INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesgroup.com

Shahzad Akbar (46), a former federal minister & adviser to ex-Pak PM Imran Khan, launches legal action against Pak govt, claiming it orchestrated an acid attack on him at his UK home, OTHER BOOK, P 12

Marcus Stoinis hit 62 off 45 balls as Lucknow Super Giants (145/6) beat Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets. MI posted 144/7 with Nehal Wadhera scoring 46, P 12

PSG and Kylian Mbappe will play Borussia **Dortmund in the UEFA Champions League** semifinal first leg. While PSG are leading Ligue 1, Dortmund are fighting for the fourth spot in the Bundesliga, P 12



DOUBLE DELIGHT

roday's bumper issue of TOI is organised in two sections, both equally packed with news and analysis. To get the full reading experience of today's edition, make sure you don't miss the other section

OTHER BOOK **TOP STORIES**

- > Shah deepfake clip: Two held, 3 netas get notice Meta response to plaints 'far worse than govt dept': HC
- 'More women in leadership roles, pay parity still a concern'

CAT orders reinstatement of IPS officer forced to retire

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has quashed IPS officer Gurjinder Pal Singh's compulsory retirement from service and ordered his reinstatement with all associated be-

nefits within four weeks. Singh held the rank of ADG in Chhattisgarh when he was compulsorily retired from service after being raided by the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) and a sedition case was registered against him during the tenure of the Bhupesh Baghel govt in the state.

The tribunal called the action "punitive" and said it was to avoid a departmental inquiry. Singh told the tribunal he was in charge of several sensitive investigations and he was subjected to "political pressure from higher echelons of state govt". P9

Teen killed, 4 hurt in London sword attack

man wielding a sword at-Atacked members of the public and police officers in a northeast London suburb Tuesday, killing a 14-yearold boy and injuring four others. A 36-year-old man was subdued with a stun gun and arrested on suspicion of murder in a residential area near Hainault subway station. The violence wasn't being treated as terror related or a "targeted attack". Two police officers were hospitalised for wounds. Two others were also injured. OTHER BOOK, P10

Samples from two eateries to be tested

ood safety and drug administration teams collected samples of palm oil, cheese and mayonnaise from a McDonald's outlet in Noida Sector 18 and pineapple cake from Theobroma in Sector 104 following customer complaints. The firms may face action if the products are found substandard. TNN

Now, Indian spices under Aus scanner

ustralia's food safety agen-\(\sigma\) cy is collecting information on possible contamination of spice mixes sold by Indian companies MDH and Everest to decide if a food recall is required. "We are working with international counterparts to understand the issue," Food Standards Australia New Zealand said Tuesday. OTHER BOOK, P5

School fee hike orders under lens

The vigilance directorate has written to the director of education on Tuesday about anomalies in fee hikes in 18 city schools and five private, unaided institutions, and the failure of some schools to fill the 25% economically weaker sections quota. Among the 18 fee hike orders, 13 involved retrospective fee increases. P4

Kids' hospital in city gets bomb hoax

A n email claiming a bomb A had been planted at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya in Shahdara caused panic Tuesday. The email was also sent to at least 50 others, including govt departments. As a precautionary measure, patients were evacuated. No suspicious object was found. OTHER BOOK, P2

Why arrest Kejriwal right before LS polls, SC asks ED

'Time Gap **Before Action** Bothering Us'

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday said Enforcement Directorate would have to give an explanation on the timing of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's arrest, which was carried out just before general elections, and observed that the gap between initiation of proceedings in the alleged Delhi excise scam case and his arrest was "bothering" the court.

At the conclusion of Kejriwal's submission by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked additional solici-

'LIFE & LIBERTY EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT'

> Without adjudicatory proceedings (attachment action), can ED initiate criminal proceedings? Says no attachment taken in this case, and if taken, how is petitioner (Kejriwal) linked to it

How is Section 19 of PMLA to be interpreted, as he (Kejriwal) is coming against his arrest... instead of applying for bail, because he will have to face higher threshold under Section 45 of PMLA (to seek bail) if he takes latter course?

Long time gap between beginning of proceedings and arrest. Section 8 of PMLA provides maximum limit of 365 days. Other option is to not arrest... Life & liberty are exceedingly important

tor general S V Raju to be ready with answers on Friday to five questions it raised on the basis of Singhvi's arguments, including on the timing of arrestand the time-gap in proceedings against the CM.

The five questions put to the ED by the bench are: "Without initiating adjudicatory proceedings (attachment action), can you initiate

criminal proceedings?" The court noted that there were no attachment proceedings in the case so far.

"As far as the judgment in Manish Sisodia case is concerned, there are findings in his favour and against him also. Tell us which side this case (Kejriwal's) lies."

"How is Section 19 of PMLA to be interpreted, as he (Kejri-

Court dismisses Sisodia's bail plea

Delhi court on Tuesday Adismissed the second regular bail plea of former deputy CM Sisodia in the laundering and corruption cases pertaining to the excise policy, saying the stage was not right. CBI said Sisodia was the main architect of the conspiracy while ED said he was involved in destruction of evidence. P4

wal) is coming against his arrest...instead of applying for bail, because he will have to face the higher threshold under Section 45 of PMLA if he takes the latter course? So how do we interpret it? Do we make the threshold much higher and ensure the standard is same to find the person who is guilty?"

► Held mths after case, P 2

'Unwarranted': MEA slams WaPo report on plot to kill Pannun

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Washington Post report, which alleged involvement of top Indian officials, including former RAW chief Samant Goel, in the Pannun murder-for-hire plot, makes unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter, govt said Tuesday in its first reaction to the story that also identified the Indian official who allegedly ordered the foiled attempt on Khalistan leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's life.

In a statement, govt said there's an ongoing investigation by the 'high-level committee' set up by India to look into the security concerns shared

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: JD(S) suspended

Tuesday its Hassan MP and

Lok Sabha election candidate

Prajwal Revanna for brea-

ching discipline, while ack-

nowledging that the sleaze vi-

deos allegedly involving the

33-year-old politician, grand-

son of former PM and party

patriarch HD Deve Gowda, are

tarnishing its image and put-

ting its functionaries in a bad

light. Gowda has sanctioned

the suspension, the party said.

police's SIT, which is probing

the videos, issued notice to

During the day, Karnataka

► EDIT: Many Revannas

There's an ongoing investigation by the highlevel committee (by India to look into US security concerns on) networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others. Speculative & irresponsible comments are not helpful - Randhir Jaiswal | MEA

This is a serious matter and we're taking it very seriously. Govt of India has been clear with us that they are taking this seriously and will investigate -Karine Jean-Pierre | US PRESS SECY

by the US govt on "networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others". "Speculative and irresponsible comments on it are not helpful," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson, mini-

JD(S) suspends Prajwal, SIT

calls dad-son for questioning

NSUI members protest against

Prajwal Revanna in Bengaluru

Praiwal and his MLA-father

HD Revanna, directing them

to appear for questioning.

Prajwal is said to have flown

abroad. The SIT has expanded

stry of external affairs. India had formed the committee in Nov, but has so far not revealed anything about the outcome of the probe. The foreign ministry had earlier stated that India is probing the information shared by US authorities on the plot because it has a bearing on India's security as well.

The US had last year indicted an Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, for his role in the Pannun murder plot and said in the indictment he was working for an Indian official it then identified as 'CC-1'. The Washington Post report has now named the official who ordered the hit as Vikram Yadav.

'Expect accountability', P 9

BJP won't tolerate

insult to women: Shah

Inion home minister Amit

Shah condemned the alle-

ged sexual abuse of women in-

volving MP Prajwal Revanna

of NDA ally JD(S) and said,

"BJP's stand is very clear, we

will not tolerate any insult to

matri aur nari shakti". He as-

ked why the Congress govt in

the state had not acted on the

its team to 21, including 18 ad-

ditional police officers. Twel-

ve of the members are women.

▶Ex-driver vs neta, P 7

matter so far. P7

Final turnout: 66.1% in Ph 1, 66.7% in Ph 2

EC has not yet made the number of votes polled in these two phases public.

The data showed Laksha dweep recorded the highest voting percentage (84.2%) in the first phase while in the second, it was Manipur, which recorded 84.8% polling. OTHER BOOK, P6

Patanjali told to pay ₹27.5cr for **GST** infraction

Dehradun/Haridwar: In a double blow to Patanjali, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in Chandigarh has imposed a penalty of Rs 27.5 crore on Patanjali Foods for an irregularity in Input Tax Credit. The notice comes a day after the Uttarakhand govt suspended the licences for 14 products sold by Patanjali Ayurved and Divya Pharmacy, including popular offerings Swasari Gold, Mukta Vati Extra Power and BP Grit. The penalty stems from the detection of a Rs 20-crore irregularity in

▶ 'Will take legal step', P 6

lection Commission on Tuesday released the final voter turnout figures for the first and second phases — 66.1% and 66.7% respectively — days after completion of polling. The announcement came on a day opposition parties questioned the delay in making the data public, reports Dipak Dash.

ITC, as GST officials revealed.

'Juvenile' to suggest national wealth redistribution: SG

Dynamics Of **Eco Devpt Have** Changed: SC

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Amid a growing debate on redistribution of wealth, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told Supreme Court Tuesday these were "rustic and juvenile" methods to achieve egalitarianism.

Outlining that Article 39(b) of Constitution envisaged distribution of material resources of the community to subserve the common good, Mehta told a 9-judge bench led by CJI D Y Chandrachud, "It would be a rustic and juvenile method to propose computing the nation's wealth by totalling the wealth of every citizen and distributing it equally among a particular section. Such ideas reflect a lack of understanding of economic development, governance, social welfare and the nation."

Mehta said if a plot of land belonged to an individual and it was needed for const-

PRIVATE INVESTMENTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, SAYS 9-JUDGE BENCH

> Totalling each citizen's wealth & distributing equally among a particular section 'rustic' idea, reflects 'lack of understanding' of economic development, governance, social welfare, SG Mehta tells 9-judge SC bench

> Will be 'extremely unfair' to interpret Art 39(b) to include all pvt property as community resources, says bench Pvt investments hold key

and must be encouraged for a productive economy, it adds Interpretation of Art 39(b) of Constitution should send a 'clear message of what India is & what it aspires to be'

Points out SG's arguments 'appear to contradict that of AG' who argued community resources would include pvt properties; arguments to conclude on Wednesday

Ambedkar left Article 39(b) vague to allow future govts to devise suitable laws: SG

G Mehta extensively quoted B R Ambedkar while trying to find an answer to the question on whether material resources of the community included private property. He said Ambedkar was aware of the intricacies future govts and Parliament would face in providing social, economic and political justice to citizens and, hence, left the wording of Art 39(b) deliberately vague to allow them to devise appropriate legislations. P5

ruction of a road to subserve the common good of residents of a large area, then that privately-owned land would be classified as material resource to be utilised for greater good of the community.

class of citizens," he said. ► 'Need to balance...', P 5

lation is not meant to take

away properties owned by

people of a particular com-

munity, race or caste for dis-

tribution among another

"Article 39(b) based legis-2nd hottest April ever in South, E India mean temp at 51-yr high

Amit.Bhattacharya @timesgroup.com

outh India experienced its second hottest April on record in terms of maximum temperatures while the average mean temperature in east and northeast India was the highest for the month in 51 years, IMD data reveals, attesting to the torridly hot conditions that these regions have been witnessing over the past few weeks.

The last few days have seen heat records fall in three of biggest cities — Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai. The South as a whole re-

corded an average maximum temperature of nearly 37.2 degrees Celsius during the month — surpassed only by 37.6 degrees C logged in April 2016 in records going back to 1901 — IMD's monthly temperature data reveals. Bengaluru witnessed its hottest ever April. The metro, once famous as the Garden City, recorded 13 extremely hot days, including six in a row, during the month.

Eastern India has been baking in April heat during a prolonged spell of extreme weather. As per IMD's data, the average mean temperature in the region (east and

APRIL ROAS

HOTTEST PLACES ON TUESDAY 47.2°C in Kalaikunda (Bengal). 47.1°C in Baharagora (Jharkhand), 46.4°C in Baripada (Odisha)

37.2°C | Avg max temp this April in South India, 2nd highest since

1901. Highest was **37.6°C** in 2016

Hottest April on record in Bengaluru 38.3°C All-time high max temp

in Alappuzha (Kerala) on Monday EAST INDIA

28°C | Avg mean temp (in east & NE region), highest for April since 1973. Avg min temp (22.1°C) highest ever for month

43°C in Kolkata (Dum Dum), its highest temp in April and fourth highest ever

Students stream back as Kannauj govt school principal turns classroom into pool

oncerned over a sharp drop in attendance at a govt school in UP's Kannauj because of the heat, principal Vaibhav Rajpoot turned a classroom into a makeshift swimming pool, reports Isha Jain. The attendance instantly shot up: From 38 to 65 students. Curious locals trooped to Model Primary School in Tirwa's Mahsaunapu to watch the little ones make a big splash. "We chose a 18x20 feet classroom to convert it into a pool. The information about this fun activity was circulated on WhatsApp to ensure everyone got to know about it," Rajpoot said. P5

NE, as per IMD classification) during the month was the highest since 1973, with 43 degrees C, its highest temthe average night temperatures the highest ever in April. Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar have been reeling under

extreme heat. On Tuesday, Kolkata (Dum Dum) logged perature in April and fourth highest for any month.

►Mercury hits 47 deg C, P 5

Raj Babbar gets Cong ticket from Ggn, Anand Sharma to fight from Kangra Subodh.Ghildiyal

@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In an announce-

ment that shows the complete sway of satrap Bhupinder Hooda in the selection of Haryana candidates, actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar will contest from Gurgaon in the Lok Sabha elections. Babbar pipped the party's OBC department chairman Ajay Yadav in the race for nomination, as Hooda is said to have insisted on the former MP who is his close friend. A miffed Yaday targeted

Hooda, without naming him,

Ex-MLA is interim **Delhi Cong chief** ongress on Tuesday appo-

inted ex-MLA and AICC in-charge for Punjab, Devender Yaday, interim president of Delhi party unit, two days after Arvinder Singh Lovely quit the post. Yadav held a meeting with AAP to plan a joint campaign strategy of the opposition's INDIA bloc. P2

alleging a "deep rooted conspiracy" to crush senior regional party functionaries. Congress has fielded vete-

ran Anand Sharma from Kangra in HP. Sharma was associated with G-23 dissidents and was recently overlooked for Rajya Sabha nomination. He later shot off a letter to party president Mallikarjun Kharge questioning the party's adoption of caste census in the manifesto.

Congress also selected

Satpal Raizada for Hamirpur

in HP, and Bhushan Patil from Mumbai North, even as the party workers await with anticipation the names for Amethi and Rae Bareli in UP.

► See OTHER BOOK, P 6

'Differing visions': Godrejs seal deal to split 127-yr-old empire into two

Mumbai: The Godrej family has reached a settlement to split the Rs 59,000-crore, 127year-old locks-to-land development group to "better align ownership in acknowledgement of the differing visions of family members".

Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir Godrej will gain complete ownership over the group's five listed entities -Godrej Consumer Products, Godrej Properties, Godrej Industries, Godrej Agrovet and Astec Lifesciences while Jamshyd and his sister Smita will fully control Godrej & Boyce. TNN P11



WHO GETS WHAT? Brothers Adi and Nadir

Godrej gain complete ownership of group's 5 listed

too owns a stake in Godrej companies, has no formal role It remains to be seen how the group's real estate assets, worth over ₹3,000 crore, held under Godrej & Boyce, will be divided between the

Another cousin Rishad, who

cos (worth about ₹2.4L crore) Their cousin Jamshyd and his sister Smita will control Godrej & Boyce (unlisted, ₹16,000-crore turnover)

two branches

PANT BACK FOR WORLD CUP, RINKU MISSES OUT The selectors chose to play safe rather than brave while picking India's 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup. The

HIGH ON EXPERIENCE, LOW ON EXPERIMENTATION:

Rohit Sharma-led team is loaded with experienced names, but the big worry is whether they'll be able to cope with the turbocharged run rates that are rapidly becoming the norm in T20. Rishabh Pant's return from horrific injuries is an undoubted feel-good story, but there's no room for Rinku Singh, whose T20I strike rate is a staggering 176 elevated based on past performance,

STRENGTHS: Jasprit Bumrah probably the most complete paceman in world cricket. Reuniting Kuldeep Yaday and Yuzi Chahal, the old Kul-Cha combo, makes the team a formidable spin unit. Survakumar Yadav, world's no. 1 T20 batter as per ICC ranking, is back from injury. Kohli's in fine fettle (500 runs in this IPL), with an improved strike rate (147). Able and composed captain in Rohit Sharma WEAKNESSES:

Hardik ND

Compared to other teams such as Australia, the team lacks all-rounders and X factor players. India's lone pace bowling all-rounder, vice captain Hardik Pandya, has been selected and

not current form. Squad lacks ruthless hitters, unlike olive oil fueled defending champs England or the West Indies. Pace unit patchy:

Mohd Siraj below his best, Arshdeep often leaking runs, especially at the death. Injured Shami sorely missed. Team abounds in ordinary fielders such as Arshdeep, Chahal, Siraj

> **OPPORTUNITIES:** After dominating in the ODI World Cup only to fall at the final hurdle, the team has a chance to win only its second

THREATS: Squad short of proven finishers. The top order batting lineup is largely similar to the squads that failed to win the last two T20 World Cups. The tail may not be able to contribute too much with the bat.

Pant's return Rohit's IPL to fitness form a concern Other Book, P12

T20 World Cup title

TO MISS **OUT:** Sandeep

FULL COVERAGE: OTHER BOOK, P12

Ball-guzzlers in the top order could put extra How a swizzle of pressure on lower order.

SQUAD: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj

> RESERVES: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan UNLUCKY

> > Sharma. who has been impressive both in the Powerplay and death in this year's IPL; T Natarajan, whose yorkers could have come in handy in slog overs: Rinku, who in the reserves but will only play if a squad member is injured





FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 35°C and 21°C SUNSET 6.57PM (WED) MOONSET 11.38AM (WED) SUNRISE 5.40AM (THU) MOONRISE 01.49AM (THU)



No. of trafficking victims rescued rises 22% in 2023 Other book, P3



@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Central govt hospitals, ensuring minimum

wages in unorganised sectors

and better roads in the natio-

nal capital would be part of

BJP's Delhi manifesto, expec-

an elaborate feedback mecha-

nism using mobile vans threw

up some of these suggestions.

The source said that the party

got around 15,000 suggestions,

out which many were similar

but around 800 suggestions

said: "We have seen that most

of the hospitals in Delhi are

centred in central and North

Delhi and there is a demand

that many people had comp-

lained that even though there

is a minimum wage in Delhi,

many employers do not imp-

lement it. "There could be so-

mething on those lines as

ded more central schools in

the capital for which the par-

ty would push central govt

sify actions against pollution

People have also deman-

Another functionary said

in East and North East."

A senior BJP functionary

were given serious thought.

Sources in BJP said that

ted to be released soon.

A trial on Ring Road to cut errors and ease congestion | Other book, P2



Ex-MLA Named Interim Delhi Cong BJP's Delhi manifesto likely to focus on central hosps, roads Chief, Says Will Listen To Everyone

Immediately After Taking Over, Yadav Joins Party In-charge Babaria For Talks With AAP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Tuesday appointed former MLA and current AICC in-charge for Punjab, Devender Yadav, as the interim president of the Delhi party unit.

The appointment was necessitated by sudden resignation of former Delhi minister Arvinder Singh Lovely, who cited various reasons, including Congress' alliance with AAP for the Lok Sabha elections.

Within hours of being named interim president, Yaday, along with party's Delhi in-charge Deepak Babaria, held a meeting with AAP to plan a joint campaign strategy of the opposition's INDIA bloc in Delhi and Haryana.

From AAP, the party general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak attended the meeting with legislators.

Delhi Congress in a press statement said the functionaries of the two parties, which have forged a seat-sharing arrangement in the capital, ag-

reed on having a total understanding on the ground and finalised a roadmap for the joint election strategy, to be drawn up in the next couple of days.

"It was also decided to hold joint meetings of Congress and AAP, have regular interactions with people and fully activate ground-level workers in both Delhi and Haryana to win all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and 10 in Haryana," the party said in a statement.

Following his appoint-

ment as interim president, Yaday said he would work to make Congress stronger in Delhi. He was elected as an MLA from Badli assembly segment in 2008 and 2013. A Congress Working Committee member and AICC in-charge of Punjab, Yadav also held the position of one of the three working presidents of Delhi Congress in 2019 when former chief minister Sheila Dikshit was appointed president.

Talking to reporters, Yadav accepted that he was entrusted with a crucial responsibility at



AT HELM: Devender Yadav

a challenging time when polling was just 25 days away. On the issue of discontentment among some party functionaries, Yadav said he will talk to such colleagues and try to find a solution to their grievances.

"As Delhi Congress president, it is now my duty to reach out to everyone, listen to their grievances and find a solution," he said.

Babaria asserted that there would be "zero impact" of Lovely's resignation. He countered all allega-

tions, including one related to Congress entering into an alCONG STATEMENT

Cong and AAP agreed on having a total understanding on the ground and finalised a roadmap for the joint election strategy to be drawn up in the next couple of days

liance with AAP, saying: "Lovely was part of all decisions made regarding the polls."

Speaking to TOI, Babaria defended the decision to form the alliance with AAP and in fielding Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi and Udit Raj from North West Delhi. These were "well thoughtout decisions", he said.

Asked about allegations regarding Kanhaiya not being in touch with the ground reality of his constituency and being an "outsider", Babaria said in a national election, the larger context is equally important

as local factors. "Moreover, the choice of candidates is a collective decision of the party and not one person's."

In his resignation as state president, Lovely, among various issues, had trained his guns at Babaria for unilaterally vetoing decisions taken by the senior Delhi functionaries.

Babaria on Sunday said he stopped Lovely because undeserving people were getting promoted.

Congratulating Yadav on his appointment, Congress treasurer and former Union minister Ajay Maken launched a veiled attack on Lovely and said it was not justified to undermine the organisation which gave them their political identity. "In politics, things don't always go our way. Sometimes, our desires remain unfulfilled, our voices unheard—yet, does this justify undermining the very organisation that defines our political identity? Should we repeatedly inflict harm on our organisation for personal gain?" Maken asked on X.

> and the issue could be part of the manifesto. He said that a large number of people requested central govt should further inten-

in Delhi and the party was thinking on those lines as well. Sources said that there were also complaints related to issues faced by people in getting registry done in

well," he said.

unauthorised colonies, followed by sealing of local shopping centres. As of March 1, a total of 4.75 lakh people living in unauthorised colonies have applied to Delhi Development

Authority (DDA) for ownership rights of their houses under the PM Uday Yojana. While 56,306 cases have been disposed of, conveyance deeds and authorisation slips have

WHAT'S IN STORE

BJP's Delhi manifesto likely to be released soon

WHAT PEOPLE WANT THE GOVT TO FOCUS ON > Central govt hospitals

> Roads

Measures to

control pollution

- > Central schools
- > Complaints related to issues faced by people in getting registry done in unauthorised colonies
- Complaints related to sealing of shops

Issue of unauthorised colonies

4.8 lakh people living in unauthorised colonies have applied to DDA for ownership rights of their houses under the PM Uday

56,306 disposed of

Yojana

22,034 issued conveyance deeds and authorisation slips

Remaining applications in various stages

*Figures as of March 1

A large number of people requested central govt should further intensify actions against pollution in Delhi and the party is thinking on those lines as well

BJP FUNCTIONARY SAYS

been issued in 22,034 other cases. The remaining applications are in various stages, according to officials.

DDA had earlier stated that it had taken various initiatives in the recent past to motivate nearly 40 lakh people living in 12.5 lakh houses and 1,731 unauthorised colonies to participate in the scheme, which was launched four years ago.

However, the numbers haven't been encouraging. Residents said they faced hurdles

in fulfilling the terms and conditions, such as attaching a power of attorney. While the scheme provides ownership rights, it lacks other benefits, like adding recreation spaces and parks, they said.

He said that the manifesto would also have provisions to ease the entire process.

Another complaint pertained to the sealing of local shopping centres. Thousands of properties have been sealed in the national capital over the past six years by a monitoring committee.

Until last year, 5,639 properties remained shut. Although a judicial committee had passed an order on desealing, the civic body has filed an appeal with Supreme Court, saying that it would lead to revenue loss. "This is also an issue that we would be taking up in the manifesto to ensure that people whose shops are shut are given relief," he said.

AAP sees alliance opportunity in Lovely's stepdown

Abhinav.Rajput@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party has seen a silver lining in Arvinder Singh Lovely's resignation as state Congress president. AAP is hopeful of a fresh push to the alliance with a new coordination committee working in tandem, senior functionaries said.

