



Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi takes over as 26th chief of the 140-warship Navy, says the force's primary mandate is to deter potential adversaries in peace and 'to win the war at sea when asked to do so', **OTHER BOOK, P 5**

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 Wadhwa 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**



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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DOUBLE DELIGHT

Today'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 neta get notice
- Meta response to complaints '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 benefits 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". **P 9**

Teen killed, 4 hurt in London sword attack

A man wielding a sword attacked members of the public and police officers in a northeast London suburb Tuesday, killing a 14-year-old 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, P 10**

Samples from two eateries to be tested

Food 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

Australia's food safety agency 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, P 5**

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. **P 4**

Kids' hospital in city gets bomb hoax

An email claiming a bomb 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, P 2**

Why arrest Kejriwal right before LS polls, SC asks ED

'Time Gap Before Action Bothering Us'

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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 solicitor 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 arrest and the time-gap in proceedings against the CM.

'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 arrest and 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 dismissed 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. **P 4**

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**

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

Election 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.

EC has not yet made the number of votes polled in these two phases public. The data showed Lakshadweep 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, P 6**

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 ITC, as GST officials revealed.

► 'Will take legal step', **P 6**

'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 failed attempt on Khalistan leader Gurbhag 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

There's an ongoing investigation by the high-level committee (by India to look into US security concerns on) networks of organised criminals, terrorists and others. Speculative and 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-

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**

JD(S) suspends Prajwal, SIT calls dad-son for questioning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: JD(S) suspended Tuesday its Hassan MP and Lok Sabha election candidate Prajwal Revanna for breaching discipline, while acknowledging that the sleaze videos allegedly involving the 33-year-old politician, grandson of former PM and party patriarch HD Deve Gowda, are tarnishing its image and putting its functionaries in a bad

► EDIT: Many Revannas

light. Gowda has sanctioned the suspension, the party said.

During the day, Karnataka police's SIT, which is probing the videos, issued notice to



NSUI members protest against Prajwal Revanna in Bengaluru

Prajwal and his MLA-father HD Revanna, directing them to appear for questioning. Prajwal is said to have flown abroad. The SIT has expanded

BJP won't tolerate insult to women: Shah

Union home minister Amit Shah condemned the alleged sexual abuse of women involving 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 asked why the Congress govt in the state had not acted on the matter so far. **P 7**

its team to 21, including 18 additional police officers. Twelve of the members are women.

► Ex-driver vs neta, **P 7**

HIGH ON EXPERIENCE, LOW ON EXPERIMENTATION: 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 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 T20 strike rate is a staggering 176

STRENGTHS: Jasprit Bumrah, probably the most complete paceman in world cricket. Reuniting Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzi Chahal, the old Kul-Cha combo, makes the team a formidable spin unit. Suryakumar 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:

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

elevated based on past performance, not current form. Squad lacks ruthless hitters, unlike 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

How a swizzle of olive oil fueled Pant's return to fitness **Other Book, P 12**

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 T20 World Cup title

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.

Ball-guzzlers in the top order could put extra pressure on lower order. Rohit's IPL form a concern

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 TO MISS OUT: Sandeep 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

FULL COVERAGE: OTHER BOOK, P 12

'Juvenile' to suggest national wealth redistribution: SG

Dynamics Of Eco Devpt Have Changed: SC

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New Delhi: Amid a growing debate on redistribution of wealth, solicitor general Tuskar 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

SG 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. **P 5**

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. "Article 39(b) based legis-

lation is not meant to take away properties owned by people of a particular community, race or caste for distribution among another class of citizens," he said.

► 'Need to balance...', **P 5**

2nd hottest April ever in South, E India mean temp at 51-yr high

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South 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 recorded 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 ROAST	SOUTH INDIA
	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
HOTTEST PLACES ON TUESDAY 47.2°C in Kalaikunda (Bengal), 47.1°C in Baharagora (Jharkhand), 46.4°C in Baripada (Odisha)	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

Concerned 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 Mahasunapu 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. **P 5**

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

extreme heat. On Tuesday, Kolkata (Dum Dum) logged 43 degrees C, its highest temperature 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

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New Delhi: In an announcement 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 piped 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 Yadav targeted Hooda, without naming him,

Ex-MLA is interim Delhi Cong chief

Congress on Tuesday appointed ex-MLA and AICC in-charge for Punjab, Devender Yadav, 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. **P 2**

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 Bareilly 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, 127-year-old locks-to-land development group to "better align ownership in acknowledgement of the differing visions of family members".

GODREJ LOCK ON FAMILY SETTLEMENT			
Adi Godrej	Nadir Godrej	Jamshyd Godrej	Smita Krishna Godrej
WHO GETS WHAT?			
➊ Brothers Adi and Nadir Godrej gain complete ownership of group's 5 listed cos (worth about ₹2.4L crore)			
➋ Their cousin Jamshyd and his sister Smita will control Godrej & Boyce (unlisted, ₹16,000-crore turnover)			
➌ Another cousin Rishad, who too owns a stake in Godrej companies, has no formal role			
➍ 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 two branches			

Swaraj And Sahi Ram File Papers Amid Much Fanfare

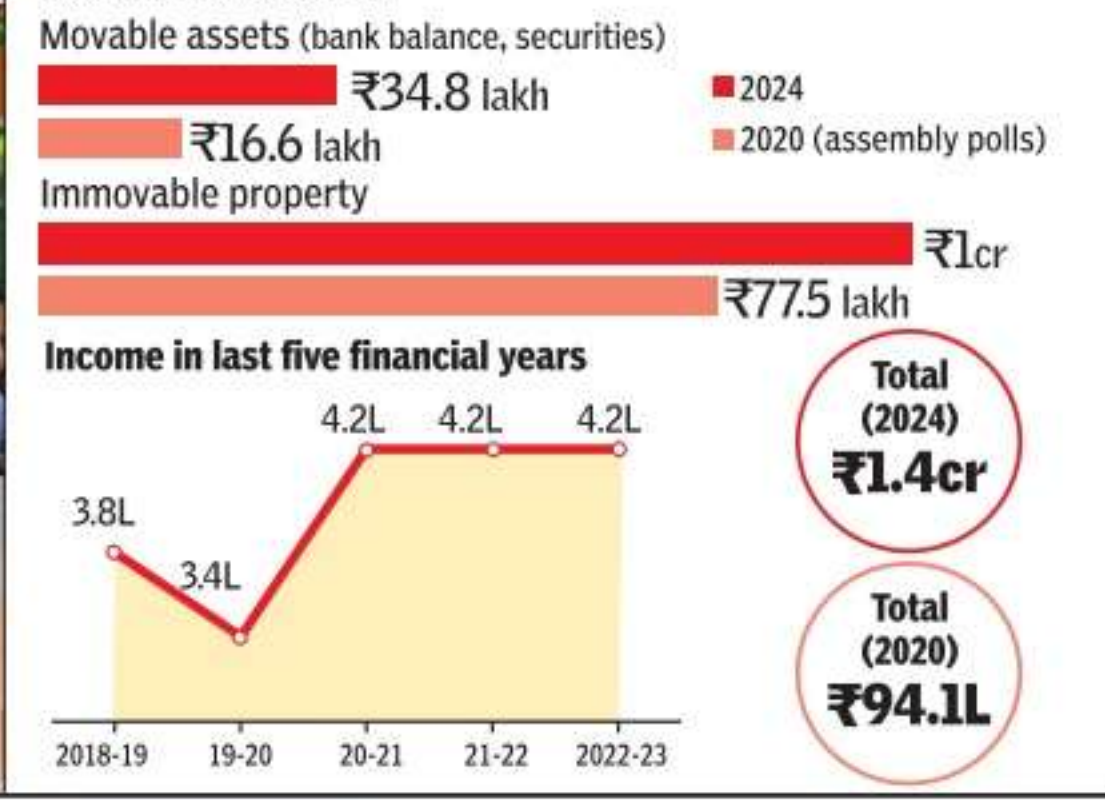
13 Candidates In Action On Day 2, Taking Total Count To 26

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay, Tarun Rawat

Bansuri Swaraj (40), BJP
Constituency New Delhi
Education Barrister-at-Law from London/master of studies, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
INCOME AND ASSETS (2024)
Movable assets (bank balance, securities) ₹11.3cr
Immovable property ₹8cr
Income in last five financial years
47.1L 51.8L 91.4L 67.9L 68.3L
Total ₹19.3 CR



Sahi Ram (63), AAP
Constituency South Delhi Education 11th pass
INCOME AND ASSETS
Movable assets (bank balance, securities) ₹34.8 lakh
Immovable property ₹16.6 lakh
Total ₹77.5 lakh
Income in last five financial years
3.8L 3.4L 4.2L 4.2L 4.2L
Total (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

SAHI RAM SAYS

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

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 AAP MLAs, 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-

port of the nine years of development of Arvind Kejriwal," 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 par", and showering of flower petals, the BJP candidate from New Delhi Lok Sabha seat started her roadshow before filing 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 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 Centre-run 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 supremo Arvind Kejriwal in 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 Kejriwal 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 was getting insulin and undergoing 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 the 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 Kejriwal 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 said Kejriwal also inquired about 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

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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 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 CUET scores only.

Because of AUD being a 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 these seats, Lather said.

AUD is in the list of the top-10 universities in the country in receiving UG applications. For 18 UG programmes, it received 3,09,237 appli-

cations. 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 course every semester. There is no 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.

Meanwhile, Delhi University 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 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 (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 Kumar (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 of Sachin.

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

HC grants protection to transgender LS aspirant

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

'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."



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.

The counsel appearing for the state assured the court that in case the petitioner needed any security for filing 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.

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 INDIA 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 and caste succeed." TNN

EC acts only on complaints of 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 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.

A delegation of AAP functionaries had a meeting with EC to discuss the party's Lok 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.

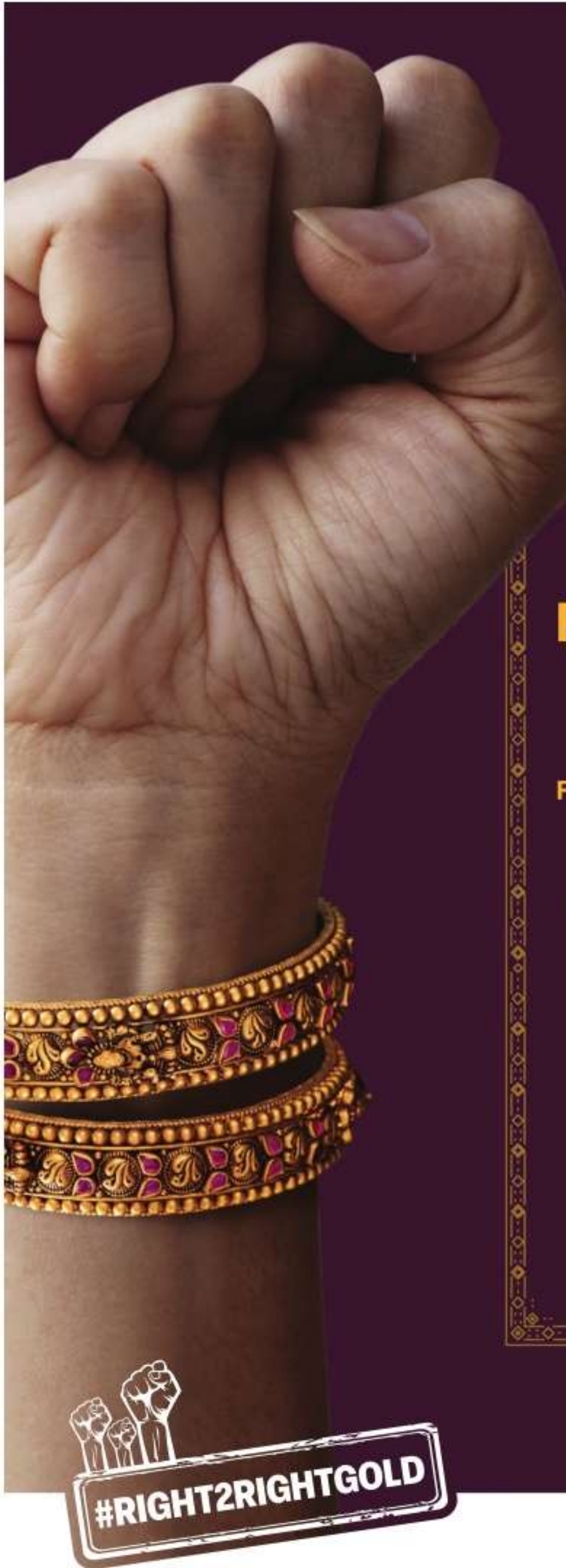
"It issues notice and raises objection when AAP launches its campaign song... The election commission did not raise objection when ED-CBI arrests CM Arvind Kejriwal just ahead of the polls, but it raises objection when we make a song about his arrest..." Atishi said, adding that AAP expected EC to be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

Anuja.Jaiswal @timesgroup.com

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 Sufi-related items. The melody of qawwalis 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 referred



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

to as the father of qawwali 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 celebrations of the poet-singer-musician. The participants offered prayers for their country's progress and prosperity.

"For five days, people huddle under a large shamiya, savouring delicacies in the langar and enjoying qaw



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

wali, which is performed by qawwals from different states, most of the qawwalis 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 Rekhta poet who evolved a unique diction and an inimitable language, beyond the apbh-ransha, 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.

Photos: Jatin Kumar

Fee Hike Orders Of Schools Under Lens

Probe Highlights Step In Violation of Norms

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The vigilance directorate 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 highlighted 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 strain on parents.

"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.

DOE had earlier issued guidelines for fee structures from 2010-2011 onwards. "If the school still finds it necessary to hike 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.

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 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 concerned 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 tube wells, 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 review meeting, the chief secretary reviewed the inspection 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.

HC seeks govt response on vacant posts at DCPCR

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 Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR).

"Where there is a will, there is a way. Just imagine, from Aug last year to now, nothing has happened," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora remarked after the counsel 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 Aug 1 last year.

The court was further told that on March 27, the minister concerned said that "since the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha is in force, the advertisement can't be issued." As an interim arrangement, the lieutenant governor has directed that the women and child development department's secretary function as DCPCR chairperson, the counsel added.

The court issued notices to Delhi govt, DCPCR and the Centre on the petition by National Child Development Council. The plea said DCPCR had been running without a chairperson since July 2023, and keeping the vacancy for so long was a clear violation of provisions of the DCPCR Rules.

"The functioning of DCPCR has been severely affected since the tenure of Anurag Kundu (former chairperson) came to an end on July 2, 2023. ... Also, the website of DCPCR shows that the body is functioning without even a member at present. There are media reports on the sorry state of affairs ever since the tenure of the previous chairperson came to an end," the petition added.

Clause 8(2) of the DCPCR 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 occurrence of such vacancy, it said.

DCPCR is a "statutory watchdog" on matters of child rights, the petitioner stated.

Delhi records 23 moderate air days 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 experienced 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 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,

Court dismisses second bail plea by Sisodia in excise case

Vineet.Upadhyay @timesgroup.com

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 bail pleas in the CBI and ED cases stating that the stage was not right for it.

The court had reserved the verdict in the applications 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 evidence.

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.



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.

Sisodia to move HC against order

Former 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.

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.

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-pollution efforts considering huge footfall in the area and such efforts are taken to ensure good health of visitors, said an official.

"These smog guns are 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 can throw water up to 30 meters and also rotate 330 degrees. Small drops ranging from 10 to 30 microns, with 24 stainless steel nozzles, are sprayed by them to cover the maximum area," said the official.

The water consumption of these machines is 1,500 litres per hour each. "We have 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-litre capacity. "Due to the large water tank, this anti-smog gun has a continuous runtime of three hours non-stop. The second anti-smog gun or mist spray machine is being deployed specifically for Pt. Pant 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 ranging from 5,000 litres to 10,000 litres, and each of them is taking two to three trips for water sprinkling on trees and shrubs along the main roads," said the official. Further, the sanitation teams have been asked to wash the pavement to clean the dust.

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 selling Chinese manjha.

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

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 Rehan Khan.

The matter will be heard next on Aug 23.

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Extension of Time
Ref. NIT No.: DM/BSDD/Tender/02/2 Dtd.: 05.03.2024 of the Divisional Manager, Barasat Division, WBSEDCIL. Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 15.05.2024 (10:00 hrs.).
For details, visit <https://wbstenders.gov.in> & www.wbseidcl.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref No.: **WBPWD/EE/S24PED/CI/NIT48/24-25, (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688692_31)**
WBPWD/EE/S24PED/CI/NIT49/24-25, (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688693_31)
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 Baranpur 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 Cannurup 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://wbstenders.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
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Short e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Electrical Division, Onkarnal Jetia Road, Howrah - 711103. **NIT No.: WBPW/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 JS Medical College, Howrah. Last Date of Submission: 10.05.2024. Intending bidder may download the Tender/Quotation documents from the website: <https://wbstenders.gov.in> Sd/- A. Das, Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Electrical Division, Govt. of West Bengal ICA-17903(3)/2024**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, 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 BARASAT Police district, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas---Part-C". NIT No.: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIT/72/24-25. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688684_1. Pre Bid 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 <https://wbstenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, NORTH 24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION. ICA-17901(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Ref No.: **WBPWD/EE/S24PED/CI/NIT44/24-25, (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688687_31)**
WBPWD/EE/S24PED/CI/NIT45/24-25, (Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_688689_31)
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 Baranpur 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 Kulti PS under Baranpur 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://wbstenders.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
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, 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 Barasat Police district, i.c.w. ensuring General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 in the District of North 24 Parganas-Part-B-III". NIT No.: WBPWD/EE/N24/EL/e-NIT/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 <https://wbstenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, NORTH 24 PARGANAS ELECTRICAL DIVISION. ICA-17905(3)/2024

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.						
Sl. No.	Observer's Name	Parliamentary Constituency	Contact No	E-Mail ID	Meeting Venue	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-ARAMBAGH (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
Sd/- District Election Officer & District Magistrate Hooghly						
Memo No.: 105(4)/HD/ICA/ADVT						Date: 29.04.2024



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, marking a jump 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 Shankaranda, 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

Classroom-turned-pool draws in kids

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-

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

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

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

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New Delhi: Govt's intervention through open market sale of wheat not just helped ensure adequate supply of the grain and attains 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

State	ALL figures in lakh tonnes		Targeted procurement for this year (lakh tonnes)	Total wheat procured last year (lakh tonnes)
	Apr 30, 2024	Apr 30, 2023		
Punjab	90.4	103	300-310	261
Haryana	61.2	57.6		
MP	34.7	55.6		
UP	5.6	1.3		
Rajasthan	4.1	1		
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, which is 10% lower than last year's, but more than the quantity 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, FCI is confident of mopping up 300-310 lakh tonnes this year

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 1,120 lakh tonnes.

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**
> Jointly developed with Israel under projects initially worth ₹30,000 crore.
- > Being inducted by IAF, Navy & Army
- 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 quick-reaction anti-aircraft missile system

PROJECTS

- Ballistic Missile Defence**
 - > Indigenous 2-tier shield
 - > Phase-1 (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. Under development.
- LR-SAM under Project Kusha | 350-km range**
 - > Should be ready by 2028-29.
 - > IAF plans 5 squadrons for ₹21,700 crore.
- VSHORADS | 6-km range**
 - > ₹1,920 crore project underway

IAF & Army

Shorter Range | Older Russian Igla-1M (5-km), OSA-AK-M (10-km) Pechora missiles & upgraded L-70 anti-aircraft guns (3.5-km)

- > Limited units inducted by IAF & Army
- > ₹7,669 crore contract in March with L&T for 61 "flights" of close-in weapon systems (derivatives of L-70 guns)

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 impenetrable 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

to long-range Arrow, as well as help from some others like the US.

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 bullet-proof jackets as well. Missile defence is now an overwhelming tactical necessity rather than a strategic one," a senior official 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

Need to balance socialist views with capitalist ones, says CJ

Continued from P 1

The bench comprising CJI Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, B V Nagarathna, S Dhulia, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, R Bindal, S C Sharma and A G Masih 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 economic 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

BV.Shivashankar @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, P 7

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



Union minister Prajwal Joshi said 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 circulating widely before April 26.

BJP alleged friendly rela-

tions between Revanna and politicians influenced govt's actions. Union minister Prajwal 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 CMD K 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, J B 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 govt 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.



ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

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 form 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 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.

Mercury crosses 47° for 1st time this yr

Continued from P 1

It 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 (Odisha) — reported temper-



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 central India in IMD's classifi-

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 several 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 Bengal, which is preventing

sea breeze from entering the region. As a result, the land has become dry and hot," Mohapatra said.

Another wind circulation, 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 Niranjan Kaggere in Bengaluru, Sumati Yengkhom in Kolkata

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

Both Vow To Provide SIT With Details About Release Of Videos

Continued from P 1

Both 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-



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

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 Revannas as a chauffeur for 15 years,

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

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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 Sandeshkhal not an issue to be condemned? Why is that Congress selectively and politically chooses crimes and criminals to either support or condemn?" he asked.

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

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 now-suspended Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna stemmed from a falling out former PM H D Deve Gowda's son HD Revanna'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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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 smackdown 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

Sanjay Mandlik
(Shiv Sena)

Shahu Chhatrapati
(Congress)

6 ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS & 2019 WINNERS

Kolhapur South	Karveer	Kagal
Ruturaj Patil (Cong)	P N Patil (Cong)	Hasan Mushrif (NCP)
Kolhapur North	Chandgad	Radhanagari
Jayashri Jadhav (Cong) *2022 bypoll	Rajesh Patil (NCP)	Prakash Abitkar (Shiv Sena)

2019 LS POLL PERFORMANCE

Winner: Sanjay Mandlik (Shiv Sena)

Votes	7.5 lakh
Runner-up: Dhnananjay Mahadik (NCP)	4.8 lakh



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 great-grandfather, 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

Rajya 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 Dhnananjay Mahadik (NCP), ensuring Mandlik's win. Patil was apparently exacting revenge on Dhnananjay for his loss to the latter's cousin — Amal Mahadik (BJP) — in the 2014 assembly polls. Patil had accused Dhnananjay 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, Vijaymalha Chhatrapati, daughter-in-law 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.



BJP's Pralhad Joshi (L), a Brahmin, faces opposition from influential Lingayat seer Dingaleswar Swami — who is backing Congress's Vinod Asotri (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

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 Asotri, a youth from OBC Kuruba community. Asotri, 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 Brahmins and Lingayats.

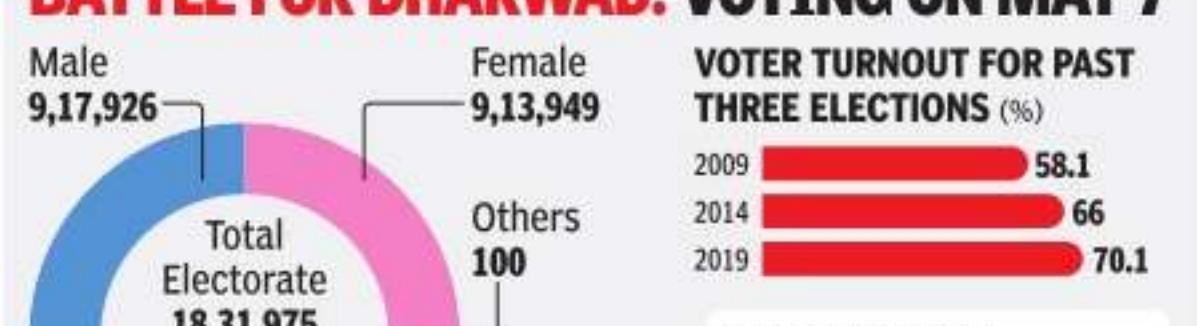
Joshi, a Brahmin, also faces opposition from respected Lingayat seer Dingaleswar Swami of Bhavaiyatta Peetha of Shirahatti. Despite initially filing his papers as an Independent, Swami withdrew his nomination, citing pressure from senior seers. Nonetheless, he continues to campaign against Joshi, alleging 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-

BATTLE FOR DHARWAD: VOTING ON MAY 7



WHAT IS KEY THIS ELECTION

Congress's ability to consolidate Ahinda votes, wean Lingayat votes with help from Dingaleswar Swami, secure votes of beneficiaries of its guarantees and negate fallout of Neha Hiremth murder case are central to checkmating Pralhad Joshi, who is looking for a record 5th win

ing for over 41% of the electorate, both BJP and Congress are intensifying efforts to increase their vote share and reduce anticipated leads in assembly segments controlled by their rivals.

BJP MLAs Mahesh Tenginakai (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 Asotri.

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

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 assembly segments are held by district in-charge minister Santosh Lad and N H Konaraddi. BJP is confident of a good show in Shiggaon and MLA R Patil's Kundgol.

Amid the battle of Congress's guarantees versus the Modi factor, BJP is amplifying its allegations of Congress's appeasement politics against the backdrop of the Neha Hiremth murder case in Hubballi and involving youths in its protests.

