



**CITY 3**  
MODI'S NEW CABINET BALANCES  
UP'S CASTE, REGIONAL DYNAMICS

**OPINION 6**  
WHAT ACTUALLY UPSET  
THE MODI APPELCART

**WORLD 10**  
HUNTER BIDEN'S GUN TRIAL  
ENTERS ITS FINAL STRETCH

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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PEOPLE SAY I AM AT  
MY BEST: BUMRAH  
12 SPORTS

# BJP keeps plum of Cabinet pie

## Manhunt to nab J&K terrorists

RAJESH KUMAR/DEEPAK  
KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

There is no big change in the Team Modi 3.0 as some of the top Ministers will continue with their erstwhile portfolios hence giving no scope to the major coalition partners —TDP, JD(U)— to flex their muscles to take the reins of important Ministries. The allocation of portfolios underlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's faith in his colleagues, especially those handling the frontline Ministries which shaped and drove the Government's policies and programmes. Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar and Nitin Gadkari — have been retained with their respective Ministries from the previous regime — Home, Defence, Finance, External Affairs and Road, Transport and Highways portfolios, to give impetus to first 100 days as mandated by Modi before going for the Lok Sabha polls this March. Now all eyes will be on the full annual Budget to be presented by the Modi regime in the third term as the aspirations of alliance partners like review of controversial Agniveer schemes etc has to be on the platter. The new Cabinet-led by Modi aimed for continuity while trying to strike a balance between giving



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the first meeting of his new Cabinet, attended by the newly-inducted ministers, at the prime minister's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence, in New Delhi, Monday, June 10, 2024

space to BJP bigwigs and accommodating NDA allies. Now, sources said that there is a possibility that BJP will continue to keep the Lok Sabha Speaker's post with itself and not budge to the demands of TDP as speculated. Sources said the Modi Government was reluctant to give the important Cabinet portfolios to its alliance partners. Notably, the NDA partners — TDP and Janata Dal (United) could not get the Cabinet portfolios which

they demanded. TDP's Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu will be the new Civil Aviation Minister, a post previously held by Jyotiraditya Scindia. TDP leader C Pemmasani, who is the richest candidate of the Modi Government, will be Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications while Scindia will be Cabinet Minister for communications and development of northeastern region.

Piyush Goyal who emerged successful in the Lok Sabha polls has been retained as Minister of Commerce while Ashwini Vaishnaw to accelerate as Railways Minister and in addition, will return in the newly formed NDA Government as the Information and Broadcasting Minister, a position previously held by Anurag Singh Thakur. The NDA partners TDP and JD(U) were lobbying for Railways Ministry but the Modi Government was

reluctant to give it to its partners. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the new Agriculture Minister as well as Rural Development, and ex-Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will now head the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs which previously held by Hardeep Singh Puri. Dharmendra Pradhan will continue heading the

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MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A day after suspected Pakistani terrorists desperately tried to widen the 'arc of terror', by targeting a passenger bus ferrying pilgrims via Shiv Khori Shrine to the Katra base camp in Reasi district, a joint team of security forces involving elite para commandos of the Indian Army on Monday launched a massive manhunt to track down the perpetrators behind the 'dastardly' attack. Despite the terror attack pilgrims remained undeterred as they arrived in large numbers to offer prayers at the Shiv Khori shrine on Monday. While supervising the ongoing search operations in the area, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma told reporters on ground zero at least two terrorists were involved in the terror attack on Sunday. To plug all the escape routes security forces, including the Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), have laid a multi-layered cordon along the Teryath-Poni-Shiv Khori area bordering the Rajouri district to neutralise them at the earliest. The security forces are expected to remain on

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Army personnel during a search operation after a bus carrying pilgrims was ambushed by terrorists, in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday. At least 9 people were killed and 33 others suffered injuries in the terror attack on the bus, according to officials. PTI

## Two from Balrampur among nine killed

PTI ■ GONDA/BALRAMPUR

Two persons from Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district are among the nine victims of the deadly terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said on Monday. Among the 41 injured in the

Sunday evening attack, 10 are from Balrampur district, eight from Gonda district and four of a family from Gorakhpur, they said. District Magistrate of Balrampur Arvind Singh said 12 devotees from the district had gone on a pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in

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## Modi thanks estranged leaders of Canada, Pak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of frosty ties between India and Canada, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday responded to a congratulatory message from his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau and said New Delhi looks forward to working with Ottawa based on mutual understanding and respect for "each other's concerns". Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, meanwhile, on Monday congratulated Modi for forming a Central Government for the record third time. In a social media post, Sharif said "Felicitations to Narendra Modi on taking oath as the Prime Minister of India." Modi thanked Sharif for his congratulatory message, on retaining the top office for a third term. "Thank you @cmshehbaz for your good wishes," Modi said in reply to Sharif's message on X. Incidentally, Pakistan Prime Minister's "felicitations" come days after Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in an official statement it would be premature to congratulate Modi. Former Pakistan Prime Minister and ruling party chief Nawaz Sharif also

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## Get ready for another heat wave

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Northwest India, including regions like Jammu division, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and parts of Jharkhand and Odisha in the East, is bracing for another bout of extreme heat in the coming days, with temperatures expected to soar over 45 degrees Celsius. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued warnings, indicating that heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are likely to prevail over these areas in the next five days. This looming heatwave comes on the heels of a series of intense and prolonged heat waves experienced across the country in April and May. Tragically, many States, including Uttar



Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, have reported heatwave-related deaths and illnesses. Since March, nearly 25,000 suspected cases of heat stroke and 56 deaths have been recorded as per data shared by the National Centre for Disease Control, with States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh being

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## Govt formation sideshow in Odisha, Andhra, Arunachal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BHUBANESHWAR/AMRAVATI

After the formation of Narendra Modi-led NDA Government at Centre, the focus now shifts to the States — Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim- where also Government formation is in process after the simultaneous polls with Lok Sabha were conducted. While Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Himalayan State on Monday, BJP legislature party of Odisha and TDP

legislatures in Andhra Pradesh have convened a meeting on Tuesday to elect the Chief Minister of their States and new Governments will take oath on Wednesday. BJP has appointed Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Bhupendra Yadav to oversee the selection of the new Chief Minister of Odisha. The other winning State of BJP is Arunachal Pradesh which secured 46 seats in the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly led by incumbent CM Pema Khandu. While the results were declared on June 2 along with

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## Big cat photobombs oath pageant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his 72 members Council of Ministers were taking oath for his third consecutive term on Sunday, an uninvited guest caught the attention of social media users at the grand forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Delhi Police, however, through its social media handle said claims of a wild animal at the ceremony are false. "It was not wild. Ignore such baseless rumors," the police said in a post. A short video clip of the ceremony has gone viral in which netizens noticed an animal roaming in the corridors of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The animal, allegedly a leopard, was seen casually



walking in the Rashtrapati Bhavan when the official procedure was being carried out. The incident took place when Madhya Pradesh MP








Durgadas Uikey, also known as DD Uikey, was taking oath as one of the Union Ministers. In the video, an animal was seen casually walking at the Rashtrapati Bhavan when the

official procedure was being carried out on the stage. Several internet users took to social media and commented "Was it a leopard? An ordinary cat? Or a dog?" as the video was widely shared. Some alleged that the animal was a leopard while others wondered if it was a pet animal and some even raised questions over the video's authenticity. Some users even claimed that the video was edited with a focus on its background. Reacting to the viral video, a user wrote, "So wild animals are now casually roaming about in Rashtrapati Bhavan?? That is not a pet animal. What was the security doing?? Did all the CCTV footages break? Were the security personnel sleeping in the control room?"