Party insiders said that there was a stagnation under Lovely's leadership as there was a lack of joint meetings and campaigns.

However, with the new president interim president Devender Yadav in the sadd-

le, the alliance is expected to

gain momentum, they said. AAP sources said joint campaigns by cadres will prominently feature photos of both Kejriwal and Rahul Gandhi on stage and will be

done till the cadre level.

While AAP is contesting four seats in the capital — East, New Delhi, South and West—Congress will fight for the remaining three — North East, North West and Chandni Chowk. Delhi votes on May 25, the 6th phase of the elections.

"There were issues with the alliance earlier, even the chief minister had said after the Delhi budget that things were moving at a slower pa-



Party insiders said that there was a stagnation under Lovely's headship

ce," a senior functionary said. He said that a joint campaign happened on Monday in Shakur Basti of the Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituency to campaign for Cong-

Big deal in the sky

AGENDA

hul and Kejriwal were used. Sources in Delhi Congress said AAP councillors have be-

ress candidate Jai Prakash

Agarwal. Posters of both Ra-

en told to reach out to candidates and to ensure that roadshows of Congress are well organised. "AAP has definitely more councillors and they are in the power too in MCD. Some of them have contacted our leaders and more will reach out to ensure that door-to-door meetings and padayatras are held with ease," he said.

"Councillors are an important cog in the election machinery as they know the areas and issues of the area

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

better and are in regular contact with people," he said.

AAP has 134 of 250 wards, while BJP has 104. Congress is a distant third with just nine.

Sources in the AAP said that there should be a uniformity in the campaign of the candidates which is the reason that both AAP and Congress pick up similar issues. "If Congress candidates are also seeking votes in the name of CM Kejriwal it is because that has resonance on the ground."

He was referring to Lovely's statement where he had criticised some Congress candidates for heaping praise on Keiriwal.

CM arrested 18 months after case was filed, says counsel

▶ Continued from P1

That is bothering us is the time gap between the initiation of proceedings and repeated complaints being filed after some time. If

you see Section 8, there is a limit of 365 days. Other option is to not arrest... life and liberty are exceedingly important."

"Why was the arrest made right before Lok Sabha polls?" The agency will respond to

statements against him".

the court's queries on Friday. Singhvi, appearing for the CM, concluded his submission and contended that Kejriwal was arrested 18 months after the case was filed and that too on the basis of "hearsay evidence". He gave a detailed timeline on how relief was granted to accused-turned-approvers soon after they named Kejriwal and were "forced by the agency to make

In his affidavit, the CM has accused ED of working on behalf of the Centre to crush its political opponents ahead of general elections and said his arrest

was "illegal, arbitrary and an unprecedented assault on the tenets of democracy based on free and fair elections and federalism".

"It is very sad and some kind of farce is going on. The agency is relying upon the statement of co-accused

who were made to give statements prior to grant of pardon," Singhvi said while referring to statements of Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy on the basis of which the chief minister was arrested.

He said Reddy gave the statement five months after his son Raghav Reddy was arrested, and once the latter turned approver, ED on the very next day did not object to his bail plea.

"The mode, manner and timing of the arrest of the petitioner just before Lok Sabha elections speaks volumes about the arbitrariness of the ED. This timeline establishes the fact that the petitioner has been arrested intentionally with a malafide intent without any his affidavit.

Chadha had a serious eye ailment, could've gone blind: Bharadwaj

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday said Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha was in the United Kingdom for an eye surgery and he would be back to India and campaign for the party as soon as he feels better.

Bharadwaj said there was a complication in Chadha's eyes and he could have even lost his eyesight. "He is in the UK; there was a complication in his eyes and I was told that it was so critical that he could have lost his eyesight as well," Bharadwaj said.

"He has gone there for treatment. I have my best wishes with him. He will be back soon in good health and join the campaign."

Pitted against BJP in a tough electoral battle, AAP is missing the services of one of its most vocal functionaries. Chadha was initially involved in hectic parleys with Congress on alliance but had to take a break following complications in his eyes. Sources said the Rajya Sabha member from Punjab

was in the UK for almost three months now. The opposition parties have raised sevenecessity to arrest," Kejriwal said in ral questions regarding the "prolonged absence" of Chadha.

At Shahdara, Bharadwaj urges people to choose local candidate over 'outsider'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday said BJP gave tickets to "outsiders" to contest from East Delhi who always remained unavailable while AAP had fielded a local candidate this time.

Addressing a corner meeting in Shahdara assembly segment of East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency to rally support for party candidate Kuldeep Kumar, Bharadwaj said AAP had given him ticket for his hard work, honesty and dedication.

"Kumar has been made the candidate for East Delhi after careful consideration because he is young, resilient, hardworking, honest and educated. I urge you to vote for Kuldeep Kumar to make him the MP from East Delhi," Bharadwaj said, adding that as a councillor and then as an MLA, Kumar had worked hard in the Kondli assembly area.

The minister also said people should not fall for BJP's "tactics of changing candida- ring, Kumar called upon peo- Kuldeep said.



consideration because he was young, resilient, honest and educated

tes" in every election, "Do not be deceived by BJP this time. For the past 10 years, people have given a chance to outsiders who contested and won elections but never returned after winning and did not fulfil their duties," Bharadwaj said. Delhi Assembly speaker

and Shahdara MLA Ram Niwas Goel also attended AAP's Sankalp Sabha.

Addressing the gathe-

by AAP govt in Delhi, he said people were provided with free electricity, water, education and health while women were given the facility to travel free in public buses. "Today, CM Arvind Kejriwal is in jail. I request everyone to vote for us to bring him out,"

ple to "end BJP's dictators-

hip" and free Delhi chief mi-

nister Arvind Kejriwal from

jail. Listing the works done

"Ask the people of my constituency. If I have worked in my area, then vote for me; if not, then don't vote for me," he added.

In a separate event, AAP's legal cell staged a protest against the "unjust arrest" of Kejriwal by forming a human chain at Connaught Place. Led by INDIA bloc candidate Somnath Bharti, several lawyers from across Delhi participated in the event.

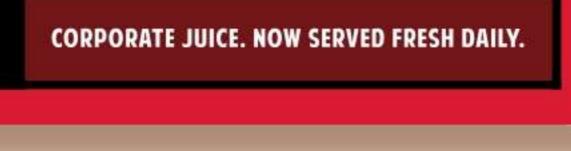
Bharti, an AAP MLA, condemned the arrest and labelled it as "evidence of a dictatorial atmosphere" in Delhi and the nation. "We are trying to convey to the public the way BJP has adopted an undemocratic attitude and picked up Kejriwal on March 21 unconstitutionally even after the announcement of elections," the New Delhi candidate said. "We want to convey this mes-

Constitution, democracy and the country," he added. AAP functionaries said the protest was peaceful and drew

a good response from people.

sage to every household that

this election is to save the



Swaraj And Sahi Ram File Papers Amid Much Fanfare

13 Candidates In Action On Day 2, Taking Total Count To 26

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay, Tarun Rawat

ह मई २०२४ को जेल का जवाब चोट से

2024

2020 (assembly polls)

₹77.5 lakh

₹1cr

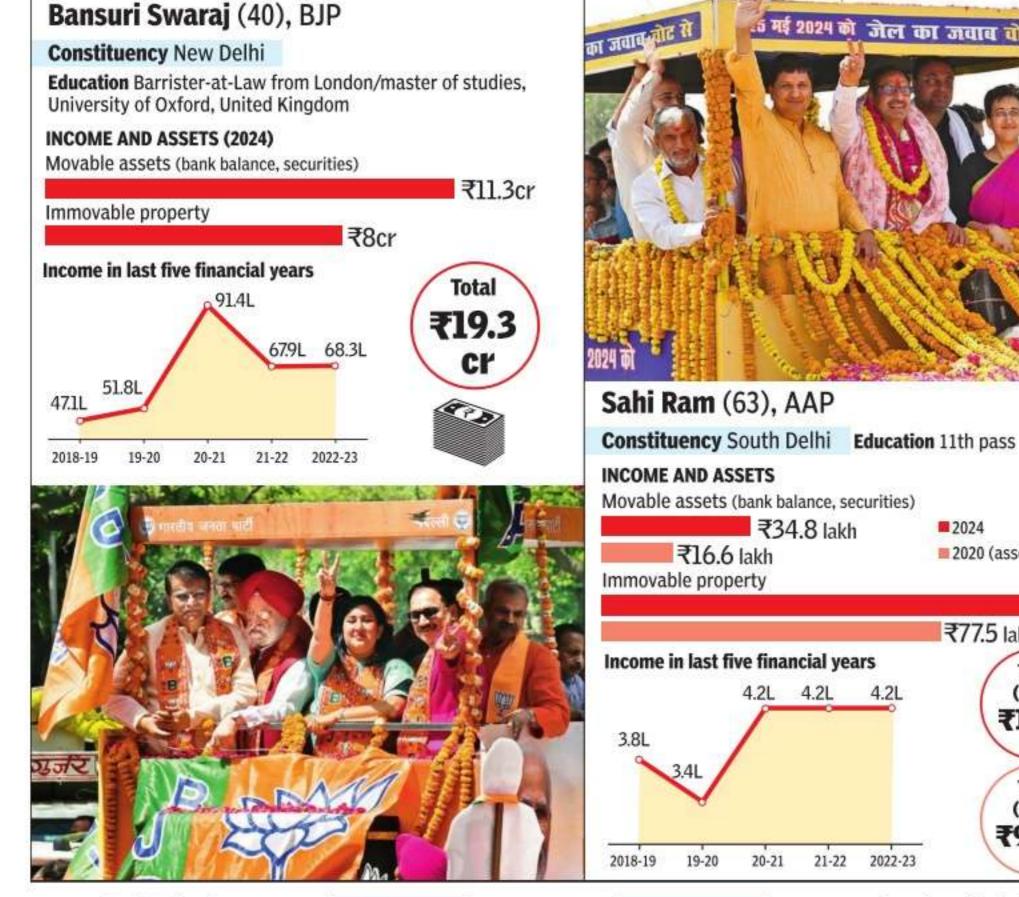
(2024)

₹1.4cr

Total

(2020)

₹94.1L



Atul Mathur & Ridhima Gupta TNN

New Delhi: Two-term MLA Sahi Ram of Aam Aadmi Party and Bansuri Swaraj of Bharatiya Janata Party were among 13 people who filed their candidature for the Lok Sabha polls in the capital on Tuesday.

As per the data provided by the office of the chief electoral officer of Delhi, 26 candidates have submitted their documents in the first two days, taking the total nominations to 30 as some candidates have filed two sets of papers.

Among the seven Lok Sabha constituencies in the city, New Delhi received four nominations, Chandni Chowk and North East Delhi three each, West Delhi two and East, South and North West Delhi one each on Tuesday.

Both Sahi Ram (63), sitting MLA from Tughlaqabad assembly constituency, and Swaraj, who is making her poll debut, took out large processions and reached the offices of the respective returning officers with a huge crowd of supporters, many of whom were wearing party

SWARAJ SAYS

This is a national election and PM Modi has done a lot of work. We are taking that performance to the people

caps and carrying brooms, to file their nominations.

Projected as an INDIA bloc candidate from South Delhi seat, Sahi Ram started his day by visiting the local temple in Tehkhand village before embarking on an 8km Ashirwad Yatra, which culminated at the RO office in Mehrauli. He was accompanied by Delhi ministers Saurabh Bharadwaj and Atishi apart from a number of AAPMLAs, councillors and other functionaries.

Sahi Ram exuded confidence of winning the poll and said people would go with the candidate who worked for the area and the society. "This time, the election results will be opposite to the last time and BJP will stand in the last position," the AAP candidate claimed, "People of Delhi are standing against the 10 years of misrule of BJP and in sup-

SAHI RAM SAYS

19-20

20-21

This time, the results will be opposite of the previous elections and BJP will stand in the last position

₹34.8 lakh

4.2L 4.2L 4.2L

21-22

2022-23

₹16.6 lakh

port of the nine years of development of Arvind Keiriwal," he added.

Sahi Ram, elected to the assembly in 2015 and 2020, was a municipal councillor earlier and also the deputy mayor of erstwhile South Delhi Municipal Corporation for a year.

Bungalow number 9 at Tughlaq Lane came alive when 40-year-old Swaraj, daughter of the late BJP stalwart Sushma Swaraj, started her day with a hawan. Amid slogans of "Dilli se aayi awaz, Bansuri Swaraj, Bansuri Swaraj" and "Is baar 400 paar", and showering of flower petals, the BJP candidate from New Delhi Lok Sabha seat started her roadshow before filling her nomination. Dressed in a turquoise saree and charged with excitement, Swaraj, with folded

hands, climbed on a mini truck, which had a makeshift platform decorated with BJP flags and lotus-shaped posters with Modi and the candidate in one frame. She was accompanied by Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and other senior id Kejriwal also inquired party functionaries.

Outside the RO office, her supporters, from young voters to elderly homemakers, kept the fervour, dancing to dhol beats, singing songs and sloganeering.

After filing her nomination at Jamnagar House, Swaraj, a lawyer, said she was committed to a 'Viksit Bharat'. Swaraj said she was confident of her victory and BJP getting all seven seats in Delhi.

"This is a national election and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done a lot of work. We are taking that performance to the people," she said. "However, if we speak about Delhi, CM Arvind Kejriwal has not allowed the Centrerun welfare schemes, such as Ayushman Bharat, to be implemented. If elected, I will ensure the scheme is implemented in Delhi, too," she added.

Mann meets Kejriwal in Tihar, says health fine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday met his AAP su-Tihar Jail where the two discussed various governance and political issues and the preparations for ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Mann said Keiriwal asked him to actively campaign for INDIA bloc candidates in the Lok Sabha elections across the country. He added that Kejriwal's health was fine and he dergoing regular check-ups.

This was Mann's second meeting with Kejriwal in Tihar in a fortnight. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy of 2021.

Mann said he met Kejriwal the same way he met him mes, it received 3,09,237 applithe first time. "We were separated by an iron mesh. This could be the height of their hatred. Arvind Kejriwal has asked me to tell people not to worry about him and vote. Please vote to save democracy," the Punjab CM said.

Mann further said he told Keiriwal about his recent visit to Gujarat to campaign for the party's candidates in Bharuch and Bhavnagar. "There was a mind-blowing response. The entire country is saying that whatever happened with Kejriwal was wrong," he added.

"These elections are not about winning or losing. It is about saving the Constitution and democracy," the Punjab CM stated.

The AAP functionary saabout the wellbeing of his daughter. "We talked about our families...He asked how the farm produce has been in Punjab and if any facilities are being affected due to the model code of conduct," Mann said.

"I told him that people are getting all the facilities. I informed him that 158 children from Punjab govt schools have cleared the JEE (Mains)," he added.

AUD to offer master's course in public policy

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Dr BR Ambedkar University has introduced a master's programme in public policy and governance, offering 60 seats this academic year. Orphan supernumerary seats will be offered for the premo Arvind Kejriwal in first time, one seat in each programme.

At a press conference on Tuesday, AUD VC Anu Singh Lather stated that about 4 lakh students had chosen to apply for postgraduate and undergraduate courses at the university on the CUET portal. Admissions for PhD (23 programmes) will also be done in June on the basis of CU-ET scores only.

Because of AUD being a was getting insulin and un- Delhi state university, 85% of the seats are reserved for students having studied from Delhi while students from outside the capital can take admission on the remaining 15% of the seats, Lather said.

AUD is in the list of the top-10 universities in the country in receiving UG applications. For 18 UG programcations. For 27 UG programmes, the university got 89,773

applications. Lather said that admissions for 78 competency enhancement courses would also be offered from this session. The vice-chancellor said that the fee would be Rs 8,000 per cono age limit to join these courses. Any working professional or student can join these courses as per their interest.

Presenting the placement figures. Lather said that this year, 92 companies visited AUD and a total of 168 students got jobs on campus. Last year, 121 students were placed.

sity commenced its admission process for postgraduate programmes on April 25 while the process for undergraduate programmes is scheduled to begin mid-May. As of April 30, DU dean of admissions Haneet Gandhi told TOI that the university had received a total of of Sachin. 31,890 registrations for PG programmes, 2,052 for LLB, and 433 for BTech. Registration for admission to PG courses will remain open until May 25.

Man with Bishnoi link arrested for bookie murder

Gurgaon: A shooter allegedly associated with a Lawrence Bishnoi aide and wanted for the murder of city-based bookie Sachin Munjal in Feb was arrested after a police encounter in Nuh on Monday night.

Police said Vishal Kalu urse every semester. There is (28), whose name had cropped up in the probe into the April 14 shooting outside Salman Khan's house in Mumbai's Bandra before cops eventually zeroed in on two shooters from East Champaran in Bihar, both allegedly members of the Lawrence gang, was injured in the leg.

Kalu's associate Ravi Ku-Meanwhile, Delhi Univer- mar (30), who is from Badusarai in Delhi, was also injured in the encounter. Both have been admitted to hospital, police said. The duo was being tracked by Haryana STF and Delhi Police Special Cell's counter intelligence unit (CIU) since the murder

The gunfight happened in Nuh's Palla Pahadi village late on Monday. Police said they were shot at first and opened fire in retaliation. TNN

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HC grants protection to EC acts only on transgender LS aspirant complaints of TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Coming to the aid of a transgender person who wants to contest Lok Sabha elections but allegedly faces threats, Delhi High Court has ordered police to provide necessary security for the person to file the nomination.

The court stressed that it was the duty of the state to safeguard and enforce rights guaranteed to transgenders under the Constitution, while hearing plea of Rajan Singh, who wants to contest from South Delhi with the support of Rashtriya Bahujan Congress Party.

Singh moved court claiming there was a "life threatening attack" earlier this month at his office in Badarpur and sought directions for appropriate security.

"Article 14 of the Constitution of India ensures equal protection... in all spheres of state activity, including participation in the election process. Any discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity impairs equality before the law and violates Article 14 of the Constitution of India. The duty lies with the state for the purpose of safeguarding and enforcing the rights of transgenders guaranteed under the Constitution," Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta said in a recent order.

The court disposed of Singh's plea



Rajan Singh wants to contest from S Delhi

with directions to DCP (south) to provide necessary security to him for filing the nomination form from the South Delhi constituency.

assured the court that in case the petitioner needed any security for filling the nomination, it could be provided. The police also assured the court that Singh's plea seeking security and fearing a threat to life shall be further examined and a decision on the matter

will be communicated to him. However, police maintained that the incident as alleged by the petitioner could not be corroborated during an initial inquiry. The Election Commission's lawyer submitted that the nomination process began on April 29 and the petitioner can apply in accordance with the law.

'Delhi voters have immense faith in Modi'

New Delhi: BJP's Delhi in-charge Om Prakash Dhankar said on Tuesday that voters in the city had immense faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Just like the nation, the people of Delhi are also inclined towards making Narendra Modi Prime Minister for the third time," he claimed.

Referring to BJP's victory in all seven Delhi constituencies in the last two Lok Sabha elections, Dhankar said, "BJP is going to win with a significant majority this time too. The people of Delhi have outrightly rejected the corrupt alliance of AAP and Congress. Delhi's wise voters want to see the country progressing under Modi's skilled and strong leadership." and caste succeed." TNN

He said, "AAP came into politics to end Congress' corrupt system. How will the people of Delhi and the country trust Delhi's corrupt govt?"

The BJP functionary said the IN-DIA bloc was dismayed by the likely defeat in the elections and was trying to mislead the public.

"The alliance is spreading rumours like changing the Constitution and abolishing reservations," he alleged. "Our manifesto and party policy are inclusive of everyone's development and trust. BJP will not let the schemes of those who want to divide the country on the basis of religion

BJP, says Atishi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday alleged that the Election Commission of India was "biased" and only acted on the complaints of BJP.

After a meeting with EC officials, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that AAP had been raising objections against the BJP's content on hoardings and other media for about a month but the poll panel had failed to act on it.

"When we asked EC what action it had taken on our complaints, the reply was that it was not obliged to tell us. The election commission is the watchdog for conducting elections transparently," Bharadwaj said.

Another Delhi minister Atishi alleged The counsel appearing for the state that AAP had been trying to get an appointment with EC for almost a month. "When BJP files any complaint, it issues

> notice to AAP and other opposition parties immediately," Atishi told reporters outside the EC's office. meeting with EC to discuss the party's Lok

> A delegation of AAP functionaries had a Sabha campaign song 'Jail ka jawaab hum vote se denge', which ran into rough weather recently when the office of the chief electoral officer, Delhi, raised objections to the lyrics and visuals used in it on the complaint of BJP.

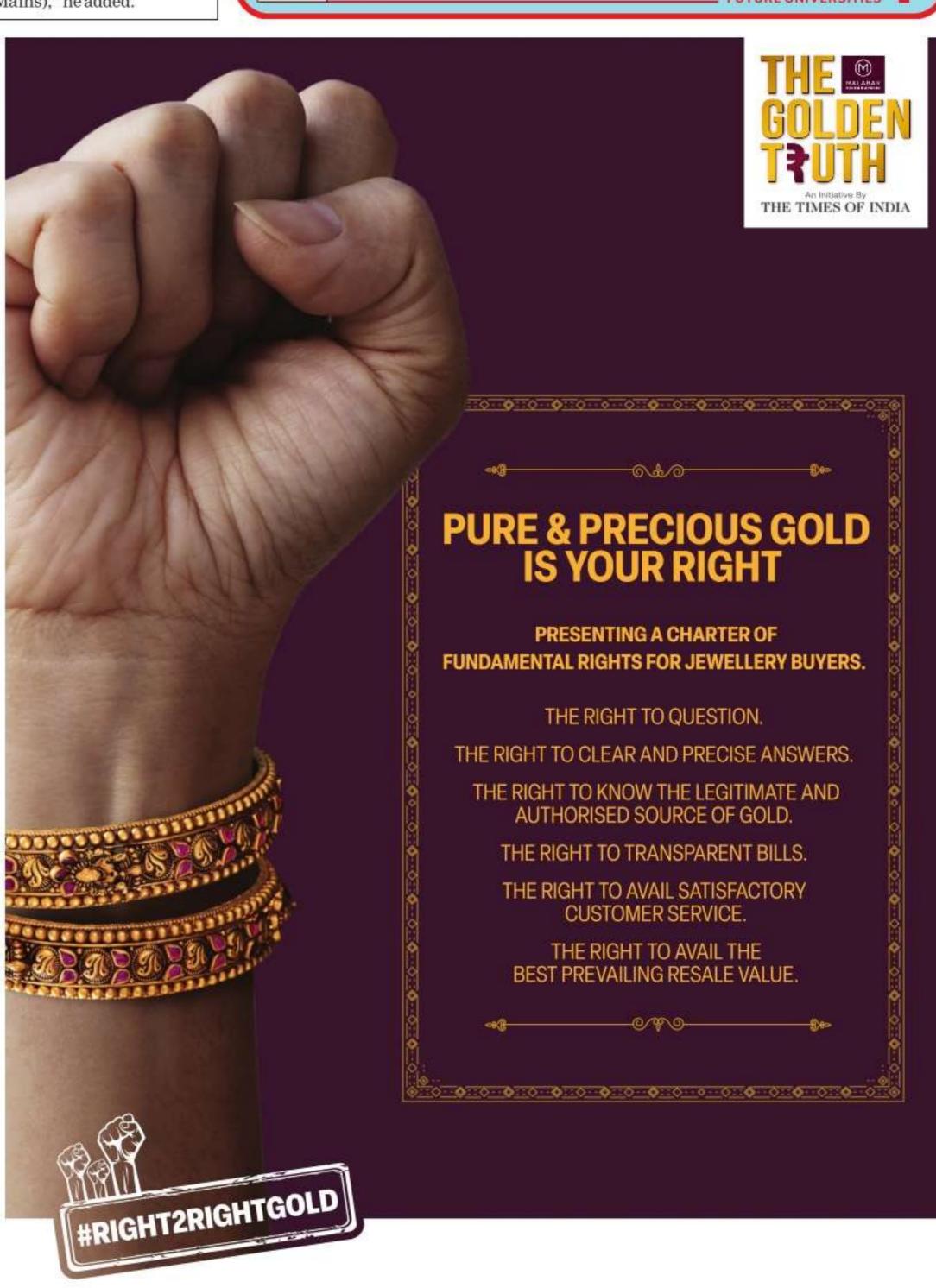
> "It issues notice and raises objection when AAP launches its campaign song...The election commission did not raise objection when ED-CBI arrests CM Arvind Kejriwal just ahead of the polls, but it raises objection when we make a song about his arrest...," Atishi said, adding that AAP expected EC to be "neutral and bipartisan".

On the issue of the campaign song, Bharadwaj claimed there was "nothing objectionable" in it and AAP had given a detailed reply to EC on its objections.