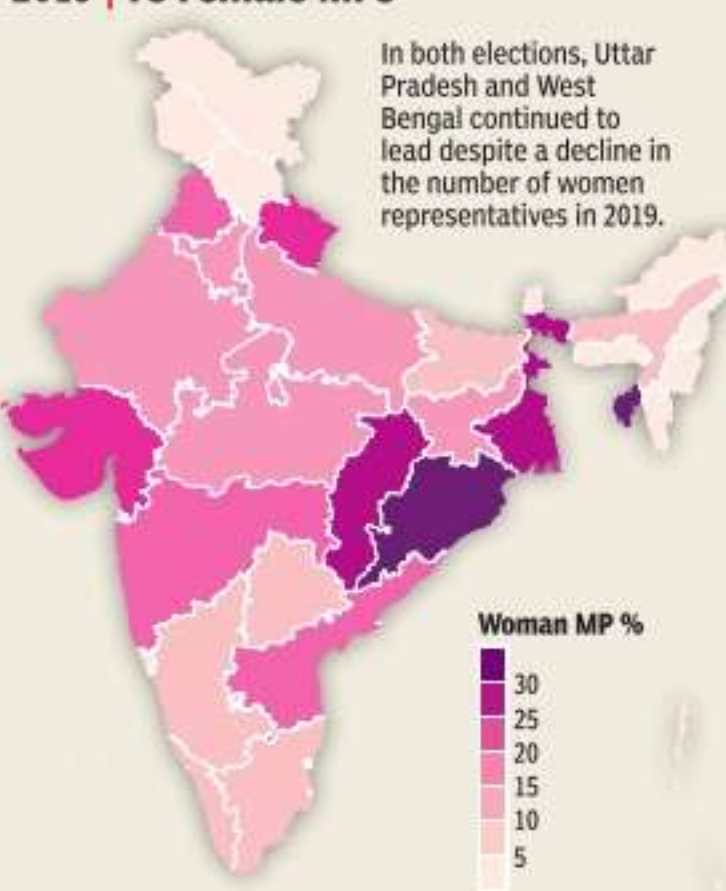
The sentiments surrounding the case strengthen Joshi's bid for a fifth term, although he faces stiff competition from Asotri, supported by Dingaleswar Swami, who is meeting Lingayats in both parties and appealing them to join hands to defeat Joshi.

GEO GRAPH

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.

2019 | 78 Female MPs



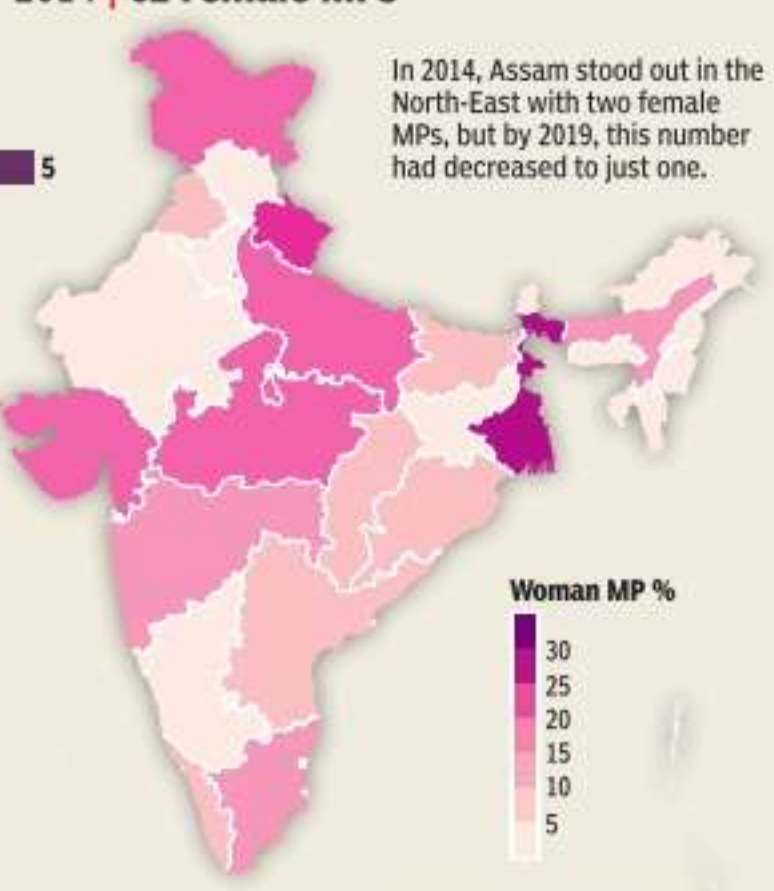
6 states where representation of women improved most

State / UT	Seats	2019	2014	Increase
Odisha	21	7	2	5
Maharashtra	48	8	5	3
Chhattisgarh	11	3	1	2
Jharkhand	14	2	0	2
Rajasthan	25	3	1	2
Gujarat	26	6	4	2

6 states where representation of women deteriorated most

State / UT	Seats	2019	2014	Decrease
Uttar Pradesh	80	11	13	-2
West Bengal	42	11	12	-1
Tamil Nadu	39	3	4	-1
Madhya Pradesh	29	4	5	-1
Assam	14	1	2	-1
Jammu & Kashmir	6	0	1	-1

2014 | 62 Female MPs



Sandeep.Rai@timesgroup.com

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

Sambhal, 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-be-born avatar of Vishnu who will complete the deity's dashavatara (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 Barq, 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 choice for the seat. He had lost to Barq



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 Kalki Dham can work wonders for them."

THEN IS NOW

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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 palpating. 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

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 1991-batch officer held the rank of ADG in Chhattisgarh when he was compulsorily retired from service after being raided by anti-corruption bureau

(ACB) and a sedition case 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

the applicant compulsorily cannot be sustained in the eyes of the law."
In his submission before CAT, the IPS officer maintained that while working as ADGP-ACB/EOW, he was in-charge of high-profile and sensitive probes in state, including Nagrik Apoorvi Nigam scam. During probe, he was repeatedly subjected to "political pressure from the higher echelons of state govt" to conduct probe as per their

Expect accountability from India on Pannun case: US

► Continued from P 1
Indian govt is yet to confirm the identity of this official. 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—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.

"This is a serious matter and we're taking that 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**
Vidut Niyamak Bhawan, Near ISBT, P.O.-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.
2. 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.
3. The comments/suggestions/objections received after the stipulated date in the Commission's office may not be considered while finalizing these Regulations.
Advt. No.-01/2024-25

Secretary

**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

F.7(515)/DEO(S)/ Advert. Leading/2024/1789
Dated:- 30/04/2024
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 Lok Sabha 2024 for South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency-07 (SDPC-07):

Allotted Parliamentary Constituency No. & Name	Name of Observer	Mobile no. & Telephone No.	Time & Date	Observer Address	Office
07-South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency	Shri Shah Nawaz 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 Election.	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 above.

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

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 Public/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	expendituremonitoringndd@gmail.com (Mobile No:8926728469)	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.

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

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0022/24-25

**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> while EMD and Tender fee payment should be through online mode (NEFT/RTGS).

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 No.-9431818930)
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.

Director Horticulture cum Mission Director,
Bihar Horticulture Development Society, Bihar, Patna

उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
PR- 000383 (Agriculture) 2024-25

लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024- कोई मतदाता न छूटे

**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, Shastrī 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 I (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)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 02107/11/0001/2425

**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 Request 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

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Research and Information System for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों के अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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GLOBAL SOUTH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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

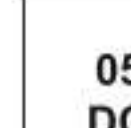
NOTICE
The Special General Body meeting of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., (NAFED) is being convened on 21, May 2024 (Tuesday) at 11.00 AM at NCUI Auditorium, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Khel Gaon Road, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016 to elect the 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:-
1. 1st Inspection - 13-05-2024 (Monday), Time - Between 10:00 A.M to 05:00 P.M
2. 2nd Inspection - 17-05-2024 (Friday), Time - Between 10:00 AM to 05:00 P.M
3. 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 1951.

Sd/-
Returning Officer
NDPC-04 (New Delhi District)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0023/24-25

**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.

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

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0025/24-25

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai
e-mail - maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com
MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St.Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI - 400 001.

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.	Tender No.	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	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.

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
2. 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>
Contact No 022-22621886/ 022-22621973
Email - maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com

Signature/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai

DGIPR/2024-2025/27

**बिहार सरकार**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
नालन्दा भवन प्रमंडल, विहारशरीफ
शुद्धि-पत्र
इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक-421अनु०, दिनांक-15.03.2024 एवं सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग का पी० आर० न० -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 विरस्तारित किया जाता है, जो निम्नवत् है:-

क्र०	विषय वस्तु	निर्धारित तिथि	संशोधित/ विरस्तारित तिथि
1	निविदा कागजात प्राप्त करने (डाउनलोड करने) की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-15.04.2024 से दिनांक-15.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक-15.04.2024 से दिनांक 30.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।
2	निविदा कागजात (अपलोड करने) की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-16.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	दिनांक 31.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।
3	निविदा कागजात तथा अद्ययन की राशि (BG) मूल में जमा करने का तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-20.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे अपराह्न में।	दिनांक 03.06.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक।
4	तकनीकी विड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-20.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे अपराह्न में।	दिनांक 03.06.2024 को 16:00 बजे तक।
5	वित्तीय विड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बीड का निष्पादन सक्षम प्राधिकार से होने के पश्चात।	तकनीकी बीड का निष्पादन सक्षम प्राधिकार से होने के पश्चात।
6.	श्री विड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	अधीक्षण अभियंता, पटना भवन अंचल, पटना के कार्यालय में दिनांक-09.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे। मुख्य अभियंता (पी०) पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में दिनांक-10.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे।	अधीक्षण अभियंता, पटना भवन अंचल, पटना के कार्यालय में दिनांक-15.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे। मुख्य अभियंता (पी०) पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में दिनांक-16.05.2024 को 15:00 बजे।

इसे हद तक संशोधित समझे तथा शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत् रहेगा।
निविदा से संबंधित नियमों, शर्तों के विशेष जानकारी के लिए कार्यपालक अभियंता, नालन्दा भवन प्रमंडल, विहारशरीफ 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 प्रमंडल,
विहारशरीफ

PR. No.000390 (BCD) 2024-25
लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन 2024- 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

It'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 ensures a culture of silence that allows perpetrators 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.

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?

Yesterday, 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



Two Bhaisaabs 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 the fire.

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 acceptable norms of conduct. Anything and everything goes.

B1: Which means that each all-out assault provokes an even more extreme backlash resulting in an escalating spiral of conflict.

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.

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 politics...



secondopinion

‘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 long-standing 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 cross-border 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 forward-looking 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 the world should take keen interest in our ongoing elections. After all, this is the largest democratic exercise in human history, taking place in a country of growing consequence to the rest of the

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 confidence to present it boldly.

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’

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.

Q&A

● But BJP is presumed to be winning its third LS term.

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,

women's empowerment. Despite defeats in two elections, 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 Sinha, 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 policy, 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.

POLLITICS Special Series on Elections



● Are the crowds for the poet or the Congress campaigner?

I'm a Rajya Sabha member, and as head of Congress's minority department, I connect communities of Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, 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 khabon 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 'zulfo-shaam' (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



Harvinder Pal Singh

For 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 hova, 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, doesn't lead to enlightenment. How long

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 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 recite the sacred hymns by the rote; i

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



THE SPEAKING TREE

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 tranquility. 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



1897 | After a few failed ventures, Ardeshir Godrej, a young Parsi lawyer, sets up a lock company

1918 | Godrej launches the world's first vegetable oil soap made without animal fat

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



1952 | Launches Cinthol brand of soap

1955 | Godrej launches its first typewriter, becoming the first Asian co to do so



1958 | Becomes the first Indian co to make refrigerators

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
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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".

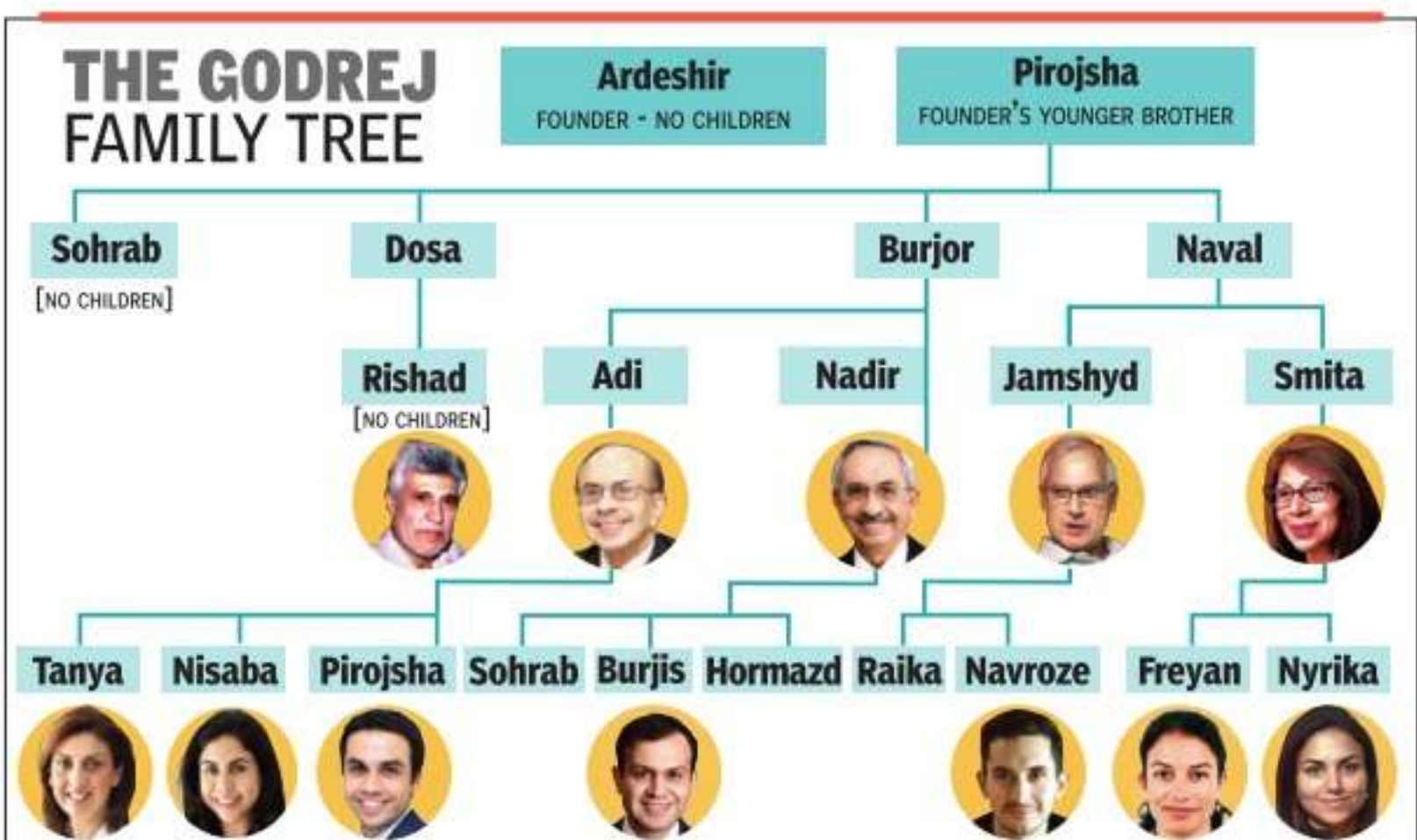
While Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir Godrej will gain complete ownership over the five listed entities of the Godrej Group — Godrej Consumer Products, Godrej Properties, Godrej Industries, Godrej Agrovet and Astec Lifesciences — Jamshyd and his sister Smita will fully control the closely-held Godrej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



The realignment has been arrived at in a respectful and mindful way to 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 long-term value — Group statement

	Total income*	Net profit*	Market cap
Godrej & Boyce**	16,182	603	Unlisted
Godrej Consumer	13,484	1,702	1,24,733
Godrej Industries	17,762	1,420	32,344
Godrej Agrovet	9,481	295	10,469
Godrej Properties	3,039	621	73,641
Astec Lifesciences	641	26	2,525

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

Adi, Nadir, Jamshyd, Smita and Rishad own around 10% each in Godrej & Boyce, while about 24% is held by Pirojsha 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 of nearly \$2 billion and a pre-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.

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

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

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."

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 Harsh Goenka on X.

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 commerce and industry ministry on Tuesday showed the infrastructure sector spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, 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 categories arose after it was found that KYCs of many investors were still not updated with PAN and Aadhaar, 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

Old KYCs done using bank account passbook/statement, utility bills are on hold now. KYCs where PAN-Aadhaar linkage is missing are also on hold

Investors can visit websites 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.

KYC's 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 including front-running, insider trading, misuse of sensitive information etc."

The regulator will "specify the broad framework of the institutional mechanism" and Amfi, in consultation with Sebi, shall specify

ding front-running, insider trading, misuse of sensitive information etc."

The Sebi board also approved 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 front-running 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 blower mechanism."

The regulator will "specify the broad framework of the institutional mechanism" and Amfi, in consultation 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

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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 would have been 16.3%.



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 personal 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 from March 2023 levels.

IOC to infuse ₹1,303cr into green arm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation will infuse over Rs 1,303 crore in its green energy subsidiary 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, however, closed FY24 with its highest-ever net profit of Rs 39,619 crore — a 63% increase over Rs 24,184 crore in 2021-22. The annual profit benefited from the nearly two years of freeze on pump price revisions amid a fall in global oil prices.

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 investors 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 specifics or on details about its current shareholding in NSE. The continuation fund has been anchored by HarbourVest Partners, LGT Capital Partners and Pantheon Ventures, the firm said in a statement on Tuesday. "The transaction provided Fund VI investors an opportunity to monetise the performance on a highly successful investment," the firm said.

Kotak veteran Manian quits, may join Federal Bank

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.

Nearly 5 lakh women employed in Indian GCCs

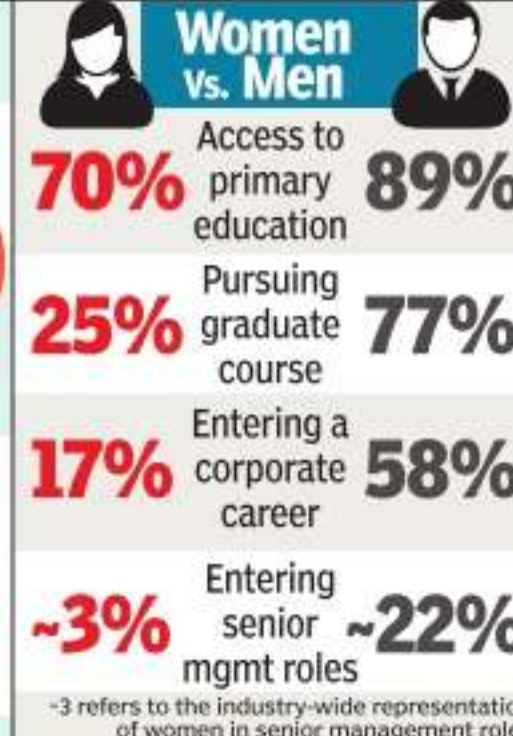
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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 move up the career ladder. In

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



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 talent base to over 1.6 million.

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 women's attrition.

"While India proudly leads in the number of women 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.

The median representation of women graduates from top engineering universities stands at 25% between 2020-23, which directly affects the inflow of female candidates in GCCs, especially in the deep tech sector. Despite this disparity in women's repre-

sentation, women graduates 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, flexible work opportunities, and returnship 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 tech advisory firm Zinnov.

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 Wadhwa (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 fifth-wicket stand between Wadhwa 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.



STANDING TALL: LSG's Marcus Stoinis plays a shot during his knock on Tuesday

Rohit Sharma's scores in the IPL on his birth day (Apr 30) over the years...

1 run	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

28/4 Mumbai Indians have recorded their lowest Powerplay 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.

—Rajesh Kumar

SCORECARD

MI: I Kishan c Mayank b Bishnoi 32, R Sharma c Stoinis b Mohsin 10, S Yadav c Rahul b Stoinis 10, T Varma run out 7, H Pandya c Rahul b Naveen 0, N Wadhwa 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 lbw 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)

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	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

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 left-wing firebrand who was re-elected 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. Left-arm spinner Panesar, 42, played 50 Tests for England.

Tyson will fight Paul in sanctioned heavyweight bout

London: 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 two-minute rounds. Paul is 27. Tyson turns 58 on June 30.

Nuggets oust Lakers, LeBron in NBA thriller

Jamal Murray nailed a last-gasp jump shot as the defending champion Denver Nuggets sent LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers crashing out of the NBA playoffs with a series-clinching 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)

Mbappe Will Spearhead PSG's Challenge Against Dortmund



ONE MORE HURDLE

“If you take Kylian Mbappe, for example, with his exceptional individual quality, he has now scored 43 goals in 44 games. Opponents set themselves the goal of not letting him score in 44 games. It doesn't always work.”

— Edin Terzic, Borussia Dortmund coach

Dortmund: Borussia Dortmund coach Edin Terzic said semifinal opponents Paris Saint-Germain were “built to win the Champions League”

ahead of Wednesday's first leg. Terzic said on Tuesday lifting the European Cup has been the “main objective” of PSG since being taken over by Qatar Sports Investments.

“The project in Paris began with the goal of winning the Champions League,” Terzic said. “That's been their main objective for a decade.”

PSG were crowned Ligue 1 champions on Sunday, their 10th league title in the past 12 seasons. The domestic dominance has however translated into European silverware.

PSG lost the final in 2020 to Bayern Munich.

Dortmund, who won the competition in 1997, are playing in the semifinals for the fifth time in the club's history and the first time since 2013, when they also lost to Bayern in the final.

Terzic singled out Kylian Mbappe for particular praise, but said PSG posed an attacking threat across the park.

“It's the question you hear the most: ‘How do you stop Kylian Mbappe?’ But if you focus only on Kylian Mbappe, then comes Ousmane Dembele or (Goncalo) Ramos, or Vitinha, or (Achraf) Hakimi, or (Randal) Kolo Muani and all the others,” he said.

“They have unbelievable quality. If we want to focus on one thing, then we need to focus on the ball. If we worry

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Dortmund		PSG
1	Wins	2
3	Draw	3
4	Goals	7

FORM GUIDE

BORUSSIA DORTMUND (All comps, most recent first):

L	D	W	W	L	L
D	W	W	W	L	D

PARIS ST GERMAIN

about the ball — there's just one — then it's much harder for them to score.” Dortmund topped a difficult group earlier in the competition featuring PSG, AC Milan and Newcastle, before eliminating PSV Eindhoven and Atletico Madrid to reach

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 Sabitzer and Sebastian Haller, would be fit to play.

Dortmund already faced PSG in the group stage, losing 2-0 in Paris before drawing 1-1 at home and topping the group. The German team is unbeaten in their last 10 games at home in the competition. **AGENCIES**

'SALAH MAY STAY AT LIVERPOOL DESPITE SAUDI INTEREST'

Liverpool: Liverpool expect Mohamed Salah to at least see out of the final year of his contract at Anfield, according to reports on Monday.

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 a public spat with manager Jurgen Klopp as he prepared to come on as a substitute in Saturday's 2-2 draw at West Ham. Speaking after the match, Salah said: “There's going to be a fire today if I speak.”

Liverpool rejected advances from the Saudi Pro League at the start of the season.

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-year-old 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 clinch a rare gold in the men's recurve discipline.

But not many would know that the country paid a big price 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



Tarundeep Rai was a member of the winning recurve team

officials/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 the commencement of the World Cup Stage 2, scheduled from May 21 to 26 in South Korea's Yecheon, else the country's archers will not be allowed 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 athlete/team can be on the

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 body again warned them and fined them nominally.

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 manager Purnima Mahato.

India fall to China in Uber Cup

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India lost 0-5 to China and finished second in Group A of the Uber Cup in Chengdu, China on Tuesday. India and China qualified for the quarterfinals from this group.

None of the Indians could win a game against the dominant Chinese. To add to India's woes, Anmol Kharb twisted her right ankle and retired hurt while trailing 1-4 in the second after losing the first game 9-21 to Han Yue.

By then, India were down 0-2 as Isharani Baruah lost to Chen Yu Fei 12-21, 10-21 and national champions Priya Kongjengbam and Shruti Mishra went down 13-21, 12-21 to Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan.

Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker also lost to Liu Sheng Shu and Tang

Ning 9-21, 10-21 and Tanvi Sharma was routed 7-21, 16-21 by Wang Zhi Yi. The quarterfinals draw will 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 I am not happy with the number of mistakes I made,” Isharani said.

The men's team play Indonesia in their last Group C Thomas Cup match on Wednesday.

India and Indonesia have already qualified for the quarterfinals from Group C.

Guwahati to host Jr World championships

The World junior badminton championships will be held in Guwahati in 2025, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said in a release on Tuesday. India will host both the team and individual events.



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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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IMF approves immediate disbursal of final tranche of \$1.1bn to Pak as part of a bailout package, emphasising that the cash-strapped country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track, P 10

Dozens of protesters take over a building at Columbia University early Tuesday, barricading entrances and unfurling a Palestinian flag out of a window in the latest escalation of demonstrations against the Israel war, P 10

Estonia accuses Russia of violating international airspace regulations by interfering with GPS signals. Baltic nation's foreign minister says he will take up the matter with its Nato & EU partners, P 10

The judge overseeing Donald Trump's criminal hush money trial fines the ex-prez \$9,000 for contempt of court and says he will consider jailing him if he continues to violate a gag order, P 10



DOUBLE DELIGHT

Today'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

► Why arrest Kejriwal right before LS polls, SC asks ED
► 2nd hottest April ever in South, E India mean temp at 51-yr high
► JD(S) suspends Prajwal, SIT calls dad-son for questioning

2 killed as e-rick hits SUV near Dwarka e-way

Two persons were killed and six injured when their e-rickshaw moving on the wrong side collided with an SUV on a road below Dwarka Expressway flyover at Dhanwapur Chowk Monday evening. The three-wheeler flipped twice before landing on its side. The e-rickshaw driver and seven passengers were hurled in the air under the impact. **P 2**

NEET aspirant dies by suicide in Kota

A 20-year-old medical aspirant from Rajasthan's Dholpur ended his life in his PG room in Kota on Tuesday. This is the second such incident within three days and the eighth this year in the coaching hub. **OTHER BOOK, P 5**

5 HCs account for 52% of vacancies

Five high courts of Allahabad, Punjab and Haryana, Gujarat, Bombay and Calcutta alone have 171 vacancies as of April 1, accounting for more than 52% of total vacancy of 327 posts across 25 HCs in the country. **P 5**

Shah deepfake clip: Two held, 3 netas get notice

Probe Spreads To 6 More States

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police's probe into Union home minister Amit Shah's 'deepfake' video has taken its teams to multiple states. Cops are camping in Jharkhand, Rajasthan, UP, MP, Haryana and Nagaland to investigate the making, uploading and circulation of the doctored video.

