoned by Delhi Police on in connection with an FIR registered on April 28 by its Special Cell, he said. "I received the notice from Delhi Police on

May 2 in connection with its investigation into the doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a party spokesperson said on Wednesday. Thakur has been asked to

join the investigation at Delhi

Tuesday. It is beyond my understanding why the notice was served to me. This is nothing but anarchy," Thakur said. PTI

on above websites.

agents are allowed to cast a few votes in favour of the candidate during a mock poll. Statements of other polling agents are underway and polling officials have been served show cause notice in this regard," the DEO had said.

# BSP outdoes INDIA in fielding Muslim faces in UP, rejects Opposition alliance's 'vote-cutter' charge

**MAULSHREESETH** LUCKNOW, MAY 1

FIGHTING THE Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh solo, the Mayawati-led BSP is going all out to woo the Muslim community, sharpening its attack on the ruling BJP.

Taking the lead in fielding Muslim faces in the polls, the BSP has named as many as 20 candidates from the community, including women candidates, out of the 72 nominees it has declared so far. This is by far the maximum number of Muslim candidates fielded by any major contender in UP in this election.

In some seats, the party has even replaced its senior leaders with new Muslim candidates.

In the Muslim-dominated Azamgarh constituency in Purvanchal (east UP), the BSP recently replaced its candidate

Bhim Rajbhar, former state party president, with a Pasmanda (backward) Muslim woman Sabiha Ansari, which is said to be an attempt to strike a chord with Pasmanda Muslims as well as women voters of the community.

In this Samajwadi Party (SP)'s bastion currently held by the BJP, the SP has fielded Dharmendra Yadav, a cousin of party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

After changing its nominee, the BSP has mounted its Azamgarh campaign on the theme, "bunkar ki beti" (daughter of weavers), in a reference to Sabiha's Ansari caste group. Weavers are in sizeable numbers in not just Azamgarh but also its neighbouring districts including

Bhadohi, Mau and even Varanasi. A former Congress leader, Sabhia, 36, had been an officebearer in the UP Congress's minority wing. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ansari's husband,

Mashhod Ahmed said, "In the history of Purvanchal, it is Behenji (Mayawati), who has shown courage to give ticket to 'bunkar ki beti'." The BSP has fielded the

Muslim candidates from a slew of east UP constituencies including Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Bhadohi.

Ambedkarnagar and Sant Kabir Nagar. In Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency, the BSP has fielded Nivaz Ali, while it has

Gorakhpur. In Badaun, where Akhilesh's another cousin Aditya Yaday, son of Shivpal Singh Yadav, is in the fray, the BSP has fielded Muslim Khan. In Firozabad, the BSP has nominated Chaudhary Bashir, re-

placing its candidate Satyendra

Jain fielded earlier. Senior SP

nominated Jawed Simnani from

leader and Akhilesh's uncle Ramgopal Yadav's son Akshay is the party's candidate from the constituency. In central UP, the BSP has fielded Sarwar Malik from Lucknow against defence minister Rajnath Singh and SP candidate Ravidas

Mahrotra. From Kannauj, where Akhilesh is contesting, the BSP has named Imran Bin Zafar as its candidate. Addressing **DECISION** a rally in Badaun, BSP supremo Mayawati said, "We do not show bias to-

2024

wards anyone while giving tickets... We give it to those as per their share in population." Fighting the polls as part of

the INDIA alliance, the SP and the Congress are contesting 62 seats and 17 respectively in UP. The SP has fielded only four Muslim candidates – in Rampur, Sambhal, Kairana and Ghazipur – out of the 60 it has named so far.

Of the 15 nominees the Congress had declared so far, there are only two Muslim candidates. The BSP's rivals including the SP and Congress have charged that it has fielded a slew of the minority candidates to cut into their support base and dent the INDIA's vote bank in an alleged bid to give advantage to the BIP. Calling the BSP a "vote-cutter", the INDIA bloc has even accused the party of being allegedly the "BIP's B-team". Rejecting such allegations, the BSP camp has hit back, accusing the SP and the Congress of "failing the Muslim community in ensuring its proper representation in polls". The Muslim community ac-

counts for about 19% of UP's population. It plays a significant role in about 16 parliamentary seats, mainly in western and eastern parts of UP. The BIP has declared 73 candidates in UP so far, none of whom is a Muslim face.

#### FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA 16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi-110001 STIPEND FOR SPORTS

PERSONS

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For details Login to FCI website: fci.gov.in

New Delhi-110001.

#### e-Procurement Notice Dated 01.05.2024 -Tender for Major Maintenance of Bikaner-Phalodi Highway Section between Km.4+200 to Km.163+370 in connection with Widening and strengthening of existing Bikaner-Phalodi section to four lane from Km. 4+200 to Km. 55+250 and two lane with payed shoulder from Km. 55+200 to Km. 163+500 of NH-15 on BOT (TOLL) Basis in the state of Raiasthan. Estimated Cost of the Work (including GST) Rs. 45.26 Crore Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission Tender Document will be available on e-tender portal website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app w.e.f. 01.05.2024. Corrigendum, if any, would be C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, email - ipbtl.bphp@gmail.com NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201301 एन एफ एल (CIN-L74899DL1974GOI007417) NFL Phone No. 0120-2412294, Extn. 3411 Ref. No. 01-2024-25-DAP-01W Date: 01.05.2024

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NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL E-TENDER Bids are invited for supply of loose bulk fertilizers as detailed below: E-tender No Last date of bid Product Qty. [in Coast MT] submission 2024 NFL 19 DAP (18:46:0) 50,000 WCI 06.05.2024 4513 1 till 17:50 Hrs IST For details, visit websites: www.nationalfertilizers.com or https://etenders.gov.in. eprocure/app . Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, shall be published only



#### I Hereby Declare \_\_\_\_\_

**AKHILESH YADAV, 50,** former UP CM, SP chief and Kannauj candidate **TOTAL ASSETS** (2019)



₹37.79 CR ₹42.03 CR (2024) Movable assets ₹9.13 cr Immovable assets ₹17.22 cr ₹25.41 lakh Liabilities BE, Mysore University Education 3 FIRs for IPC Pending criminal cases

**DIMPLE YADAV. 46.** former MP, Akhilesh's wife, SP Mainpuri candidate



₹42.03 CR (2024) ₹37.79 CR Movable assets ₹5.11 cr ₹10.54 cr Immovable assets ₹74.45 lakh BCom, Lucknow University Education Pending criminal cases

(2019)

Total assets for Akhilesh and Dimple Yadav are the same, including spouse and dependents. The individual assets are their own and do not include that of each other or dependents.

**AKSHAYAYADAV, 37,** Akhilesh's cousin, SP Firozabad candidate



**TOTAL ASSETS** (2019)₹136.44 CR (2024) ₹32.12 CR Movable assets ₹31.59 cr ₹104.59 cr Immovable assets ₹11.66 cr Education BBA, Amity University, Noida

ADITYAYADAV, 35, Akhilesh's cousin, SP's Badaun candidate

Pending criminal cases

**14.63** CR (2024)



Movable assets Liabilities ₹2.41 cr MA, Lucknow University Education None Pending criminal cases

**DHARMENDRA YADAV, 45,** SP candidate from Azamgarh **TOTAL ASSETS** (2019)



₹11.87 CR **₹13.5** CR (2024) ₹2.13 cr Movable assets ₹11.37 cr Immovable assets ₹3.43 cr Liabilities MA. Allahabad University Education Pending criminal cases

# Why BJP expelled a Poonch leader over 'hate speech'

**ARUN SHARMA** JAMMU. MAY 1

EVEN BEFORE the Election Commission took up the matter, the BJP Tuesday expelled a senior party leader, Satish Bhargav, for making a "hate speech" during the poll campaign in border Poonch district's Mendhar town against some Pahari leaders owing allegiance to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and National Conference.

Bhargav was speaking in relation to the Lok Sabha election for Anantnag-Rajouri. Polling for the seat, due on May 7, has been deferred to May 25 on account of bad weather. The BJP is not contesting any seats in Kashmir.

#### What did Satish Bhargav say?

The spokesperson of the BJP's Pahari Cell, Bhargav warned Pahari leaders who are seen as supporting the NC and PDP in the coming polls to vote for the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Bhargav reminded Paharis that the Modi government had kept its promise of including them in the list of Scheduled Tribes, and then said: "Remember, there will come many occa-

sions and you may be given wounds like the ones we got during 1947."



Days after Independence in August 1947, when Jammu and Kashmir ruler Maharaja Hari Singh was yet to decide whether to go with India or Pakistan, the latter had sent tribals and troops into J&K. They soon overran vast areas killing a large number of people and looting their properties, particularly of Hindus. Many Hindus then rushed for safety particularly in Poonch and Rajouri. What followed were large-scale clashes between the Hindus and resident Muslims in these areas.

There are competing narratives and no concrete figures from either side on how many were killed. Finally, on October 26, 1947, Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession with the Indian Union.



self not contesting.

Jammu BJP leader Satish

What was behind Bhargav's

Last week, a senior Pahari

leader, Murtaza Khan, who had

earlier left the PDP, extended

support to PDP supremo

Mehbooba Mufti, who is a can-

didate from Anantnag-Rajouri.

The BIP has hinted that it might

support some "patriotic" parties

in the absence of its own candi-

dates in the Kashmir fray. While

announcing support for the PDP,

Khan said the BJP should not

"compel" Paharis to vote for any

particular party when it was it-

**DECODE** 

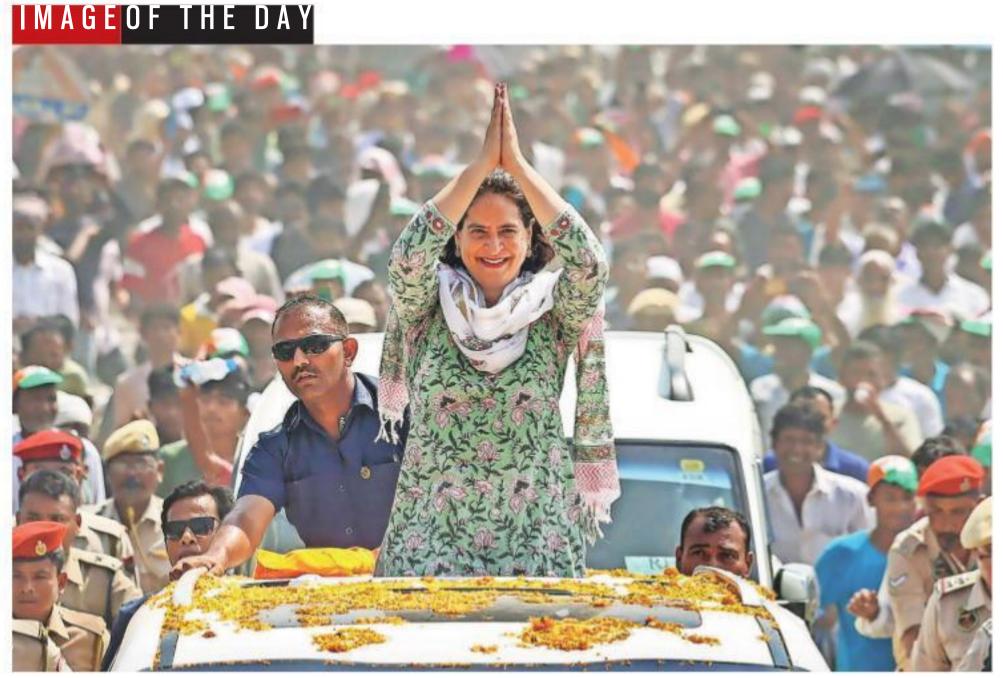
**POLITICS** 

Bhargav. Express

form more than 4 lakh of the total

7.35 lakh electorate in Rajouri and Poonch districts. After delimitation, Poonch along with twothirds of Rajouri are out of the Jammu seat and part of Anantnag-Rajouri. The electorate in the Kashmir part of the constituency, over 10.94 lakh, outnumbers that in the Jammu part. In fact, Anantnag-Rajouri was the one constituency that the BJP was expected to contest in Kashmir on account of its changed demographics. A win here would have been a big boost as the party never won a seat in Kashmir.

In the absence of the BJP, Pahari leaders have been declaring allegiance to their previous parties, with the contest mainly between Mufti and the National Conference's Mian Altaf, a muchrespected Gujjar leader.



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a public meeting in Assam's Dhubri constituency on Wednesday. PTI

#### **GROUND REPORT**

# As Modi lands in Gujarat, BJP races to douse Kshatriya fires

Talk of "teaching BJP a lesson" but Modi seems above blame

**GOPAL KATESHIYA** & LEENA MISRA RAJKO, DHROL JAMNAGAR, MAY 1

IN THE posh Kalavad area of Rajkot, a gate opens onto the makeshift office of the Kshatriya Asmita Andolan Samiti. Here, plans are being charted to reach out to Kshatriya-dominated localities in the seat.

Rajkot is the Ground Zero of the Kshatriya protests against Union minister and BJP Rajkot Lok Sabha seat candidate Parshottam Rupala, over remarks made by him against the community.

With the protests spreading from Rajkot to other seats with larger Kshatriya populations, all eyes are on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rallies in Jamnagar and Anand Thursday. Can the Modi magic work in his home state, helping the BJP bury the rift with the Kshatriyas?

There seems to be some softening in the standoff. Just before Modi landed in Gujarat Wednesday for his first rally in the state of this election, the Gujarat Rajput Samaj Organisations' Coordination Committee announced that it would not hold protests against any public meetings by the PM,

in deference to his office. But at the Kshatriya samiti office in Rajkot, there is no let-up in the plans. Coordinating the action is Raibha Zala, a former BIP Raikot



"Kshatriya asmita rath" at Jamnagar's Khambaliya. Express

city unit general secretary who says: Ahankari Bhajap ne sabak shikhdaviye (We have to teach the arrogant BIP a lesson)."

While the BJP believes Rajkot itself may not pose a problem as the Rajputs here number "barely 80,000", in a constituency of 20 lakh voters (or 4%), in constituencies such as Jamnagar and Kutch, Kshatriyas form up to 11% of the population. In Anand, they are as many as 60%. BJP rallies in these constituencies have been disrupted by protesting Kshatriyas.

As per Zala, the numbers are working out in their (or Congress candidate Paresh Dhanani's) favour in Rajkot as well – 1.5 lakh Kshatriya votes, "plus the Leuva Patidar votes which Dhanani will attract, and the Maldharis".If Dhanani is a Leuva Patidar, Rupala is a Kadva Patidar. Neither is a local, both belonging to Amreli.

The protests have by now attracted an array of outfits, including several versions of the Karni Sena. Kshatriya iconography is everywhere, from Maharana

Pratap to Bhavnagar's erstwhile Maharaja Krishnakumarsinh Gohil, touted as among the first princely state rulers to sign the Instrument of Accession with India. Five 'Kshatriya asmita dharma raths' honouring the community's patron deity Ashapura Ma are criss-crossing Kshatriya-dominated villages".

One aspect of the Kshatriya discontent is the feeling that they have been "sidelined" at the cost of the Patidars under the BJP government. However, in the Ravki village that is not the story. Sarojben Fachra, part of a goup of Patidar women, says that for her, "corruption is the major issue" of the elections and claims no knowledge of the Rupala row.

Yashpalsinh Jadeja, 22, says he himself has no differences with the Patidars, but wants the BJP to "retire" Rupala.

In Jamnagar, nearly 100 km away, a 'Kshatriya dharma rath' in Khambhaliya village is greeted with the beating of drums.

"We are here for Rajput *ekta* 

(unity), we are here to remove Rupala," Bhavnaba asserts. The BIP has re-nominated

two-time MP Poonam Maadam, an Ahir OBC leader, from Jamnagar. The Congress has fielded an advocate, JP Maraviya, a Leuva Patidar contesting his first election.

The president of a local unit of the Shree Karni Sena who is leading the rath procession, Upendrasinh Jadeja, says it is unusual for Kshatriya women to be out in public. But Rupala's comments have hurt them deeply, he says. As the procession leaves, the Kshatriyas are joined by other communities in taking a pledge to "vote for the Congress".

Narendrasinh Jadeja, 48, a farmer, says that in the wake of the Kshatriya protests, "other communities who would not dare speak up are coming out in our support".

The BJP has brought out all its battle guns in the area, such as former Karnataka governor Vajubhai Vala, former Union minister Vallabh Kathiria and ex-CM Vijay Rupani, to campaign for Rupala.

Kathiria claims to have wrested back some of the ground by rallying the Leuva Patidars behind Rupala, a Kadva Patidar, in Rajkot – the two communities are traditional rivals there.

While road shows may be missing, a BJP leader says, Rupala is attending social and religious events as part of a new strategy. The Congress's Dhanani, who defeated Rupala in 2002 is attending smaller gatherings in residential societies. At one such meeting, Dhanani speaks of the Surat episode. The reference to the walkover to the BJP candidate in Surat draws only a tepid response.

# 'If the BJP knew, no way Prajwal would have got a ticket'

**KIRAN PARASHAR** SHIVAMOGGA, MAY 1

WITH 14 of Karnataka's 28 Lok Sabha constituencies having gone to polls on April 26, state BJP president B Y Vijayendra, 48, claims the party is heading for a victory and that there would be "turmoil" in the ruling Congress in the state following the elections. In an interview, Vijayendra - state BIP stalwart B S Yediyurappa's younger son and first-time MLA from Shikaripura – speaks about the alleged sex abuse case involving JD(S) MP and ex-Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna as well as the BJP-JD(S) alliance. *Excerpts*:

#### How well has the BJP done in the 14 seats which went to polls in the previous phase?

I have had discussions with the heads of all our party district units. We are confident of winning seats in all the places. In Bengaluru rural, Dr C N Manjunath will win with more than 1 lakh margin against sitting Congress MP D K Suresh.

#### There is a lot of criticism that the BJP and JD(S) alliance has not worked well in the state...

With regard to BJP and JD(S), the alliance was one of the best decisions taken. Yes, there were minor issues related to supporting each other's campaign or otherwise, but overall it has gone well.

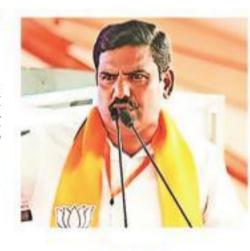
#### Were you aware of the Prajwal Revanna episode? BIP leader Devaraie Gowda says he sent you a letter informing you about it?

Let me make it clear from BJP's point of view that nobody can support this case. I am not aware of the letter that Devaraje Gowda claims to have written. I have not received any such letter. I don't think the BJP national leadership was aware of this development.

It is unfair to say that the BJP high command was aware of it. If we were aware, where is the question of allowing him (Prajwal) to contest (as the alliance's joint candidate from the Hassan seat).

It has been nearly six months since you were appointed the state BJP chief. But the infighting in your party seems to have continued. **Your comments?** 

Do you think there is no fight





BY VIJAYENDRA KARNATAKA BJP **PRESIDENT** 

between (Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief) D K Shivakumar and (CM) Siddaramaiah? The only difference is that they have not gone public, but in our party some people have gone out with their statements. It is a common phenomenon and you cannot be a hero to all. If someone crosses the line, then the party high command will take a call.

#### What political changes are you expecting after the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka?

Shivakumar will not let Siddaramaiah continue as the chief minister. It is not just me, Congress leaders are saying this.

#### Your father Yediyurappa was the BJP face in the state, but now it's said to have become "faceless". Your take?

You are thinking much ahead. As a state party president, I have to be a good organiser. I have been focusing on increasing the followers base in the Old Mysuru region where historically we have not performed well. Things will change in the upcoming days.

#### Why are you not seen in PM Modi's rallies in the state?

It is wrong information. Even the PM doesn't want the state party president to leave all the work to join him for the rally. However, I am participating in the PM's rally now. I have only been in Shivamogga (home district) for two days for campaigning. That aside, I have been travelling across the state.

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FROM THE **URDU PRESS** 

**'BJP'S 400 PAAR PITCH HAS BACKFIRED**'

#### KEY PLAYERS

# After Nitish flip-flop, JD(U)'s Lalan Singh on shaky ground

**DEEPTIMANTIWARY** MUNGER, MAY 1

FORMER JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh aka Lalan, who is said to have been instrumental in stitching the JD(U)-RJD alliance in 2022, is in a piquant situation. Four months ago, addressing a rally in Munger, his Lok Sabha constituency, Singh had thundered from the stage that the Mahagathbandhan was going strong and that Narendra Modi's "farewell" would start from Bihar. On Friday, Singh was addressing another rally in Munger, this time sharing the stage with Modi. He welcomed the PM as a huge audience looked on, saying that Goddess Chandi had bestowed her "blessings" upon him to win 400 seats. He also said the PM must now teach a lesson to the "corrupt", but avoided any men-

tion of the RJD. In fact, when questioned about his challenger from the RJD in a recent media interview,

Singh skirted the question, saying he onlys talk about his work. Apparently, Singh was caught

by surprise when Nitish Kumar broke the alliance with the RID and re-ioined hands with the BIP. in January this year. As a voter put it, "Lalan Babu is unable to understand how to campaign. Till yesterday, he was abusing Modi and praising Lalu. Now, he is expected to do the opposite." However, if he does sail

through, it will be due to the ID(U)-BIP alliance, given the anger against him among a significant section of voters in Munger over his performance during the current term. "Lalan Babu has done nothing

for the constituency. Munger is such an old city, but nothing has been done here... If it were not for the ID(U) siding with the BIP, we would not vote for him, even if it meant voting for the RJD," says Kalu Kumar, a tea seller from the Halwai (OBC) caste in town.

Another OBC, paan shop owner Deepak Chaurasia, has



Singh is facing off against Anita Devi, the wife of convicted gangster-turned-politician Ashok Mahato in Munger. Facebook

with his gang, made up of Kurmis

Babu, but grudgingly," he says. similar sentiments. "Even if Lalan Notably. Singh had lost the Babu had got a little bit of work done here, he would have won polls from here in 2014, when the ID(U) had contested on its own. by a record margin. Pichhle paanch saal mein Nitish Babu sirf Singh's challenger in the conbandh karwaye, khulwaye kuchh stituency is Anita Devi, the wife of convicted gangster-turnedbhi nahi (Nitish Babu has only shut down factories here in the politician Ashok Mahato. Mahato last five years, inaugurated nothhad shot to infamy in the 1990s

ing). We will still vote for Lalan

will help its candidate win. Munger has around 18 lakh voters, around two lakh each of which are Yadav, Kurmi, Dhanuk (OBC), Bhumihar and Vaishya votes, while one lakh are

and Koeris (both OBC), picking up

the gun against upper castes. The

RJD is hoping that the Muslim-

Yadav combine, a section of

Dalits, along with a split in the

Kurmi votes in the constituency

Muslims, and 1.5 lakh are Rajputs. The rest are EBCs, Dalits, Brahmins and other castes. While Yadavs and Muslims are rallying behind the RID on the Assembly segments of Munger, Jamalpur and Lahkisarai,

Bhumihars and other upper caste groups are supporting Singh, largely because of Narendra Modi. Among Dalits, Paswans are staunchly behind the BJP, but the rest appear split.

A section of Kurmis appear to be gravitating towards the RID due to its Kurmi candidate, but the loyalty of the majority for Nitish Kumar is intact.

Mahato's wife? He is a convicted criminal. She has been fielded purely to split Kurmi votes," says Shantakumar Mandal, a Kurmi from Aleempur village. However, Mohit Kumar, a 22year-old Kurmi student, says al

"What is the point of voting for

though he will vote for Modi, some Kurmis are voting for Mahato because of caste. There are others who have

lost trust in everyone.

Vinod Sah of Dakra Nala village in Jamalpur has been running from pillar to post to get his son treated for an operation on his leg. He says doctors are asking for Rs 3 lakh, which he does not have "Even Ayushman Bharat has been of no help," he says.

As a father of two daughters he says "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' is just a slogan.

"The government should make a fixed deposit in the name of daughters for their marriage. My other son is a graduate, but is forced to work as a security guard as there are no jobs," he says.

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# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 DECISION © 2024



#### KCR faces stern action from EC: Campaign ban for 48 hours

**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, MAY 1

IN ONE of its strongest actions during this poll season, the Election Commission (EC) has barred former Telangana CM and BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao from campaigning for 48 hours, for allegedly making derogatory and objectionable statements against the Congress during a public rally in Sircilla district.

In a letter to KCR, the EC stated that his statements were in violation of MCC. The ban is effective for 48 hours from 8 pm on May 1. The EC in its letter stated it had received a complaint from G Niranjan, senior vice-president of Telangana PCC, alleging KCR had made derogatory statements against the Congress on April 5.

Based on the complaint, the EC had asked the CEO of Telangana to submit a report, which was done on April 10.

EC received a response from KCR on April 23 to its showcause notice, and he stated "the officers in charge of election in Telangana and Sriciall are not Telugu people and they hardly understand local dialect. The complaint is made by Congress by picking some sentences from the press conference out of context. The English translation of the sentences is not correct and is twisted". KCR submitted he confined his criticism to the policies of the Congress in the state.

GROUND REPORT

# Old political rivalry in Davanagere has new faces: women contestants

BJP, Congress field debutantes: Wife of sitting MP from constituency vs wife of Karnataka minister

**SANATH PRASAD** DAVANAGERE, MAY 1

AT A TIME when sexual assault allegations against JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna have overtaken the state's political scene, there is a new excitement in this constituency in central Karnataka for the coming elections.

The reason being the two women debutantes in the fray from the Davanagere LS seatthe BJP's Gayathri Siddeshwar, 69, and the Congress's Dr Prabha Mallikarjun, 48.

Both are from prominent political Lingayat families, with Gayathri the wife of sitting Davanagere MP G M Siddeshwara and Prabha the wife of state minister S S Mallikarjun and the daughter-in-law of Shamanur Shivashankarappa, who at 92 was re-elected to Assembly last year.

Davanagere is marked by the political rivalry between the Siddeshwara and Shamanur families, going back to the late '90s. While the constituency has been won the past five times by Siddeshwara (he is not contesting this time), the Shamanur



BJP's Gayathri Siddeshwar (above): Congress's Dr Prabha Mallikarjun. Express

family has always won the Vidhan Sabha elections here.

About 30 km from Davanagere town, in the village of Mayakonda, four women seated in a verandah are having a discussion about Gayathri and Prabha. Sharada, who hails from the Golla community, says: "With women as leaders, it is easier for us to open up about our problems. Irrespective of the Congress or the BJP, we can hope to be heard, especially on the issues of finance and health."

Nirmala, who is working in

the fields in Mayakonda village and belongs to Madiga SC community, says besides the woman factor, she will choose Prabha because of Congress guarantees. "This has made me financially independent," she says.

Even the men are looking forward to Gayathri and Prabha as "fresh faces" with a new perspective. While noting that the women candidates belong to old political families of the region, Siddesh, a social worker and a native of Harapanahalli, says: "It is definitely a welcome move."

However, Srinath Reddy, a farmer belonging to Harapanahalli, says that for the LS polls, what should matter are "national issues" and "national leadership".

Up against the two women candidates is Congress rebel Vinay Kumar, a Kuruba, who is contesting as an Independent after being denied a ticket by the party. Kumar is a prominent face too, being the founder-director of Insights Active Learning (Insights IAS).

Kumar may hurt Prabha's chances as the Kuruba vote, which generally goes to the Congress with its CM Siddaramaiah the community's tallest leader, is likely to get split.

The Davanagere seat is dominated by the Lingavats (both Panchamasali and Sadara); followed by SC groups Lambanis, Gollas, Bhovis and Madigas; the Valmiki Nayaks (who are tribals); and Muslims.

While the BIP is confident of consolidating the Lingayat votes in its favour, with B S Yediyurappa back in the party saddle, the SCs and STs favour the Congress. The Siddaramaiah government's guarantees are

seen as having further consolidated support for the party among the backward.

The goodwill for the Shamanur family owing to the SSIMS Hospital managed by them is another plus for the Congress.

In last year's Assembly elections, the Congress won seven of the eight Assembly segments in the constituency.

"When Mallikarjunappa (Siddeshwara's father and former Davanagere MP) passed away, the sympathy factor worked for the BIP. Later, the party reaped political dividends due to the Modi wave and the surgical strike against Pakistan," says district Congress chief H B Manjappa.

"Given the Congress guarantees and the party's manifesto promises, we have an edge," the leaders says. BIP district chief Rajashekar counters, "The BJP is fighting this battle in alliance with the ID(S), which has over 1.5 lakh votes in the region. Moreover, Davanagere has benefited from the development works by the Modi government, including railway connectivity between Tumkur Davanagere."



PM Narendra Modi and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel at Gujarat's Himmatnagar, Wednesday. Nirmal Harindran

# Give in writing won't grant religion-based quota, PM dares Opp

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** AHMEDABAD, MAY 1

AT HIS first election rally in Gujarat this LS elections, PM Narendra Modi Wednesday accused the Congress of spreading lies and challenged the INDIA Bloc to give it in writing it will not provide reservation on the basis of religion and also not touch the quota availed by SCs, STs and OBCs.

"These people have started saying Modi is asking for 400 seats because there is reservation... NDA had 360 MPs... (with) others like BID and Andhra's YSRCP, which were not in NDA but supported us, we had 400 seats, but we are neither born for this sin (paap) nor this is our way," Modi said at Deesa in Banaskantha.

Referring to Congress claiming BJP will change the Constitution and end reservation if it wins, he said: "Today, I challenge Congress ke shahzade (Rahul Gandhi), the party and all its members if they have courage, announce that on the basis of religion, they will never misuse reservation, change the Constitution and give reservation to anyone. They will not do that because dal me kuch kala hai (there's something fishy)... I say this on record that till BJP is there, till Modi is there, Bababsaheb's and Constitution, the reservation given to SC, ST and OBCs and the general class is secured..."

"Those who want to give reservation on the basis of religion... they have experimented in Andhra and Karnataka. For votebank, they want to snatch reservation of Dalits, tribals and OBCs.

In Karnataka overnight, they declared all Muslims as OBCs, they looted a part of the reservation given to OBCs overnight. Will this work in the country? Should I let this work?." "They should also announce they will never touch reservation of SCs, STs, and OBCs. They will never declare it," he said.

Recalling the previous elections, Modi said, "When I contested the 2014 election, Congress leaders mocked me. They said this Gujrati tea-seller, who has grown up eating rice and pulses, doesn't know anything. But the country replied and eventually reduced them from 400 to 40 seats."

"...except BJP, no party is contesting 272 seats and then they (Congress) say will form the government. You need at least 272 seats to form a government... This is the magic of Modi because there is no Congress candidate".

Meanwhile, at Himmatnagai in Sabarkantha district, Modi said "They (Congress and INDIA bloc have exhausted everything and therefore have started a new karo bar (business) of fake video. The entire business is fake. Nobody is listening to them so, they are showing the face of Modi and putting fake things in his mouth."