The AAP delegation also included senior party functionaries Pankaj Gupta and Dilip Pandey. Atishi said if the election commission did

not conduct free and fair elections, the country would move toward dictatorship. "The election commissioner today is a successor of TN Seshan ji...we hope the elections are held the way he conducted them-free and fair," she said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the AAP functionaries wanted all constitutional bodies to work as per their "anarchic dictates" or be prepared to face their allegation of being biased.



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Echoes of joy: Nizamuddin Basti wears a festive look to mark 5-day Urs celebrations

New Delhi: Nizamuddin Basti has had a festive look for five days with the annual Urs celebration commemorating the 720th death anniversary of Hazrat Amir Khusrau, the devoted disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. The celebrations which started on April 26 ended on Tuesday.

Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah, a resplendent and sacred structure that stands at the end of a winding lane, was decorated with lights. The path leading to the dargah is flanked by shops offering an array of goods like bangles, attar, incense, rose water, sandal, henna and various Sufirelated items. The melody of gawwalis filled the air.

Khusrau is revered as the guardian of qawwali, a devotional musical tradition that holds great significance within the Sufi community. The celebration of his life and legacy was marked by a series of musical performances and tributes.

Khusrau's most notable contribution lies in the realm of qawwali, which has gained immense popularity over the centuries. He is often refer-



Devotees celebrate the 720th death anniversary of Hazrat Amir Khusrau at Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah on Tuesday

red to as the father of gawwali due to his pioneering efforts in developing and popularising the style. Moreover, Khusrau is credited with the creation of two other significant musical styles: khayal and tarana. He is also often believed to have modified the veena into the sitar.

Thousands of people from different religions thronged the dargah at Nizamuddin to participate in the celebrations. Foreigners visited the dargah and offered 'chadar' at the grave of Khusrau. Qawwals from far-off places arrived to perform at the event. Saad Ahmad Warraich, charge d'affaires of Pakistan to India, laid the traditional chaddar on behalf of his government and people of Pakistan at the shrine of Khusrau. A group of 70 Pakistani Zaireen visiting India also participated in the 720th Urs celebra-

progress and prosperity. "For five days, people huddle under a large shamiana, savouring delicacies in the langar and enjoying gaw-

response on

vacant posts

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court

on Tuesday sought the stand

of Delhi govt on a plea seeking

immediate appointment of

chairperson and members in

Delhi Commission for Protec-

tion of Child Rights (DCPCR).

re is a way. Just imagine, from

Aug last year to now, nothing

has happened," a bench of

Acting Chief Justice Manmo-

han and Justice Manmeet PS

Arora remarked after the co-

unsel for Delhi govt shared an

office note revealing that the

file for fresh appointments

and inviting applications for

the vacant post was marked to

the minister concerned on

concerned said that "since the

model code of conduct for the

The court issued notices

to Delhi govt, DCPCR and the

Council. The plea said

DCPCR had been running

without a chairperson since

July 2023, and keeping the va-

cancy for so long was a clear

violation of provisions of the

Anurag Kundu (former chair-

person) came to an end on July

2, 2023 ... Also, the website of

member at present. There are

state of affairs ever since the

tenure of the previous chair-

person came to an end," the

Rules states that a vacancy

caused by death, resignation

or any other reason shall be

filled by nomination within 90

days from the date of occur-

rence of such vacancy, it said.

watchdog" on matters of child

rights, the petitioner stated.

DCPCR is a "statutory

Clause 8(2) of the DCPCR

media reports on the sorry

functioning

Centre on the petition by Na-

Lok Sabha is in force, the ad-

unsel added.

DCPCR Rules.

petition added.

"Where there is a will, the-

at DCPCR

tions of the poet-singer-musi-

cian. The participants offered

prayers for their country's

wali, which is performed by gawwals from different states, most of the gawwalis written by Khusrau himself," said Syed Altamash Nizami from Dargah Hazrat Syed Nizamuddin Auliya. "Every day, vegetarian langar is distributed twice. Non-veg food is also provided."

Khusrau was born in Patiali in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh. When he was eight years old, his father was killed in army action after which his mother brought him to Delhi to live with his maternal grandfather, who passed away when the young poet was only 20 years old.

Khusrau was a very prolific author and poet of rare distinction. He is widely respected as a Persian, Hindavi and strain on parents. Rekhta poet who evolved a unique diction and an inimitable language, beyond the apbhransha, for his literary expression. He wrote on a variety of subjects that include patriotism, liberalism, integration, folklife and the catholic values of living that emerge with a fine blending of social norms and cultural practices as well as dialects and dictions.

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com DOE had earlier issued gui-New Delhi: The vigilance di-2010-2011 onwards. "If the school still finds it necessary to hirectorate wrote a letter to the director of education on Tuesday about anomalies in fee hikes in 18 schools and five private, unaided institutions, and the failure of some schools to fill the 25% economically weaker sections quota. The vigilance probe high-

lighted that the fee hike had been permitted in violation of established rules, with fees collected for capital expenditure despite insufficient savings. Among the 18 fee hike orders, 13 involved retrospective fee increases, placing undue financial "There is no provision in the

rules for retrospective hikes. Such hikes show that there is deliberate intention to enrich the school management at the cost of parents," the vigilance department reported. The investigation also revealed that schools used the collected funds contrary to regulations outlined in the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973.

delines for fee structures from ke the tuition fee, it shall first take the major stakeholders in the school system, i.e. the parents, into confidence. Since parents have to bear the financial burden of a fee hike, it is imperative that the school presents its case for a fee hike with detailed financial statement to the committee of the duly selected parents-teachers association and obtain their concurrence to the proposed hike before the same is approved by the managing committee," DOE's circular read.

Fee Hike Orders Of

Schools Under Lens

Probe Highlights Step In Violation of Norms

Most of the fee hike order dates are from Dec 14, 2023. The education department has been requested to furnish a tabular breakdown of the fee hike cases for various sessions from 2019-2024 and to clarify why the hikes were approved despite repeated violations of rules.

EWS admissions also came up for scrutiny. Section 12 of the Right of Children to Free

and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, mandates free and compulsory elementary education for 25% of the school strength for children in the EWS and disadvantaged groups. The DOE circular says that the district deputy director of education will nominate an officer not below the rank of vice principal to work as observer during the EWS admission process.

"It seems the DDE (education) concerned has failed to supervise the enforcement of above mentioned provisions and there is also a possibility that these schools have been expelling EWS students despite the no-detention policy under RTE Act, 2009," the letter highlighted. Vigilance also sought clarification on the implementation of the EWS quota, including details on the composition of school management committees. DOE has been given seven working days to respond to these inquiries.

Senior DOE official didn't give any immediate response to TOI's queries.

Chief secy asks DJB to HC seeks govt Delhi records 23 moderate air days bolster water testing

Siddhanta.Mishra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: At a recent meeting, Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar instructed Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to enhance water testing efforts throughout the city to assess the quality of the supply.

At present, the quality control department collects around 500 samples each day. However, the chief secretary has ordered an increase in the daily sample collection to reach 1,000 samples. Officials in the DJB are con-

cerned about the directive, as increasing the testing would require more staff. "Collecting 1,000 water samples in a day is a huge task, given the small staff currently available for quality control. The labs need more technicians to test the water samples, and there is also a need for support staff," said a DJB official on the condition of anonymity.

The chief secretary's directive aims at ensuring that the water quality in Delhi is thoroughly monitored and maintained to a high standard. The quality of the groundwater has been questioned in the past. Currently, there are around 22 labs of DJB, which are divided into categories of wastewater labs, field testing labs and water treatment plant labs. Of these, eight are main field labs that test the 500 samples of water collected from tubewells, primary underground reservoirs, secondary reservoirs,

DJB OFFICIAL SAYS

Collecting 1,000 water samples in a day is a huge task, given the small staff available for quality control. The labs need more technicians to test the water samples, and there is also a need for support staff

water treatment plants, water pipelines, and after random checks in houses.

"To check all the assets of DJB, there is a requirement to increase the staff in labs and have technically sound officials working in lab sample testing," the official added.

According to officials, in the Aug 1 last year. review meeting, the chief secretary reviewed the inspection that on March 27, the minister mechanism of water emergencies and tanker deployment. Directions were given to deploy inspection teams to ensure the proper working of the filling points, delivery of water through tankers and handling of water emergencies in peak summer.

The DJB is yet to announce the summer action plan, which primarily focuses on aspects like pinpointing areas with water scarcity and developing supplementary infrastructure to tackle the issue.



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Extension of Time

Ref. NIT No.: DM/BSTD/Tender/02/2 Dtd.: 05.03.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Barasat Division, WBSEDCL. Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 15.05.2024

(10:00 hrs.). For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in

TENDER NOTICE Tender Ref No.: WBPWD/EE/S24PED/E1/NIT48/24-25. (Tender ID: 2024 WBPWD 688692 1)

WBPWD/EE/S24PED/E1/NIT49/24-25, (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688693_1) Online Tender is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Electrical Division, 57/2, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata-700023 from the eligible contractors for the following works: Name of Work: 1. Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis, for accommodation of CAPF for 03 Nos. locations of Narendrapur PS under Baruipur Police District, in connection with ensuring GE to Loksabha-2024 (for 09 days). 2. Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis, for accommodation of CAPF for 02 Nos locations of Canning PS under Baruipur Police District, in connection with ensuring GE to Loksabha-2024 (for 09 days). Bid submission start: 03.05.24 at 09.00 AM. Bid Submission end: 08.05.24 at 12:00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 10.05.24 at 12:30 PM. Details of eNIT, BOQ & tender document may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in This Tender/Advertisement is related to the Ensuing General Election to Lok Sabha 2024. Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Electrical Division. ICA- 17909(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE Tender Ref No.:

WBPWD/EE/S24PED/E1/NIT44/24-25, (Tender ID: 2024 WBPWD 688687 1) WBPWD/EE/S24PED/E1/NIT45/24-25 (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688689_1) Online Tender is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Electrical Division, 57/2, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata-700023 from the eligible contractors for the following works: Name of Work 1. Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis, for accommodation of CAPF for 01 Nos. locations of Bakultala PS under Baruipur Police District, in connection with ensuring GE to Loksabha-2024 (for 09 days). 2. Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis, for accommodation of CAPF for 01 Nos. locations of Kultali PS under Baruipur Police District, in connection with ensuring GE to Loksabha-2024 (for 09 days). Bid submission start: 03.05.24 at 09.00 AM. Bid Submission end: 08.05.24 at 12:00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 10.05.24 at 12:30 PM. Details of eNIT, BOQ & tender document may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in This Tender/Advertisement is related to the

Ensuing General Election to Lok Sabha

2024. Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,

ICA-T7907(3)/2024

South 24 Parganas Electrical Division.

PWD TENDER NOTICE Short e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Howrah Electrical Division. Onkarmal Jetia Road Howrah - 711103. NIT No WBPWD/EE/HED/NIT-49 of 2024-2025 Memo. 1180, Dt. 26.04.2024. Tender Id 2024_WBPWD_688651_1. Name of Work: Temporary Electrification work and other utility related to Infrastructural arrangement at Counting for General Election to The House of The People, 2024 at JIS Medical College Howrah. Last Date of Submission 10.05.2024. Intending bidder may download the Tender/Quotation documents from the website www.pwd.wb.in Sd/- A. Das, Executive Engineer, P.W.D, Howrah Electrical Division, Govt. of West Bengal ICA-T7903(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE xecutive Engineer, P.W.D, North 24 Prgs. Electrical Division invite online e Tender for the work of:- "Temporary E.I Work and DG Set on hire basis for accommodation of CAPF at various locations of DUTTAPUKUR PS, unde BARASAT Police district, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Loksabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas----Part-C. NIT No: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/NIQ 71/24-25. Tender id: NIL. Pre Bio Meeting Date: NIL. Bid Submission start date (Online): 26/04/2024. Bid Submission Closing date (Online): 03/05/2024. Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT &

tender documents may be downloaded

from http://wbtenders.gov.in

ICA-T7901(2)/2024

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

24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE executive Engineer, P.W.D, North 24 Prgs. Electrical Division invite online e Tender for the work of:- "Temporary E.I. Work and DG Set on hire basis for accommodation of CAPF at various locations of Baduria PS, under Basirhat Police district, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Loksabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas- Part-B-III." NIT No: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIQ-72/24-25.

Tender Id: 2024_WBPWD_688684_1 Pre Bid Meeting Date: NIL. Bid Submission start date (Online): 30/04/2024. Bid Submission Closing date (Online): 10/05/2024 Corrigendum if any will be published website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D, NORTH 24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION. ICA-T7905(3)/2024

Memo No.: 105(4)/HD/ICA/ADVT

in April, second highest in 6 years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi recorded the second highest number of 'moderate' air days in April this year at 23. A 'moderate' air day is considered when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is between 51 and 100.

According to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in national capital region and adjoining areas, the number of moderate air days were 17 in 2023; 0 in 2022; 18 in 2021; 30 in 2020; 12 in 2019; and 8 in 2018.

The CAQM said the number of 'poor to severe' air quality days were under control this April as Delhi experienced only seven days with AQI over 200, as per the CPCB data. Number of days with AQI above 200 were 13 in 2023, 30 in 2022, 12 in 2021, 18 in 2019 and 22 in 2018. During April 2024, Delhi experien-

ced its second lowest monthly average AQI as compared to the corresponding month for the past six-year period from 2018, barring 2020 which was the year The court was further told of lockdown due to Covid-19, said the CAQM. The monthly average AQI in Delhi for April was 182 in 2024, 180 in 2023, 255 in 2022, 202 in 2021, 110 in 2020,



The day temperature is likely to remain around 35 degrees Celsius on Wednesday

211 in 2019, and 222 in 2018. "Considering the daily average PM2.5 and PM10 concentration levels,

the 30 days period of April in 2024 also witnessed significant reduction in daily average PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations as compared to the corresponding period in the previous years. It was the result of favourable meteorological conditions coupled with consistent, comprehensive and concerted efforts by CAQM and various stakeholders to control air pollution in the National Capital Region," said CAQM in a statement. The commission is working closely

with various stakeholders concerned to take effective measures for prevention, control, and abatement of air pollution and to improve the overall air quality in NCR, it added. Meanwhile, the maximum tempera-

ture was 36.5 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal, on Tuesday. The minimum temperature was 22.2 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal. The relative humidity oscillated between 18% and 57%.

The day temperature is likely to remain around 35 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, but it may touch 40 degrees Celsius on May 4. There is a possibility of very light rain or thunderstorm on May 4.

HC: Sextortion is significant social menace

New Delhi: Sextortion is a significant social menace and such cases pose a serious challenge to law enforcement due to their cross-jurisdictional nature, Delhi High Court has said while refusing to grant anticipatory bail to three accused.

Justice Amit Mahajan said a bail order "cannot be granted routinely" in such matters. "Sextortion represents a

profound violation of privacy and is a significant social menace. It involves the exploitation of obtained intimate images and videos to extort money or favours from victims, often leading to severe psychological trauma," the judge said on Tuesday.

In the present case, an amount of Rs 16 lakh was extorted from the complainant by persons posing as police officials and YouTube officials after he received a WhatsApp video call from an unknown woman who recorded their "private" call. PTI

Court dismisses second bail vertisement can't be issued." As an interim arrangement, the lieutenant governor has directed that the women and plea by Sisodia in excise case child development department's secretary function as DCPCR chairperson, the co-

Vineet.Upadhyay @timesgroup.com

tional Child Development New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the second regular bail plea filed by former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in the money laundering and corruption cases pertaining to the now scrapped

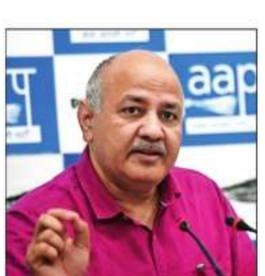
liquor policy of 2021-22. The court of special judge Kaveri Baweja dismissed the DCPCR has been severely affected since the tenure of bail pleas in the CBI and ED cases stating that the stage was not right for it.

The court had reserved DCPCR shows that the body is the verdict in the applications functioning without even a on April 20. Sisodia is in judicial custody in both the cases.

The ED, while opposing the plea, told the court that the liquid policy was framed in such a way that it would have been an evergreen vehicle for generating illegal gains.

It alleged that Sisodia was involved in the destruction of

The ED submitted that Sisodia changed his mobile phone the very day Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena filed a complaint with CBI about the alleged scam.



The CBI, which also opposed the bail plea, told the court that Sisodia was the main architect of the conspiracy. It said the excise policy was for the benefit of the south group.

The agency also told the court that there were intentional tactics on Sisodia's part to delay the trial.

Sisodia had also moved interim bail pleas in both cases to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections, which has now become infructuous.

This is the second time that the trial court has rejected Sisodia's petitions. Sisodia, last year, had mo-

ved a bail application before the court in the ED case, which was dismissed on April 28, 2023, while his bail applica-

Sisodia to move **HC against order**

ormer Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia will approach Delhi High Court against the city court's Tuesday order, refusing bail to him in the alleged excise policy scam case, AAP said, PTI

tion in the CBI case was dismissed on March 31, 2023.

He then approached Delhi high court challenging the orders of the trial court, but his bail application in the ED case was dismissed on July 3, 2023, and his plea in CBI case was dismissed on May 30, 2023.

He had then approached Supreme Court. While dismissing his bail application, the apex court granted him liberty to file a fresh bail application. He also moved a review petition and curative petition against the Supreme Court order but both the petitions were dismissed

Sisodia was arrested by CBI on Feb 26, 2023, and while he was in judicial custody, ED arrested him on March 9, 2023.

NDMC deploys eight more anti-smog guns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To mitigate air pollution, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken various measures, including deploying a fleet of eight more anti-smog guns in the area.

This initiative will help to strengthen NDMC's anti- tank, this anti-smoggun has a and such efforts are taken to ensure good health of visitors, said an official.

GPS-enabled and will be operating on main roads from 8am to 4pm, covering a total distance of 360 km on a daily basis. They will be mounted on CNG-operated trucks and have a water tanker with a 7,000 litres capacity. The hydraulic-operated machines

of these machines is 1,500 lit- to wash the pavement to cleres per hour each. "We have an the dust.

hired these machines for two years at a cost of Rs 2.87 crore," added the official.

NDMC has already deployed two anti-smog guns, with the first one mounted on a 28-tonne CNG truck chassis and a water tank with a 17,000-liter capacity. "Due to the large water

pollution efforts conside- continuous runtime of three ring huge footfall in the area hours non-stop. The second anti-smog gun or mist spray machine is being deployed specifically for Pt. Pant "These smog guns are Marg," said the officials. Besides, to mitigate dust

pollution, there are four mechanical road sweepers working in two shifts for deep cleaning in the New Delhi area on a daily basis.

"We have also activated a fleet of 18 water tankers or trolleys with capacities can throw water up to 30 me-ranging from 5,000 litres to ters and also rotate 330 degre- 10,000 litres, and each of es. Small drops ranging from them is taking two to three 10 to 30 microns, with 24 sta- trips for water sprinkling inless steel nozzles, are spra- on trees and shrubs along yed by them to cover the max- the main roads," said the ofimum area," said the official. ficial. Further, the sanita-The water consumption tion teams have been asked

HC: Frame compensation policy for manjha victims

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has asked Delhi govt to frame within eight weeks a policy for grant of compensation to those who have lost life and limbs in accidents due to

the use of Chinese manjha. Stating that he is "pained" to note the number of persons losing their life and limbs to Chinese manjha in spite of orders restraining its sale, Justice Subramonium Prasad also asked police to state the action taken against

those manufacturing and sel-

The high court's order came on a batch of petitions highlighting the menace of the kite-flying threads made of polyester, nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material, also known as Chinese manjha, which leads to serious next on Aug 23. PTI

ling Chinese manjha.

and fatal injuries. It observed that in spite of

a previous order, Delhi Police had not filed its status report and Delhi govt not formulated a comprehensive policy for granting compensation.

"The state govt is directed to frame the policy and file it in court within a period of eight weeks from today. Let a latest status report be filed as well by the respondent/Delhi Police, showing the action taken against those persons who are manufacturing and selling Chinese manjha from the year 2017 to 2024," the court said in an order on Monday (April 29).

The petitioners were represented by lawyer Aman Rehaan Khan. The matter will be heard

Office of the District Election Officer & District Magistrate Hooghly, Chinsurah Hooghly: 712101 Notice

Information for all concerned that the Hon'ble Expenditure Observer of 27 Serampore PC, 28 Hooghly PC, 29 Arambagh (SC) PC will be available for public hearing in connection with General Election to Lok Sabha-2024. Anyone having any grievance w.r.t election can visit personally as per following schedule with prior appointment.

SI. No.	Observer's Name	Parliamentary Constituency	Contact No	E-Mail ID	Meeting Vanue	Meeting Time
1	Yasser Arafat F.A., (IRS)	27- SERAMPORE	9330332058	27seramporeeo.gels24 @gmail.com	BDO Office , Serampore - Uttarpara Block, Hooghly	12 noon to 1 pm on every Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 02.05.2024 to 19.05.2024
2	Ajit Kumar Mishra, (IRAS)	28- HOOGHLY	9330322056	28hooghlyeo.gels24 @gmail.com	BDO Office, Chinsurah - Mogra Block, Hooghly	7th May 2024 from 12:00 Noon to 1 PM
3	N. Mohammed Ali, IRS (C&CE), 2011	29- ARAMBAG (SC)	9330327884	29arambagheo.gels24 @gmail.com	SDO Office, Arambagh, Hooghly	2nd May to 18th May 2024 at 10:00 A.M to 11:00 A.M
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District Election Officer & District Magistrate Hooghly

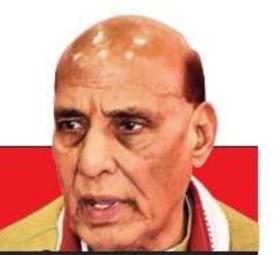
Date: 29.04.2024



TIMES NATION

ODISHA CM NAVEEN FILES NOMINATION FROM HINJILI, AIMS FOR 6TH STRAIGHT WIN

CONGRESS CANDIDATE JOINING BJP SHOWS PEOPLE'S LOVE FOR PARTY, SAYS RAJNATH



Russian crude imports cut India's oil bill by \$8bn in FY24

New Delhi: India saved an estimated \$7.9 billion in oil import in the 11 months of 2023-24 financial year ended March 31, compared to \$5.1 billion over the whole of 2022-23, by purchasing higher volumes of Russian crude at deep discounts, ICRA Research said on Tuesday, reports Sanjay Dutta.

The savings leads to a "compression" of 15-22 basis points in India's current account deficit-to-GDP ratio in 2023-24, it said. However, it added that if the low levels of discounts prevail, India's net oil import bill could widen to \$101-104 billion in 2024-25 from \$96 billion in 2023-24, assuming an average crude price of \$85 per barrel.

Based on commerce ministry data, the note pegs the share of Russian crude in India's oil import basket rising to about 36% during the April 2023-February 2023 period, markingajump of 1700% from about 2% in 2021-22.

20-yr-old NEET aspirant ends life in Kota; 8th suicide this yr

Kota: A 20-year-old preparing for NEET at a Kota institute died by suicide on Tuesday morning in the second such incident in three days and the eighth this year.

Bharat Kumar Rajput, from Dholpur in Rajasthan, ended his life in his PG room.

He had been preparing for NEET in Kota for the last one year and had taken the exam twice. He was scheduled to take a third attempt on May 5, sub-inspector Gopal Singh of Jawahar Nagar police station said. Bharat left a suicide note that revealed he was distressed over not being able to crack NEET.

Bharat's nephew Rohit informed the cops. Rohit was also preparing for the same exam and staying with Bharat. He had gone for a haircut when Bharat took his life. TNN

PM condoles passing away of Sarada Math head in Kolkata

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the fifth president of Sri Sarada Math and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission on her demise on Tuesday and said she will be remembered for her monumental service to society.

"Pravrajika Anandaprana Mataji, the Most Revered President of Sri Sarada Math and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission will be remembered for her monumental service to society and inculcating values of spirituality among people," he posted on X. "Her efforts in healthcare, education and empowering Nari Shakti will also be remembered. My thoughts are with the countless devotees in this sad hour. Om Shanti," he added.

Born in Kolkata in 1927, Pravrajika Anandaprana Mataji received spiritual initiation from Swami Shankarananda, the seventh president of Belur Math. She is known for her service to society promoting spirituality, and her efforts in healthcare, education, and empowering women. TNN

Wheat sale in open market helped FCI borrow ₹21,000cr less in FY24

Govt Procurement Touches 196L Tonnes, To Top 300L Tonnes This Season

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt's intervention through open market sale of wheat not just helped ensure adequate supply of the grain and atta in the market to keep prices under check, but also lowered the FCI's borrowings by Rs 21,000 crore.