Around 16 people have been served notices in the case till now, while Gujarat Police has arrested two more.

Besides office bearers of Telangana Congress, a notice has been served on an SP functionary in UP, a senior नेता of Jharkhand Congress and another Congress mem-

WILL T'GANA CM JOIN INVESTIGATION TODAY?

► Ahd Police's cyber crime cell arrests Cong MLA Jignesh Mevani's PA and AAP's Dahod district president for allegedly sharing doctored video
► If T'gana CM R Reddy, asked to join probe on May 1, skips summons, cops likely to serve him 2nd notice immediately

BJP has always been in favour of reservation and will act as its protector. Fortunately, there was a recording of my (original) speech and everything became crystal clear (about the fake video) once I placed the original clip before everyone

—AMIT SHAH | HOME MINISTER

ber in Nagaland, a senior Delhi cop said on Tuesday.

On Monday, Delhi Police's special cell had served Telangana CM Revanth Reddy notice, asking him to join investigation on May 1. If Reddy skips the summons, a second notice will be served on him immediately, the cop said.

On Tuesday, Gujarat police arrested Satish Vansola, per-

sonal assistant of Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani, and Rakesh Baria, AAP's Dahod district president, for allegedly sharing the video with an "intention to create enmity between reserved and unreserved castes" ahead of the polls.

In the doctored video, Shah is shown saying that all reservations, including of SCs and STs, will be scrapped.

Trends emerging from first two phases are encouraging, says PM

Akhilesh.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Once again exuding confidence of a comprehensive victory, PM Narendra Modi wrote to NDA candidates in the third phase of polls scheduled for May 7 and said trends emerging from the first two phases were encouraging as people had made up their minds to support the vision of a developed nation by 2047.

With the first two phases registering a dip in voter turnout compared to 2019, Modi exhorted party workers and supporters to encourage people to come out and exercise their franchise, asserting that every vote for BJP would impart momen-

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

► Congress's Moti Singh Patel, who had filed his nomination as a dummy Congress candidate, moves court to accept his nomination in Indore after Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out at last minute. Patel is seeking the hand symbol | **P 6**

► On a day when Rahul Gandhi was campaigning in MP's Bhind on Tuesday, six-time MLA Ram Niwas Rawat — an OBC veteran — quit Cong and joined BJP | **P 6**
► Ex-Union minister Salman Khurshid and his niece Maria Alam Khan booked for violating model code by allegedly seeking votes on 'religious lines' | **P 6**

tum in the country's journey to become a developed nation. He urged NDA candidates to create awareness among voters regarding Congress's alleged plan to take away "reservation from SC, ST and OBC commu-

nities and give it away to their vote bank". "They are also bent upon taking away the hard-earned wealth of the people and giving it to their vote bank."

► 'Nation must unite', P 8

₹50L seized at Odisha airport; ₹1cr haul in Mum

Income Tax officials seized Rs 50 lakh from a Delhi passenger at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence checked the passenger's baggage on a tip-off from airport authorities at Delhi.

In Mumbai, police confiscated Rs 1.1 crore from developer and investor Vipul Nagda during a nakabandi in Lalbaug on Tuesday. During a routine check, cops, along with Election Commission's flying squad, stopped a car and found the cash packed into 4 jute bags.

In Odisha, an airport officer said, "One bag was found stashed with cash. Intel officials already knew the amount as officials in Delhi had intimated them about it" **P 6**

10 Maoists shot dead in Bastar encounter

Security forces gunned down 10 Maoists, including three women cadre, inside a forest on the border of Narayanpur and Kanker districts in Chhattisgarh's Bastar on Tuesday morning.

Two weeks ago, 29 Maoists had been shot dead in a gunfight with forces at an area in Kanker, 25 km from the latest encounter site.

Sixty-eight Maoists, including several 'platoon commanders', have been killed in Bastar in April, taking their total toll this year to 91, reports Rashmi Drolia.

Two of those neutralised on Tuesday were divisional committee members Joganana and Vinay. Several weapons, including an AK-47 and Insas rifles, as well as explosives were seized.

Meta response to complaints 'far worse than govt dept': HC

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi HC on Tuesday took a dim view of Meta's complaints redressal mechanism and said its functioning was "far worse than a govt department".

It was hearing a plea by a media house against blocking of its Instagram page by Meta, the parent company of Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, for alleged copyright violations.

"Please be careful. You have to be alive to the situation. Your system is not working. Your officials need to pull up their socks... can't have people going around in circles. Your grievance officer in India registers a complaint but says 'can't ta-

IN THE COURTS

► Kolkata high court allows couple who lost son to suicide to go for IVF despite the man crossing legal age bar of 55 years | **P 5**

► Court takes cognisance of chargesheet against NewsClick and its founder-editor, Prabir Purkayastha, under UAPA | **P 9**

► Delhi riots: Court frames charges against Ishrat Jahan, 12 others | **P 3**

► Delhi HC seeks govt response on vacant posts at DCPCR | **OTHER BOOK, P 4**

ke any action", an irked bench told advocate Tejas Karia, representing Meta.

► 'Put house in order', P 9

SOME POSITIVE STRIDES, BUT GENDER GAP REMAINS

'More women in leadership roles, pay parity still a concern'

New Delhi: Over the past five years, women's prospects of getting leadership positions have significantly improved.

The latest AIMA-KPMG Women Leaders Report reveals 83% of the surveyed organisations boasted a higher representation of women in leadership roles in 2024 compared to half the number a decade ago, reports Manash Gohain. Furthermore, 49% of these organisations observed a decline in dropout rate of women from leadership positions. The report, however, underscored that only 50% of women leaders enjoy pay parity with their male peers. It also found family and care-giving responsibility are the biggest reasons for women failing to fulfil their aspiration of getting a leadership role, along with bias and stereotyping.

► 'Only 50% enjoy pay parity', P 9

5L women in GCCs, but only 6.7% in executive positions

Bengaluru: The Indian global capability centres (GCCs) have made significant strides in gender diversity, with nearly five lakh women currently employed in the sector. This figure 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%. A lot of ground still needs to be covered to bridge the diversity gap in the industry. With a mere 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 move up the career ladder. In GCCs, at the senior level (9-12 years of experience), the representation was at 15.7%, the report said. **OTHER BOOK, P 11**

Our Sweetest Tyranny

Yes, blame Nestle, which makes Cerelac, and Mondelez, which makes Bournvita, for piling on sugar in their products. But the bigger fact is that India's relationship with sugar is hard to rewrite — because it is an age-old love story

Renuka.Bisht@timesgroup.com

Illustration: AI



Then Came Its Industrial Avatar

Fast forward to present day. Expansive global capitalism has put massive quantities of sugar in industrial food and beverages. It is now sold as a source of energy, marketed to militaries and schools. Even hospital shops are packed with fizzy drinks and patients are served sugary calories.

And India continues to round off the global supply chain from both sides. It is the world's second largest sugar producer, with Maharashtra accounting for about a third of that production. It is also the largest consumer.

Left to its own devices, the reign of sugar will become even more commanding. Despite major growth in recent decades, in per capita terms, India's 19 kg sugar consumption per year still lags the global average and the sugar industry would love for it to catch up. The cultural predisposition towards this is being amped up with more packaged food and advertising every day. This is bad, bad news.

Hand In Hand With Diabetes

Our country is already the diabetes capital of the world. With an estimated 11% of Indians diabetic, and 15% pre-diabetic, the disease incidence is already staggering. At the same time, treatment and

control rates are low, because of various barriers to healthcare access, including cost. Growing disease incidence will likely see further rise in demand-supply mismatch.

It's Now As Toxic As Tobacco

Whether it is on account of increased risks of obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, the question is if govt now need to regulate added sugars on the same war footing as tobacco. For Gary Taubes, author of *The Case Against Sugar*, the answer is an incontrovertible 'yes'.

Interestingly, he also points out that Hindu physician Sushruta had described the characteristic sweet urine of diabetes mellitus, "and noted that it was most common in the overweight and gluttonous", all the way back in 6th century BCE. This is in the same era as Atharva Ved was describing sugar as an object of desire. It is time to strengthen the former cultural strand, where only the latter has flourished.

As the 2008-20 ICMR-INDIAB study indicates, urban India accounts for 16% of diabetes prevalence compared to rural India's 9%. This is one indicator that lifestyle and diet changes are the key culprits. Battling them is a two-front effort. Raising awareness and regulating better.

Save The Children

In UK, the introduction of a sugary drinks tax has been followed by a drop in the number of obesity cases among older primary school children. The tax rate increases with the amount of sugar added.

India by contrast taxes aerated beverages at 40% — 28% GST and 12% compensation cess. Critics say this flat tax disincentivises manufacturers from devising lower-sugar alternatives. Plus, there is no cap on the amount of sugar that can be added.

It's unsurprising that both the Bournvita and Cerelac controversies centre on children. This is where the 'hack' starts. This is where it must be stopped. Both with better food and better education about how food works.

Take a school lunchbox. Its contents are changing too fast for most parents to properly track the changing nutrition stats. What are the hidden sugars in breakfast cereals, cured meats, bread, biscuits, cheese spread and ketchup?

Roland Barthes once argued, "Food has a constant tendency to transform itself into (a) situation." For decades and centuries sugar has inveigled its way into the centre of modern life. Reversing this tide will mean nothing less than re-situating food. And re-proportioning the sweetness of the good life.

Canada to limit int'l students' working hours to 24hrs a week

Canada's immigration minister Marc Miller has announced that the temporary policy, which allowed international students to work off-campus for over 20 hours per week while classes were in session, will end on April 30, reports Lubna Kably.

Starting today, foreign students will need to abide by the limit until a new policy takes effect in Sept. "This fall, we intend to change the number of hours students may work off campus, per week, to 24 hours," the Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada stated in its release. The limit of 24 hours per week is higher than the pre-pandemic limit of 20 hours, but much lower than the anticipated limit of 30 hours per week. A significant number of international students in Canada hail from India. It was the top-source country in 2022, providing 2.2 lakh new students in that year. **P 10**

Canada curtails its startup visa plan, less than 1k can apply in '24

In July '23, Canada sought to make its startup visa programme more attractive, but a late-night announcement on Monday has put an end to the dreams of aspiring immigrant entrepreneurs. Several of them who had got initial funding or support from business incubators may find themselves at a loose end, reports Lubna Kably.

From April 30, Canada has capped the number of permanent residence applications that will be accepted under the scheme, limiting them to those associated with no more than 10 startups per designated organisation. Currently, there are 82 such designated organisations comprising venture capital funds, angel investors and business incubators. Thus, it means that not over 820 applications will be accepted (assuming that the number 82 remains constant). **P 10**

In jobless Canada, student dreams end in debt and drugs

'I saw seniors around me doing ad hoc jobs to get by. It stressed me out. I started smoking, then alcohol, and eventually marijuana'

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When the going gets tough, the young and restless look for a high elsewhere, just to stay afloat. This is the case for numerous students from various regions of India who have gone to Canada in pursuit of education and jobs. The unemployment crisis in the land they once hoped would offer prosperity and success has plunged many students into a perilous spiral of drug and alcohol abuse, alongside heightened levels of depression and a surge in therapy sessions, according to Canada-based counsellors TOI spoke with.

The counsellors said students are turning to marijuana and cocaine, hallucinogenic drugs like Ecstasy, and opioids like Fentanyl as a coping mechanism against unemployment-induced stress. They reported a monthly average of five to eight cases over the past few months.

One student from Badlapur in Maharashtra, currently in British Columbia's Burnaby city for a degree in environmental science, said the realisation that even degree-holding seniors were relegated to paid-by-the-hour gig workers drove him to depression.

"In my second semester, I saw seniors around me doing ad hoc jobs to get by. It stressed me out, and I started to believe I'd meet a similar fate. I started smoking, then alcohol, and eventually marijuana," the 25-year-old said.

After failing a semester, he sought professional help from a psychologist and is currently undergoing treatment. However, therapy sessions are expensive — each session ranging from Canadian \$70 to \$150 (Rs 4,249 to Rs 9,000-odd) or more.

"Earlier, addiction cases were predominantly among students from Punjab, Haryana, and Jharkhand. Now, we see students from Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana reaching out for help," said a counsellor of Indian origin practising in Richmond,



RECIPE FOR DISASTER

► Indian students reach Canada, lugging the burden of education loans — ₹20 lakh to ₹40 lakh on average — which they expect to repay easily once they get jobs

► With unemployment rates in the country crossing 6% in March, many end up jobless, or get work that is not in keeping with their qualification or needs

► Counsellors say students turn to drugs to cope with stress. To fund the addiction, they borrow money, deceive family to send money, triggering a cycle of addiction, debt and stress

► Among those who do seek help, many cannot afford expensive therapy sessions or rehab. They avail services offered by colleges or go online

British Columbia. The counsellors chose to stay anonymous to respect the patient confidentiality agreement.

There are currently around 3 lakh Indian students, according to Canadian Bureau for International Education. Many of them take loans, ranging from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh on average, to enrol in universities and colleges in Canada. But the transition from campus to corporate life appears bleak as Canada's unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in March.

Still, students find ways to fund their addiction, including deceiving family members back home or working multiple odd jobs. "My former roommate has moved in with four others in a crammed accommodation. He stopped eating either at home or outside, works multiple shifts, and rides a bicycle to faraway locations," said a 27-year-old in Vancouver. "Drug dealers extend credit, knowing they'd come back for more."

A counsellor from Delta, British Columbia, shared the story of a patient who had moved to Richmond from a town near Kolkata in 2021.

"He finished his master's degree in June 2023. Following that, he worked at a restaurant and a convenience store to cover his expenses. The frustration of being unable to support his family back home led him to recreational drugs," the counsellor said.

His addiction spiralled out of control last year. "He stopped eating, left his jobs, and began ingesting drugs regularly. His roommates reached out to his distant cousin, who brought him to me. Since Dec 2023, he has been undergoing rehab," the counsellor said.

Many students are left vulnerable to self-harm. "I've had suicidal thoughts over the prospect of being unable to repay my loan. I searched for a job for six months. I couldn't get one. So, I have moved in with my distant aunt because I can't afford rent," said Mahima Chaudhary, a computer science student in Surrey, British Columbia. She has no addiction-related issues, but struggles with stress. "I don't have the funds for it," said Mahima on seeking professional help for her mental health. "So, I'm relying on therapy provided by my college counsellor."

2 Die As E-Rick On Wrong Side Rams SUV On Dwarka E-Way

FATAL SHORT-CUT: 6 Injured; E-Rick Flipped Twice Before Landing On Its Side

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Gurgaon: Two persons died and six suffered injuries when the e-rickshaw in which they were travelling crashed into an SUV on the road below the Dwarka Expressway flyover at Dhanwari Chowk on Monday. The e-rickshaw, police said, had taken the wrong side of the road to save time when it collided head on with the Kia Seltos around 6pm. The three-wheeler flipped twice before landing on its side after being hit by the SUV.

The e-rickshaw driver and seven passengers were hurled in the air under the impact of the accident and landed with a thud on the road. The front portion of the SUV was damaged while the three-wheeler was mangled. Passersby rushed the injured passengers to the Civil Hospital in Sector 10. Ravi Kumar, a 22-year-old daily wageer from Jodhpur in Rajasthan,



The e-rickshaw driver and seven passengers were hurled in the air from the impact of the accident



was declared dead on arrival. Pankaj Kumar, who was driving the e-rickshaw, succumbed to injuries on Tuesday morning. The six other injured passengers are undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital. "All of them are daily wageers and work in different project sites around Dhanwari. Around 5.45pm, they took the e-rickshaw to go to Rajinder Park. They were

TIMES VIEW: Wrong side driving can have fatal consequences, as exemplified in this case. The tragic incident underscores the importance of driving with caution and being attentive on the highways.

headed home after the day's work. Pawan took the wrong side of the road to save time, leading to the accident," said Vinod, a head constable at Rajinder Park police station.

The SUV, which was on its way to Manesar, had five persons in it. "Airbags in the car opened after it crashed into the e-rickshaw. None travelling in the SUV suffered injuries. Preliminary probe revealed that the car wasn't speeding either," the cop said. Ram Kumar, one of the injured workers, lodged a police complaint. An FIR was registered in the case under

sections 304A (causing death due to rash or negligent act), 337 (causing injuries due to rash or negligent act) and 279 (rash driving on a public way) of the IPC. Inspector Yashvir Singh of Rajendra Park police station said although the complaint was lodged against the SUV driver, they needed to scan CCTV footage to find out who was at fault. "We have to examine CCTV footage and record statements of the injured and witnesses to identify who was at fault. The case is under investigation," he added. The bodies of the two persons who died were handed over to their families after an autopsy on Tuesday. The accident once again raised questions on enforcement of traffic norms around the newly opened expressway. Police, however, insisted they were stepping up efforts to rein in violators on the expressway and its service roads.

Children's hospital, 50 other entities get bomb hoax email

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: An email claiming that a bomb had been planted at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya in Shahdara caused panic and disruption at the hospital on Tuesday. The email was also sent to at least 50 others, including govt departments.

As a precautionary measure, patients were evacuated from the hospital, and security personnel conducted thorough checks for around one and a half hours. However, no suspicious object was found.

According to police sources, the hospital received the email at 10am on Tuesday. The bomb detection team and disposal squad, personnel of Delhi Fire Services and local police arrived promptly and secured the area to ensure the safety of patients, staff and visitors.

"The hospital was packed with patients, so we had to ask them to vacate. The dog squad reached the hospital and a thorough search was conducted," an officer said, adding that they were trying to identify the sender. Police sources said the email was also sent to several people and organisations. The



As a precautionary measure, patients were evacuated from Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya in Shahdara and security personnel conducted thorough checks for around one and a half hours

sender claimed to be associated with a terrorist group and threatened that bombs had been placed on several premises. "The sender tagged more than 50 email IDs, including those of govt departments, a jail in Andaman and Nicobar, and officials from Bihar and Karnataka," the source said, adding that the email was sent from 666darktr1ad666@gmail.com. The source further claimed that the sender wrote, "We are a terrorist group, and we must inform you that we have placed multiple explosive devices inside your building. This will

ensure that many people will end up dead, and this is the main cause of the attack. Good-bye, you will end up in a pool of blood. The sender named the group as Terrorist III." This was not the first time the city received a hoax threat. In Feb, a 20-year-old man was arrested for allegedly making a hoax bomb threat call at the Delhi airport to gain in publicity. In the same month, a school in south Delhi's Pushp Vihar received two bomb threats. In Jan, a school in RK Puram had also received a similar email.

Area around Shahdara drain to be beautified

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi's forest department has decided to beautify and carry out plantation on the embankments along Shahdara drain. Dumping of solid waste has also affected the quality of soil near the drain. Hence, the department will fence off the area and conduct soil testing too.

An internal committee of the forest department, which was constituted on the order of the National Green Tribunal, inspected the area on April 22 to assess possible remedial measures that can be taken to improve the area around the drain. In a report dated April 25, the department informed NGT that 202 trees can be planted with a spacing of 5m x 5m along the length of the drain.

The residents of east Delhi's Arjun Nagar in Shahdara had filed a plea in April 2022, claiming that the drain, which runs parallel to Swami Dayanand Marg, contains industrial effluents, sewage water and floating debris. The plea alleged that the gases emitted from the drain were impacting the health of locals.

The forest department said, during inspection, large quantity of solid waste was found on both sides of the drain. "With regards to remedial measures possible to carry out plantation along the drain, it is pertinent to mention the fact that soil testing is required to be carried out before any plantation work is initiated. Furthermore, site cleaning by removal of sludge and removal of large amounts of dumped waste are required. Filling of good earth soil is required, along with slope stabilisation by stone-pitching method and natural grassing," said the report.

It added that repair works for the boundary wall are required to prevent waste dumping and stray cattle grazing in the area. The department plans to plant saplings of jamun, gular, peepal, etc.

A trial on Ring Road to cut errors and ease congestion

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Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee



New Delhi: In an effort to manage the traffic congestion near the Kashmere Gate Inter-State Bus Terminal, the Public Works Department and Delhi Traffic Police have launched a 10-day trial on Ring Road at the point. During this period, road users will have to deal with some changes to their regular routes.

The stretch from the Salimgarh bypass till the Chandgi Ram Akhada traffic lights is plagued by heavy congestion due to its proximity to the inter-state bus terminal. Starting from 29 April, authorities have temporarily closed the U-turn near Nigam Bodh Ghat, which provides access to Salimgarh Fort. The U-turn on Ring Road leading to Kashmere Gate has also been partially closed. The slip road near Salimgarh Fort will now serve as an alternative route to the Hanuman temple.

The traffic police have installed signboards to alert the public about the diversions. However, during a spot check on Tuesday, TOI observed that some people were yet to adjust to the new routes, with quite a few of them seen driving on the wrong side.

The exit of the bus terminal has been blocked off with concrete barriers to prevent buses from directly merging with the traffic on Ring Road. The blockade is designed to direct buses towards Lala Hardev Marg, then under the Yudhisthir Setu flyover, before emerging on Ring Road.

Atul Ranjit Kumar, who runs the organisation on road safety that is collaborating on this project with PWD and traffic police, said, "Traffic was smooth during the evening rush hour after the implementation of the pilot project."

A traffic constable had a similar report. "Since the implementation of this plan, the traffic situation is better at the spot in front of ISBT. Earlier there used to be heavy traffic because the buses moving towards Ring Road and motorists going to-



The authorities have temporarily closed the U-turn near Nigam Bodh Ghat, which provides access to Salimgarh Fort. The U-turn on Ring Road leading to Kashmere Gate has also been partially closed

wards Tees Hazari clashed there. Now that has been stopped," the constable said.

PWD plans to widen the existing pedestrian bridge on Ring Road and provide proper pedestrian passage to connect the ISBT and Delhi Metro station with Ring Road. In 2018, the traffic police had identified the area around Kashmere Gate as an 'accident-prone' zone due to heavy pedestrian movement.

The changes implemented are part of PWD's larger plan for streetscaping and re-modelling of the roads in the area. Recently, stone sculptures were installed on the traf-

fic islands in front of the bus terminal's exit.

Kashmere Gate, situated close to Civil Lines where the residences of the chief minister, lieutenant governor and cabinet ministers are located, experiences heavy traffic congestion daily. Lala Hardev Marg, the main road running along the Kashmere Gate metro station and ISBT, is where the Yudhisthir Setu empties the traffic coming from east Delhi areas such as Shahdara and Dilshad Garden. The road also caters to trading hubs and there's a big movement of commercial vehicles loading and unloading goods.

MCD decides to auction 4 properties of former toll contractor to recover dues

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Photo for representation



NON-PAYMENT TAKES ITS TOLL

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued a public notice to auction on May 7 four confiscated properties, worth around Rs 30 crore, of former toll contractor MEP Infrastructure Developers Ltd in Mumbai.

The notice specifies that the auction will be carried out at the office of the tehsildar at Kuria (Mulund), Mumbai to recover the pending dues from MEP Infra.

However, a representative of MEP Infra stated that the matter was admitted with National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai and an interim resolution professional (IRP) had been appointed through an order on March 28.

"After this order, a moratorium under Section 14 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was imposed on the company and will be in force until the tribunal passes an order for the liquidation of corporate debt or the completion of the corporate insolvency resolution process, etc," the representative said, adding that it suspends the institution of suits or continuation of pending suits or proceedings against

the corporate debtor, including the execution of any judgment, decree or order in any court of law, tribunal, and disposal of any of its assets.

"IRP has also communicated the details to the civic body on this matter on April 25 and asked it to withdraw the said illegal or void public notice as well as the online tender. It was also specified that the auction cannot be conducted," the representative said.

MCD officials, however, argued that the decision followed Bombay High Court's direction. "We received corre-

spondence from IRP of MEP Infra, but we are carrying out the process as per the court's direction," said an official.

On Jan 15, Bombay High Court allowed an MCD plea seeking directions to district collectors to execute recovery certificates against MEP Infra. "We have communicated everything to the collector, Mumbai Suburban district, and asked him to sell the attached properties by open public auction as per the market value," the official said, adding that the market price has been fixed by the collec-

COMPANY SAYS

A moratorium under Section 14 of IBC will be in force until the tribunal passes an order for liquidation of corporate debt or completion of the corporate insolvency resolution process

tor of stamp in Kuria. "We have identified over 30 properties of MEP Infra Developers that can be considered for auctioning in the future," he pointed out.

In March, MCD had issued a public notice for the attachment of over Rs 3,900-crore assets and properties belonging to the company for non-payment of toll dues.

It claimed that the agency running the toll contract from Sept 2017 to April 2020 delayed remittances to the erstwhile south corporation, and penalties were also imposed from time to time. When huge defaults accumulated, MCD was compelled to issue warrants to attach its properties and recover dues, said officials.

Man stabbed to death in Bindapur by 2 during tiff

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A man was stabbed to death in Dwarka's Bindapur area allegedly by two people during an altercation after being slightly grazed by a passing e-rickshaw. Two suspects have been arrested, police said.

After receiving information that a man was lying injured in a park, police rushed victim Manoj Joshi (37) to the hospital where he was declared dead. Joshi had one sharp wound in lower abdomen area, a senior police officer said.

During investigation, suspects Vinay Kumar (21) and Piyush (20) were nabbed from Old Pankha Road in Uttam Nagar, the

officer said, adding that Vinay confessed that he was drinking alcohol with his friend Piyush on the night of April 23-24.

"After that both were going to their home by driving Vinay's e-rickshaw and when they reached near Chhath Pooja Park, his e-rickshaw brushed past a man sitting in the street. The man got very angry and started abusing them and slapped the duo," the officer quoted Vinay as saying.

During the altercation, Vinay seized Joshi from behind and Piyush, who was carrying a mechanical knife, stabbed him in the abdomen, police said, adding that the duo fled the scene in the e-rickshaw after the stabbing incident.