"Congress and its INDIA bloc have become a fake factory. They call themselves mohobbat k dukaan. But their mohabbat ka dukan is into making fake goods fake slogans and fake promises, he said. At another rally in Deesa at Banaskantha, Modi dared the Opposition to attack him "from the front and stop this game of fake videos".

#### **POLITICAL SLUGFEST OVER SEXUAL ABUSE TAPES**

# Being in Modi political family a BJP will not remain with those safety guarantee for criminals?': who commit crimes against Rahul, Priyanka step up attacks women: Shah in Karnataka

**SUKRITA BARUAH** GUWAHATI, MAY 1

THE CONGRESS continued its attack on the BIP and PM Narendra Modi over sex abuse allegations against JD(S)MP Prajwal Revanna, with both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra stepping up their attack on Wednesday. JD(S) and BJP are allies in In a post online, Rahul wrote,

"As usual, Narendra Modi has maintained a shameful silence on the gruesome crimes against women in Karnataka. He will have to answer why, despite knowing everything, they (BJP) promoted the monster who exploited hundreds of daughters, just for the sake of votes? How did such a big criminal escape from the country with such ease?"

He added, "From Kaiserganj to Karnataka and Unnao to Uttarakhand, the PM's silent support to the culprits who target daughters is boosting the morale of criminals. Is being part of Modi's 'political family' a 'guarantee of safety' for criminals?"

In Assam, Priyanka said, "These people (BJP leaders) talk of women's security. You must have seen what is happening in Karnataka. People associated with their party have committed such offences. Thousands of videos have



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Assam's Dhubri on Wednseday. PTI

come out. What do we find? Modiji had campaigned for the person who committed those offences. The offender fled the country and no one stopped him. Neither Modiji nor Amit Shah stopped him. They let him escape. Wherever there have been offences against women, be it Hathras in UP or Unnao, Modiji was silent. Instead they tried to protect the offenders... In Manipur, a jawan's wife was stripped and paraded. Everyone saw the video. Modiji, Amit Shah also must have seen it. So why were they silent?" she said.

She reached out to women voters and claimed the BIP has done "nothing for the women".

"The ones who carry the most burden are women. They go to work, they go to the fields and they go to jobs. Then they come home and look after children, cook food, look after everyone... For them, BIP government is offering nothing. The truth is you get a ration of 5 kg and along with it Rs 1,200 (under Assam Government's Orunodoi financial assistance scheme for women). He (PM Modi) tells you 'bas chup raho' (now keep mum)..." she said.

She hit out at CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, claiming there were "big allegations against him and when he joined BIP, those allegations vanished", thanks to "BIP washing machine".

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, MAY 1

AMID THE raging controversy over allegations of sexual abuse against JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, which has embarrassed the party and put the BJP-JD(S) in a spot, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday made it clear Wednesday in Hubballi that his party would not stand with those who commit atrocities against women.

Shah, speaking for the first time on the issue, hit out at CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, asking why no action was initiated against Prajwal before the elections were over in the Vokkaliga belt, "despite being aware of the allegations".

Although Prajwal was a member of BIP's alliance partner in Karnataka, Shah, without naming Prajwal, said, "the party will not stand with him. Our stand is clear. BJP cannot remain with those who commit atrocities against women. Whoever he might be, let him be punished without any delay. If you (Congress) have the courage, initiate action immediately. He fled the country only because of you (Congress) and now you are doing politics."

Later, Shah met the family of Neha Hiremath, 23, a first-year student of Masters in Computer



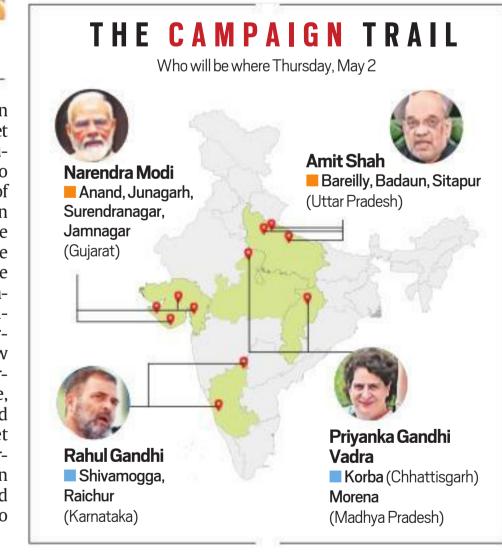
Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Haveri, Wednesday. PTI

Application, who was stabbed to death on her college campus, allegedly by her former classmate Fayaz Khondunaik on April 18. Blaming the state government for the allegedly deteriorating law and order situation, Shah said, "If you cannot protect women, leave it to us. We will make Karnataka a safe place for women."

Hiremath's family also submitted a petition seeking capital punishment for the accused.

Reacting to Shah's attack, Siddaramaiah said on X, "Dear HM @AmitShah avare, thanks for finally expressing outrage in the #PrajwalRevanna matter. You have also said you don't condone violence against women even if it is done by an ally of yours. One is tempted to believe you, but your

conduct in the past has shown that talk is cheap: Can we forget how Olympian Girls were sexually harassed by your MP? Who did you stand with? Your MP, of course, and you let the women athletes sit in protests on the streets of Delhi for weeks. Can we forget how rapist convicts of the Bilkis Bano were released on parole by the Gujarat BJP government and your party men garlanded them? Can we forget how your party stood behind the perpetrators in the Unnao case, where a minor Dalit girl was raped and murdered? Can we forget how your party defended the perpetrators of rape in Hathras? Can we forget how BJP turned a blind eve when women were made to parade naked in Manipur?"



POLL PITCH

#### In run-up to Phase 3, Constitution, reservation come on campaign frontburner power, will change the maalik (owner) of 27-percent 2024... the Congress and the INDI

**MANOJCG** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

ON WEDNESDAY, the social media handles of Prime Minister Narendra Modi put out a short 1.15-minute video clip with a caption "for me, the Constitution is sacred. It is supreme." The video opens with Modi — at the campaign rally in Zaheerabad in Telangana Tuesday — saying the

Chief Minister who celebrated the 60 years of the Indian Constitution. "Maine Surendra Nagar main haathi ke upar hamare samvidhan ko rakha tha. Samvidhan haathi par baitha tha aur Modi paidal chal raha tha," Modi says

Constitution is a "holy book" for

him and that he was the only

as the video shows the 2010 visuals of the procession. The Prime Minister then recounts his first visit to Parliament in 2014, when he had

bowed in respect with his fore-

head touching the steps of Parliament — a reflection of the Constitution — and that in 2019 he had bowed before a copy of the Constitution in the central hall of Parliament after he was elected the leader of the NDA alliance. EXPLAINED

On Tuesday, a day earlier, Modi's main challenger Rahul Gandhi showed up at a Congress campaign rally in Bhind in

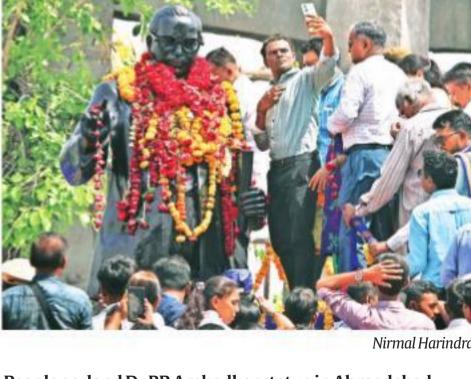
Madhya Pradesh with a red pocket size edition of the Constitution. Holding the copy of the Constitution, Gandhi claimed the BJP, if voted to power again, would "tear apart" and "throw away" the Constitution which granted rights to the poor. Dalits, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

Not to be left behind, Congress communication head Jairam Ramesh distributed copies of the pocket-size Constitution after a press conference at the AICC headquarters in Delhi Wednesday during which he argued that the "real intention" behind BJP's "400 paar" slogan is to secure power to change the Constitution.

He said "samvidhan badlo" has been the demand of the RSS since 1949. Ramesh quoted B R Ambedkar as having said on November 25, 1949 in the Constituent Assembly that "it is be-

cause of the discipline of the Congress Party that the Drafting Committee was able to pilot the Constitution in the Assembly with the sure knowledge as to the fate of each article and each amendment" and that "the Congress Party is, therefore, entitled to all the credit for the smooth sailing of the Draft Constitution in the Assembly."

Ramesh then went on to quote an article that he claimed was published in the RSS-linked publication 'Organiser' five days



Nirmal Harindran

People garland Dr BR Ambedkar statue in Ahmedabad.

later on November 30, 1949 in which he claimed it was written that "the worst about the new Constitution of Bharat is that there is nothing Bharatiya about it."

BJP as well as veteran Opposition figures, including the likes of NCP(SP)'s Sharad Pawar, have all been invoking the Constitution to drive home their political Not just Modi or Rahul, senpoint – that the rival side, if in

ior ministers and leaders of the

Constitution. The arguments on both sides

revolve around reservation and tap into insecurities and apprehensions across the caste divide -- framed in the larger context of the Constitution which guarantees equality and reservation.

This primacy of the Constitution in campaign rhetoric comes after two phases of voting and with five more to go -- perhaps a first after the 1977 elections post Emergency.

The sub-text is, of course, reservation. Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly argued that the Congress, if it comes to power, will "rob" OBCs of their reservation in order to give it to the Muslim minority.

Addressing a meeting in Banaskantha today, Modi, referring to Rahul, said "the Congress's shahzada had (in 2019) proudly called the entire Modi community, the entire OBC community thieves... now in

alliance have entered the maidan with vet another lie...they show the Constitution, aarakshan lelenge... iska dar dikhate hai... Congress ki iamaat kaan kholkar sun le... this is Modi. till Modi is alive... I will not let you play the game of reservation of the basis of religion. The reservation which SC, ST, OBC and the poor in the general category have got... they have got in on the basis of the Constitution... with the blessings of Baba Saheb... usme rati bhar bi koi loot nahi

sakta hai... If the Congress has the

courage... Let them declare... it is

my challenge." The thrust of the Prime Minister's argument is that the Congress, if voted to power, would carve out a quota for minorities -- read Muslims -- in the 27 per cent OBC quota.

"The Congress government in Karnataka declared all Muslim castes as OBC overnight and told them that you are the

now." Modi had said in Agra some days ago. "Congress intends to play the same game in UP... OBCs will have to understand the game of Congress and SP. There are many OBC castes in UP, like Kurmi, Maurya Kushwaha, Yadav, Jat, Gurjar Rajbhar, Teli and Pal. This is their right. But they (the Congress) want to give it to their favourite vote bank," he added. The Congress and the opposi-

tion, on the other hand, argue that the ruling party wants to win more than 400 seats so that they can make changes in the Constitution and snatch away the reservation benefits of SC, ST and OBC as the RSS, the BIP's ideological fountainhead, had always been opposed to reservations.

This is part of Rahul's aggressive caste census pitch — aimed at the OBCs - framed as a warning about the threat of BJP changing the Constitution.

#### WORDLY WISE

WHEN A PERSON IS LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE INSIDE A STORY... THE PAINS OF THIS WORLD DISAPPEAR.

— PAUL AUSTER

# **The Indian EXPRESS**

∞ FOUNDED By ∞ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## A HEALING TOUCH

After a year of ethnic strife, Manipur requires a combination of economic, political and administrative remedies

YEAR AFTER it was jolted by ethnic violence, Manipur continues to be on the edge. The state has not seen large-scale violence in the last eight months. However, lives continue to be lost in clashes between Meiteis and Kuki-Zomis, belying Chief Minister Biren Singh's repeated claims of peace "gradually returning" to the strife-torn areas. The scars created by the conflict are admittedly deep – more than 200 people have lost their lives, families languish in refugee camps and there have been reports of gruesome violence against women. Vigilante groups continue to take the law into their hands. But great harm has also been done by the state government's lack of will to initiate a meaningful dialogue between the warring communities. That much needs to be done to repair the broken trust between neighbours was underscored by an incident two days after the conclusion of round two of the Lok Sabha polls. One person lost his life and two others were injured after residents of two adjoining villages waged a gun battle in the early hours of Sunday. A day earlier, two CRPF personnel were killed and two others sustained injuries following a blast at the paramilitary force's outpost in Bishnupur district — one of the most brazen attacks on security forces in the past year. Violence against security forces has, in fact, been one of the recurring features of the conflict, highlighting that force alone cannot quell a situation that requires sensitivity and compassion in equal measure.

After the first conflagration on May 3 last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the formation of a committee with representatives from different ethnicities, political parties and civil society, to begin the process of healing. That the committee ran into internal differences soon after does have much to do with the complexities of Manipur's society. The situation is also made more fraught by landholding patterns and the continuing impact of colonial policies that segregated the state's tribal-dominated hill areas from the Meitei-dominant Imphal Valley. But in the past year, Singh's government has done very little to assure communities, especially the hill tribes, that his administration is above the identity politics that has pushed the state to the brink. His regime has, instead, stoked tensions and aggravated faultlines with its incessant evocation of the insider-outsider trope.

The Manipur government has done well to crack down on drug smugglers. But it continues to gloss over political and administrative failures by blaming the problem on illegal migrants from Myanmar with whom the Kuki-Zomis share a common ethnicity. In all this, measures to improve livelihoods in a state that has the third lowest per capita income in the country — it ranked the highest in the northeastern region in the 1990s — have taken a backseat. The healing touch Manipur requires must necessarily be a combination of economic, political and administrative measures. The Biren Singh government would be failing its mandate if it did not recognise this imperative, even after a year of strife in the state.

# The trade push



Pickup in global growth should spur India's exports. But fallout from geopolitical tensions need monitoring

Dharmakirti Joshi, Adhish Verma and Meera Mohan

It is a matter of concern that

exports of labour-intensive

sectors such as gems and

jewellery, textile products

(largely ready-made

garments), leather and

products and plastics,

leather products, marine

declined last year. In fact, the

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country's merchandise

exports has come down

drastically over the last

decade. For instance, the

merchandise exports fell

to 7.5 per cent in 2023-24.

exports in India's

cent to 7.5 per cent.

be a priority.

share of gems and jewellery

from 13.2 per cent in 2014-15

Similarly, the share of textile

exports is down from 11.1 per

Arresting this decline must

OVER THE PAST few years, global trade has been very volatile, first on account of the Covid-19 pandemic and then due to geopolitical conflicts. Since the middle of 2022, the value of global merchandise trade has shrunk continuously as per data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In fact, in 2023, global merchandise exports fell by 4.6 per cent. The January-March 2024 quarter, though, saw some sequential improvement.

India's performance has been largely in line, with merchandise exports falling 4.7 per cent in 2023. This, however, was better than developing Asia as a whole, which saw merchandise exports decline by 6.8 per cent. In 2023-24, India's merchandise exports stood at \$437.1 billion, down 3.1 per cent from 2022-23. But the monthly data does suggest a pick up – after a 8.9 per cent contraction in the first half of the year, exports grew by 2.8 per cent in the second half. In the last quarter of the 2023-24 – a period when the threat of Red Sea disruptions on exports was partly playing out exports grew at a faster pace of 4.5 per cent.

Besides an uncertain global environment, India has also had to deal with lower international commodity prices, which have reduced its export bill measured in dollars. Most international commodity prices (both energy and non-energy) have been declining after spiking due to the geopolitical conflict in Europe post February 2022.

In 2023-24, the sharp decline in crude oil prices was a big contributor to the fall in India's overall merchandise export bill. India's petroleum export bill was \$13.3 billion lower, as crude oil prices fell \$13 per barrel. With more than a 20 per cent share, oil is India's single largest export item and hence, its movement has a large bearing on total merchandise export earnings. In volume terms, though, India exported more petroleum products last year.

Excluding petroleum and gems and jewellery exports (the other top export item which was also down 13.8 per cent last year), core exports were up 1.4 per cent, despite the

modity prices. This indicates that India was able to ship a higher volume of goods. According to quick estimates of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, items with as much as 45 per cent share (in dollar terms) in India's merchandise exports managed to grow last year. The impressive 24 per cent growth in elec-

broad-based decline in international com-

tronics goods exports last year reflects surging exports of telecom instruments or mobile handsets, spurred by the Production Linked Incentive scheme. The heft of electronics exports is visible from the fact that barring these, core exports registered a marginal decline last year. The share of electronic goods in the country's merchandise exports has risen significantly – from around 2 per cent in 2017-18 to 6.5 per cent in 2023-24. While India continues to have a deficit in electronics goods trade, the ratio of value of electronic exports to imports has improved from 0.11 to 0.34, largely led by a surge in the share of telecom instruments.

Other large core categories such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, engineering goods and agricultural goods also saw healthy export growth. It is also noteworthy that despite the ban on non-basmati rice and wheat and some other curbs from time to time, overall agriculture and allied exports growth, led by other categories such as meat and poultry products, spices, fruits and vegetables, oil meals, oil seeds and unmanufactured tobacco remained healthy.

In terms of the country of destination, oddly, goods exports to the US — India's largest market with solid economic growth in 2023 — contracted in 2023-24 as its growth was largely led by the services sector. However, there has been an uptick over the past few months. On the other hand, exports to the Euro region grew last year despite a sharp economic slowdown in the region, which has also been vulnerable to geopolitical uncertainties. While exports were largely led by petroleum products, other key items such as machinery, pharmaceutical products and auto and auto parts also rose.

India's exports to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries also rose, reflecting a further increase in exports to the UAE — the largest export destination of Indian goods in the GCC region. It is noteworthy that India's gems and jewellery exports to UAE increased by a whopping 42.3 per cent during April-February 2023-24 even as India's overall gems and jewellery exports declined by 14.5 per cent during this period.

However, it is a matter of concern that exports of labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textile products (largely readymade garments), leather and leather products, marine products and plastics, declined last year. In fact, the share of most of the labour-intensive categories in the country's merchandise exports has come down drastically over the last decade. For instance, the share of gems and jewellery exports in India's merchandise exports fell from 13.2 per cent in 2014-15 to 7.5 per cent in 2023-24. Similarly, the share of textile exports is down from 11.1 per cent to 7.5 per cent. Arresting this decline must be a priority.

That said, over the past few quarters, goods exports have fared well. What also bodes well for India's exports is the upward revision to global growth and trade projections by multilateral agencies. S&P Global expects global growth at a healthy 3.2 per cent in 2024 compared to 2.8 per cent earlier. WTO projects world trade volume to grow 2.6 per cent in 2024 from -1.2 per cent in 2023. Bilateral free-trade agreements with major economies and the ongoing push to manufacturing should also spur India's exports in the near to medium term. In the base-case scenario, exports should grow at a healthy rate and contribute to the overall growth momentum. The spoilers would be uneven global growth and geopolitical tensions which will bear watching.

> Joshi is chief economist, Verma is senior economist, and Meera Mohan is economic analyst, CRISIL Ltd

# Don't go by April

Reduction in Delhi pollution shouldn't lead to complacency. Much needs to be done to reduce city's burden of emissions

OR 23 DAYS in April, the residents of Delhi breathed less noxious air than they do the rest of the year. On these days, the air quality index (AQI) was below 201 – compared to 17 days during the same period in 2023, none in 2022, 18 in 2021, 12 in 2019 and eight in 2018. According to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the improvement can be attributed to "favourable meteorological/weather conditions coupled with consistent, comprehensive, concerted efforts" to control air pollution in the national capital region. Is this, then, good news on the ever-grim air quality front in Delhi?

There seems to be a suggestion of overall improvement in air quality in Delhi and its adjoining areas in the data released by CAQM at the end of last year: Not counting the anomalous conditions in 2020 (when Covid-related restrictions resulted in a sharp drop in activity, and therefore, pollution levels), the period from 2018 to 2023 showed a steadily declining daily average AQI — from 225 in 2018 to 204 in 2023. There was also a rise in the number of good air days (with AQI between 0 to 200) — from 159 in 2018 to 206 in 2023. Yet, when looked at closely, the picture is not quite so rosy: AQI was between 0-50 only on one day in 2023, a dip from the grand total of 3 in 2022, although an improvement over zero days in 2018. Most of the "good" air days were in the moderate category of 101-200 AQI. The fact is that the air in Delhi — indeed, most Indian cities — remains bad because the baseload emissions are very high. There are no shortcuts to reduce this. Occasionally, meteorological or external conditions reduce or sharpen the impact of pollution — like this April, or when a recordbreaking La Nina event in the Pacific Ocean led to cleaner-than-usual air in the winter of 2022. And emergency actions, like the highly publicised odd-even scheme and construction bans, cannot address what is patently a problem in need of a long-term strategy.

Delhi's air pollution may not always be as visible as it is during the winter months, but any plan to tackle it must be designed with short-, medium- and long-term measures, including targeted interventions in airsheds — localities in cities or contiguous small urban and rural centres, whose peculiar geography may hinder the dispersal of pollutants. This also requires greater coordination between local, state and central bodies, enabled by the CAQM, which has so far acted more like a regulatory body, focused primarily on implementing emergency responses.

## ACTS OF FAITH

Paul Auster's fiction explored what remains when old certainties give way

TIS A truth widely acknowledged that a first novel is often a thinly-veiled account of a writer's own life. For Paul Auster, though, the writer and the person were often indistinguishable, enmeshing fact and fiction, reality and make-believe over a course of a long, brilliant career that ended with his death on Tuesday at his home in Brooklyn, New York. Auster was 77. In the Auster counterverse, life was a prototype of fiction in which "All men contain several men inside them, and most of us bounce from one self to another without ever knowing who we are". In books such as The New York Trilogy (1985), In the Country of Last Things (1987), Moon Palace (1989), Leviathan (1992) and Baumgartner (2023), this entanglement assumed an investigation of identity, of love and loss and what remains when old certainties give way.

When he was 14, Auster had had his first encounter with chance. He had been on a hiking tour when a young boy next to him was struck dead by lightning. The memory of it never quite left the writer. In his Man Booker Prize-shortlised 2017 novel 4321, in which four different versions of the protagonist's life play out to different ends, one version has the lead character, Archie Ferguson, die at a summer camp under similar circumstances. Chance and a dexterity with form would become the leitmotif of Auster's prodigious fiction.

In many ways, writing was, for Auster, an act of faith. In an interview to Paris Review, he spoke of the curiosity that fuelled his fiction: "So many strange things have happened to me in my life, so many unexpected and improbable events, I'm no longer certain that I know what reality is anymore... Novels are fictions, of course, and, therefore, they tell lies (in the strictest sense of the term), but through those lies every novelist attempts to tell the truth about the world."

epaper indianex



# A MATTER OF IMPUNITY

Prajwal Revanna case shows how the political class fails the accountability test

RUCHI GUPTA

PRAJWAL REVANNA, JDS MP and joint BJP-JDS candidate in Hassan, has reportedly fled to Germany after multiple videos depicting sexual assault on women — some government employees — started circulating online and an FIR was registered based on a complaint by a former employee. In this story, what is notable is the context which empowered and protected the disgraced MP. Clearly, there was knowledge of his behaviour. Yet, not only was no action taken against him, he was made the joint candidate for the BJP-JDS alliance, with the Prime Minister campaigning for him.

This tells us something about our political sphere. First, our political class — especially the ruling party — has repeatedly shown itself to be incapable of setting a bottom line for acceptable behaviour. Members of the BJP, or those close to it, have displayed a proclivity for defending men with serious allegations against them — Prajwal, Brij Bhushan, Bilkis Bano's rapists, Kuldeep Sengar — but an instrumental detachment from norms exists across party lines. Sengar reportedly made his way across all parties in Uttar Pradesh; Prajwal has been the joint candidate of two opposing alliances. It is true that in many instances, this detachment is an outcome not of active permissiveness but intense partisanship. This has made the acquisition and consolidation of power the supreme value. However, it would be wrong to argue that this detachment arises solely from political constraints, rather than also from a sense that ethical norms are dispensable. The callous way in which the sexual assault videos were made public, exposing the victimised women to further scrutiny, is indicative of this dispensability — the desire

Members of the BJP, or those close to it, have displayed a proclivity for defending men with serious allegations against them — Prajwal, Brij Bhushan, Bilkis Bano's rapists, Kuldeep Sengar but an instrumental detachment from norms exists across party lines. This detachment is often an outcome of intense partisanship. However, it would be wrong to argue that [it] arises solely from political constraints, rather than also from a sense that ethical norms are dispensable.

to secure justice for the women concerned is of secondary importance.

It is also evident that democratic politics is ultimately about the commons. Prajwal's behaviour was known and documented in thousands of video clips, and in a letter to the BJP state leader. Even in the case of other offenders, it strains credulity that the truth about their behaviour became known to the party apparatus only when it became known to the public. But in each instance, what propelled the party into action — whether suspension or expulsion or a slowing down of ascent — was public outrage. Here too, what made the two parties distance themselves from Prajwal was not his reprehensible behaviour, but the separate fact of his behaviour becoming public.

Third, it is evident that for all the rhetoric on women's empowerment, women's issues have not solidified into enforceable normative standards. Consequently, women are mobilised as voters and are targets of welfare schemes but issues such as respect, equality, agency, and security remain on the periphery. In fact, even when such issues are articulated, they remain in the rhetorical realm as campaign promises or as part of partisan one-upmanship. It would also be a mistake to see representation alone as shorthand for political empowerment. Equitable representation is an end in itself in a democracy. However, political empowerment goes beyond representation to the ability to set normative standards and enforce them either through organisational or collective consciousness. The cynical and trivial exertions of the National Women's Commission and selective silences of women representatives

have shown that representation must go hand in hand with norms to translate into empowerment for the community. This also points to another aspect of our

democracy: The acquisition of power and its exercise remain top-down. The "people" are not coming together to power the rise of a party or a leader but are instead being mobilised from the top through a complex web of messages and party machinery. Consequently, representation often reflects top-down delegated power; nor is the electorate able to cohere together as "the people" to extract any meaningful accountability from representatives and/or political parties.

These aspects of our political sphere interact with each other to produce a culture of impunity in which norms cannot be reliably enforced. The onus of pursuing accountability has fallen on individual women. In Prajwal's case, it is not clear whether the videos going viral alone would have been sufficient to impose tangible consequences if not for the courageous woman who came forward to file a police complaint. The Unnao rape survivor was able to get Sengar convicted but paid a heavy price for it, losing her family members in the process. While systemic impunity extracts a high price from the women who speak up, it diminishes those who operate under it too. Prajwal had enviable ac cess to power, which he could have exercised to do good for his people. Instead, the pervasive environment of impunity allowed him to wield his power in ways which limited his horizon to his own person.

> The writer is the executive director of Future of India Foundation

## May 2, 1984, Forty Years Ago

#### BANGLADESH DEADLOCK

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT of President H M Ershad and the 15-party opposition alliance led by Hasina Wajed, president, Awami League, have failed to reach an agreement on the modalities of withdrawal of martial law and transfer of power. The alliance's demand includes lifting of martial law, return of the army to barracks, holding elections to sovereign parliament before other polls, restoration of democracy and fundamental rights.

BANS UNDER UAPA THE GOVERNMENT HAS reimposed the ban two organisations unlawful. Both organisations had earlier been banned on May 1, 1982 for two years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

on the activities of the National Council of

Khalistan and the Dal Khalsa and declared the

#### CURBS ON THE PRESS

NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN caught in a triple bind of unserviced allocations of imported newsprint by the State Trading Corporation, having to make good the deficit through reliance on high-cost domestic newsprint whose prices have been arbitrarily raised and through a newsprint policy that constricts growth. Together, it constitutes a crippling burden on their strained economies and threatens the freedom of the press.

### May Day In Delhi

LAKHS OF WORKERS all over the country celebrated May Day by holding meetings, taking out rallies, and expressing their solidarity with workers all over the world. In the Capital, May Day was marked by innumerable processions, taken out by workers carrying red flags. They belonged to different unions, including Centre of Indian Trade Unions, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, All-India Trade Union Congress and others.



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

# THE IDEAS PAGE

# Sunlight, science & state

Involvement of publicly-funded institutions in Surya Tilak project shows how our prior ideas of what is ethically and constitutionally defensible can be challenged



GAUTAM I MENON

THE SURYA TILAK project at the Ram temple in Ayodhya has been the subject of recent public interest. It involved constructing a mechanism to direct sunlight onto the forehead of the idol. This was to first happen at noon on April 17, the occasion of the festival of Ram Navami this year. The mechanism was to be designed so as to repeat its task every year on the festival date.

The difficulty is that this festival follows a lunisolar calendar. Purely solar or purely lunar calendars follow the motion of the sun or the moon respectively. Special festival dates, if they follow a solar calendar, are the same each year. However, if such festival days are at all tied to the phases of the moon, they

will fall on different calendar dates each year. Dates for most Indian festivals, including Ram Navami, have a lunar calendar component. Lunisolar calendars combine lunar and solar cycles. In Indian calendars, Ram Navami falls on Chaitra Shukla 9. The Navami is the lunar component, referring to the waxing of the moon, or Shukla; the solar Chaitra month relates to the positioning of the constellations.

For the Surya Tilak, once this date is calculated each year, this would translate into changing the position of the mirrors according to the shifting position of the sun to direct the sun's rays appropriately. To design a system that ensures that sunlight falls precisely on the idol each year thus requires

some calculation. Given the complexity of problems that typically occupy astronomers, this is not excessively difficult. The appropriate dates corresponding to a lunisolar calendar can be calculated as far in the future as we want

(Indeed, there are phone apps for this).

The setting up of the necessary equipment was done by scientists and engineers at two government-funded organisations, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru and the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee. IIA is an autonomous institute wholly funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), a government institution, is under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

In a post on X, viewed more than four million times at last count, the Secretary of the DST highlighted the work of these two organisations, speaking of "the accurate calculations and well-optimised design" of the Surya Tilak.

The comments on his post provide an interesting window into modern India. A random sample of these comments reads: "Our ancestors did this also without the help of modern tech. Good to see we are following our ancient roots in the new world also"; "Is there caste reservation in IIA?"; "The divine culmination of Bhakti and science, just like how it used to be in the ancient days"; and "What high school kids in other countries do as a project for a science fair ends up as a something that astrophysicists on Govt pay in India do for a temple".

Is this really a high-school science-fair



C R Sasikumar

project? The computation of the 19-year cycle, the Metonic cycle, after which the Ram Navami date repeats, is not too complicated. Such calculations were known to ancient astronomers. The design of the periscope arrangement needs expertise. Constructing the actual periscope arrangement using a system of mirrors, capable of movement in a graduated manner, is not as easy as it might sound. Some knowledge of telescope design is called for. Also a familiarity with design and machining, but perhaps not of the sort of accuracy that might require high-precision equipment.

It would have been possible to construct a combined electronic and computational mechanism that would have directed the mirror arrangement. However, keeping in mind the need for robustness, the designers took the not-unreasonable option of designing a manual system that only required adjustment once each year.

The core question, though, is whether such a project, explicitly politico-religious in character, should at all have been taken up by government institutions, required to function within the letter and spirit of our Constitution.