During the last financial year, the Centre undertook the sale of a record 100 lakh tonnes as availability with flour mills was low and govt did not want to take any chances ahead of the general elections.

Govt sources said that FCI would have had to undertake borrowings of over Rs 1.7 lakh crore but ended up borrowing a little under Rs 1.4 lakh crore as it raised almost Rs 21,000 crore through open market sale of wheat and also received equity support of Rs 10,700 crore from the Centre. For FCI lower borrowings will translate into an annual interest saving of around Rs 375 crore.

ROBUST BUY IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

1	ALL figures in	lakh tonnes	Targeted	Total wheat
	Procur	ement	procurement for this year	procured last year
State	Apr 30, 2024	Apr 30, 2023	(lakh tonnes)	(lakh tonnes)
Punjab	90.4	103	200 210	2/1
Haryana	61.2	57.6	300-310	261
MP	34.7	55.6	V	
UP	5.6	1.3		A WE
Rajasthan	4.1	1		Rich.
All states	196.2	219.5		

FCI sources said that this year too the agency is on course to have more than sufficient stocks to intervene in the market and boost supplies, if required.

Up to Monday, it had procured 196 lakh tonnes wheat,

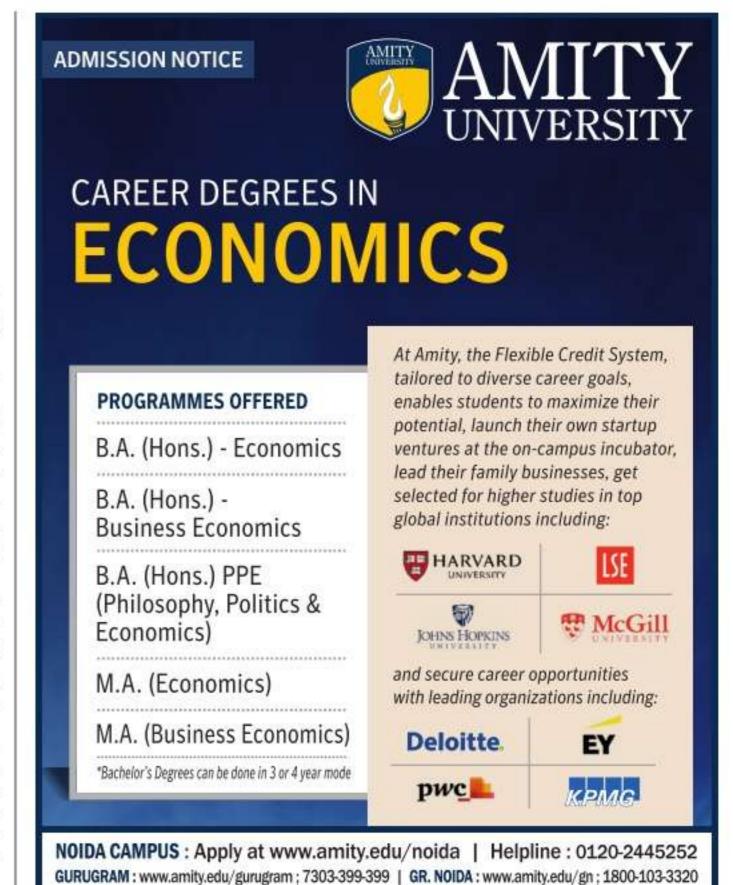
ty required for distribution of free foodgrains to 80 crore poor and for other welfare requirements for the entire year.

Although arrivals in mandis are lower due to prolonged winter in many parts of north India, which is 10% lower than last FCI is confident of mopping up year's, but more than the quanti- 300-310 lakh tonnes this year 1,120 lakh tonnes.

with additional 100 lakh tonnes or so to be used for open market sales. Last year, govt had purchased 261 lakh tonnes.

"The arrival of wheat in Punjab and Haryana is very good and procurement in just these two states will help generate around 200 lakh tonnes for the central pool. The annual requirement of Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and other welfare schemes is 186 lakh tonne," FCI CMD Ashok K Meena said.

Officials said that wheat procurement in Madhya Pradesh has been slow so far at 34.6 lakh tonnes despite commencing MSP operations early and the state is unlikely to achieve the initial target of 80 lakh tonne. In the case of UP, wheat purchase is 5.6 lakh tonnes, a 250% jump compared to last year. This comes amid claims by agriculture ministry officials that the overall wheat production will touch 1,150 lakh tonnes against the earlier estimate of



Israel-Iran clash reinforces need for solid air defence

DESI & VIDESHI SYSTEMS

INDUCTED

- S-400 Triumf | 380-km range 3 squads deployed under ₹40,000 crore deal with Russia in Oct 2018
- Rest 2 squads delayed to 2025-26

Barak-8 MR-SAM | Over 70-km range

₹30,000 crore. Being inducted by IAF, Navy & Army

> Jointly developed with Israel

under projects initially worth

- Akash | 25-km range IAF inducting 15 squads of
- Akash-1 & 2 systems for ₹10,900 crore
- Army has 2 regiments for ₹14,180 crore. Ordered 2 more for ₹8,160 crore

Spyder | 15-km range > Israeli low-level guick-reaction anti-aircraft missile system

Rajat.Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Missile defence is technically complex, and very expensive. It's virtually like firing a bullet to stop an incoming bullet. But with the sheer operational criticality of air and missile defence systems being reinforced by the tit-for-tat attacks between Israel and Iran, India needs to majorly crank up efforts to make its airspace as impregnable as possible.

India has taken some strides in the arena but much more clearly needs to be done for an effective multi-layered integrated air and missile defence shield, with an overlapping network of early-warning and tracking sensors, reliable command and control posts, land and sea-based batteries of advanced interceptor missiles.

Unlike India, Israel of course has only a small territory to defend. And it did so effectively on April 13, thwarting Iran's mass missile and kamikaze drone attack with its wide array of defence systems, from the short-range Iron Dome ers like the US.

> Limited units inducted by

Igla-1M (5-km), OSA-AK-M

(10-km) Pechora missiles &

upgraded L-70 anti-aircraft

Newer Russian shoulder-

fired Igla-S (6-km) systems

> ₹7,669 crore contract in

of close-in weapon systems

(derivatives of L-70 guns)

March with L&T for 61 "flights"

IAF & Army

guns (3.5-km)

India's air defence systems are geared towards protecting only some vital areas and installations."India is simply too vast to be effectively protected from all kinds of aerial threats. But yes, apart from buying bullets, we need to invest much more in bulletproof jackets as well. Missile defence is now an overwhelming tactical necessity rather than a strategic one," a senior officer said.

For one, India needs to get cracking on operationally deploying its indigenous two-tier ballistic missile defence (BMD) system, which as per DRDO is designed to track and destroy nuclear and other ballistic missiles both inside (endo) and outside (exo) the earth's atmosphere at altitudes from 15-25 km to 80-100 km for "a higher kill probability".

After "successfully completing" a series of tests for Phase-1 of the land-based BMD system quite a while ago, the DRDO also conducted the maiden flight-trial of

> Phase-I (interceptor missiles with 4.5 Mach speed) for 2,000-km range enemy missiles. Not yet deployed. > Phase-2 (interceptor missiles with 6-7 Mach speed) for 5,000-km range missiles. Shorter Range | Older Russian Under development. **LR-SAM under Project Kusha** 350-km range

Ballistic Missile Defence

> Indigenous 2-tier shield

PROJECTS

> Should be ready by 2028-29. > IAF plans 5 squadrons for ₹21,700 crore.

VSHORADS | 6-km range > ₹1,920 crore

project underway

to long-range Arrow, as well as help from some oth-

a sea-based interceptor missile in April last year.

IAF, of course, now has three squadrons of Russian S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems, which can detect, track and destroy incoming strategic bombers, jets, spy planes, drones and even some intermediaterange ballistic missiles at a range of 380-km. They are deployed in north-west and east India to cater for both China and Pakistan

Delivery of the remaining two S-400 squadrons, under the \$5.4 billion contract inked in 2018, has been delaved to 2025-26 due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Parallelly, India is developing its own long-range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) system under the ambitious Project Kusha, With an interception range of around 350-km, this air defence system should be ready by 2028-29.

Then, there is the Barak-8 medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) systems, with an over 70-km range, jointly developed with Israel.

Need to balance socialist views with capitalist ones, says CJI

▶ Continued from P1

The bench comprising CJI Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, BV Nagarathna, SDhulia, JBPardiwala, Manoj Misra, R Bindal, SCSharma and AGMasih seemed to concur. "It would be rather extreme to interpret Article 39(b) to include privately-owned property as material resources of the community," the bench said. "The dynamics of econom-

ic development have changed from socialist pattern to a free market economy since the 1990s and now private investments hold the key. If we want to have a productive economy, then private investment must be encouraged. In the 1950s, no one had envisaged that electricity would be distributed by private parties," it added.

CJI Chandrachud said when the constitutional court interprets a key provision like Article 39(b) in Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution, it must ensure that the interpretation "sends a clear message of what India is and what it aspires to be".

"It is difficult to outrightly categorise all private properties as material resources of the community. But at the same time, we cannot say that material resources can never include any private property," he said, indicating that a balance needs to be struck between the two extreme views — socialist and capitalist — in the context of India's development.

Mehta said Article 39(b) was a measure for developing a welfare state with the goal of achieving common good, where material resources of the community need legislative intervention to be either taken over or controlled for distribution. He said govt did not advocate either extremes — that all assets of the country vested in the nation or community.

After hearing Mehta, the bench said, "Your arguments appear to contradict that of attorney general R Venkataramani who had argued that community resources would include private properties." Arguments will conclude on Wednesday.

Cong feared Vokkaliga flak, delayed action on Revanna

@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt has been accused of delayed action regarding the sex video case allegedly involving JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, leading to a heated debate between Congress and BJP, with questions raised about political motives.

Congress's decision to wait until after the first phase

► Related reports, P7

of voting in the state on April 26 is attributed to political calculations. Sources said the party aimed to avoid alienating Vokkaliga voters, dominant in phase 1, given the antipathy towards Kurubas, represented by CM Siddaramaiah. Former PM HD Deve Gowda's clan is regarded as the first family of Vokkaligas.

Siddaramaiah's formed an SIT after elections in south Karnataka in which three members of Gowda's family, including Prajwal, contested. Gowda's grandson



Prajwal was allowed to fly abroad after 'an agreement between CM Siddaramaiah (in pic) and Revanna'

Prajwal is seeking re-election from Hassam as an NDA candidate while his father HD Revanna is JD(S) MLA for Holenarsipur. Both were named in an FIR this Sunday in which a former domestic help accused father-son duo of sexually harassing her and her daughter.

Questions are being asked why govt's intervention came only after voting was completed, allowing Prajwal to leave the country, though the clips on pen drives were circulat-

ing widely before April 26. BJP alleged friendly rela-

tions between Revanna and politicians influenced govt's actions. Union minister Pralhad Joshi said Prajwal was allowed to fly abroad after "an agreement between the CM and Revanna". "To cover up its lapse, state govt is blaming Union govt...None of us have opposed Prajwal's suspension from the party. Still, Congress is blaming NDA," he said.

Congress functionary Priyanka Gandhi, addressing a rally in Kalaburagi, questioned PM Narendra Modi's silence on the issue, given BJP and JD(S) are allies in these elections. In response, Union home minister Amit Shah shifted the responsibility onto state govt. "We want to ask why Congress, despite being in office in Karnataka, hasn't acted. Priyanka should ask Siddaramaiah and deputy CM DK Shivakumar," Shah

said in Guwahati. Shivakumar defended the delay, stating that action cannot be taken based on oral allegations without a bona-fide complaint from survivors.

Art 39(b) was left vague to help make appropriate future laws: SG

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Solicitor general Tushar Mehta on Tuesday extensively quoted B R Ambedkar while trying to find an answer to the 50-year-old question—whether material resources of the community included private property?

Arguing for acceptance of

Ambedkar's views before a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, B V Nagarathna, S Dhulia, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, R Bindal, S C Sharma and A G Masih, the SG said the main architect of the Constitution was aware of the intricacies that future govts and Parliament would face in providing social, economic and political justice to citizens and, hence, left the wording of Article 39(b) deliberately vague to allow them to devise appropriate legislations.



Mehta quoted extensively from the Nov 1948 Constituent Assembly debate on finalisation of the draft of Article 39(b) in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Ambedkar was faced with the question of how to bring about economic democracy. He answered it by saying, "There are various ways in which people believe that economic democracy can be brought about; there are those who believe in individualism as the best form of economic democracy, there

are those who believe in having a socialist state as the best form of economic democracy, there are those who believe in the communistic idea as the most perfect for m of economic democracy.

"Having regard to the fact that there are various ways by which economic democracy may be brought about... we have left enough room for people of different ways of thinking... to strive in their own way, to persuade the electorate that it is the best way of reaching economic democracy..."

"India is a social democracy that aligns closely with the principles of a social welfare state. Social and economic justice is not to be understood in crude terms of 'distributive justice' aimed at wholesale allocation of material resources of the community to the public at large in one go," he said.

Classroom-turned-pool draws in kids

Isha.Jain@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: When the mercury misery surged, a UP school principal dared to swim against the tide. Concerned over the sharp drop in attendance at his govt school in Kannauj because of the searing summer, Vaibhav Rajpoot (38) turned a classroom into a makeshift pool.

The pool was filled with cool underground water through a submersible pump. Since nobody wanted to miss out on the fun, the falling school attendance suddenly jumped from 38 to 65 students.

The novel idea started with Rajpoot asking colleagues at their Model Primary School in Tirwa's Mah-students, 54 of them girls, in explained, some asked if they bring them back.



WATER BABIES

saunapur village to pool in ideas. With out-of-the-box thinking, they hit upon the Curious villagers trooped to the school to watch the little ones make a big splash. The school has 143

Classes 1 to 5.

"A week ago, I was giving tips to the students on staying safe in extreme heat when I mentioned a swimming pool. The students didn't seem to know what a pool was. When I

could have one, too. That got me thinking," said Rajpoot. The principal held a meet-

ing with the School Management Committee (SMC) and parents to seek their consent. "Everyone agreed. And we chose a classroom of 18 by 20 feet to convert it into a pool. The information about this fun activity was circulated on WhatsApp to ensure everyone got to know about it," Rajpoot said.

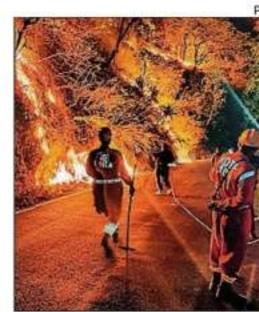
Shanu Verma, 34, an assistant teacher, pointed out that attendance is very low at this time of the year. "Students go out to the fields to harvest wheat. Some visit relatives to help them on farms. We thought of a unique way to

▶ Continued from P1

▼t was 43°C at Kolkata's Alipore as well, less than a ▲ degree from the all-time high of 43.9°C recorded almost a century ago and only the second time ever that Kolkata's April temperature had touched the 43° mark.

Meanwhile, for the first time in the country this season, the mercury crossed the 47° mark on Tuesday — Kalaikunda in (Bengal) logged 47.2°C, a whopping 10.4° above normal, and Baharagora in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand touched 47.1°C. At least three spots in the region Kalaikunda, Panagarh

(Bengal) and Balasore (Od-



NDRF personnel try to control a fire in a forest in Nainital district on Tuesday. Met officials said Uttarakhand was witnessing its driest April in five years

atures 10° higher than normal. Odisha, which falls under

cation, has been reeling under a heat wave for 16 straight days. "This is the highest number of consecutive days of heat wave in Odisha in 10 years. The record for the longest heat wave spell in the state is 26 days, reported in 1998," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, chief of IMD. "The heat waves in sever-

Mercury crosses 47° for 1st time this yr

al parts of the country weren't entirely unexpected. El Nino continues to persist in the Pacific and under this condition, south India and adjoining areas are known to witness above normal temperatures in April. A more immediate reason for the heat in eastern India is the presence of an anti-cyclonic circulation in central Bay of

region. As a result, the land has become dry and hot," Mohapatra said. Another wind circula-

sea breeze from entering the

tion, an anti-cyclone over western Arabian Sea, has been pumping up heat along the western coast, particularly the Konkan belt, over the past few days. On Monday, the temperature at Mumbai's Santa Cruz crossed 39° for the second time this month, making it the second hottest April day in the city in 10 years. IMD expects the heatwave

to continue in eastern India till May 2 and for at least another five days in the South. With inputs from Niran-

jan Kaggere in Bengaluru, : isha) — reported temper- central India in IMD's classifi- Bengal, which is preventing Sumati Yengkhom in Kolkata

PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL OF PAING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL

In loving memory of



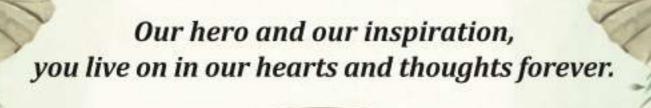
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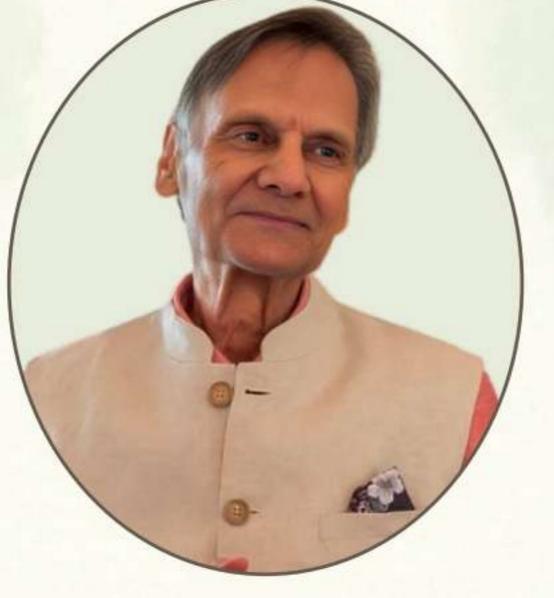
(04.08.1939 - 01.05.2004)

We remember you every day,
Your legacy of wisdom guides us and lights our way.
Though twenty years have passed, your spirit in our hearts still remains,
In every lesson learned and every goal we attain.
With gratitude and love, we cherish your name,
Forever in our hearts, you will respectfully reign.

Remembered & Missed By:

Management, Staff & Students of
S.S. Mota Singh Schools
S.S. Mota Singh (NILA) Charitable Trust





Shri Jagdish Kumar Aggarwal

Chairman, Pooja Forge Ltd.

Shri Jagdish Kumar Aggarwal left for his heavenly abode early morning on 30th April 2024.

A Prayer Meeting will be held at Brijmohan Munjal Vedic Kendra Auditorium Arya Samaj, Dayanand Saraswati Marg, B-31/C, Kailash Colony, New Delhi On 3rd May, 2024; Friday from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

In Grief
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4 killed, 38 injured in bus-truck collision in Nashik

Four people were killed and 38 injured when an MSRTC bus hit a truck on Mumbai-Agra national highway near Chandwad in Nashik district on Tuesday, reports Santosh Sonawane. Girish Mahajan, BJP minister, announced a financial aid of Rs 10 lakh each for the kin of the deceased, Rs 5 lakh each for the critically injured.



OBITUARY

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

3rd Anniversary

Anil Kumar Sharma

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mortal boundaries.

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eternally in cherished

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SC allows Patanjali to file contempt plea against IMA chief

Made Disparaging Remarks Against SC: Patanjali's Lawyer

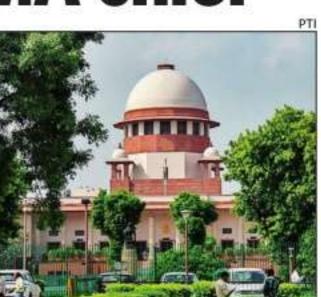
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After Patanjali Ayurved founders Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna, who had to face contempt proceedings on a plea by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), it now seems to be the turn of the IMA chief to face the music with Supreme Court on Tuesday allowing filing of a contempt application against him for allegedly making disparaging remarks against the court.

Appearing before a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said he had come across a "very disturbing" interview of IMA president R V Asokan in a newspaper and it must be considered by the court. "The IMA president says why is the court pointing fingers at us. This is direct interference with the court. He says these are unfortunate, vague comments by Supreme Court," Rohatgi said.

"Bring it on record. This will be more serious than what has been happening till now. Be prepared for more serious consequences," the bench said. Rohatgi, appearing for Patanjali, told the court that he would file a contempt application against the IMA president.

In the previous hearing, the bench



In the previous hearing, SC had told IMA to put its 'house in order' and address 'unethical practices by doctors and hospitals like prescribing unnecessary and expensive medicines'. In his interview, the IMA chief had termed SC's observation 'unfortunate'

had told IMA to put its "house in order" and address "unethical practices by doctors and hospitals like prescribing unnecessary and expensive medicines". "Misuse of position by the petitioner association to prescribe expensive medicines and the line of treatment needs closer examination," the court had said.

In his interview, the IMA president had termed the SC's observation as "unfortunate".

The court also slammed the Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority for its failure to take inaction against Patanjali Ayurved for years together.

Will take legal step on action taken by U'khand against us: Patanjali official

▶ Continued from P1

according to GST officials, in case of a fake ITC claim, a penalty can be imposed up to the amount of the ITC claim along with interest. They said that in this case, the wrong ITC claim was Rs 20 crore, and the penalty amount is Rs 27.5 crore – inclusive of interest — hence, the total amount stands at Rs 47.5 crore. Despite attempts by TOI, Patanjali officials remained unresponsive for comment.

Meanwhile, legal tussle escalated as Uttarakhand suspended licences for 14 Patanjali products, including those mentioned above. State govt also demanded the formula for these drugs from Patanjali.

Speaking to **TOI**, Patanjali Ayurved media in-charge S K Tijarawala stated, "We will reply to the notice served by state govt and take legal recourse regarding the action taken against us."

This action follows a case filed by IMA in SC after Patanjali published an advertisement claiming to cure various diseases, which the IMA deemed misleading.

SC scrutinised govt's response to Patanjali Ayurved's activities, criticising their passivity. Responding to the court's queries, state Ayurvedic and Unani services department suspended licences of the mentioned drugs under provisions of Drug and Cosmetic Act 1945.

Dr Mithlesh Kumar, drug controller, stated, "Manufacturing permission for the mentioned drugs is suspended with immediate effect."

The legal confrontation deepened as Ayurvedic and Unani services department of Ayush ministry filed affidavits regarding the action taken against Patanjali.

The department sought the apex court's permission to file revised affidavits, and the case is scheduled for a hearing on May 14.

Senior Chhattisgarh official arrested in ₹175cr rice scam

Raipur: ED on Tuesday arrested a former special secretary of the food department, Manoj Soni, in connection with its probe into the alleged Rs 175 crore rice milling scam in Chhattisgarh. Soni, at present special secretary, mantralaya, was picked up from the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) office, where he had been summoned for questioning in connection with the rice scam case registered by ACB/EOW.

An Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer on deputation to Chhattisgarh govt, Soni is a former managing director of State Marketing Federation (MARKFED).

After a round of questioning, ED placed Soni under arrest and produced him before special PMLA court judge Atul Shrivastava. The agency sought 14 days' custody but the court remanded him in five days' ED custody.

In Oct last year, ED had conducted searches at the premises of Soni, some Rice Millers Association office-bearers, and a few district marketing officers, alleging that MARKFED conspired to pay exorbitant amounts to rice millers in exchange for kickbacks to the tune of Rs 140 crore for the "benefit of higher powers". TNN



REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



In Loving Memory of Maj Gen AC Sharma, AVSM, VSM (Retd) 16.04.1940-01.05.2021

We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there. Re-

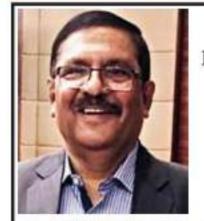
membered by: Mr. Ratish Sharma (Son), Mob: 9971677331, Mrs. Kalpana Sharma (Daughter-in-law), Ms. Thea & Leah (Grand Daughters) and all members of the Sharma Family



10th Death Anniversary MRS.SWARAN GROVER

There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart.

Remembered by: P.P. Grover (Husband), Rajat-Riddhi Grover, (Son & Daughter in law), Ankur (Son), Shiven, Ishita & Sanat (Grand Children)



In Loving Memory of BUDDHA DEB GHOSH 20.11.1952 - 01.05.2021

Three years without you. We miss you everyday and every moment. Stay happy wherever you are.

Suvra Ghosh, Sayanti Ghosh and Soumini Ghosh.



MRS. C.P. GUPTA 18/07/1945 - 01/05/2021

Though time passes, your warmth, wisdom, and love remain vivid in our hearts. Your legacy of kindness and strength continues to inspire us each day.