On the run for 29 years, man wanted for kidnapping held

New Delhi: On the run for almost three decades, a 58-year-old man has been arrested from south Delhi area in connection with an abduction case. Suspect Aftab Ahmad had allegedly kidnapped then a 15-year-old girl and fled with her for the purpose of marriage, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in 1995 when Ahmad took the minor girl to Nepal. "A case was registered by the girl's family under relevant sections for kidnapping, and the accused was declared a proclaimed offender in 1997. Over the years, the accused moved across Nepal's boundaries and changed his location frequently within various states of the country to evade arrest. He performed odd jobs and lived in makeshift homes across Bihar, Mumbai, UP, and Delhi," said Ankit Chauhan, deputy commissioner of police (South).

On April 29, police received a tip-off regarding the suspect's presence in Faridabad. "The information was further developed, and following an interstate raid, Ahmad was nabbed and has been remanded to judicial custody," the DCP added. TNN

No door or wall: Silkyara hero, wife without even a rat hole to live in

Priyangi Agarwal & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: It has been nearly two months since Vageel Hasan, a rat-hole miner whose house was demolished by Delhi Development Authority on Feb 28, began living outside his razed house. Along with his wife, he resides in a makeshift tent in north-east Delhi's Shi Ram Colony in Khajuri Khas. Hasan was one of the brave hearts who used their unique skills to rescue the 41 trapped construction workers trapped in a tunnel in Uttarakhanda last Nov.

Accordingly, one side of his "home" are certificates awarded to him by govt departments and others for leading the rat-hole miners in rescuing the 41 workers in the collapsed Silkyara tunnel. There are also some posters demanding justice for Hasan. There is a single bed and some sacks and shoe boxes in which the family stash their clothes and belongings.

Sitting on a sofa, one of the few belongings his family was able to salvage from the rubble, Hasan said, "Our house was the only one demolished in this area. We want our house back." His current dwelling has no door or front wall, just tarpaulin sheets marking off the interiors.



RAZED AND DAZED: Vageel Hasan's current dwelling has no door or front wall, just tarpaulin sheets marking off the interiors. His wife, Shabana, has had no work for the past two months

"As it is unsafe for my 16-year-old daughter, 17-year-old son and eight-year-old son to sleep here because of thieves and drug addicts roaming in the night, they are living in a single room on the opposite side of the road," disclosed Hasan, adding that the studies of his daughter, who is in Class X, was impacted as her books and notes were buried under the rubble when their

house was demolished by DDA.

While the family uses the toilet in the rented room, Hasan described the hardships of living under tarpaulin sheets. "In the scorching hot weather, it is tough to live in a tarpaulin shack. But what can we do?" he asked.

When night falls, mosquitoes swarm around, creating an unbearable environment for any rest.

"There are so many mosquitoes that no one can live. But we are forced to sleep here," sighed Hasan. The family also frequently encounters blocked drains that cause contaminated water to overflow and inundate their temporary shelter. To address this issue, they took it upon themselves to clear the drains to make sure the water flowed freely and prevented sub-

mergence of their living space. "We had to unclog the drains ourselves so that the water flowed into the drain," said the miner.

His wife, Shabana Hasan, who used to run a beauty parlour from her house, said she has had no work for the past two months. "My setup was destroyed in the demolition," she rued.

When asked why he had rejec-

ted DDA's offers of houses in Narela and Dilshad Garden, Hasan replied that he was told it was a temporary arrangement. "What if they move us from there also?" he questioned. "I should be given my house back or I should be helped to relocate to Sri Ram Colony, where I have been living for the past 35 years. I am deeply connected to this area and have no wish to leave," said Hasan. He al-

so pointed out that his children were receiving their education in the same locality.

Hasan claimed that after his house was demolished, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari promised him that DDA would rebuild the house on the same spot. But the promise is yet to be fulfilled. He also claimed that he contacted DDA officials, but no one helped him.

Tiwari asserted that he was committed to helping Hasan and getting him a flat allotted under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. "As soon as the Model Code of Conduct for elections is lifted, I will help Hasan apply for a flat under the scheme and get one allotted to him," Tiwari promised.

When asked if he had promised Hasan that he would get a house at the same location where he was living, Tiwari said the issue involved technicalities and he had never committed anything on those lines. "He will need building plans approved by the municipal corporation to erect a house there. MCD is under the Aam Aadmi Party," said Tiwari. "But I stand by my words that I will help Hasan get a house for himself under the PM Awas Yojana."

No response was received from DDA on the subject.

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay



An Open & Shut-Eye Case: Why Sleep Is Key For A Healthy Life

People With Favourable Patterns Have Low Risk Of Cardiovascular Diseases: Study

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New Delhi: People with persistently favourable sleep patterns have lower risks of cardiovascular diseases compared to those with persistently unfavourable patterns, even among those with a higher genetic risk.

This was revealed after a study conducted for a period of five years among more than 15,000 adults in China.

These findings underscore the importance of maintaining a favourable sleep pattern. "Adequate sleep supports healthy blood pressure levels, glucose metabolism and inflammatory responses, all of which are pivotal in preventing the development and progression of cardiovascular disease. Moreover, sleep duration and quality affect all aspects of our lives, including feelings of well-being during the day, work efficiency and overall conduct," several doctors in the city said.

"The recent study concluded that those who sleep less than five hours and less than 3-4 hours have an increased risk of diabetes by 16% and 41%, respectively. An average of seven hours of sleep is essential for mental, physical, and metabolic recovery. With the result, reduced duration or quality has implications on both short-term and long-term health," said Dr G C Khilnani, chairman, PSRI Institute of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, and formerly professor and head of

TIPS TO IMPROVE SLEEP QUALITY

► The timing of going to bed should be relatively fixed. **Usually, it is better to sleep before 11pm**

► The bedroom should be quiet and without any source of light

► Avoid tea, coffee and caffeinated drinks and smoking after 5pm

► Alcohol may induce sleep, but quality of sleep is poor

► Avoid doing heavy exercises before going to sleep

► Finish your dinner three hours before bedtime

► You may take a glass of milk or fruits before going to bed

► Do not watch screens

(mobile, laptop, TV) one hour before bedtime; do not have a TV in your bedroom

► Consider reading a book before sleeping, it helps

► If there is difficulty in sleeping for 20-30 minutes, don't get disturbed and start reading something or take a gentle stroll and then go back to sleep; never resort to switching on the TV, laptop or checking the phone

► If you have persistent difficulty falling asleep, take a warm shower before going to bed

► Regular use of sleeping pills should be avoided; should only be taken under medical advice



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When it is disrupted, platelets can aggregate, and vascular injury to vessel walls can occur. This leads to a heightened risk of coronary artery disease due to stress. Therefore, maintaining a healthy sleep pattern is vital to reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

"When cases of cardiovascular disease come to us, we do emphasise the significance of prioritising sleep hygiene as a cornerstone of disease prevention. Simple yet effective strategies such as maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, creating a conducive sleep environment, and practicing relaxation techniques can yield profound benefits for heart health. We strongly recommend 7-9 hours of sleep for adults," Dr Hemant Madan, senior director and programme head of cardiac sciences at Narayana Hospital, said.

Cautioning sleep apnea patients, Dr Manoj Goel, director & unit head of pulmo-

nology at Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurgaon, said that patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) experience excessive sleepiness during the day and are at a higher risk of heart diseases, hypertension, stroke and diabetes. This is due to repeated oxygen desaturation in the blood, leading to the release of harmful inflammatory mediators.

Advising on weight reduction, regular exercise and sleeping sideways, Dr Goel mentioned that these measures are helpful.

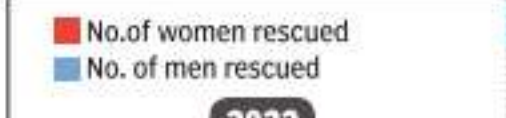
Patients are diagnosed through a sleep study and are advised the use of a respiratory device called CPAP during sleep for treatment, which helps in preventing serious complications of OSA.

It's important to understand that the body operates like a finely tuned machine, where even consistent minor malfunctions can have significant impacts, said Dr Sameer Gupta, senior interventional cardiologist and cardiac cath lab director at the Metro Group of Hospitals.

"This study illustrates something similar where participants who had favourable sleep patterns in spite of high genetic risk were able to significantly reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke by just improving their sleep patterns," he said.

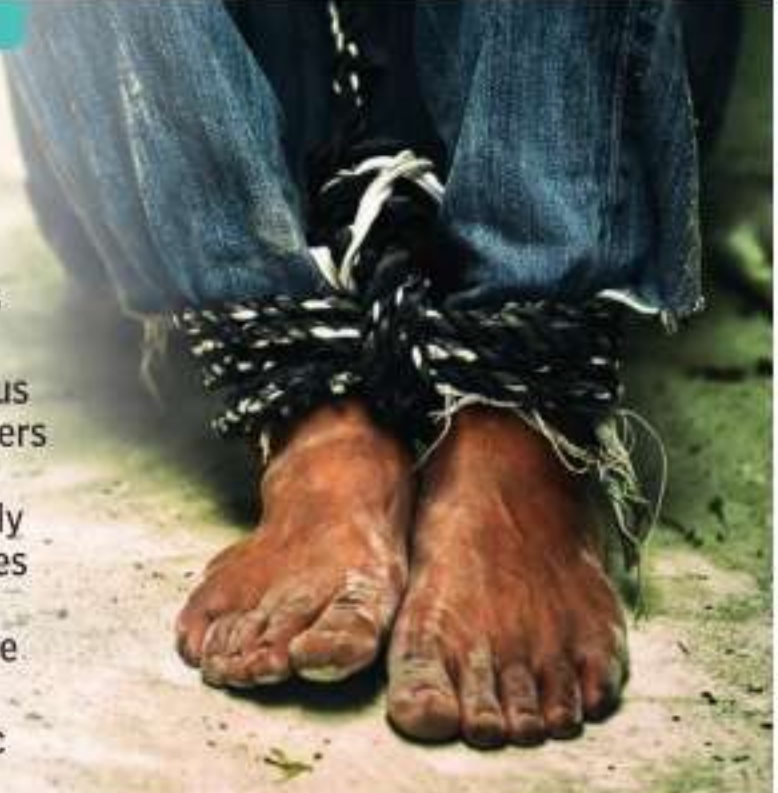
No. of trafficking victims rescued rises 22% in 2023

CAUGHT IN A WEB



MODUS OPERANDI

- Traffickers lure targets by promising access to education, glamour of city life, fake job prospects, extravagant lifestyles
- Baby trafficking gangs run a meticulous operation. The members scour remote areas, targeting economically disadvantaged families with many children and lure them with the promise of money
- Use locals to traffic targets to Delhi



REASONS BEHIND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Labour
- Begging
- Domestic help jobs
- Forced prostitution

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New Delhi: Delhi Police has reported a 22% rise in the rescue of human trafficking victims in 2023 compared to the previous year. Its data reveals that 839 people were rescued in 2023 against 687 in 2022.

The data, accessed by TOI, states that in 2023, law enforcement authorities apprehended more than 170 people involved in human trafficking activities. They registered and investigated 107 cases during the year.

The individuals trafficked to Delhi were coerced into various exploitative roles, including sex work, domestic servitude and manual labour. "Traffickers lure their targets with the prospect of education, childcare jobs, allure of urban living and a lavish lifestyle, and other lucrative employment opportunities," an official said.

Roop Sudesh Vimal, a former member of a child welfare committee, said the traffickers employed deceptive tactics, painting a false picture of various job prospects and extravagant lifestyles before their vulnerable targets.

A senior official at Jhark-

TIMES VIEW: Human trafficking is a monstrous crime. The rise in the number of individuals recovered by cops is good news. But it also underlines that more gangs are engaged in this form of "organised crime." Such criminals are well networked. More efforts and manpower is needed to minimise and eradicate the problem.

hand Bhawan has noted a shift in the tactics employed by traffickers in recent times. Instead of transporting large groups of people at once, he explained, traffickers now focus on bringing them to Delhi separately. "They no longer rely on their own associates, but instead deceive villagers with monetary incentives, entrusting them with the task of escorting the targeted individuals to the capital city," the official said, adding that the strategy helps traffickers maintain a low profile and minimise the risk of detection by constantly changing the people involved in the transportation process.

The survivors of traumatic experiences often struggle with

the aftermath of their ordeals. Highlighting its profound impact on children, the official said, "These young survivors frequently exhibit signs of emotional distress, such as remaining silent and withdrawn."

Last year, police had uncovered a baby trafficking ring that preyed on economically disadvantaged families. The gang used to tempt these families into giving up their children, who were then sold for profit.

Suman Nalwa, public relations officer of Delhi Police, said the human trafficking cases were investigated with utmost diligence and meticulousness, with the primary goal of ensuring swift and proper justice for the survivors.

"We also have a dedicated anti-human trafficking unit that diligently monitors the activities of traffickers. This specialised team works tirelessly to gather intelligence and coordinate targeted raids with the primary objective of rescuing individuals who have fallen victim to trafficking and apprehending those responsible for perpetrating these heinous crimes," she said.

NE riots: Court frames charges against Ishrat Jahan, 12 others

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court has formally framed charges against former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan, 'United Against Hate' founder Khalid Saifi and 11 others in a 2020 Delhi riots case.

The charges have been framed for several offences, including attempt to murder and unlawful assembly, by the court of additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai, which was hearing a case against the 13 accused, paving the way for trial in the matter. "Accordingly,

charges framed against all the accused persons to which they pleaded not guilty and claimed trial," stated the court in an order dated April 27.

Other accused in the case are Vikram Pratap, Samir Ansari, Mohammed Salim, Sabu Ansari, Iqbal Ahmed, Anzaar, Mohammed Ilyas, Mohammed Bilal Saifi, Salim Ahmed, Mohammed Yameen and Sharif Khan.

Special public prosecutor RCS Bhadoria appeared for Delhi Police. The matter has been posted on July 29 for further proceedings.

The case pertains to an alleged rioting incident during the communal riots on Feb 26, 2020 in Jagatpuri. According to the prosecution, a riotous mob, including the 13 accused, refused to follow the Delhi Police's direction to disperse, threw stones and assaulted police officers while obstructing them in performing their official duties and also fired a gunshot at a head constable.

Stating that the role of the accused persons was prima facie established based on the contents of the chargesheet and statements of witnesses, the co-

urt said that the predecessor court had earlier ordered the framing of charges under the Indian Penal Code sections 149 (unlawful assembly) and 307 (attempt to murder). The accused were also liable to be tried for the penal offences of rioting, rioting-armed with a deadly weapon, obstructing a public servant, disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant, voluntarily causing hurt to a public servant and assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty; the court had said.

HC adjourns Sharjeel plea against framing of charges

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Tuesday adjourned sine die the appeal of Sharjeel Imam challenging framing of charges in connection with a 2020 communal riots case. Supreme Court heard a matter related to sedition and all the matters emanating from the section of sedition (124 A IPC) had been kept in abeyance in May 2022. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait adjourned the matter sine die. The division bench was told that matters related to the sedition law are pending before SC. ANI

TIMES ascent
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PM MODI IMPOSED AGNIVEER SCHEME ON ARMY, SAYS RAHUL AT MADHYA PRADESH POLL RALLY

ABHISHEK BANERJEE DARES AMIT SHAH TO CONTEST AGAINST HIM, SAYS WILL QUIT POLITICS IF DEFEATED



327 judge posts in 25 HCs, or 29% of total, are lying vacant

Allahabad, Haryana, Guj, Bom & Cal Account For 52% Of Vacancies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Appointment of judges remains a problem area with five high courts of Allahabad, Punjab and Haryana, Gujarat, Bombay and Calcutta alone having 171 vacancies as on April 1, accounting for over 52% of the total vacancy of 327 posts across the 25 HCs in the country. The total sanctioned strength of judges across all HCs is 1,114, which means 29.4% posts are lying vacant.

Large number of vacancies in high courts also means increasing pendency of cases, which has reached almost 62 lakh as on April 30. The total pendency in all courts has crossed 5.1 crore, including 4.5 crore in subordinate and district courts and over 80,000 in Supreme Court. Interestingly, for half of these vacancies, Centre had claimed earlier that no recommendations were made by HC collegiums when the laid down procedure demands

ALLAHABAD HC TOPS LIST

High Courts	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	% of sanctioned strength
Allahabad	160	69	43
Punjab & Hry	85	30	35
Bombay	94	26	28
Calcutta	72	23	32
Gujarat	52	23	44
Patna	53	19	36
Delhi	60	18	30
Rajasthan	50	18	36

Note: 25 HCs have 327 vacancies of judges against a sanctioned strength of 1,114 (as on April 1)

Source: Law ministry

initiating proposals well in advance, at least six months before the vacancy arises.

Allahabad HC, country's largest HC, has 69 vacancies against a strength of 160 judges, which means 43% posts are vacant. Gujarat HC has a higher vacancy percentage at 44%, followed by Patna and Rajasthan with 36% each.

Punjab & Haryana HC has 30 posts vacant against a sanctioned strength of 85, followed

by 26 in Bombay HC where the approved strength is 94. There are 23 vacancies each in Calcutta and Gujarat HCs.

In Dec last year, while responding to MPs' concerns against the large number of vacancies in high courts, Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal had pointed to the slow pace of recommendations reaching the Centre.

He had said that HC collegiums were not adhering to

timeline on initiation of recommendations against vacancies, adding that for 198 vacancies across HCs, collegiums of these HCs had not made any recommendations till then, leading to a huge backlog.

According to the memorandum of procedure (MoP) that guides the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary, a proposal for appointment is initiated by the chief justice of the HC concerned in consultation with two senior-most judges of the HC at least six months before a vacancy occurs. "This timeline is often not adhered to by the high courts," Meghwal had said.

Once these HC collegiums recommend candidates for judgeship, the govt seeks Intelligence Bureau's inputs and refers them to Supreme Court collegium, which finally selects and recommends names to Centre for notification. In cases where the SC collegium has reservations, those are referred back to the HCs for reconsideration.

Manipur cops drove women to strip-parade mob, says CBI

New Delhi: Manipur Police personnel allegedly drove the two tribal women, who had sought refuge in their official gypsy, to a mob of around 1,000 rioters in Kangpokpi district, CBI chargesheet has stated. The women were subsequently stripped naked and paraded before being brutally gang-raped during the violence in the state, the chargesheet added.

It said the mob had attacked a third woman too, and tried to strip her but failed in the attempt as she was clutching her granddaughter. She managed to escape after the group attacking her went towards the first two victims who were being tormented in the paddy fields.

The victims sought help of policemen present on the spot, but no help was extended to them, the chargesheet stated.

One of the women, wife of a war veteran, desperately asked the cops to drive them to a safe location but were allegedly told that "there was no key" (of car) and didn't provide any help.

Now, Indian spices under Aus scanner

Hyderabad: Australia's food safety agency is collecting information on possible contamination of spice mixes sold by MDH and Everest to decide if a food recall is required, it said on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, Hong Kong had suspended sale of three MDH spice blends and an Everest mix. Singapore, too, ordered a recall of the same Everest mix, flagging high levels of ethylene oxide, which is unfit for human consumption and a cancer risk over long exposure.

"We are working with international counterparts to understand the issue and to determine if further action is required," Food Standards Australia New Zealand said. REUTERS

Navy will remain op-ready to deter adversaries: New chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In view of the existing and emerging challenges in the maritime domain, Navy will remain operationally ready at all times to deter adversaries, said Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Tuesday.

Taking over as the 26th chief of the 140-warship Navy from Admiral R Hari Kumar, Admiral Tripathi said the maritime force's primary mandate is to deter potential adversaries at sea in peace and "to win the war at sea when asked to do so".

"This will remain my singular focus and endeavour," he said, emphasising that Indian Navy has evolved into "a combat-ready, cohesive, credible and future-proof force" over the years. "I will strengthen ongoing efforts of Navy towards 'atmanirbharta (self-reliance)', towards new technologies and becoming an important pillar of nation's development towards our collective quest for 'Viksit Bharat (developed India)'," he said.

A communication and electronic warfare specialist who was commissioned in July 1985, Admiral Tripathi has experience in naval operations while commanding



Admiral Tripathi with his mother at the oath-taking ceremony on Tuesday

Labourer's son cracks NDA, set to join Navy

Shubham Narwal, the son of a woman farm labourer, is set to become the first Navy officer from his village in Rajasthan, reports Surendra Singh. The journey to NDA was not easy for

Shubham, who lost his father to cancer in 2015. His mother worked as a MGNREGA farm labourer. Highlighting the case of Shubham Narwal, Major General Yash Mor (Retd) said the boy set an example for other poor children who want to clear NDA. "I hail from a village in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. Jhunjhunu is considered the land of soldiers as many youths from this city have joined armed forces. But I will become the first Navy officer from my village," Shubham told Major General Mor in an interview posted on social media.

Shubham, who hasn't seen a sea in his lifetime, will be headed to the sea and will have to sail against the tide as a Navy officer.

frontline warships as well as in his earlier stints as Eastern Fleet commander, DGNO and Western Naval Command chief. Significantly, he has al-

so handled the force's entire modernisation plans as the assistant chief of naval staff (policy and plans) and then as the vice chief since January.

In a 1st, 6 women officers join Army's jungle warfare school in Mizoram

HC Vanlalruata | TNN

Aizawl: Six women officers of Indian Army have become the first to break into a hitherto male bastion by joining a course in low-intensity conflict operations at the Counter-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) in Mizoram's Vairengte.

A senior officer of the institute, which has trained batches of US Marines and soldiers of several other countries in guerrilla tactics, told TOI on Tuesday that

women military officers enrolling for the course marks a pivotal step for the Army.

The course is rated highly for its specialised training in jungle warfare. Officers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, France,

combat situations where precision and stealth are crucial to success," the officer said.

The idea of setting up the jungle warfare school was conceived by former Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, in 1967, when Indian soldiers suffered heavy casualties at the hands of NorthEast insurgents adept at hit-and-run guerrilla strikes. Indian soldiers were till then only trained in conventional warfare. The motto of the institute is "Fight The Guerrilla Like A Guerrilla".

GUERRILLA TACTICS

Malaysia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have visited the institute so far this year to learn reflex firing, tactical strategies, and how to survive on difficult terrain. "All of this prepares them for real-world

HC allows couple who lost son to suicide to go for IVF despite man crossing age bar of 55

Saibal.Sen@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Calcutta HC has allowed an older couple who lost their 19-year-old son to suicide last year to become parents again through assisted reproductive technology, even though the husband—aged 59—has crossed the upper age limit of 55 specified in the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021.

The court said it was making an exception in this case because the man's wife, at 46, did not cross the age limit, and because the law did not distin-

HC noted that since the couple planned to use sperm from a 'third-party donor', the question of a legal age bar on the husband in seeking assisted reproductive services did not arise

guish between married and unmarried women. The couple, the court said, was free to have a baby through IVF using external sperm and ova.

After the couple lost their only child to suicide in Oct 2023, they approached a private clinic to become parents again. Doctors at the clinic diagnosed the woman "medically fit and eligible to give

birth to a child by the process of IVF with ovum donation."

The legal wrangle was with the husband who, at 59, had passed the age bar, prompting the couple to move high court.

In its order on April 26, Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya noted that the Act says pregnancy can be achieved by handling sperm or oocyte (a cell in an ovary)

outside the human body. "There is no restriction to the effect that either of the two must come from the couple themselves," he said.

The judge said while the Act lays out duties of assisted reproductive technology clinics using human gametes, nowhere has it been specified that gametes have to be provided by the couple. He noted that since the couple planned to use sperm from a "third-party donor", the question of a legal age bar on the husband in seeking assisted reproductive services did not arise.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Ritik S/o Lala Ram R/o House No. D-978, Pratap Vihar, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Aman Vihar, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. **746/2020 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, PS Mangolpuri, (Outer Distt.) Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Ritik** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Ritik** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Ritik** of FIR No. **746/2020 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act, PS Mangolpuri, (Outer Distt.) Delhi** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **30.07.2024 at 10:00 AM**.

By Order
Sh. Rishabh Kapoor
Metropolitan Magistrate (N-W)
Room No. 105, Rohini Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Raj Kumar, S/o Sh. Puran Singh, R/o. Footpath near Mori Gate, Gol Chakkar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. **447/2022 dated 20.11.2022 U/s 356/379 IPC** registered at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Raj Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Raj Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Raj Kumar** accused of **FIR No. 447/2022 dated 20.11.2022 U/s 356/379 IPC** P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.06.2024**

By Order
Sh. Gaurav Goyal,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Central District, Room No. 247,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused **Sonu @ Suresh S/o Ram Singh, R/o H. No. 153, Gali No. 14, C-Block No.-2, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 897/2014 u/s 129/55 Gambling Act** has been registered at **P.S. Gokal Puri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sonu @ Suresh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sonu @ Suresh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sonu @ Suresh** of **FIR No. 897/2014 u/s 129/55 Gambling Act** has been registered at **P.S. Gokal Puri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.06.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Sukhjeet Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate-08,
Room No. 22, North-East District,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALYA AIR FORCE STATION BAREILLY ADMISSION NOTICE

Application for Fresh Admission in BALVATIKA-3 Under Schedule Tribe Quota in Kendriya Vidyalaya Air Force Station Bareilly for Session 2024-25 are invited. Parents can get the Admission Registration form for Admission from Vidyalaya Office from 01.05.2024 to 08.05.2024 between 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM, last date for submission of duly filled Registration Form is 08.05.2024 till 01.00 PM.

Age for admission in BALVATIKA-3, 5 years but less than 6 years (as on 31.03.2024). For detail information kindly visit Vidyalaya Website: <https://afsbareilly.kvs.ac.in>

Principal

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF MAY/2024

E-Auction programme for sale of Railway Scrap material under jurisdiction of Dy.CMM/NFR/New Jalpaiguri is hereby fixed for the month of **MAY/2024 on 09-05-2024 & 22-05-2024**.