## CITY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

### 62 CMS students triumph in JEE Advanced 2024



 Shreyansh AIR 1103	 Shreya AIR 1124	 Tanishq Sonkar AIR 1627	 Aaditya Saxena AIR 2041	 Gaurav Verma AIR 2371	 Mohd. Anas Ali AIR 2497	 Swapnil Singh AIR 2718
 Anikesh Agarwal AIR 2932	 Madhuram AIR 3101	 Kinjal Singh AIR 3287	 Shivesh Pandey AIR 3302	 Adesh Vikram AIR 3540	 Raman Vatsal AIR 3569	 Pushkar Awasthi AIR 4018
 Yasharth Sengar AIR 4115	 Umang Verma AIR 4220	 Pranam Goel AIR 4364	 Amogh Anant AIR 4618	 Shashank AIR 4811	<div>HIGHLIGHTS</div> <div>UNDER All India Rank 2000 <b>3</b></div> <div>UNDER All India Rank 3000 <b>8</b></div> <div>UNDER All India Rank 4000 <b>16</b></div> <div>UNDER All India Rank 5000 <b>19</b></div> <div>UNDER All India Rank 9000 <b>33</b></div> <div>TOTAL CMS STUDENTS QUALIFIED <b>62</b></div>	
 Sukrit AIR 5379	 Paarth Agrawal AIR 5412	 Prakriti Singh AIR 5487	 Vaibhava Verma AIR 5806	 Krishna AIR 6253		
 Anant Tripathi AIR 6289	 Akshita Singh AIR 6630	 Anushree Verma AIR 7019	 Tanmay Singh AIR 7029	 Gaurav Gupta AIR 7319		
 Sarthak Kumar AIR 7336	 Arnav Tripathi AIR 7371	 Daksh Gogna AIR 7544	 Aashi Srivastava AIR 8330			

www.cmseducation.org



# Heatwave to persist for four days

## AC companies struggle to keep up with demand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Heatwave conditions are expected to prevail in Lucknow for another four days starting Tuesday, according to the Meteorological department. The forecast indicates heatwave conditions in a few places in western Uttar Pradesh and many places in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Senior scientist at the Met department Mohammed Danish stated that the heatwave conditions would be attributed to the westerly winds blowing in from Rajasthan. "Loo conditions will prevail. However, after five days, easterly winds will bring some relief," he added. In Lucknow, hot weather persisted until late afternoon on Monday when the skies suddenly turned cloudy. Danish attributed this to moisture-laden winds from the Arabian Sea, which brought clouds but no rainfall. Lucknow recorded a maximum temperature of 43.8 degrees Celsius, which was 4.5 notches above normal. The hottest place in the state was Prayagraj, which recorded a maximum temperature of 46.3 degrees Celsius. The local forecast is for clear skies with sur-



A girl using umbrella to protect herself from heat on Monday  
Pioneer

face winds at a speed of 20-30 km per hour. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to reach 45 degrees and 28 degrees Celsius, respectively. Meanwhile, for the first time in two decades, companies selling air-conditioners are struggling to keep up with demand. With heatwave becoming more frequent and another one predicted from June 11, local dealers report that installation times now extend to nearly five days after an order is placed. Even

brands with historically low sales are selling out rapidly, as desperate customers seek any available air-conditioner. Sales figures compared to last year vary by company. Local dealers report a 30 percent increase, while some companies indicate sales have doubled, marking an 80 to 90 percent rise. Alok Pandey, head of the eastern UP Branch of a well-known AC company, confirmed their product shortage. "There is a huge jump in

sales, but we've had no product availability for the last two months. The incremental sale may be around 20-25 per cent," he said. He noted that strong sales in the south from January to March contributed to the scarcity starting in March. Additionally, a shortage of compressors is affecting manufacturing across all brands. Pandey explained that high heat wave conditions have limited manufacturing hours at their Dehradun units to just 8-9 hours a day. In Lucknow,

where they have 10-12 direct dealers and 4 brand shops, there is no product availability. He expects the shortage to continue for the next two months. Gaurav Bakshi, DGM UP East and Central of another major AC brand, echoed these sentiments. "We are working at full capacity, but demand is very high. We've seen almost double the sales compared to last year between April and June. Despite having three factories running at full load, we are struggling to clear backlogged orders," he said. He admitted that in the past 20 years, he had never seen such a doubling of sales. "Our major competitors can't meet the demand, benefiting other companies." Local dealers confirm this surge. One dealer noted that sales are up by 30 per cent compared to last year. "Even brands that typically don't sell are now seeing sales. Companies are cautious about overproducing due to the expected rains. They typically start manufacturing in August after finalising new model designs. This shortage is likely to persist, but sales have been tremendous, with many customers seeking immediate installations due to the unbearable heat," he added.

# Demolition drive restarts



Bulldozers in action in Akbarnagar on Monday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The demolition of several illegal constructions, including shops and houses restarted in Akbarnagar area here on Monday, said a senior official of the Lucknow Development Authority. Lucknow Development Authority Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi said the people have been asked to

clear the blocks and shift to a new area. "For the past two days, we have been appealing to shift their belongings and move to their new apartment in Vasant Kunj. I personally went there and requested people. Most of them have shifted," Tripathi said. "We are moving them and demolition is underway on the empty blocks," he added. The security forces have been

deployed on the spot and the entire area is under CCTV surveillance. Meanwhile, the people complained that they are being charged Rs 8,000 to move to a new place. They also said the new apartments are mostly on the top floors which is an issue for the senior citizens. "There is no proper connectivity to the area," said Md Raja, a local resident.

# Man strangles wife to death

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man allegedly strangled his wife to death at their house in Thakurganj in a fit of rage on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. The only eyewitness to the murder of the woman is said to be her nephew Iqar Ahmad, the son of her husband's sister. He rushed her to the hospital in hopes of saving her life and later filed a police complaint. "I saw my maternal uncle Mohammed Shakil, a resident of a slum area at Harinagar Jalnigam road, killing my maternal aunt Reshma (36)," Iqar told the police. According to reports, Iqar and his maternal grandmother were sleeping outside their shanty when he saw Shakil arriving there around 1:30 am. Shakil, said to be in a drunken state, was shouting and picked a fight with Reshma upon being confronted by her for returning home late and inebriated. As the altercation escalated, Shakil grabbed Reshma, pinning her down on the wooden platform beside him. "I saw Shakil wrapping a dupatta around Reshma's throat and strangling her during the fight, while she tried to fend him off. He later sat on her chest and continued strangling her with the dupatta," Iqar said. He mentioned feeling scared witnessing Shakil's

fury and called for help. "Residents rushed to the scene and managed to free Reshma. I took her to the hospital in an e-rickshaw. However, doctors at the hospital referred her to the Trauma Centre of KGMU, where she was pronounced dead," he added. A spokesperson stated that a case of murder was registered against the accused, who was currently absconding. Initial investigations revealed that Shakil had suspicions about Reshma's whereabouts and often fought with her while being drunk. "On the fateful day, Shakil lost his temper after a confrontation with Reshma and ultimately murdered her. Shakil, a native of Sitapur, was residing with his wife, mother, and son, Iqar," the spokesman added.

## RADIOLOGY STUDENT DIES IN ROAD MISHAP

A student of radiology at a private medical college in the state capital was killed in a road accident in Mohanlalganj police station area on Sunday night. The victim, identified as Ankit Kumar Sharma (22) from Palamu, Jharkhand, was crossing the road near Mohanlalganj police station around 9:30 pm when he was struck by an unidentified speeding vehicle. Ankit sustained critical injuries and was rushed to SGPGI Trauma

Centre-II, where he succumbed during treatment. Initial investigations revealed that Ankit, who was studying at Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital, resided in a rented accommodation in Mohanlalganj. He was crossing the road to reach a shop when the speeding vehicle hit him. A police spokesperson stated that the deceased's family was informed and the body sent for autopsy. In another incident, an e-rickshaw driver was found dead on the roadside in Nehru Nagar under Naka police station on Monday. Police said that Mohammed Saeed from Garhi Kanaura, Alambagh, died due to excessive alcohol consumption. According to his wife, Saeed was an alcoholic who earned his livelihood by driving a rented e-rickshaw. He had left home on Sunday, and the police sent his body for autopsy after being alerted by commuters who noticed him lying unresponsive for hours.

## THEFT

A purse containing Rs 5,000 in cash and ornaments was stolen from a house in Aliganj. The complainant, Shahana Khan from Chaudhary Tola in the area, reported that the theft occurred between 2 pm and 5 pm on Sunday.