Rest in peace, knowing you are deeply missed and forever cherished. Missing you all the time. Your grandchildren Fondly remember by Meenu, Ritu, Neetu & Kanika

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Revannas' ex-driver, BJP neta trade charges over sleaze clips

Both Vow To Provide SIT With Details About Release Of Videos

▶ Continued from P1

oth developments coincided with Prajwal's former driver Karthik—accused of leaking the contents of a pen drive containing obscene video clips — asserting his innocence. Speaking from an undisclosed location via a video message, Karthik pointed fingers at BJP functionary Devarajegowda, alleging his involvement in making the pen drive con-

> Karthik, Prajwal's former driver, pointed fingers at Devarajegowda, alleging his involvement in making the pen drive contents public, a claim the **BJP functionary** vehemently denied

tents public, a claim Devarajegowda vehemently denied. Having served the Revan-

nas as a chauffeur for 15 years,



JD(S) Karnataka prez HD Kumaraswamy with party's senior functionaries during a JD(S) core panel meet in Hubballi on Tuesday

Karthik resigned last year, alleging that the family unlawfully acquired his land and assaulted his wife. Karthik said he handed the pen drive to Devarajegowda, an advocate who had represented him in his legal battle against the Revanna family, trusting that the videos and photos would remain confidential.

Karthik clarified that apart from Devarajegowda, he did not share the pen drive with anyone else.

"I never shared the videos or photos with Congress

functionaries as no one had come to my rescue when I was in trouble in the land-grab case," Karthik said.

In response, Devarajegowda disputed the driver's claims, asserting that Karthik had earlier expressed grievances against the Revanna family and had associated with Congress functionaries during the 2023 assembly elections. He contended that the pen drive was handed over to Congress members before reaching him.

Devarajegowda wondered

how Karthik had obtained the pen drive and who downloaded the videos from Prajwal's mobile phone onto it. Devarajegowda, who had unsuccessfully contested the assembly elections from Holenarsipura on a BJP ticket in 2023, said: 'Karthik was with Congress functionaries during the 2023 assembly elections and campaigned for Shreyas M Patel, who contested against Revanna. I could have released the videos during the assembly polls if I had them, which would have ensured my victory," he reasoned.

Devarajegowda claimed Karthik had admitted that he had met Congress MP DK Suresh and deputy CM DK Shivakumar. "I will produce documents to SIT about the people who released the video. If state govt fails to respond, I will approach high court," he warned.

Karthik too vowed to provide all details to SIT. Amidst protests over the leaked videos, police efforts are underway to identify the women filmed in the clips.

BJP won't tolerate insult to 'nari shakti', says Shah, targets Cong

Guwahati/New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday condemned the alleged sexual abuse of women involving JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna and said BJP would not tolerate any insult or abuse of women.

Addressing a press conference in Guwahati, Shah said, "The issue regarding Revanna that has been reported in the media is very hurtful and cannot be tolerated in any way. BJP's stand is very clear,

> Why has Congress not taken any action on the (Prajwal) case so far? We can't take any action as law and order is a state issue, said Shah

we will not tolerate any insult to matri aur nari shakti."

Targeting the Congress govt in Karnataka, he said, "Congress has been alleging that an NDA partner's candidate is involved in the inci-



Amit Shah at a campaign rally in Ahmedabad on Tuesday

dent, but I just want to ask a small question — whose govt is there in that state? Congress is in power in Karnataka, and this matter must have come to their attention. Why has it not taken any action on it so far? We cannot take any action as law and order is a state issue."

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said BJP had "zero tolerance" for crimes against women and hailed the JD(S) leadership

for suspending Prajwal. "Many questions arise on this incident. If the Karnataka govt had this evidence with them for so many months, why were they not doing anything? Why is Congress demonstrating double standards when it comes to crimes against women? Why is Sandeshkhali not an issue to be condemned? Why is that Congress selectively and politically chooses crimes and criminals to either support

Chandrasekhar said BJP "will push for the full might of law against the accused".

or condemn?" he asked.

Nab Prajwal promptly, file report in 3 days: **NCW to K'taka**

New Delhi: National Commission for Women termed allegations of sexual abuse against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna "distressing" and wrote to the Karnataka police chief asking him to "promptly apprehend the accused" and submit a report within three days.

Condemning the "reprehensible acts", NCW said, "Incidents of this nature not only pose a grave threat to the safety and dignity of women but also contribute to the perpetuation of a culture of disrespect and violence against them."

On Monday, Congress had questioned the silence of Centre and NCW. All India Mahila Congress chairperson Alka Lamba wrote to NCW seeking immediate action and protection to women who filed complaints against Revanna.

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma said, "...We urge prompt and decisive action from the concerned police authority to swiftly apprehend the accused, who has fled the country. TNN

The sex tape saga: Fallout of a falling out

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: "Secrets have a way of surfacing, unravelling the bonds of trust and revealing the true nature of relationships," goes a popular saying in Kannada.

True to this adage, the sex video tapes implicating nowsuspended Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna stemmed from a falling out former PM HDDeve Gowda's son HDRevanna's family had with a trusted aide.

It all began to unfold in June 2023, when Karthik, a man who played multiple roles, including driver, personal secretary and accountant, for the Revanna family, decided to challenge the status quo.

The genesis of the issue? A land measuring 16 acres, nestled in the ancestral village of the Deve Gowda clan in Holenarsipura, the family stronghold represented by Revanna in the assembly.

The land bore the legal im-



SCANDAL SCARRED: Prajwal

print of Karthik's name, owing to income tax arrangements and the trust bestowed upon him by the family.

As tensions simmered and Karthik found himself sidelined, he lodged a complaint in Dec 2023, alleging he and his wife had been kidnapped by Prajwal and his mother after he refused to agree to hand over the land. It was then that the

floodgates burst open, shedding light on the dark secrets of the scion of the Deve Gowda lineage.

JD(S) insiders close to the family said that Karthik had access to Prajwal's mobile phone, from which he allegedly shot those videos and initially shared them on his own phone for viewing. He decided to use them to blackmail the family when they turned against him.

After he was shunted out, Karthik approached advocate and BJP functionary G Devarajegowda, who had contested against Revanna in the 2023 assembly elections.

This prompted the Revanna family to seek a court order against 86 media outlets and three private individuals one of them was Karthik - alleging a "threat of broadcasting, publishing and circulating fake news and manipulating media" against them.

Devarajegowda had alleged in a Jan press conference in Hassan that Prajwal had sought to silence him and the media fearing the release of obscene videos. He recently claimed to have gained access to the videos while representing Prajwal's former driver in a case against the

Revannas in Dec 2023. However, Devarajegowda clarified that he played no part in leaking the tapes. He claimed that he refrained from releasing the videos due to concerns for the privacy and dignity of the victims.

Revanna's political rivals in Hassan were not so sensitive, and enlisted the help of a senior Congress functionary, known for orchestrating the downfall of a BJP minister in a similar episode.

The videos were circulated through WhatsApp groups and distributed via hundreds of pen drives in Hassan a day before the constituency voted on April 26.

Karnataka govt formed an SIT, but this was a day after Prajwal departed for Frankfurt in Germany.

HC: Saying 'go and hang yourself' isn't abetment to suicide

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has held that the mere utterance of "go and hang yourself" can't be construed as abetment to suicide, acquitting an accused who vented out his ire at a priest for having an illicit affair with his wife.

"What is required is an intentional mindset of the accused which would be mens rea (intention of wrongdoing)," Justice M Nagaprasanna said. A Udupi resident was accused of abetting the suicide of a school principal and junior priest of a parish who ended his life on Oct 11, 2019.

"If the facts in the case at hand are considered, on the touchstone of the principles laid down by SC, what would unmistakably emerge is that the petitioner — the husband of the woman with whom the deceased priest had certain relationship — had blurted out his anger and uttered the words 'go and hang yourself'. This can't become abetment to suicide," the court noted. TNN



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FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATE EXAMINATION - JUNE 2024

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next FMGE on 6th July 2024.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates		
Online Submission of the Application Form	29 th April 2024 (1 PM Onwards) to 20 th May 2024 (Till 11:55 PM)	
Date of Examination	6 th July 2024	
Declaration of the Result	By 6th August 2024	
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BATTLEGROUND INDIA | APRIL 19-JUNE 4, 2024

Shivaji descendant in close fight with Shinde camp MP

War For Legacy In Kolhapur As **Alliances Shift** And Vendettas Resurface

Abhijeet.Patil@timesgroup.com

Kolhapur: A day after his candidature was announced in the first week of March, Shahu Chhatrapati said that the objective behind his contesting the parliamentary elections was to "protect India from turning into an authoritarian regime". If this smacked of a veiled attack on the BJP-led govt at the Centre, the head of Kolhapur's erstwhile royal family minced no words when he attacked the current dispensation in Maharashtra a few days later.

Addressing a campaign rally, he said he was unsure if the anti-defection law was in force in the state. "Maharashtra saw a change in govt twice (2019 and 2022). If you don't want the law, then scrap it. If you really want this law to be enforced, then it needs reforms. Maharashtra is unstable. We do not want the instability to remain forever."

The 76-year-old, however, gave credit to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for strengthening the law, which, he said, was brought in by Rajiv Gandhi during his tenure as PM. Interestingly, the 12th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is Congress's first nominee for the Kolhapur Lok Sabha seat since 1999.

Pitted against him in a direct tussle is chief minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's Sanjay Mandlik, the sitting MP.

For Mandlik, his fight is not against Shahu Chhatrapati but for "the self-respect of the people of Kolhapur". "I am not asking for votes on grounds of sentiments, but on the basis of work I have done in my constituency," he said at a rally recently, but signed off with a jibe at his opponent: "The people of Kolhapur are the real heirs of king Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, and merely belonging to his family does not make one his heir."

CONSTITUENCY WATCH IN FRAY FOR 2024 LS POLLS Kolhapur Sanjay Maharashtra Mandlik (Shiv Sena) Shahu Chhatrapati

6 ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS & 2019 WINNERS Kolhapur South Karveer P N Patil **Hasan Mushrif Ruturaj Patil** (Cong) (Cong) Chandgad Radhanagari Kolhapur North Jayashri Jadhav Rajesh Patil Prakash Abitkar

(NCP)

2019 LS POLL PERFORMANCE Winner: Sanjay Mandlik (Shiv Sena) 7.5 lakh Runner-up: Dhananjay Mahadik (NCP)

4.8 lakh

(Cong) *2022 bypoll

(Shiv Sena) Voting on May 7

(Congress)



WHO GETS THE CROWN? Congress candidate Shahu Chhatrapati (top) and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Mandlik in Kolhapur

To ensure Shahu Chhatrapati's victory, Congress workers are counting on the legacy of his greatgrandfather, Kolhapur's erstwhile king Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, who was described by Babasaheb Ambedkar as the "torchbearer of the social justice movement".

On the other hand, Shiv Sena's Mandlik is showcasing the legacy of his father and four-time MP of Kolhapur, Sadashivrao Mandlik, to secure a second Lok Sabha term. In one of his speeches, Mandlik went a step further and claimed that his father was the 'ideological heir' of Shahu Maharaj.

When seat-sharing talks began among Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners, Congress's Kolhapur unit chief Satej Patil said the candidate's announcement would be a surprise. People got a whiff only after Shahu Chhatrapati shared dais with Sharad Pawar during a rally held after NCP split. What followed was another twist.

Shiv Sena (UBT) staked claim to Kolhapur stating that it (the undivided Sena) won the seat in 2019. Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut even suggested in a social media post that Shahu Chhatrapati be given a

Raiya Sabha nomination. Clarity on Shahu Chhatrapati's candidature came only after Pawar met him in person.

It was not a smooth sail for Mandlik either. BJP, the big brother in Mahayuti — the alliance currently in office, accused Mandlik of not showing up in the constituency for the last five years. The coalition partners, however, decided to put aside their differences and unanimously gave their stamp of approval to Mandlik.

During 2019 LS polls, Patil and head of NCP's Kolhapur unit Hasan Mushrif ran a covert campaign — 'Aamcha Tharlay' (we have decided) — to defeat their own candidate Dhananjay Mahadik (NCP), ensuring Mandlik's win. Patil was apparently exacting revenge on Dhananjay for his loss to the latter's cousin — Amal Mahadik (BJP) — in the 2014 assembly polls. Patil had accused Dhananjay of working to ensure Amal's win and his loss, despite Congress and NCP being in alliance.

The dynamics, however, have changed in 2024. Politicians have changed sides, and Shiv Sena and NCP have split.

Mahadik, who has switched over to BJP, is now campaigning for Mandlik. Patil, who played a key role in the 2019 win for Mandlik, is now fiercely fighting against him. Meanwhile, BJP workers, who had levelled serious allegations against NCP's Mushrif, are canvassing for votes by his side to ensure Mandlik's victory.

Shahu Chhatrapati is not the first member of Kolhapur's erstwhile royal family to have jumped into the electoral fray. In 1976, Vijaymala Chhatrapati, daughter-inlaw of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, contested and won Hatkanangle (then Ichalkaranji) Lok Sabha seat as a Peasants and Workers Party nominee. She defeated Congress's Lt General (retired) S P P Thorat who was chosen by late chief minister Yashwantrao Chavan. In 2004, Malojiraje Chhatrapati, one of the two sons of Shahu Chhatrapati, won Kolhapur North assembly seat on a Congress ticket. Five years later, in 2009, Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, Shahu Chhatrapati's another son, was trounced in Kolhapur by Sadashivrao Mandlik. Now, Mandlik's son is contesting against Sambhajiraje's father.





BATTLE FOR DHARWAD: VOTING ON MAY 7

6,84,837

Female

9,13,949

Others

BJP's Pralhad Joshi (L), a Brahmin, faces opposition from influential Lingayat seer Dingaleshwar Swami — who is backing Congress's Vinod Asooti (second from R), from OBC Kuruba community - and appealing to Lingayats in both parties to join hands to defeat the Union minister

Minister eyes 5th win, but Lingayat seer stands in way

Electorate

18,31,975

Pralhad Joshi (BJP)

Margin 2,05,101

Assembly

segments

in Dharwad

Male

9,17,926

J Abbas Mulla | TNN

Hubballi: Four-time MP Pralhad Joshi's bid for a fifth record win from Dharwad parliamentary constituency faces a significant challenge amid anti-incumbency sentiments and the uncertain impact of

Congress's guarantees. To break Joshi's winning streak, Congress has strategically fielded Vinod Asooti, a youth from OBC Kuruba community. Asooti, known in Navalgund constituency, is working to unite Ahinda (minorities, backwards and Dalits) votes to challenge Joshi's dominance. This is the first time in 25 years that Congress is mounting a serious challenge to BJP's clout in the constituency with a non-Lingayat candidate. At the same time, a major attempt is being made to dent BJP's assiduously built support base of Brah-

mins and Lingayats. Joshi, a Brahmin, also faces opposition from respected Lingayat seer Din-Karnataka galeshwar Swami of Bhavaikyata Peetha

of Shirahatti. Despite initially filing his papers as an Independent, Swami withdrew his nomination, citing pressure from senior seers. Nonetheless, he continues to campaign against Joshi, alleging suppression of Lingayat leaders. While the impact of the seer's

opposition remains uncertain in the predominantly Lingayat constituency, BJP functionaries downplay its significance. Dharwad was one of those very

few places where BJP tied with Congress in the 2023 state polls, with both parties winning four assembly segments each.

With urban segments account-

(3 Kundgol (7) Navalgund ing for over 41% of the electorate, both BJP and Congress are

Vinay Kulkarni (INC) Now MLA from Dharwad

4,79,736

1 Hubballi-Dharwad East

O Dharwad Kalghatagi

Hubballi-Dharwad

Hubballi-Dharwad

intensifying efforts to increase their vote share and reduce anticipated leads in assembly segments controlled by their rivals. BJP MLAs Mahesh Tengi-

nakai (Hubballi-Dharwad Central) and Arvind Bellad (Hubballi-Dharwad West) are going all out to ensure Joshi's victory, while Congress MLA from Hubballi-Dharwad East Prasad Abbayya, too, is pulling out all the stops to drum up support for Asooti.

With Dharwad MLA Vinay Kulkarni barred from entering the district, his wife Shivaleela Kulkarni is leading Asooti's campaign from the front. Vinay, meanwhile, has focused his energies on BJP ex-CM Basavaraj Bommai's

WHAT IS KEY THIS ELECTION

VOTER TURNOUT FOR PAST

THREE ELECTIONS (%)

Congress's ability to consolidate Ahinda votes, wean Lingayat votes with help from Dingaleshwar Swami, secure votes of beneficiaries of its guarantees and negate fallout of Neha Hiremath murder case are central to checkmating Pralhad Joshi, who is looking for a

record 5th win

home turf of Shiggaon, which falls under Dharwad constituency but lies in Haveri district. In Kalghatagi and Navalgund, Congress has a strong base as the

trict in-charge minister Santosh Lad and N H Konaraddi. BJP is confident of a good show in Shiggaon and MLA MR Patil's Kundgol. Amid the battle of Congress's guarantees versus the Modi factor, BJP is amplifying its allega-

assembly segments are held by dis-

tions of Congress's appeasement politics against the backdrop of the Neha Hiremath murder case in Hubballi and involving youths in its protests. The sentiments surrounding the case strengthen Joshi's bid

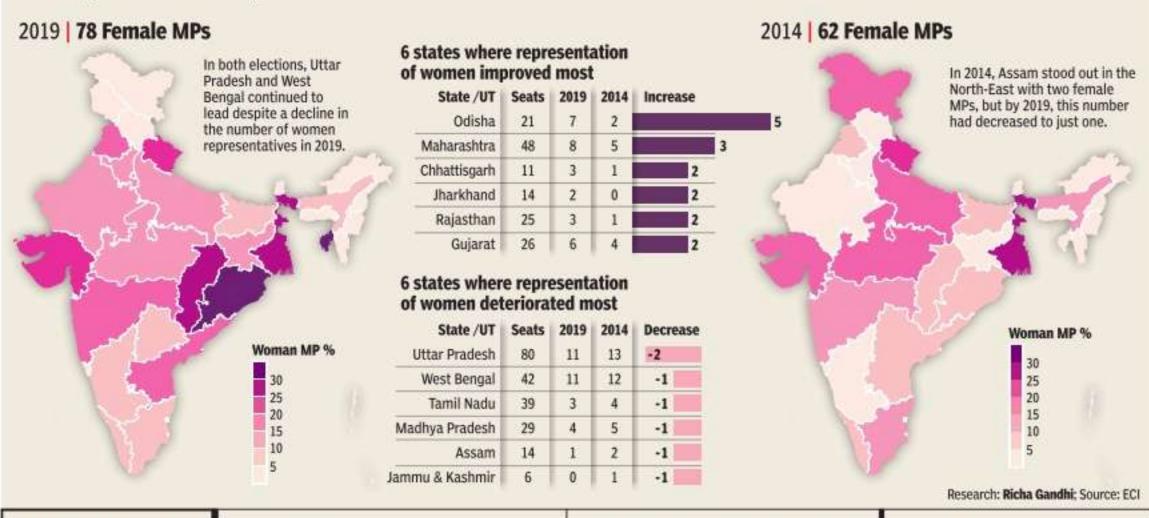
for a fifth term, although he faces stiff competition from Asooti, supported by Dingaleshwar Swami, who is meeting Lingayats in both parties and appealing them to join hands to defeat Joshi.

GEO GRAPH

THEN IS NOW

Representation of women improved in 2019, but rise modest in North-East

The participation of women in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections showed progress, with an increase to 78 female MPs elected across 543 constituencies, a rise from 62 in 2014. Odisha led with a notable addition of five female MPs, while Maharashtra welcomed three more. However, the North-East saw modest gains, with Assam, Tripura, and Meghalaya each electing one female MP in 2019, but other states in the region did not elect any female MPs in either 2014 or 2019.



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THOUGHT I WAS COMING FIRST,

YOU SECOND AND HE THIRD ...

RK LAXMAN

If there's one thing that has remained the same over the last seven decades in the world's largest democracy, it is the quirks that define us! Nothing captures these better than RKL's timeless cartoons.

If you think you have the knack to make the connection between 'Then' and 'Now', then here's your chance to win BIG!

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20 funniest, most original captions win exciting vouchers worth ₹500 each every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

SURROUND SOUND



Candidates sweat as strongroom CCTV feed goes dark for 2 hrs in TN

A television screen displaying CCTV camera footage from a strongroom in Tamil Nadu's Erode district decided to take a two-hour break, leaving officials and candidates palpitating. Despite functional cameras installed in the room containing ballot boxes and VVPAT machines, the screen displaying their footage malfunctioned, polling officials said. The incident took place at a govt college where machines used in the Kumarapalayam assembly seat of Erode LS constituency were kept on Tuesday. Following an inspection, officials found a fault in the connection line from the strongroom to the control room at the administrative block. It was explained to the representatives of the candidates and normalcy was restored within two hours. IANS

Haryana tries to draw young voters with election-themed musical gigs

Move over political rallies, Haryana is tuning into a different kind of election groove. With music bands set to serenade voters with election-themed tunes, the state is orchestrating a symphony of democracy to get youngsters to exercise their franchise and also promote awareness regarding the elections. "We hope to soon have our first musical performance in Panchkula," chief electoral officer Anurag Agarwal said. These bands will be engaged in districts having a higher percentage of young voters, he added. Nearly two crore voters across the state are eligible to cast their votes when polling will be held on May 25 in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state in the sixth phase of general elections. PTI

In Sambhal, with a large Muslim presence, Kalki skews arithmetic

Sandeep.Rai@timesgroup.com

ambhal, a tranquil town in Moradabad about 180km from Delhi, shot into the limelight on Feb 19 when PM Modi laid the foundation stone of a Kalki temple here.

Kalki is believed to be a yet-to-beborn avatar of Vishnu who will complete the deity's dashavatar (10 incarnations), and Sambhal is believed to be where Kalki will appear. Thus, a temple dedicated to the deity, constructed by expelled Congress functionary Acharya Pramod Krishnam, who has now aligned with BJP, is generating significant interest in religious and political circles.

Sambhal has traditionally been a Samajwadi Party (SP) bastion — its veteran, Shafiq Ur-Rehman Barq (who died at 93 a few months ago), had won the seat more than once. SP has now fielded his grandson, Zia Ur-Rehman Barg, the incumbent Kundarki MLA, from this constituency.

With a large Muslim population comprising almost 35% of the electorate the seat had been a difficult place for BJP in 2019, as it lost all six seats in the Moradabad division, which encompasses Sambhal. But now, with the Kalki card up its sleeve, the party is hoping for a favourable turn of events.

Krishnam, the peethadheeshwar (temple head) of Shri Kalki Dham, told TOI, "After Kashi, Ayodhya and Mathura, Kalki Peeth will be developed into a major religious centre, particularly after the PM himself laid its foundation. The move will impact the political landscape of western UP. Until now, the Hindu vote was divided into various splinter groups affiliated with regional parties. Now, it will bring all of them together."

Interestingly, Krishnam, who contested the 2014 polls from Sambhal on a Congress ticket and lost, is hoping to retain the liberal Muslims who attended various events at Kalki Dham in the past. "During the foundation ceremony, half of the attendees were not part of the BJP fold, and that included some Muslims too," he said. "Barq had thrown a spanner into the temple proposal in 2016, but in Aug 2023, Allahabad high court gave a decision in our favour," he claimed.

Parmeshwar Lal Saini is BJP's





Sr five years ago. Sambhal has always been an opposition stronghold, except for 2014, when BJP's Satyapal Singh Saini emerged victorious, securing 34% of the votes to win a tight triangular contest against SP and BSP. In 2019, the SP-BSP alliance defeated Parmeshwar, with the latter still managing 41% of votes.

Saini told **TOI**, "This time, we are confident that the lotus will bloom in Sambhal. The Kalki temple foundation by the PM will seal our victory. I have the support of voters, irrespective of gender, caste, or faith.'

Saulat Ali, a former MLA who won from Moradabad in 1996, has since contested six elections without success. Recently, he parted ways with Congress to join BSP, and is contesting from Sambhal. Ali said, "I played a pivotal role in Zia Ur-Rehman Barq's victory as Kundarki MLA as an SP candidate in 2022. As far as I see, SP

Sambhal has always been an opposition stronghold, but BJP now hopes a Kalki temple, the foundation stone of which PM Modi laid in Feb. will turn its fortunes. The constituency votes on May 7

hal, and the contest is two-pronged between BJP and BSP."

Ali holds considerable influence in the region considering his political experience. His father, Riyasat Hussain, was also a four-time MLA. His ability to sway supporters of Iqbal Mehmood, Barq's rival, could impact the election outcome, especially considering Barq's strained relations with Qureshi voters.