Interested bidders may participate in E-auction through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

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विज्ञापन संख्या - 65 / 2020 कला संस्कृति एवं युवा विभाग, बिहार के अन्तर्गत सहायक संग्रहालययाध्यक्ष / शोध एवं प्रकाशन पदाधिकारी / सहायक निदेशक (बिहार संग्रहालय सेवा) के पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु लिखित (वस्तुनिष्ठ) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा में सम्मिलित अभ्यर्थियों को निर्देश दिया जाता है कि वे अपने सभी शैक्षणिक योग्यता / अनुभव प्रमाण पत्रों को दिनांक-02.05.2024 से 08.05.2024 तक आयोग के Portal पर Upload करना सुनिश्चित करें। दिनांक-28.02.2024 को दस्तावेज स्वायंपन के दिन उपस्थित उम्मीदवारों को छोड़कर शेष उम्मीदवारों की सूची आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

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NOTICE

Intimation of change in address of office of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) PFRDA has shifted to its new office premises w.e.f. 01.04.2024. The new office address is as below:

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority E-500, Tower E, 5th Floor, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110 029 Phone No.- 011-40717900

The Authority may be contacted at the abovementioned new address.

This is for information of all the stakeholders in the NPS architecture and general public.

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No. :- 214/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dated: 30.04.2024

Public Notice

In terms of the provisions of section 45 of Electricity Act, 2003, the consumers and the general public are hereby informed that the tariff and charges of electricity for different categories of consumers have been approved by the Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission to be effective from 01-04-2024. The summary of the tariff and charges of electricity for different categories of consumers as well as the approved tariff order dated 28-03-2024 of UERC and Rate Schedule are available on the website of UPCL at www.upcl.org

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कार्यालय प्रबंध निदेशक पश्चिमोत्तर बिहार विद्युत निगम लि० बिहारोत्तरिया पार्क, मेरठ

ई-निविदा सूचना निम्नवत् कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित है:-

1. विशिष्टकरण संख्या पश्चिमोत्तरबिहार/मेरठ/आइटीओ/एफओ/01/24-25 के अन्तर्गत डीओआर सेक्टर, सेक्टर-58, नोएडा हेतु 07 नं. Cylinder एवं अग्निशमन गैस के SI/C कार्य हेतु। श्रोहरे राशि रु 33,500.00/- 2. विशिष्टकरण संख्या पश्चिमोत्तरबिहार/मेरठ/आइटीओ/बैटरी/02/24-25 के अन्तर्गत डीओआर सेक्टर, सेक्टर-58, नोएडा में स्थापित 02 नं. 200 केजीएफ़ो के यूपीएस/02 नं. 408 नं. बैटरी (02 वोल्ट, 400 एएच) के SI/C कार्य हेतु। श्रोहरे राशि रु 46,000.00/- 3. विशिष्टकरण संख्या पश्चिमोत्तरबिहार/मेरठ/आइटीओ/यूपीएस/एफओसी/03/24-25 के अन्तर्गत डीओआर सेक्टर, सेक्टर-58, नोएडा में स्थापित 02 नं. 200 केजीएफ़ो के यूपीएस/02 नं. 408 नं. बैटरी के कार्य 02 वर्ष की अवधि हेतु। श्रोहरे राशि रु 19,500.00/- निविदा दिनांक : 28.05.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन स्वीकार की जायेगी जिसका प्रथम भाग दिनांक 29.05.2024 को समय 17:00 बजे के उपरान्त खोल जायगा। विस्तार से सभी जानकारी एवं निविदा में भविष्य में किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन हेतु www.pvnl.org एवं www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग ऑन करें। "बिजली चोरी की सूचना हेल्पलाइन नम्बर 1912 पर दें। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (आइटीओ) कृते प्रबंध निदेशक। राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचावें। पत्रांक 75 दिनांक 30.04.2024

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001, Fax No. 0532-2407882
www.cora.indianrailways.gov.in

No.: RE/Tender/Civil Dated: 29.04.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy Chief Engineer, CORE, Prayagraj acting on behalf of President of India invites e-tender for following works:

Tender No.	Name of work
RE/Tender/ Civil/531	Zonal repair and maintenance, while washing, distemping, execution of miscellaneous Civil Engg. works and Horticulture works in Staff Quarters in Ram Baug, GPO Colony, N.Y. Road, Rajapur, Traffic Colony, Balaipur, Loco Colony, Malgondam Colony, Leader Road, Ghan Shyam Nagar, Subedar Ganj of CORE at Prayagraj.
Estimated cost of work (₹):	₹1,24,37,108.89, Earnest money (₹): ₹2,12,200.00
RE/Tender/ Civil/532	Zonal repair and maintenance, while washing, distemping etc. and execution of miscellaneous works in Head Quarters office building, City side ORH, Civil lines side ORH and RE officers Club including Sports Complex of CORE at Prayagraj.
Estimated cost of work (₹):	₹66,73,105.20, Earnest money (₹): ₹1,33,500.00
RE/Tender/ Civil/533	Zonal repair and maintenance, while washing, distemping etc. and execution of miscellaneous works in GMS new Camp Office at ITO and Officers Rest House at Tikai bridge, New Delhi.
Estimated cost of work (₹):	₹12,08,443.88, Earnest money (₹): ₹24,200.00
Completion period: For Tender No. RE/Tender/Civil/531/532/533:	12 months

Note: 1. Submission/Opening of tenders: 21.05.2024 Up to 15.30 Hours, for submission of tender's through www.ireps.gov.in and the Tender shall be opened online using IREPS portal any time after closing of tender. 2. Website particulars: For further details/queries of above e-tenders please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

3. Office address: Office of PCE/Core, 1 Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, 211001, 4. Indian railway reserves the right to postpone, modify or cancel any e-tender without assigning any reasons thereof. NOTE: Only e-Bid shall be accepted against above tender.

No. PR/36/2024 R.D. Adv Dy Chief Engineer Core/Prayagraj

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Mevani's PA, AAP dist chief held over Shah deepfake video

Ahmedabad: Gujarat Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani's personal assistant (PA) and an AAP functionary were arrested on Tuesday on charges of sharing a deep-fake video of Union home minister Amit Shah about a purported promise "to end reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs" if BJP returns to office at the Centre.

Satish Vansola, 36, is a resident of Palanpur in Banaskantha, while AAP's Rakesh Baria, 37, is from Limkheda town of Dahod. Vansola, a Dalit, has been working for Mevani, the MLA from Vadgam, for six years. He also serves as general secretary of Congress's Banaskantha district unit. Baria is AAP's Dahod district chief.

They were picked up by Ahmedabad Police's Cyber Crime Cell and booked under Sections 153A (promoting enmity) and 505(2) (statements promoting enmity) of IPC.

Police officers said the duo had uploaded an edited video to create disharmony ahead of the May 7 LS polls in the state.

Mevani described Vansola as not just his PA but like his "brother". "BJP's IT Cell has been spreading fake videos for a long time. But instead of taking any action against them, police have arrested a common man like Vansola who posted that video by mistake," said Mevani, who is working president of Gujarat Congress. **TNN**

Prez was invited: Temple trust chief trashes Rahul claim

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: General secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Champat Rai on Tuesday rebutted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegation that President Droupadi Murmu was not invited to the consecration of Ram Lalla's idol at the Ayodhya temple as she is a tribal.

Referring to Rahul's allegation reported in this daily from Gandhinagar, Rai said they are "completely false, baseless and misleading".

"I would like to remind Shri Rahul Gandhi-ji that the great President of India, Honourable Droupadi Murmu-ji and former President Shri Ramnath Kovind ji were both invited on the auspicious occasion of the consecration of the new idol of Ram Lalla in Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple," he said.

"On the occasion of pranpratishtha at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, saints, great men belonging to SC, ST and OBC communities, householders and gentlemen who have achieved fame in different spheres of life and made India proud, were invited. The workers serving in the temple participated in the programme," he added. "Not only this, at the time of pranpratishtha



Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust general secretary Champat Rai said Rahul's baseless charge about the event that took place three months ago could create divisions in society. He added these parts of the speech are seriously objectionable

puja, people belonging to scheduled castes, tribes and extremely backward classes got the opportunity to worship in the pavilion of the temple," Rai said.

He said Rahul's baseless charge about the event that took place three months ago could create divisions in the society. "These parts of the speech are seriously objectionable for us," he added.

In Maha's sugar belt, Modi vs Pawar battle enters a not-so-sweet territory

Has Repeatedly Failed Voters, It's Time To Punish Him, Says PM

Abhijit.Atre@timesgroup.com

Pune: A day after alluding to him as a "bhakti aatma" (wandering soul) who spooks even his family members' plans because he couldn't fulfil his, PM Narendra Modi resumed his tirade against NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday with a call to show the "kaddaavar neta" (political stalwart) his place for repeatedly failing his voters.

The PM, who attended three rallies in Maharashtra, also questioned how Congress could aspire to form the next govt at the Centre without fielding candidates in enough seats.

"A party that once had 400 MPs doesn't have a presence in 250 seats. It isn't even in the race," he said in Osmanabad. "Please tell me, in our country, if any party wants to form govt, won't it need to win more than 272 seats? They do not have (strong) candidates in that many seats, yet are dreaming of coming to office."

At Malshiras in Solapur



PM Modi at a rally in Maharashtra's Madha on Tuesday

district, the focus of Modi's speech was Pawar and his legacy. "It is said that looking at the setting sun, he had taken a vow to ensure water supply to drought-hit areas of this constituency. Was he able to supply you with water," the PM asked the gathering thrice.

"Unko saja deneka samay aa gaya hai (time has come to punish him)," he then declared to a chorus of agreement from the crowd.

Modi recalled that 15 years ago, the stalwart he was referring to contested Madha Lok Sabha seat, where BJP has fielded sitting MP Ranjitsinh Naik Nimbalkar against NCP (SP) candidate Dhairyasheel Mohite Patil in this election.

"People in Maharashtra never hold themselves back

when they shower someone with their love. But if that person fails to fulfil promises, the public settles scores when the time comes," Modi said. Pawar, whom he didn't name once, also let down farmers whose grievances he had promised to redress as Union agricultural minister in the erstwhile UPA govt. "

Modi also recalled the period when several sugar mills in Maharashtra and Gujarat were allegedly harassed over income tax. "The 'kaddaavar neta' was then agriculture minister, and I was CM of Gujarat. I wrote to him and also met him with a request to resolve this issue. He did nothing. It was after NDA came to office that we gave Rs 10,000 crore worth of tax relief to these sugar mills."

Am a 'bhakti aatma' for distressed farmers: Pawar's retort to barb

Anurag Bende | TNN

Pune: PM Narendra Modi's "bhakti aatma" barb alluding to Sharad Pawar at successive campaign rallies in Maharashtra led the NCP (SP) chief to declare on Tuesday that he was "indeed a restless soul seeking to alleviate the pain of distressed farmers and citizens struggling to cope with high inflation".

"This aatma will show restlessness 100 times, if necessary, to raise the concerns of common citizens," Pawar said at a rally for NCP (SP) candidate Amol Kolhe in Junnar tehsil of Pune district.

Pawar told a news agency in Pune later that he would ask the PM who he was referring to as a "bhakti aatma" and what the purpose of that remark was.

As Pawar's estranged nephew and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar looked on during a rally in Pune on Monday, Modi referred to a 'bhakti aatma' with unfulfilled dreams triggering political instability and sparing not



Pawar retorted that the PM's jibe sounded strange coming from someone who once said he came to politics 'holding my finger' even his family members.

Pawar retorted that the PM's jibe sounded strange coming from someone who once said he came to politics "holding my finger".

State NCP (SP) president Jayant Patil said at a rally in Baramati that Modi would realise the outcome of mocking "Maharashtra aatma" (soul of Maharashtra) on the day votes are counted.

Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut called the PM an "atrupt aatma (dissatisfied soul) from Gujarat wandering in Maharashtra to destroy the state".

After official Indore candidate's exit, HC junks Cong 'substitute's' plea to contest

Indore: Madhya Pradesh high court dismissed on Tuesday a plea by Congress's Moti Bhanu Patel for his candidature to be accepted as the party nominee for Lok Sabha elections after official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out and joined BJP on Monday.

The district election office had rejected Patel's candidature during scrutiny on April 25. Bam's papers were cleared but he suddenly pulled out on Monday, the last day for withdrawal of nominations. A stunned Congress was left with no candidate in Indore Lok Sabha constituency for the first time ever.

On Tuesday, Patel moved high

court seeking to overturn the rejection of his nomination and to be allotted Congress's "hand" symbol to contest.

Arguing for Patel before Justice Vivek Rusia, counsel Vibhor Khandwal submitted that since Bam withdrew his candidature, Patel's form should be scrutinised and accepted so that he can contest.

The court observed that Patel's nomination was rejected by the returning officer, treating him as a substitute candidate, because the form of the approved candidate was accepted. The petitioner accepted the rejection then and did not raise any objection, Justice Rusia said. **TNN**

I-T sleuths seize ₹50L from Del flyer at Odisha airport

Riyann.Ramanath @timesgroup.com

Bhubaneswar: Income tax officials seized Rs 50 lakh from a Delhi passenger at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence checked the passenger's baggage on a tip-off from airport authorities at Delhi. "One bag was found stashed with cash. Intelligence officials already knew the amount as officials in Delhi had intimated them about it," an airport officer said.

"As per rule, seizure of cash more than Rs 10 lakh is done by income tax officers. If found during departure, destination authorities are intimated about the passenger so that official procedure can start upon his/her arrival," the officer added.

Since the announcement of election dates, this is the fifth incident of cash seizure at BPIA.

A few days back, airport authorities had intercepted a passenger with Rs 75 lakh, which was handed over to income tax officials. "It's not that all incidences of cash seizure are illegal. Cash may be brought for commercial and social purposes. Since this is election season, we are vigilant," the officer said.

Airport authorities said they

₹1 crore seized from Mumbai builder's car

Police confiscated Rs 1.1 crore from developer and investor Vipul Nagda during a nakabandi in Lalbaug on Tuesday. During a routine check, cops, along with Election Commission's flying squad, stopped a car and found the cash packed into 4 jute bags. Nagda claimed the money was related to his business dealings. The builder and his driver were taken to Bhoiwada police station with the seized cash and EC officers notified the income tax department about the seizure, submitting a receipt for it. **TNN**

monitor each chartered flight and the passengers travelling in them. The details will be shared with the chief electoral officer and district election officers. As per EC guidelines, they are keeping vigil on people coming in chartered flights.

"We need to keep a record of size and capacity of each flight, how many days it was stationed at the airport, how frequently it shuttled, and from where it came," said airport director Prasanna Pradhan.

Airport officials said since Dec, more than 50% of non-scheduled flights are for air travel of politicians.

POLL POT

'Hero' title for dons costs SP neta dear

Samaajwadi Party's Lok Sabha candidate from Sambhal, Zia ur Rahman Barq, was booked on Tuesday for presenting gangsters-turned-politicians — Atiq Ahmad, Mukhtar Ansari and Md Shahabuddin — as "heroes" and seeking votes at a poll meeting purportedly in the name of their "sacrifice". SP (Sambhal), Kuldeep Gunawat, said, "Action was taken on a complaint by sector magistrate Harishankar Prasad. A video of the speech was submitted and the investigating officer will carry out a probe for necessary action."

Khurshid kin lands in 'vote jihad' soup

Former Union minister and Congress functionary Salman Khurshid and his niece Maria Alam Khan, a local SP functionary, were booked on Tuesday for allegedly violating model code of conduct. This comes after she urged members of the minority community to "come together for vote jihad". A purported video of the speech was later widely circulated on social media. Khurshid also shared the stage with her at the meeting in support of INDIA bloc candidate from SP, Dr Naval Kishore Shukla.

Punjab ex-ADGP joins Congress

Gurinder Singh Dhillon, a former Punjab Police ADG, joined Congress on Tuesday, six days after resigning from IPS ahead of his retirement due in a few weeks. With Congress having announced candidates for 12 of the state's 13 LS seats, speculation is rife that Dhillon may be fielded from Ferozepur. Dhillon joined Congress in Delhi in the presence of AICC state in-charge Devender Yadav. He expressed admiration for Rahul Gandhi and recalled that he first met Rahul during the Punjab leg of his "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

Final EC figures put Ph-1 turnout at 66.1%, 66.7% voted in Ph-2

EXERCISING FRANCHISE

Overall Voter Turnout (%)			
Phase	Male	Female	Others
Ph-I	66.2	66.1	31.3
Ph-II	67.0	66.4	23.9



Dipak.Dash @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Election 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. This also came on a day opposition parties questioned the delay in making the data public.

In 2019, voter turnout in the first phase was 69.4% and second phase polling was 69.2%.

EC has not yet made the number of votes polled in these two phases public. The first phase of election for 102 seats was held on April 19 and the second phase for 88 seats was held on April 26. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the commission had uploaded phase-wise voter turnout data with exact numbers.

As per EC data, more men voted in both the phases compared to women. In the first phase, 66.2% males cast their votes while 66.1% females exercised their franchise. In the second phase, nearly 67% male voted while 66.4% females cast their votes.

The data showed that Lakshadweep recorded the highest voting percentage (84.2%) in the first phase while Nawada in Bihar saw

the lowest turnout at 43.2%. Among the big states, West Bengal, where three seats went to polls, had the maximum polling of 81.9% followed by Tamil Nadu (81.5%). Bihar, where five seats went to polls, had the lowest 49.3% turnout among 13 states and UTs. Seven seats out of the 102 in the first phase saw over 80% voting and three had less than 50% polling.

In the first phase, 11

OFFICIAL DATA

states and UTs, including West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, J&K, Manipur and Meghalaya, saw more women voting compared to men. In 43 seats out of 102, women voters outnumbered men.

In the second phase, Manipur recorded the maximum 84.8% polling while Uttar Pradesh, where polls were held for eight seats, had the lowest turnout at 55.2%. Nagaon in Assam saw the highest voting at 85% while Mathura in Uttar Pradesh recorded the lowest turnout of 49.4%. In 31 seats, women voters outnumbered males. Interestingly, all five seats in Bihar that went to polls saw more women voting compared to men.

Sidda counters Modi, says people of all religions eligible for quota

Belagavi: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah pushed back on Tuesday against PM Modi's recent pitch that reservation cannot be based on religion, saying eligibility extends to all socially and educationally backward families, regardless of their "Christian, Muslim, Jain or Sikh" faith, reports Ravindra Uppar.

Siddaramaiah's remarks came in response to Modi's claims in Karnataka, where he suggested that Congress intends to divert quotas meant for OBCs, SCs, and STs to Muslims.

Addressing a rally in Gokak, Siddaramaiah highlighted Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution, saying

they do not specify any religion or caste for OBC reservation. He reiterated that the decision to allocate 4% reservation for Muslims in Karnataka was made in 1994 by then CM HD Deve Gowda of JD(S), based on the recommendations of Chinnappa Reddy Commission's report.

The CM accused Modi govt of spreading falsehoods about reservation to sow confusion among voters, asserting that Congress remains committed to social justice. He alleged that Modi's statements stem from frustration over projections indicating "less than 210 seats" for BJP-led NDA alliance in Lok Sabha elections.

Barring Sirsa, Hooda imprint writ large on Cong list

Continued from P1

Barring Sirsa where Kumari Selja is the candidate, all eight Congress tickets in Haryana have the personal stamp of former CM Bhupinder Hooda. His primacy shows that Congress has placed its trust on him to deliver results in the north Indian state where the party drew a blank in 2019 and managed one seat in 2014.

Party insiders said Congress has focused on caste combination — two from Jat community, two SCs, two OBCs, one Brahmin and two Punjabis. Sources said the party feedback is that the mood in the state is against BJP and the dominant Jat community will back Congress, with caste balance helping to consolidate the other communities better.

The list of eight candidates released last week made it clear that the former CM had prevailed. His confidant Jai Prakash was preferred in Hisar over sitting BJP MP Brijendra Singh who recently joined the party, and former MP



INDIA bloc candidate Varsha Gaikwad with former Congress MP Priya Dutt during a rally before she filed her nomination in Mumbai on Tuesday

Shruti Choudhry, daughter of Kiran Choudhry and grand daughter of Bansil Lal, was passed over for senior MLA Rao Dan Singh in Bhiwani. Brijendra's father Birender Singh, who defected to BJP in 2014, returned to Congress and expected his MP son to get the nomination. The nominees for Sonapat, Faridabad, Karnal, Rohtak

are also Hooda's picks.

Gurgaon was held up owing to unrelenting claims from Ajay Yadav, part of the anti-Hood camp in the state.

Kiran, Selja and Randeep Surjewala took out a statewide yatra in Jan, a move widely viewed as the anti-Hooda faction staking its claim in the state affairs.

As Rahul rallies in Bhind, 6-time MLA from seat quits Cong, joins BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: On a day when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was campaigning in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind, six-time MLA Ram Niwas Rawat — an OBC veteran from the same Chambal region — quit the party and joined BJP.

Rawat, 64, legislator from Vijaypur in Gwalior-Chambal region, is the second sitting MLA to quit Congress and join BJP during LS election. On March 29, Amarwara (Chhindwara) MLA Kamlesh Shah switched sides.

Rawat took BJP membership when Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav and state BJP president VD Sharma were at a public meeting in his constituency. He is a former state Congress working president and was a minister in the Digvijaya Singh govt.

Rawat told reporters: "In Congress, what is promised is

never fulfilled. I am joining BJP after being inspired by the policies of PM Narendra Modi."

According to sources, Rawat was earlier scheduled to join BJP at Modi's public meeting in Morena last Thursday. But Rawat held back after a phone call from Rahul and a series of meetings with former CM Digvijaya Singh. It did not last long though.

Rahul was about to leave the state after addressing the Bhind rally on Tuesday afternoon when news broke of Rawat's defection.

Sources in Congress said Rawat was enraged after the party fielded Satyapal Sikarwar as candidate from Morena Lok Sabha seat. In the 2019 Parliamentary elections, Rawat was fielded from Morena against former Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar and lost by over 1.1 lakh votes. He had lost to Tomar in 2009 as well by over 1 lakh votes.

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Nation must unite to foil Cong's dangerous plans: PM to NDA nominees

Continued from P 1

They are bent upon taking away the hard-earned wealth of people and giving it to their vote bank. Congress has made it clear that they will bring in dangerous

ideas like inheritance tax. The nation must unite to stop them, Modi wrote.

In his letter to home minister Amit Shah, Modi praised him as an invaluable party worker and a successful minister at both central and state

level. He highlighted Shah's commitment to India's growth and social service since their association began in the 1980s.

Modi commended Shah's role as BJP president in making it world's largest party and

his contributions as a minister in abrogation of Article 370 and passage of three criminal laws in Parliament.

Modi also wrote to Shivraj Singh Chouhan, praising his work since early days of student politics.

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CSE | IT | ECE | Mech | Aero | Biotech | MBA

| Commerce | Law | Pharmacy | Hotel Management |

Psychology | Forensic Science

Qualification: As Per UGC Norms

Eligible Candidates May Apply Online

<https://forms.gle/SX9rdcJF7TD0qHwX8>

SCIENTISTS • RESEARCH ASSOCIATES • PDF •

FULL TIME SCHOLARS

in the following areas

Biotechnology | Microbiology | Molecular Biology |

Immunology | Drug and Vaccine | Biofloc Technology |

Computational Biology | Oceanography | Remote

Sensing | Marine Technology | Animal Science

Qualification: As Per UGC Norms

Eligible Candidates May Apply Online

<https://forms.gle/dLnvw5PH5h5JksSh8>

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

Qualification: Any Degree with 1 Year Experience

Eligible Candidates May Apply Online

<https://forms.gle/ZrwoFmCRqxC6Yisg8>

Last Date for Submission is 10th May, 2024

hr@sathyabama.ac.in www.sathyabama.ac.in REGISTRAR

UPSC 2024: Candidates channel Bubka's spirit, improve rankings

Ramendra Singh, Isha Jain, Kumar Mukesh, Ishita Jairath, TC Sreemol, Faryal Rumi, Krishna Chaudhary & Tanmay Tyagi | NW

Other men pole-vaulted. Sergey Bubka catapulted, breaking and setting the world record 35 times. This year's UPSC civil services exam results, announced on April 16, saw an array of candidates display a Bubkaesque determination, besting their previous ranks to reach new heights. Like Aditya Srivastava from Lucknow, an IIT Kanpur graduate, ascending from 236th place to the coveted top spot.

Questions arise. Reason to retake one of the country's toughest, most competitive hiring tests? Persistence after clearing the exam once — twice, thrice in some instances? Winning formulas? The answer, some classics still hold up, such as Churchill — "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Atul Tyagi from Gujarat made a Po face, the kung fu panda, when prodded to share his mantra. "There's no 'secret ingredient'," said the graduate in English who vaulted from 291 and 145 in his previous attempts to 62 this year. "There are no shortcuts. Stick to the basics in the prelims. I devised my own answers for the mains. With each attempt, the aspirant gets a better perspective of the pattern of questions," explained Tyagi, aspiring to be an IFS officer.

Across the nation, tales abound of candidates who dissected past performances, rectified errors, and embarked on a journey of self-improvement.

Ayan Jain from Bhopal secured rank 87 last year, earning a spot in IPS. However, driven by his aspiration to join IAS, the IIT-Delhi graduate achieved an impressive rank of 16 in his third attempt this year. Coming from a family with a strong bureaucratic background, including a retired IPS officer father and an IAS officer brother, Ayan attributed his improvement of 71 ranks to a refined approach: "I thoroughly analysed previous years' question papers to ensure that my preparations were on the right track."