# Four YouTubers among dozen killed in separate mishaps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

At least four persons said to be YouTubers were killed and four others were seriously injured after two speeding cars collided near Manota village in Amroha district on Sunday night. The deceased were identified as Lucky, Salman, Shahrukh, and Shahnawaz, hailing from Delhi. According to the officials, the victims were travelling to Bulandshahr from Gajraula for some work when their car met with the accident. Four passengers in the other car were seriously injured, they added. "The accident took place near Manota bridge under Hasanpur police station of Amroha district on Sunday night, when two cars traveling at high speed collided. Four youths died on the spot, while four youths riding in the other car were seriously injured," Hasanpur Circle Officer Deep Kumar Pant said. "They were close friends and used to make videos on YouTube. They were going to Bulandshahr for some work when they met with the accident on the way," he added. The bodies were sent to Amroha for post-mortem, the

police said. In another tragic incident, four pilgrims were killed while nine others were injured on Monday after their bus rammed into a stationary truck near Musepur village on Purvanchal Expressway in Ghazipur district, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Balwant Chaudhary said, adding that the injured were admitted to hospitals in Mau and Ghazipur district and were undergoing treatment. So far, four people have been reported dead. The deceased are yet to be identified. According to preliminary information, about 40 to 45 people from Bhojpur Bihar had gone to Ayodhya to visit the Ram temple by a tourist bus. All the devotees were returning by bus after visiting the Ram temple. The bus carrying the devotees reached Ghazipur around 5 am on Monday. The bus had reached the Purvanchal Expressway in the Kasimabad police station area of Ghazipur, when it suddenly collided with another truck parked on the side of the Purvanchal Expressway. The collision was so strong that the front part of the bus was damaged and the people

sitting in the front, including the driver, were trapped. After hearing the loud explosion, the people nearby immediately reached the spot and took out the people trapped in the bus and informed the police. After receiving the information, the police reached the spot, after which the people trapped in the bus were rescued. Four people, including the driver, died on the spot. About 10 people were injured and they were admitted to hospitals in Ghazipur and Mau districts. Meanwhile, four members of a family drowned while another was injured after getting caught in the deep waters of the river Ghaghra near the Teliyar village of Lakhimpur Kheri district, police said on Monday. Deputy Superintendent of Police Nighasan Pradeep told reporters that the victims were Teliyar residents Sushila (52), Satyam (24), Urvashi (17) and Kanha (10). Another member of the family, identified as Naini, was rescued and rushed to the district hospital in a critical condition, he said. The victims were caught in the river's deep waters, leading to the tragedy early on Monday, the police said.

## CITYBRIEFS



### PROTEST

The ABVP city unit staged a protest against alleged irregularities in the NEET-2024, urging a CBI inquiry. Adarsh Yadav highlighted discrepancies during the exam and result declaration. Jayavrat Rai, Lucknow University unit president, expressed concern over exam transparency, citing irregularities nationwide. Akash Singh alleged result manipulation, calling for stringent measures against wrongdoers. Aradhya Singh affirmed the ABVP's commitment to the cause, vowing to persist until a CBI inquiry is initiated. The movement garnered support from various ABVP members including Vaibhav Pandey, Prabhav Parasar, Avinash Verma, and others present during the protest.

### LU STUDENTS GET JOBS

Two students from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Lucknow have been selected for positions in nationalised banks. Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology Prof AK Singh congratulated the students. Diwakar Prasad, a 2022 BTech graduate, cleared the IBPS exam and has been selected as deputy manager (PO) at Bank of Maharashtra, with a package of Rs 14 lakh per annum (CTC). Similarly, Kamyra Kirti, also a 2022 BTech graduate, cleared the IBPS exam and has been selected as a customer service associate at Indian Bank, with a package of Rs 6 lakh per annum (CTC).

### AWARENESS CAMP

Due to disorderly lifestyle, wrong eating habits and disturbed daily routine, most people are troubled by joint, waist and knee pain, irrespective of their age. In medical language, this pain is caused by arthritis, according to Dr Saurav Shukla, who was the chief guest at an awareness camp on arthritis organised in Lucknow on Sunday. He explained preventive steps as also the cure required. The participants were made aware about the causes and prevention of back and

knee pain as well as the causes and prevention of knee and hip pain. Dr Shukla said osteoarthritis is a degenerative problem of joints that occurs in old age and causes pain and reduces mobility, leading to degeneration of the cartilage of joints.

### INSPECTION

Chief electrical engineer, North Eastern Railway, Sanjay Singhal will conduct inspection of 25kV AC, single-phase, 50Hz OHE independent bypass line in the Aishbagh (EX0)-Manaknagar (EX0) section under Lucknow division on Tuesday. A spokesman said all the locals, especially those living in the areas near the railway line, have been advised to remain cautious about the movement of trains and not leave their cattle in the open during the inspection.

### MEETING

The executive committee of Samagra Shiksha, Uttar Pradesh Education for All Project Council, chaired by Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, focused on enhancing education quality. Mishra highlighted infrastructure upgrades and emphasised improving teaching standards. He urged for statewide enrollment drives and announced mobile soft copy result distribution. The meeting approved procurement of 10,375 tablets for primary schools and 17,556 for upper primary schools in the annual plan. Funds were allocated for ICT labs and smart classes in government secondary schools. Approval for ICT labs in 12 schools with enrollment of 250-700 and 80 schools with 100-250 students was granted. Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited was designated as the implementing agency. Additionally, a sum of Rs 1.62 crore was sanctioned for activity kits in 300 government Inter colleges, aiming to foster creativity and hands-on learning. Principal Secretary, Basic Education, Dr MKS Sundaram and other officials attended the meeting.



### NOTICE

MY NAME IS PRIYANKA DUBEY RECORDED IN MY HUSBAND SERVICE RECORD, WHICH IS WRONG.CORRECT NAME PRIYANKA TIWARI, WIFE OF ARMY NO-1700425H RANK-NK NAME -AMIT KUMAR DUBEY RESIDENT OF VILLAGE AND POST- HAZIPUR BARESAR, DISTRICT- GHAZIPUR, WHICH SHOULD BE RECORDED IN THE RECORD

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from ASHWANI KUMAR CHAWLA to RAVI CHAWLA. In future I Shall be known as RAVI CHAWLA. RAVI CHAWLA S/o Madan Lal Chawla, 126, Chak, Allahabad (Prayagraj)

### NOTICE

I Sanjay Madnani R/o 122/556 Sindhi Colony, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur have changed my name from Sanjay Kumar Madnani to Sanjay Madnani for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

This is to declare that my daughter Niharika Shukla and Princi are same person. In future my daughter should be known as Niharika Shukla And Princi daughter of Ajay Kumar Shukla R/o 7/1 Gitapuri Colony Sec-5,Gomti Nagar Ext. Khargapur Lucknow (UP)

# CNE discusses pain management

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An Inter-Command Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) programme was organised by Command Hospital, Central Command, on the theme 'Pain Management - Relieving Pain, Restoring Functions, Renewing Hope - A Holistic Approach', in Lucknow Cantonment on Sunday. Maj Gen AA Karmarkar, MG Medical, Central Command, was the chief guest. Maj Gen I Delos Flora, Addl DG MNS, Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army), was the guest of honour. Jasmin Anand, professor and HoD, CTVS Nursing, CMC Vellore, delivered the keynote address. The CNE was attended by

Dr AK Bishnoi, Dean of Nursing, ABVMU, representatives of the Trained Nurses Association of India, UP branch, military nursing officers from across India, and nursing officers from civil institutes in Lucknow. In his welcome address, Maj Gen J Debnath, Commandant of Command Hospital, Central Command, Lucknow, emphasised the relevance of the topic, noting that pain is the most common cause of suffering and a primary symptom in many ailments. He highlighted the challenge healthcare workers face in managing patients with chronic pain and stressed the importance of including pain management in the nursing curriculum and training.

Maj Gen AA Karmarkar underscored the importance of nurses staying updated with the latest practices and guidelines in pain management. He stated that this knowledge empowers nurses to provide holistic care, alleviate suffering, and enhance the quality of life for patients experiencing chronic pain. The CNE included various sessions on pain management, with eminent speakers and experts discussing best practices. Hands-on skill stations were set up for naturopathy, yoga, acupressure, acupuncture, and guided imagery, where techniques were demonstrated. An e-souvenir compiling the excerpts of the scientific sessions was released by the dignitaries.

# 5,471 bus passengers caught travelling without tickets

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 5,471 passengers were caught traveling without tickets on Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) buses in May. During this period, UPSRTC conducted a total of 1,19,540 checks, resulting in a penalty recovery of Rs 35.27 lakh. In 4,632 cases, 5,471 passengers were found travelling without tickets, and 1,40,800 kg of unbooked luggage was seized. This information was provided by Chief Manager of Enforcement at UPSRTC, Ashok Kumar, on Monday.

**In May, UPSRTC conducted a total of 1,19,540 checks, resulting in a penalty recovery of Rs 35.27 lakh**

Kumar stated that the checks were carried out by investigation teams formed at both the headquarters and regional levels. He emphasised that these inspections are conducted periodically to ensure revenue

collection and to take action against unauthorised operations. He further said that the headquarters-level investigation team conducted 27,674 checks, during which 2,254 passengers were caught without tickets and 60,700 kg of unbooked luggage was seized. Similarly, regional teams conducted 91,866 checks, catching 3,217 passengers without tickets and seizing 80,100 kg of unbooked luggage. Additionally, an alcohol test was administered to 13,520 drivers and conductors during these inspections, with none found guilty of alcohol consumption.