Political experts agree on a possible Kalki effect, "BJP has skilfully used religion to blunt the impact of caste politics in the area. The Kalki event will consolidate Hindu votes for the party irrespective of the caste of the candidate they put up," said Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, head of political science department at Chaudhary Charan Singh

University, Meerut. Amroha-based analyst Shoib Chaudhary said, "Voters in Sambhal and surrounding districts have primarily been anti-BJP due to the large Muslim presence. These areas have remained SP strongholds for the last three decades, barring a few incidental wins for BJP on the back of an unconsolidated opposition. BJP had been eyeing these regions for long, and the development of a temple in choice for the seat. He had lost to Barq has no significant presence in Samb- Kalki Dham can work wonders for them."

IPS officer compulsorily retired gets CAT relief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Raipur: Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has quashed IPS officer Gurjinder Pal Singh's compulsory retirement from service and ordered his reinstatement with all associated benefits within four weeks. The 1991batch officer held the rank of ADG in Chhattisgarh when he was compulsorily retired from service after being raided by anti-corruption bureau

was registered against him during the tenure of Bhupesh Baghel govt in state.

CAT principal bench in New Delhi, comprising chairman, Justice Ranjit More, and member Anand Mathur, observed: "The applicant has been retired compulsorily as a punitive measure. The order of compulsory retirement has been passed as a shortcut to avoid departmental inquiry. The impugned order retiring

(ACB) and a sedition case the applicant compulsorily cannot be sustained in the eves of the law."

> In his submission before CAT, the IPS officer maintained that while working as ADGP-ACB/EOW, he was incharge of high-profile and sensitive probes in state, including Nagrik Apoorti Nigam scam. During probe, he was repeatedly subjected to "political pressure from the higher echelons of state govt" to conduct probe as per their

instructions, but he did not give in, he told the tribunal. This is why he was "unceremoniously" transferred to

police HQ with no assignment

and then made director of the

state police academy, he said. "Govt, maliciously and after a lapse of over four years, constituted inquiry committee into suicide of Bilaspur SP Rahul Sharma," he said, adding that he moved Jabalpur bench of the tribunal, which staved panel proceedings.

Expect accountability from India on Pannun case: US ▶ Continued from P1

Indian govt is yet to confirm the identity of this Lofficial. While Gupta is currently awaiting extradition in Prague, the report said Yadav had been transferred to CISF after the Pannun plot unravelled.

Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual citizenship of US and Canada. He has been designated as a terrorist by Union Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual citizenship of US and Canada. He has been designated as a terrorist by Union home ministry under anti-terror law

home ministry under anti-ter-

ror law — UAPA. Following the report, White House said India is taking the allegations regarding the assassination plot of the Sikh separatist seriously and that US expects accountability.

Asked about the investigative report, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We've been really consistent about that and have laid that out multiple times, whether it's a meeting here with the prime minister or a meeting abroad."

"This is a serious matter and we're taking that very very seriously. Govt of India has been very clear with us that they are taking this seriously and will investigate," Jean-Pierre said. "We expect accountability from the govt based on that. But we are going to continue to raise our concerns. That's not going to stop. We're going to continue to raise our concerns directly, with the Indian govt," the press secretary added.



UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION Vidyut Niyamak Bhawan', Near ISBT, PO-Majra, Dehradun-248171

PH. 0135-2641115 Website www.uerc.gov.in E-mail- secy.uerc@gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

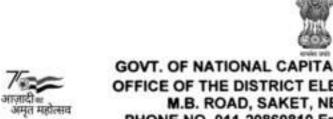
Inviting comments on the Draft UERC (Tariff and Other Terms for Supply of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources and non-fossil fuel based Co-generating Stations) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 181 read with Section 86(1)(e) of the Electricity Act 2003, and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, and after previous publication, the Commission has issued draft UERC (Tariff and Other Terms for Supply of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources and non-fossil fuel based Co-generating Stations) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024 (Principal Regulations, 2023). The draft Regulation has been posted at the Commission's website www.uerc.gov.in.

Notice is hereby given inviting comments/suggestions/objections on the draft Regulation from all the stakeholders. These could be sent to the undersigned latest by 31.05.2024 by post or e-mail or in

person at the above-mentioned address for Commission's consideration. The comments/suggestions/objections received after the stipulated date in the Commission's office

may not be considered while finalizing these Regulations Secretary Advt. No.-01/2024-25



GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE (SOUTH) M.B. ROAD, SAKET, NEW DELHI-110068

PHONE NO. 011-20860810 Email:- esdmsouth.delhi@gov.in Dated: - 30/04/2024 F.7(515)/DEO(S)/ Advert. Leading/2024/1789

PUBLIC NOTICE Regarding appointment of Expenditure Observer, General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 to

South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07): This is for information of Political Parties and General Public/ Voters of General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 of South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07), that the Election Commission of India has designated the following officer as Expenditure Observer for General

Election Look Sabha 2024 for South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07):

Alloted Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name	Name of Observer	Mobile no. & Telephone No.	Time & Date	Observer Office Address
07-South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency	Shri Shahnawaz Ul Rahman, IRS	7428449648 011-20904260	Meeting time 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. w.e.f. 05.05.2024 till completion of	Ground floor, Room No. 04, Office of SDM (Saket), M.B. Road, Saket, New Delhi

The Expenditure Observer will be available to General Public on all working days as per time/ date/ venue mentioned in aforesaid table. Any complaint with respect to malpractices in Election and violation of Model Code of Conduct may be reported at the contact number given

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0024/24-25



OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER NEW DELHI PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY (NDPC-04) OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, NEW DELHI DISTRICT 12/1, Jam Nagar House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011,

Email: sdmend@delhi.nic.in F.No.RO-NDPC-04/LS-2024/4687 Dated: - 29/04/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Regarding appointment of expenditure Observer, General Election to Lok Sabha 2024

to New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-04 (NDPC-04), NCT OF DELHI This is for information of political parties and General Publics/Voters of General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 of New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-04 (NDPC-04), that the Election Commission of India has designated the following officer as Expenditure Observer for General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 for New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-04 (NDPC- 04).

Allotted Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name	Name of Observer	Mobile/Tel No. & Email	Time & Date	Office Address
04- New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency	Mr. Sanjay Kumar Lal, IRS	expendituremo nitoringndd@g mail.com (Mobile No:8826728469)	Public Meeting Time: Between 12:00 to 01:00 PM First Inspection: 29/04/2024 to 01/05/2024 (02:00 PM to 05:00 PM) Second Inspection: 05/05/2024 to 25/05/2024 (02:00 PM to 05:00 PM) Third Inspection: 25TH day of declaration of election result (28/06/2024)	Atal Adarsh Balika Vidyalaya, Gole Market, New Delhi- 110001

The Expenditure Observer will be available to General Public on all working days as per time/date/venue mentioned in aforesaid table. Any complaint with respect to malpractices in Election and violation of Model

Code of Conduct may be reported at the contact number given above.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0022/24-25

(Isha Khosla), IAS Returning Officer, NDPC-04

Govt. of Bihar

(M. Chaitanya Prasad, IAS) Returning Officer, SDPC-07



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna (State Horticulture Mission)

2nd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna-800001, Phone Fax: 0612-2547772, e-mail: dir-bhds-bih@nic.in, Website: horticulture.bihar.gov.in

NOTICE - INVITING e-TENDER

e-Tender notice for empanelment of the agencies for supplying the planting material of Gooseberry (Aonla),

Lemon, Apple Ber, Guava during 2024-25 in the State of Bihar. Through e-procurement mode only over (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

For the holistic development of horticulture in the state of Bihar, Bihar Horticulture Development Society (BHDS), Bihar, Patna invites very e-tender from interested registered/recognized nurseries or their authorized distributors/agent to ensure timely availability of quality Gooseberry (Aonla), Lemon, Apple Ber, Guava fruit saplings on uniform price to the farmers of the state of Bihar. In determination of uniform price of Plants for the state, financial proposals of the technically qualified

agencies will be evaluated. E-tender forms including terms and conditions for technical qualification, specifications, as well as quality and quantity of Planting Material and procedure is available on website: horticulture.bihar.gov.in/_https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. Applicants may upload/submit their tender along with all required documents for technical qualification through the online portal https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. Financial proposals should also be proposed on that portal in prescribed form separately.

Proposal can only be uploaded/submitted on the website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in

SN	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1.	Start Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	16.05.2024 (10:00 Hrs.)
2	Date and Place of Pre-bid Meeting	24.05.2024 (12.00 Hrs.) Directorate of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, 2nd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna – 800001
2.	Last Date & Time for Downloading of Tender document	10.06.2024 (14:00 Hrs.)
3.	Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	10.06.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
4.	Date and time of technical bid opening	10.06.2024 (15:30 Hrs.)
5.	Date and time of financial bid opening	To be intimated to technically successful bidder only
6.	Nodal officer/Contact person for queries	Sri Vivek Bharti, Assistant Director, Horticulture (Mob No 9431818958) Sri Deo Narayan Mahto, Deputy Director Horticulture (Mob No9431818930)
7	Mode of Empanelment	Least Cost Based Empanelment- LCBS (L1)

Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Patna reserves the right to revise/change/ cancel the proposal without assigning any reasons thereof.

उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 000383 (Agriculture) 2024-25

Society, Bihar, Patna

लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन २०२४- कोई मतदाता न छूटे

Director Horticulture cum Mission Director, Bihar Horticulture Development भारत सरकार

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय औषध विभाग शास्त्री भवन, डॉ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110001

Government of India Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers **Department of Pharmaceuticals** Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110 001

No. F-23011/02/2024-Estt.(E-25772)

Dated 18.04.2024

CIRCULAR Subject: Hiring of two (02) Young Professionals, one (01) Consultant grade I (Jr Consultant) and one (01) Consultant Grade II (Sr. Consultant) for Project Management Unit of PRIP Scheme in the Department of Pharmaceuticals on contract basis - reg.

Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, intends to engage two (02) Young Professionals, one (01) Consultant grade | (Jr Consultant) and one (01) Consultant Grade II (Sr Consultant) for Project Management Unit of PRIP Scheme in Department of Pharmaceuticals on contract basis. Detailed terms and conditions, qualifications and format are available on the website of the Department i.e. www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in. Interested candidates may email the duly filled applications in the prescribed format along with supporting documents to soestt-pharma@nic.in within 15days of print of this advertisement. Sd/- (Sandeep Kumar)

CBC 02107/11/0001/2425

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India



INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Sy. No. 115/1, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500032

CORRIGENDUM

Empanelment of Creative Agencies - Extending the last date of submission of Bid -

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued a Reguest for Proposal (RFP) with a Tender reference number IRDAI/PP&GR/TNDR/MISC/53/3/2024 dated 22nd March, 2024 on Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP Portal) at www.eprocure.gov.in.

Due to administrative reasons, the following revisions are effected in the Para A - Bid Schedule of the RFP Document:

Sr. No.	Details	Existing	Revised
6.	Last Date & Time of Submission of Bids	Date: 30 th April, 2024 Time: 5:00 PM	Date: 15 th May, 2024 Time: 5:00 PM
8.	Date, Time & Venue for Opening of Bids	Date: 3 rd May, 2024 Time: 5:00 PM on CPP Portal	Date: 17 th May, 2024 Time: 5:00 PM on CPP Portal

All other terms & conditions of the RFP Document remain unchanged. Chief General Manager





Chief Coordinator for DAKSHIN

RIS is looking for a bright, dynamic and motivated development professional, having at least 15 years of field experience to work as Chief Coordinator for DAKSHIN: Global South Centre of Excellence.

Preference would be given to applicants with multicultural outlook, deep passion for academic and research rigour, excellent communication skills, ability to get projects/ programmes conceptualized, implemented through team work and monitored at administrative and financial levels.

Candidates with Ph.D/Masters in Economics/Development Economics with multiyear work experience in multilateral or international institutions would be preferred.

Details may be viewed at: https://www.ris.org.in/opening. Last date: 13 May 2024



Office of Returning Officer **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing** Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) NAFED House, Ashram Chowk, Ring Road, New Delhi-110014 Ph.-011-26341810 E-mail: boardsection@nafed-india.com Website: Nafed-india.com

NOTICE

The Special General Body meeting of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., (NAFED) is being convened on 21, May 2024 (Tuesday) at 11.00 AM at NCUI Auditorium, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Khel Gaon Road, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016 to elect the members of the Board of Directors of NAFED. On the basis of information/resolutions received from the eligible member societies/institutions/organizations of NAFED, a provisional list indicating the name of delegate and organization represented has been prepared and available at the headquarter, branches and website of NAFED.

All concerned, who have any objection on the said list, are hereby requested to bring the same to the notice of undersigned latest by 04.05.2024 till 3 p.m. for further necessary action. Otherwise, it will be presumed that there is no objection to anyone and the list will be treated as "FINAL". Thereafter, no further correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

Divisional Magistrate (South-East Delhi) Returning Officer, NAFED



OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER NEW DELHI PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY (NDPC-04) OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MEGISTRATE, NEW DELHI DISTRICT 12/1,

Jam Nagar House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011,

E mail: sdmend@delhi.nic.in Expenditure Monitoring Cell E-mail:expendituremonitoringndd@gmail.com

F.No.RO-NDPC-04/LS-2024/4685 Dated: - 29/04/2024

Public Notice All the contesting candidates in General Election to Lok Sabha-2024 in New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency (NDPC-04) and the General Public are hereby informed that inspection of day-to- day Election Expenditure Register will be done as per the schedule given below:-

 1st Inspection - 13-05-2024 (Monday), Time - Between 10:00 A.M to 05:00 P.M

2nd Inspection - 17-05-2024 (Friday), Time - Between 10:00 AM to 05:00

3rd Inspection - 23-05-2024 (Thursday), Time - Between 10:00 A.M to 05:00 P.M

Place of Inspection - Conference Hall, New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency (NDPC-04), 12/3 Jam Nagar House [Near office of SDM (Election)], New Delhi-110001. This inspection is mandatory as per section 77(1) and 78 of RP Act

Sd/-

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0023/24-25

1951.

Returning Officer NDPC-04 (New Delhi District)

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER 05 NORTH WEST PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY DC OFFICE COMPLEX, KANJHAWALA, DELHI-110081 PUBLIC NOTICE

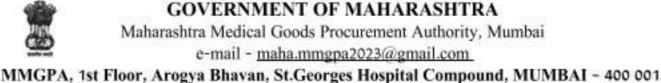
This is for the information of General Public/Voters of North West Parliamentary Constituency 05 as well as Political Parties that the Election Commission of India has designated the Expenditure Observer for the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 to be held on 25.05.2024, in respect of North West Parliamentary Constituency 05. He will be available to general public on working days as per under mentioned schedule:-

Name of Observer	Contact No./ E-Mail	Time & Date	Office Address
Sh. Kumar Pranav, IRS	8920961882 policeirs@gmail.com	Between 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM w.e.f 05.05.2024 till completion of poll/re-poll	Room No. 23, Ground Floor, DC Office Complex, Kanjhawala, Delhi-110081

Any compliant w.r.t malpractices in Election and violation of Model Code of Conduct may be reported to the contact number given above.

> (ANKITA ANAND, IAS) RETURNING OFFICER 05-NORTH WEST PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0025/24-25



TENDER NOTICE

Advt. No. Date -30/04/2024 Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in two Envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of medicines.

Sr. No.	No.	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	Opening
1	E-79	Health Lab Group A	Dt. 08.05.2024 At 12.00 PM.	Dt. 29-04-2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt. 20-05-2024 Upto 02.00 PM.	Dt. 21-05-2024 at 02:30 hrs.
2	E-80	Health Lab Group B	Dt. 09.05.2024 At 12.00 PM	Dt. 30-04-2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt. 21-05-2024 Upto 02.00 PM.	Dt. 22-05-2024 at 02:30 hrs.

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website https://mahatenders. The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be

purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to. For e-tendering help/ information, please contact. Website: https://mahatenders.gov.in

Email - maha.mmgpa2023@gmail.com DGIPR/2024-2025/27

Contact No 022-22621886/ 022-22621973

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai

Signature/-

बिहार 🎏 सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय नालन्दा भवन प्रमंडल, बिहारशरीफ

शुद्धि–पत्र

इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक-421अन्0, दिनांक:-15.03.2024 एवं सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग का पी० आर० नं० -020035/2023-24 (भवन) दिनांक 16.03.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई० निविदा संख्या-19 / 2023-24 जो पंचायत सरकार भवनों के निर्माण कार्य से संबंधित है के तिथियों को अपरिहार्य कारणवश विस्तारित किया जाता है, जो निम्नवत है:-

900	विषय वस्तु	निधारित ।ताथ	संशाधित / विस्तारित ।ताथ
1	निविदा कागजात प्राप्त	दिनांक—15.04.2024 से	दिनांक—15.04.2024 से
	करने (डाउनलोड करने) की	दिनांक—15.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे	दिनांक 30.05.2024 को 15:00
	तिथि एवं समय	अपराहन तक।	बजे तक।
2	निविदा कागजात (अपलोड	दिनांक—16.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे	दिनांक 31.05.2024 को 15:00
	करने) की तिथि एवं समय	अपराहन तक।	बजे तक।
3	निविदा कागजात तथा अग्रधन की राशि (BG) मूल में जमा करने का तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-20.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे अपराहन में।	दिनांक 03.06.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।
4	तकनीकि विड खोलने की	दिनांक-20.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे	दिनांक 03.06.2024 को 16:00
	तिथि एवं समय	अपराहन में।	बजे तक।
5	वित्तीय विड खोलने की	तकनीकी बीड का निष्पादन सक्षम	तकनीकी बीड का निष्पादन सक्षम
	तिथि एवं समय	प्राधिकार से होने के पश्चात।	प्राधिकार से होने के पश्चात।
6.	प्री विड मिटिंग की तिथि,	अधीक्षण अभियंता, पटना भवन अंचल, पटना के कार्यालय में दिनांक:— 09.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे।	अधीक्षण अभियंता, पटना भवन अंचल, पटना के कार्यालय में दिनांक:-15.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे।
03335	समय एवं स्थान	मुख्य अभियंता (प0) पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में दिनांक:-10.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे।	मुख्य अभियंता (प0) पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में दिनांक:- 16.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे।

इसे हद तक संशोधित समझें तथा शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगा।

निविदा से संबंधित नियमों, शर्तों के विशेष जानकारी के लिए कार्यपालक अभियंता, नालंदा भवन प्रमंडल, बिहारशरीफ से संपर्क किया जा सकता है अथवा कार्यालय सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता. नालन्दा भवन प्रमण्डल बिहारशरीफ

PR. No.000390 (BCD) 2024-25 लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन २०२४- चुनाव का पर्व, देश का गर्व



CONTRAPUNTO

Power doesn't corrupt people, people corrupt power

WILLIAM GADDIS

Many Revannas

JDS chief's grandson is yet another example of how the system coddles the powerful

Tt's election season. That's the most likely explanation for JDS suspending Prajwal Revanna, grandson of the party president, who has been accused of sexually exploiting women. Political parties typically push back against similar accusations made against powerful functionaries.

Revanna contested the Hassan LS seat on NDA platform. He was then already under a cloud. Last June, he successfully moved a civil court to obtain a gag order against the media bringing up the issue. Subsequently, a local BJP functionary publicly brought it up.

Look away, deny | The sequence of events in the Revanna case is not uncommon. Neither is it unique to political parties. It's a pattern of behaviour found in all walks.

Asymmetrical power structures are vulnerable to exploitation. That's been the root cause of most sexual exploitation cases. It makes it hard for victims to fight back and ensu-

> to get away. Justice, a lonely pursuit | The power asymmetry also undermines efforts to secure justice. For example, it took the Supreme Court's intervention to get Delhi Police to file an FIR in the case of Brij Bhushan Singh. If not for an uncommon effort by wrestlers, including an Olympic medallist, it's unlikely that there would be enough popular pressure to reach the

stage where a chargesheet has been filed.

res a culture of silence that allows perpetrators

It's the obstacles placed at every step that make it hard for women to find the wherewithal to go through a process seeking justice.

Whose reputation? | Karnataka has appointed an SIT to investigate the complaints against Revanna, who has reportedly left the country. He last year convinced the judiciary to gag the media to protect his reputation. It's a cruel irony that the powerful can use reputation as a reason to prevent exposure, but it's the victims whose reputation is damaged by subsequent slander. At every stage they face a hostile system.

Focus on the present It's important that the SIT gets to the bottom of the matter and not get distracted by the inevitable politicisation of the complaint because of election season. Society too has a role here. To provide a safe environment for women, we don't need to look to a distant past and pat ourselves. What matters is the environment that women face now. As so many cases have shown, India's institutions have fallen short.

Drugs Disorder

SC unswayed by U'khand govt's action on Patanjali ads. Why did regulator need court orders to act?

Testerday, Supreme Court was unsparing in its takedown of Uttarakhand's state licensing authority over its inaction in cracking down on Patanjali and its associate ayurved factory Divya Pharmacy's malpractices. "It was only after our order that you realised that there is a law-Drugs and Magic Remedies Act," SC said.

Ban on ads | Yoga trainer-'activist'-businessman Ramdev's project Patanjali has for years advertised its full range of ayurved drugs, across every medium available. Indian law in very clear terms bans advertising, direct or indirect, in any form, for a range of diseases and conditions, regardless of (1) efficacy of drug (2) promise of cure or therapy. The Drugs and Magic Remedies

Act (Objectionable Ads) states that for 54 conditions/ diseases, advertising of any cure or therapy is banned.

The case | SC has been hearing Indian Medical Association's (IMA) writ petition against Patanjali's misleading ads, including its claim to have completely cured diabetes and asthma through medicine and yoga. Given Patanjali's dual business as a pharma company and FMCG, IMA's petition focused on

misleading ads of its drugs, under the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954. Given the case's gravity, and a defiant Patanjali, SC strongly criticised Patanjali for persisting in publishing deceptive claims and ads against modern medical systems, warning it in Nov 2023 of a fine of ₹1cr if Ramdev and his company persisted.

The upshot | Uttarakhand's licensing authority told SC that in mid-April it had suspended Patanjali's licences to manufacture 14 drugs, under Rule 159(1) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945. SC remains unimpressed, as it should. State licensing bodies are drug inspectors of Indian medicine. The Uttarakhand body has failed the public it serves in not acting against Patanjali at the first appearance of an ad that's banned in law.

Up in arms

Escalating hostilities in the theatre of conflict have given rise to much suspense and speculation

Jug Suraiya



politics...

PATANJALI

I'wo Bhaisaaabs discussing the theatre of conflict and what it portends.

Bhaisaab 1: They're going at it hammer and tongs, and the whole world's watching.

Bhaisaab 2: And the media are all full of it, adding fuel to

B1: You can't blame the media. They have to report what's happening. And the most important thing happening right now is this fight to the finish, with each side vowing it'll wipe out the other side for good. B2: They've been daggers drawn since the beginning, but now it's become a

do-or-die Armageddon, never mind the collateral damage. And there's plenty of that. The market has already fallen thousands of points, and there are fears that it's going to fall even more. There are worries that supplies of essential items might also be affected and we might have to learn to live on love and fresh air.

B1: I don't know about that. Thanks to the ongoing battle, there's precious little love to be had, and thanks to pollution, even less fresh air. B2: The worst part is that neither of the sides is observing accep-

table norms of conduct. Anything and everything goes. B1: Which means that each all-out assault secondopinion provokes an even more extreme backlash resul-

B2: You're right. It's high time UN stepped in to put a stop to it. B1: UN? What's UN got to do with it? It's up to Election Commission to tone things down a bit.

ting in an escalating spiral of conflict.

B2: Election Commission? I don't think the Election Commission's writ extends to West Asia and the Israel-Palestine face-off.

B1: Israel? Palestine? Is *that* what you've been talking about? *I've* been

talking about the NDA-INDIA confrontation.

B2: The two do have one thing in common. They're both based on religion. B1: Yeah. One on a religion called faith. And the other on a religion called

'Elections, The World And Us'

GOI's foreign minister writes that the largest democratic exercise in history will be consequential far beyond India. What the world prizes is political stability and policy predictability, he argues

S Jaishankar



The world today is turbulent and unpredictable. Many countries have still to recover from the socio-economic damage of Covid. A conflict now in its third year in Ukraine has had serious impact on energy, food and fertiliser

security. Fighting in West Asia triggered by the Oct 2023 terror attack on Israel could escalate into something wider. Drone and missile attacks in Red Sea are disrupting global shipping, even as piracy in Gulf of Aden becomes more threatening.

In Asia, territorial claims and disregard for law and agreements have created new tensions. The longstanding challenge of terrorism remains, waxing and waning, but still, always there.

For India, these larger uncertainties are compounded by the pressure on LAC with China, the threat of crossborder terrorism and the instability on its Myanmar border. Each of these challenges has been met with an appropriate response. But the overall scenario only highlights the need for a strong, clear-headed and capable leadership in the days ahead.