PK Sidharth Ramkumar, a native of Ernakulam in Kerala and currently undergoing IPS training in Hyderabad, channelled his inner Bubka after failing in his

JUMP FOR JOY			
236 to 1 Aditya Srivastava, LUCKNOW	189 to 121 to 4 PK Sidharth Ramkumar, ERNAKULAM		
311 to 13 Medha Anand, MEERUT	87 to 16 Ayan Jain, BHOPAL	309 to 19 Shivam Kumar, SAMASTIPUR	131 to 28 Pawan Kumar Goel, DEHRADUN
334 to 36 Ayushi Pradhan, BHUBANESWAR	551 to 42 Sameer Khode, NAGPUR	280 to 46 Bhavesh Khayalia, HISAR	633 to 55 Yogesh Dhillon, PANCHKULA
145 to 62 Atul Tyagi, VADODRA	677 to 130 Prem Kumar, AURANGABAD (BIHAR)	563 to 463 to 147 Ashish Patil, KOLHAPUR	528 to 254 Harsh Choudhary, JAIPUR

THE DREAMCATCHERS

► Meerut's Medha Anand, posted in North Central Railways, never let go of her dream of becoming an IAS officer; her mother kept her motivated

► Dehardun's Pawan Kumar Goel, working as an IRS officer in Maharashtra, didn't let his family know about his exam prep to eschew distractions, raise expectations

► Panchkula's Yogesh Dhillon was ill during the exams. "I secured a good rank this time due to the foundation I built over the years," he said

► Rajasthan's Harsh Choudhary gave rigorous mock tests and rectified

mistakes

► Shivam Kumar from Bihar's Samastipur, an income tax officer in Nagpur, never ditched his IAS dream despite two failures and a rank of 309

► Prem Kumar, an MBBS from Bihar's Aurangabad, invested in achieving his civil services dream after leaving his medical profession behind

► Bhubaneswar's Ayushi Pradhan, an engineering graduate training as Indian Defence Estate Services officer, focused on precision answers. "I do meditation and yoga to avoid distractions"

first attempt in 2019. He progressed steadily from rank 189 in 2021, 121 in 2022, to fourth spot this year. The first two rankings fetched him the IPS cadre, yet he continued to strive for greater heights.

"He participated in numerous online mock interviews,

consulted the NCERT syllabus, and maintained regular communication with past rank achievers and peers. Seeking their guidance, he garnered insights on optimal study material and interview strategies," his brother Adarsh Kumar said.

Eshani Anand, whose father is a Tamil Nadu-cadre IAS officer and mother a doctor at Madras Medical College, was unsatisfied with her 2022 ranking of 291, which secured her an IRS job. A fan of Rubik's cube, philosophy books including the Gita, and badminton, this multi-talented engineer took a leap of faith and improved her rank to 79 this year. "I analysed my mistakes, tried to correct them, did a lot of writing practice, and took more mock tests. I also read magazines and journals for the general studies paper," she explained.

Sameer Khode from Nagpur, a 35-year-old chemical engineer with an MBA from IIM-Lucknow, worked in the corporate world for seven years. But his childhood dream — the bureaucracy — kept pressing him. He cleared the civil services exam with a rank of 551 in 2019. Unsatisfied, he reappeared the next year but failed. Currently an IRTS officer in Raipur, he achieved a rank of 42 this year. "I focused more on incorporating my personal opinions and experiences in the optional subject (political science). I also utilised data sets wherever possible, rather than solely relying on theories," he said.

Ashish Patil, a 26-year-old electronics and telecommunication engineer from Kolhapur, highlighted the effectiveness of adapting study strategies. After ranking 563 in 2021, he identified anthropology, his optional subject, as his weak spot. "I altered my approach and used notes from previous top scorers, available on Telegram." His rank improved to 463 in 2022, earning him a spot in IPS. Still not satisfied, he retook the exam and vaulted to 147 this year. He attributed another factor to his improvement: newfound confidence as an IPS officer.

"Believe in yourself. Excuses don't work," advised Bhavesh Khayalia from Hisar in Haryana, who surged from rank 280 to 46. He was selected for IRS after his first attempt, but this determined son of retired school teachers took the exam again — pivoting his prep to self-study and "not opting for any coaching". "Identify your weaknesses and proceed by overcoming them. You should not fall prey to the academy," he advised.

Inputs from Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Chennai

Vistara official shunted for pilot training lapses

New Delhi: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) removed Capt Vikram Mohan Dayal, vice-president of (pilot) training at Vistara, after lapses were found in "conversion training" of pilots, a senior DGCA official said on Tuesday.

Officials said lapses were noticed in the conversion training of over 10 pilots and after inquiry, the regulator took action against the airline's head of training.

Multiple pilots say Vistara's pilot training leaves a lot to be desired. "It takes an unusually long time for a pilot to be released into service among other issues," they said. TNN

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Over 1k vehicles stranded in HP return to safety

Kullu: Teams of state disaster response force (SDRF) and local police safely guided back to Manali over 1,000 vehicles stranded near north portal of Atal Tunnel after heavy snowfall on Monday.

Tourists remained stranded for more than six hours.

A police officer said that the operation continued till 1am as all vehicles were guided to safety.

Eight tourists, who were stranded at Pangmo village in Spiti, were also rescued by a team of police from Lahaul-Spiti. Tourists hailing from Rajasthan and Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh were taken back to Spiti. TNN

7 years gone, little action on govt's 2017 plan on curbing ads for unhealthy foods

Rema Nagarajan
@timesgroup.com

There has been little or no action on key recommendations in govt's 2017 action plan for prevention and control of common non-communicable diseases which seek strict regulation of advertising, marketing and promotion of unhealthy food to children. Seven years on, there is no regulation on what the plan described as "unchallenged aggressive marketing strategies" of food and beverage companies.

Promotion of unhealthy foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) came into focus recently when Supreme Court talked of expanding a petition on Patanjali's misleading ads to include misleading ads "taking the public for a ride, in particular, adversely affecting health and well being of babies, young children, women... who have been consuming the products on the basis of misrepresentation".

National Multisectoral Action Plan-NMAP (2017-22) drawn up in Oct 2017 included enactment of laws and other regulatory measures, launching of IEC (information, education, communication) campaigns, formulation of appropriate policies, and so on for "reduction of risk factors levels in children, adolescents and adults". Unhealthy diet was one of the key risk factors identified and "change in lifestyle driven by unchallenged aggressive marketing strategies of unhealthy foods and beverages and alcohol industry" was identified as one of the challenges in bringing down NCDs.

The plan identified action points for 39 ministries/departments. Ministries of information and broadcasting (I&B), commerce, consumer affairs and food distribution, law and health were supposed to work together to regulate advertisement of demerit goods (like HFSS food products, alcohol, and tobacco)

through "amendment of advertisement code of Cable Television Networks Rules and norms of journalist conduct; and Trademark Rules".

Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under health ministry was supposed to implement interpretative front of pack labelling and detailed nutrition labelling at the back of the pack.

"On prevention of NCDs, the national plan contains two key policy provisions — front of pack labelling and prohibition of advertisements of HFSS foods. Both require a definition of HFSS foods. India had a pretty good definition of HFSS in the 2018 draft regulation on front of pack labelling, which matches the definition used in Latin American countries and many other regions. But that draft was dropped. The same definition is there in the Sept 2022 draft too. But after putting the draft in the public domain for comments, it seems to have gone into cold storage

as nothing has moved since then," said Dr Arun Gupta, who has filed several complaints regarding misleading ads for HFSS foods.

Other recommendations include regulation to promote reformulation of processed foods to limit the amount of fats, sugar and salt in such products by the food processing ministry and FSSAI, and "guidelines to prohibit sponsorship of sports events/teams/athletes by companies producing products that have negative health externalities" by sports ministry.

"We filed RTIs with several ministries but barring a few, most have not done much about the action plan and some were not even aware of it. In one of its responses, the health ministry claimed that there were regular meetings on the plan but failed to provide any minutes of the meetings," said Dr Nupur Bidla, member of Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest, a national think tank on nutrition.

Put your house in order or face consequences, Delhi HC warns Meta

► Continued from P 1

A Delhi HC bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora warned Meta that it should “put its house in order” or else the court might pass an order castigating it. It also pulled up the tech giant for its insistence that the media house should file a complaint through a proper channel.

The media house also challenged the constitutional validity of Rule 3(1)(c) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Advocate Hrishikesh Barua, representing the media house, highlighted that despite writing to Meta several times and further contacting its grievance redressal officer, the only response he could get was the media house had not “written to the correct channel”.

However, Karia informed the bench that the Instagram page was blocked following three copyright complaints and the email response to the media group was not a decision to reject the complaint, but an automatic reply. During the hearing, the court asked the petitioner’s counsel to register a fresh complaint by filling in the required form that Meta insisted was the proper channel. After a while, Baruah returned to court and said the complaint had been rejected again.

An annoyed bench then told Meta’s counsel, “You may be having billions of users but your house is not in order. He (Baruah) is giving you a grievance complaint number, but you say it is not a complaint. You can’t be stubborn with us and say you are not able to understand what we are saying. We have been more than liberal with you.” HC asked Karia to ensure the complaint of the media house was addressed and listed the matter for further hearing on Wednesday.

Court takes cognisance of chargesheet against NewsClick & its founder

New Delhi: A Delhi court took cognisance on Tuesday of the chargesheet filed against news portal NewsClick and its founder-editor, Prabir Purkayastha, under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Additional sessions judge (ASJ) Hardeep Kaur’s court took cognisance of the chargesheet and listed the matter for arguments on charge and scrutiny of documents on May 31.

Special public prosecutors (SPP) Akhand Pratap Singh and Suraj Rath, appearing for police, submitted that the chargesheet has been filed based on documentary evidence retrieved during investigation, statements given by witnesses, and the statement of Amit Chakravarty (company’s HR head) who turned approver.

SPP Singh also told the court that there are eight protected witnesses in the case and that all rights of the accused will be protected by the court. Purkayastha, who was present in court, responding to this, said, “By the court, yes. By you, no.”

The SPP said the investigation related to others whose names are in the FIR and whose names surfaced later was still on. On April 16, Delhi police’s special cell had submitted in court that it had obtained all requisite sanctions under UAPA Section 45 and CrPC Section 196 for prosecution of the accused in the case.

Police had also told court that it will file three sanction orders soon in the form of a supplementary chargesheet to prosecute Purkayastha. Two of the sanctions are under UAPA and one under CrPC. The chargesheet, of about 9,000 pages, was filed on March 30 before the same court.

Purkayastha was arrested by Delhi Police on Oct 3, 2023, along with HR head Amit Chakravarty, for allegedly receiving illegal funding from China routed through US with the intention of undermining India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The special cell registered an FIR in the case on Aug 17, 2023. TNN

Prisoner killed self, says jailer; murder, allege kin, seek probe

Agra: A 24-year-old prisoner, Sajid, died by suicide inside Etah’s district jail, said jail superintendent Amit Chaudhary on Tuesday, reports Deepak Lavania. Sajid, who belonged to Etah’s Hindu Nagar, was convicted under IPC section 376 (rape) and Pocco Act.

His family crowded the main gate of the jail and demanded a high-level inquiry into the matter. They accused the jail administration of “murder”, claiming that Sajid died at around 7am but they were informed at 10pm.

“Sajid could not have committed suicide on Monday. He was fine when I met him two days ago in prison. This is a case of murder,” alleged Salman, his brother.

The jail superintendent said the matter will be investigated at jail administration level and a letter for a magisterial inquiry had been drafted. “Strict action will be taken, if anyone is found guilty. The body was sent for post-mortem,” Chaudhary added. Zaheer Ahmed, a local politician, met the family and said, “Jail officials say Sajid took his life inside the jail kitchen. A fair probe needs to be conducted to ensure the family gets justice.”

Only 50% of women biz leaders enjoy pay parity, says study

25% Of Them Think They Are Paid Less Than Male Peers

Manash.Gohain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Highlighting a persisting issue that only 50% of women leaders enjoy pay parity with their male counterparts, the latest AIMA-KPMG Women Leadership Report stated that more than a quarter of women leaders believe they are paid less than their male peers, while approximately 15% perceive bias in their pay.

The report evaluates the representation of women in leadership roles across various industries in India and offers insights into corporate strategies aimed at promoting women leaders.

Nikhil Sawhney, president, AIMA, said the findings will “provide a roadmap for fostering a more inclusive environment where women can thrive and contribute their leadership abilities to the betterment of Indian businesses and society”.

KPMG India CEO Yezdi Nagporewalla emphasised the importance of tailored leadership development programmes, mentorship and sponsorship relationships, networking platforms, and a culture of continuous learning in empowering women leaders to achieve their full potential.

Key findings of the report are — 56% of surveyed organisations have a mere 10%-30% representation of women in leadership roles; 9% have



no women in leadership roles; in 23%, women hold 30%-50% of leadership positions; and 77% of organisations observe that less than 30% of women hired at entry-level positions attain leadership roles within the organisation.

The report also identifies barriers hindering women’s advancement to leadership roles, with family and care-giving responsibilities cited as the “primary obstacle”, followed by bias and stereotyping, and a lack of networking and mentorship opportunities.

While 63% of respondents expressed satisfaction with their organisation’s interventions for women’s representation in leadership roles, 58% felt that leadership development programmes fail to address challenges faced by women.

The report offers several recommendations to enhance women’s participation in leadership roles in Indian organisations, including conducting regular reviews and audits of leadership evaluation mechanism.

D-20

**ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE**

**No. 2436/PSC dt. 30.04.2024
(1R-02-2023-24, DR-V)**

2nd Corrigendum to advertisement No. 27 of 2023-24 for recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor (Stage-I) (College Branch) of Govt. Degree Colleges under Department of Higher Education.

It is for information of all concerned that, due to technical issues, the Commission has been pleased to extend the last date for submission of online application forms till **15.05.2024** to facilitate the candidates to apply smoothly.

All other terms and conditions of the Advt. No. 27 of 2023-24 remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Secretary
OIPR-12002/11/0018/24-25

**NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS
IN MEDICAL SCIENCES**
(Autonomous body of the Mo. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
**NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi – 110029**

NBEMS DIPLOMA FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – June 2024

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS Diploma Final Theory Examinations on **14, 15 and 16 June 2024**.

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

Important Dates

Online Submission of the Application Form (Theory & Practical)	30 th April 2024 (3 PM Onwards) to 20 th May 2024 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Theory Examination	14 th , 15 th and 16 th June 2024
Last Date for submission of “Only Practical Examination” applications	31 st July 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
● Helpline Portal on applicant login page
● Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

ARMY LAW COLLEGE, PUNE

On Old Pune-Mumbai National Highway (NH-4), Saibaba Sewadham, Kanhe, Pune - 412 106
Ph. No: 02114-297338, 9168513509 Website: www.alcpune.com
An Institution of Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)
Affiliated to SPPU and Approved by BCI & Government of Maharashtra (Permanently Non-Aided College)

WALK IN INTERVIEW

1. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for below mentioned Full Time Faculty posts purely on ad hoc basis for the Academic Year 2024-25 who can appear for Walk in Interview (Local Selection Committee Interview):-

S. No	Post	Preferred Specialization	No of Vacancies	Qualification
(a)	Assistant Professor (Law)	Criminal Laws, Banking & Insurance Law, IPR, Constitution Law, International Laws, Family Laws, Taxation Laws, Investment & Securities Law, Labour & Industrial Law, Competition Law, CPC, CrPC, Evidence, Bankruptcy & Insolvency Law and Company Law.	03 Posts (Open to all)	LLM, NET or SET or PhD
(b)	Assistant Professor (Management)	Managerial Accounting, Principles of Management, OB, MIS, Case Studies in Business Environment, BRM & Basics of HRM and Finance	01 Post (Open to all)	MBA or MMS, NET or SET or PhD

2. Eligibility requirements prescribed by UGC, SPPU and BCI shall apply. Candidates shall send applications along with Biodata and scanned copies of documents related to qualification/work experience by email at armylawcollegepune@gmail.com by **30 May 2024**.

3. Service conditions and pay shall be as per the UGC & AWES norms. Candidate should carry all relevant original documents with 2 passport size photos on the date of interview. Date of interview will be communicated to eligible candidates separately.

4. No TA/DA is admissible for attending the interview.

(Mr. Ganeshappa Deshmane)
Principal-in-Charge

ARMY LAW COLLEGE, PUNE

On Old Pune-Mumbai National Highway (NH-4), Saibaba Sewadham, Kanhe, Pune - 412 106
Ph. No: 02114-297338, 9168513509 Website: www.alcpune.com An Institution of Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)
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WALK IN INTERVIEW

1. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for below mentioned Full Time posts purely on ad hoc basis for the Academic Year 2024-25 who can appear for Walk in Interview (Local Selection Committee Interview):-

S. No	Post	Preferred Specialization	No of Vacancies	Qualification
(a)	Placement Officer	MBA/LLB with excellent communication skills preferably experienced as Placement Officer in Professional Colleges/Institutes. Veteran Army Officer below 45 years age and service/experience of 05 years will be preferred.	01 Post (Open to all)	MBA or any PG Degree
(b)	College Director Physical Education & Sports	Preference will be given to Ex-serviceman Sportsman ex Army School of Physical Training (AIPPT) awarded medal at National & above level.	01 Post (Open to all)	MP Ed, NET or SET or PhD OR An Asian Game or Commonwealth Games medal winner who has a degree at least at Post Graduation level.

2. Eligibility requirements prescribed by UGC, SPPU and BCI shall apply. Candidates shall send applications along with Biodata and scanned copies of documents related to qualification/work experience by email at armylawcollegepune@gmail.com by **30 May 2024**.

3. Service conditions and pay shall be as per the UGC & AWES norms. Candidate should carry all relevant original documents with 2 passport size photos on the date of interview. Date of interview will be communicated to eligible candidates separately.

4. No TA/DA is admissible for attending the interview.

(Mr. Ganeshappa Deshmane)
Principal-in-Charge

6 of wedding party die as truck hits SUV in Bihar: Six of a wedding party, including three teenagers, died while three others were injured when a stone chip-laden truck crashed into their SUV near Aamapur village in Bihar’s Bhagalpur district on Monday, reports **Faryal Rumi**.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Civil Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	83245023A	Endoscopic Spline System as per pdf attached	1	27.05.2024

NOTE-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No.: 83245023A/Med/Part-II Date: 30.04.2024 1291/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location :- 30-ELECT-17-T-2024-25-E3

Electrical work in connection with provision of power supply, Improvement in General Lighting with other associated works at C&W NDLS, HNZM & SS8 depot.

Approx cost of the works :- Rs. 181.80 lacs

Address of the office :- Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security :- Rs. 2,40,900.00

Date & time of submission of tender :- 27.05.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender :- 27.05.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board :- www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

1299/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location:- 30-ELECT-15-T-2024-25-E3

Electrical work in connection with i) Development of Goods Shed at PTNR station in the section of SSEW/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI. ii) Development of Goods Shed at DKZ in the section of SSEW/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI.

Approx cost of the works in :- Rs. 187.03 lacs

Address of the office :- Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security:- Rs. 243500.00

Date & time of submission of tender :- 24.05.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender :- 24.05.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board :- www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

1285/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAVY CHILDREN SCHOOL
CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI - 21
(CBSE Affiliation No. 2730025)

Applications are invited for filling up following posts on contractual basis :-

TGT (Hindi)	PRT	School Counsellor
TGT (Sanskrit)	KG Teacher	School Nurse
TGT (Maths)	Special Educator	Office Assistant
TGT (SST)	Lab Assistant (Secondary)	

Consolidated Monthly Pay.
TGT - Rs 50,000/-; Lab Assistant - Rs 35,000/-
PRT / KG Teacher / School Counsellor / Spl Educator / School Nurse / Office Assistant - Rs 40,000/-

For further details and format of application please visit the school website <https://ncsdelhi.nesnavy.in>

Last date of submission of applications – 24 May 24

INDO-SWISS TRAINING CENTRE
CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research,
Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Sector 30-C, Chandigarh-160 030

ADMISSION NOTICE (Session: 2024-25)

Online applications are invited for the following AICTE approved Diploma Courses:
1) 3-Year Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Tool & Die); 2) 3-Year Diploma in Electronics Engineering; 3) 4-Year Advanced Diploma in Die & Mould Making; 4) 4-Year Advanced Diploma in Mechatronics & Industrial Automation, being conducted by Indo-Swiss Training Centre (ISTC) at CSIR- CSIO, Chandigarh.

The Entrance test for admission to these courses will be held at Chandigarh on 07th July, 2024.

The detailed information is given in the “Information Brochure-2024” available on the websites www.istc.ac.in and www.csio.res.in w.e.f. 01-05-2024.

The last date for applying is 03.06.2024. For further information, please contact:
Phones: 0172-2672263 / 2672484/ 2672485 / 2672424 / 2657264
Email: principalistc@csio.res.in

Note: Keep visiting url: <https://career.csio.res.in/istc2024> for regular updates.

CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH
Deemed to be University (Under District Category)
SECTOR-26, CHANDIGARH-160 019
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advertisement No. NITRR/Academic Cell/2024/237

ADMISSION NOTICE

M.E. PROGRAMMES (Modular Mode) for the Academic Year 2024-25

Applications are invited from full time: i) sponsored Teachers/ Technical Staff of Technical Institutions/ Official of State DTEs/BTEs, ii) Professionals from Industry/Other Organizations, iii) Engineering Graduates for the following programmes:
Master of Engineering (M.E.) Programmes in Modular Mode:

- Civil Engineering (Construction Technology and Management)
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Electrical Engineering (Instrumentation & Control)
- Electronics and Communication Engineering (VLSI Design)
- Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing Technology)

All the above programmes are approved by AICTE, New Delhi

Prospectus/Brochure-2024 containing details about Eligibility, Programme Structure, Reservation Policy, Application Format etc. can be downloaded from institute website: www.nittrr.ac.in.

Last Date of Receipt of Applications by post/courier/hand is 25th May, 2024 by 5.00 PM

DIRECTOR

पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लि 0
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)

ई-निविदा संशोधन सूचना चतुर्थ

मुख्य अभियन्ता परी 05/2023-24/मु0अभि0 पिटकुल, हल्द्वानी द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा संख्या 05/2023-24/मु0अभि0 (परी0 एवं परि0)/पिटकुल/हल्द्वानी में निम्नान्त संशोधन किया जाता है :

ई-निविदा संख्या – 05/2023-24/मु0अभि0 (परी0 एवं परि0)/पिटकुल/हल्द्वानी: कार्य का नाम : 220/33 कवी0 सबस्टेशन जाफरपुर, 220/132/33 कवी0 सबस्टेशन, कगलगांगाल और 132/33 कवी0 माजपुर में सबस्टेशन ऑटोमेशन सिस्टम (एसएसएस) की आपूर्ति निर्माण, परीक्षण और कमीशनिंग का कार्य।

- ई-निविदा संख्या 05/2023-24/मु0अभि0 (परी0 एवं परि0)/पिटकुल/हल्द्वानी को ई-निविदा वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त/जमा करने की अवधि दिनांक 21.05.2024 समय 17:00 बजे तक एवं खुलने की तिथि को 25.05.2024 समय 15:00 बजे तक विस्तारित किया जाता है।

ई-निविदा एवं पंजीकृत डाक को माध्यम से जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 24.05.2024 समय 17:00 बजे तक है। निविदा प्राप्त/खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश होने की दशा में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त/खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण www.uktenders.gov.in एवं www.ptcul.org से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

ई-निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित अन्य सभी नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

Letter No.: 327/CE(T&C)/PTCUL/HL

Date: 30.04.2024

मुख्य अभियन्ता
“राष्ट्र हित में किजली बचावे” परी0 एवं परि0, पिटकुल, हल्द्वानी

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued under Section 99(1) of Cantonments Act, 2006 read with Section 98 of the Act bid for the information of payers of House Tax, Conservancy tax, Water Tax & other charges and General Public of Delhi Cantonment with regard to making payment of House Tax, Conservancy Tax, Water Tax & other charges due for the period from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025 along with arrears to the Board. The said Tax bills have already been generated at Delhi Cantonment Board website <https://echhawani.gov.in/citizen> and any non-receipt of a House Tax, Conservancy Tax, Water Tax & other charges bill by a person shall not be a cause for non-payment of the tax as notified under Section 99(1) of Cantonments Act, 2006.

The Tax for the Financial year 2024-25 with difference amount of House Tax of two years i.e. 2022-23 & 2023-24 for enhancement of Triennial Assessment 2022-25 & arrears for which Public Notice under Section 99(1) of the Cantonments Act, 2006 is published shall be paid as per dates indicated in the tax bills already raised/ generated at Delhi Cantonment Board website <https://echhawani.gov.in/citizen>

The Delhi Cantonment Board has facilitated for online payment of House Tax, Conservancy Tax, Water Tax & Other Charges through its official website <https://echhawani.gov.in/citizen> and set up help desk counters at Delhi Cantonment Board office, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt-110010.

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007

Post-Doctoral Fellowships

The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR) at Pune, India, invites applications for Post-Doctoral Fellowships. More details can be found at <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/opportunities/post-doctoral-fellowships>. The last date for receiving applications is May 31, 2024.

SBI
Marketing & Communication Department, 9th Floor,
State Bank Bhavan, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai - 400021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

GeMID: GeM/2024/B/4882515 Dated: 23.04.2024

Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Hiring of Creative Agency. For details, please visit “Procurement News” at <https://www.bank.sbi.org> or <https://www.sbi.co.in> and apply on GeM portal at <https://gem.gov.in> (GeMID: 4882515) along with Corrigendum.

Last date and time for submission of bids: 14.05.2024 up to 14:00 hrs.

Bid Opening Date: 14.05.2024 at 14:30 hrs.

Place: Mumbai Deputy General Manager
Date: 01.05.2024 Marketing and communication

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

Advtno. 347/Projects/DABS/Phase-III/Delhi/2024 Date: 24.04.2024

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates are invited to attend the Walk-in-Interview for various Project Posts on temporary basis for the Pan India Study entitled “Diet and Biomarkers Survey in India (DABS-I)” funded by ICMR at this Institute. The interviews will be held on 7th, 8th & 9th May, 2024 at ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi.