# Forest dept awaits CZA nod for night safari master layout plan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Forest department is awaiting approval from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for its master layout plan for the Kukrail Night Safari. Chief Wildlife Warden Sanjay Srivastava said that the consultant hired to create the master layout plan also designed the Singapore Night Safari. "With this approval, the CZA will grant permission to establish the night safari," he said. Srivastava explained that after receiving the initial approval, several more approvals will be required before ground work can commence. Once permission is granted, the Forest department will prepare cage-specific designs for each animal, which will again need CZA approval. "The next step will involve preparing a detailed working plan for the project's costing, which will be submitted to the government for funding approval. This major project will be conducted through the EPC (Engineering Procurement and Construction) mode under the government's policy for projects exceeding Rs 50 crore. A tender will be floated, a contractor will be selected, and an MoU will be signed to start the work," he added. Providing some background, Srivastava noted that several stages have been completed to reach this point. "The project began with an initial application to the CZA for permission to establish a night safari. Initially, this was a hurdle because the CZA was not approving a new zoo in Uttar Pradesh, a situation ultimately resolved by the state government. Thereafter, the EPC floated an international Expression of Interest (EOI), which initially attracted only a few tenders. "Tenders were re-floated, attracting 16 major consultants, and by December, we finalised the consultancy contract, awarded to a consortium of consultants," he added. The Kukrail Night Safari area spans 855.17 acres and is envisioned to host a wide variety of animal species.

**PPGCL**  
PRAYAGRAJ POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED  
Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301  
Plant Address: PO- Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107  
Phone : +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for **Fire Service for PPGCL Plant and Associates areas** of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India.  
Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL:- <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by **16<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.



# Modi's new cabinet balances UP's caste, regional dynamics

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet 3.0 aims to balance the regional and caste dynamics of Uttar Pradesh. Interestingly, despite a significant drop in the number of Lok Sabha members elected from the state - from 64 in 2019 to 36 in 2024 - the representation of UP in the cabinet has increased by 8 per cent.

"In his new government, Prime Minister Modi aims to appeal to 60-62 per cent of the castes in UP, which influence 300-320 assembly constituencies. This strategic move is designed to potentially strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party's position in future elections, reflecting a nuanced approach to addressing the complex socio-political landscape of Uttar Pradesh," said Prof Ajit Kumar Singh, former director of the Giri Institute of Development Studies in Lucknow.

A comparison of election results and ministerial representation reveals a strategic adjustment. In 2014, the BJP and its allies won 73 seats in UP, with 18 ministers, constituting 24.5 per cent of the cabinet. In 2019, the party secured 64 seats, but the number of ministers dropped to 13, representing 20 per cent of the cabinet. Despite winning only 36 seats in 2024, UP's ministerial representation stood at 10, making up 28 per cent of the cabinet. The new ministerial allocation ensures that various

regions of UP are well represented. West UP has secured the maximum representation with four ministers, followed by Purvanchal with three ministers, and Awadh (central UP) with two ministers. This regional distribution reflects an effort to maintain political equilibrium across the diverse landscape of UP.

Modi's new cabinet also focuses on caste balance, incorporating a mix of communities to address the changing electoral dynamics. The cabinet includes four ministers from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), with two coming from the Most Backward Classes. There are two ministers from the Dalit community, specifically from the Gadar and Paswan communities, and three ministers from the upper castes. Notably, there are no ministers from the Jatav and Harijan communities, which indicates a shift in support from these groups away from the BJP. The BJP's diminished performance in UP is attributed to the shift of non-Jatav and Kurmi OBC voters towards the INDIA bloc. To address this, the reshuffle includes two ministers from the Kurmi community and two from the Most Backward Classes. Additionally, two ministers represent the non-Jatav communities, reflecting an effort to regain support from these voter segments.

In Purvanchal, where there are 27 Lok Sabha seats, the BJP won 10 seats, and its ally Apna

## Yogi meets Rajnath, Shah and Gadkari

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the newly appointed Union ministers in the Narendra Modi cabinet 3.0, namely Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on Monday.

All three Bharatiya Janata Party leaders were sworn in as Cabinet ministers on Sunday. This marks Yogi Adityanath's first meeting with the leaders following National Democratic Alliance's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Chief Minister Yogi reached New Delhi on Sunday to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet and stayed overnight in the national capital. On Monday morning, Chief Minister Yogi met Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari and extended his best wishes to them on their inclu-



Union Cabinet Minister Amit Shah with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a meeting, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

sion in the NDA cabinet. Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari won from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Gandhinagar in Gujarat and Nagpur in Maharashtra, respectively, in the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Chief Minister Yogi had campaigned for Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari.

Dal (Sonelal) won one. This is a significant drop from 2019, when the BJP and Apna Dal (S) won 20 seats. Three ministers in the new cabinet hail from this region, indicating an effort to rebuild support there.

In West UP, the BJP won 14 out

of 29 seats, with two seats going to its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal. In 2019, the BJP had won 21 seats in this region. Four ministers have been appointed from west UP, showing an emphasis on strengthening the party's presence there.

## CM hails PM for release of Kisan Samman Nidhi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first decision of his third term, made in the interest of the country's farmers. Chief Minister Yogi expressed his appreciation for this decision through a post on his official 'X' handle.

On Monday, Prime Minister Modi signed the file for the release of the 17th installment

**An amount of about ₹20,000 crore will be transferred to the bank accounts of 9.3 crore annadata farmers who will benefit from this decision**

of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, marking his first deci-

sion of the new term. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for this move and congratulated all the farmers of the country.

He wrote on X, "The first decision of the first day of the third term is dedicated to the welfare of the 'annadata' farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has signed the file to release the 17th installment of 'PM

Kisan Samman Nidhi' as soon as he took charge today. An amount of about ₹20,000 crore will be transferred to the bank accounts of 9.3 crore annadata farmers who will benefit from this decision. On behalf of all the farmers in Uttar Pradesh, heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed prime minister for this welfare-oriented decision, which extends financial support to farmers."

## Two cattle thieves die while fleeing in Etawah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two miscreants trying to flee after opening fire at a farmer met with an accident and died on the spot. The farmer and two more were critically injured in the firing and they were admitted to hospital.

The incident took place in village Batua in Saifai police station area of Etawah, at 3 am on Monday, when the miscreants, who were on a DCM truck, started untying the halter of a buffalo. Rambaran, the owner of the cattle, woke up and tried to stop the miscreants from stealing his buffalo. On this, the miscreants opened fire at him, critically injuring him.

When Rambaran's wife Munni Devi raised an alarm, she was also attacked with bricks by the miscreants. When other villagers also came out after hearing the screams, both the miscreants boarded the DCM and tried to escape towards Agra-Lucknow Expressway through Saifai bypass. The villagers informed the police and chased them. While trying to flee, the DCM collided with a canter coming from the oppo-

site side near Hanwara Degree College and both the miscreants died on the spot. They were identified as Badru and Shaukat Thar, sons of Rehmat, who lives in Nadarai village of Kasganj Kotwali area. The seriously injured were identified as Naushad and Raju of the same village. Both were admitted to the trauma centre of Saifai Medical College.

Meanwhile, a BA student ended his life by hanging himself at the hostel of a private university in Moradabad. According to the police, the deceased was a student of Teerthanker Mahaveer University, a private university in the Pakbara police station area of Moradabad.

Moradabad Superintendent of Police Akhilesh Bhadoria said that on receiving information from the university on Sunday, personnel from Pakbara police station reached the spot, took down the body from the noose, and sent it for a post-mortem. The forensic team of Moradabad police has started the investigation, he said. The police officer said that the student had relations with a girl and there were some issues regarding it.

## Cong 'Dhanyavad Yatra' from today to cover all 403 UP assembly constituencies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To maintain the momentum which ensured the party's comeback in Uttar Pradesh, the biggest state of the country, the UP Congress will now take out a 'Dhanyavad Yatra' in all the 403 assembly constituencies of the state from June 11 to June 15.

The decision was taken in the meeting chaired by Congress national general secretary and in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, Avinash Pandey, and UP Congress president Ajay Rai, state party spokesperson Anshu Awasthi disclosed on Monday.

He said, "The citizens and voters of UP have played a leading and important role in saving the

country's Constitution and democracy. The people of UP showed amazing sense in this Lok Sabha election and voted on their issues against the Bharatiya Janata Party and Narendra Modi."

Awasthi said Pandey would also participate in the 'Dhanyavad Yatra' along with Ajay Rai, the winning Lok Sabha MPs of Congress, MLAs, and all senior leaders. Congress has won six Lok Sabha seats and Samajwadi Party 37 while the BJP bagged 33 constituencies in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, the Congress has decided to move the court

### Rahul, Priyanka's event to be shifted to Rae Bareilly

**Amethi (PTI):** Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's proposed event in Amethi on Tuesday to thank the voters has been moved to neighbouring Rae Bareilly, office bearers of the party said. In the recently held Lok Sabha elections, Rahul Gandhi defeated UP minister Dinesh Pratap Singh in the Rae Bareilly constituency while Congress' Kishori Lal Sharma wrested the Amethi seat from Union minister Smriti Irani. The event to thank the voters will be held on the Bhueman Guest House premises in Rae Bareilly.

flagging deceit in vote counting in six Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh where its candidates lost the election by a narrow margin.