Economic challenges, daunting | Covid era demonstrated the dangers of over-concentration, be it in manufacturing or technology. Critical and emerging technologies make this situation even more serious. The task consequently is to de-risk

both at national and global levels. This can only be done by accelerating 'Make in India' in different areas and joining resilient and reliable supply chains.

In the digital domain, India has to build on its record as a trusted and transparent player This means growing our semiconductor capabilities and adopting the right data policies. We have to prepare as well for an era of AI, electric mobility, drones, space and green tech. At the same time, the nation's health, food and energy security must be strengthened.

This requires a forwardlooking leadership that appreciates technology's transformational potential, plus is committed to strong growth. What obviously must be avoided at any cost

is a return to the failed policies of pre-reform era.

Reforms, to be continued | While the global outlook may be volatile, it nevertheless holds particular possibilities for India. We are today perceived as an attractive investment destination because of improved infra, better business environment and availability of talent. But underpinning all this is our political stability and policy predictability. Reforms and delivery on the ground of the last decade are the sources of our credibility abroad.

In many ways, globalisation has also created an international workplace that India can utilise to its benefit. Expanding our skills base, concluding mobility agreements and securing Indian citizens abroad are key elements in that regard. There is considerable interest in our start-ups, which have mushroomed in the last decade due to policy encouragement. The world's assessment of India's credentials will naturally be shaped by the continuation of a grounded leadership with a solid track record.

Foreign interest ok, interference not | It is natural that



world. Moreover, the rigour of our election practices and the quality of our election machinery hold out an example for others. But it is important that the line between interest and interference is clearly understood and respected.

There will be those who have vested interest in certain parties for ideological reasons. But while commenting on certain issues, they could also reflect on the implications for themselves. It is a fact of life that like so many other activities, politics has also got globalised. But we are not well served if those critical of the order of the day invite external forces to influence electoral outcomes at home.

Viksit Bharat, aspiration and foundation | This is the first general election of the Amrit Kaal and our youth must recognise its significance. The last decade has provided a foundation for us to aspire seriously for Viksit Bharat. The renewed pace of our growth is buttressed by its inclusive nature and the leapfrogging potential of technology.

Unlike the past, reform and modernisation are not narrowly defined but encompass a wide range of domains. Particular attention is being paid to nurturing human resources, fostering entrepreneurship and enhancing ease of living. Opportunities are expanding in both the formal and informal economy, even as new focus areas and value additions emerge.

The world notes that our digitally-enabled delivery has created a social welfare system on a scale that could not have been imagined earlier. Whether it is Covaxin or CoWin, 5G stack or UPI, Chandrayaan or Gaganyaan missions, we are increasingly matching global standards. Our civilisational heritage is also earning respect, after we ourselves regained the

> Your political choice, in the world | As India moves towards making decisions about its future, both near and long-term, it is essential that we all fully appreciate what is at stake. India is not only the most populous nation but the fifth largest economy, likely to be the third very soon. The world offers both challenges and opportunities and it takes a firm, confident and experienced leadership of PM Modi to comprehensively address them. As we express our political choice, we are also shaping the direction of the global order. The world is waiting and watching, expecting that the verdict would be

> > one made clearly and decisively.

'Congress manifesto is talking point on ground...Defections have made no dent on our party...BJP is desperate'

women's empowerment. Despite defeats in two elections,

Rajya Sabha member and Congress minority affairs chief, 36-year-old poet and party spokesperson Imran Pratapgarhi tells Subodh Ghildiyal that campaign language matters, how Congress pulled back the campaign to issues, and that 'polarising' speech has run its course. Edited excerpts:

What is this election's biggest issue?

BJP's Pramod Krishnam has loudly and publicly announced caste-based reservations will be terminated. What Anant Hegde, Jyoti Mirdha, Lallu Singh or BJP's posterboy Arun Govil earlier said on campaign trail that give BJP a large majority so it can change the Constitution. Their seniors' silence shows their support. People have to decide if they have to save the govt, or, save Ambedkar's Constitution.



What media shows is far from ground reality. Jobs, Agniveer, inflation, women's safety, caste census are big issues. Congress manifesto is subject of in-depth discussion among people. There's desperation in BJP, and it will reflect in their speeches.



But BJP is presumed to be winning its

There's no consensus BJP's winning. Two phases of voting are over. People have shown their anger against govt. Many BJP candidates and MPs have refused to contest elections: Gautam Gambhir, Jayant Sinha, VK Singh, Birender Singh. Attempts to create an atmosphere for '400 seats' failed. I've been to Kerala, UP, Uttarakhand, Thar, J&K, Karnataka, Maharashtra. BJP's losing on seats it considered safe – like Udhampur, Chandrapur (Maha). Even Nagpur was a tough fight. This is the mood on the ground. INDIA's got a tremendous boost.

So your campaign will stick to people's issues?

BJP has no achievement to show for 10 years in office. That is this govt's biggest failure. Congress as a secular party speaks about 'hissedari' and social justice, jobs,

Rahul Gandhi has stuck to people's and country's issues. He is a stubborn politician. It is Rahul's victory that Congress manifesto has forced BJP veterans on the backfoot. We pulled this election back to issues, which was a big defeat for them.

Many Congress seniors have joined BJP. That must hurt.

I make a distinction between those who leave Congress of their own will, and those who're forced to join BJP. But it's a victory of the Nehruvian school of thought that despite a decade in power, BJP could not establish its own leadership that is intellectually and politically strong.

They've had to take the Ashok Chavans and Milind Deoras, and drop their own ideological flag bearers like Sadhvi Pragya, Pratap Simha, Anand Hegde. But it has made no dent to Congress. Seniors have left but not the people. Shiv Sena and NCP split up, but situation is such that BJP had to drop Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar as star campaigners.

Do you find yourself doubly vulnerable?

You run that risk, you have to face it. In Parliament, a BJP MP hurled an innuendo by talking about a neighbouring country's prime minister, and I said, "Main Bharat ka Imran hun." This demolishes their campaign against me. The situation is dangerous. Statements like "identifying people by their clothes" and the silence on acts of hatred,

matter. But that ploy, tried even today, has run its course. Hatred has a shelf life.

One Bharat Jodo Yatra was enough to demolish BJP's caricature of Rahul Gandhi. What is BJP's USP if it doesn't fire from the Muslim's shoulders? Fear is always there, but you have to face it.

Are the crowds for the poet or the Congress campaigner?

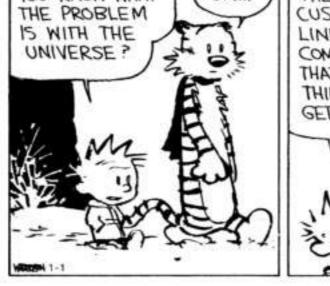
Special Series on Elections I'm a Rajya Sabha member, and as head of Congress's minority department, I connect communities of Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Bauddh, Christians and Muslims with Congress organisationally. As a star campaigner, I amplify Congress's commitments. I use poetic

language, my trade, to connect with people. When in Banihal, Ghulam Nabi's home, I said politicians "ne apne bangle bachane ke liye tumhare khwabon ke gharonde bech diye" (to save their bungalows, they sold your dreams), the gathering concurred When you frame issues in poetry, people connect.

Are rally crowds converting into votes for Congress? I have a personal fan base and

Congress has an organisation and workers. It's a double advantage. I try to convince audiences on social issues, which are also central ideas of my poetry. I've never done shayari of 'zulfoshaam' (adulatory/ romantic). I have spoken about farmers' issues, lynching, about Najeeb, Pehlu Khan. So, my political speeches tie in with my poetry. It is a plus for the party.

Calvin & Hobbes YOU KNOW WHAT



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GET A FULL REFUND IF WE WEREN'T COMPLETELY SATISFIED!

IF THE UNIVERSE HAD ANY





Sacredspace



That deed is not well done, which, being done, brings regret; and whose fruit is received weeping and with tearful

countenance. That deed is well done, which, being done, brings no regret; and whose fruit is received with happiness and delight.

Dhammapada

Don't Resist, Embrace The Natural Flow Of Life

Harvinder Pal Singh

or a spiritual seeker, attainment of → the Divine is the ultimate goal. For him, God is not a concept or an outcome of the mind. In the Divine he sees an omnipresent truth that pervades the universe. 'Kiv sachyara hoeye, kiv koorhe totey par' - how can that truth dawn? How does one pierce the veil of falsehood to get to the truth? Guru Nanak poses this question right in the beginning of the Adi Granth.

In our quest for an answer, we have over the ages devised numerous techniques. In the process, people go to holy places to bathe and wash their sins, observe silence, and keep fasts. While many follow the path of renunciation or ascetic austerities, others take the opposite course of letting the mind indulge in whatever it wants, hoping

that it will finally come to rest. Some believe that acquiring knowledge is the key, while some take the route of prayers and meditation. The Sikh Gurus have commented on these practices.

Guru Arjan says in Sukhmani Sahib: 'Soch kare dinas ar raat, man ki mail na tan te jaat', you may bathe day and night, but the filth of your mind doesn't go. And when the mind is unclean, everything else is dirty. In Japuji Sahib, Guru Nanak says: 'Chuppe chup na hovai, je layi rahan liv taar', by enforcing silence

you will gain little, even if you sit in meditative pose. The cacophony of the mind doesn't stop. Remaining hungry, abstaining, or running away from the world, too,

can one live that way, at some point your responsibilities will compel you to return. Similarly, 'bhukhya bhukh na utari, je banna pooriya bhar', the mind's desires cannot be dispelled even if we collect all the world's possessions. 'Sehaj syanapa lakh hove, ta ik na

chale naal', the Guru further contends that hundreds of thousands of wise thoughts, ideas or arguments aren't going to be useful. Knowing all the intelligent things to say won't take you much THE SPEAKING TREE closer to the Divine.

While these endeavours do have their own relevance, they are not the ultimate route to the truth. Contrarily, they let ego get the better of you – 'i pray daily; i have kept maun vrat, vow of silence, for so long; i can doesn't lead to enlightenment. How long recite the sacred hymns by the rote; i

have done isnaan, holy bath; there'these only end up feeding your ego. This very 'i am the doer' syndrome gets in your way to the truth. Nanak then provides the answer at the end of the same verse, 'Hukam rajai chalna, Nanak likhya naal', obey the Divine's command O Nanak, and walk in the way of his will.

First close all the doors on ego and then submit to the Divine Order. Just go with the flow of the river; any other action is like swimming against the current will take you nowhere. When you realise that you don't need to do all those things in your quest and instead just surrender to His grand scheme of things, you will experience tranquillity. Then, nothing remains to be done. This is the quintessence of Gurus' teachings.

May 1 is the birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh guru The \$7bn Godrej Group's story began 127 years ago as part of India's Swadeshi movement...



lock company



1923 Forays into furniture with the eponymous almirah (steel cupboard)



1951 | Asked to make 1.7mn ballot boxes for the country's first election after independence

TIMES BUSINESS



launches its





Becomes the first Indian co to make

1974 | Starts selling liquid hair colour products

1990 Enters real estate biz

1994 Acquires Translektra, which made mosquito mats under the 'Good Knight' brand

Godrej family seals deal to split group's assets

Adi & Nadir To Get Full Ownership Of 5 Listed Cos, While Jamshyd & Smita Will Control Closely-Held Godrej & Boyce

Reeba.Zachariah @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Godrejs have reached a settlement to split the Rs 59,000-crore (\$7 billion) locks-to-land development group to "better align ownership in acknowledgement of the differing visions of the family members".

While Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir Godrej will gain complete ownership over the five listed entities of the Godrej Group—Godrej Consumer Products, Godrej Properties, Godrej Industries, Godrej Agrovet and Astec Lifesciences Jamshyd and his sister Smita will fully control the closely held Godrej & Boyce.

Adi and Nadir, together with their children, have been managing the five entities, while Jamshyd, his sister Smita and their families have been leading Godrej & Boyce, which is into appliances, aerospace, locking solutions and construction.

Their other cousin Rishad, who too owns a stake in the Godrej companies, however, has no formal role in the conglomerate. Their grandfather, along with his brother, had established the Godrei Group 127 years ago.

The two branches have held shares across the group and sat on each other's companies' boards. But now, they'll transfer their equity interests after having stepped down from the boards to facilitate a clean separation.

Adi and Nadir will divest their shares in Godrej & Boyce to Jamshyd and Smita, while Smita and Jamshyd will transfer their shares in Godrej Consumer Products and Godrej Properties to Adi and Nadir. Rishad, who is a bachelor, will reportedly distribute his assets equally among the other family members upon his death. He couldn't be contacted for immediate comments. Both sides will continue to use the Godrej brand for their respective businesses, according to a late evening statement from the family.

IOC to infuse

₹1,303cr into

green arm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corpo-

ration will infuse over Rs 1,303

crore in its green energy subsi-

diary for setting up 1,000 MW

solar/wind power capacity at

an estimated cost of Rs 5,215

crore, even as the company's

March quarter profit more

than halved to Rs 4,838 crore

from a year ago on reduced refining margin and a pre-poll

fuel price cut. India's largest

refiner and fuel retailer, howe-

ver, closed FY24 with its hig-

hest-ever net profit of Rs 39,619

crore-a63% increase over Rs

24,184 crore in 2021-22. The an-

nual profit benefited from the

nearly two years of freeze on

pump price revisions amid a

fall in global oil prices.

Sohrab o children]	Dosa	-	Burjor		Naval
	Rishad	Adi	Nadir	Jamshyd	Smita
	[NO CHILDREN]	60		0	
	a	1	1	No.	6
nya Nisaba	Diroicha Soh	rab Burjis Hor	mard Daika A	lavrozo Er	eyan Nyrik

maintain harmony and to better align ownership in acknowledgement of the differing visions of the Godrej family members... This will help maximise strategic direction, focus, and agility, and will accelerate the process of creating longterm value - Group statement Adi, Nadir, Jamshyd, Smita and Rishad own around 10% each in Godrej & Boyce, while about 24% is held by Pi-

respectful and mindful way to

rojsha Godrej Foundation a philanthropic trust created by the family — and 27% by Godrej Investments. The five listed companies have a market capitalisation of Rs 2.4 lakh crore (\$29 billion), revenues of over Rs 41,750 crore (\$5 billion) and profit of Rs 4,175 crore (\$500 million). Godrej & Boyce has a revenue

tax profit of \$72 million. "The shareholding realignment in Godrej companies has been arrived at in a respectful and mindful way to maintain harmony," the statement said. The realignment will be implemented after the relevant regulatory approvals have been obtained

of nearly \$2 billion and a pre-

Godrej & Boyce and its affiliates will now be controlled by Jamshyd, Smita's daughter Nyrika Holkar, and their

ChrysCapital

raises \$700mn to

keep NSE stake

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Private equity firm ChrysCapital

has raised a \$700 million for its continuation

fund to maintain its shareholding in NSE.

The company had first invested in NSE in

2016 through a different fund (Fund VI). The

stake has now been transferred to the new

continuation fund. Sources said that inves-

tors in the earlier fund have been given the

option to either exit their investment in NSE

or transfer their stakes to the new fund.

ChrysCapital did not comment on deal spe-

cifics or on details about its current share-

holding in NSE. The continuation fund

has been anchored by Harbour VestPart-

ners, LGT Capital Partners and Panthe-

on Ventures, the firm said in a statement

on Tuesday. "The transaction provided

Fund VI investors an opportunity to mo-

netise the performance on a highly suc-

cessful investment," the firm said.

immediate families. Godrej Industries and the other four listed companies will be controlled by Adi, Nadir and their immediate families.

Godrej & Boyce*

Godrej Consumer

Godrej Industries

Godrej Properties

Astec Lifesciences

Godrej Agrovet

16,182

13,484

17,762

9,481

3,039

641

*FY23 consolidated: **Turnover instead of total income & profit before tax for FY24

Adi's son Pirojsha will be the executive vice chairperson of GIG (Godrej Industries Group) and will succeed Nadir Godrej as chairperson in August 2026, the statement added. It remains to be seen how the group's real estate assets worth over Rs 3,000 crore, held under Godrej & Boyce, will be split between the two sides. Godrej Properties has been developing some of the Godrej & Boyce land. The split comes even as the fourth generation of the family has been deeply involved in the affairs of the conglomerate.

Commenting on the future outlook, Jamshyd Godrej said: "Since 1897, Godrej & Boyce has always been driven by the strong purpose of nation building. With this future-facing family agreement now in

place, we can further drive our growth aspirations with fewer complexities and focus on leveraging our core strengths in high tech engineering and design-led innovation across our strong portfolio of strategic, consumer and emerging businesses."

603

1,702

1,420

295

621

26

Unlisted

1,24,733

32,344

10,469

73,641

2,525

Source: Cos

Nadir Godrej said, "Godrej was founded in 1897 to help build economic independence for India. This deep purpose of innovating for a cause - the values of trust and respect and the belief in trusteeship and making communities that the companies operate in stronger and better - continue to form the bedrock of who we are 125 years later. We look forward to building on this legacy with focus and agility." "The Godrej family settlement was 'locked' today with the elegance and dignity that the family is known for No controversies,

just all clean like their soaps,"

said a post from RPG Group's

Kotak veteran Manian quits, may join Federal Bank

Harsh Goenka on X.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: K V S Manian, joint managing



director at Kotak Mahindra Bank, has resigned from his position, ending his 29-year association with the group. Manian is understood to be moving to Federal Bank,

where CEO Shyam Srinivasan's term ends in Sept 2024. Initially, Manian was considered as one of the candidates to replace Uday Kotak as the CEO of Kotak Bank. Later, he was shortlisted by Federal Bank as a potential successor to Srinivasan. However, when he was promoted to the position of joint managing director in Feb, it was assumed that he would stay on at Kotak. "We are confident in the strong leadership talent at Kotak and our ability to scale our businesses," said Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO, Kotak Bank.

Sensex hits 75k-mark again in day's trade

Mumbai: Reversing early gains, benchmark indices sensex and Nifty closed lower on Tuesday due to a selloff in banking and IT shares in the last hour of the session amid a

mixed trend in global markets. The sensex declined 189 points to settle at 74,483. The index opened higher and rallied further 440 points to hit a high of 75,111 in the day's trade. However, the barometer pared all the gains as selling emerged in banking and IT shares towards the end of the session.

The broader Nifty hit a lifetime intraday high of 22,783 before squandering its gains. Nifty closed lower by 39 points to finish at 22,605 as metal, pharma and IT shares declined. As many as 25 Nifty shares closed lower, 24 advanced while one closed unchanged. Losses in HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, TCS and Tech Mahindra dragged indices from the day's high levels.

Among the sensex constituents, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, TCS, L&T and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank and Maruti were the major gainers.

"Nifty erased all intra-day gains in the last hour of trade and ended in the negative zone in a highly volatile session," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research, HDFC Securities.

"Global markets remained mixed ahead of the US Fed policy meet as markets appear to have factored in the slim chance of a near-term rate cut," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services said. AGENCIES

Core sector growth slows in March

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Growth in the country's core sector slowed in March as six of the eight sectors remained sluggish and two of them, refinery products and fertilisers, contracted Data released by the com-

merce and industry ministry on Tuesday showed the infrastructure sector spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steek, cement and electricity rose an annual 5.2% in March. slower than the 7.1% recorded in the previous month but above the 4.2% posted in March last year. For April to March, the sector grew 7.5%, slightly slower than the 7.8% recorded in 2022-23.

FirstCry refiles **IPO** papers

Mumbai: Brainbees Solutions, the parent company of omnichannel retailer FirstCry, has refiled draft IPO papers with Sebi. While the issue size remains the same, the revised draft red herring prospectus includes updated financials. The IPO comprises an issue of fresh shares worth Rs 1,816 crore and an offer for sale of 5.4 crore shares by existing investors. TNN

Incomplete KYC: 1.3cr investor a/cs on hold

Need To Be Updated With PAN, Aadhaar Electricity, Phone Bills Not Valid Anymore

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: KYC registration entities, KRAs in market parlance, on Tuesday said out of nearly 11 crore investors under Sebi's regulatory purview, about 1.3 crore accounts are 'on hold' (meaning these investors can't transact in stocks, MFs and commodities using these KYCs) since these do not conform to Sebi rules for various reasons. The five KRAs jointly came out with a detailed release as there were cases where investors were not sure if their KYCs, even if done properly, would allow them to continue to invest in stocks, commodities and MFs.

The need to reclassify KYCs under various catego ries arose after it was found that KYCs of many investors were still not updated with PAN and Aadhar, and the linkages were missing. Several of these KYCs were done using documents like utility bills (electricity, telephone), bank account statements etc, which are no longer accepted as valid documents for KYC compliance by Sebi.

Effective April 1, under the updated KYC compliance process, KRAs have categorised each investor's KYC in three categories: validated, registered and on hold. The categorisation was based on availability of PAN, Aadhaar, email and mobile number of the investors, an official from a KRA said.

Investors with validated KYCs don't need to act and from the KRAs said, KYCs of about 1.6 crore investors are under the registered category, who now have limi-

'Verify Status Through KRA Websites'

> Effective April 1, KYC registration authorities (KRAs) have categorised each investor's KYC in three categories: Validated, Registered and On hold

The categorisation is based on availability of PAN, Aadhaar, email and mobile number

> Validated KYCs don't need any action, and can continue their investment process. Registered KYCs can also go forward with investments but will need to re-KYC if investing

in any new fund house

account passbook/statement, utility bills are on hold now. KYCs where PAN-Aadhar linkage is missing are also on hold Investors can visit websites

Old KYCs done using bank

of any of the five KRAs (run by CVL, NSDL, CAMS, Dotex and Karvy) to check their KYC status

KRAs also have helpdesk numbers and emails to assist investors resolve any issue with KYC. MF houses and RTAs are also helping investors resolve KYC-related issues

can continue their investment process. Those with registered KYCs can also continue their investments but will need to resort to the re-KYC process if they invest in any new fund house or open a new demat account.

KYCs that were done using bank statements, utility bills and other similar documents are on hold now and investors with these KYCs can't invest anymore. They would also not be allowed to withdraw funds unless they update KYC documents.

Of nearly 11 crore investors, about 7.9 crore or 73% have valid KYC, a release ted access to investing, while 12% of the total can't operate their demat accounts and MF folios.

"Investors can verify their KYC status through any of the KRA websites under 'KYC inquiry and initiate action," the release said. Investors can also modify their KYCs through the websites of their brokers and MFs. And if the KYC is modified once, that will reflect on all their investments like stocks, MFs and commodities. Investors need not update their KYC with each broker and fund house they have accounts or folios with.

Sebi aims to curb price manipulation in MFs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The board of markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday tightened rules for mutual funds to stop instances of front-running and price manipulation. Sebi will come out with broad guidelines for this, while Amfi, the fund industry trade body, would frame the detailed guidelines, a release from the regulator said. The move was necessitated in the backdrop of several cases of front-running in fund houses.

The regulator will put in place a "structured institutional mechanism" to curb front-running and fraudulent transactions in mutual funds, the release said. "The mechanism shall consist of enhanced surveillance systems, internal control procedures and escalation processes to identify, monitor and address specific types of misconduct inclu-

ding front-running, insider trading, misuse of sensitive information etc." The Sebi board also app-

roved amendments to MF regulations to "enhance responsibility and accountability of management of (fund

detailed standards for such an institutional mechanism, the release said.

The Sebi board also reduced the face value of debt securities and non-convertible redeemable preference shares to Rs 10,000 from Rs 1 lakh.

TIGHTENING RULES

Sebi to set up an institutional mechanism to stop front-running in MFs > Regulator will frame broad guidelines, while Amfi will put in place detailed rules for MFs

> The move comes after several recent cases of frontrunning were detected at fund houses

The amendments are to have a whistle blower policy for reporting such activities

houses) for such an institutional mechanism and foster transparency by requiring (MFs) to have a whistle blo-

wer mechanism." The regulator will "specify the broad framework of the institutional mechanism" and Amfi, in consulta-

tion with Sebi, shall specify

This could potentially attract more retail investors to participate in the bond market.

The regulator's board also relaxed some of the norms governing non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) and resident Indians (RIs) to invest through the IFSCs.

Industry's share in bank credit shrinks to 23%: RBI

@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Bank loans to the services and agriculture sectors were the main drivers of the 20% credit growth in FY24, with both sectors growing at over 20%, according to data released by RBI. While the pace of credit growth to large industries more than doubled in FY24(7%) from the year before (3.1%), it remained sluggish, resulting in a further decline in market share.

As of March 22, 2024, the share of industry in bank credit shrunk to 23.1% from 24.8% in March 2023 and 27.1% in March 2022. The share of the services sector has increased marginally to 28.3%. Personal loans now account for 31% of bank credit, up from 30.6% in March 2023 and 29% in March 2022.