For more details like Name of the Post, Age, Essential Qualifications, Number of vacancies, Emoluments etc., visit our website : nin.res.in/employment.html Sd/-
Sr. Administrative Officer for Director

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014 (India)
Phones: (0522) 2668004-008,700,800,900, Fax: (0522) 2668017, 2668129

Corrigendum

In reference to the advertisement no. I-33/ER/ACAD/2023-24, faculty positions for the departments of Nephrology (Transplant Immuno Genetics), Molecular Medicine & Biotechnology and Neurology (Neuro-Chemistry) it is notified that for the post of Assistant Professor in the above mentioned positions, three year of post Ph.D. experience is essential in respective field.

Advtno. I/02/ER/ACAD/2024-25 Director

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1. Name of Work	Provision of Anti-Crash Barrier on ROB in Railway portion in the section of SSEW/MUT & SSEW/MOZ under ADEN-MUT under SR. DEN-II
2. Approx. Cost of work	As per NIT on IREPS
3. Earnest Money to be Deposited	As per NIT on IREPS
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	24.05.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-07-24-25-W-I
Dated: 30.04.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1293/24

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Kajal D/o Dipankar, R/o H.No. A-52, Gali No. 02, Jagdamba Colony, Joharipur, Delhi. Age : 19 years, Height : 4'6", Complexion-Fair, Built-Thin, Face-Round, Wearing-Pink colour T-Shirt and Blue colour Jeans & Chappal in her feet has been missing from her house since 29.03.2024 at 05.00 AM. In this regard a case vide DD No. 64A dated 29.03.2024 has been registered at P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi.**

Kajal

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. : 011-22932231, 8750870728, 9205832616
DP/5146/NE/2024

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that this person namely **Pappu Khan S/o Kale Khan R/o P-5, Pillanji Village, Sarojini Nagar, Delhi Age : 60 years, Height : 5'10", Face: Round, Complexion : Wheatish, Build: Normal, wearing grey colour pant, white colour liner shirt, gamcha around neck and slipper in feet, has been missing since 14.04.2024 from his house. In this regard DD No. 32-A Dated 18.04.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi.**

PAPPU KHAN

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi
Website: [cic@cbi.nic.in](http://cic.cbi.nic.in) Tel. No. : 011-26882346, 24671281
Fax: 24368639, 7065036230
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 DP/5085/SW/24

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Radha, D/o: Ram Bahadur, R/o: H.No. B2, Street No. 3, Bhagya Vihar, Mubarakpur Dabad, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 26.04.2024 at 09:00 am from her house from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 243/2024 dated 29.04.2024 has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: Age: 7 years, Sex: Female, Height: 3'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Light colour Top, light blue colour jeans and slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.**

Radha

Website: <http://cic.cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph.: 8750870728
DP/5151/RD/2024



BEYONCE & DAUGHTER BLUE IVY TEAM UP FOR CELLULOID, JOIN CAST OF 'LION KING' PREQUEL 'MUFASA', A LIVE-ACTION FILM

DESPAIR IS A NARCOTIC.
IT LULLS THE MIND
INTO INDIFFERENCE
— CHARLIE CHAPLIN



ANNE HATHAWAY REVEALS SHE'S NOW 5 YEARS SOBER, ACTRESS DECIDED TO GIVE UP DRINKING AFTER A BAD HANGOVER IN 2018

Anti-war protest escalates in Columbia, building occupied

Univ Says Protesters Face Expulsion; Pupils Take Over Portland Univ's Library

New York: Dozens of protesters took over a building at Columbia University in New York early Tuesday, barricading entrances and unfurling a Palestinian flag from a window in the latest escalation of demonstrations against the Israel-Hamas war on college campuses across the US. The school promised they would face expulsion.

The occupation at Columbia — where protesters shrugged off an ultimatum to abandon a tent encampment Monday or be suspended — unfolded as other universities stepped up efforts to clear out encampments. Police swept through some campuses, spurring confrontations with protesters and plenty of arrests. In rarer instances, university officials and protest leaders have struck agreements to restrict the disruption to campus life.



TRIBUTE TO 6-YR-OLD SLAIN GIRL: Protesters on Columbia's campus locked arms in front of Hamilton Hall Tuesday and carried outdoor furniture and metal barricades to the building. The banner that students unfurled at the building read 'Hind's Hall, a tribute to Hind Rajab, a 6-year-old Palestinian girl who was killed in Israel-Hamas war in Gaza'

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Not first takeover for Hamilton Hall

Hamilton Hall has been occupied several times by student activists over the past half-century. Some of the notable moments of student protest at the building. **1968** | Hundreds of students held a demonstration to protest the Vietnam War as well as plans to build a gymnasium in nearby Harlem that activists claimed would effectively be segregated. **1972** | Students also locked themselves in Hamilton Hall during more anti-war protests. **1985** | About 150 students blockaded the building for nearly three weeks, demanding that Columbia end indirect investments in South Africa because of the nation's racist apartheid policy. **1992** | Students occupied it in protest of Columbia's plans to turn the Audubon Theater and Ballroom, where Malcolm X had been assassinated in 1965, into a biomedical research complex. Blockade lasted less than a day. **NYT**

authorities cleared a protesters' encampment after students heeded final warnings. Demonstrators said they were moving their gathering to a sidewalk area. The encampment was set up Sunday, six days after police arrested 44 students. Dozens of people were arrested Monday during protests at universities in Texas, Utah, Virginia and New Jersey. At the University of Texas, 79 involved in the Monday protest were jailed. In a rare case, Northwestern University reached a deal with student protesters on its campus near Chicago. It allows peaceful protests through the end of spring classes in exchange for some concessions. **AP**

Judge fines Trump for contempt of court, threatens jail

The judge overseeing Donald Trump's criminal hush money trial fined the former US prez \$9,000 for contempt of court on Tuesday and said he would consider jailing him if he continued to violate a gag order.

In a written order, Justice Juan Merchan said the fine may not be enough to serve as a deterrent for the wealthy businessman-turned-politician and lamented he did not have the authority to impose a higher penalty. "Defendant is hereby warned that the court will not tolerate willful violations of its lawful orders and that if necessary and appropriate under the circumstances, it will impose an incarceration punishment," Merchan wrote. Merchan had imposed the gag order to prevent Trump from criticizing witnesses and others involved in the case.

The judge fined Trump \$1,000 for each of nine online statements that he said violated his order not to criticize witnesses or other participants in the trial. Prosecutors had flagged 10 posts as possible violations. The posts, made between April 10 and April 17, included an article calling his former lawyer Michael Cohen a "serial liar". Cohen is expected to be a key witness in the trial. Another post quoted a Fox News pundit who claimed "undercover liberal activists" were trying to sneak into the jury.

Merchan rejected Trump's argument that he could not be held liable for "reposts" of material he did not write himself. Merchan will consider whether to impose further penalties for other statements at a hearing Thursday. The judge also ordered Trump to remove the statements from his Truth Social account and his campaign website by 2.15pm EDT.

Trump has argued that the gag order violates his free speech rights, and his lawyer Todd Blanche told Merchan last week that the statements at issue were responses to political attacks. Merchan noted that Blanche was unable to provide any evidence that the expected witnesses had attacked Trump before he insulted them.

The \$9,000 fine, due by Friday, is a relatively small penalty for Trump, who has already posted \$266.6 million in bonds as he appeals civil judgments in two other cases. Imprisonment, however, would be an unprecedented twist in the first criminal trial of a former US prez. It is unclear whether Trump would be sent to New York City's jail on Rikers Island, or whether security concerns would require more lenient treatment, such as home confinement in his Trump Tower.

Judge's order came as the trial resumed with testimony from banker Garry Farro who said Cohen used a shell company to wire \$130,000 to porn star Stormy Daniels' lawyer in exchange for her silence about a sexual encounter she said she had with Trump in 2006. **REUTERS**

Canada to limit int'l students' working hours to 24hrs/week

Lubna Kably@timesgroup.com

Canada's immigration minister Marc Miller has announced that the temporary policy, which allowed international students to work off-campus for more than 20 hours per week while classes were in session, will end on April 30. Starting today, foreign students will need to abide by the limit until a new policy takes effect in Sept.

"This fall, we intend to change the number of hours students may work off campus, per week, to 24 hours," the Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) stated in its release. The limit of 24 hours per week is higher than the pre-pandemic limit of 20 hours, but much lower than the anticipated limit of 30 hours per week.

A significant number of international students in Canada hail from India. It was the top-source country in 2022, providing 2.2 lakh new students in that year. However, recent strained diplomatic relations between the two countries and high costs of living have resulted in a dip. Between July-Oct 2023, only 87,000 study permit applications from India were processed, as compared to 1.46 lakh during the same period in 2022. The annual data for 2023 is not yet released.



The limit of 24 hours per week is higher than the pre-pandemic limit of 20 hours, but much lower than the anticipated limit of 30 hrs/week is not yet released.

The temporary policy, allowing certain international students to pursue a full-time (40 hour per week) off-campus employment instead of the 20-hour-per-week limit, was introduced in Nov 2022 to deal with labour shortage, propelled by the pandemic and also to enable students to meet the rising costs of living. This policy was to be in place up to Dec 31, 2023, but was extended to April 2024.

Last Dec, IRCC had declared that the waiver on the 20-hour per week limit will be extended to April 30. However, in the same breath, it had added, "We continue to examine options for this policy in the future, such as expanding off-campus work hours for international students to 30 hours per week while class is in session."

After the new policy announcement, Mateusz Salmassi,

director of advocacy, Canadian Alliance of Student Association, said: "On average, over 200,000 international students will lose at least \$5,000 from their pocket annually. The reality is that most students — domestic and international — need to work during their studies to support themselves. Taking away international students' ability to choose their number of hours limits their options when it comes to addressing their struggles related to Canada's high cost of living."

Explaining the mathematics of the 24-hours-per-week limit, Miller said, "Three hour shifts of eight hours each per week is reasonable." He stressed that Canada needs to align with the best practices in other countries, else it would only attract those "who intend to work and not study". The IRCC illustrates that Australia recently changed its policy to allow a student to work 48 hours every 2 weeks. In the US, students must meet additional criteria before being permitted to work off campus. However, it should be noted that these restrictions on limited work hours apply only while classes are in session. The IRCC adds, "As we head into the summer session, students who have a scheduled academic break can continue working unlimited hours."

Canada curtails its startup visa scheme, less than 1000 will be able to apply in '24

Lubna Kably@timesgroup.com

In July last year, Canada sought to make its startup visa programme more attractive, but a late-night announcement on Monday has put an end to the dreams of aspiring immigrant entrepreneurs. Several of them who had got initial funding or got support from business incubators may find themselves at a loose end.

From April 30, Canada has capped the number of permanent residence applications that will be accepted under the scheme, limiting them to those associated with no more than 10 startups per designated organisation. The Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada said it is to reduce backlog and improve processing times of the applications filed. Put simply, currently there are about 82 such designated organisations comprising venture capital funds (VCFs), angel investors and business incubators. Thus, it means that not over 820 applications will be accepted (assuming that the number 82 remains constant).

In addition, the announcement also stated that priority processing will be available for entrepreneurs whose start-up is supported by Canadian capital or by a business incubator that is a member of Canada's Tech Network. The startup visa programme offers a clear path to permanent residence and does not require the entrepreneur-applicants to invest any of their funds or have a minimum net worth. But they need to show adequate funds to support themselves and their family on arrival in Canada. Also, support from one or more of the designated partners, viz. venture capital funds, angel investor groups (who need to invest at least C\$200,00 and C\$75,000 respectively) or acceptance into a programme by a business incubator is a must. "Targets under this programme were set at 5,000 for current year," Josh Schachnow, an immigration lawyer, said. "(But) with less than 100 designated entities, it means less than 1,000 applications for the year."

IMF approves last tranche of \$3bn loan to Pak

Islamabad: Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed optimism Tuesday regarding release of IMF's final \$1.1 billion tranche of a \$3 billion bailout to the country, saying it would bolster economic stability, reports **Omer Farooq Khan**. Pakistan is now eyeing a new, longer and larger economic bailout package, but economists cautioned against the country's continued reliance on overseas financial assistance, warning of potential dire consequences.

IMF approved the immediate release of the tranche following a key meeting of the global lender's executive board in Washington late on Monday. All board members favoured releasing the funds, except India, which abstained. Pakistan has been reeling from a severe economic crisis for over two years. Last year, IMF had approved a 9-month standby arrangement with Pakistan "to support its economic stabilisation programme". The IMF bailout proved important to save the country from default, the state broadcaster quoted PM as saying.

Monty Panesar to contest UK general election against PIO MP

Naomi Canton

London: Former England international cricketer Monty Panesar has announced he is standing for left-wing firebrand George Galloway's Workers Party of Britain in the UK general election, hoping to oust veteran Labour MP British-Indian Virendra Sharma who has held the Ealing Southall seat since 2007.

Galloway, who is popular among Muslims for his pro-Palestine and anti-Israel stance, unveiled 500 candidates — including former Tory, Lib Dems and Labour councillors and a former Tory member of European parliament — outside the UK parliament on Tuesday.

Panesar (42), a Sikh born in Luton to parents who emigrated from India, was the headline inclusion. He said: "I am here to represent the working-class people of this country. When I played cricket for England, I got so much support from the public, and now it is my time to give back and make sure the gap between rich and poor gets closer."

A left-arm spinner, Panesar made his Test cricket debut in 2006 against India in Nagpur when Sachin Tendulkar was his first wicket. He played 50 Tests for England between 2006 and 2013. He was the first Sikh to play for a nation other than India in Test cricket.

Boy, 14, killed & 4 injured in London sword attack

London: A man wielding a sword attacked members of the public and police officers in a northeast London suburb Tuesday, killing a 14-year-old boy and injuring four other people, British authorities said.

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, police said. The violence wasn't being treated as terror-related or a "targeted attack."



A footage from a doorbell camera captures the police taser the sword-wielding man in Hainault

Police said that the 14-year-old died at a hospital from his injuries. Two police officers were hospitalised for stab wounds. Two other people were also injured.

The Metropolitan Police said they were called early Tuesday to reports of a vehicle being driven into a house in a residential street and people being stabbed. Witness videos broadcast on British media showed a man in a yellow hoodie holding a long sword or knife walking near houses in the area. One video showed police officers yelling "Drop the sword!" and "Lock your doors!" as they chased the suspect, who was seen climbing over fences and into people's gardens. **AP**

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Report: US drug regulator to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug

Washington: The US drug enforcement administration will move to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, AP has learned, a historic shift to generations of American drug policy that could have wide ripple-effects across the country. The DEA's proposal, which still must be reviewed by the White House office of management and budget, would recognise the medical uses of cannabis and acknowledge it has less potential for abuse than some of the nation's most dangerous drugs. However, it would not legalise marijuana outright for recreational use.

The agency's move, confirmed to the AP on Tuesday by five people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity, clears the last significant regulatory hurdle before the agency's biggest policy change in over 50 years can take effect.

Once OMB signs off, the DEA will take public comment on the plan to move marijuana from its current classification as a Schedule I drug, alongside

heroin and LSD. It moves pot to Schedule III, alongside ketamine and some anabolic steroids, following a recommendation from the federal health and human services department. After the public comment period the agency would publish the final rule.

It comes after Prez Biden called for a review of federal marijuana law in Oct 2022, and has moved to pardon thousands of Americans convicted federally of simple possession of the drug. He has also called on governors and local leaders to take similar steps to erase marijuana convictions. "Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It's time that we right these wrongs," Biden said in Dec. The election year announcement could help Biden, a Democrat, boost flagging support, particularly among younger voters.

Schedule III drugs are still controlled substances and subject to rules and regulations, and people who traffic in them without permission could still face federal criminal prosecution. Some critics argue the DEA shouldn't change course on marijuana, saying rescheduling isn't necessary and could lead to harmful side effects. **AP**

and in a wider area than six months ago, the head of the Finnish Pilots' Association's safety and security committee said. "It has begun to come to the north side of the Gulf of Finland as well. And the same has happened in Sweden, where it has reached the Swedish airspace," said Lauri Soini, himself a Finnish pilot.

The EU Aviation Safety Agency's is not monitoring interferences in real time but open-source information showed high interference in the area on the day the two planes were diverted, a spokesperson said.

Rerouting to alternate airports with better landing aids is however not seen as a safety issue but rather an operational one, the spokesperson said in a written comment.

Tsahkna said Estonia would address the issue with other NATO and EU countries and that he had discussed it with his Latvian, Lithuanian, Finnish and Swedish counterparts.

Germany this month said Russia was very likely behind a series of disturbances affecting navigation in the Baltic region. The German defence ministry pointed to Kaliningrad as their source, though it declined to give any details. **REUTERS**

AROUND THE WORLD



WHEN WAILING IS WINNING: Tokyo hosts a baby-crying sumo contest, where two wrestlers hold a baby each and a referee makes faces to make them cry. The loudest baby is declared the winner

98-year-old Ukraine woman walks 10km under shelling to escape Russians



A 98-year-old Ukrainian woman said she walked 10 km under shelling, supporting herself with sticks and sleeping on the ground, leaving Ochetyrne in Donetsk, now occupied by Russia, and trying to reach areas controlled by Kyiv. In a video posted by Ukraine's police on Monday, the woman, Lidia Stepanivna, said she had walked without food or water, and fell several times but her "character" kept her going. "I survived that war (WWII), and I am surviving this war," she said in the video, which shows her sitting on a bed in a shelter, dressed in an oversized coat

and a scarf tied on her head, a wooden stick still in her hand. She had been walking alone for several hours when two Ukrainian soldiers stopped their car and one asked: "Grandma, where are you going?" "I said, 'I'm going as far as I can go, and then I'll fall into the grass and spend the night there,'" she said. The troops then called the police, who took her to a shelter in Pokrovsk town.

Sunak has had 'no impact' on Adidas Samba sales: CEO Adidas has seen "no impact" on sales after UK PM Rishi Sunak was pictured wearing Sambas, one of the brand's top-selling styles, CEO Bjorn Gulden said Tuesday. After Sunak sported the shoes in a clip posted on Instagram earlier this month some Brits felt he had dealt a blow to the Samba's street cred. In a subsequent interview, Sunak jokingly apologised to "the Samba community" but added he had been wearing them for many years. "Anybody in the world can wear our product," Gulden said

TECH I'D LIKE TO SEE

AR/VR AND AI FOR REMOTE HEALTHCARE

The healthcare IT industry is advancing research in automation and NLP. RPA, which will be used for maturing inventory management, will make it easier to manage healthcare revenue cycle systems for healthcare providers. NLP, which will further integrate itself with other technologies like IoT, will be able to perform things like sentiment analysis and have more accurate conversations with patients. Big data is only getting bigger, and this will enable hyperpersonalisation of treatment plans. The expansion of

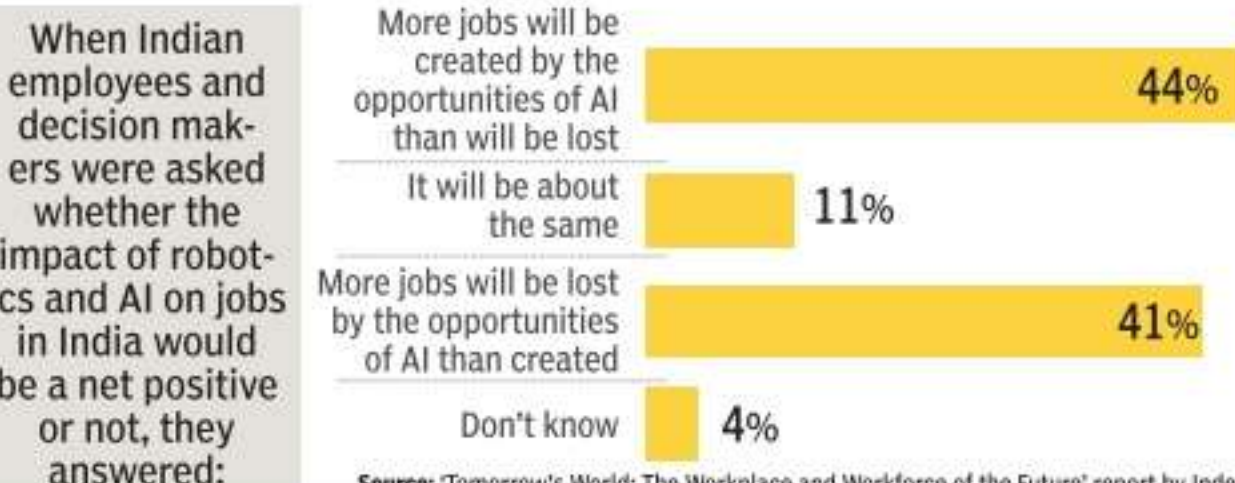


Rajusiva Arunachalam | VP, TECHNOLOGY, OMEGA HEALTHCARE

the wearables industry will also create a continuum of personal health data, which can also be analysed on a population level to identify predisposing factors for diseases. We are seeing strides in remote healthcare, and I would like to see further innovation in this space. Technologies like AR/VR can provide immersive and informative remote consultations, and further innovation in AI and predictive analytics can enable real-time assessment and early detection of warning signs, enabling physicians to better prioritise cases.

Workers in India are positive about AI

India leads the way in fostering optimism towards technology and AI, with 75% of respondents expressing confidence in the transformative potential of tech advancements, according to a survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of global hiring platform Indeed.



Almost Artificial

Sunil Agarwal & Ian Baker



How Cognizant is helping the Aston Martin F1 team

Tech's being used in everything from improving aerodynamics to fan engagement

Sujit John & Shilpa Phadnis | TNN

Gaurav Chand, chief marketing officer at Cognizant, says he once asked Fernando Alonso how he would rate the importance of the driver, engine, and aerodynamics of the car in a Formula One race. The Spanish racer, who now competes for Aston Martin Aramco, put the driver at 10%, engine at 30%, and aerodynamics at 60%.

Aerodynamics refers to the force that pushes the car down and provides more grip on the track. This allows the car to go faster through corners and accelerate on the straights. F1 teams are forever trying to improve the aerodynamics. Gaurav says when they design the car for the following season, they start with CAD/CAM designs that are then converted into prototypes. And then a prototype is put into a wind tunnel (a large tube that simulates moving air) to look at the aerodynamics – how and what the wind does to the car at high speeds. “During this test, you’re literally collecting thousands of data points per second. Taking those data points and converting them into insight, which eventually dictates the build of the actual car, is all technology driven,” he says, adding, “The whole F1 sport is based on technology.”

Indeed, even during the race, a mass-

ing the race, a mass-

PREDICTIVE ALGORITHMS MAY SOON RUN THE F1 RACE

For most fans watching a race on a Sunday, the driver is sort of the core of everything. But if you pull back – and we in Cognizant have been lucky enough to be around the team and around the technology campus – there are hundreds of engineers at the campus, they’re in these digital twin environments, with the fluid dynamics models, they’re in the wind tunnel, they’re processing the data from the trackside to see if it met their assumptions. So there’s so much of the sport that the average fan doesn’t see, the real work that the engineers are doing sitting in front of their CAD programmes. It’s very heavy engineering.

David Ingham | CLIENT PARTNER - HEAD OF MEDIA, ENTERTAINMENT & SPORT, COGNIZANT

New FIA rules have categorised IT spend as part of the cost cap for F1. So the more efficient we can make the back-end of Aston Martin from an IT standpoint, the more money they can take and use for the development of the actual car. We are very familiar, given our years of experience in the IT industry, with things like cloud

sive quantities of data have to be processed in real-time for decisions to be taken – such as calling for pit stops at the optimal moment, or responding to changes in weather conditions, or adjusting race strategy in response to competitors’ moves. Dan Fallows, technical director for the Aston Martin Aramco F1 Team, says thousands of individual data streams (from hundreds of sensors in the car, and other data like weather conditions) are required in real-time. “And these have to go to the engineers in the garage



Aston Martin Aramco F1 engineers tracking race data

modernisation. Cloud modernisation enables you to create a much more efficient environment on the back-end at a cheaper price, so that the money that you were spending on IT can now be funnelled into the development of the car, its aerodynamics, its engine, and things like that.

Gaurav Chand | CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, COGNIZANT

As the car goes around the circuit, there are so many factors that play in the decision-making around race strategy. You have tyre temperatures, how much you believe you’re using the tyres, the way the car is performing compared to expectation, what the other drivers are doing, weather, wind direction. For a

human, or even for fairly sophisticated algorithms that we may have at the moment, it’s an almost insurmountable challenge. AI techniques start to suddenly become very interesting in that environment. So we are exploring those ideas. It’ll enable very rapid decision-making for engineers. Traditionally, we would look back a week or two weeks after the race, and say, if only we’d done this... Now, predictive algorithms are incredibly powerful, almost being able to sort of run the race for you.

Dan Fallows | TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, ASTON MARTIN ARAMCO F1 TEAM

and the circuits, to the guys on the pit wall, and even around the world to our technology campus in Silverstone in the UK, where we have our Mission Control room,” he says.

All of this requires modern IT infrastructure, and cutting-edge technologies. And these are areas that Cognizant, including many of its India employees, has been working with Aston Martin Aramco for more than three years now.

David Ingham, client partner - head of media, entertainment &



BUILD ALLIES VIA MENTORS, COACHES, SPONSORS

THREE ENGINEERS AT TRANSUNION GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTRE, INDIA, TALK ABOUT THEIR WORK AND HOW WOMEN SHOULD LOOK AT THEIR LIFE AND CAREER.

Pick your battles

I don’t see myself as a woman in tech – I am a technologist who is a woman, and so much more. I identify as a technologist first, always, while challenging the systemic barriers and biases that present obstacles for women. I feel having allies via mentors, coaches and sponsors helps overcome the challenges of this industry. Pick your battles – sometimes you speak up and sometimes you don’t. Either way, don’t ever let it affect you negatively. Build a network of like-minded people and become part of a community that empowers all. Have firm faith in your abilities, just jump in and build that piece of software that you are passionate about. Don’t worry about all the technobabble that makes somebody seem more intelligent, rather follow your path with focus.