Senior party leader and former Union minister Salman Khurshid has been entrusted with the responsibility by the party for fighting this legal battle. The candidates, who lost the election in a close fight, have been asked to provide the counting documents related to their respective constituencies to Khurshid.

The grand old party had contested 17 of the 80 Uttar Pradesh Lok Sabha seats in a seat-sharing agreement with the SP under the INDIA bloc. These seats include

Rae Bareilly, Amethi, Saharanpur, Amroha, Deoria, Bangsagan, Maharajganj, Kanpur Nagar, Sitapur, Jhansi, Varanasi, Allahabad, Mathura, Barabanki, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, and Fatehpur Sikri. Out of these, the Congress lost the elections in Amroha, Fatehpur Sikri, Kanpur Nagar, Maharajganj, Deoria and Bangsagan by less than 50,000 votes. The candidates have claimed they lost the election due to manipulations in the counting process. In Bangsagan, Congress' Sadal lost by a margin of 3,150 votes. Meanwhile, Akhilesh Pratap Singh lost by 34,842 votes in Deoria, Virendra Chaudhary by 35,451 votes in Maharajganj, Alok Mishra by 20,968 votes in

Kanpur Nagar, Ramnath Sikarwar by 43,405 votes in Fatehpur Sikri and Danish Ali by 28,670 votes in Amroha.

Congress spokesperson and head of the media department, CP Rai, revealed that Salman Khurshid will fight legal battles on behalf of the party based on complaints and documents provided by the candidates. The INDIA bloc, much to the surprise of many, garnered 232 seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls. The Congress party individually won 99 seats, doubling its tally from the 2019 election. A major jolt to the BJP came from Uttar Pradesh, where the SP-Congress alliance amassed 43 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats.

## Sugar mills directed to clear cane dues before next crushing season

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The next sugar season 2024-25 is likely to commence with a clean slate as the Uttar Pradesh government has directed the industry to clear the dues of the farmers before the next cane crushing season.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the sugar industry to settle all outstanding payments of the previous season before the commencement of the new sugarcane crushing season. Chief Minister Yogi stressed that sugarcane should be made available only to sugar mills with a good payment record.

The issue of sugarcane payment in Uttar Pradesh remained a focal point during the Lok Sabha elections. Farmers' organisations staged several demonstrations demanding the settlement of due sugarcane payments. Concurrently, the Sugarcane department is working to expedite the payment of pending dues to farmers.

The last season 2024-25 was a good year for the sugar industry as the sugar recovery in the state surpassed the previous season. During the season, a

recovery rate of 10.30 per cent was recorded, compared to 9.40 per cent during the previous 2022-23 season. The estimated sugar production in last season in Uttar Pradesh was over 1.15 crore MT.

The sugar industry has so far paid over Rs 35,000 crore for 2023-24 crushing season. According to sugarcane department data, the payment, made by the sugar mills, represent more than close to 90 per cent of the total cane supply payables for the season.

Besides, the ethanol production in UP that stood at nearly 421 million litres in 2016-17, rose to 1.54 billion litres in 2022-23. By March 2023-24, the production shot past the 1.75 billion litre-mark. Ethanol, which is used in petrol blending, is an important byproduct of sugar. The 121 operating mills in UP, with a combined cane crushing capacity of 0.84 million tonnes (MT) per day, have so far crushed 98 MT of the cash crop, producing 10.33 MT of sugar. For the previous crushing season 2022-23, except for a private sugar mill unit defaulting on the farmers' payment of Rs 213 crore, the

remaining chunk of Rs 37,838 crore was fully paid. Last year, UP logged a sugar production of 1.05 crore MT. "The sugarcane payments facilitated during the Yogi Adityanath government since March 2017 is to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh crore and counting. Interestingly, this is roughly Rs 36,600 crore more than the consolidated cane payments made in the preceding 22 years, that is from 1995 to March 2017," a government official said. Of the 121 sugar mills in UP, private companies account for the maximum number, nearly 93 units, followed by 28 mills of the cooperatives as well as the Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation (UPSSC).

Nearly 50 lakh rural households are engaged in sugarcane farming in UP, which generates an estimated annual economy of Rs 50,000 crore.

In January 2024, the state government hiked the cane price by Rs 20 per quintal for various cane varieties. In the 2022-23 sugarcane crushing season, cane area and production in the state stood at 20.85 lakh hectares and 2.35 crore MT respectively.

## RLD celebrates Jayant's inclusion in Modi govt



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal's Uttar Pradesh unit on Monday celebrated the induction of party president Jayant Chaudhary into the Narendra Modi government 3.0.

RLD national spokesperson Anil Dubey said there was an atmosphere of happiness across the state on the appointment of RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary as a minister of state with independent charge in the Government of India.

"Party workers in all the districts of the state are expressing their happiness by distributing sweets," he said. On Monday, party leaders and workers celebrated the

occasion at the RLD state office in Lucknow by distributing sweets. RLD national spokesperson Anil Dubey, national secretary Anupam Mishra and other leaders were present and they congratulated Jayant Chaudhary on being made a minister. RLD has nine MLAs, one MLC, one Rajya Sabha member and two Lok Sabha MPs. This way, the RLD had a sizable representation from UP.

On the appointment of RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary as a minister, Dubey said that his becoming a minister had generated enthusiasm among the farmers, workers and youth of the country and a wave of happiness had spread among all the senior party workers and col-

leagues in the villages and farms. Those present included RLD state spokesperson Samrat Singh Chauhan, senior leader Kiran Singh, state general secretary Ramavati Tiwari, Preeti Shrivastava, Mahesh Pal Dhangar, district president Ramsevak Rawat, Vivek Pandey, Mukesh Verma, Vipin Dwivedi, Rishabh Gupta, Ashok Tiwari, Jagjivan Ram, SP Baghel, Surendra Dhangar and Manohar Maurya.

**UPSIDA** **Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority**  
A-1/4, UPSIDA Complex, Lakhnau, Kanpur-208024

**Notice for Public Objection/Suggestion on Layout Plan of Industrial Area Chinhat, District-Lucknow by which Industrial Plot No. G-46/A & G-46/B has been amalgamated and created a new Plot No. G-46/A/B (Measuring-900.00 Sq.m.).**

1 (a) The Layout Plan of Industrial Area Chinhat, Distt-Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District-Lucknow has been prepared.

(b) A Copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, **HIG-66, Sector-E, Aliganj, District-Lucknow** between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as **website: www.onlineupsida.com**

2 Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft Amended Layout Plan.

3 Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA, at HIG-66, Sector-E, Aliganj, District-Lucknow within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as **"Regarding Public Objections/Suggestions on draft partial amendment in Layout Plan of Industrial Area Chinhat, Distt-Lucknow"**. Any person marking the Suggestions or Objections should also give his/her full name & address, Email id and contact number.

**(Regional Manager)**  
**U.P. State Industrial Development Authority**

## BJP candidates who lost poll allege sabotage, betrayal by partymen

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Over a dozen Bharatiya Janata Party candidates, who lost the election in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections, have submitted a report to the high command alleging sabotage and betrayal by the party leaders and workers of their constituencies.

A senior party leader told this reporter that party candidates have alleged betrayal and sabotage as the primary reason for their defeat. They have pointed fingers at colleagues and local leaders that led to poor show by the party in this elec-

tion. The party leadership has asked the candidates to identify and address the causes of their loss.

Sources say that the BJP high command has been inundated with reports of infighting and sabotage. In response, the high command has initiated a comprehensive review process. Before the upcoming National Democratic Alliance meeting, a closed-door session was held to discuss these complaints. The high command has asked the state organisation to identify the saboteurs and has sought detailed reports from every booth in the state.

Over a dozen candidates have submitted reports to the party high command, alleging internal sabotage as a primary factor in their defeats. Even among those who managed to secure their seats, albeit with reduced margins, the narrative of internal betrayal persists.

Sakshi Maharaj, who won from Unnao constituency for the third consecutive time, attributed his diminished victory margin to internal 'traitors'. Former Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, who lost in Fatehpur, cited sabotage within the party as the reason for her defeat. Anupriya Patel's

supporters, celebrating her third win in Mirzapur, claimed that the BJP workers covertly opposed her campaign. Kaushal Kishore, defeated in Mohanlalganj, accused party workers of undermining his efforts, a sentiment echoed by other candidates across various constituencies.