Since Independence, we have largely followed the principle that public institutions should not be asked to participate in explicitly religious activities. This in no way restricts scientists and engineers at those institutions in doing so on their own time. It is possible that this happened here, although the DST secretary's highlighting this achievement from a laboratory directly under him, admits no such nuance.

But how can publicly-funded institutions push back against such demands? Can they refuse such directions, even if routed indirectly via the government agency that funds them? What's to prevent another government, with different priorities, directing research institutions funded by it, to controversial political uses?

It is interesting that even the small number of distinguished former administrators of government funding bodies who have written in favour of the Surya Tilak project, have tended to evade these questions, focusing instead on its value as science outreach.

These are relevant especially in a country where essentially all funding for research flows from the government. India spends close to just 0.7 per cent of its GDP on research, a figure that is much smaller than what China or the USA spends. The slack, pushing scientific funding to 3 per cent or more of GDP in developed countries, is taken up by the private sector. Unfortunately, private-sector science research involvement in India is still at a nascent state.

What alternatives could reasonably have been explored? The Ram temple authority could have announced that it would fund a competition to find the best technical solution. Scientists associated with institutions such as the IIA could have, in their own time, and voluntarily, evaluated these solutions.

An Atal Tinkering Laboratory, from about 10,000 across the country, could have been asked to help with the hardware implementation of the successful idea, with funding for this taken from private individuals or the temple trust. None of this would have required requests to government-funded institutions that would further a religious aim, even ignoring its political overtones.

In political science, the Overton window refers to the range of ideas and policies for which there is large-scale public support. Shifts in the Overton window bring new possibilities, hitherto unacceptable, into the mainstream. Such shifts can happen naturally, as society itself changes, or can be encouraged through deliberate political reframing.

The saga of the Surya Tilak project is instructive because it is a test of how we choose to define and implement the secular character of our state. It illustrates how our prior ideas of what is ethically and constitutionally defensible can be challenged, even as what is done is presented as a fait accompli.

Once we get used to the idea that the government of the day can make such requests, whether directly or indirectly, it would be hard to turn the clock back.

> Menon is a professor at Ashoka University, Sonepat. Views expressed are his own and do not represent those of his institution

## - THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH trying to bring focus on that." A tax on

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

The rich have ways and means to avoid paying inheritance tax. It is the middle class and youth that will suffer

aspiration

"The US government should pay heed to the demands of pro-Palestinian protesters. What we have seen so far is a display of double standards and flouting of international and humanitarian laws in Gaza, and these students have been



GOURAV VALLABH

THE CONCEPT OF inheritance tax has recently sparked significant debate in our country. This policy involves taxing the assets and properties that individuals inherit from their deceased ancestors. Congress leader Sam Pitroda's suggestion to discuss and debate the implementation of the inheritance tax has brought this tool back into the spotlight. Pitroda cited a US example where the government takes 55 per cent of the deceased's wealth as Inheritance Tax, while the remaining 45 per cent is distributed among the legal heirs or children.

The Congress party has distanced itself from Pitroda's views, stating that they are his own and do not represent those of the party. But timing is crucial in politics. It is important not to dismiss Pitroda's opinion as merely personal, as he is a respected mentor to Congress and has long been associated with the party.

Inheritance tax, which is also known as "estate tax" and sometimes referred to as "death tax" or duty is present in several forms across multiple countries such as South Africa, Brazil, and the US. A few emerging economies like India and China don't have the provision for such a duty. Let us examine what such a tax would mean in these countries.

A look at the share of wealth with the top 10 per cent of the population is instructive: It is at 85.6 per cent in South Africa, 79.7 per cent in Brazil, 70.7 per cent in the US, 68.8 per cent in China and 65 per cent in India. The above data clearly shows that an inheritance tax can't be used for equitable wealth distribution.

The top 10 per cent of the population's share of the total national wealth is higher for South Africa, Brazil, and the US than India and China. Inheritance tax can be easily avoided by the wealthiest individuals, either by utilising assets exempt from the tax — such as business, agricultural property, and pension funds — or by transferring their wealth above the taxable threshold well before their death. Ultimately, this tax will be collected from every aspiring middle-class household.

Implementing an inheritance tax will hamper economic growth and middleclass aspirations, young Indians' dreams, and wealth creation efforts due to the following reasons.

First, inheritance taxes create disincentives for wealth accumulation and investment, potentially hindering entrepreneurship and capital formation, leading to reduced savings and investment, ultimately slowing down economic growth.

Second, an inheritance tax may force beneficiaries to sell assets like family businesses or real estate to pay taxes, resulting in inefficient asset allocation and the disruption of family enterprises. Third, inheritance tax can provoke sig-

nificant resistance due to its visibility and perceived burden. Taxpayers may focus only on the apparent burden, disregarding the broader context of lifetime tax liabilities, leading to distorted perceptions of fiscal policy. Fourth, the inheritance tax creates sig-

nificant administrative burdens, especially for widows and non-resident Indians. Tax regulations and procedures can exacerbate emotional and financial stress, emphasising the need for simplified and accessible tax frameworks. Fifth, although the purpose of inheri-

tance tax is to redistribute wealth, its ability to achieve equal outcomes is disputed. Wealthy individuals frequently use sophisticated estate planning techniques to reduce tax liabilities, which lessens the effect of the tax in reducing wealth inequality. This leaves the middle class more susceptible to taxation.

Finally, India lacks robust social security systems, and people rely heavily on family support. Introducing an inheritance tax during economic strain may worsen investment and wealth generation, incentivise capital flight, and drive young talent abroad. Enforcement challenges and tax avoidance may limit revenue generation.

The global economic scenario suggests that the next 50 years will be India's years. The country's capital market is hitting new records every day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a goal of making India the third-largest economy during his third term and achieving the vision of a "Developed India" by 2047. However, the chief opposition party's mentors' recent proposal to discuss implementing an inheritance tax seems a step backwards. It gives the impression that the Opposition lacks innovative ideas to take India ahead.

Discussing such policies only encourages capital and talent flight abroad and penalises the aspiring middle-class wealth generation efforts more. This is detrimental to the nation's growth and is equal to killing the dreams of India's youth.

In the long run, wealth and income equality can be achieved only by including the middle and bottom of the pyramid society as part of the wealth creation effort of our country, not by negatively affecting their aspirations and dreams.

> School of Management, Jamshedpur. He is a member of the BJP

The writer is professor of finance, Xavier



# Only the .001 per cent

I DISAGREE

A fortnightly column

in which we invite

readers to tell us why,

or news coverage of

'The Indian Express'

A wealth tax on billionaires and centimillionaires is feasible and needed

JAYATI GHOSH

IT IS DIFFICULT to think of a more "harebrained, retrograde" piece than the Indian Express editorial on wealth tax ('Retrograde', *IE*, April 25) — but the more correct phrase may well be "behind the times". The editorial betrays a deep ignorance of the explosive nature of wealth inequality in India as well as a lack of awareness of rising support for wealth taxes from policymakers across the world.

Arguments for taxes on extreme wealth have been gathering pace in many countries, even becoming the most important agenda item for the G20 thanks to Brazil's Presidency this year. An idea advanced in the 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024' by economist Gabriel Zucman and colleagues is now finding support from many governments. Finance Ministers of four major countries — Brazil, Germany, Spain and South Africa — recently argued for a two per cent tax on dollar billionaires. And it may surprise the editors of this newspaper to learn that at the tax discussions at the United Nations, the representative of the Indian government (currently led by the same BJP) that is so critical of the Congress Party's proposal) has also voiced support for this, agreeing that "governments should make a highlevel commitment to reach agreement on the taxation of wealthy individuals within the United Nations framework convention

Why such widespread support from apparently unlikely quarters? Essentially, because more people in power are realising that the current extreme inequalities of income

on international tax cooperation".

epaper indianexpress.com

and wealth are creating dysfunctional economies and increasingly divided and unhappy societies. The injustice and social and economic tensions created by such inequality are well known. Indeed, even the *IE* editorial admits: "That concentration of capital is a problem, that marginalised sections must get a leg-up, that efforts must be made to address inequalities of opportunity, expand the pie, is beyond debate." There are several strategies required to ad-

dress this, but one of the more obvious and immediate policies is the imposition of taxes on extreme wealth and inheritance.

India currently has the third highest number of when they differ with dollar billionaires in the world – 200 according to the editorial positions the Forbes list, up by 31 from the previous year. Mumbai and Delhi alone are home to around 350 centimillionaires (those

who hold more than \$100 million in assets). These numbers ballooned over the last decade and are set to increase even more rapidly in future.

All this is happening in an economy where real wages have barely increased for most workers and have even declined for regular workers and construction workers. over the past decade. A recent study by the World Inequality Lab titled 'Economic inequality in India: The 'billionaire raj' is now

more unequal than the British colonial raj has found that between 2014-15 and 2022-23, inequality of wealth and income rose dramatically to reach their highest levels since the colonial period, to the point that the share of the top one per cent in total income is now among the very highest in the world – even worse than South Africa, Brazil and the US. Even worse, the study found that the Indian tax system could even be regressive (falling more heavily on lower-in-

Since Independence, we have

largely followed the principle

that public institutions

should not be asked to

participate in explicitly

and engineers at those

religious activities. This in

no way, restricts scientists

institutions in doing so on

that this happened here,

laboratory directly under

him, admits no such nuance.

highlighting this

achievement from a

their own time. It is possible

although the DST secretary's

DEAR EDITOR, come groups) when considered in terms of net wealth.

The authors of that study noted that taxing only 167 families just two per cent of their net wealth would have provided 0.5 per cent of GDP in revenue in 2022-23. To put this in perspective, it would allow central and state governments together to increase

their public health spending by more than 50 per cent. But such a tax would barely be noticed by the very wealthy, since — even if they choose to spend billions of rupees in pre-wedding bashes for their children — they are scarcely able to spend enough to make a dent in their vast riches.

In such a context, a wealth tax and an inheritance tax for the super-rich should be a no-brainer, even for the harebrained! It is really surprising that wealth taxes are being actively considered in other countries that

are not as unequal as India, yet so bitterly resisted by our own elites.

The usual argument against wealth taxes is one that is repeated by the editorial: That they are too complicated to administer and generate very low revenues that are not worth the costs of collection. (Funnily enough, the same people seem to take for granted that a much more complicated tax the property tax applied to real estate — can continue and is feasible.)

One obvious problem with the previous attempts to impose wealth taxes in India was that the threshold for wealth tax collection was placed too low. This affected many people who were not so extremely wealthy and clearly did involve high costs of implementation. But the world has changed. It is now much easier to get access to information about financial wealth held by high-net worth individuals, even when these are held in other countries, because of the automatic exchange of banking information across 142 jurisdictions, including India.

So a wealth tax imposed only on the 200-dollar billionaires or the thousand-plus centimillionaires would be relatively easy to collect and could yield significant tax revenues. It would not affect 99.999 per cent of the population.

The real obstacle to such a policy comes from the lobbying power of the super-rich.

The writer is professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and was previously with JNU

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### POLITICS' LOW POINT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Republic and its people' (IE, May 1). It appears that the BJP's lofty goal of "crossing 400 seats" in the ongoing general elections is facing hurdles. The rhetoric has now moved to tapping religious narratives. The lowest point was in conveniently interpreting the Congress party's manifesto on income distribution and inequality. The BJP wants to win more than 400 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to make changes to the Constitution. They (BJP) are walking on the path of dictatorship and are destroying democracy. The writer has rightly stated that the people of India must vote to save the secular credentials of the country which are under threat.

SS Paul, Nadia

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Republic and its people' (IE, May 1). The essence of India lies in its remarkable diversity. Our Constitution stands as an enduring beacon, safeguarding fundamental rights rooted in the very fabric of our existence. Attempts by politicians to exploit it for personal gain threaten the stability of our nation. Just as a holy book remains unchanged, so must our Constitution to prevent chaos and preserve the integrity of our democracy. The Supreme Court's assertion that the basic structure is inviolable reinforces the imperative of protecting our constitutional framework. Let us unite to safeguard our constitution and uphold the principles of democracy.

**Ajay Corriea,** Vasai

#### A SMALL PRICE TO PAY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Selected to office' (IE, May 1). The universally accepted definition of democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. And this is achieved through free and fair elections when people exercise their franchise to elect their representatives in the government. In Surat and Indore Lok Sabha constituencies, BJP candidates got elected unopposed because rivals' nominations were either found invalid or withdrawn. As a result, millions of electorates' right to vote became infructuous. In effect, the candidates are nominated to office by the BJP. This has happened many times since independence. ECI could easily revise its rules and subject these seats to a by-election. This will be a small price to pay to save the essence of democracy.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

#### SILENCE & INJUSTICE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Look beyond the sexual abuse clips' (IE, May, 1). The sex scandal surrounding the incumbent member of parliament Prajwal Revanna, has again accentuated the vulnerability of women to men in positions of power. Another disquieting thing is the silence of the ruling dispensation and its alliance partners. This has ultimately led to the language for empowerment sounding hollow. How much more will women suffer? When will we as a nation come together against gender injustice?

Nupur Sharma, Ghaziabad

# Is pvt property community resource? SC reserves verdict, to lay down parameters

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

HOLDING THAT considering every private resource of an individual as part of the material resource of the community will be "far-fetched" and only help scare away investors who may be wary of the level of protection they get, the Supreme Court Wednesday reserved its order on the question whether private property would fall within the definition of material resource of the community in Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

"You tell a manufacturer of semiconductor chips, situated somewhere in Taiwan to manufacture semiconductor chips in India because India needs semiconductor chips, but sorry this is a material resource of the community, we might just take it away. They will say sorry, I don't want to invest in your country if this is the level of protection which you give me", Chief Justice of India D Y

ANAND MOHAN J

IN SEPTEMBER last year, a teacher

at an Ujjain ashram "came to the

aid" of a minor rape victim who

was going door to door seeking

help. He has now been arrested

along with a caretaker for al-

legedly sexually abusing at least

three minor boys at their ashram.

der relevant provisions of the IPC

as well as under multiple sections

of the POCSO Act against the 21-

year-old teacher, Rahul Sharma,

and ashram caretaker Ajay

Thakur. Both have been sent to ju-

dicial custody, police said, adding

that there are many more victims

who haven't filed a complaint yet.

*The Indian Express*: "So far three

children have come forward and

made the allegations. We have ar-

rested two persons in this case."

Ujjain SP Pradeep Sharma told

Police registered three FIRs un-

Chandrachud presiding over the nine-judge bench said.

The remarks came as Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranaryanan submitted that 16 judgments by various Constitution benches have consistently interpreted material resources to include private property and private resources.

The nine-judge bench also comprised Justices Hrishikesh Roy, BV Nagarathna, Sudhanshu Dhulia, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Bindal, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih. It is answering a reference to it which arose in the context of the two views given by the judges in the 1978 decision in 'State of Karnataka And Anr Etc vs Shri Ranganatha Reddy & Anr'. The case dealt with the nationalisation of road transport services.

One of the opinions by Justice V R Krishna Iver was that material resources of the community would include both natural and man-made, publicly and privately owned resources. The other judg-

Last year, Ujjain man 'helped' a

rape victim; now, he is held for

'abusing minors' at his ashram

In September 2023, CCTV

footage emerged of the minor girl,

bleeding and partially clothed, af-

ter she was raped by an autorick-

shaw driver. The footage showed

no one coming to her aid even as

she walked around the area for an

hour, with one resident even

girl after he spotted her outside the

ashram. At the time, he had told

*The Indian Express:* "This is a holy

town, people here are supposed to

be helpful, but no one helped her...

connection with the Ujjain rape

case for now. "We sent through

200 CCTV videos and his role has

so far been ruled out," said a sen-

ior police officer. According to

police, children from poor fami-

lies were sent to be trained as

pandits in this ashram, affiliated

Around 10 days ago, a minor

to the state Sanskrit board.

The police have ruled out any

there was no humanity."

Sharma had said he helped the

shooing her away.

ment authored by Justice N L Untwalia, however, said the majority of judges did not subscribe to the view taken in respect of Article 39(b) by Justice Iyer.

Justice Iyer's stand was further affirmed in the 1982 'Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company vs Bharat Coking Coal Ltd And Another' case.

Wednesday, Sankaranarayanan said the ninejudge bench needs to answer only the limited question referred to it and leave the rest to be dealt with by the different benches whenever the situation arises. However, the CJI said "if we take that all private property is comprised in material resources, there is nothing left for future benches".

Sankaranarayanan cited the example of a businessman setting up a vaccine manufacturing facility and said that it may have been a purely private resource at that time but after the Covid pandemic, it becomes something essential for the entire community

boy who was allegedly sexually

assaulted by Thakur complained

to his mother when he returned

home. "The parents of the child

came to the ashram. Then the

ashram worker Thakur was

sacked. Later, many more parents

visited the ashram and levelled al-

The ashram authorities con-

tacted police after several parents

made allegations against Sharma

and had a confrontation with the

ashram official. An ashram official,

Gajanand, said: "We called the po-

lice to help us but they arrested

our staff. The allegations are false."

"When we arrived, we found that

the ashram officials were the sus-

pects. There are many more vic-

tims in this case and we tried to

convince them to file a case.

Policemen dressed in civil clothes

also tried speaking to the children,

but they refused as they were

scared," the officer said.

However, the officer said:

legations." said a senior officer.

and then the state has to step in. The CJI said: "We are not saying that private properties are outside the scope of 39(b). What we are saying is that there must be some parameters laid down. Otherwise, the logic of 'Ranganath Reddy and Sajeev Coke' is that an individual is a part of the community and therefore

vidual is part of the community". Sankarayanayanan said attempts to lay down strict definitions for what may or may not fall under 39(b) at this stage "could come back and boomerang on us, on a future date".

everything owned by the indi-

Justice Nagarathna said that "it is not just material resources per se, it is material resources of the community, and it is for the purpose of distribution. Now, if you read this in the context of 'clause c' of Article 39, where it speaks about the operation of economic system, distribution is an aspect of the economic system...So it should be read in that context so

that the material resources of the community is so distributed that ultimately, the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment".

She added, "both this have to be read. So, the question is if a person invests, puts up a huge factory, starts production tomorrow, it cannot be said that it is going to be taken away for the purpose of distribution to the workers. That is not the aim of that".

Article 39(b) in the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) says that "the state shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing- that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good". Article 39(c) states that "the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment".

## TV actor Rupali Ganguly joins BJP

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI. MAY 1

TV ACTOR Rupali Ganguly, famous for her roles in TV serials such as Sarabhai vs Sarabhai and Anupamaa, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party here on Wednesday ahead of the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

Ganguly joined the BJP at the party headquarters in the presence of senior leaders including national general secretary Vinod Tawde and national media department in-charge Anil Baluni.

Tawde welcomed Ganguly into the party fold and used the opportunity to attack the opposition parties over Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Maria Alam's appeal for "vote jihad".

Alam, while seeking votes for the INDIA bloc's candidate from Farrukhabad Lok Sabha seat, called for a "vote jihad," saying it was necessary in the current situation for the minority community to dislodge the

Ganguly is known for roles in shows such as Sarabhai vs Sarabhai and Anupamaa

BIP from power.

Responding to the SP leader's remarks, Tawde said, "The Opposition, which has been spreading lies, has now started a 'vote jihad' campaign."

He added, "On the one hand they are giving OBC reservation to Muslims, on the other they are talking about 'vote jihad' during elections." Tawde asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi if the "campaign" was started on the instruction of the party high command.

Addressing the press conference, both Ganguly and Joshi said they have joined the BIP to work for the progress of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Superintendent of Police, Raebareli, Abhishek Kumar The court ordered that the SIT should comprise officers senior to the officers facing the allegations, including SP Agarwal. It instructed that the SIT report

should be submitted within two

months, with the next hearing

**MANISH SAHU** 

LUCKNOW, MAY 1

THE LUCKNOW bench of the

Allahabad High Court has di-

rected the Uttar Pradesh Director

General of Police (DGP) to con-

stitute a Special Investigation

Team (SIT) to investigate allega-

tions that a 29-year-old man was

assaulted and falsely accused in

theft cases after he allegedly re-

fused to give his vehicle to police

personnel who claimed to be

acting at the behest of the

scheduled for July 3. The petitioner, Gomati Mishra (70), alleged that her son Alakh Mishra was arrested by the police on the intervening night of March 30 and 31. The entire episode was captured on a CCTV camera at a petrol pump

from where the arrest was made, according to the petitioner. However, the police recorded his arrest only a day later in a theft case, the petitioner claimed.

HC asks UP top cop to form

team to probe Raebareli SP

over allegations of assault

The petitioner alleged that her son, who holds an MBA degree and does not have any criminal record, was falsely implicated in a theft case because he refused to provide his taxi (private vehicle) to Abhishek Agarwal, who is Superintendent of Police, Raebareli, when asked to do so by some of Agarwal's subordinate officers.

The court pointed out that despite time being granted on multiple occasions, till date the opposite parties – the police officers concerned – are not in a position to reply as to why no investigation was conducted by them with regard to the alleged arrest.

The court also said that the stand of the police officers concerned is that the son of petitioner was arrested in the intervening night of March 31 and April 1, as per the case diary.

In its order, the court stated that "in the given circumstances, we find it a fit case to refer the matter to the Director General of Police, UP, Lucknow, who shall get a SIT constituted of persons superior to the police officers concerned, including Abhishek Agarwal, Superintendent of Police, Raebareli, to investigate

the entire incident." In her petition, Gomati Mishra sought directions to register an FIR against all the "erring" police personnel at Kheero and Sarauni police stations in Raebareli who were involved in the "wrongful confinement, custodial torture and filing of false cases" against her son, Alakh Mishra.

She also requested a fair investigation into the three cases in which her son was booked, as well as compensation from the state government for the violation of his Fundamental Right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. She also sought directions to preserve footage of the CCTV installed at the petrol pump and Kheero police station in Raebareli.

Gomati Mishra's lawyer, PRS Bajpai said, "Alakh Mishra has obtained bail in the case and is currently out. He remained in jail for around a week."

# Navy starts converting warships' propulsion from steam to diesel

**AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE NAVY has begun the process of converting the propulsion systems of its warships from steam to diesel in a major upgrade aimed at significantly enhancing their life. maintenance support and capability, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Officials aware of the development said the conversion of the propulsion system of INS Beas — a Brahmaputra-class frigate — began in early April. The work is being carried out in collaboration with the governmentowned Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

The move from the older generation steam to diesel propulsion is being carried out along with several other equipment and system upgrades. The

complete midlife upgrade programme is expected to take around two years. Top officials told The Indian

Express that once successful, there are plans to convert the remaining ships of the Brahmaputra class — INS Brahmaputra and INS Betwa — from steam to diesel propulsion.

Besides these ships, the INS Vikramaditya and the INS Ialashwa are the only other platforms of the Navy that are powered by steam.

Officials said the move will significantly enhance the life and capability of the warships. INS Beas for instance, which would have otherwise been de-inducted in around 10 to 12 years, is expected to remain in active service for more than 20 years once it is converted to diesel propulsion.

An official explained that sev-

eral issues crop up in ships with steam propulsion, more so as they age. "There are issues such as steam leaks and high temperatures in the boiler and engine rooms... which contribute to uncomfortable working conditions for the crew," the official said.

Moreover the steam propulsion system has several auxiliary equipment and systems associated with it, making it more maintenance-intensive. Ships powered by diesel, on the other hand, are easier to maintain. The Indian Navy is among the

few in the world to have ships and submarines powered by steam, diesel, nuclear power as well as electricity. A majority of the Indian Navy's 150 ships and submarines are powered by diesel engines or gas turbines, or a combination of both.

# 'The military can no longer order Pakistan politics in the way it likes'

Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan TCA Raghavan on the the implications of the Shehbaz Sharif-led government in Pakistan, the possibility of India re-engaging with it and the future of Imran Khan. The session was moderated by Diplomatic Editor Shubhajit Roy



#### On the fallout of the Pakistan elections

I think the principal takeaway from this election is contradictory. While on the one hand, the Pakistan military still plays a dominant role in that nation's polity, what is clear is that the military can no longer order Pakistan politics in the way it likes. The election result and Imran Khan's surprisingly strong showing demonstrated that.

It's true that whatever happens in Pakistan will be decided by what the Pakistan military wants but only up to a point. The second takeaway is equally surprising because who could have thought that Imran Khan, who was in many ways the front which the army had created for a hybrid type of administration, would suddenly become public enemy number one. The old public enemies, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League led by Nawaz Sharif (PML-N), would be partners of the military in a de facto concert to run the country. No matter how weak or constrained it is by the military, politics has an autonomous position in the country.

#### On the fragility of the PPP-PML coalition

This was not the first time that the PPP and the PML-N acted in concert. They did the same in 2007-08 to give the last push to the tottering Musharraf regime and in 2014 to beat the military-led attempt to cut the civilian government led by Nawaz Sharif down to size. It is surprising that they are in a coalition with the military, because both parties have an anti-military, anti-establishment narrative at their core.

It's also a difficult time for Pakistan and everyone realises that for whoever forms the government, it's a totally pointless job in terms of the kind of public popularity they are going to lose because of the economic downturn.



#### **AUDIENCE QUESTIONS**

#### On Kashmir in India-Pak ties

Pakistan has a sense of entitlement about Kashmir and that is the dominant narrative within its politics. For India, J&K is an integral part of the country. You cannot reconcile these two positions. What you can try to do, and this is where diplomacy comes in, is finding some kind of a stopgap arrangement. It may stop working after some time and then you have to work on it again to improve that situation. Differences of this kind exist between countries all over the world. You have to manage these differences.

#### On US-China-Pak relations

In US-Pakistan relations, there was always an undercurrent of mistrust for the last 15 years. Apart from its Afghanistan experience, the US currently has other issues to deal with in West Asia and Europe. The China-Pakistan relationship is a relationship of great strategic value to both countries and will remain so. The Chinese have also realised that doing business in Pakistan is not as easy as they thought. Nevertheless, the overall political and military relationship is very strong.

done on the ground. He's very good at putting up

For some time, they may stay together because both parties know that unless they put up a minimal united front, the economy will go down. Negotiations with the IMF will become difficult and they will face the onslaught of public criticism for mismanagement. The Army will work hard at keeping them together. However, the general impression in Pakistan is that this coalition is not going to last beyond two years, after which new contradictions will emerge. been made PM. Shehbaz Sharif likes getting things

On Sharif family's plan Nawaz Sharif will play the role of a senior fam-

ily advisor. The PML-N's performance in the elections was less than optimal. It's something which he has taken personally. Maryam is being groomed as he feels that she is Nawaz's political heir, rather than his sons, since she's always had a political flair. It's also part of the larger family arrangement that she, for some time, is CM of Punjab, possibly because she didn't have the administrative experience and there would have been too much criticism if she had immediately



(Lto R) Former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan TCA Raghavan; Diplomatic **Editor Shubhajit Roy** 

he has a strong sense of loyalty to his brother. For years, the military has tried to detach the two. They see Shehbaz is not instinctively anti-military in the way Nawaz often was in the past. In the last 20 years, the PML-N has not split, despite all the pressures put on it.

#### On the challenge to the authority of Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir

Despite all the efforts of the military, Imran Khan was able to demonstrate that he has a huge public and political following, which has made a major dent on the military's prestige and on its perceived capacity to or-

der Pakistan. That may reflect on General Asim Munir because, after all, he is the chief and this happened under his watch.

There will be views in the military establishment that they shouldn't take their differences with Khan too far. It is better to have a working relationship with all elements of the

political spectrum because that is how the military can ensure that it plays a dominant role. The interesting thing about Pakistan politics is that the future of civilian politicians never faces a closure. Nawaz Sharif has been down and out and come back on top at least on three occasions. I don't think anyone in his right senses should rule out Imran Khan. The fact is that he has a tremendous political and popular following, a certain charismatic appeal, and if he survives, I'm pretty sure he has a strong political position.

#### On the economic crisis in Pakistan

Every four or five years, there is an economic crisis of this kind, essentially because Pakistan spends more money than it generates. It has a narrow taxation base. It imports more than it exports. There is not enough investment or production because of its poor internal security. Structurally, it

is a crisis-prone economy. This particular crisis was unique in that until recently, Pakistan played an important geopolitical role with regard to Afghanistan for the US. In 2022-23, Pakistan suddenly discovered it had no geopolitical leverage. The world had suddenly become disinterested, primarily because of what was happening in Ukraine, the pandemic and so on. It now has to undertake difficult negotiations with the IMF and execute major structural changes, which are very difficult for this kind of coalition, and which, frankly, many Pakistanis don't want to do. It's not easy because the economic model in Pakistan is based on patronage, favours and the government wanting to run things in a particular way.

#### On the Indian government's view

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Our main focus has been on the counter-terrorism front and on stabilisation along the line of control. There's no real political dialogue with Pakistan. There are no high commissioners in place. Diplomatic relations have been down-

graded. How long will this impasse continue? This particular dilemma is not a new one. There is an element of risk when you engage but it is important we look at Pakistan as part of our overall foreign policy.

You have a brittle stability with Pakistan, with a virtual zero relationship. You have a bad situation with China all along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and a less-than-opti-

mal political and diplomatic relationship. We have a very bad situation with Myanmar developing in our northeastern border because of the internal erosion in the Myanmar state.

Therefore, many would argue that it is in your national interest that you try to stabilise your relationship. The initiative to engage has always come from India. If you wait for Pakistan to take an initiative, in a sense, you'll be waiting forever because Pakistan's space to manoeuvre is much more limited.

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infrastructure projects. One must also realise that

## Hindu marriage is not an event for wining & dining; invalid without proper ceremonies: SC

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** 

NEW DELHI, MAY 1

A HINDU marriage is a 'samskara' or sacrament and will not be recognised under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 "unless performed with ceremonies in the proper form", the Supreme Court has ruled.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih in an April 19 order, reminded that "a (Hindu) marriage is not an event for 'song and dance' and 'wining and dining' or an occasion to demand and exchange dowry and gifts by undue pressure leading to possible initiation of criminal proceedings thereafter".

The bench said, "A marriage is not a commercial transaction. It is a solemn foundational event celebrated so as to establish a relationship between a man and a woman who acquire the status of a husband and wife for an evolving family in future which is a basic unit of Indian society."

The bench said "unless and until the marriage is performed with appropriate ceremonies and in due form, it cannot be said to be 'solemnised' as per Section 7(1) of the Act".

The court was dealing with a plea by a woman seeking the

transfer of a divorce petition from a court in Muzaffarpur, Bihar to a court in Ranchi, Jharkhand. During the pendency of the petition, she and her former partner, both commercial pilots, decided to resolve the dispute by filing a joint application under Article 142 of the Constitution.

The couple were engaged to be married on March 7, 2021, and claimed to have 'solemnised' their marriage on July 7, 2021. They obtained a "marriage certificate" from Vadik Jankalyan Samiti and based on this certificate. secured a 'Certificate of Registration of Marriage' under the Uttar Pradesh Marriage Registration Rules, 2017.