Banks added Rs 27.6 lakh crore to non-food credit in FY24, expanding their book by 20% to Rs 164.1 lakh crore. The exceptional growth was due to the merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank, which added Rs 5.3 lakh crore to bank loans or nearly 400 basis points to credit growth. Without the merger, the credit growth **Drive FY24 Growth** Services

Agriculture 20.1 Personal Loans Industry 8.5

that banks added to their books, around Rs 3 lakh crore went to industry. Within this,

hest credit growth was recorded by the aviation sector, which grew 56% to Rs 43,246 crore. The 'tourism, hotels and restaurant' segment saw the biggest turnaround, with credit growth rising from 2.4% to 12% to Rs 77,642 crore.

According to Madan Sabnavis, an economist with the Bank of Baroda, the higher capital norms imposed by RBI from March 2023 levels.

on unsecured and NBFC loans did help to slow down the credit growth rates to 15.3% from 29.9% for this segment. The growth rate of perso-

nal loans decelerated to 17.7%, compared to 21% recorded in the previous year. This decline was primarily attributed to a significant slowdown in 'other personal loans' to 18.7% and vehicle loans at 17.3%. However, home loans sustained their growth momentum, reaching 17.4% compared to 15.2% in the preceding year. Although the growth rate of credit cards moderated, it remained relatively high at 25.6%. Conversely, education loans experienced an uptick, with a growth rate of 23.3% in FY24. Within the industry, the

sector that saw the biggest accretion to the loan book (in absolute amount) was infrastructure, which saw loans grow by 6.5% (Rs 77,653 crore) to Rs 12.8 lakh crore, followed by iron & steel (Rs 43,362 crore). Within infrastructure, banks grew their telecom loan book by 27% (Rs 29,954 crore) to Rs 1.4 lakh crore. Banks reduced their exposure to petroleum, mining airports, and ports

Nearly 5 lakh women employed in Indian GCCs "While India proudly lesentation, women graduates

vs. Men

Access to

primary

education

Pursuing

course

Entering a

Entering

mgmt roles

-3 refers to the industry-wide representation

of women in senior management roles

corporate 58%

senior ~22%

25% graduate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Indian global capability centres (GCCs) have made significant strides in gender diversity, with nearly five lakh women currently employed in the sector. This represents 28% of the total 16 lakh employees working in GCCs across India, as shown in the Pure Storage and Zinnov report titled "Towards a Gender Equitable World". Within the deep tech ecosystem, gender diversity stands at 23%.

Despite this positive development, it highlights the substantial ground that still needs to be covered to bridge the diversity gap in the industry. With only 6.7% of women in executive roles in GCCs and 5.1% in deep tech organisations, there is a considerable decrease in the available talent pool of women as they **TAPERING GENDER DIVERSITY IN GCCs** Women representation in

corporate India stands at 17% > Women are 28% of employees in GCCs, and 23% in deep tech firms Disparity

exists in women's representation in admissions versus placements GCCs see maximum attrition of women at mid-senior levels for reasons attributable to maternity, caregiving, lack of leadership development

opportunities and pay disparity Source: Pure Storage, Zinnov report

GCCs, at the senior level (9-12 years of experience), the representation stands at 15.7%, the report said.

India has nearly 1,600 GCCs. In 2022-23, GCCs added 2.8 lakh employees, taking its move up the career ladder. In talent base to over 1.6 million. women's attrition.

The report stated that family and caregiving responsibilities, limited access to career advancement and leadership opportunities, and poor work-life balance are some of the key factors influencing

STEM graduates globally, their under-representation in the deep tech workforce stems from systemic barriers hindering their education and career advancement. To unlock the full potential of our talent pool, we need to take a comprehensive approach, including strategic actions to increase the enrolment of women in leading technological institutions and retaining them in the workforce," said Ajeya Motaganahalli, VP of engineering and MD, India R&D at Pure Storage.

ads in the number of women

The median representation of women graduates from top engineering universities stands at 25% between 2020-23, which directly affects

the inflow of female candida-

tes in GCCs, especially in the

deep tech sector. Despite this

disparity in women's repretech advisory firm Zinnov.

consistently outperformed in securing placements compared to the overall average in top-tier universities. "Advancement in any industry is stagnant without

equity. While deep tech has pushed the boundaries of possibility, the sobering truth is that the sector has only 5.1% women at the executive level. Interventions to solve the talent pipeline issue and create work environments enabling women to thrive have become an urgent necessity. Initiatives like leadership development programmes, returnship opportunities, and flexible work arrangements introduced by GCCs are a positive start, but true progress demands unwavering commitment and consistency from the entire ecosystem," said Karthik Padmanabhan, managing partner at

Services, Agriculture

Of the Rs 22.4 lakh crore

more than half of the incremental credit (Rs 1.7 lakh crore) went to large industry. Credit to the services sector (excluding the HDFC-HDFC Bank merger) grew 20.2% to Rs 44.9 lakh crore, while personal loan growth (excluding HDFC merger impact) moderated to 17.7%. Total personal loans outstanding as of March 22, 2024 were Rs 49.2 lakh crore. Within services, the hig-



Dominant India win rain-hit 2nd T20I by 19 runs

Sylhet: Radha Yadav and Dayalan Hemalatha produced an all-round show as a dominant India beat Bangladesh by 19 runs under the Duckworth/ Lewis method in a rain-marred second women's T20 International here on Tuesday.

Led by left-arm spinner Radha's splendid show, Indian bowlers bundled out Bangladesh for 119 after the hosts opted to bat first. Radha finished with figures of 3/19, while there were two wickets apiece for Deepti Sharma (2/14) and Shreyanka Patil (2/24).

For Bangladesh, opener Murshida Khatun top-scored with 46 off 49 balls.

Chasing a modest total, India lost an early wicket as Shafali Verma (0) was caught down the leg side after she tried to flick it through fine leg. Hemalatha, however, blazed away to a 24-ball 41 as India raced to 47 for one in 5.2 overs, when the heaven opened up for the second time during the match. Hemalatha smashed five fours and two sixes in her unbeaten knock.

The par score was 28 and the Indian team was ahead by 19 runs, and with the surface rendered unplayable by the heavy rain, the visitors were declared winners.

India thus took a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Earlier, Dilara Akter got the Bangladesh innings underway when she pulled Renuka Singh, the star of the five-match series opener, over mid-wicket for a four in only the second ball of the match.

An 11-run first over was followed by the wicket of Akter as experienced spinner Deepti Sharma struck. SCORES: India 47/1 in 5.2 overs (D Hemalatha 41*) beat Bangladesh 119 (Murshida 46, Radha 3-19, Deepti 2-14) via DLS method. PTI

MI'S WOES CONTINUE

Lucknow Deliver Another Blow To Mumbai's Troubled Campaign With 4-Wkt Win

Lucknow: Marcus Stoinis made a composed fifty to complement the splendid effort of the bowlers as Lucknow Super Giants strengthened their chances of a play-off berth with a nervy four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in the IPL here on Tuesday. Mumbai Indians' top-order came a cropper as they stuttered to a below-par 144 for seven, riding on contributions from Nehal Wadhera (46), Ishan Kishan (32) and Tim David (35 not out).

In reply, Stoinis scored a 45-ball 62, studded with seven hits to the fence and two maximums but once he was gone LSG survived some anxious moments before getting home with four balls to spare.

With their sixth win in 10 games, LSG climbed to the third spot in the IPL standings. MI, on the other hand, slumped to their seventh loss in 10 games.

LSG made a watchful start to their chase after Nuwan Thushara struck with his fourth ball to remove impact sub Arshin Kulkarni for a duck on his IPL debut. Stoinis cracked two back-to-back boundaries off Gerald Coetzee, who ended up conceding 15 in his first over. K L Rahul (28 off 22) too joined the party, slamming three fours and a six to take 20 runs off Thushara. Stoinis then whacked Bumrah over longoff as LSG reached 52 in the Powerplay.

Earlier, MI dug in a big hole for themselves by losing four wickets in the powerplay. The visitors just couldn't recover from the hiccup despite a 53-run fifthwicket stand between Wadhera and Kishan. Tim David hit a few shots in the end, including a 17-run last over, to give the total some semblance of respectability.

MI's top-order misfired as the visitors managed just 28 for four in the first six overs, the second-lowest Powerplay score of this IPL. While Rohit Sharma (4) was sent back by left arm pacer Mohin Khan, Stoinis induced a fine edge with a slow

ball to get rid of Suryakumar Yadav (10). MI slipped into further trouble when Ravi Bishnoi's direct throw found in-form Tilak Varma short of the crease. Skipper Hardik then was out for a golden duck.

Mbappe Will Spearhead PSG's

HURDLE

If you take Kylian Mbappe, for

example, with his exceptiona

individual quality, he has now

lifting the European Cup has when they also lost to Bayern

said. "That's been their main or (Goncalo) Ramos, or Vitin-

in the final.

the goal of Kylian Mbappe?' But if you

scored 43 goals in 44 games. Opponents set

themselves the goal of not letting him

been the "main objective" of

PSG since being taken over by

Champions League," Terzic

10th league title in the past 12

objective for a decade."

CHAMPIONS

Qatar Sports

ject in Paris

began with

winning the

"The pro-

Investments.

ONE MORE



STANDING TALL: LSG's Marcus Stoinis plays a shot during his knock on Tuesday

Rohit Sharma's scores in the IPL on his hirth day (Apr 30) over the years...

IIIS DII C	i day (ripi 50) over the years
	vs SRH in Dubai in 2014
2 runs	vs RR at DYP in 2022
3 runs	vs RR at Wankhede in 2023

4 runs vs LSG at Lucknow in 2024

Mumbai Indians have recorded their score in this IPL - the second lowest by any team in this edition, behind the 27/3 by Punjab Kings vs Sunrisers Hyderabad on Apr 9.

SCORECARD

MI: I Kishan c Mayank b Bishnoi 32, R Sharma c Stoinis b Mohsin 4, S Yadav c Rahul b Stoinis 10, T Varma run out 7, H Pandya c Rahul b Naveen 0, N Wadhera b Mohsin 46, T David not out 35, M Nabi b Mayank 1, G Coetzee not out 1; Extras: (lb2, nb2, w4) 8; Total: (7 wkts) 144; FoW: 1-7 2-18, 3-27, 4-27, 5-80, 6-112, 7-123; Bowling: Stoinis 3-0-19-1, Mohsin 4-0-36-2, Naveen 3.5-0-15-1, Mayank 3.1-0-31-1, Bishnoi 4-0-28-1, Hooda 2-0-13-0. LSG: KL Rahul c Nabi b Hardik 28, A Kulkarni Ibw b Thushara 0, M Stoinis c Varma b Nabi 62, D Hooda c

Bumrah b Pandya 18, N Pooran not out 14, A Turner b Coetzee 5, A Badoni run out 6, K Pandya not out 1; Extras: (lb4, w7) 11; Total: (6 wkts, 19.2 overs) 145; FoW: 1-1, 2-59, 3-99, 4-115, 5-123, 6-133; Bowling: Thushara 4-0-30-1, Bumrah 4-0-17-0, Coetzee 3-0-29-1, Chawla 3-0-23-0, Hardik 4-0-26-2, Nabi 1.2-0-16-1.

RESULT: LSG won by 4 wkts (with 4 balls remaining)

HO	W	V THEY STAN				
TEAM	м	w	L	NRR	PTS	
RR	9	8	1	0.694	16	
KKR	9	6	3	1.096	12	
LSG	10	6	4	0.094	12	
CSK	9	5	4	0.810	10	
SRH	9	5	4	0.075	10	
DC	11	5	6	-0.442	10	
GT	10	4	6	-1.113	8	
PBKS	9	3	6	-0.187	6	
MI	10	3	7	-0.272	6	
RCB	10	3	7	-0.415	6	

Chennai out to make most of home comfort

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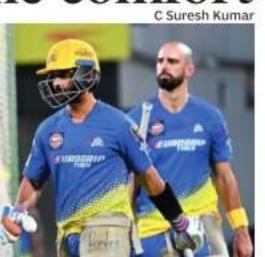
Chennai: Chennai Super Kings is a near unstoppable force at home. The visiting IPL teams travel to the MA Chidambaram Stadium with a strong motivation to breach the 'fortress', but they more often than not leave empty-handed.

This season has been no different. The Ruturaj Gaikwad-led CSK have won four out of five at Chepauk, the only home loss coming against Lucknow Super Giants following an exceptional batting effort by allrounder Marcus Stoinis. Brimming with confidence after decimating fellow playoff challengers Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match here on Sunday, CSK will be keen to improve their already envious home record when they host Punjab Kings on Wednesday. Currently part of a midtable muddle, Super Kings will look to make the most of the home advantage as they chase a top-two berth.

mark on the road and will have only one home contest remaining in the league stage post the Punjab fixture (against current table-toppers Rajasthan Royals on May 12). Heading into what could be a must-win clash in the larger scheme of things, Super Kings have plen-

ty to feel positive about. Ruturaj has been enjoying a purple patch, boasting four 50-plus scores, including two unbeaten knocks, in the past five matches. While the opening batter has been in ominous touch, he has had his fair share of struggles against a particular bowling type.

With Ruturaj falling to leftarm pacers four times so far this season, the visitors may turn to stand-in captain Sam Curran or Arshdeep Singh to



Ajinkya Rahane (left) and Dary Mitchell at the nets on Tuesday

get the better of him. CSK's other in-form batter, Shivam Dube, will fancy himself in the spin match-ups against leggie Rahul Chahar and leftarmer Harpreet Brar as both the tweakers will traditionally bring the ball into him.

Among the bowlers, Matheesha Pathirana and Ravindra Jadeja could hold the key against a batting lineup that is fresh off completing a world record chase. Pacer Tushar Deshpande, too, could be a weapon, after producing It must be considered that a fantastic performance in CSK have not been up to the tough conditions (battingfriendly pitch and dew) in the

previous game. The Punjab batting pack has enough firepower to upset CSK in their backyard. Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh and Shashank Singh, stars of the historic win over Kolkata Knight Riders, will be eager to continue their boundary-hitting spree. But they will have their task cut out, cautioned Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming.

"Punjab will be buoyed by their performance in the last game. But they will also be realistic that they have to adjust to the conditions. Chepauk is different; the size of the ground and pitches are different. When you are away from home, you have to make those adjustments," said Fleming.

GALLERY

Monty Panesar to stand for **Workers Party** at UK election

London: Former England cricketer Monty Panesar is to stand at the next UK general election for the fringe Workers Party of Britain, its leader George Galloway said on Tuesday. Galloway, a leftwing firebrand who was reelected to parliament in March after tapping into anger over the Israel-Hamas war, said Panesar was one of 200 candidates the party is putting up for the vote. Leftarm spinner Panesar, 42, played 50 Tests for England.

Tyson will fight Paul in sanctioned heavyweight bout: Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson's July 20 fight against YouTube sensation Jake Paul in Dallas will be a sanctioned heavyweight professional bout, fighters and promoters announced on Monday. The fight will be over eight twominute rounds. Paul is 27.

Nuggets oust Lakers, LeBron in NBA thriller

Jamal Murray nailed a lastgasp jump shot as the defending champion Denver Nuggets sent LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers crashing out of the NBA playoffs with a seriesclinching 108-106 victory. Murray's go-ahead bucket with four seconds remaining settled another pulsating battle between the Western Conference rivals and wrapped up a 4-1 series win.

New Zealand to go ahead with Afghanistan Test

New Zealand Cricket said Tuesday it will go ahead with a Test match against Afghanistan in September, a month after Australia scrapped a Twenty20 series against the same opponents. Cricket Australia postponed a three-match series due to take place in August at a neutral venue. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, 7 am & 2.30 pm (Jiocinema) CRICKET: IPL, Chennai vs Punjab, 7.30 pm (Star Sports, Jiocinema)

FOOTBALL: Champions League, Semis, Leg 1, Dortmund vs PSG, 12.30 am Thursday (Sony Sports) TENNIS: Madrid Open, QFs, 2.30 pm (Sony Sports)

Challenge Against Dortmund

score in 44 games. It doesn't always work. Edin Terzic, Borussia Dortmund coach **Dortmund:** Borussia Dort- PSG lost the final in 2020 to mund coach Edin Terzic said Bayern Munich. semifinal opponents Paris Saint-Germain were "built to win the Champions League", Tyson turns 58 on June 30. ahead of Wednesday's first leg. Terzic said on Tuesday

LEWANDOWSKI TREBLE POWERS **BARCA TO WIN**

Barcelona: Robert Lewandowski hit a secondhalf hat-trick to power Barcelona to an entertaining 4-2 win over 10-man Valencia on Monday in La Liga.

The champions' victory denies leaders Real Madrid the chance to take the crown by simply beating Cadiz next Saturday. Los Blancos are 11 points clear of Barcelona with five matches remaining.

Fermin Lopez sent the hosts ahead before Valencia striker Hugo Duro levelled and Pepelu netted from the spot to turn the game round. Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili was sent off



Dortmund, who won the

competition in 1997, are play-

ing in the semifinals for the

fifth time in the club's history

and the first time since 2013.

ing threat across the park.

"It's the question you hear

the most: 'How do you stop

focus only on Kylian Mbappe,

then comes Ousmane Dembele

ha, or (Achraf) Hakimi, or

LEWANDOWSKI for handball and Lewandowski

equalised soon after the break before adding another two. The small crowd might also have been a response to

last weekend's Clasico defeat. "I think the team did well... we lacked calmness, tranquility, but I'm satisfied with the team's attitude," Barca coach Xavi Hernandez told DAZN. Barcelona took the lead when Lopez headed home from Raphinha's

whipped cross.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Dortmund		PSG
1	Wins	2
3	Draw	3
4	Goals	7

FORM GUIDE Terzic singled out Kylian Mbappe for particular praise, **BORUSSIA DORTMUND** but said PSG posed an attack-

L	D	W	W	L	L
PARI	SSTO	GERM	AIN		

one — then it's much harder would be fit to play. for them to score."

'SALAH MAY STAY AT

LIVERPOOL DESPITE

contract at Anfield, according to

Sky Sports and The Athletic

reported Salah, 31, has given no

indication that he wishes to leave

and Liverpool are not planning to

sell. The Egyptian was involved in

Jurgen Klopp as he prepared to

Saturday's 2-2 draw at West Ham.

Speaking after the match, Salah

said: "There's going to be a fire

Liverpool rejected advances

from the Saudi Pro League at the

a public spat with manager

come on as a substitute in

today if I speak."

start of the season.

SAUDI INTEREST'

Liverpool: Liverpool expect Mohamed Salah to at least see

out of the final year of his

reports on Monday.

PSG were crowned Ligue 1 (Randal) Kolo Muani and all champions on Sunday, their the others," he said. "They have unbelievable seasons. The domestic domi-quality. If we want to focus on nance has however translated one thing, then we need to fointo European silverware. cus on the ball. If we worry and Atletico Madrid to reach in the competition. AGENCIES

the semis. "Were we the favourites in the group? Against Atletico Madrid? I don't know," Terzic said when asked if his side will be underdogs

against Paris.

"Maybe we're the team with less experience, but we may have the greatest hunger. "When everyone digs in,

not just those on the field and on the bench but everyone in the stadium, we've got a huge opportunity - and we need to take it." Terzic said several key players, including quarter-final goalscorers Marcel about the ball — there's just Sabitzer and Sebastien Haller,

Dortmund already faced Dortmund topped a diffi- PSG in the group stage, losing cult group earlier in the com- 2-0 in Paris before drawing 1-1 petition featuring PSG, AC at home and topping the group. Milan and Newcastle, before The German team is unbeaten eliminating PSV Eindhoven in their last 10 games at home

LEICESTER SEAL **CROWN AS VARDY SCORES A BRACE**

London: Jamie Vardy scored twice as Leicester celebrated their promotion to the Premier League in style on Monday with a 3-0 win at Preston that secured the Championship title.

The Foxes' return to the top flight was sealed after Leeds' shock 4-0 capitulation at QPR on Friday.

Enzo Maresca's men needed victory at Deepdale to guarantee beating Ipswich to top spot with a game to spare and did so with ease, thanks in large part to their 37-yearold captain.

Vardy was one of the heroes of Leicester's memorable Premier League triumph in 2016 and part of the side that also lifted the club's first FA Cup just three years ago.

Indian coaches were suspended, fined at archery World Cup

Men's Recurve Team, Which Won Gold, **Played Final Against S Korea Without** Support Personnel

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New Delhi: India experienced a monumental medal high at the recently-concluded Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai, where the trio of Tarundeep Rai, Pravin Jadhav and Dhiraj Bommadevara stunned Olympic champions South Korea to

men's recurve discipline. for the indiscretion on the part of Indian team officials who were not only fined but also suspended by the World Archery (WA) - the sport's global governing body – for flouting WA's rulebook. The Indian officials had entered the Field of Play (FoP) during crucial knockout matches, including the recurve final.

TOI has learnt that Indian archers were without team of athlete/team can be on the manager Purnima Mahato.



Tarundeep Rai was a member of the winning recurve team

ficials/coaches for a major part of the April 23-28 tournament because the world body barred them from the FoP area. The world body as fined the Indian contingent 1,000 Swiss Francs (approx. Rs 92,000). They were told to pay the amount before clinch a rare gold in the the commencement of the World Cup Stage 2, scheduled that the country paid a big price rea's Yecheon, else the counfined them nominally. try's archers will not be al-

lowed to participate there. It will be interesting to see who pays the fine - Sports Authority of India (SAI) or Archery Association of India (AAI). According to WA's rulebook governing the FoP, Chapter 18's article 18.1.3: "If an official's area has been designated on the Finals field of play, only one team official per

field of play and only in the official's area during shooting."

Another clause 18.1 reads: "At World Championships, each team taking part shall be represented by a Team Manager who may or may not be participating in the event and can't enter the FoP." During one of the matches

involving the Indians, two team officials, including the manager, entered the FoP, which prompted the judges governing the competition to issue a warning to the country's contingent. This caution, was not communicated to other Indian coaches who again entered the FoP – two team officials – during the men's recurve team's quarterfinal match. The world But not many would know from May 21 to 26 in South Ko-body again warned them and

Strangely, the same mistake was repeated during the semifinal and the world body not only barred the coaches from entering the FoP during the final against South Korea but also fined them 1,000

Swiss Francs. The Archery Association of India (AAI) has launched a probe into the matter and has sought a report from its team

TWENTY NO-SHOWS **MAR 1ST INDIAN GP**

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Bengaluru: Twenty no-shows despite confirmed entries took the sheen away from some impressive performances in the horizontal jumps in the opening Indian Grand Prix 1 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Tuesday.

According to the organizers, some of the top athletes pulled out after collecting their bib numbers while others didn't even turn up for that either. The much-awaited men's shot put where Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor ended in disappointment for the fans as the organizers cancelled the event as none of the three competitors turned up. Toor could have been forced to return due to a family emergency. Meanwhile, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) officials collected samples from the medallists.

The women's shot put had only two entries. The women's high jump also had just two entries, the women's steeplechase had three. The maximum number of DNS was reported in men's 100m with five athletes failing to start. There was one DNF by Hima Das in women's 200m. In men's triple jump, TN's Praveen Chitravel came close to booking his berth with a best of 17.12m. DP Manu won the men's javelin.

India fall to China in Uber Cup

Manne.Ratnakar @timesgroup.com

and finished second in Cup in Chengdu, China on Tuesday. India and China qualified for the quarterfinals from

this group. the dominant Chinese. To made," Isharani said. add to India's woes, Anhurt while trailing 1-4 match on Wednesday. in the second after losing

By then, India were Group C. down 0-2 as Isharani Baruah lost to Chen Yu Fei 12-21, 10-21 and national champions Priya Kon-Mishra went down 13-21,

Han Yue.

and Jia Yi Fan.

Ning 9-21, 10-21 and Tanvi Sharma was routed 7-21, ■ ndia lost 0-5 to China 16-21 by Wang Zhi Yi. The quarterfinals draw will Group A of the Uber be released on Wednesday. Isharani said that she

made several mistakes.

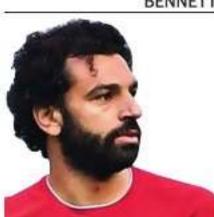
"This is the first time I played a top player. The tempo was quite high but None of the Indians I am not happy with the could win a game against number of mistakes I

The men's team play mol Kharb twisted her Indonesia in their last right ankle and retired Group C Thomas Cup

India and Indonesia the first game 9-21 to have already qualified for the quarterfinals from

Guwahati to host Jr World championships

The World junior badjengbam and Shruti minton championships will be held in Guwahati in 12-21 to Chen Qing Chen 2025, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said in a Simran Singhi and Ri-release on Tuesday. India tikia Thaker also lost to will host both the team and Liu Sheng Shu and Tang individual events.



Liverpool expect **Mohamed Salah** to at least see out the final year of his contract at Anfield, according to reports, P 12



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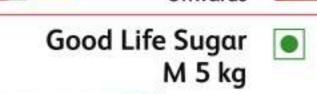
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