Many candidates even accused local MLAs and party office-bearers of not supporting the party candidates adequately. Specific seats, including Shravasti, Lalganj and Ghaziabad reported allegations of internal sabotage. Another reason for the defeat

is attributed to the ticket distribution process. "There was dissatisfaction over ticket distribution. Many MPs were nominated despite local opposition, which resulted in disengaged and disillusioned party workers who chose not to support the candidates actively," a party leader said.

The loss was particularly notable in the case of seven Union ministers, including Smriti Irani, who failed to win their seats. The fallout has been severe, with prominent leaders publicly criticising the party's leadership and organisational decisions.

**उ.प्र. आवास एवं विकास परिवद**  
कार्यालय आवास, विकास, विद्युत, भूखण्ड, भूदानन योजना, लखनऊ

पत्र सं. 472 / M-6-ED-III / 69 दिनांक: 10.06.2024

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

अद्योत्पादक द्वारा जारी विहार (बिहार) योजना संख्या-11, मेरठ सेक्टर-5 में 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेंद्र के निर्माण एवं सेक्टर-3ए स्थित 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेंद्र से सेक्टर-3ए में निर्माणधीन प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के चयनार्थ 11 के.वी. लाइन का निर्माण कार्य हेतु परिषद में विद्युत/यंत्रिक कार्य हेतु अर्ह श्रेणी में परिषद में पंजीकृत फर्मों से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो कि दृ-विद प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ई-वीक्रेडिट सोल्यूशन द्वारा क्रमशः दिनांक 10.07.2024 एवं 04.07.2024 को चोखी जायेगी। से नियम व शर्तपरिषद की वेबसाइट [www.upavp.com](http://www.upavp.com) एवं <https://tender.upnic.in> तथा अधिकारी अभियन्ता, विद्युत खाण्ड-तृतीय, उ.प्र. आवास एवं विकास परिवद, कानपुर के कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।

**अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता (वि/वि)**

**FORM No. 1**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW**  
(Area of Jurisdiction Part of Uttar Pradesh)  
**600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007**

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF R.D.D.B.&F.I. ACT NO. 51 OF 1993**

**Indian Bank** Versus **.....C.H./Applicant**

**Shri Amit Bajaj & ors** Versus **...J.D'S/Defendant To,**

1. Shri Amit Bajaj S/O Shri Ashok Bajaj R/o- 14 Durgvijay Ganj Sarai Phatak District-Lucknow

2. Shri Deepak Srivastava S/O Shri Yagendra Bahadur Srivastava R/o- 256/187, Khajua Rajendra Nagar District-Lucknow

3. Mohd. Sarif S/o Mohd. Ayub R/o Sadar Tehsil Quaiserbagh District-Lucknow

1. This is to notify that a sum of **RS. 29,56,926/-(RS. TWENTY NINE LACS FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX ONLY)** together with Pentiditile and future interest @9% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing Original Application i.e. 18.06.2020 till full Recovery is made from the Defendants together with cost jointly & severally is due from you as per D.R.C. No.442/2022, O.A. No. 465 of 2020 order dated 21.02.2022 passed by Hon'ble Presiding Officer DRT Lucknow

2. You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of the receipt of the Notice, failing which the Recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of assets on or before 15.07.24

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 15.07.24 at 10.30. A.M.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay the following costs:-

(i) Application Fees	Rs 32,000/-
(ii) Counsel's Fee	Rs. ..../-
(iii) Publication Charges	Rs. ..../-
(iv) Miscellaneous Expenses	Rs. ..../-
(v) Clerkage	Rs. ..../-

Given under my Hand & Seal at Lucknow on this the 18th Day of March 2024

**Recovery Officer No. II**  
**Debts Recovery Tribunal,**  
**Lucknow**

SHRI RAMSWAROOP MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST B-987, SECTOR-A, MAHANAGAR, LUCKNOW					
NOTICE LOST ORIGINAL CHAIN DEED					
S.No	Area In (Hect.)	Khasra Nos	Saler	Purchaser	Remark
1.	0.348	720, 721, 858,	Jai Prakash S/o Dwarka Prasad, Hardoi	Kamla Devi W/o Ravindra Kumar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3298, Page No. 1 to 18 Sr. No. 7025 Reg. on Dated: 27/10/2007
2.	0.909	724, 730, 731, 723, 725ga.	Jai Prakash S/o Dwarka Prasad, Hardoi	Kumari Pallavi Rawat D/o Ravindra Kumar	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3502, Page No. 73 to 112 Sr. No. 2066 Reg. on Dated: 11/04/2008
3.	0.101	870	Renu Singh W/o Sunil Kumar Singh, Barabanki	Piyush Agarwal S/o Nagendra Kr. Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3495, Page No. 129 to 150 Sr. No. 1960 Reg. on Dated: 05/04/2008.
4.	0.101	870	Neetu Singh W/o Ramesh Singh, Barabanki	Piyush Agarwal S/o Nagendra Kr. Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3556, Page No. 131 to 152 Sr. No. 2895 Reg. on Dated: 02/06/2008.
5.	0.173	917/2.	Sunil Kr. Singh S/o Kandhai Lal, Barabanki	Piyush Agarwal S/o Nagendra Kr. Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3750, Page No. 385 to 404 Sr. No. 7322 Reg. on Dated: 02/12/2008.
6.	0.484	4, 25.	Ram Suchit, Maniram & Others, Barabanki	Ravindra Kumar S/o Shukhlal, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3035, Page No. 125 to 156 Sr. No. 762 Reg. on Dated: 12/02/2007
7.	0.11	85	Jagannath S/o Panchu, Barabanki	Pankaj Agarwal S/o Laxmi Narayan Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3446, Page No. 33 to 64 Sr. No. 1160 Reg. on Dated: 19/02/2008
8.	2.066	998, 999, 925, 936, 1001, 1005, 1008, 1009 & 1010.	Ashok Kumar, Latta Prasad & others, Barabanki	Ravindra Kumar S/o Shukhlal, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3035, Page No. 185 to 224 Sr. No. 764 Reg. on Dated: 12/02/2007
9.	1.146	86, 114.	Ram Dulari W/o Ram Ratan, Barabanki	Shakuntla Agarwal W/o Laxmi Narayan Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 2998, Page No. 383 to 414 Sr. No. 94 Reg. on Dated: 08/01/2007
10.	0.169	49, 87.	Kishori Lal S/o Jageshwar, Barabanki	Shakuntla Agarwal W/o Laxmi Narayan Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 2978, Page No. 137 to 162 Sr. No. 7952 Reg. on Dated: 20/12/2006
11.	0.15	391 (New Gata No. 722ka, 722ka, 722ga)	Sanchit Agarwal S/o Ashok Kr. Agarwal, Hardoi	Pankaj Agarwal S/o Laxmi Narayan Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3254, Page No. 303 to 322 Sr. No. 5999 Reg. on Dated: 14/09/2007
12.	0.221	378, 379	Neelam Srivastava W/o Raj Kumar Srivastava, Banarabanki	Pankaj Agarwal S/o Laxmi Narayan Agarwal, A-12, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow	Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3311, Page No. 269 to 300 Sr. No. 9311 Reg. on Dated: 29/12/2007
The above-mentioned owner is going to mortgage the said property in multiple banking with HDFC Bank Ltd and Punjab National Bank. If any person or any financial institution or bank has any objection/claim in this regard, kindly inform us within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the completion of the above time period, no claim of any kind will be considered.					
Pankaj Agarwal Managing Trustee Mob - 9415004834					



# Target to instal solar panels on roofs of 5 lakh houses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) has set a target of installing solar panels on the roofs of five lakh houses in Purvanchal discom, including 25,000 houses in Varanasi. It will help the region to have a huge reduction in the electricity bills of the consumers due to Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme and 6,55,337 consumers have already been registered under this scheme in PuVVNL (Purvanchal discom). According to a release of PuVVNL, Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme is an ambitious scheme of the Government of India, which aims to instal solar energy system (rooftop solar panels) on the roofs of one crore houses in the country. Under it a subsidy of ₹1,08,000 on solar plant is given up to 3 kW and bank loans are also available at low rate for the installation of solar rooftop. Technical feasibility is not required for plants up to 10 kW capacity. According to the