The date for the marriage ceremony was fixed on October 25, 2022. Meanwhile, they lived separately but differences cropped up between them and cases followed.

The court noted that the parties had not solemnised the marriage as per section 7 and hence it was not a Hindu marriage.

The bench said that "for a valid marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, the requisite ceremonies have to be performed and there must be proof of performance of the said ceremony when an issue/controversy

# Salman house firing case: Accused 'dies by suicide' in police custody

This is the third case of alleged suicide in the custody of Mumbai police over the last nine months

**MOHAMED THAVER & SAGAR RAJPUT** MUMBAI, MAY 1

AN ACCUSED arrested in connection with the firing incident outside actor Salman Khan's residence in Mumbai's Bandra on April 14 allegedly died by suicide while in police custody on Wednesday.

Anuj Thapan, 23, who was arrested from Punjab on April 25, reportedly hanged himself in the bathroom of the lock-up at the Mumbai Police headquarters, apparently using a bedsheet given to inmates to sleep on. He was rushed to GT Hospital, where he was declared dead.

"The incident took place at around 12.30 pm in the bathroom of the police lock-up on the first floor," a police officer said.

Police sources said that while two others accused in the case had been taken to record their statements, Thapan was in a cell with 10 others accused in different cases. At around 12.30 pm, he is reported to have gone to the bath-

room where he hanged himself. As per the procedure, the



Police stand guard at Mumbai's GT hospital where Anuj Thapan's body has been kept. Sankhadeep Baneriee

bathroom door does not have a latch. It is a half-door, covering only the middle part, to allow the police to keep an eye on the accused. This was done after past instances of accused hanging them-

According to a source, one officer and four guards were on duty, tracking the inmates via the two CCTV cameras installed in the lock-up. "Ideally, these personnel should have kept an eye on the accused going to the bathroom, and been alerted when it took time for him to come out of the bathroom," said the source.

selves in the lock-up bathrooms.

The State CID has been asked to investigate the case. A CID team took the CCTV footage and recorded the statements of the other inmates in the lock-up. An accidental death report has been filed at the Azad Maidan police station.

Mumbai Police sources said Thapan was addicted to charas and cigarettes. "He was addicted to the extent that whenever he did not get it, he would start shivering," said a Crime Branch officer.

Thapan, who was arrested from Punjab by the Mumbai Crime Branch, was allegedly in-

volved in procuring firearms for the two co-accused, Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta, who are alleged to have fired five rounds outside Khan's residence on April 14. Both Pal and Gupta have also been arrested. A fourth accused, Sonu Bishnoi, who suffers from an ailment, is in judicial custody.

Last week, the Mumbai Police had invoked MCOCA against the four accused, along with Lawrence Bishnoi and his brother Anmol Bishnoi, who claimed responsibility for the firing. While Lawrence is lodged in Sabarmati prison, Anmol is reported to be in Canada or the United States.

Police sources said Thapan was in direct contact with Anmol, and they would contact each other on apps like Signal.

According to sources, Thapan was introduced to Anmol by one Ankit Kakadia over two years ago, following which he started getting direct orders from the gangster. "Even in this case, Thapan had received directions from Anmol to pick up the weapons from an unknown person at Abohar city in Punjab, and hand them to Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta in Panvel," said a polPolice stand guard at GT hospital where Anuj Thapan's body is kept, in Mumbai. ice officer.

"To protect his identity, Thapan sent a photograph of himself without showing his face. The person who delivered the weapons identified him from his clothes. The unknown person, whose face was covered with a mask, walked up to him, handed the firearms and left," said a police officer.

Thapan, accompanied by Sonu Bishnoi, is then reported to have travelled to Panvel and delivered the weapons to Pal and Gupta. "We have learnt that Thapan was so desperate for charas that they even went to the Panvel railway station in search of it," said an officer.

This is the third case of alleged suicide in custody in Mumbai over the last nine months. On September 8, 2023, 40-year-old Vikram Atwal, who was accused of killing air-hostess Rupal Ogrey, allegedly died by suicide in the police lock-up in Andheri. On July 28, 28-year-old Deepak Jadhav, who was arrested in another murder case, also allegedly died by suicide inside the lock-up in Borivali.

### Charges framed against Lawrence Bishnoi, 26 others in Moosewala murder case

Chandigarh: A court in Punjab's Mansa district on Wednesday framed charges against jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and 26 other accused in connection with the Sidhu Moosewala mur-

Singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala. was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, 2022. The prime accused in the case, Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, is yet to be arrested and charges have not been framed against him.

"District Sessions Judge H S Grewal framed charges against 27 accused in the Moosewala murder case," said Satinder Pal Singh Mittal, the counsel for the Moosewala's family.

The court has fixed the next hearing on May 20.

The accused were booked under different sections including 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of of fence), 212 (harbouring offender) and 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of the Arms Act.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

SC Construction Organisation

respectively, invites e-tender or

behalf of the President of India fo

SI.No.: 01 NIT No.: 13-CAO- C-SC

2024 Date:06/04/2024 Name of work SCR Construction Organization- KZJ

BPQ section - Proposed construction

of 3rd line with electrification between

Kazipet - Balharshah stations

Last mile connectivity works

commissioning of sections between (a). Balharshah (BPQ) - Manikgarh

(MAGH) section in Maharastra

state and (b). Rechni Road(RECH

Telangana state - Additional quantity

of supplying and stacking machine

₹ 2,89,700.00 **Completion Period:** 

05 (Five) Months Date of Opening:

SI.No.: 02 NIT No.: 14-CAO- C-SC-

2024 Date:06/04/2024 Name of work:

SCR Construction Organization

Kotipalli-Narsapur New BG line- 1

Proposed identification and marking

of Railway land boundries of already

acquired Railway land. 2) Fixing o land boundary fencing with RCC

posts and barbed wire along idetified

railway boundries on both sides o

Railway alignment from Kotipalli to

Amalapurami,e Km 45/0 to Km 58/0

(Excluding Goutami bridge) and from Vasista bridge A2 to Narsapuri.e

km 92/0 to km 101/0. Estimated

**Cost:** ₹ 3,82,49,456.80 **EMD:** 

₹ 3,41,300.00 Completion Period:

06 (Six) Months Date of Opening:

SI.No.: 03 NIT No.: PMS-04-CAO

Name of work: SCR Construction

Appointment of Authority Engineer

for providing Project Managemen

Services(PMS) for "Construction Of

Proposed Doubling of Track between

Ankai Station(excluding) at Km 16.00

(Ch. 16000) &Karanjgaon Station

(excluding) at Km. 69.01(Ch 69010

[i.e., (53.01 Km)] and betweer

Karanigaon Station (including) a Km. 69.01(Ch 69010) & Aurangabad

Station(including) at Km 113.15(Ch 113150) [i.e., (44.14 Km)] including Electrification and Signaling Works

in connection with Aurangabad-Anka Doubling Project in Nanded Division of South Central Railway". Estimated

Cost: ₹ 13,10,79,000.00 EMD:

₹ 8,05,400.00 **Completion Period:** 27 (Twenty Seven) Months Date of

Date: Name of work: SCR Construction

Appointment of Authority Engineer

for providing Project Management

Services(PMS) for "Construction Of

Proposed Doubling of Track from

Parbhani to Parli stations (58.06Kms)

(excluding Gangakhed yard from km

292.075 to km 298.85 =6.775 Km

including Electrification and signaling

works in connection with Parbhan

 -Parli doubling project in Nanded Division of South Central Railway ir

the state of Maharashtra". Estimated

Cost: ₹ 9,22,23,600.00 EMD:

₹ 6,11,100.00 **Completion Period:** 

30 (Thirty) Months Date of Opening:

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers

online during tender submission

period which is the Fifteen days

iii) Tenderers should watch for any

corrigenda (issued online only) ur

to the date of commencement of the

For further tender conditions /

Chief Administrative Officer/

Const./Secunderabad

period prior to closing of tender.

tender submission period.

30/05/2024 15:00 hrs.

https://ireps.gov.in.

Division

Opening: 30/05/2024 15:00 hrs. SI.No.: 04 NIT No.: PMS-05-CAO-

Organisation: Nanded

Nanded

14/05/2024 15:00 hrs.

14/05/2024 15:00 hrs.

- Bellampalli (BPA) section

S.C.Railway,

the following works:

Secunderabad

(through https://ireps.gov.in)

## DRDO successfully tests missile-assisted torpedo release system

Next-gen system to boost Navy's anti-submarine warfare capability

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE DEFENCE Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Wednesday tested a next-generation torpedo release system aimed at boosting the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the Defence Ministry said.

The Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system has been designed and developed by the DRDO. This missile-based mechanism to launch lightweight torpedoes can target submarines hundreds of kilometres away far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedoes. It will be particularly employed in the absence of other assets for immediate action when an enemy submarine is detected.

The system, which can be launched from both coasts and warships, was successfully flight-tested at around 8.30 am from a ground mobile launcher from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast, ac-

cording to the ministry. The canister-based missile system comprises several advanced subsystems including two-stage solid propulsion and



The SMART system was launched from the **Integrated Test Range off** the coast of Odisha. PTI

precision inertial navigation. It carries an advanced lightweight torpedo missile as a payload along with a parachute-based release mechanism.

Several state-of-the-art mechanisms, such as symmetric separation, ejection and velocity control, have been validated with this test.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the DRDO on the successful flight test and said SMART would enhance the Navy's strength.



MEANWHILE, IN HIMACHAL: Tourists throng Koksar in Lahaul & Spiti district on Wednesday.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU. MAY 1

THERE WILL be no relief from prolonged heatwave spells dur-May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday.

The maximum temperatures over the Northwest and the North regions as well as the West coast during May are expected to be above normal, it said.

Hotter days await Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, central and eastern Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, north Andhra Pradesh and north Tamil

Nadu this month. Nights, too, shall be warmer than average during May owing to the above-normal minimum over the Western and Eastern coasts, Gujarat, Southwest Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

As with April, extended heatwave spells will be experienced over a large geographical area, extending to Central and Northern India, said the IMD.

During May, heatwaves lasting eight to 11 days have been forecast over South Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha Marathwada Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Heatwaves ranging from five to seven days will be experienced in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, some areas of Chhattisgarh, east Madhya Pradesh, interior Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, north

Karnataka, Telangana and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

"Climatologically, heatwaves over the country last for one to three days during May. But this year, we expect above-normal heatwave days during May," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general, IMD, while releasing the temperature and rainfall forecast

for the country for May. IMD declares a heatwave when the normal maximum temperature recorded over at least two localities in plains touches 40 degrees Celsius or is 4.5 degrees Celsius above normal. A heatwave is declared in hilly and coastal regions when temperatures cross 30 degrees Celsius and 37 degrees Celsius respectively.

A severe heatwave is declared if the temperature departure is 6 degrees Celsius over normal.

## CBI searches 30 locations over cryptocurrency scam der IPC sections 120B (criminal

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE CBI said Wednesday they have searched 30 locations across 10 states and UTs after registering a case in a fraudulent investment scheme linked to the HPZ Token App, in which the public was being misled to invest in non-existent crypto-currency mining machine rentals.

The nationwide operation ended Tuesday night. "Two private companies, Shigoo Technology Private Limited and Lillian Technocab Private Limited, along with their directors were booked in the case unconspiracy)419,420(cheating) and Section 66 D of the IT Act, 2000," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement Wednesday.

The CBI has seized digital devices, including laptops, phones, ATM cards and a trove of email accounts, during searches spread across the country.

The probe so far has unearthed 150 bank accounts related to the accused used to collect funds from investors. "These funds were initially used for payouts to build trust, before being illicitly transferred out of India, often converted into cryptocurrency " the spokesperson said

#### crushed clean, hard, angular and durable stone ballast"-reg. Estimated **Cost**: ₹ 2,79,42,174.00 **EMD**:

**SUMMER SPECIAL TRAIN-2024** In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Summer Season, Northern Railway has decided to run Summer Special Train hetween Kalka & Shimla as ner details given helow:

04511/04512 Kalka - Shimla - Kalka Reserved Express Special Train						
Train No.: 04511		I STATIONS A	Train No	Train No.: 04512		
ARR.	DEP.	<b>↓</b> STATIONS <b>↑</b>	ARR.	DEP.		
	12:30	Kalka	17:25			
14:00	14:02	Dharampur Himachal	15:51	15:53		
14:52	15:00	Barog	15:15	15:23		
15:11	15:13	Solan	15:02	15:04		
15:32	15:34	Salogra	14:10	14:43		
15:50	15:52	Kandaghat	13:44	13:46		
19:10		Shimla		11:15		

Kalka on 04.05.2024 ACCOMMODATION: 1st Class, 1st Class-cum-2nd Class, Vistadom

Coach & General Chair Car.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passegers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App. www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

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F.7(515)/DEO(S)/Advert. Leading/2024/1807

Dated:- 01/05/2024

### PRESS NOTICE

Regarding Creation of Auxiliary Polling Stations, General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 to South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07):

In view of large number of voters in the following Polling Stations; the Election commission of India has approved creation of Auxiliary Polling Station as per details given below:-

SI. No.	Name of the AC/ District	PS No	Total electors in the PS	Auxiliary PS No.	Name of Polling Station Location	SI.No. of the Electors to be shifted to Auxiliary PS
1	AC-45 (Mehrauli) Distt. South	26	1856	26A	Sarvodaya Co-Ed Sr Sec School, D-Block, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070	901-1856
2	AC-52 (Tuglakabad) Distt. South- East	glakabad) 49 3121 49A		49A	Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar Opposite Pkt-A-11, Kalkaji Extn	1702 onwards

(M. Chaitanya Prasad, IAS **Returning Officer, SDPC-07** 

## discovered inside a dug-up pavement Historians say the stone carving could be a depiction of 'Paulist missionaries'

develop the new capital, or 'Nova

In Goa's capital, a historical artefact is

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, MAY 1

WORKERS DIGGING up a pavement in Panaji Tuesday stumbled upon a carved stone slab estimated to date back several hundred years, when Goa was under Portuguese rule.

The slab, made of either granite or sandstone, depicts a bearded man playing a musical instrument, with an animal near his feet. This has led to speculation that the carving is that of a "Paulist" — missionaries from the Society of Jesus who worked to spread Catholicism in the Portuguese Empire's Asian colonies.

Historian Prajal Sakhardande said these Jesuit missionaries came to Goa in the 16th century. "They were followers of St Paul who built the College of St Paul in Old Goa, and hence the term 'Paulists'," he said.

Though the origin of the sculpture is yet to be conclusively established, Sakhardande said three similar sculptures and



The carving, either made of granite or sandstone, was found by workers digging up a pavement. Express

images of Paulists already exist in the Siridao area.

"This sculpture is exactly the same as those in Siridao. The Paulists were earlier in Old Goa and later came to the Tiswadi area, where they built many

churches. From the headgear, the violin (musical instrument) and the presence of a dog in the sculpture, I am certain it is a similar statue of a Paulist. My hypothesis is that from the carvings and the type of stone, this particular sculpture dates back to the 19th century, around the time Panjim became Goa's capital," he said. Archaeology

Department has taken custody of the statue to ascertain its time period and historical significance. Dr Nilesh Fal Dessai, Director

the Department of

Archaeology, said: "It is a significant find, though it is yet to be established which period the sculpture belongs to. We will consult experts and historians." Another historian, Sanjeev Sardesai, said: "It is my logical theory that this carved granite slab was part of the construction

material which was transported

from the earlier, decaying

Portuguese capital at 'Velha Goa'

(Old Goa) and brought here dur-

ing the latter part of the 1700s to

Goa' (Panaji)." "There must be hundreds of

such pieces, discarded during the rebuilding process, and buried at various places in Panaji, of which I know of at least three sites. During the construction of the New Patto Bridge, many such granite artefacts and round pillars were found in that area." he Several myths are associated

with the Paulists in local folklore. The missionaries are revered figures, especially for their proficiency in building large churches and structures across Goa. One such popular myth says that the construction of

of a single lamp. The causeway was built in 1633–34 under the direction of

Ribandar Causeway or the Ponte Conde de Linhares — a 3.2-km causeway connecting Panaji to Ribandar — was done by the Paulists overnight with the light

the then Viceroy of Portuguese India – Miguel de Noronha, fourth Count of Linhares — after DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0026/24-25 whom it is named.

details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

epaper.indianex ess.com

# 12 THE WORLD



#### CLIMATE CHANGE WAS BELIEVED TO BE REASON EL NINO CAUSED PANAMA CANAL DROUGHT

The phenomenon El Nino, and not climate change, was a key driver in low rainfall that disrupted shipping at the Panama Canal last year, scientists said on Wednesday. A team of international scientists found that El Nino doubled the likelihood of the low precipitation in Panamalast year. This reduced water levels at the reservoir that feeds freshwater to the Panama Canal, causing it to dry up. AP

#### **TOPOFTHE** WORLD



Residents amid flood in Kenya, Tuesday

#### **KENYA**

#### Flood toll rises to 181, homes, roads destroyed

Nairobi: Floods and landslides across Kenya have killed 181 people since March, with hundreds of thousands forced to leave their homes, the government and Red Cross said on Wednesday, as dozens more were killed in neighbouring Tanzania and Burundi. Torrential rain and floods have destroyed homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure across the region. The death toll in Kenya exceeds that from floods triggered by the El Nino weather phenomenon late last year. In the central Kenyan town on Mai Mahiu, where at least 48 died in flash floods on Monday, two bodies were recovered from the debris on Wednesday, Kenya Red Cross South Rift Regional Manager Felix Maiyo said. Last year's rains followed the worst drought in large parts of East Africa in

#### **RUSSIA**

decades.

#### **Arms production** boosted as US ups Ukraine aid

**REUTERS** 

Moscow: Russia's defence minister on Wednesday ordered a hike in weapons production and said deliveries needed to be faster for the war in Ukraine, a week after U.S. President Joe Biden signed off on tens of billions of dollars of new military aid for Kyiv. Biden on April 24 signed a bill into law that provides \$61 billion in additional aid to Ukraine, including an array of artillery, rocket systems, anti-tank munitions and ammunition. **REUTERS** 

### **CHINA**

#### 'Will launch lunar probe to explore far side of moon'

China on Beijing: Wednesday announced that it will launch its lunar probe Chang'e-6 on Friday to collect samples from the far side of the moon. The probe is set to collect samples from the far side of the moon, making this mission the first of its kind in huhistory, China man **National** Space Administration said. The Wenchang Space Launch Site Wednesday conducted a final rehearsal for the launch, covering all relevant systems comprehensively.

### **U.S. STUDENT PROTESTS: OVER 300 ARRESTED IN NEW YORK**

# Israel, Palestine supporters clash in UCLA, police clear tents in Columbia

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES. MAY 1

DUELLING GROUPS of protesters clashed on Wednesday at the University of California, Los Angeles, grappling in fistfights and shoving, kicking and using sticks to beat one another. Hours earlier, police carrying riot shields burst into a building at Columbia University that pro-Palestinian protesters took over and broke up a demonstration that had paralysed the school while inspiring others.

After a couple hours of oneand-off scuffles between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrators at UCLA, police arrived, formed lines and began to slowly corral some of the protesters. Police have swept through campuses across the US over the last two weeks in response to protests calling on universities to stop doing business with Israel or companies that support the war in Gaza.

There have been confrontations and more than 1,000 arrests. In rarer instances, university officials and protest leaders struck agreements to restrict the disruption to campus life and upcoming commencement ceremonies.

The clashes at UCLA took place around a tent encampment built by pro-Palestinian protesters, who erected barricades and plywood for protection — while counterprotesters tried to pull them down.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass called the violence "absolutely abhorrent and inexcusable" in a spot on X and said officers from the Los Angeles Police Department were on the scene. Officers from the California Highway Patrol also appeared to be there. The university said it had requested help.

Late that same day, New York City officers entered Columbia's campus after the university requested help, according to a statement released by a spokesperson. A tent encampment on the school's grounds was cleared, along with Hamilton Hall where officers used a ladder to climb through a window. "...we were left with no choice," the school said.

"The decision to reach out to the NYPD was in response to the actions of the protesters, not the cause they are championing. We have made it clear that the life of campus cannot be endlessly interrupted by protesters who violate the rules and the law." New York Mayor Eric Adams said about 300 were arrested at Columbia and City College in police crackdowns.

*Port-Au-Prince:* A surprise an-

nouncement has revealed Haiti's

new prime minister is threaten-

ing to fracture a recently in-

stalled transitional council

tasked with choosing new lead-

bers with voting powers said

Tuesday that they had chosen

Fritz Bélizaire as prime minister,

taking many Haitians aback with

oppose Bélizaire, who served as

Haiti's sports minister during the

second presidency of René Préval

The council members who

their declaration.

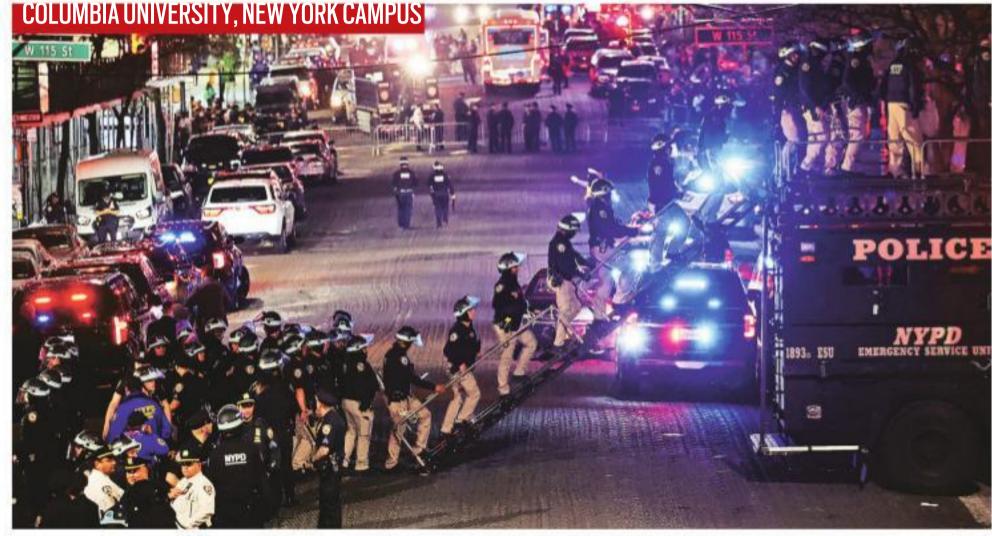
Four of seven council mem-

ers for the Caribbean country.

Surprise PM divides

Haiti transition council





(Top) Pro-Palestine protesters face off with California Highway Patrol at the University of California, Los Angeles; Police use a vehicle named 'the bear' to enter Hamilton Hall from the street, in Columbia University, New York on Tuesday. Reuters

## 'The time is now': In Tel Aviv, Blinken urges Israel, Hamas to proceed with ceasefire deal

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** JERUSALEM, MAY 1

US SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken was meeting with Israeli leaders on Wednesday in his push for a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas, saying "the time is now" for an agreement that would free hostages and bring a

from 2006 to 2011, are now

weighing options including fight-

ing the decision or resigning from

the council. A source with direct

knowledge of the situation said

the council's political accord had

been violated by the unexpected

move and that some council

members are considering other

scheduled to hold an election and

choose its president. But two

hours later, one council member

said that not only a council presi-

dent had been chosen, but a prime

The council on Tuesday was

choices as potential PM.

pause in the nearly seven months of war in Gaza. He said Hamas would bear the blame for any fail-

ure to get a deal off the ground. "We are determined to get a cease-fire that brings the hostages home and to get it now, and the only reason that that wouldn't be achieved is because of Hamas," Blinken told Israel's ceremonial President Isaac Herzog at Tel Aviv. "There is a proposal on the table, and as we've said, no delays, no ex-

cuses. The time is now," he said. Blinken said the deal would also allow much needed aid into Gaza. Meanwhile, the families of Americans held by Hamas urged him to make their case to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Blinken is set to meet the PM and his War Cabinet Wednesday.

#### TURKEY TO JOIN S AFRICA IN GENOCIDE CASE AT ICJ

Ankara: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Wednesday that Turkey would join in South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). **REUTERS** 

## Weinstein expected in New York court after rape conviction revoked

**REUTERS** NEW YORK, MAY 1

HARVEY WEINSTEIN IS due to appear in state court in Manhattan on Wednesday for the first time since New York's highest court threw out his 2020 rape conviction last week.

The hearing before Judge Curtis Farber will give prosecutors and Weinstein's lawyers a chance to address the next steps for the former film mogul, which could include a new trial.

Weinstein, 72, has been serv-



Harvey Weinstein in a court in California in 2022. Reuters

ing a 23-year sentence in a prison in upstate Rome, New York. He is currently at Bellevue Hospital, where he was transferred following last week's order.

Iurors in Manhattan convicted Weinstein in February 2020 of sexually assaulting former production assistant Miriam Haley in 2006 and of raping aspiring actress Jessica Mann in 2013. They are among more than 80 women who have accused him of sexual misconduct.

The conviction included charges of first-degree sexual assault and third-degree rape. Weinstein, who has denied having non-consensual sexual encounters with anyone, was acquitted on other charges.



the English Channel, in Calais, France, earlier this week, Reuters

# UK starts detaining migrants set to be deported to Rwanda

**REUTERS** 

LONDON, MAY 1

BRITISH AUTHORITIES have started to detain migrants in preparation for them to be sent to Rwanda in the next nine to 11 weeks, the government said Wednesday, laying groundwork for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's flagship immigration policy. A law to pave the way for

sending asylum seekers to Rwanda if they arrived in Britain without permission was approved by parliament in April, and Sunak wants the first flights to take off in July. Human rights charities and unions opposed to the policy are expected to launch fresh legal challenges to stop the flights from taking off after the UK Supreme Court declared the policy unlawful last year.

Images released by Britain's interior ministry on Wednesday showed a man being put in a van by immigration enforcement officials, and another being led out of his house in handcuffs.

"Our enforcement teams are working at pace to swiftly detain

#### 'DEPENDANTS DROP AFTER STUDENT VISA REFORMS'

London: The UK government has welcomed a "significant fall" in the number of dependentsaccompanying overseas students after its crackdown on student visas effective from early this year. The Home Office said that dependents had drastically fallen by almost 80 per cent amid over 26,000 fewer student visa ap-PTI plications made.

those who have no right to be here so we can get flights off the ground," interior minister James Cleverly said Wednesday.

Care4Calais, a refugee charity, said the detentions had started on Monday. A spokesperson said they still did not know who will be earmarked for the first flight.

UK sent its first asylum seeker to Rwanda under a voluntary scheme, The Sun Newspaper reported, a separate programme to the deportation policy.

#### POLLS SCHEDULED LATER THIS YEAR

## Wickremesinghe to face his own cabinet member in Sri Lanka presidential polls

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** COLOMBO, MAY 1

**PRESIDENT RANIL** Wickremesinghe, if stood for reelection in the presidential poll due later in the year, may have a face-up with his cabinet colleague Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, who is currently serving as the

Former president Maithripala Sirisena, the chairman of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), told reporters on Wednesday that Rajapakshe, 65, would be his party's candidate in the presidential election scheduled to be held before November 15 this year. "He will be the most suitable candidate from SLFP", Sirisena said.

Minister of Justice.

Rajapakshe is a member of the now fragmented Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party, the home for members of the United People's Freedom Alliance loyal to its former leader Mahinda Rajapaksa.

A part of the SLPP is currently in alignment with 75-year-old



Wickremesinghe while another

section supports the main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) — a political alliance led by Leader of the Opposition Sajith Premadasa. Wickremesinghe, who is yet

to announce his candidacy, is banking on cross-party support for his re-election to implement an economic reform programme to pull the country out of bankruptcy.

The main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) party leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake have already announced their candi-

## AUSTER'S BOOKS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO MORE THAN FORTY LANGUAGES

minister as well.

# Paul Auster, prolific and experimental author-filmmaker, dies at 77

**ALEX WILLIAMS** NEW YORK. MAY 1

PAUL AUSTER, a prolific novelist, memoirist and screenwriter who rose to fame in the 1980s with his postmodern reanimation of the noir novel and who endured to become one of the signature New York writers of his generation, died of complications from lung cancer at his home in Brooklyn on Tuesday evening. He was 77.

His death was confirmed by a friend, Jacki Lyden.

With his hooded eyes, soulful air and leading-man looks, Auster was often described as a

"literary superstar" in news accounts. The Times Literary Supplement of Britain once called him "one of America's most spectacularly inventive writers."

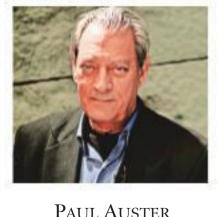
Though a New Jersey native, he became indelibly linked with the rhythms of his adopted city, which was a character of sorts in much of his work — particularly Brooklyn, where he settled in 1980 amid the oak-lined streets of brownstones in the Park Slope neighborhood.

As his reputation grew, Auster came to be seen as a guardian of Brooklyn's rich literary past, as well as an inspiration to a new generation of novelists

who flocked to the borough in the 1990s and later. His reputation was anything

but local, however. His books have been translated into more than forty languages. He took home several literary prizes in France alone. Like Woody Allen and Mickey Rourke, Auster, who had lived in Paris as a young man, became one of those rare American imports to be embraced by the French as a native son.

"The first thing you hear as you approach an Auster reading, anywhere in the world, is French," New York magazine observed in 2007. "Merely a bestselling author in these parts, Auster is a rock star in Paris."



PAUL AUSTER 1947-2024

In Britain, his 2017 novel, "4321," which examined four parallel versions of the early life of its protagonist — as Auster was, a Jewish boy born in Newark in 1947 — was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. His career began to take flight

in 1982, with his memoir "The Invention of Solitude," a haunting rumination on his distant relationship with his recently deceased father. His first novel, "City of Glass," was rejected by 17 publishers before it was published by a small press in California in 1985.

The book became the first installment in his most celebrated work, "The New York Trilogy," three novels later packaged in a single volume. It was listed as one of the 25 most significant New York City novels of the last 100 years in a roundup in T, the style magazine published by The New York Times.

By the 1990s, Auster had set his sights on Hollywood. He wrote several screenplays, some of which he directed.

"Smoke" (1995), directed by Wayne Wang from a screenplay by Auster, was based on a Christmas story by the author published in the Times. It drew deeply from his life in Park Slope, where he shared a brick town house with his wife, novelist Siri Hustvedt.

The film, heavy with philosophical musings, stars Harvey Keitel as Auggie, the proprietor of a Park Slope tobacco shop that is a locus for a colorful assortment of neighborhood dreamers and eccentrics. One is Paul Benjamin (Auster's early pen name; Benjamin was his middle name), a cerebral, cigarette-puffing writer (William Hurt) whose life is saved when a young man (Harold Perrineau) pulls him

from the path of a truck. Paul Benjamin Auster was born Feb. 3, 1947, in Newark, the elder of two children of Samuel and Queenie (Bogat) Auster. His father was a landlord who owned buildings in Jersey City with his brothers.