Suprabha Mysore | VP, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Invest in yourself

In the fast-paced world of technology, it’s crucial to be a force to be reckoned with – you have to break barriers and defy expectations. However, the fusion of technological prowess with business acumen works even better; mastering this intersection between technology and business fundamentals serves as the greatest asset. Working in various industries throughout my career, I’ve had the passion to deep dive into solving complex problems through technology, innovation, and smart thinking. My message to other women – it’s important to invest in yourself, set a high standard, and never compromise. These qualities will propel you to new heights in your career. Being vocal and promoting oneself at work is also key to identifying and navigating opportunities.

Kavita Singh | DIRECTOR - APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN @ TU GROUP

Challenge status quo

From my first tentative step in the bustling corridors of ICICI Bank to the strategic boardrooms of TransUnion’s Global Capability Centres, my 18-year career journey has been both challenging and exhilarating. Each role, whether it focused on analytics, product management, or spearheading go-to-market strategies, demanded a blend of technical acumen and creative thinking – attributes I have passionately defended in predominantly male environments. The challenge of balancing high-stakes roles with personal life is very real. What keeps me going is my willingness to learn continuously and my courage to challenge the status quo. My mother was my first role model. She forged a professional identity while raising two children. She instilled the grit and vision that continue to guide me. The power of role models cannot be overstated.

Megha Khetarpal | DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL FRAUD & IDENTITY SOLUTIONS

Kanakshree returns to work after nine years

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Kanakshree Vats was a network engineer at telecom company Orange in Gurgaon when she got married, and moved to Bengaluru to be with her husband. What she thought would be a short break turned into a nine-year-long hiatus from work.

The jobs she was offered in Bengaluru involved night-shifts, and she didn’t want that anymore. “Network engineering work is normally done during the night. After getting married, I wanted to give my home more time,” Kanakshree says.

Kanakshree had done a Bachelor’s in electronics & communication from Rajasthan College of Engineering for Women, Jaipur. She thought of pursuing a post-graduate degree in Bengaluru, but the first time she applied, she couldn’t get through.

She was continuing these efforts when her husband got a posting in London, and she decided to go along. Though she had a work permit, Kanakshree could not find an IT job. All she found was a door-

to-door marketing assignment, which she did not much care for. A few years later, she moved back to Bengaluru, but now she had a child to take care of. Once her child started going to school, she began to get bored. That was when she and her husband started seriously pursuing the idea of Kanakshree taking up a job again.

During all these years, she had not upskilled much. The only courses she did were on LinkedIn, which she felt were not enough as she sat for interviews.

“Though I did some small courses, the lack of practical knowledge on new technologies went against me during interviews. All the companies I applied to kept asking for the same thing – experience,” she says.

This is one of the things she wants other women who take a break to be aware of – they should ensure they find ways to apply any new technologies they learn. Interviewers, she says, felt she would not be able to cope with new technologies if they hired her.

Kanakshree also advises women on a career break to

CAREER COMEBACK

stay in touch with former colleagues, so that they know what new technologies are in demand.

After some frustrating months, she happened to apply for a job on LinkedIn, at IT services & consulting company NTT Data. This was in the cybersecurity space, which Kanakshree says was an area somewhat familiar to her given her previous work in network operations. NTT Data, luckily for her, had a career comeback programme called Academy for Women Empowerment. The programme provided her with an unpaid internship that allowed her to test and implement everything she learned during the training. Her husband, a product engineer with Walmart, also helped her with some basic understanding of new products in the industry.

All of these helped immensely, and so trying out a new role, Kanakshree says, did not become overwhelming.

NTT Data offered her a full-time job on completion of the internship. She went on to complete some internal courses and certifications in cybersecurity audit. Today, she’s a cybersecurity auditor for NTT Data and one of NTT’s clients.

The spouse’s support is critical because a career comeback is more than just about learning new skills. You tend to forget what the workplace is like. One must adjust to that as well. In this journey, if the spouse helps around the house, life becomes easier. My husband took care of our child during the entire period of my internship at NTT.

Kanakshree Vats | GOVERNANCE, RISK & COMPLIANCE (GRC) SPECIALIST IN CYBERSECURITY, NTT DATA

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Kanakshree Vats | GOVERNANCE, RISK & COMPLIANCE (GRC) SPECIALIST IN CYBERSECURITY, NTT DATA

GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED



ON THIS PAGE

RPA

RPA stands for robotic process automation. It refers to the technology that allows anyone to configure computer software, or a ‘robot’ to emulate and integrate the actions of a human interacting within digital systems to execute a business process. RPA robots utilise the user interface to capture data and manipulate applications just like humans do. They interpret, trigger responses, and communicate with other systems in order to perform on a vast variety of

repetitive tasks. RPA is highly effective for automating routine and rule-based tasks that require interaction with multiple IT systems. By using RPA tools, businesses can improve efficiency and productivity by automating parts of their operations that involve repetitive and mundane tasks. This not only speeds up processes but also reduces the chances of human error, freeing up employees to focus on more strategic, creative, and customer-facing activities. RPA is widely used in industries such as banking, insurance, healthcare, and telecommunications.

CAD

CAD stands for computer-aided design. It refers to the use of computer technology to aid in the design and drafting of a product, part, or structure. It can involve both 2D and 3D modeling, and it’s extensively used across various industries including architecture, engineering, manufacturing, and construction. Using CAD software, designers and engineers can create precise drawings

and technical illustrations. This software allows for easy modifications and optimisations of designs, enhances the accuracy of the designs, and can also simulate the behaviour of materials and conditions on the models. Some popular CAD software are AutoCAD, SolidWorks, and Autodesk Revit. These tools are crucial for creating detailed layouts, designing complex systems, and planning construction projects, among other applications.

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LinkedIn is infusing AI into a number of its products, and the company’s VP of product engineering, Erran Berger, says the company’s India engineering talent has been central to these AI-enabled innovations. “Our R&D centre here is the second largest in the world, second only to our US centre. And it plays a critical role in driving our innovation efforts, tapping into all of our data, combining it with generative AI, and then in bringing them to life,” he says.

LinkedIn is in a unique position. It has insight into people’s work preferences worldwide, giving it a unique

you’re looking for a senior software engineer who knows iOS and Android in Bengaluru and hit enter. LinkedIn then takes that query and runs it through a large language model (LLM) and presents you with a bunch of candidates.

“But we don’t stop there, then we could say, ‘Hey it’s really competitive to get engineers in Bengaluru, what about Hyderabad?’ And you can get results for engineers in Hyderabad that are actively looking for jobs on LinkedIn.”

Once the candidates have been narrowed down, the system can even send personalised emails to all the candidates selected. Erran says it saves hours of time.

For learners, AI is enabling the offer of real-time advice and tailored content recommendations based on one’s needs, job title, career goal, and the skills they follow. For marketers, AI offers the ability to create an end-to-end campaign with a single click. Even LinkedIn’s sales professionals have AI solutions that help make account research and lead prospecting more effective.

ML INFRA BUILT IN INDIA

Parts of LinkedIn’s machine learning infrastructure is also built in Bengaluru, says Erran. “Which is a foundational component of our overall GAI tech stack, which ultimately supports our overall AI business.”

One of the biggest challenges in weaving powerful AI solutions into your core products, Erran says, lies in making sure everyone can trust the system. It’s really important, he says, to start with the idea that we’re going to do this responsibly, and create safe experiences for professionals on our platform. A big part of the work in making sure these complex AI systems are running the way they were intended to is being done by engineering teams in India, he says, adding, “This is some of the most fundamental work and it’s happening right here.”

CUTTING-EDGE MADE IN INDIA

Given LinkedIn’s data, we have a real time view into what is happening in the world of work and the global economy. Now when we take AI and combine it with that data, we are going to be able to enable professionals to do things that were previously impossible. We are really excited about that. A big chunk of that innovation is being powered by our talent in India; our R&D centre here is second only to the US centre.

Erran Berger | VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCT ENGINEERING, LINKEDIN

Erran Berger | VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCT ENGINEERING, LINKEDIN



I guess spin will play a part. The only concern is that the pitches for the World Cup may be slightly different from the ones in bilateral series or domestic tournaments. It's a luxury to have four spinners rather than a necessity. —Ian Bishop

There's a big difference playing in the IPL and playing for India. Hardik Pandya will be a different player. He's had to face a lot of issues in this IPL. When he goes overseas and has to play for India, he will be in a different frame of mind. —Sunil Gavaskar



IT'S OFF TO THE PROMISED LAND...

Pant, Samson, Chahal return for World Cup

Shivam Dube Also Makes Cut; Rinku Relegated To List Of Reserves As Selectors Seek Middle-Order Enforcers



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New Delhi: The BCCI's Ajit Agarkar-led national selection committee went largely with tried and tested choices while announcing the Indian team on Tuesday for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the US and Caribbean in June.

In the eagerly debated wicketkeeper-batter slot, both Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson have made it to the squad of 15. The in-form Shivam Dube, who has been in sizzling form with the bat for Chennai Super Kings in the middle overs, has also been picked.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal also makes a comeback, no doubt on the basis of his recent IPL performance.

Rohit Sharma, as expected, leads the team while Hardik Pandya has been named his deputy.

It is understood the selectors wanted more attacking options in the middle overs, meaning there was no place for the seasoned KL Rahul. One surprise omission is that of Rinku Singh, arguably India's best finisher in the format over the past year.

Rinku only finds a mention in the list of reserves, which also includes Shubman Gill and backup pacers Avesh Khan and Khaleel Ahmed.

As reported by TOI on April 29, there were few surprises in the main 15-member squad since the team management and selectors decided not to be overtly swayed by IPL form. The seam-bowling unit also retains an expected look, with Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj being safe choices. Pandya and Dube are also available with their seam-bowling abilities if required.

The spin attack wears a beefier look, with both allrounders Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel finding a place, along with the return of the long-discarded 'Kul-Cha' pairing of leggies Kuldeep Yadav and Chahal.

This is the first ICC tournament since the 2019 World Cup that both wrist spinners have been included in the team. Chahal was part of the last T20 World Cup in 2022 but didn't get a game. He looked like falling out of favour with the emergence of Ravi Bishnoi, who has missed the cut this time.

It is learnt that Rohit has been pushing for Chahal for his wicket-taking abilities in the middle overs. "The team management is clear that it wants attacking options in the middle overs. Bishnoi has good defensive skills but Kuldeep and Chahal have the experience and ability to take wickets. There were discussions around having another regular pacer in the 15 at the expense of a spinner. But Hardik's presence as a seam-bowling allrounder and the possibility of the pitches at the World Cup getting slower prompted the selectors to go for Chahal," the source said.

As for the batting lineup, Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal are expected to open, though TOI understands Virat Kohli too has been kept in mind as a possible opening option. "Kohli has been opening for RCB for some time now. If the team management wants to add more muscle in the middle order, then Kohli

can go up the order with Rohit," a source said.

With the selectors not needing to opt for a third opener, both Rahul and Gill missed out. The selectors went with Pant and Samson, who can both play enforcers in the middle order instead.

For the selectors, it was a difficult toss-up between Dube and Rinku. Dube's recent form and his ability to roll his arm over with some seam-up bowling tilted the scales in his favour. Pant and Dube also offer left-handed options in the middle order.

Pant emerged as the frontrunner for the wicket-keeper's spot largely due to the form and fitness he has exhibited in the IPL, marking a remarkable comeback from his car accident in Dec 2022. Samson's current batting form and ability to attack spinners straightaway won him a place.

The selectors can keep making changes to the squad till May 24. The first batch of players, including those whose IPL teams fail to make the playoffs will leave for the US on May 21.

India play their first T20 World Cup match against Ireland in New York on June 5.

THE SELECT 15

The selectors have gone on expected lines to pick India's squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup. TOI gives you the lowdown on what the 'selected 15' bring to the table...

ROHIT SHARMA (captain)

The India captain has been playing in a free-flowing manner since the ODI WC last year. Rohit's strike-rate in the ongoing IPL has been 160.30, giving rousing starts to MI.
IPL 2024: M 9 Runs 311 Ave 38.87 S/R 160.30
Last 10 T20I: Runs 237 Ave 26.33 S/R 129.51

YASHASVI JAISWAL

Gives a left-right opening option at the top. There was no doubt about his selection, but form seemed to desert him at the start of the IPL. An unbeaten 104 against MI probably sealed Jaiswal's selection for the World Cup.
IPL 2024: M 9 Runs 249 Ave 31.12 S/R 154.65
Last 10 T20I: Runs 270 Ave 30.00 S/R 162.55

VIRAT KOHLI

Top-scorer in the IPL presently, Kohli brings temperament and stability to the batting line-up. He can be the glue around which the team can construct an innings. While he is at the crease, other batters can go gung-ho right from the start.
IPL 2024: M 10 Runs 500 Ave 71.42 S/R 147.49
Last 10 T20I: Runs 377 Ave 62.83 S/R 139.11

SURYAKUMAR YADAV

Indian team's X-factor, and ICC's No. 1 ranked T20I batsman. SKY is the cog around which the batting revolves. He will have to fire on all cylinders for India to have a chance of winning the tournament.
IPL 2024: M 6 Runs 166 Ave 27.66 S/R 171.13
Last 10 T20I: Runs 444 Ave 49.33 S/R 163.84

RISHABH PANT (wicketkeeper)

Has made an extraordinary return to the cricket field after his car crash in December 2022. Pant's buccaneering batting (strike-rate of 158.56) in the IPL made him a sure-shot selection. He is expected to be the finisher for the Indian team.
IPL 2024: M 11 Runs 398 Ave 44.22 S/R 158.56
Last 10 T20I: Runs 90 Ave 15.00 S/R 128.57

HARDIK PANDYA (vice-captain)

Form has eluded India's premier allrounder with both bat and ball in the IPL. Still, he is the best bet as a fast-bowling allrounder. Along with Pant, Pandya will have the responsibility of providing the big hits towards the end of the innings.
IPL 2024: M 9 Runs 197 Ave 24.62 S/R 151.53
Wkts 4 Ave 56.75 E/R 11.94
Last 10 T20I: Runs 159 Ave 22.71 S/R 111.19
Wkts 11 Ave 22.09 E/R 7.59

SHIVAM DUBE

Absolutely brutal against any form of spin bowling, Dube can be a floater in the Indian batting line-up. With spin expected to play a big role in the WC since it's being held in the Caribbean, Dube's best use will be in the middle-overs phase.
IPL 2024: M 9 Runs 350 Ave 58.33 S/R 172.41
Last 10 T20I: Runs 188 Ave 62.67 S/R 146.88

RAVINDRA JADEJA

As a left-arm spinner and a gun fielder, Jadeja has been on top of his game. But, of late, his ball-striking abilities have been on the wane. The 'expected' slow wickets in the Caribbean will be ideal for Jadeja's skill set.
IPL 2024: M 9 Runs 157 Ave 78.50 S/R 131.93
Wkts 5 Ave 46.80 E/R 7.54
Last 10 T20I: Runs 221 Ave 36.83 S/R 143.51
Wkts 6 Ave 37.50 E/R 7.80

KULDEEP YADAV

Has been India's lead spinner in white-ball cricket over the last one year. At the peak of his prowess, Kuldeep can change the course of a match during his bowling spell. Rohit will depend on him for wickets in the middle-overs during the WC.
IPL 2024: M 8 Wkts 12 Ave 21.83 E/R 8.45
Last 10 T20I: Wkts 15 Ave 14.33 E/R 6.35

JASPRIT BUMRAH

Indian team's Most Valuable Player! Can bowl at any stage of a T20 game. In present times, he is the best exponent of the yorker in world cricket. Besides, he isn't a one-trick pony and can win matches from desperate situations.
IPL 2024: M 9 Wkts 14 Ave 17.07 E/R 6.63
Last 10 T20I: Wkts 13 Ave 16.85 E/R 6.14

ARSHDEEP SINGH

India's highest wicket-taker since the 2022 T20 WC. Arshdeep brings variety with the left-arm's angle. He can swing the new ball back into the right-handers which is his forte. Also possesses a decent yorker in his armoury.
IPL 2024: M 9 Wkts 12 Ave 25.16 E/R 9.63
Last 10 T20I: Wkts 10 Ave 30.20 E/R 8.88

MOHD SIRAJ

Has looked off-colour in the IPL but has previous performances for the national team to back his selection. On his day, can be lethal with the new ball, but his ordinary death bowling skills go against him.
IPL 2024: M 9 Wkts 6 Ave 53.83 E/R 9.50
Last 10 T20I: Wkts 12 Ave 27.83 E/R 8.79

AXAR PATEL

Of late, has been in better form with both bat and ball in comparison with Jadeja. Unlike Jadeja, Axar's ball-striking form is getting better with each passing game. He can be used as one of the all-round options depending on pitch conditions.
IPL 2024: M 11 Runs 149 Ave 24.83 S/R 124.16
Wkts 9 Ave 29.77 E/R 7.24
Last 10 T20I: Runs 46 Ave 11.50 S/R 121.05
Wkts 12 Ave 19.58 E/R 6.35

YUZVENDRA CHAHAL

A well-deserved selection that gives the possibility of the pair of 'Kul-Cha' returning to don India colours. Chahal is a canny bowler who has the ability to bowl in difficult phases of the T20 game — whether during the Powerplay or in the death overs.
IPL 2024: M 9 Wkts 13 Ave 23.53 E/R 9.00
Last 10 T20I: Wkts 9 Ave 32.00 E/R 9.00

SANJU SAMSON (wicketkeeper)

Broke into the team with an outstanding IPL season so far, averaging 77.00 and striking at 161.08 for Rajasthan Royals. Also, has led the team astutely. Plays spin and pace with equal efficacy with no perceptible weakness.
IPL 2024: M 9 Runs 385 Ave 77.00 S/R 161.08
Last 10 T20I: Runs 93 Ave 13.29 S/R 127.40

—Hindol.Basu@timesgroup.com



SANJU SAMSON

Forever padded up, door opens for Samson

Prasanth.Menon@timesgroup.com

Kochi: Just like his batting, Sanju Samson's name always creates a buzz. His talent has never been in doubt ever since he announced his arrival on the scene in 2013. However, after his international debut in a T20I in Harare in 2015, critics have always questioned the Kerala wicketkeeper-batsman's inconsistency. This has meant that the 29-year-old has only managed to play 25 T20s and 16 ODIs in the last eight years.

However, this IPL season has been different for Samson for more reasons than one. The Rajasthan Royals skipper has led his side with aplomb, which sees his team sitting at the top of the IPL points table with 16 points from nine games.

But more importantly, this has been Samson's most consistent run in the IPL, with a match-winning unbeaten 33-ball 71 in Royals' last game against LSG being one

of the high points of his career. He has amassed 385 runs from nine games at an average of 77 and a strike rate of 161.08.

But this change in Samson's batting hasn't come overnight. "For the last eight months, Sanju has trained specifically keeping the T20 World Cup in mind. He knew performance in the IPL just before the World Cup would be crucial. Our focus was more on his mental make-up before he went out to bat and while he was at the crease. He started focusing on the process. This change has reflected in his batting," says Bijumon N, who has been Samson's personal coach for the past year.

"We did some minor alterations to his batting technique. If you notice now, his bat swing has changed and it is more free flowing," he added.

Throughout his career, Samson was always at ease against pace bowlers but found himself susceptible to spinners. But as is

evident in this IPL, there has been a marked improvement in that facet of his game.

"I don't agree with the assumption that Sanju is not good at tackling spinners. But against the real slow bowlers, at times he has found it difficult. To counter that, he has started to use his feet more now. On the tactical front, he has added a couple more strokes to his armoury against the spinners," revealed Bijumon.

Bijumon travelled with Samson whenever Kerala played domestic cricket in the last season, and their training sessions always revolved around the bigger goal in mind. "During our training sessions in Alappuzha, Thiruvananthapuram, and Bengaluru, we did a lot of match simulations keeping in mind the IPL and the T20 World Cup. Even now, we keep talking over the phone after Rajasthan's each match and discuss the scope for improvement in his game," he said.



RISHABH PANT

How just a swizzle of olive oil fuelled Pant's return to fold

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NOT JUST THE DIET, RISHABH HAD TO ADHERE TO A STRICT SLEEP CYCLE TOO. ALL GADGETS, INCLUDING PHONES, IPADS AND TVS WERE SHUT DOWN BY 11 PM.

New Delhi: Rishabh Pant's scarcely believable international comeback on Tuesday — in a span of just 16 months following a horrific car accident that left him severely injured and pondering when he would walk again, let alone play at the international level — is an inspirational story.

Of course, Pant's remarkable recovery did not come without steely resilience and determination to get back full fitness, a process that did not come without pain and sacrifice.

Selected for India's T20 World Cup campaign on Tuesday, there is more behind Pant's re-emergence than just the runs that he has scored for Delhi Capitals in the ongoing IPL, or the long hours he has kept wickets.

TOI has learnt that the wicketkeeper-batter has shed a total of around 16 kg in the past four months. He had dropped around 13 kg before the IPL started, in the last week of

March. Interestingly, he is now around 9 kg lighter than his pre-accident weight.

During an exclusive interview with TOI after being declared fit by BCCI on March 12, Pant had said: "I can't wait to get back into the Indian dressing room and enjoy the feeling with my teammates. I have left no stone unturned to do that. I ensured nobody gets a chance to complain about any aspect of my game."

Along with his fitness routines, Pant put himself through a punishing diet. "He adopted a calorie-deficit diet since late Dec. If his body demanded 1400 calories a day, he was given around 1000 calories. It was tough on

him since he had to train very hard to gain match-fitness and had to strengthen the muscles on his injured right leg," a source involved in Pant's rehabilitation said.

His favourite food — *rasmalai, biryani* and fried chicken — was banished from his dining table. Even sushi, a dish considered healthy for the fitness conscious, was not allowed.

"Pant wanted flavour in his food. That's why he moved into a rented house in Bengaluru while he was at the NCA, instead of a hotel. He preferred home-cooked food. He was allowed only 5 ml of extra virgin olive oil. He couldn't give up his love for chilly chicken. So, a recipe was devised to make it with that much oil. Goan *bhindi* was one of his favourites," the source said.

Not just the diet, he had to adhere to a strict sleep cycle too. "All gadgets, including phones, iPads and TVs were shut down by 11 in the night. He had to have eight-nine hours of uninterrupted sleep to get back to rigorous training next morning," the source said.

As he got closer to full fitness, Pant batted for about two and a half hours every day. He resumed his wicketkeeping drills on the heels of the IPL, practicing his glove work for about 45 minutes a day.

The results are there for everyone to see. Pant looks as lean as he was when he first burst onto the scene. Now, cricket watchers can't wait to see Pant in India colours again, that too in a World Cup.

Jofra Archer recalled to England squad

London: Paceman Jofra Archer was Tuesday recalled to England's squad for the defence of their T20 World Cup crown after a year out of action. The 29-year-old, who has endured a string of injuries since his international breakthrough in 2019, has not played competitive cricket for a year but has recovered from a right elbow injury.

He takes his place in a 15-man provisional squad captained by Jos Buttler for the tournament that starts on June 1 in the West Indies and the United States. The same group will take on Pakistan

in a four-match T20 series beginning at Headingley on May 22.

All the players who are currently featuring in the Indian Premier League will return in time for the series against Babar Azam's men.

"Selected players, currently playing in the Indian Premier League, will return in time for the series against Pakistan, which gets underway at Headingley on Wednesday 22 May 2024," the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement

Archer has managed just 15 T20 appearances for England since making his international debut five years ago but is still considered a potential game-changer.

Another factor in England's favour is that he grew up in Barbados so is knowledgeable about Caribbean conditions.

Veteran seamer Chris Jordan, also born in Barbados, returns alongside uncapped spinner Tom Hartley but there is no place for Chris Woakes. Test captain Ben Stokes, who was part of the England squad who surrendered their 50-over title meekly in India last year, ruled himself out of the T20 World Cup in an effort to regain full fitness to

play as an allrounder.

England begin the defence of the title they won in Australia in 2022 against Scotland in Barbados on June 4.

Managing director of England men's cricket Rob Key said Archer was "desperate" to play on his home island. "Jofra's a bowler that is just so special you do everything you can to try to get him back playing and we've sort of taken the longer road this time but as always with Jofra, it's fingers crossed until he's out there playing," said Key. AFP

England squad: Jos Buttler (capt, wk), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

South Africa back Nortje

Johannesburg: Anrich Nortje's raw pace and proven quality earned him a place in South Africa's squad for the T20 World Cup, head coach Rob Walter said on Tuesday.

Nortje, 30, has not played an international match since suffering a back injury during a One-day series against Australia in September 2023 and has struggled for form in the current Indian Premier League. His seven wickets have cost 42 runs each and he has conceded 13.86 runs an over.

But Walter said he backed the quality of the player who was South

Africa's leading bowler at the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia. "He has another month before the World Cup and I have no doubt he will hit his straps," said Walter.

Walter has picked bowlers who he believed would be able to strike in the early stages of matches. "Taking the top four wickets in the first 10 overs is a large factor in winning games," he said.

Nortje, Gerald Coetzee, Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen will spearhead South Africa's fast bowling attack but Walter also named three specialist spin bowlers in Keshav Maharaj, Tabraiz Shamsi and Bjorn Fortuin for what could be varied conditions in the USA and the Caribbean. South Africa have been drawn in Group D.

Their first three matches, against Sri Lanka, Netherlands and Bangladesh, will be at the Nassau County Stadium near New York. Their final group match against Nepal will be in Saint Vincent in the West Indies.

South Africa have played in all eight previous T20 World Cups but have only advanced from the group stages twice. They reached the semi-finals in 2009 and 2014.

Quinton de Kock and David Miller will be playing in their fifth World Cup, while fast bowler Kagiso Rabada will make his fourth appearance. AFP
South Africa squad: Aiden Markram (capt), Otniel Baartman, Mervin Coetzee, Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.



JOFRA ARCHER



ANRICH NORTJE



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