International Energy Agency, India may experience the highest increase in energy demand globally in the next three decades. To meet the increasing energy demand, it is very important to increase renewable capacity, especially solar energy. Under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme, 6,55,337 consumers have registered in Purvanchal discom and 35,994 consumers in Varanasi district so far. Also, the technical feasibility of 26,864 projects in Purvanchal discom and 13,008 projects in Varanasi has been approved. So far, solar rooftop of total capacity of 3,685 kW has been installed in Varanasi due to which an average of 14,740 units of electricity is being produced per day. The nodal agency for Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme is UPNEDA and REC. For the successful implementation of the scheme, the number of registrations is being increased by continuous monitoring from Purvanchal discom level. The discom has directed the field offi-

cers to increase registration by making consumers aware. The consumers who have registered are being contacted to submit the application and information is being given regarding the installation of solar rooftop through the empanelled vendors available on the website. All information related to the scheme is also being made available to the consumers at the bill counter and by the meter readers who have visited to the homes of consumers for billing. Under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme, for solar rooftop plants up to 2 kW, the Central government is providing a subsidy of ₹30,000 per kW and the state government is providing ₹15,000 per kW. For solar rooftop plants of 3 kW and above, a total subsidy of ₹1,08,000 is being provided by the central and state governments. To avail the benefits of the scheme, consumers can register on the website www.sbi.in developed by the government. Consumers are also being provided loan from the bank at a low

rate for setting up solar rooftop plants. According to a release of PuVVNL, in order to expedite the installation of solar rooftop plants under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme, the UP Energy Regulatory Commission has abolished the requirement of technical feasibility for installation of solar rooftop plants up to 10 kW capacity. Discoms have been given a maximum of 15 days to approve technical feasibility for rooftop plants of more than 10 kW capacity. The electricity bill of consumers with solar rooftop plants will be prepared by deducting the solar electric energy exported to the grid. This will lead to a substantial reduction in the electricity bills of consumers. Due to electricity generation at the consumer level, the electricity load on the grid and dependence on traditional energy sources will be reduced. Increasing production of solar energy will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, which will help in fighting climate change, it added.

# UPCC chief plays BHU for issuing notices to teachers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) president Ajay Rai strongly criticised the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) administration terming its action to issue notices to 94 teachers for supporting the demands of former head of Cardiology department, Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Prof Om Shankar, who was on a hunger strike for more than two weeks for his demands in public interest, as a 'shameful' and 'serious undemocratic act'. Rai said in a statement that news of notices to 94 university teachers has deeply saddened all those who take seriously the importance of institutions in a democratic society. "This incident has proved that against the tradition of universities in the democratic world, Banaras Hindu University is functioning in a 'dictatorial manner' by eliminating the units of legal democracy in its structure", said Rai, who recently lost parliamentary election



against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. According to the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee chief, this incident has made it clear that there is no scope left on the campus for intellectual concerns towards the society in a democratic manner. "The intellectual class of the university has been following the tradition of giving the right direction to the society with independent

thinking and contemplation", he said, questioning when the BHU administration takes away the freedom of the intellectuals to express the right opinion, then what direction will the university give to the society and how will the society respect it?" Rai further said that everyone knows that whatever the reasons are, the heart attack diseases have increased a lot in the post-Covid society. "In this background, the demand for increasing the number of beds in the hospital for patients in the Cardiology department of the Banaras Hindu University in the interest of the society is not an act of indiscipline, but a symbol of active responsibility of the enlightened society in public interest to support a 'satyagraha' adopted on the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. "It is possible that the university is not able to fulfil the demand due to lack of resources, but giving notice by terming that demand as a crime is an undemocratic

crime in itself", the Congress leader said. Rai said in Banaras Hindu University election based units have been abolished against the accepted tradition of universities of the democratic world. "Even the complete executive nominated by the government has not been formed for a long time as per the legislation. Democratic bodies like teachers' union, students' union, employees' union are banned", he said, adding that in this way, the university is being run in an 'autocratic' way, but this action of curbing the freedom of expression of intellectuals in bulk has raised serious questions on the rule of law and the culture of democracy in the institution. He demanded that the Banaras Hindu University administration should unconditionally withdraw the notice and resolve this issue. He said he has expressed his opposition to such action due to his belief in the existence of democratic social and educational institutions.

# Cash, jewellery stolen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The house of a retired army-man was burgled in Ghatampur police station area late Sunday night. The miscreants stole cash worth Rs 25,000 and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees from the almirah. On getting information about the incident, the victim informed the police which rushed to the spot and carried out a probe. Kesh of Teipur village said that he is retired from the army and now does farming. On Sunday night when he was sleeping with wife and daughter, the miscreants sneaked into his house and committed theft. On waking up on Monday morning, he came to know about it. Ghatampur inspector Pradip

Kumar Singh said a probe was on and claimed that the case will be worked out soon. Meanwhile the body of a youth of Mangta village was recovered near Tilauchi station on Jhansi-Kanpur rail route under Gajner police station area of Kanpur Dehat. The police sent the body for an autopsy apprehending that the youth had committed suicide under the wheels of a train due to prolonged illness. Reports said Shailendra (25) of Mangta village was a labourer and was suffering from TB. On Sunday night he quietly left home and on Monday morning his body was recovered near Pole number 1310/23 on the railway track at Tilauchi station.

# Cleanliness campaign continues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A 10-day cleanliness campaign launched by Namami Gange on the Ganga ghats in the city before Ganga Dussehra continued on the fourth day here on Monday. Under the drive, cleaning was done in front of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Ganga Dwar on the occasion of Jyeshtha Shukla Chaturthi during the day. The members of the organisation did 'shramdaan' under the leadership of city coordinator of Namami Gange Ganga Vichar Manch Shivam Aghahari. Namami Gange Ganga Vichar Manch is affiliated to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Aghahari said during the drive, empty plastic



bottles were found in large quantities in the garbage thrown here and there by the devotees after drinking water. He appealed to the devotees coming to the banks of Ganga river to maintain cleanliness.

During the 'shramdaan', city co-ordinator Ramprakash Jaiswal, Jai Vishwakarma, Shivangi Pandey etc were also present and the campaign will be run at Scindia Ghat at 6.30 am on Tuesday.

# Summer school for disabled students inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The inauguration of summer school for disabled students was held at the SN Bose Hall, Department of Physics, in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday. It was attended by a number of notable people, including Prof SC Lakhotia, an eminent person in field of cytogenetics and education, Prof DS Pandey, general secretary of National Academy of Sciences, India, Prof Gangadharan, an eminent professor from the department of History and many

other teaching and non-teaching staff. The occasion represented a critical turning point in continuous campaigns to advance accessibility and equal support to impaired students. The speakers said they were delighted to attend this inclusive summer school programme, which aims to empower students with disabilities. With a focus on meeting each participant's specific needs, this programme seeks to offer an enriching educational experience which encourages both academic and personal

growth. The programme began with paying respects to the founder of BHU, Mahamana Malaviya, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The Head of the Physics Department, Prof RK Singh welcomed the gathering. Then a talk by Prof BP Mandal, Director of the Summer School was held, followed by talks by various guests. There were a few remarks from students with disabilities. It was evident that volunteers were working with utmost efficiency and enthusiasm.

# Workshop on NEP 2020 held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A one-day workshop was organised in the auditorium located at Rajiv Gandhi South Campus (RGSC) of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at Barkachha (Mirzapur). Its theme was 'National Education Policy 2020: A Learning Insight for Teachers in Higher Education'. The objective of this workshop was to make the teachers of RGSC aware of NEP 2020 and to use it to strengthen the teaching work system. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Incharge Prof Vinod Kumar Mishra. In the beginning, the guests garlanded the Malviya statue and lit the lamp. The speakers of the workshop were Prof Bhavani Prasad Mandal and Dr Ratnashankar Mishra, members of the committee constituted by the main campus for the successful execution of the NEP-2020. Prof Mandal addressed this workshop by connecting to the online system and threw light on the various dimensions of the NEP 2020. He informed about the content format of various courses being started by

BHU in the new session this year under the New Education Policy and told the teachers about its utility and how this renewal will be done in the coming time. The second speaker Dr Ratna Shankar Mishra presented the outline of the changes to be made by BHU under the NEP and the changes to be made in the 4-year programme at the undergraduate level to renew the courses and motivated the teachers to do special work to conduct it effectively. In his presidential address, Prof Vinod Kumar Mishra asked the campus to be more prepared to comply with the NEP and emphasised on paying attention to the facilities of the students. The welcome address was given by Dr Kuldeep Baudhdh and the vote of thanks was given by the coordinator of the programme Dr Manoj Kumar Mishra. The programme was conducted by the workshop coordinator Dr Kaustubh Chatterjee. The workshop conducted by Dr Rajni Srivastava and Dr Raghavendra Raman Mishra. More than 50 teachers and officials of RGSC participated in this workshop.



Famous Ganga ghats in Varanasi wear a deserted look as mercury soared to around 46 degrees Celsius on Monday.