Paul Auster grew up in South Orange, New Jersey, and later nearby Maplewood, but his home was not a happy one, he

wrote. His parents' marriage was strained, and his relationship with his father remote. "It was not that I felt he disliked me, Auster wrote in "The Invention of Solitude." "It was just that he seemed distracted, unable to look in my direction." For a writer whose work was

filled with themes of pain and loss, far greater pain would come his way. In the spring of 2022, his son Daniel Auster, 44, died following a drug overdose 11 days after being charged in the death of his 10-month-old daughter, Ruby.

In addition to his wife, Auster is survived by his daughter, Sophie Auster; his sister, Janet Auster, and a grandson. **NYT** 

ess.com

# ECONOMY



**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** 

DOMESTIC PASSENGER vehicle

(PV) sales started on a flat note

in the first month of the new fis-

cal, at an estimated 338,341

units. This was just 1.76 per cent

up compared with the same

uted this to a high base effect and

muted demand due to the ongo-

ger vehicle manufacturer, Maruti

Suzuki India's sales in the do-

mestic market was flat at

137,952 units compared with

137,320 during the same month

last year. Second-largest PV

manufacturer Hyundai Motor

India also saw domestic sales

grow by a mere 1 per cent at

50,201 units. Tata Motors re-

ported a 2 per cent increase in to-

tal domestic PV sales, including

electric vehicles at 47,883 units.

high base this year...Right now.

the country is going through

muted.

"We have started on a very

"Once elections are over, I

think we will be seeing a differ-

ent market," Maruti Suzuki's

ing Lok Sabha elections.

Industry executives attrib-

The country's largest passen-

NEW DELHI, MAY 1

month last year.







₹70,420

\$88.45

₹86,500

Car sales subdued in

Apr on high base, polls

### **BRIEFLY**

### Petrol sales up 12.3%; diesel falls 2.3% in Apr

New Delhi: India's petrol consumption soared 12.3 per cent in April, but diesel sales continued to slide despite the country entering into hectic electioneering for general elections, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed on Wednesday. Petrol sales of three state-owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the market, rose to 2.97 million tonnes in April compared to 2.65 million tonnes in the same period last year. Diesel demand dropped 2.3 per cent to 7 million tonnes. Demand for the nation's most consumed fuel had fallen 2.7 per cent in March.

### Q4: Ambuja Cements' profit at ₹1,525.78 cr

New Delhi: Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit at Rs 1,525.78 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company had clocked a net profit of Rs 763.30 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing. According to the company, the consolidated results for the quarter and the financial year ended March 2024, include the financial results of Sanghi Industries, which was acquired by the Adani Group

#### J&J advances \$6.48 billion settlement

firm last quarter.

New York: Johnson & Johnson said on Wednesday it is moving forward with a \$6.48 billion proposed settlement of tens of thousands of lawsuits alleging that its baby powder and other talc products contain asbestos and cause ovarian cancer. The deal would allow it to resolve the lawsuits through a third bankruptcy filing of a subsidiary company. It will begin a three month voting period in hopes of reaching consensus on a settlement of all current and future ovarian cancer claims. Those claims account for 99% of the talc-related lawsuits filed against J&J, including about 54,000 lawsuits that are centralised in a New Jersey federal court pro-**REUTERS** 

### **CCI** checks if Pernod colluded with retailers

ceeding.

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is reviewing accusations that France's Pernod Ricard colluded with retailers in New Delhi to boost market share, the latest headache for the spirits giant in a key market, legal papers seen by Reuters show. Pernod has a share of 17 per cent in a liquor market it says is its second biggest globally by net sales, but one where it is embroiled in licence, tax and antitrust difficulties.

### **KEEPS KEY RATE AT A TWO-DECADE HIGH OF ROUGHLY 5.3%**

# US Fed holds rates, flags 'lack of further progress' on inflation

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** WASHINGTON, MAY 1

THE US Federal Reserve on Wednesday emphasised that inflation has remained stubbornly high in recent months and said it doesn't plan to cut interest rates until it has "greater confidence" that price increases are slowing sustainably to its 2 per cent target.

The Fed issued its decision in

a statement after its latest meeting, at which it kept its key rate at a two-decade high of roughly 5.3 per cent. Several hotter-than-expected reports on prices and economic growth have recently undercut the Fed's belief that inflation was steadily easing. The combination of high interest rates and persistent inflation has also emerged as a potential threat to US President Joe Biden's re-election bid. "In recent months," Wednesday's statement said, "there has been a lack of further progress toward the 2 per cent inflation objective." The central bank's latest message reflects an abrupt shift in its timetable on interest rates. As recently as their last meeting on March 20, the Fed's policymakers had projected three rate reductions in 2024. likely starting in June.

Rate cuts by the Fed would



Graduate School of Business in US. Reuters File

lead, over time, to lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses, including for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards. But given the persistence of elevated inflation, financial markets now expect just one rate cut this year, in November, according to futures prices tracked by CME FedWatch.The Fed's more cautious outlook stems from three months of data that pointed to chronic inflation pressures and robust consumer spending.

Inflation has cooled from a peak of 7.1 per cent, according to the Fed's preferred measure, to 2.7

per cent, as supply chains have eased and the cost of some goods has actually declined. Average prices, though, remain well above their pre-pandemic levels, and the costs of services ranging from apartment rents and health care to restaurant meals and auto insurance continue to surge. With the presidential election six months away, many Americans have expressed discontent with the economy, notably over the pace of price increases.

On Wednesday, the Fed also said it would slow the pace at which it's unwinding one of its

₹44,908 cr

in debt market

**TOTAL INFLOW** 

₹2,222 cr |

in equities

Musk disbands Tesla EV charging team

**FOR 2024 SO FAR** 

the debt market in April

₹10,949 cr: FPIs withdrew from

Outflow was due to adjustment

short-term gain prospect in longer

duration bond in anticipation of a

rate cut and 'wait and watch mode

announcement of election results,

said Kislay Upadhyay, smallcase

manager and founder of Fidelfolio

Tinucci, and most or all of the staff

that operated and maintained the

system, according to two former

employees and multiple postings

on LinkedIn, left officials at au-

tomakers and Tesla suppliers un-

quests for comment. Musk sub-

sequently said on X that the car-

maker still plans to expand the

Supercharger network, "just at a

slower pace for new locations and

more focus on 100 per cent up-

time and expansion of existing lo-

Bullet EV Charging Solutions, a

supplier to the network, said,

"As contractors for the

Supercharger network, my team

woke up to a sharp kick in the

Andres Pinter, co-CEO of

cations."

Tesla did not respond to re-

certain about the future.

after heavy inflow in March, a

adopted by investors till the

EXPLAINED Shift in US Fed's timetable

SENSEX: 74,482.78 ▼ 188.50 (0.25%) NIFTY: 22,604.85 ▼ 38.55 (0.17%) NIKKEI: 38,274.05 ▼ 131.61 HANG SENG: 17,763.03 ▲ 16.12 FTSE: 8,151.37 ▲ 7.24 DAX: 17,932.17 ▼ 186.15

THE US Federal Reserve's latest message reflects an abrupt shift in its timetable on interest rates. As recently as their last meeting on March 20, the Fed's policymakers had projected three rate reductions in 2024, likely starting in June. Financial markets now expect just one rate cut this year, in November.

biggest Covid-era policies: Its purchase of several trillion dollars in Treasury securities and mortgagebacked bonds, an effort to stabilise financial markets and keep longer-term rates low. The Fed is now allowing \$95 billion of those securities to mature each month, without replacing them. Its holdings have fallen to about \$7.4 trillion, down from \$8.9 trillion in Iune 2022, when it began reducing them. On Wednesday, the Fed said it would, in June, reduce its holdings at a slower pace, and allow a total of \$60 billion of bonds

## to run off each month. Sebi makes nomination optional for

joint MFs New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Wednesday made the nomination optional for jointly-held mutual fund accounts in a bid to promote ease of doing business. Additionally, the market regulator allowed fund houses to have a single fund manager to oversee commodity and foreign investments.

This would reduce the cost of managing the fund.

These came after a working group constituted by Sebi reviewed mutual fund regulations and recommended measures to promote the ease of doing business.

pants this morning."

"Tesla has already been

awarded money under the fed-

eral government's NEVI pro-

National Electric Vehicle

Infrastructure formula program

to provide funding to states to de-

ploy EV charging networks.

"There's no way Mr. Musk would

walk away from effectively free

money. It may be possible Mr.

Musk will reconstitute the EV

charger team in bigger, badder,

statements, said they are not

changing plans to equip their EVs

with connectors that will allow

drivers of Chevrolet, Cadillac or

Ford brand EVs to recharge at

GM and Ford, in separate

more Muskian way."

#### senior executive officer, marketing & sales Partho Banerjee said. Hyundai Motor India chief he added. Land owned by Godrej & Boyce

has ₹3-trn potential

## RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH

THE LAND holdings owned by Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company, part of Jamshyd Godrej-controlled Godrej Enterprises Group (GEG), in Vikhroli area of Mumbai can generate sales of over Rs 3 trillion if it goes for residential property de-

velopment in the area. Residential properties are selling at upwards of Rs 30,000 per sq ft in Godrej's projects in the vicinity. About 100 million sq ft of real estate could be developed on the land owned by Godrej & Boyce, according to estimates of industry experts. Of the 3,400 acres owned by Godrej & Boyce in Vikhroli, about 1,000 acres can be developed while 1,750 acres has mangroves and cannot be developed because of environmental concerns. The balance 300 acres

One acre costs between Rs 70 crore and Rs 80 crore in Vikhroli. Hence, the land value of the Godrej & Boyce land parcel comes to Rs 80,000 crore.

The land parcel was acquired by the Godrej family in early 1940s from the Bombay High Court receiver. It was originally given by the East India Company to a Parsi merchant, Framjee Banaji, in the 1830s and came up for sale in

On Tuesday, the Godrej family announced the family settlement agreement between family mem-

## Godrej family makes open offer for Astec

Godrej family and trusts have made an open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in Astec Lifesciences, as part of the family settlement. The open offer for Astec Lifesciences is for up to 5.09 million shares at a price of Rs 1,069.75 per share, totalling Rs 545.47 crore. The open offer, on full acceptance, will cost Rs 545 crore to the Adi/Nadir family, said a regulatory update. The offer was triggered from the Adi/Nadir family's plan to acquire 20.84 per cent stake in Godrej Industries from the Jamshyd Godrej/Smita Crishna Godrej family. **FE** 

business between patriarch Adi Godrei and cousin Jamshyd

After the split of businesses on Tuesday, Godrej Boyce and Godrej Properties, on Wednesday announced that the two companies will continue their memorandums of understanding executed from time to time, for development of land in Vikhroli owned by Godrej & Boyce, as and when Godrej & Boyce is desirous of de-

Maruti Suzuki India's sales in the domestic market was flat at 137,952 units. Reuters File

operating officer (COO) Tarun Garg said the PV industry's growth seen in April was a reflection of what was estimated in beginning of 2024 of about an overall low single-digit growth. "It is more because of the high base effect of the last two years and not necessarily a slowdown," he said, adding that the inquiry levels and booking were at similar levels to the last year.

With the improvement in the supply chain, the overall order elections and there is a model book of the industry has recode of conduct... During the duced, Garg said. elections the markets are a little

The prediction of a normal monsoon augurs well, especially from a rural sales perspective, which has also been accelerated by the rapid development in road infrastructure and rising aspirations of the consumers there,

On the other hand, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said its total wholesales increased 32 per cent year-on-year to 20,494 units. "We believe that this stable performance underlines a strong foundation for another positive year," Toyota Kirloskar Motor vice-president, salesservice-used car business Sabari Manohar said.

MG Motor India said its retail sales declined 1.45 per cent to 4,485 units.

In the two-wheeler segment, TVS Motor Company reported 29 per cent growth in the domestic market at 301,449 units. Hero MotoCorp reported a 33

per cent growth at 513,296 units, while mid-sized motorcycle maker Royal Enfield reported a 9 per cent growth in domestic sales at 75,038 units.

## FPIs withdraw over ₹8,600 cr from equities in April

After infusing money for two straight months, foreign portfolio investors turned net sellers in April by selling equities worth ₹8.671 crore, data with depositories showed



A surge in commodity prices and higher US inflation dashed hopes of an early rate cut by the US Fed Additionally, a surge in commodity prices, especially oil and higher

thereby triggering a surge in the US 10-year yield

**CUSTOMERS LEFT IN THE DARK** 

**REUTERS** 

on Tuesday.

DETROIT/NEW DELHI, MAY 1

ELON MUSK'S abrupt decision to

lay off employees who ran

Tesla's electric vehicle (EV)

charging business blindsided au-

tomakers gearing up to equip

new EVs for customers to use the

Tesla Supercharger network, in-

dustry officials and analysts said

and other automakers which

struck deals last year to give cus-

tomers access to the network said

they are not changing their plans.

network to rival EV manufactur-

ers was hailed by US President Joe

Biden, and opened the door for

Tesla's decision to open its

For now, General Motors, Ford

US retail inflation dashed hopes of an early rate cut by the US Fed

**Elon Musk.** 

(NACS) system.

Source: Data with depositories/PTI

## MUMBAI, MAY 1

has been encroached upon.

gram," he said, referring to the

1941-42.

bers and division of assets and

# Adi & Nadir

Mumbai: The Adi and Nadir

Godrej.

veloping the said land.

## Power consumption in India rises 11% in April

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

**INDIA'S POWER consumption** rose around 11 per cent to 144.25 billion units (BU) in April as compared to the year-ago period, mainly due increase in temperatures. In April 2023, the power consumption stood at 130.08 BU,

a government data showed. The highest supply in a day (peak power demand) also rose to 224.18 GW in April 2024 as against to 215.88 GW in April 2023. The power ministry has estimated around 260 GW of peak demand

during summer. Experts said the increase in power consumption as well as growth in demand was mainly due to increase in temperatures and increased industrial activities in sectors like steel and power. The demand for power as well as consumption will continue to see ro-

bust growth with the onset of summer, they said. The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer in 2023, but it did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rainfall Peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.82 GW in August 2023, while it was 243.27 GW in September, 222.16 GW in October, 204.77 GW in November, 213.79 GW in

December 2023, 223.51 GW in

January 2024, and 222.72 GW in

Dated: 30.04.2024

Dated: 30.04.2024

Rs.1,19,05,968/-

Rs.1,79,000/-

February 2024.

# Vedanta to invest \$20 billion in 4 years in India: Anil Agarwal

**RAJESHKURUP** MUMBAI, MAY 1

BANKING ON the country's growth potential, Vedanta Group is planning to invest \$20 billion in India in the next four years, said chairman Anil Agarwal. The investments will happen mostly in the technology, electronics, semiconductors and glass segments,

he added. "Investments in electronics, technology and glass are important to create a lot of industries and jobs. Semiconductors and glass – used in making smartphones and laptops screens – are very essential from a future perspective, and for both we have factories in Taiwan and Korea,"

## STEEL BUSINESS SALE

On steel business sale, which was supposed to be happen by March, Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal said a getting the right price

Agarwal said on the sidelines of an event in Mumbai.

land in Gujarat, while it is making progress on the glass business. India," he said, adding the group is keen on partnerships. He said

that some of the developed nations have exploited natural resources to become rich. He rued that there are concerns on the environmental impact of mining in India. "We cannot depend on imports; we have the best of gold and diamond here," he added.

Tesla to get federal subsidies to

expand the reach of its North

American Charging Standard

head of the business, Rebecca

Musk's decision to dismiss the

about the steel business sale. which was supposed to be happen by March, Agarwal said a transaction depends on getting the right price. "We are committed... if we get the right price to divest it," he said, adding that if the group doesn't get the right price, it will choose to continue running the business by itself. On the closing of the copper smelter in Tamil Nadu, Agarwal said it was just 0.3 per cent of its business. FE



Tesla stations.

E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding) Fender Enquiry No: HO(Works)/Contracts/HMM/SB/DIOM/2024/1006/205 Dtd. 02.05.2024 NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids through MSTC Portal from experienced domestic bidders for the work of Hiring of Mining Machineries for excavation of 40.00 LT (+/- 20%) of waste in two years @ 20.00 LT (+/- 20%) of waste per year in South Block area of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (DIOM) and extendable by another year on same terms and conditions on mutual consent

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from 02.05.2024 to 03.06.2024 from following website links; NMDC website - https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender

Central Public Procurement portal-https://www.eprocure.gov.in/ epublish/app and search tender through tender enquiry number MSTC Portal - portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/ For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC

website (use Microsoft Edge browser for compatibility) and search Tender

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Portal. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website/CPP Portal/ MSTC

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:

040-23534746, Telephone No. 040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in Executive Director (Works)

## BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

#### INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP-Portal only)

BWSSB, invites tenders in Two Stage Tender system from registered Agencies for the following works. Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Amount put to tender Name of Work No. **EMD Amount** 

No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE/(Cstr&DCW)/TA/161/2024-25 Procurement of 276 Nos of 100mm dia Removable Mechanism

Rs.1,19,78,124 Type Water Meters conforming to IS:2373/1981 or ISO:4064/ Rs.2,00,000/-1/EEC/MID

For the above works the Last date and time for Receipt of Tenders will be on: 09.05.2024 before 16:00 hrs. and the date of opening of the Technical Tender will be opened on 13.05.2024 at 12:00 noon.

#### No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE/(Cstr&DCW)/TA/162/2024-25

2 Procurement of 257 Nos of 50mm dia & 175 nos of 80mm dia Removable Mechanism Type Water Meters conforming to IS:2373/1981 or ISO:4064/1/EEC/MID (4th Call).

For the above works the Last date and time for Receipt of Tenders will be on: 09.05.2024

before 15:00 hrs. and the date of opening of the Technical Tender will be opened on 13.05.2024 at 12:00 noon. Sd/- Chief Engineer (Project) The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by

logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

ECI Approved No.CS/14/SCM/2024 Dated: 19.04.2024

DIPR/CP/RO51/AAPL/2024-25

epaper indianexpress.com

transaction depends on

For its semiconductor business, Vedanta Group has bought "We are already making glass, but now we have to make that in

Reuters File

Meanwhile, when asked

WORKS DIVISION - CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

basis at Donimalai, Dist; Bellary, Karnataka state-583 118.

Event No. NMDC/Head Office/Contract/2/24-25/ET/26 Portal for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No.

#ExpressExplained

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

# The challenge and necessity of 'balance' in use of fertilisers

HARISH DAMODARAN NEW DELHI, MAY 1

BALANCED FERTILISATION — that is, discouraging farmers from applying too much urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) or muriate of potash (MOP), which have only primary nutrients in high concentration — is likely to be a key policy goal for the new government that takes over after the conclusion of the Lok

Urea consumption hit a record 35.8 million tonnes (mt) in the fiscal ended March 2024, 16.9% higher than 30.6 mt in 2013-14, the

Sabha election.

year before the Narendra Modi government came to power. Consumption of this fertiliser, containing 46% nitrogen (N), fell during 2016-17 and 2017-18 — which was attributed to the mandatory coating of all urea with neem oil from May 2015.

But the consumption of urea has only gone up during the last six years (Table).

**Nutrient-based subsidy** 

Fertilisers contain nutrients that are necessary for plant growth and grain yields. Balanced fertilisation means supplying primary (N, phosphorus-P, potassium-K), secondary (sulphur-S, calcium, magnesium) and micro (iron, zinc, copper, manganese, boron, molybdenum) nutrients in right proportions, based on soil type and crop requirements.

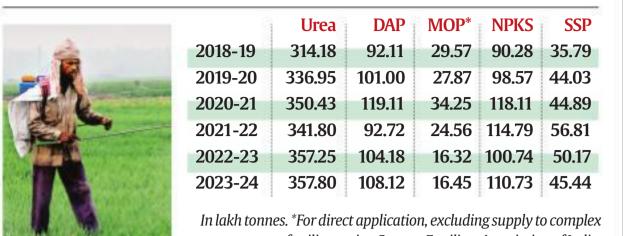
In April 2010, the UPA government introduced a nutrient-based sub-

sidy (NBS) system, under which a per-kg subsidy was fixed for N, P, K, and S. The idea was to wean away farmers from urea, DAP (18% N, 46% P

content) and MOP (60% K) in favour of complex fertilisers containing N, P, K, S and other nutrients in balanced proportions with lower concentrations.

Between 2009-10 and 2011-12, DAP and MOP consumption declined, and that of NPKS complexes and single super phosphate (SSP: 16% P, 11% S) rose. But NBS failed because it ex-

#### **ALL-INDIA CONSUMPTION OF FERTILISER PRODUCTS**



fertiliser units. Source: Fertiliser Association of India.

cluded urea. With its maximum retail price (MRP) being controlled, and raised by a total of just 16.5% — from Rs 4,830 to Rs 5,628 per tonne – post the introduction of NBS, urea consumption increased through the 10 years each of the UPA and Modi governments.

'Price hierarchy' challenge

The last couple of years have seen even non-urea fertilisers being brought under price control, first informally and then formally since January 2024. According to industry sources, the restoration of controls has worsened nutrient imbalances.

The current MRP of DAP, at Rs 1,350 per 50-kg bag, is below the Rs 1,470 for the 10:26:26:0 and 12:32:16:0 NPKS complex fertilisers, notwithstanding their lower N and P content. Even 20:20:0:13, which accounted for nearly 5.4 mt out of the total 11.1 mt of NPKS complexes consumed in 2023-24, is retailing at Rs 1,200-1,225 per bag, only marginally lower than DAP. DAP has, thus, become the "new urea", with farmers inclined to over-apply both.

On the other hand, MOP's MRP of Rs 1,650 per bag incentivizes neither farmers to apply directly nor companies to incorporate it into complexes. The most widely consumed complex fertiliser, 20:20:0:13, contains no K.

"That isn't good; potassium boosts immunity against pests and diseases as well as uptake of nitrogen," a source said.

Sources said an immediate challenge is to ensure proper "price hierarchy" among non-urea fertilisers. This would mean pricing DAP the highest, MOP lowest, and complexes in between.

DAP use should be restricted mainly to rice and wheat. Other crops can meet their P requirement through complexes and SSP.

The opportunity for India

India is heavily import-dependent in fertilisers, and high global prices add to both foreign exchange outgo and the government's subsidy burden.

Landed prices of imported urea, DAP, and MOP have fallen to around \$340, \$520-525 and \$319 per tonne respectively, from corresponding recent records of \$900-1,000 (in Nov-Jan 2021-22), \$950-960 (July 2022) and \$590 (till March 2023).

Even prices of phosphoric acid, a DAP manufacturing input, are down to \$948 per tonne from the \$1,715 levels of July-September, 2022.

The cooling of international prices gives some flexibility to the next government to rationalise MRPs of fertilisers and promote balanced plant nutrition. This could involve bringing urea under NBS and mitigating the impact of a significant hike in its MRP by increasing the subsidy rates on other nutrients.

LONGER EXPLAINER, MORE DATA indianexpress.com/explained

### EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

**EXPLAINED** 

**ECONOMICS** 

## WHY IS CHINA MORE IMPORTANT FOR TESLA THAN INDIA?

**RAVI DUTTA MISHRA** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

WITHIN A week of postponing his visit to India, Tesla CEO Elon Musk landed in Beijing, underscoring China's importance in the global supply chain of the world's most valuable electric vehicle (EV) maker.

#### Battery production king

China accounts for over half of the global EV sales, largely driven by its dominance in battery production. Musk's recent China visit saw him meet Robin Zeng, the chairman of Chinese battery giant CATL, which accounts for two-thirds of global battery production, and is a supplier for Tesla and other major automakers like Volkswagen AG and Toyota Motor Corp.

#### Shanghai gigafactory

When it comes to EV production, China has left the US and Europe far behind, and is now a key engine of growth for Tesla. In 2018, the EV major opened its biggest manufacturing unit in Shanghai after a new Chinese policy allowed foreign carmakers to establish fully-owned subsidiaries in the country. The Shanghai plant produces over 1 million units of Tesla's most successful Model 3 and Model Y cars annually.

#### India's nascent EV push A global shift from internal combustion

engine vehicles to EVs presents a massive opportunity, but India's EV push is still in its nascency. According to a 2022 Niti Aayog report, the biggest demand for lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) in India comes from consumer electronics such as laptops and mobile phones. The LIB market through EV sales in India was only about 1 GWh, compared to 4.5 GWh for consumer electronics. The report, however, said that India is wellpositioned to capture a large share of the growing market, and could represent 13% of global battery demand by 2030.

**Regulatory flip-flops** 

India's EV policy was released last



In Beijing, Musk reportedly won key **approvals for Full Self-Driving** *Reuters* 

month after years of flip-flops. In 2018, the then Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant had said that there was no need for an electric vehicle policy. However, in 2018-19, the Centre increased customs duty on completely knocked down imports of motor vehicles, motor cars, motorcycles from 10% to 15%. Last month when India finally released its EV policy, it eased duty on completely built-up cars with a minimum investment limit for manufacturers at Rs 4.150 crore.

#### **Opportunity for India**

Despite China's dominance over the EV supply chain, its exports are increasingly coming under scrutiny in Europe and the US — presenting an opportunity for India.

The European Commission (EC) in October last year launched an anti-subsidy investigation into the imports of battery electric vehicles from China. "Based on the investigation's findings, the Commission will establish whether it is in the EU's interest to remedy the effects of the unfair trade practices found by imposing antisubsidy duties on imports of battery electric vehicles from China," the EC said.

the US carmakers.



Meanwhile, United States Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo has also warned that Chinese EVs are a threat to



## **EXPLAINED** LAW

# The question of Article 31C

While hearing a case about private property, SC has asked whether Article 31C, a fundamental right, still exists. What is this article, when was it introduced in the Constitution, what has been its legal journey?

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

DURING THE ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court to decide whether the government can acquire and redistribute private property, a nine-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud asked a question of "radical constitutional consequence": Does Article 31C still exist?

Article 31C of the Constitution protects laws that are enacted to ensure that "material resources of the community" are distributed to serve the common good (Article 39(b)) and that wealth and the means of production are not "concentrated" to the "common detriment" (Article 39(c)).

Article 39 of the Constitution lists certain directive principles of state policy, which are meant to be guiding principles for the enactment of laws, but are not directly enforceable in any court of law.

As per Article 31C, these particular directive principles (Articles 39(b) and 39(c)) cannot be challenged by invoking the right to equality (Article 14) or the rights under Article 19 (freedom of speech, right to assemble peacefully, etc).

So why is the continued existence of Article 31C itself now under question? And how is this article of the Constitution related to the question of private property that the court is considering?

#### **Introduction of Article 31C**

Article 31C was introduced by The Constitution (Twenty-fifth) Amendment Act, 1971. The law was essentially framed to ringfence an adverse court ruling in the Bank Nationalisation Case of 1970.

Article 31C says: "...No law giving effect to the policy of the State towards securing the principles specified in clause (b) or clause (c) of article 39 shall be deemed to be void on the ground that it is inconsistent with, or takes away or abridges any of the rights conferred by article 14, article 19 or article 31; and no law containing a declaration that it is for giving effect to such policy shall be called in question in any court on the ground that it does not give effect to such policy..."

#### **Journey of Article 31C**

The 25th Amendment Act was challenged in the seminal Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) in which 13 judges held by a narrow 7-6 majority that the Constitution has a "basic structure" that cannot be altered, even



The Indian Express front page report on the Supreme Court's judgment in the Kesavananda Bharati case. The court ruled that even laws that are protected by Article 31C must pass the basic structure test — even if such laws can bypass Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution.

by a constitutional amendment.

As a part of this verdict, the court struck down the last portion of Article 31C – the part that states "...and no law containing a declaration that it is for giving effect to such policy shall be called in question in any court on the ground that it does not give effect to such policy".

The Kesavanada ruling allowed land reforms laws that were under challenge, but stated that even laws that are protected by Article 31C must pass the "basic structure" test — even if such laws can bypass Articles 14 and 19. Simply put, the court ruled that the land reforms did not violate the basic structure of the Constitution, but for all future examinations, the test would apply.

In 1976, Parliament enacted The Constitution (Forty-second) Amendment Act, which expanded the protection under Article 31C to "all or any of the principles laid down in Part IV of the Constitution". As a result, every single directive principle (Articles 36-51) was protected from challenges under Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution.

The Statement of Objects of Reasons for the amendment stated that it was meant to give precedence to the directive principles "over those fundamental rights which have been allowed to be relied upon to frustrate socio-economic reforms for implementing the directive principles".

In 1980, in its judgment in Minerva Mills

v. Union of India, the Supreme Court struck down clauses 4 and 5 of the amendment. The five-judge Bench held that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution was limited; it could not be used to remove these limitations and grant itself "unlimited" and "absolute" powers of amendment. However, this ruling birthed a conun-

drum that the apex court must now address. By striking down a part of the 25th Amendment, did the court strike down Article 31C as a whole, or did it restore the post-Kesavananda Bharati position wherein Articles 39(b) and (c) remained protected?

#### Ongoing case in top court

The court is hearing a challenge to Chapter VIII-A of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976 (MHADA). This chapter, introduced by an amendment in 1986, allows the government to acquire "cessed" properties in Mumbai at the request of the occupants, citing the obligation under Article 39(b) of the Constitution to distribute "material resources of the community...to subserve the common good".

Occupants of cessed properties — old, dilapidated buildings that house poor tenants despite becoming increasingly unsafe — are required to pay a cess to the Mumbai Building Repair and Reconstruction Board which oversees repair and restoration projects.

In 1991, the Property Owners' Association

in Mumbai challenged the 1986 amendment at the Bombay High Court. But the High Court upheld the amendment, citing the protection granted by Article 31C to laws enacted in furtherance of Article 39(b).

This decision was appealed at the SC in December 1992, where the question eventually became whether "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) included private resources such as cessed properties.

#### Arguments in the SC

When the hearing finally began, on the first day (April 23), the nine-judge Bench seemed to agree with the Centre's submission that the case should be restricted to interpreting Article 39(b). CJI Chandrachud said, "It's very clear that the ambit of the reference to nine judges is squarely only on the content of 39(b)," according to reporting by the Supreme Court Observer.

However, the very next day, the Bench stated that the question of whether Article 31C still lives following the *Minerva Mills* decision has to be decided to avoid "constitutional uncertainty".

Senior advocate Zal Andhyarujina, appearing for the petitioners, argued that the original version of Article 31C was 'substituted' with the expanded version provided in the 42nd Amendment. This, Andhyarujina argued, means the older version of the provision ceased to exist once the amendment came into force. Therefore, when this new Article 31C was struck down in Minerva Mills, the older provision would not automatically be revived.

On the other hand, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, argued that the doctrine of revival must apply in this case, and the post-Kesavananda Bharati position on Article 31C must be restored. To explain the doctrine and justify its application, Mehta relied on Justice Kurian Joseph's observations in the case where the court struck down The Constitution (Ninetyninth) Amendment Act (NJAC Act).

Justice Joseph held that the old collegium system for appointment of judges would be revived once the 99th Amendment (which introduced the National Judicial Appointments Commission) was struck down. He observed, "Once the process of substitution and insertion by way of a constitutional amendment is itself held to be bad and impermissible, the pre-amended provisions automatically resurface and revive. That alone can be the reasonably inferential

# Booker slavery links: Behind the criticism of the prestigious literary prize

**RISHIKA SINGH** NEW DELHI, MAY 1

THE BOOKER Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in the literary world, has repeatedly come under fire for the historical links to slavery of its original sponsor, Booker Group.

Last week, a BBC Radio host reminded the organisation behind the prize that Booker Group founders George and Josias Booker did not, as the Prize website said, "manage" en-

slaved people — rather, they turned African people into slaves. The website then changed the word "managed" to "enslaved".

#### **Prestigious honour**

The Booker Prize was founded in 1969, initially just for writers from the Commonwealth, but was later opened to

writers all over the world. Every year, the prize is awarded to a single work of fiction in the English language. In 2004, a separate International Booker Prize was instituted for translated works. The prize was co-founded by publish-

ers Tom Maschler and Graham C Greene. and from 1969 to 2001, it was sponsored by,

and named after Booker Group Ltd. Booker is a British wholesale foods company that was established in 1835 as a shipping and trading company, and which is now

owned by Tesco.

**EXPLAINED** 

**HISTORY** 

In 2002, British investment management firm Man Group became the sponsor of the prize, and it thus came to be known as The Man Booker Prize. After the Man Group ended its sponsorship in 2019, the American charity Crankstart took over, and reverted to the award's original name, Booker Prize.



Berger, during his 1972 acceptance **speech.** *Youtube screengrab/@TheBookerPrizes* 

#### Links to slavery

Following the 1815 Congress of Vienna, the northeastern coast of South America was divided among three European powers: the Dutch got modern-day Suriname, the French

got French Guiana (still a French overseas territory), and the British got what is now known as Guyana. Many entrepreneurial Europeans like the Booker brothers headed to these colonies in search of fortune.

The economy of Guyana was driven by the sugar and (to a lesser degree) cotton industries, with African slaves providing labour on the plantations. The Booker brothers were part of this slave-based economy. According to the Booker website, Josias

managed a cotton plantation in northern Guyana where he enslaved "nearly 200 people". Along with his brother, he would then go on to own several sugar plantations, which too were operated by slave labour.

When slavery was abolished in Guyana in 1834, "the Booker brothers received compensation from the state for 52 emancipated slaves. The Legacies of Slave Ownership database at University College London records the total sum as £2,884, equivalent to £378,000 in 2020," the Booker website says.

#### Indentured labour

The exploitation did not stop with the emancipation of the African slaves. Plantation owners like the Bookers joined in the exploitation of another population — Indian labourers who faced massive debt and unemployment at home, in no small part due to the agrarian policies of the East India Company.

"Rather than pay fair wages to free African workers, British planters such as the Bookers convinced the British government to help finance voyages to collect replacement sugar workers — indentured workers from India," Natalie Hopkinson, a journalism professor whose ancestors were enslaved in Guyana and worked at the Bookers' farms, wrote for *The New York Times* in 2017.

The system of indentured labour lasted until about the 1920s. The scale of the migration of labourers from India was such that people of Indian origin are today the single largest ethnic group in Guyana.

#### Previous criticism

In 1972, philosopher and art critic John Berger won the Booker Prize for his experimental novel G. Protesting the prize's links to slavery, he donated half the prize money to the British Black Panther movement, an organisation that fought for the rights of Black people and minorities in the country.

During his acceptance speech, Berger said: "Booker McConnell has had extensive trading interests in the Caribbean for over 130 years. The modern poverty of the Caribbean is the direct result of this and similar exploitation... The London-based Black Panther Movement has arisen out of the bones of what Bookers and other companies have created in the Caribbean... [The Black Panthers | have links with the struggle in Guyana...in Trinidad and throughout the Caribbean: the struggle whose aim is to expropriate all such enterprises."



#### **EVENT** — **RITES**

RITES celebrated its 50th anniversary recently. The month-long Foundation Day celebrations, 'Marking The Gold', carried across worksites culminated with a cultural evening. On the occasion, CMD Rahul Mithal launched RITES' coffee table book – Atulya, a compilation tracing the organization's illustrious journey of becoming 'The Infrastructure People'. In addition, it marked the unveiling of 'RITES Dharohar', a novel initiative.

#### MOU — RAILTEL

RailTel has signed a Tripartite MoU with InoviTel LTD & Tsiko Africa Energy and Infrastructure for Tsiko Group to cooperate and collaborate on projects to bring Indian technology, innovation and products to South Africa and the adjoining region & explore opportunities in Telecom, Railways and other IT/ICT businesses in South Africa.



#### MOU — NHPC

NHPC has signed an MOU with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company operating as a technology provider to the floating solar industry. The MOU was signed in Hybrid mode by VR Shrivastava, ED (REGH), NHPC & Kristian Tørvold, CEO, Ocean Sun, in the presence of May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, RK

PARADE — CRPF

The Passing Out Parade of the 54th batch of 22 Directly Appointed Gazetted Officers of the CRPF took place at the CRPF Academy in Gurugram. The Parade was the culmination of a comprehensive 52week arduous training covering a wide range of subjects. The occasion was graced by Anish Dayal Singh, DG of CRPF, as the chief guest of the function. The parade was commanded by Vinay Jawla.



#### MOU — THDCIL

THDCIL & SJVN Foundation have inked an MoU to establish THDCIL High-Performance Academy in Uttarakhand's Tehri Power Complex. Highlighting its significance, RK Vishnoi, CMD of THDCIL, said that this MoU underlines the commitment to not only provide affordable power 24 x7 to the nation but also unleashes the power of sports development in the country in the realization of the vision of 'Viksit Bharat.'

Chaudhary, Dir. (Tech.), NHPC & R Gupta, ED (SBDC), NHPC at Embassy of

Norway in ND & Dr. Acquino Vimal, Ambassador of India to Norway.

#### MEETING— HEMKUND SAHIB MANAGEMENT TRUST

Narinderjit Singh Bindra, the Chairman of the Hemkund Sahib Management Trust, met the Governor, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd) and invited him to the Shri Hemkund Sahib Yatra to see off the first group of pilgrims being led by the Panj Pyaras from Rishikesh on May 22 for the auspicious beginning of the Hemkund Sahib Yatra-2024.



#### **EVENT**—PNB

On the 130th foundation day of Punjab National Bank, a ceremony & cultural programme were organized at the Zonal Office in Delhi, for senior citizen customers. The ceremony commenced with the unveiling of a statue of the bank's founder, Lala Lajpat Rai, by the Zonal Manager Sameer Bajpai, General Manager Vikramjit Som, and Rajeev Jain, along with offerings of floral tributes.

#### AGREEMENT—NDVSU

An agreement was signed between Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur, & St. Petersburg State University of Veterinary Medicine of Russia. Under this agreement,

the representatives from Russia came on a two-day visit. Vice Rector Professor Dr. Nikitin, Dr Lutik & Harsha Pandrangi visited the College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Jabalpur. During this visit, Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Sita Prasad Tiwari was present along with the representatives from Russia.



## **CORPORATE BRIEFS**

#### **EVENT—HUDCO**

To commemorate 54 years of dedicated service to the nation, HUDCO organized its Foundation Day at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD HUDCO congratulated & encouraged the employees. He said, "The dedication, expertise & unwavering commitment of our shared vision have been the driving force behind our achievements". On this occasion, awards for outstanding

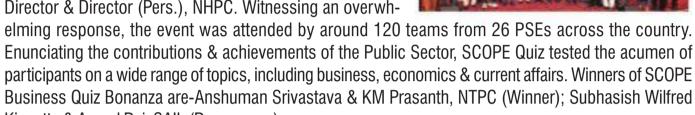


publications, namely, HUDCO Design Awards – 2023-24, SHELTER, HUDCO Darpan, Awaas Dhwani, Meru Sandesh, Madhya Sandesh, Johaar & several other magazines were released.

NTPC proudly announces its resounding victory at the prestigious SCOPE Business Quiz Bonanza, held recently at SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi as part of the Public Sector Day celebrations. The NTPC team comprising of K M Prashanth, GM (CC) & Anshuman Srivastava, DGM (CP) emerged as the winner in the grand finale, surpassing stiff competition from other esteemed public sector units. The prizes were distributed by Amarendu Prakash, CMD (SAIL), Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, Uttam Lal, Director (HR), NHPC and others senior dignitaries from SCOPE. DK Patel, Director (HR), NTPC congratulated the team members for their excellent performance. More than 100 teams from various Maharatna, Navaratna and Miniratna PSUs participated in the quiz from across the country. After an initial screening round, followed by two semi-final rounds, the grand finale had four teams - one team from NTPC and three teams from SAIL. After four rounds of quizzing, NTPC team emerged as the winner. The quiz covered questions from management concepts, current business events,

#### **BUSINESS QUIZ BONANZA — SCOPE**

Fostering inter-organisational learning & teamwork, SCOPE hosted a thrilling Business Quiz Bonanza at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi. The event was addressed by Amarendu Prakash, CMD, SAIL; Atul Sobti DG, SCOPE & Uttam Lal, Program



felicitate the team members behind the groundbreaking achievement of the All-Women Run 3G Ethanol & Butene-1 units. Since their inception in July 2023, these units, under the stewardship of ML Dahriya, ED & Refinery Head, PRPC, have operated marking a significant milestone in the history of the Corporation. Mistry praised the women engineers, emphasizing

that their success has redefined excellence in the oil refining industry & highlighted IndianOil's commitment to empowering its women workforce. Under the guidance of SM Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, this initiative not only signifies inclusivity but also underscores the company's dedication to shaping a brighter, more equitable future. The 3G Ethanol Plant at Panipat Refinery, utilizing off-gases to produce ethanol, stands as a testament to



standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter & yearended 31 st March 2024. Revenue growth of 25% from operations: Rs.12,613 crore vs. Rs.10,113 crores. Total income showed a growth of 25% from Rs.10,124

Azadi <sub>Ka</sub> Amrit Mahotsav

crores to Rs.12,643 crore. Net interest income showed a growth of 29% from Rs.4,407 crore to Rs.3,409 crore. Net Profit showed growth 34% from Rs.4,016 crore to Rs.3,001 cr. Total Comprehensive Income showed 42% growth from Rs.5,183 crore to Rs.3,645 crore. Yield was 10.03% from 9.65%, up 38 bps.



THDCIL UJVNL Energy Company Ltd. (TUECO), a Joint Venture of THDCIL and UJVN Ltd., has inked an MoU with Nagar Nigam Haridwar to establish a Waste to Green Energy Plant worth Rs.140 crs. This initiative aims to convert 400 Tons

paragliding centres.



into 140 Tons of Green Charcoal. RK Vishnoi. CMD. THDCIL informed that the establishment of this plant is poised to address environmental challenges stemming from solid waste while fostering cleaner surroundings, aligning with the vision of Swachh Bharat. He further added that representing a landmark for the sacred city of Haridwar, this endeavour underscores India's self-reliance ethos through the utilization of cutting-edge indigenous technology for solid waste management. The MoU was formalized between Varun Chaudhary, IAS, Municipal Commissioner of Haridwar and Sandeep Kumar, CEO of TUECO Ltd. in the presence of officials of TUECO and Nagar Nigam Haridwar.

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No. JHS/Commercial/e-Auction/24/12

Date: 29.04.2024

(Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under :-

Catalogue No.: Asset Details: 1. Advertisement right through Non Digital

Shed of BJI, CGN, GRM, SPDM, GOA & MTH Station of JHS Division. Auction Start: 13.05.2024 at 10.30 hrs., Auction End: 13.05.2024 at 11.20 hrs., Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing

#### **E-Auction Notice** On behalf of the President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager

JHS-ADV-MISC-02 media inside Dabra (DBA) Station. 2. Advertisement right through Out of home in the circulating area Zone-D at VGLI Station. 3. Under misllenious Statics policy BOXN/BOXNHL Wagon Cleaning contract at Good

module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

f North central railways 🏶 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 🖉 @northcentralrailway 🗵 @ CPRONCR

## **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE** 

The Sr. DME/Diesel, Northern Railway, Diesel Loco Shed, Tughlakabad for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tenders for the following work. The tender will be accepted online only in the prescribed tender document

Provision for Modification of Conventional hand brake to modified hand Name of brake (gear type) arrangement in electric locomotives as per RDSO Modification Sheet No. RDSO/2014/EL/MS/0440, (Rev.1) dated 16.09.2015

Place of work Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044 Qty./Period of Completion 32 Nos./06 Months Approximate ₹4,69,793.92 Inclusive of GST @ 18% (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Three and Ninety

Two Paisa Only) Amount of Bid Security | ₹9,400/- (Rupees Nine Thousand Four Hundred only) Technical & Financial eligibility criteria as per Clause 10

tender form Second sheet of the Tender Document www.ireps.gov.in Website to download and upload e-tender document Due date & time of uploading of tender

22.05.2024 upto 12:00 hrs. by tenderer Date & Time of Tender opening 22:05:2024 after 12:00 hrs.

60 days from opening of tender Validity of offer Tender Document can be downloaded from Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. For details of work experience, scope of work and terms & conditions please see Tender document. Tender Notice No.:- DSL-TKD-HBGT-MOD-OT-23

Dated: 30.04.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

1316/2024

#### **WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION**

#### **VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**

e-TENDER NOTICE NO.DRM-BRC 034 TO 036 OF 2024-25 Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works.

ı										
I	Sr. No.	Tender No. & Name of Work	Approximate cost of the work (₹)	Bid Security to be deposited (₹)						
I	01	DRM BRC 034 OF 2024-25	11,56,362.59	23,100.00						
		Vadodara (P):- Annual Maintenance Contract of under ground drainage system and manholes under the jurisdiction of Sr.Sectic Engineer (Works) BRCP (Re-invite) (R-2)								

27,600.00 13,77,314.87 DRM BRC 035 OF 2024-25 Vadodara Yard :- Annual Maintenance Contract of under ground drainage system and manholes under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (Works) BRCY

**DRM BRC 036 OF 2024-25** 2,00,65,882.42 2,50,300.00 Vadodara Division :- Improvement to road surfacing under jurisdiction of ADEN-ANAND

Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Tender is to be submitted on 17.05.2024 before 15.00 Hrs, and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Web site particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-1, Website: www.ireps.gov.in

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#### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

No. Comml/ABSS/JU/24

"Expression of Interest (EOI) to lease out Commercial space at various stations, planned to be redeveloped under Amrit Bharat Stations over Jodhpur Division."

Commercial Department of Jodhpur Division (North Western Railway) is seeking applications from interest parties who are willing to effectively utilize few commercial spaces over stations being redeveloped under Amrit Bharat stations scheme over Jodhpur Division. The purpose of this EOI is to assess the market price, The Rental/leasing process would be conducted further through E-Auction. Interested parties may obtain their form from https://nwr.indianrailways.gov.in and also forms may be obtained from Commercial Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Jodhpur - upto14:00 hrs of 15.05.2024

#### SUBMISSION OF EOI

The EOIs to be submitted by 15.05.2024 at 18:00 Hrs. from the Interested Parties shall be in prescribed format as under: 1) Covering Letter on company letter head), expressing their proposal (details of planned project for utilization of commercial space). 2) Details of interested areas and basic details of Applicant/Firm- These to be sent in the .pdf format via E-mailsrdcm.ju@gmail.com

Interested parties may send their EOI along with the details of proposals up to 15.05.2024 to Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Commercial Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Jodhpur - 342001 Contact No. 9001198950 (Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Jodhpur) 505-AD/24

Please join us on NWRailways

#### **APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a female namely Unknown, D/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 30.04.2024 at 09:51 AM Yamuna River Near Old Wazirabad Bridge Delhi. In this regard DD No. 31 A, dated 30.04.2024 has been lodged at Police Station, Timar Pur,

Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of female is

Name: Unknown, Age: 25 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, ID Mark: Tattoo Mark on Left Hand Forearm, Wearing: Grey & Pink Colour Suit, Pink Colour Salwar and Nose Pin in left Side Nose. If anyone have any information or clue about this female

deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

DP/5204/N/2024

DP/5138/RD/2024

Police Station Timar Pur, Delhi Ph.: 011-23812734, 8750870130

#### 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 Bishnu Kumar Jha S/o Siyaram Jha R/o H.No.909, Near Rice Mill, Rithala Rohini, Delhi 2nd Address Kh. No 942, Rice Mill Rithala Rohini, Delhi 3rd Address Village - Lagma, PS Raj Sonbarsa, Post - Lagma, Distt. Seharsa, Bihar has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 1429/2017 U/s 376/354 IPC & 06/10 POCSO Act. P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Bishnu Kumar Jha cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Bishnu Kumar Jha has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Bishnu Kumar Jha of FIR No. 1429/2017 U/s 376/354 IPC & 06/10 POCSO Act, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.06.2024. By Order

Virender Singh Additional Session Judge (FTSC) (POCSO) (North West) Room No.318, 3rd Floor Rohini, Courts, Delhi

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Ref: (i) Tender Notice No. 45/2023-2024 dated 21.08.2023. (ii) Tender No. 15225019A due on 19.06.2024.

01. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 30.04.2024 to 19.06.2024.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The Corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.

1312/2024



owned vehicles on "As-is-where-is & Whatever-it-is basis" Details are available under 'e- Auction section' on Bank's

Addendum, if any shall be issued on Bank's website under 'e-Auction section'. Bidders are advised to check the website

Date and Time of Auction: 14/05/2024 Between 11.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M.

Date: 02.05.2024

Tender No.	C-6/STBA//Policy/II/2018
Name of work & its location	Appointment of "44" Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) i.e. 06 stations for NSG-5 category & 38 stations for NSG-6 category for issuance of Unreserved Tickets through computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) for a period of Three Years on contract basis at "44" locations of 'NSG-5 & 6

One Hundred Eighty only)

Earnest Money Deposit | ₹2,000/- (Rs. Two thousand only) applying for NSG-(EMD) to be deposited 6 category station & Rs. 5000/- (Rs. Five Thousand only) for applying for NSG-5 category station. Commercial Branch, DRM Office, State Entry Road, Address of the office New Delhi w.e.f. 02.05.2024 to 26.05.2024 on from where the tender working days in between 11:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs. form can be purchased

of tender and opening of the tender Where complete

Tender Type

SHO

Commercial Branch DRM Office, State Entry road, New Delhi thereafter, it shall be opened on same day at 15:10 hrs.

1323/2024

details of tender can be seen

#### "IMPORTANT"

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#### **SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

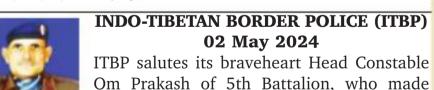
INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) 02 May 2024



Tribhuwan Singh Village- New Sera Pata Post- Pithoragarh, Distt.- Pithoragarh State- Uttarakhand



Distt.- Jodhpur



Head Constable

Om Prakash of 5th Battalion, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Haryana, during Instructor duty at

Distt.- CharkhiDadri, State- Haryana.

#### Sep Bhaskar Shriram Patond 02 May 1996

terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir. We remember your courage and determination and you continue to be an inspiration to all of us.

**Commanding Officer and all Officers Brave Aath** 

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM Ref: (i) Tender Notice: 101/2023-24 dated 13.03.2024 (S. No. 01)

(ii) Tender No. 04230049A due on 04.04.2024.

All the terms and conditions remain unchanged.

The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### ICICI BANK LIMITED

#### NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

have applied for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) Notice is hereby given that the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) to the below mentioned person(s) unless a valid objection is received by the company within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. No claims will be entertained by the company with respect to the original share certificate(s)

1 | 1019349 Manohar Lal Gulati | 102655 | 30742266 | 30751295 | 9030 2 1019349 Manohar Lal Gulati 1749530 6412384673 6412385575 903 Any person who has/have a claim in respect of the said certificate(s) should lodge

his/her/their claim with all supporting documents with the company at its registered

office. If no valid and legitimate claim is received within 15 days from the date of

publication of this notice, the company will proceed to issue Letter of Confirmation in ieu of duplicate share certificate(s) to the person listed above and no further claim This notice is given by Nominee Mr. Sharad gulati on behalf of his father late shri







performances were given to stakeholders, agencies as well as HUDCO employees. HUDCO

#### **BUSINESS QUIZ WINNER — NTPC**

brands, business personalities and also the history and legacy of Public Sector Companies.

Director & Director (Pers.), NHPC. Witnessing an overwh-

Kispotta & Anand Raj, SAIL (Runners-up).

## FELICITATION—INDIANOIL

Sukla Mistry, Dir. (Refineries) of IndianOil, visited PRPC to personally

innovation & sustainability.





#### e-Auction cum Sale Notice Bank of Baroda invites offer for E auction-cum-sale of Bank's

Website: www.bankofbaroda.in

before submission of EMD / Commencement of auction. Last date of EMD payment: 10.05.2024

Place: Mumbai Asst. General Manager-(COA, Baroda Corporate Centre)

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Category Railway Stations over Delhi Division: ₹1000/- + 18% GST i.e. ₹1180/- (Rs. One Thousand Cost of Tender

27.05.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. at Tender Room, Date & Time for submission

> Tender Notice and Tender Documents is available at Northern railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in in PDF format.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Advances in Retail, Agriculture & MSME (RAM) Sectors - RAM segment of the Bank increased by 13.88% y-o-y to Rs.97516 crore (4.05% from Rs.93720 Crore. q-o-q) backed by 14.62% y-o-y growth in Retail advances, 13.16% y-o-y growth in Agriculture advances and 13.53% y-o-y growth in MSME advances. Reduction in NPA – Asset quality improvement is depicted by reduction in Gross NPA by 132 bps to 3.46% (by 39 bps from 3.85% g-o-g) &

a two-day medical camp in the remote islands of Kavaratti and

Androth on 29 and 30 Apr 24 respectively. The outreach program

focused on providing super-specialist medical coverage in the far

flung islands and benefit the local populace through consultation

with domain experts. Dr M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS, Delhi is heading

the medical team comprising of 15 specialist doctors from fields of

UCO BANK Business Growth - Bank has shown consistent

growth where total Business grew by 9.50% y-o-y to Rs.450007

crore (3.34% from Rs. 435456 Crore. q-o-q) on, wherein Gross

Advances increased by 15.62% y-o-y to Rs. 186877 crore (4.29%)

from Rs. 179195 Crore. q-o-q) & Total Deposits grown by 5.53%

y-o-y to Rs.263130 crore (2.68% from Rs. 256261 Crore. q-o-q).

Gynecology, Pediatrics, Neurology, Dermatology, Orthopedic etc.

**MEDICAL CAMP—ICG** 

The Indian Coast

Guard (ICG) with su-

pport of the UT ad-

ministration and in co-

**Ilaboration with AIIMS** 

New Delhi, conducted

g)) as on 31.03.2024. **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board successfully** organized a four-day National Paragliding Accuracy Competition and Sky Diving Show at Koti Colony on the banks of the Tehri Lake. 72 paragliders from India's 15 states participated in the event, including 8 women and local paragliders from Uttarakhand along

Net NPA reduction by 40 bps to 0.89% (by 9 bps from 0.98% q-o-

with a 12-yr-old paraglider, Om Takve. Over a period of 3 days, five rounds of competition were organized. Himachal Pradesh dominated the competition with all three awards being bagged by Sushant Thakur, Akshay Kumar & Naresh Kumar from Himachal Pradesh. Prize checks of Rs 1 lakh were distributed to the winner, Rs 75 thousand to the runner-up, & Rs 50 thousand to the thirdplace winner. Uttarakhand aims to develop Tehri as the hub of

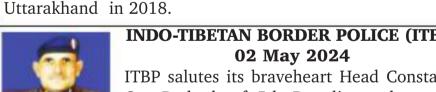
paragliding activity & establish it as one of the world's foremost

per Day of Municipal Solid Waste



Siyol Village- Shri Laxman Nagar Post- Chadi

State-Rajasthan. ITBP salutes its brave hearts Head Constable Tribhuwan Singh and Constable Dama Ram Siyol of 14th Bn, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in



BTC, Bhanu in 2008. **Resident of :** Village & Post.- Chhapar, Om Prakash

On 02 May 1996, you made the supreme sacrifice fighting

n reference to the above tender, the (due date has been changed from 04.04.2024)

1311/2024

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificate(s) issued by the company are stated to have been lost or misplaced and the registered share holder(s) thereof

subsequent to the issue of duplicates thereof. S.No. Folio Name Cert. No. Dist. From Dist. To Shares

would be entertained from any other person(s). Manohar lal Gulati in whose name above shares are registered.

# Classifieds

JAGANNATH, father of, **PATANGE RUSHIKESH** SHANKAR presently, residing at, SOHESHWAR PARK SAYALI, FLAT.NO.6 SOMESHWAR-WADI PASHAN-PUNE MAHARASHTRA PIN= 411008, have changed my name from PATANGE SHANKAR JAGANNATH to SHANKAR JAGANNATH PATANGE, vide-Affidavit dated-01-MAY-24, at

I, PATANGE JYOTHI SHANKAR, mother of, PATANGE **RUSHIKESH SHANKAR** presently, residing at, SOHESHWAR-PARK SAYALI FLAT NO.6.SOMESHWAR-WADI PASHAN PUNE MAHARASHTRA PIN= 411008 have changed my name from PATANGE JYOTHI SHANKAR to JYOTI SHANKAR PATANGE, vide-Affidavit dated-01 MAY-24, at New delhi.

0040726479-10 I, Mujahid, S/o Mohd

Achachhan, R/o Z-II/134 Welcome Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Mujahid Husain, for all 0040726440-2 purposes.

I. Mohammad Khalid s/o Rauf Ali Nasri r/o 1214, Gali Nasir Ali, Kalan Mahal, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Mohammad KHALID RAUF.

0040726434-1

I, MANISH GUPTA, S/O SATISH CHAND GUPTA, R/O- I 16, BETA 2, GREATER NOIDA-UP 201308, **DECLARE THAT NAME OF MY** MOTHER HAS BEEN WRONGLY WRITTEN AS KAML GUPTA IN MY PASSPORT NO. E2574972. THE ACTUAL NAME OF MY MOTHER IS KAMLESH GUPTA

0040726378-1

I, JOHN CLINT D'SILVA, son of, FRANCIS D'SILVA, residing at, KATTATH HOUSE, SNDP ROAD, SOUTH-CHITTOOR P.O. **ERANAKULAM DIST, KERALA-**682027, have changed my name from JOHN CLINT D'SILVA to JOHN CLINT DSILVAvide-Affidavit, dated-01-May-24.

I, ISRAT JAHAN, mother of, SUHEL SABID presently. residing at-150/5, Dharampur, P.O.- Araghar, Dehradun, PIN-248001 Uttarakhand, have changed my name from ISRAT JAHAN to ISHRAT JAHAN, vide- Affidavit, dated-01-MAY-24, at New Delhi. 0040726479-8

I, Bhavya Singh Chouhan, D/O Randeep Singh Chauhan, R/O-H 32/7, Shankar Vihar, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi 110010 have changed my name to Bhavya Singh Chauhan. 0040726443-2

I, Atabul, S/o Phool Hasan, R/o S-6/D-154, Navjeevan Camp, D-Block, Govind Puri, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, have chaned my name to Atabul Khan, for all purposes.

I, Amanya Khan D/o Zulfakar Khan R/o B-331/191, 4th-Floor.Near Asifnawaz-Apartment, Naibasti, Jamia-Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Amaniya 0040726476-2

I Zulfikar Khan S/O Faiz Mohammad R/o B-331/191, 4th-Floor, Near Asifnawaz-Apartment, Naibasti, Jamia-Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my-name to Zulfakar 0040726476-1

Shahida Begum W/O, Abdul Gafoor R/o 422, Shahzada Bagh, Inderlok, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Shahida.

0040726374-1

l Raj Babu Gupta S/o. Late Ram Swaroop Gupta, R/O: C-267 STREET No.-4. Phase 2. Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094 have changed my Name from Raj Babu to Raj Babu Gupta for all future purposes

0040726373-1

Abdul Gaffor S/O, Mohd Avub R/o 422, Ph-1, Shahzada Bagh, Inderlok, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Abdul Gafoor. 0040726375-1

l Arun Kumar S/o Late Om Prakash R/o Flat No.804, Tower -9, Parshvnath Regelia, G.T.Road, Opposite Surva Farm. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad. U.P.-201005 have changed my name to Arun Kumar Gupta for all 0040726376-1 purposes.

I Aayus Agarwal S/O, Anand Kumar R/o G-38, First Floor, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-

to Ayush Agarwal. 0040726123-1

110052 have changed my name

I,TASNEEM FATEMA,W/O.MOHD NASIR R/O.2213, GROUND-FLOOR NAYA MOHALLA QASIM STREET, CHANDNI CHOWK, DELHI-110006, changed my name to TASNEEM NASIR, for all, future purposes.

0040726469-12

I, NARESH MITTAL S/O-DEEN DAYAL,R/O-12E,PRASHANT-VIHAR.OUTER-RING ROAD. ROHINI,,Delhi-110085,have Changed my name to NARESH CHAND MITTAL.

0040726440-6

I Smt Kungi Thanzuava w/o (L) Lt Col LThanzuava r/o Windyridge Lower Pohkseh Shillong hereby declare that K Thanzuava and Kungi Thanzuava are one and the same person vide affidavit at Shillong dtd 09/04/2024. 0130041814-1

I.BABLU,S/O RAJARAM, R/O,T-HUT-158, BLOCK-**EE.JAHANGIRPURI DELHI-**33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BABLU KUMAR

PERMANENTLY.

I.hitherto known as Vasant Kanwar, W/o Nain Singh, R/o-3015, Devi Singh Ji ki Haweli Ke 50, Jodhpur, Rajasthan-342001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known

no.16.Sant-Garh.Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known

16 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

I,Vijay Vir Singh,S/o-Chhidda Singh,R/o-C-383,Block-C,Sector-MU-1,Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P.-201310, have changed the name of my minor sons from Arnav to Arnay Singh for all future 0040726469-3

as Paramjeet Singh Sayan.

I,Umesh Kumar S/o Durg Pal R/o House no-45,gali no-4 Surksha Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Umesh.

0040726442-5

0040726451-5

0040726443-6

D-92, Sector-49, Noida(U.P) have changed my daughter's name from Sahnvi Mehra to Sanvi Mehra for all future purposes. 0040726407-2 I,Shailesh Gupta,S/o Bhagwan

Derawal-Nagar, New Delhi 110009, Have changed my name to Selesh Gupta, for all 0040726443-4 purposes.

Shalimar Bagh Delhito Santro Sharma

**I,SHALLY, W/O SANDEEP** CHAUDHARY, R/O RAGHUNATHPUR, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH-250626, have changed my name to SHAILI. 0040726442-1

CHANDRA PANDA, ADD-FLAT.NO-21-D,DDA SFS FLATS POCKET-1.SECTOR-7.DWARKA.SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110075, changed my name to SASMITA PANDA, for all, future purposes

**I,SARIKA** MEHTA,W/o AMIT MEHTA,R/o H.NO-518, BLOCK-B,SUDERSHAN-PARK RAMESH-NAGAR WEST-DELHI DELHI-110015, have changed my name purposes.

H.No-2, E Block, Street No-12, Dayal Pur, Delhi-94, have changed my name to Rakesh 0040726479-4 Kumar

I.SAMI ALAVI,S/O.S.A.M ALAVI, ADD-G-18/1, HAJI COLONY, GHAFFAR MANZIL-EXTN., JAMIA JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, SOUTH EAST, DELHI-110025, changed my name to purposes.

Bharti, R/o-61, Kishan Kuni Extension, Near Pahalwan Dairy, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Roshan Jahan.

I,Rinky,W/o Anil,R/o H.No-90, Village Khanpur, Kasna, Gautam Budh-Nagar, Noida Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name Rinky Bhati, for all purposes.

0040726451-4

I.Rajvinder Devgun,S/o Roshan Lal Devgun R/o.H.No.562,DDA-Flats, Pocket-1, Sector-A-6, Narela Delhi-110040, have changed my name to Rajvinder.

I.RASHMEET MEHDIRATTA W/O-RANDEEP SINGH R/O-4/216, SUBHASH NAGAR, Delhi-110027, have Changed my name RASHMEET KAUR.

SINGH,R/O, B-516, JAHANGIRPURI DELHI 33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RADHA PERMANENTLY.

I,Prachi Gupta,D/O-Sandeep Kumar Gupta R/O-C-3/142, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that Prachi and Prachi Gupta is the same 0040726469-1 person.

**I,Poonam,D/O** Bhagwan Das W/O Pawan Kumar Baswal R/O-I-II= 226-227, Madangir Delhi-110062, have changed my Name Poonam to Premvati, for all, future purposes

0040726458-

Singh W/o,Sh. Kaptan Singh,R/o 6128/4,First Kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my, name to PARKASH PRIYA SINGH for all, Purposes. 0040726440-7

I,PUNIT KUMAR SHARMA.S/O LALITA PRASAD SHARMA,R/O,A-6/7,RAIL VIHAR, SHIPRA SUN CITY, INDIRAPURAM.GHAZIABAD.UT TAR PRADESH-201014, have changed my name to PUNIT

I,PRERNA BHATIA,D/O.NARESH BHATIA, ADD-RZ-2/230, K-BLOCK, DAYAL-PARK, WEST SAGAR PUR, SOUTH-WEST, DELHI-110046, changed my name to PRERNA, for

all, future purposes.

I, Neelanjana Chakravaty, W/o Ranjit Chakravorty, R/o H.No.B- **I.Nasir** Hussain, S/o-Haji Ghulam Mustafa DAR, House.no. 262,third-floor,Village Saidulazab, New Delhi-110030, changed my name to Nasir Hussain DAR.

0040726479-5

I,NISHTHA W/O-SHIVA PASRICHA, R/O-A-11 BHAGWAN DASS-NAGAR PUNJABI BAGH EAST-DELHI-110026, HAVE **CHANGED MY NAME TO** NISHTHA PASRICHA.

0040726479-3

I,NISHA D/O-ROSHAN LAL,R/O,HOUSE NUMBER-345, UPPER FIRST FLOOR, CHAND NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, Delhi-110018, have Changed my name to MEENU. 0040726440-5

I,NAYANA W/O.NARESH BHATIA, ADD-RZ-2/230, K-**BLOCK, DAYAL-PARK, WEST** SAGAR PUR, SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110046, changed my name to NAINA.For all.Future Purposes. 0040726469-9

I,NAVEEN KUMAR SHARMA,S/O **RAJBIR SINGH R/O-**27/39,GALI.NO-9 VISHWAS NAGAR SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, HAVE CHANGED MY

NAME TO NAVEEN KUMAR

0040726442-9

I,Rattan Kumar,S/O-Nand Lal,R/O-D-5/111,Sultan Puri, DELHI-110086, HAVE **CHANGED MY Son's NAME** Mayank TO Mayank Rajbhar

FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040726469-2

Sadeek,R/o-Z-II/217,Gali No.4, Welcome, Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Mohd Saleem. 0040726458-4

I,Mohd Salim,S/o Mohd

I,Manu Jain S/o Late Shri Agni Kumar Jain R/o Tower-19, Flat-604, Lotus Boulevard, Sector-100. Noida-201301 have changed my daughter's name from Dhanishta Jain to Preksha Jain for all future purposes.

0040726407-1

I, Manoj Kumar R/o-Flat no.3005. Siena Tower, Mahagun Mezzaria, Sector-78 Noida, UP 201301 changed my minor son's name from Yuvaan to Yuvaan Kumar Sharma for, all purposes. 0040726386-

I.MEERA SINGH.D/o.Sh.RAM SINGH R/o.6/5,FIRST-FLOOR, GEETA-COLONY, DELHI-110031, have changed my name to MANPREET KAUR, for all 0040726443-8 purposes.

I,MANU GAUR,S/O MANOJ GAUR.R/o A9/27.Vasant Vihar-1.South West Delhi, Delhi-110057, have changed my name to MANU BHASKAR GAUR, for all future purposes.

0040726440-4 I,MAMTA KAUSHIK W/O-VED

PARKASH R/O,600/16,CIVIL LINES, GURGAON HARYANA-122001, have Changed my name 0040726443-5 to MAMTA. I,Livika T Sumi,D/o Toluvi

Sumi,R/o H.NO-21,A Khel. Diphuapar A, Chumukedima, Nagaland-797115, have changed my name to Livika. 0040726442-6

I,KASHMIRI LAL,S/o Bala Ram Garg, R/o K-354, Dakshin Puri, Sector-5, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to KASHMIRI LAL GARG, for all future purposes.

0040726440-3 I.Jitender Kumar, H.No.657.

Khandrai, Sonipat (Haryana), have changed my-Minor Daughter name, from Angel to Angel Sehrawat. 0040726440-9

**I,Jitender** Kumar, H. No. 657, Khandrai, Sonipat (Haryana), have changed my Minor Son name, from Jatin to Jatin Sehrawat. 0040726440-8

I.Jasbir Kaur W/o.No. 4548934W Rank Ex NK Hariit Singh R/o. H.No.170.Second-Floor, PKT-25,SECTOR-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my date of Birth from. 24.6.1964 to 07.07.1964 vide-affidavit dt.01.05.24, before.Delhi.

0040726442-3

0040726469-10

I.JITENDRA GARG.S/O.HARI SHANKAR, H.NO-140, NAGLA **ROAD.HARI CYCLE-WORKS** SUNDER-COLONY, NIT, FARIDABAD HARYANA-121005, changed my name to JITENDER GARG, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES.

I,JITENDER CHAUDHARY S/O RAJ KUMAR CHAUDHARY R/O-551 3RD.FLOOR SHAKTI KHAND-4 INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD U.P.-201014, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JITENDER KUMAR.

0040726442-11 I, Harman Singh Bhinder Alias

Harmanpreet Singh Bhinder S/o, Harpreet Singh Bhinder R/o,B-401, 4th-Floor, Media-Apartment, Plot-18A, Sector-7, Dwarka.New Delhi-110075.have changed my-name to Harmann Singh Bhinder for-allpurposes.

0040726476-4

**I,Ghulam** Ghous Bharti,S/o Siddique Ahmed.R/o-61.Kishan Kunj Extension, Near Pahalwan Dairy, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Gulam Gaus Bharti. 0040726458-2

name to Chitra Tanwar

I,DINESH SINGHAL S/O SATYA

0040726451-6

NARAYAN GUPTA R/O 198-199, POCKET-21, SECTOR-24,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE **CHANGED MY NAME TO DINESH** KUMAR. 0040726440-1 I,Chitra D/o Sanjay R/o C-AND ADAMANCY. ANY ONE DEALING WITH THEM SHALL BE AT THEIR OWN 6/193, Sultan Puri North West RISK AND PERIL. Delhi-110086 have changed my

I.Bhavika.D/O Rajesh Dalal R/O H.NO H-2/27F/FF/BS,H-2 Block, Mahavir Enclave, Palam-Village Delhi 110045, changed my name to Bhavika Dalal, permanently. 0040726443-9

I.Babu Lai S/o Moti Lai Sharma, House no-RZ-195/16.Gali no-16.Tughlakabad Extension, New Delhi-110019, have changed my Name to Babu Lal Sharma. Permanently.

0040726442-7

I.Ashwani Kumar Arva.S/o Sudarshan Kumar agarwalla, Address W-3/33 Wellington Dlf City phase 5 gurgaon haryana 0040726443-1 I,Anil Kumar Oberai S/o-Bhajan Lal Oberai, House.no.B-

colony, New Delhi -110024, have

14, Ground floor, Defence

changed my Name to ANIL

OBERAI, Permanently. 0040726442-8

Adlakha, H.No.1643, Sector-46.Gurugram -122003 (Haryana), have changed my daughter's name, from Simran to Simran Adlakha. 0040726469-5

0040726469-4

I.AWADHA NARAYAN SHUKLA,S/O A.P. Shukla,H.No.V 32/4 A, Gali No.1, Arvind Nagar, Ghonda, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to AVADH NARAYAN SHUKLA.

NAME TO ANJALI CHAUDHARY 0040726442-10

I,AMALESH KUMAR S/O Avadh

Narayan Shukla, H. No. V 32/4A.Gali No.1, Arvind

to AMLESH SHUKLA. 0040726479-1 I.AARUSHI D/O ROSHAN LAL,R/O A-141/1,3RD-FLOOR,BLOCK-A.SHASTRI-NAGAR.DELHI-

I, Vivek Chugh, S/o Ved Prakash Chugh, R/o 281/D-1, Ward No.2, Mehrauli, Delhi-110030, declares that VIVEK CHUGH and VIVEK are the names of same person i.e. myself.

I. TANISHA VATS, D/O PAWAN VATS, R/o WZ-446, Palam Village, New Delhi-110045 declares that both names TANISHA VATS and TANNU VATS are of same person and I will be known as TANISHA VATS for all purposes.

I, Sushil Kumar S/o Hari Ram R/o-177,1st-Floor,Pocket-5, Sector-22, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Sushil, for all future purposes.

I, Shikha Sharma W/o Rajeev Sharma R/o A-403, Nistads CGHS, Plot No.2, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Shikha Nautiyal.

I, Shelly D/o Sh. Ashok Kumar, holder of Indian Passport No. T2785768, R/o H No. B-V-732, Agger Nagger, Maler Kotla, Sangrur, Punjab, India have

changed my name Shelly and

surname Shelly.

0040726429-1

I. SUNIYA BEGUM. W/o SHUJAUDDIN, R/o 364, Bazar Matia Mahal, Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to SURAIYA BEGUM.

R/o S-6/D-154, Navjeevan Camp, D-Block, Govind Puri, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, have chaned my name to Phool Hasan, for all purposes.

I, Sanjog Bhatia S/o Mahinder Pal Singh R/o I-270, Naraina-Village, New Delhi-110028, have changed my name to Sanjog Singh Bhatia.

Ratna Modi D/o, Kailash Chand Siroya W/o Shailendra Modi R/o,H.No.A-41, Suryanagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my-name to Ratna Modi.

LOST & FOUND

documents/ownership papers/chain of Property No.B-330, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-11008, has lost. finder contact: Ramesh Kumar S/o Ram Kishan Mobile-No. 7838640190. 0040726476-7

**My** original property

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**PUBLIC NOTICE** MY CLIENT SAMUNDRI DEVI CHANDRESHWAR DAS BOTH R/C H.NO.E-110, JAHANGIRPURI DELHI-110033 HAS SEVERED ALL RELATIONS DEBAR AND DISOWN THEIR SON MOHAN KUMAR AND MANTU KUMAR AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW MS ASHA FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO THEIR MISBEHAVIOUR MISCONDUC

> Advocate Ch. No. P-19, P.O. Lane Tis Hazari Colurt

SRIKRISHAN MITTAL

PUBLIC NOTICE Public is hereby informed that My Client Usha Devi. W/o Late Sh. Subhash Chand, R/o 78-B. Aram Bagh, Pahargani Delhi-110055, has disown/debarred & disinherit my son Mr. Rohit (D.O.B- 30/06/1992) along ith his wife Mrs. Raj Kumari, D.O.B.-18/10/1996

My client Sh. Bhagwan Sahai S/ Late Sh.Ram Chander, age about 70 year R/o House no.713 street no.8A Mandoli Village Delhi-110093, has severed/end all their relations from wife Mrs. Satawati and younger sor Naveen Sahai and his family and debarred them from their movable and immovable properties due t their quarrel-some nature and cunning in nature and misconduc and misbehave with my clien everyday and made life hell of my client and they neither following customs nor giving respect and take care of my client and out of contro

YOGENDRA KUMAR

Enrl No.-D/1209/16

Karkardooma Courts

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be It known to the public at

large that my client Shyam

Singh S/o Sh. Partap Singh R/o

Near MCD School, House No.

7. Mukundpur Village, North

West Delhi, Delhi - 110042 has

disowned/debarred his son

namely Sumit Kumar and his

daughter-in-law Laxmi W/o

Sumit Kumar R/o Near MCD

School, House NO. 74,

Mukundpur Village, North West

Delhi, Delhi 110042 from all

their movable and immovable

properties and also severed all

their relation from them with

their due misconduct/mis-

behaviour towards my client

My client has no concerned

with them. If anybody deals

with them shall do so at

his/her/their own risks and

responsibility. My client shall

not be responsible for their any

act and deed in future.

BRAJESH KUMAR YADAV

Advocate Ch. No. L-3, K.L.

Sharma Block, Tis Hazari

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client namely Krishan Kumar S/o L

Shri. Rishpal Singh R/o H-467, Vikaspuri Nev

Delhi-110018 Also, at: R/o 143 B Village

Shahpur Jat Delhi 110048, informed me that

plot bearing no H-467, Vikaspuri New Delh

Shri Rishpal Singh S/o Late. Shri Dalip Singl

as alternate plot. My client inform that it

came to his knowledge that some person h

prepared the forge and fabricated paper of th

plot and trying to sale the said plot in mark

Kumar) the legal here of Late. Shri Rish

Singh and in the possession of the said plot.

anybody deal with the said plot my client is r

PUBLIC NOTICE

(KULDEEP SINGH GREWAL

8th Floor, Lawyers Buildin

ADVOCATI

Enrl.No. D/2294/201

Chamber No. 873

liable for the same

Courts, Delhi - 110054

Ch. No. G. 713

ADVOCATE

Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

If anybody deals with them in any It is for general information that manner then my client shall not be NEERAJ RAJA THAKUR S/O responsible for their any acts and SH. SUDHIR PAL R/O H.NO. 61. deed in future. VASUNDHRA APARTMENT NOTED:- The eldest son (Praveer ROHINI SECTOR-9, NORTH Sahai) and his wife (preeti) used to WEST DELHI, DELHI-110085 provide food and clothing, as well as declare that name of mine has bee medical care of routine life to my wrongly written as NEERAJ client, My client has given all right THAKUR in my minor daughter of his property to Praveen sahai and MAHIRAA THAKUR aged 1 his wife preeti. vears in her 10th class marks-shee

of my client.

PUBLIC NOTICE Reg: Entire Second Floor, without roof rights, referred to as "said floor" of Built-up Property No. WZ-13-A. area measuring 70 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 1, situated in the area of Village Nangli Jalib and the Abadi known as Krishna Puri, Gali No. 16 & 17, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018.; hereinafter eferred to as "said property"

Be it known to all that our clients, Mrs

and certificate. The actual name of

mine is NEERAJ RAJA THAKUR.

which may be amended accordingly

operties/assets/Bank accounts/shares/etc

severed all relations with them due to their

disphedience & mishehavior and shall not be

deeds and things done by them in past

present and future. Anyone who deals with

them (Rohit & Raj Kumari) and supports

em in any manner, shall do at his/hen'the

own risks, costs & responsibility & my client &

their other family members/legal heirs/etc

shall not be held liable/responsible for an

acts done by them (Rohit & Raj Kumari)

Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

future. Shiv Datt Atri (Advocate) SR-II-B

PUBLIC NOTICE

esponsible for any Civil and Criminal acts.

Geeta Khanna & Mr. Kamal Khanna hereinafter called the "Purchaser" ntend to purchase the said floor from Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva and Mrs. Bhupinder Kaur (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller have informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floor vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 15487, in Book No. I Volume No.9171, pages 160-170, on 14.06.1923 (SRO-II B Janakouri). The said sale deed was executed by Mr. Harvinder Singh and Mrs. Kanta Suri in their favour in respect of the said floor. In this connection, the seller have further informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mr. Buta Ram Malhotra vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 14316 dated 11.10.2002 executed by Mr. Surender Kumar Malhotra for self and as GPA of Mr. Desh Raj Vohra. Shri Buta Ram Malhotra executed a Family Will dated 02.08.2018 and registered as Document No. 2079. After the death of Shri Buta Ram, the said property devolved on his legal heirs viz., Mr. Tushar Malhotra and Mrs. Sudershan Kumari Malhotra. she sold the said floor to Mr. Harvinder Singh and Mrs. Kanta Suri vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 11864 dated 26.05.2022. Finally, Mr. Harvinder Singh and Mrs. Kanta Suri sold the said floor to Mr. Raiesh Kumar Sachdeva and Mrs. Bhupinde Kaur as aforesaid and they became the joint owners of the said floor The seller have also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not

mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor Any person including Bank/s, Financial nstitution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in

Manoi Sharma, Advocate M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

of the said property. The seller

has further informed the

purchaser that the said property

property. The seller has also

informed the purchaser that the

said property is not mortgaged

Reg: Plot No. 469, area measuring 114.50 sq. mtr., in Block No. C, Situated at Sector-Noida, Tehsil Dadri, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P) property". Be it known to all that our clients Mr. Navdeep Thareja, Mr Sandeep Thareia and Mr Bhavnesh Thareja (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said property from Mr. Ashwin Bhatnagai (hereinafter called the "Seller" In this connection, the seller has in any manner whatsoever. I hereby als informed the purchaser that he cancel all or any Power of Attorne is the sole and absolute owner executed in his favour qua any movable

GARIMA VERMA was leased out to his father, late Shri Gopal Krishan Bhatnagar vide Lease Deed dated 17/06/2003 registered as Document No. 7813, Book 383-445 (SRO-Noida-III), Late on, Shri Gopal Krishan Bhatnagar executed a Registered Will dated 22/12/2012 registered as Document No. 5493 in favour of Mr. Ashwin Bhatnagar (the seller). Shri Gopal Krishan Bhatnagar expired leaving behind the following legal heirs viz., Mr. Ashwin Bhatnagar and Mrs. Vandana Lal. In terms of the Will of Shri Gopal Krishan Bhatnagar, the property devolved on Mr. Ashwin clients will not be responsible for any and conduct of the said sons name Krishan, Rinku and Amit and if anybo was mutated by NOIDA in deals with them shall be doing so at the favour of Mr. Ashwin Bhatnaga risks. vide their letter 20/10/2023 responsibilities Thus, the seller became sole and absolute owner of the said AVIRAL GARG (Advocat

anywhere and there is no PUBLIC NOTICE charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said property shall be dated 01.05.2024). deemed to be clear of any

> objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB Housing) MIG or Director (Housing), D Block, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Any person(s) claiming any rights,

interest, having any objection or found

in possession of original documents,

may write/contact with above named

person at above Address/Phone No.

9911299376, within 15 days from the

date of publication of this notice. The

person claiming any right, interest,

residing at C-8/18, MIG Flats, Keshav Pur New Delhi -110035 INDIA that he is Great Unc and legal guardian of NIRBHAY SEDHA, son Smt. Lata Sedha, who resides at C-6/125, Kesh Puram, New Delhi-110035, INDIA, Tha NIRBHAY SEDHA has been under care o client both financially and physically, since birth. That as the legal guardian, my client has provided for NIRBHAY SEDHA's welfare a have been responsible for his upbringing, taki care of his educational, medical, and gene well-being. That my client undertake to con providing financial and emotional support NIRBHAY SEDHA for his higher education a other needs. my client commit to supporting h pursuit of master's studies in Australia and an other needs that may arise during the cou

(Advocate Enrol No. D/515/08

mv client Sh. Roshan Singh son of Sh. Hukam Singh & his wife Smt. Inderieet Kaur both Resident of House No. B-78B Tilak Vihar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have severed all relation with their Son Paramjit Singh his wife Smt. Manjeet Kaur & son Master Manraai Singh due to their misbehavior. My client have disowned and debarred from their all movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risks and responsibilities for the same Praveen Rastogi (Advocate)

Regn. No. : D/244/06

RZ-97. Khushi Ram Park, Uttam Nagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE Seneral public is hereby informed that My lients Amir Baksh S/o Allah Baksh and Rukheana Win Amir Rakeh Rin 0.10LA Street No.4. Aram Park, Shastri Nagar, Sandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, have debarred & disawned their son Nadeem Baksh S/o Amir Baksh, daughter-in-law Reshma Bano W/o Nadeem Baksh and grandson Ruhan Baksh S/o Nadeem Baksh, & severed all relations with them for their isconduct from all their moveable & mmovable properties. Anybody transacting any business with them in respect to my tients is doing that in his/her/their own risks, my clients shall not be responsible for their acts in future.

Abhimanyu Sangwan (Advocate) Ch. No. 315, Lawyer Chamber Building, Rohini Courts, New Deihi-118004

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Lata Sharma W/o Sh. Satinder Singh R/o H.No-8614, New Rohtak Road, Gaushala Road, Rattan Nagar, New Delhi-110005 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case CC No 532370/16 U/s 138 NI Act P.S. D.B.G. Road, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Smt. Lata Sharma cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Smt. Lata Sharma has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Smt. Lata Sharma of Case CC No 532370/16 U/s 138 NI Act P.S. D.B.G. Road, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.07.2024

> Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act-05) Central Room No.02, Ground Floor Building Annexe-1 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Kabir, S/o Mazid, R/o (1) Jhuggi Subzi Mandi, Bhikan Singh Colony, Shahdara, Delhi, (2) Village Naitour, PS Naitour, District Bijnaur, U.P., has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 84/2010, U/s 379/411 IPC, registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Kabir, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Kabir, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

case FIR No. 84/2010, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.06.2024. By order Aayushi Saxena,

(Court Matter) Karkardooma Court, Delhi PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused

Ghonda, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 573/2017, U/s 392/394/411 IPC, registered at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Navrang, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Navrang, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Navrang, of case FIR No. 573/2017, U/s 392/394/411 IPC, P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.06.2024.

DP/4889/NE/2024 (Court Matter)

DP/5096/SD/2024-

By order Aayushi Saxena, Metropolitan Magistrate, Room no. 48,

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Rohit Kumar, S/o: Late Rakesh Kumar, R/o: Amra Mohalla, Dera Village, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 81/24, Dated 25.01.2024, U/s 376-D/506/ 34 IPC, P.S.: Fatehpur Beri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Rohit Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rohit Kumar has absconded (or is

concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Rohit Kumar accused of FIR No. 81/24, Dated 25.01.2024, U/s 376-D/506/34 IPC, P.S.: Fatehpur Beri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to

Shri Ashish Kumar Meena Metropolitan Magistrate-01, South District, Room No. 214,

## SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Kusum W/o Rajpal R/o Village Garhi Shyam P.S. Kandhla Distt. Shamli U.P. Aged-35 Years has been reported missing since 15.04.2024 vide DD No.34A Dated 15.04.2024 registered at Police Station GTB Enclave, Delhi. Her physical

description is as under:-



Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 150 cm, Clothing: Red coloured suit and Salwar in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, GTB Enclave, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, GTB Enclave, Delhi FAX No.: 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-011-22137444, 22580947 Mob.: 9891599731 DP/4548/SHD/2024

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0040726451-3

PERSONAL I, PATANGE SHANKAR

Pas, Ward Noas Ichhu Devi. 0040726440-10 **I.hitherto** known as Paramjeet Singh, S/o, Surinder Singh Sayan,R/o,WZ-235,FF,Gali

New delhi. 0040726479-9 purposes.

I.Sumit Mehra S/o Jai Mehra R/o

Gupta,R/o A-99,3Rd-floor

**I,Santro** Devi W/o Bhagmal Sharma R/o BH-684, East 110088, have changed my name

**I,SASHMITA** PANDA,W/O.PRAKASH

0040726469-11

to KUMUD MEHTA, for all, future 0040726443-7 I,Rakesh,S/o Jai Pal Singh,R/o-

SYED SAMI ALAVI, for all, future 0040726469-7 I,Roshan Jhana,W/o Gulam Gaus

0040726458-3

0040726469-6

0040726451-I.RADHA DEVI. W/O.TIKENDER

0040726451-2

I,Parkash Wati D/o,Sh.Rattan Floor, Sector-D, Pocket-6, Vasant

KUMAR. 0040726442-2

0040726469-8

7, Sushant Lok Phase-1,Gurugram (Haryana)-122009, have changed my name to Neelanjana Chakraborty. 0040726442-4

I,Amol Adlakha,S/o Mr RN

I,Amol Adlakha,S/o MrRN Adlakha, R/o.H.No.1643, Sector-46, Gurugram-122003(Harvana), have changed my Son's name from Namish to Namish Adlakha.

0040726479-2 I.ANJALI DEVI W/O JITENDER KUMAR R/O-551,3RD.FLOOR **SHAKTI KHAND-4** INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD U.P.-201014 HAVE CHANGED MY

Nagar, Ghonda, Delhi-110053, have changed my name

110052.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARUSHI GAUTAM. 0040726443-3

0040726380-1

0040726379-1

0040726476-3

0040726394-1 I, Phool Hussain, S/o Biri Shah,

0040726162-5 I,Kum. Vandana Siroya alias

0040725674-5

**PUBLIC NOTICE** The general public is hereby inform that my Clients. Sh Chaman Lal Sharn S/o. Shri Bansi Lal Sharma and his wif Smt. Pooja Rani, both R/o. A-1/197 Madhu Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delh 110059 have severed/terminated a

with them

charge or encumbrance of any

nature whatsoever and any

subsequent claim shall not bind

our clients/Purchaser, in any

manner whatsoever.

Manoj Sharma, Advocate

M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,

Both of my above named clients ha also disinherited, disowned and debarre their said son from their lives as well: from their movable and immovab properties Anybody dealing with Sh Ravi Kant Sharma will do so his/her/their own risks, costs ar consequences and my Clients will not b responsible for any act, deed or deali done by Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma in future Prachi Vashish

their relations with their son Sh Ray

their wishes and is no longer residin

Kant Sharma as he has acted again

A-4, Defence Colony New Delhi-11002

Enrol No. D-1233/2001

Advocat

client Anita Gupta W/o Late Mr. R.C Gupta R/o C - 2 / 77, Ashok Vihar Phase-2, North West, Delhi - 11005 She is the sole owner of the about mentioned property wants to renovate the entire building with the Collaboration, General Public hereby informed that any persor claiming any right, interest, having any objection for the above mentioned property in the name of my above named client, shall claim his/her thei right shall write/contact me/us withi 30 days from the publication of this

for the same will be entertained. PARVEEN KUMAF (Advocate) Enrl. No. D/1005/201 -1/105, J. J. Colony Wazirpur, Delhi-5

notice, and thereafter no any objectior

Surender Singh Kasana S/o Late Shri Ja Singh Kasana, Aged-70 years, R/o Kasan Farm House, DLF Chhatarpur, Delhi ha due to unavoidable circumstance severed all his relations and disowned hi son, Siddharth Kasana, from h movable/immovable properties/asse with effect from 30.04.2024. Anyon dealing with the above-named person shall be doing at his own risks consequences and my client shall not b responsible for any of his acts/ liabilities

or Immovable properties

Advocate I-10, 2nd Floor, Jungpura-B PUBLIC NOTICE "Public at large is hereby informed that clients Shri Naresh Kumar S/o Late Sh Haridwari Lal and Smt. Krishna Devi W. Sh. Naresh Kumar both R/o Plot No. 606 KH. No. 31, Near Arya Samaj, Banke North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 ha severed relations with their sons nam Krishan, Rinku and Amit. They ha disowned and debarred them from all the movable and immovable properties whatsoever and wheresoever situated dis-respective behavior, mis-conduct ar being out of control of my clients. W

Ch. No. 737, W.Wins

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-5

Kishore Chand Mahindru R/o Flat No. B-3B/20-B, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, is the mutate/allottee of DDA MIG Flat No.20-B, Block-B-3B, situated at Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, vide DDA File No. F.30(318) 73/HB. The original documents i.e. Original DEMAND CUM ALLOTMENT LETTER and SITE POSSESSION SLIP of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by me and is not traceable inspite of my best efforts. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No.1688531/2024)

> PUBLIC NOTICE Mv client VIMAL SEDHA, aged 69

Dhananjay Kr. Mishra

Ch. No. 1004, 10th Floor Lawver's Chamber Block Delhi-11008 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Smt.

DP/3772/CD/2024

DP/4934/SHD/2024

Divya Gupta

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Kabir, of

Metropolitan Magistrate - 05, Room no. 07.

Navrang, S/o Brij Mohan, R/o 178, Gali no. 09, Ambedkar Basti,

Karkardooma Court, Delhi

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

answer the said complaint on or before 03.07.2024. By Order

Saket Court, New Delhi (Court Matter)



IPL: SRH vs RR, 7.30pm; Live on: Star Sports Network & streaming on Jio Cinema

# EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between

# Dhoni plays to the gallery



When does hero worship turn into disrespect for lesser mortals? When does turning down runs, that to in the final over with a specialist batsman and bonafide six-hitter at the other end, becomes an issue for the team's fans? Not in Chennai on Wednesday. It's no secret that the home crowd's chief motivation for coming through the turnstiles at Chepauk was having an audience with their beloved Thala. MS Dhoni came out with a little more than two overs left, and managed to score 14 off 11 balls before getting run out off the final ball of the innings, the first time he has been dismissed this season. He hit a four and a six but didn't manage to do much else. But what wasn't a good look was Dhoni hitting a ball to long-off and Daryl Mitchell running two runs by himself without any addition to the score as Dhoni didn't budge from his position. The Kiwi is known to find the stands himself. Maybe, Dhoni thought Arshdeep's left-arm angle would be dificult for Mitchell. Or he just remembered the first rule of mass media: Give the public what they want! Pics:PTI

#### Wide of the season

This season has been restorative for Harshal Patel. The key was he began to use his slower blower judiciously and at the same time rediscovered his mastery of length, the polestar of his success in the past editions. But his first ball against CSK was a throwback to his scattergun days. He simply missed the direction and the moment it left his palms, everyone knew its destination, the fence-cushion, to the left of the fine-leg fielder. It started on leg-stump, then swung away further, and the further, missing Ruturaj's legglance, slid past the wide-line and the lunging 'keeper and sped to the fence. Harshal smiled. His captain Sam Curran threw a stink eye.

#### The long wait

As many as 871 sixes were struck in 48 games this season, where batsmen have made little fuss about clearing the ropes. Yet, a match comes reversing the trend. For 16.1 overs, CSK's batsmen struggled to thud the ball beyond the ropes. Finally, a waist-high no-ball, upon review, granted the opportunity for Gaikwad to have a go of the ensuing free-hit. And so he did, clumping the ball into the stands. One six brought more, like state-run buses (of most states), and Gaikwad wrapped up the over with another maximum. Two balls later, Bairstow helped his English mate Moeen with another, when the ball leapt out of his hands past the ropes.

# Deep Impact

The innovation has seen scoring rates go through the roof, but hampered the development of all-rounders

LALITH KALIDAS & TANISHQ VADDI

Flat surfaces and an increased reliance on unproven bowlers across a 10-team pool are among the reasons for the unprecedented and consistent huge totals and six-fests this Indian Premier League season. But nobody can deny that the Impact Player rule has also played a big role by allowing an extra batsman and more freedom to go on an all-out offensive throughout the innings. The rule, introduced in the 2023 edition, has been an increasingly polarising innovation in this evolution, with several bowlers following Indian captain Rohit Sharma condemning the practicality of the rule. It has also hurt the development of all-rounders, a rare commodity in Indian cricket.

#### The major protagonists

While the Impact Player has indeed upscaled scoring rates throughout the 20 overs, batting in the Powerplay and death overs has seen the biggest spike from the previous edition. Among the mavericks are three teams who were among the bottom four in 2023 - Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals, who have rejigged their combinations.

KKR's charge has been led by the unlikely opening pair of Sunil Narine and Phil Salt. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma have formed a potent concoction up top for SRH. Aussie sensation Jake Fraser-McGurk has formed the core of Delhi's early charge.

Even at the death, where the average runs per over this season stands at a mindblowing 12.05, rookie or out-of-favour Indian batsmen lead the charts along with overseas stars. Among the leading run-scorers at the death, Delhi's Tristan Stubbs stands tall with a 292.30 strike rate. Among Indians, Dinesh Karthik, who last played for India at the 2022 T20 World Cup, leads with a strike rate of 231.42. Internationally retired MS Dhoni and a slew of uncapped batters like Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag, Abdul Samad, Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma also feature in the list.

A major factor in this upsurge has been the impact of overseas batsmen and the relatively younger Indians who have bought into the attacking approach more than senior Indian players. The average strike rate of the tournament currently stands at an all-time high, a shade above 152, a hike of more than 10 runs from the 2023 season (141.71).

#### What does this mean for India?

When India made 168 batting first in the 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final in Adelaide, they would have been cautiously optimistic. However, what followed was the harshest lesson Rohit Sharma and Indian cricket had to learn in the format. The way Jos Buttler and Alex Hales ruthlessly punished the Indian bowlers indicated the modern mindset of batsmen in the format.

Sharma and KL Rahul were severely criticised for their pedestrian batting style in the Powerplay throughout the tournament. The only player conforming to the modern way of T20 cricket was Suryakumar Yadav.

However, the introduction of the Impact Player rule has improved the batting strike rates of Indian batsmen. Since the 2022 World Cup, Sharma has been trying to lead from the front as strike rates take precedence over averages. Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya have also attempted to adapt to the new demands but haven't managed to do so on a consistent basis. However, the Impact Player rule has definitely benefited upcoming Indian young batsmen who have been able to unlock their range-hitting potential and imagination to play some cheeky scoops, which have not been in the traditional Indian coaching manual.

Since the inception of the rule, the modern way has also percolated into the way India has been playing T20 Internationals as well. Of late, India has kept attacking through the 20 overs. However, they would want to boost their



Shivam Dube, who bowls military medium, has hardly turned his arm over for Chennai this season.

Sportzpics for BCCI

Powerplay strike rate which still reels under 130 since 2023.

The likes of Phil Salt-Will Jacks (England), Travis Head-Jake Fraser-McGurk (Australia), and Finn Allen-Devon Conway (New Zealand), who are the probable openers at the show-piece event, would come all guns blazing in the first six overs. India would be optimistic that Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal/Shubman Gill would match the other pairings.

#### Pitfall of Impact Player rule

Apart from strike rates, the other major issue the Indian team is facing is the lack of batsmen who can chip in with a couple of overs.

"Guys like Washington Sundar and Shivam Dube are not getting to bowl, which for us is not a good thing," Sharma recently said on a podcast. Dube, who bowls military medium, could be quite a handful on sticky West Indian wickets. However, Chennai Super Kings haven't needed his services so far. Mumbai Indians youngster Tilak Varma has not bowled much either. But the biggest victim of the rule has arguably been Sunrisers Hyderabad allrounder Washington Sundar. The 24-year-old burst onto the scene as a reliable 4-over bowler and a handy bat down the order. However, the Hyderabad franchise could not find a role for him in the last couple of years which has dented his growth as a player.

"Every team is looking to play either a pure batsman or a pure bowler as the Impact Player, and all-rounders are not being used," Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel would observe.

The Impact Player was introduced through the domestic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which has also seen changes in how part-time spinners have been utilised over the last couple of seasons. Riyan Parag stands as an outlier in the domestic game, having bowled consistently despite the rule. However, he has hardly rolled his arm for Royals over the last couple of overs.

The waning relevance of multi-dimensional cricketers will only wear down India's progress in the format, forcing them to scramble hard to achieve balance in their XI for international games.

## How the bat has ruled the roost

The top five IPL teams based on scoring rates

	Power Play		Middle	Overs	Death Overs		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
1	9.40(RR)	12.14 (SRH)	9.25 (MI)	10.05 (KKR)	12.17 (GT)	13.40 (KKR)	
2	9.35 (CSK)	11.18 (KKR)	8.80 (KKR)	9.53 (MI)	11.82 (RR)	12.69 (SRH)	
3	9.25 (RCB)	10.41 (DC)	8.75 (RCB)	9.36(SRH)	11.70 (PK)	12.62 (RR)	
4	9.23 (MI)	10.14 (MI)	8.67 (GT)	9.20 (RCB)	11.52 (CSK)	12.29 (DC)	
5	8.70 (GT)	9.48 (RCB)	8.63 (CSK)	9.14(DC)	10.94(MI)	12.28 (CSK)	



### IPL SRs of top 10 India batsmen since last T20 World Cup

1	IPL'24 (innings)	T20I SR since Oct 2022 (innings)
Rohit Sharma	160.30(9)	127.27 (11)
Virat Kohli	145.76(9)	142.74(9)
Suryakumar Yadav	171.13(6)	170.07 (27)
Yashasvi Jaiswal	157.34(9)	161.93 (16)
Ruturaj Gaikwad	142.44(8)	147.17 (9)
Hardik Pandya	151.53(9)	120.46(17)
Rinku Singh	157.74(7)	176.23 (11)
Tilak Varma	158.49(9)	139.41 (15)
Shubman Gill	146.15(9)	147.57 (14)
Ishan Kishan	165.62(9)	111.94(13)
	8.	

#### **IPL SNIPPETS**

#### **STANDINGS**

	144		L		1 65	TVICE
RR	9	8	1	0	16	0.694
KKR	9	6	3	0	12	1.096
LSG	10	6	4	0	12	0.094
CSK	10	5	5	0	10	0.627
SRH	9	5	4	0	10	0.075
DC	11	5	6	0	10	-0.442
PK	10	4	6	0	8	-0.062
GT	10	4	6	0	8	-1.113
MI	10	3	7	0	6	-0.272
RCB	10	3	7	0	6	-0.415

# Gujarat's loss could be Pakistan's gain

Gary Kirsten, Pakistan's new head coach in the white-ball formats, could join the national squad directly in Ireland if his IPL team Gujarat Titans does not qualify for the Play-offs stage. A PCB official said Kirsten, while signing the contract, had made his commitment with the IPL franchise for this season very clear. Kirsten is associated with GT as batting coach and mentor. The official added that in case Gujarat make the IPL playoffs, then Kirsten will join the team in England for the last two games. "If Gujarat don't qualify for the play-offs which will become clear by around May 16 or 17, or perhaps before that Kirsten will then join the Pakistan team directly in Ireland before series against England," the official said. PTI

# Lee calls for better injury management

Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee feels Lucknow Super Giants did not manage Mayank Yadav's injury well, suggesting that the young tearaway pacer was brought back to IPL action prematurely after being sidelined due to abdominal soreness. "A side strain or whatever they're calling it, normally takes at least four to six weeks to even come right. We don't know the depths of how big a strain it was but for somebody who is pushing the limits of his body by bowling 150 kmph, that's not good management at all," Lee said in a JioCinema release. "His first game coming back and getting injured, has to directly be on the leadership and the medical staff of the Lucknow Super Giants."

#### Irfan questions Hardik's commitment

Hardik Pandya's commitment

towards Indian cricket has been questionable over the years with someone like Jasprit Bumrah being more capable of playing the role of Rohit's deputy in the upcoming T20 World Cup, reckoned Irfan Pathan. Post T20 World Cup, there was a new plan; they aimed for a younger team with Pandya and Surya as potential captains. Yet, questions arise regarding Pandya's performance consistency and commitment to Indian cricket," Pathan opined on Star Sports Press Room Show, Ticket to World Cup. Pandya hasn't played any domestic cricket for Baroda close to five years now and Pathan isn't amused by his absence. PTI

#### KINGS TRUMP SUPER KINGS

# Chahar, Brar strangle Chennai before Punjab coast home as dew sets in

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Despite getting a pitch to their liking at Chepauk, Chennai Super Kings slip up against Punjab Kings, lose by seven wickets.

**VENKATA KRISHNA B** CHENNAI, MAY 1

#### Fortress breached again

PUNJAB KINGS are making this a habit. For the second successive season, they aced Chennai in the chase, this time pulling off a comprehensive win on a challenging surface. They have now won five matches in a row against Chennai dating back to 2021.

Having played on similar two-paced pitches at Mullanpur, Punjab found the conditions totally to their liking. With just 163 to chase, all it needed was a couple of good contributions from the top order to set the tone. And despite Prabhsimran Singh departing after hitting a boundary and a six in his 10-ball stay, Jonny Bairstow and Rilee

Rossouw injected the impetus that Punjab sought. Apart from providing stability, they ensured pressure was firmly on Chennai at all times, more so after they lost Deepak Chahar, who limped off after bowling just two deliveries.

Having already used the Impact Sub with the bat, Chennai were a bowler short. For them to stay in the game and bring their spinners into the equation, they needed wickets in the Powerplay.

But Bairstow and Rossouw didn't give an inch for a Chennai comeback. With dew making it even more difficult – the two-paced nature giving way to the ball quickening off the pitch – Chennai's attack struggled without Tushar Deshpande and Matheesha Pathirana. Their only hope was Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali, but the two returned wicketless in their seven overs. Though Bairstow and Rossouw fell in their 40s, Shashank Singh and Sam Curran saw Punjab Kings home.

### The intent goes missing

With every passing home match, the road ahead is beginning to get challenging for Chennai. Just a day after their head coach Stephen Fleming pleaded to have a larger in-



Rahul Chahar rejoices after dismissing Moeen Ali. Sportzpics

With every passing home match, the road ahead is beginning to get challenging for Chennai.

fluence in pitch preparation, they stumbled on a track that was a throwback to the old days of home dominance, when spinners found purchase.

However, their batsmen failed to show the intent required on the surface. As Ruturaj Gaikwad ended up losing another toss – the ninth this season – Chennai knew their job was only going to get harder, especially with dew expected.

Though it hasn't been a big influence at other venues this season, it has been a complete contrast at Chepauk. CSK had already suffered because of it against Lucknow Super Giants a week ago and after successfully overcoming it against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday, they slipped against Punjab.

This wasn't a case of the conditions changing drastically in the second half of the innings. As early as the fourth over of

Chennai's innings, there was already considerable dew on the outfield. This should have woken them up. However, openers Gaikwad and Ajinkya Rahane went into a shell and only came out of it in the final two overs of the Powerplay, which took Chennai to 55/0.

#### Strangle by spin

Three successive boundaries by Rahane offered a window of hope for Chennai. But little did they know that they would go 55 deliveries without a boundary off the bat as Punjab's spinners strangled Chennai. Left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, who was dropped for earlier matches, made the most out of the conditions.

Attacking the stumps, they varied their pace and trajectory, as they bowled seven straight overs, conceding just 30 runs and accounting for the wickets of Rahane (22), Shivam Dube (0) and Ravindra Jadeja (2) as Chennai were caught napping at their own game. And the contest was settled in one match-up. Chennai needed Dube to take care of the spinners, but he was dismissed off the second ball he faced

off the second ball he faced.

The two spinners didn't concede a boundary in their entire quota. Rahul had

figures of 4-0-16-2, while Brar ended with 4-0-17-2.

Despite watching spinners taking control, Chennai chose to send Jadeja at No.4, a batsman who doesn't have a favourable match-up against them. Three quick wickets and Chennai used their Impact Sub – Sameer Rizvi – in the 10th over with the run rate at 7.1. From there on, for Chennai to be in the game, they needed an extraordinary effort, but the harder they tried, the more they struggled.

And having watched their spinners succeed, even Punjab Kings pacers were now beginning to take pace off the ball. It didn't matter that the boundary size was short on one side of a fresh pitch – used for the first time this season. Chennai's batting struggled to find fluency. Barring Moeen Ali, who made 15 off 9 deliveries coming in at No.6, the rest who got starts went at a strike rate less than 130. It meant Chennai managed only 162/7, at least 30 runs short of a par score.

Brief scores: Chennai Super Kings 162/7 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 62; Rahul Chahar 2/16, Harpreet Brar 2/17) lost to **Punjab Kings** 163/3 in 17.5 overs (Jonny Bairstow 46, Rilee Rossouw 43) by 7 wickets

epaper indianexpress.com

### Fraser-McGurk, Smith left out of Aus T20WC squad

Melbourne: Australia selectors have dropped veteran campaigner Steve Smith for the T20 World Cup and ignored calls to include Jake Fraser-McGurk in their squad despite the young batsman's sensational form in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Smith, a member of Australia's title-winning squad at the 2021 tournament in the United Arab Emirates, played T20s against New Zealand in February but was unable to push his claims further after missing out on an IPL contract. Selectors chief George Bailey said there was no room for Smith in a settled top order featuring David Warner, Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh, who was confirmed as captain. **REUTERS SQUAD**: David Warner, Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh (captain), Glenn Maxwell, Tim David, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Adam Zampa, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Ashton Agar, Cameron Green, and Nathan Ellis.

#### Nadal bids emotional farewell to Madrid

*Madrid:* Twenty-two time Grand Slam champion Rafa Nadal fell 7-5 6-4 to Czech Jiri Lehecka in the fourth round of the Madrid Open on Tuesday, marking his final appearance at a tournament he has won five times. In just over two hours, a feisty Lehecka thwarted Nadal's hopes of reaching his 100th Masters 1000 quarter-final after a fairytale run in only his second tournament since January as the Spaniard struggled with injury. Nadal has said he expects to retire after the 2024 season. "I'm happy. It was a very special week for me, very positive in every way. I was able to play again on a court that has given me a lot, also on an emotional level," the 37-year-old Nadal said in an on-court interview in front of an emotional crowd. "It has been unforgettable, and I can only say 'thank you'. It has been an incredible journey." **REUTERS** 

#### Four Indian boxers march into semis

Astana: Indian pugilists Aryan, Yashwardhan Singh, Priyanshu and Sahil marched into the semi-finals with confident wins at the ASBC Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships here on Wednesday. Aryan gave India a perfect start with a 5-0 unanimous decision win against Uzbekistan's Juraev Shakarboy in the 51kg category. His win was followed by a good show by Yashwardhan (63.5kg), who made a remarkable comeback after going down in the first round to grab a 4-1 victory over Iran's Mirahmadi Babaheidari. Priyanshu (71kg) and Sahil (80kg) didn't break sweat as they wrapped the bout with referee stop the contest (RSC) decision against Chinese Taipei's Wu Yu En and Turkmenistan's Yklymov Abdyrahma respectively. PTI

### Newey to step down from Red Bull in 2025

Formula One's most sought after designer Adrian Newey will leave Red Bull in the first quarter of 2025, after 19 years at the F1 team, Red Bull said in a statement on Wednesday. The BBC and Germany's Auto Motor und Sport reported last month that the Briton had told Red Bull he wanted to move on following allegations about team principal Christian Horner. Horner was cleared in February of alleged misconduct towards a female employee, who has lodged an appeal against the outcome. **REUTERS** 

# Indonesia defeat sets up China test

Prannoy's win will boost confidence, but 1-4 team loss means India will face formidable hosts in Thomas Cup quarters

**SHIVANI NAIK** MAY 1

A FEW wands to swish 'n trick in a win. A few wounds to lick after a loss. It's the best mix of mindsets for India's Thomas Cup team, before they run into China for a straight knockout on Thursday in the quar-

India's last group game against Indonesia, a rematch of the 2022 title final, ended as a 4-1 defeat for the defending champions on Wednesday. While 'Thomas Cup defending champions India' still draws a few disbelieving double takes - so surreal was the world title two summers ago - life has moved on to throw a massive challenge in the form of host team China in Chengdu next up in the quarterfinals. India had to draw the toughest one to play within 24 hours of the Indonesia reverse, with the other possibilities being Japan and Denmark.

Yet, HS Prannoy's singular win on Wednesday, and Lakshya Sen and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty's close losses in three sets, could be the perfect fuel to fire themselves up ahead of the massive faceoff. Prannoy can dip into the confidence, and the other three can repackage their pricked pride after their respective losses into a point to prove.

India lost the Asian Games team gold 3-2 to China in Hangzhou, and that's another score to settle. But for India's golden generation, things don't get bigger than taking on China in China for the most prestigious team title.

The 31-year-old Prannoy would start slowly, falling back 4-13, before getting a hang of drift conditions and assessing length judgments that's so crucial to his game. It's in the manner of how he plotted the comeback in the second set after trailing 21-12 that showed his class as a top player. When Prannoy's defense kicks in, and he's parrying off body shots, a switch is about to be flicked.

Ginting got even faster than usual, trying to crowd Prannoy at the start of first. But Prannoy would aggressively counter by uprooting the Indonesian from midcourt from where he was sending bazookas. Adopting an aggressive approach, Prannoy



HS Prannoy's 13-21 21-12 21-12 win over Anthony Ginting came in a losing cause as India were defeated 1-4 by Indonesia in a repeat of the 2022 final on Wednesday. BWF Badminton Photo

would charge the net, and defang Ginting's speed with power game from up close to push and pin him into a retreat.

He devised excellent lifts - deep and high - from unbalanced positions and he had truly hit his stride when he made Ginting twist and turn with pinpoint shots along both flanks. Prannoy's wide repertoire of strokes was summoned to rush the speediest runner on the circuit. But it was that exquisite skill of accurately understanding how the shuttle moves in the drift that helped him go for the backline.

#### Prannoy's self-awareness

Earlier, Prannoy had made himself look ominous at the net with a few pointed sharp winners. What this did was leave Ginting with no choice but to try and push him back. But the Indonesian kept overshooting as the shuttle went long, while the Indian had great control over the lofted

shots of his own. Prannoy broke away at 8-8 in the second set, and 7-7 in the third, and never allowed Ginting an entry back into

Prannoy would later tell BWF about how he approaches these comebacks from a set down. "Somebody like Ginting will come hard. So you just hang in there. He was really quick at the start. These conditions suit him. But I have to trust my game and believe it will work. I had to be patient in the second half where I couldn't give him any chance to run through me. Focus was on second game. I knew third game would be a dogfight. I always have an edge in third game because of strategy I use and trust," he explained.

Prannoy's self-awareness has ensured he prepares adequately for opponents with faster feet. "To be honest, age is catching up. And first set is always starting trouble. Takes time to get used to the pace of these

kind of players. In men's singles average age of top players is 23, 2. And someone like 31, 32 will struggle a bit with speed initially. Only thing I can do is use all my experience over the years, against all the players I've played. And keep pushing that those kind of strategies will work. No other choice but to trust strategy at this level," he added after winning 13-21, 21-12, 21-12. It has helped him beat Viktor Axelsen

at World Championships for a hard-earned medal. And it's what he will need to summon against China's best, Shi Yuqi. China didn't play on Wednesday and will enjoy a better turnaround time for recovery. But Prannoy knows he will have to beat the best names, to take India forward. India's chances will heavily hinge on

Lakshya Sen, who will need to hit the groove faster against possibly Li Shifeng, after he came close to beating Jonatan Christie but was shabby at the finish, los-

## Unlucky 13

NOT ONE, not two, not even 10... Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and **Chirag Shetty** saved as many as 12 match points against Muhammad



Shohibul Fikri - Bagas Maulana in the Thomas Cup group-stage clash against Indonesia. Eventually, it was unlucky 13 for the Indians as their recent nemesis prevailed – now a fourth win in their last five meetings. Satwik-Chirag were a game and 14-20 down. At that point, it seemed as if the match was as good as over. But on Satwik's serve, the Indians

started to claw their way back. They have done this before, just earlier this year. But those were not match points, but game points at the Malaysia Open. But here, every one of those points were potential match-enders. But the Indians reeled off 6 straight points, targeting mostly Maulana. Then from 20-20, they saved two more to force a decider. In Game 3, they trailed 15-20. Surely

not again? Once again on Satwik's serve, they got to 19-20. But what could have been the greatest heist in Indian badminton history fell just short when Fikri, fittingly, closed it out.

ing 21-18, 16-21, 21-17.

An unusually pumped-up Christie played aggressively in pushing Sen away from the net early on, but the Indian bounced from being 8-16 down to level 18all in the opener. He would take charge of the net once he found his length, and then dip into overhead deceptions with half smashes to trouble Christie.

But in both sets he lost, Sen couldn't close out against the All England champion and was in disarray as the Indonesian broke away. Rallies got punishing as Christie employed the high tosses, and eventually kept Sen tangled in defense and dazed with a hazy endgame plan. While Satwik-Chirag and Kidambi Srikanth / Priyanshu Rajawat might need to get the tricky wins, Lakshya Sen will be the pivot in the third match of the China tie. India will bank of its Parisbound Four to take the attack to China on

# Skeet shooter Chauhan turns summer hobby into Paris 2024 berth

**NITIN SHARMA** 

CHANDIGARH, MAY 1

MAHESHWARI CHAUHAN was 12 when she picked up the Beretta 682, one of the shotguns that adorned her gun-enthusiast grandfather's vast collection.

What began as a summer vacation hobby while visiting her family's shooting range at their village, Siana, in Rajasthan, has now transformed into something a lot more serious. Last week, the 27-year-old Chauhan won a Paris Olympics quota for India after finishing second in the final Olympic qualification tournament in Doha.

Her quota meant that for the first time at the Olympics, India could have two women competing in skeet shooting. It also extended India's record as the country will now have 21 shooters aiming for glory at the Games, which will be held from July 26 to August 11.

The silver medal at the qualifying tournament in Doha has seen Chauhan rising to the joint top spot with 11 points along with Dhillon, followed by Ganemat Sekhon at the third spot with nine points in the federation's selection merit list for Paris.

When she began, however, these records and numbers were far from Chauhan's mind. For her, a day at the shooting range was all

about spending time with the family at their farmlands in Siana.

Chauhan would be accompanied by her grandfather Ganpat Singh, father Pradeep Singh and brother Daksheshwar Singh. Chauhan initially tried her hands in trap shooting but a year later, she shifted to skeet, a more complex and technical event as compared to the trap and double trap.

"One thing that made shooting natural to me was that I did not have any pressure. I just saw shotgun shooting as something to relax and saw it as fun. Yes, it took some time to adjust to the physical side of the sport with the gun recoil and impact as a 12-year-old but then I would only train for 2-3 months during school vacations," Chauhan says.

Once she got the hang of the shotgun, she trained under then national skeet champion Amardeep Rai and later with national coach and Olympic champion Ennio Falco, 'who helped me with the technicalities of skeet,' adds Chauhan.

Unlike trap or double trap, which see shooters shooting targets shot from fixed angle houses, shooters in skeet have targets flying from two opposing towers at varying angles and height. It makes the flight of the target unpredictable and tougher compared to the other shotgun events.

But that wasn't the only tough part about



Maheshwari Chauhan won a quota for India after finishing second in Olympic qualification tournament. Express

skeet which Chauhan had to overcome. "I am a diminutive shooter so it takes time for a lot of people to believe that I can handle the shotgun," she laughs. "But then spending time at the stations at the village range and making the impressions of each station with the high and low houses each single day of practice is what helped me."

#### Breakthrough in 2017

A top-20 finish in the ISSF World Cup in Mexico in 2013 was followed by a top-ten finish in the Asian Championship in 2016 for Chauhan. But it was a bronze in the 2017 Asian Championships that saw Chauhan emerging as a serious talent on the national scene. The shooter would be part of the Indian teams for the World Cups and World Championships before she won a bronze in this year's Asian Championships in Kuwait, where Raiza Dhillon won India's first skeet quota for the Paris Games. Even though time was running out for her to win a quota, Chauhan says she remained calm and trusted the hard work she had put in while training under Italian coach Riccardo Filipelli in Aritzo, where Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Diana Bocosi and 2022 World Cup Final silver medallist Martina Bartolomei also practise.

"The biggest thing I learnt in Italy was how the Italian shooters shot with a relaxed mind. They don't get too worked up and keep the focus going while having the fun in the sport," Chauhan says. "The change for me was how I mount the gun. Earlier, I would connect in front of the target with the lead. Now I mount the gun and connect with it in front of me and then go with the lead and shoot. Yes, it did get lonely in Italy with the language barrier but then I would spend 5-6 hours at the range and would be so tired at the end of the day with nothing to think about and just sleep."

While Filipelli made her re-learn some techniques, he underlined the need for Chauhan to 'have fun.' Or as he says, 'the Italian Way, the fun way'. "The first thing for me was to make her feel at ease and to make her understand that at the base of skeet, there should be fun. We worked a lot on the movement, on the face of the stock and a targeted approach. But then the underlying approach has been to shoot the Italian way, the fun way," Filipelli tells The Indian Express. When she entered the competition in Doha, not just Filipelli's but even Dhillon's words were ringing in Chauhan's ears. "At Doha, Raiza told me that when she got the quota in Kuwait, she had shot without thinking about the quota place. It gave me belief to shoot according to my strengths, Chauhan says.

When she returned with a medal and a quota, she was reminded of her grandfather, who passed away in 2012. "To see me win the quota for India and to make sure that two Indian women skeet shooters will be going to the Paris Olympics is something which he would have been proud of."

#### **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMIS**

# Efficient Real Madrid making an art form of scoring when least expected

**AP/REUTERS** MUNICH, MAY 1

REAL MADRID has made an art form of striking when least expected.

Bayern Munich was so dominant in the Champions League semifinal on Tuesday that it seemed only a matter of time before it scored. But Madrid pounced instead.

Vinícius Júnior ran onto a brilliant Toni Kroos pass and fired the visitors ahead in the 24th minute with their first chance.

"I know that Viní prefers the ball in space than at his feet," Kroos said. "Then he makes his move. He makes the pass easy for me with his run." Madrid's knack for scoring goals out of nothing is a trait that plays on rivals' minds as Bayern midfielder Leon Goretzka acknowledged after the teams' 2-2 draw.

"We let Vinícius out our eye for a bit and then there was a huge hole," Goretzka said.

"There wasn't the feeling that something dangerous could happen but that's the quality of Real and you need to be ready for it all the time." Bayern dominated possession and goal attempts (14-8) but the two-leg series remains

wide open ahead of the return semifinal match in Madrid next week.

"We had that last season too against Paris with Neymar and (Kylian) Mbappé, they're just players with unbelievable quality," Goretzka said. "It's extremely dangerous when they're up front. You always have to have a top defense and of course you can't march forward blindly, no question." Madrid should arguably have gone on to score more after Vinícius opened the scoring as Bayern's confidence took a blow

and the home team no longer dominated. Manuel Neuer made a fine save to deny Kroos and Madrid was in the ascendancy when Leroy Sané equalized with a fierce strike inside the right post and Harry Kane converted a penalty for Bayern.

Vinícius scored again after coolly converting a late penalty to level the match.

"Real Madrid always makes moves," Vinícius said. "Now we have to be concentrated for the 90 minutes, or 120 if needed, at the Bernabéu." The winner will play Borussia Dortmund or Paris Saint-Germain in the final in London on June 1. Dortmund and PSG were to play the first leg of their semifinal in Dortmund on Wednesday.



Despite Bayern's domination at times, Vinicius Jr (R) scored twice on Wednesday to keep the tie alive going into the second leg in Madrid. Reuters

Ready for second leg: Tuchel

Bayern Munich were victims of Real Madrid's lethal efficiency on Tuesday "The result is what it is and it's not worth

spending any time thinking about it," Tuchel, who will leave Bayern at the end of the season after a disappointing domestic campaign, told a press conference. "Real have done it before, to

## **FINAL SCORELINE**

Bayern 2 | Real Sane 53' Vinícius Júnior Kane 57' (P) 24',83'(P)

score twice with two chances. We are not the first team to suffer that. They have the finish. they have the quality to do that. "We had a strong start then we lost a bit our rhythm. We should have scored a third but we were not efficient enough, not cold enough to add a third. Then we gifted them a penalty." Bayern enjoyed a strong start and also had chances to score again after going 2-1 up. They will now need to win against Real, who are chasing a 15th European Cup, in Madrid next Wednesday if they are to advance to the final at Wembley.

"The situation is now very clear," Tuchel added. "We go to Madrid and the winner takes it all. We are ready to fight. It is important to believe that, "It is still possible. It is 50-50. It is one of the toughest places to win but that is also what makes this challenge exciting."

### Ancelotti unhappy with attitude

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was disappointed with his players' attitude, calling them "soft" for defending too deep in their 2-2 draw at Bayern Munich in the Champions League semi-final, first leg on Tuesday. Ancelotti was critical of his team's commitment after Vinicius Jr's first-half goal gave them the lead as Bayern struck twice in four minutes early in the second half to turn the game around before Vinicius equalised from the penalty spot.

"The result is good but on a level of play we could have done better. Bayern showed their best version and we didn't. We have to improve for next week," an introspective Ancelotti told Movistar Plus+. "In the first half we defended but with little intensity, in the second half when they took the lead we started to press a bit more, but not enough.

"The feeling was that we were comfortable, but we lacked intensity. We gave them too many chances to take control of the game. We didn't want to play in a low block and we went on doing that. We were soft."

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