# Many injured in accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Over a dozen pilgrims and bus driver sustained injuries when their bus collided with a truck parked on roadside due to a damaged tyre on the Aurai flyover of Varanasi-Prayagraj Highway in Bhadohi district on Monday morning. The pilgrims were going to Prayagraj after offering prayers

in Kashi Vishwanath Temple. After the accident, the police reached the spot and rushed the injured pilgrims to Community Health Centre (CHC) Aurai. On seeing the serious condition of the driver, he was referred to the district hospital. Reports received here said the bus was carrying about 50 pilgrims who had

left from Kolhapur in Maharashtra some days ago for the Char Dham Yatra. In the accident, the injured were driver Sagar (40), Vaishali Singh (50), Nitin (46), Kunta Devi (70), Akash Bhai (73), Mangal Ram (65), Sudama Patil (67), Gopal Lokhande (58), Shivaji (61), Santosh (22), Amit (28), Ranjeet (23) and Hans (23).

# Fire in record room of CMO office

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A fire broke out in the record room of the CMO office here on Monday around 3 pm. As a result the old files kept in the record room were burnt to ashes. On seeing smoke coming out from the record room, the employees working there and all other staff ran out. The fire brigade team was informed immediately which after a lot of effort was successful in extinguishing the fire. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Ashu Pandey said an electric wire passes above the record room and due to a sudden blast in it the spark fell on the record room. From there the fire reached down. Many years old files were kept here. By the time people tried to extinguish the fire, the files were burnt to ashes, CMO said and added that a major accident was averted. **BODY FOUND HANGING:** The body of a 32-year-old advocate was found hanging from a noose in the house in Rasulabad area under Shivkuti police station. On getting information, the police and forensic team reached the spot

and collected evidence and questioned the family members. Advocate Vivek Kumar Yadav of Rasulabad used to practice in the court. Late on Sunday night his body was found hanging. When the family came to know about it on Monday morning, they were taken aback. Shivkuti police station in-charge Sanjay Gupta said no suicide note has been found from the spot. On getting information the police and forensic team reached the spot. Interrogation of the family members revealed that Vivek was having a dispute with his wife. Due to it his wife was living in her maternal home for about six months. However, the police is investigating the matter, added Gupta. **SUMMER SCHOOL ON BEHAVIOURAL FINANCE:** The eighth summer school on behavioural finance organised by Department of Management Studies, IIT-A, kicked off at Jhalwa campus on Monday offering an immersive learning experience for participants keen on delving into the intricate realm of behavioural finance.

Inaugurating the five day school, Director in charge Prof Shekhar Verma said behavioural finance dives into the fascinating world of human behaviour and psychology in the realm of finance. It's basically the study of why we make money choices that sometimes seem totally bonkers. Coordinator Prof Ranjit Singh said with a robust curriculum designed to explore the psychological aspects influencing financial decision-making, this programme aims to equip attendees with valuable insights and practical knowledge essential for navigating the complexities of the financial world. Dr Pragya Singh, Head of Management Studies Department threw light on how the biases can affect investment decisions and lead to poor outcomes. The world of finance was often unpredictable and chaotic. Prof Pawan Chakrabarty opined that behavioural finance is a field which seeks to provide an explanation for people's economic decisions.

# Summer hobby camp concludes



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The summer hobby camp organised by the North Central Railway Women Welfare Organisation (NCRW-WO) Headquarters concluded here on Monday. A total of 176 children participated in the which lasted for about 21 days. Skating, art and craft, dance and taekwondo were successfully taught in it. President of the organisation, Shikha Goyal, felicitated the children who secured first, second and third positions in skating and taekwondo competition by giving them medals. An exhibition of art and craft paintings made by the children

was inaugurated, under which the children who secured first, second and third positions were honoured with medals. Cultural programmes were also presented by the children. Plants were given to all the children so that awareness is created about conservation of environment. Certificates were also distributed to all the children who participated in the summer camp. Prominent among those present were organisation's secretary Richa Verma, Supriya Sinha, Jyoti Sinha, Kalpana Agarwal, Rakhi Jain, Renu Ponia, Rajeni Chandrayan and Neelam Kumar.

# Medical camp organised in dist jail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kanpur, organised a medical camp in the district jail on Sunday. A team of doctors of Satya Multi-speciality Hospital examined the inmates. Jail Superintendent Dr BD Pandey said the list of inmates to be examined by the doctors was prepared in advance. The team of doctors included orthopaedic Dr AK Agarwal, gynaecologist Dr Manisha Agarwal, Dr Anuj Kumar, Dr Hari and others and para-medical staff examined the BP, blood sugar and bones with the BMD machine. Some of the inmates were advised X-ray. The hospital also distributed medicines to inmates according to their needs. The team also counselled the inmates and told them ways to remain fit. Women inmates were examined by the gynaecologist Dr Manisha Agarwal. A total of 262 male and 27 female inmates and 18 jail employees benefited from the camp. Hospital Director Dr AK Agarwal assured to organise



A medical camp being organised in the district jail.

such camps in the jail from time to time. Jail Medical officer Dr Prabhakar Tripathi, pharmacist Indrajit Singh Rana, jailers Rajesh Kumar, Anil Kumar, deputy jailer Siama Jalis, Mausmi Rai and Anil Kumar were present. **MEMORANDUM:** The members of Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti met the city police commissioner Akhil Kumar on Monday and urged that the humiliation of legal fraternity should be stopped. Its convener and former president of The Lawyers Association Pt Ravindra

Sharma said regular attacks were being made on families of lawyers. He also told about some other incidents alleged humiliation of lawyers by the police and handed over a memorandum to the police commissioner who assured to look into the matter and issue necessary directives. The delegation comprised Bhanu Dwivedi, Sanjay Kapoor, Atul Singh, Shailesh Trivedi, Rakesh Sidharth, Shyam Dwivedi, Tauhid, Rajul Srivastava, Satyam Shukla, Nool Alam, Indresh Mishra, Priyam Joshi and KK Yadav.

# IIT-K congratulates JEE (Adv) achievers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) proudly congratulates the outstanding achievers of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2024. It extends special recognition to Ved Lahoti for securing the All-India Rank 1, and to Dwija Dharmeshkumar Patel, the highest-ranked female candidate, for achieving an impressive 7th rank. This year, Manya Jain has emerged as the top performer from the Kanpur Zone, securing an All India Rank (AIR) of 75, followed by Shubham Nair (AIR 131), Garv Chaudha (AIR 163), Shreshtha Gupta (AIR 191), and Siddharth Aggarwal (AIR 306). Among female candidates, Shreshtha Gupta has notably secured an AIR of 191, making her the highest-ranking female candidate in the zone. Out of the 21,634 candidates registered from the Kanpur Zone, which was coordinated by IIT Kanpur, 21,169 appeared for the examination, and 4,926 have successfully qualified.

This marks a significant achievement for the zone, reflecting the high standards of preparation and dedication among the students. Specifically, 17,700 male candidates registered, 17,333 appeared, and 4,338 qualified. Meanwhile, 3,934 female candidates registered, 3,843 appeared, and 590 qualified. In recognition of these commendable results and the efforts of the students, IIT Kanpur is delighted to continue its special 'Bright Minds Scholarships' for the All-India Top 100 rank-holders of JEE Advanced 2024 for the fourth consecutive year. The scholarships, generously supported by alumnus Lokvir Kapoor, were introduced in 2021 to ensure that no meritorious student faces financial barriers in academic pursuits. Director of IIT Kanpur, Prof Manindra Agrawal, said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the topers and successful candidates of the JEE Advanced. Your dedication and hard work have brought you to

this significant milestone. IIT Kanpur's 'Bright Minds Scholarships' is our commitment to support and nurture the brightest minds in the country, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder your academic journey. As you embark on this journey into the world of science, engineering, and technology, we at IIT Kanpur look forward to guiding and supporting you in your pursuit of excellence". This 'Bright Minds Scholarships' offers 10 prestigious and highly sought-after academic scholarships to students who secure admission into BTech/BS Programs at IIT Kanpur for the academic year 2024. Each eligible student will receive an annual scholarship of ₹3 lakh, covering their expenses throughout their undergraduate programme. The scholarship will be awarded for all four years of the UG programme, provided the students maintain a minimum Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) of 8.0.



# Bypolls for 13 Assembly seats in 7 States on July 10

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday announced bypolls to 13 assembly constituencies across seven states, including four in West Bengal, on July 10. The bypolls are to be held against vacancies created either due to deaths or resignation of incumbent members.

The assembly seats going for bypolls are Rupauli (Bihar), Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda and Maniktala (all West Bengal), Vikravandi (Tamil Nadu), Amarwara (Madhya Pradesh), Badrinath and Manglaur (Uttarakhand), Jalandhar West (Punjab) and Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh).

The notification for the elections will be issued on June 14, the last date for filing of nomination papers is June 21, the poll papers will be scrutinised on June 24 and the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is June 26. The bypolls will be held on July 10 and the counting of votes will be on July 13. The Election Commission said the bypolls have to be completed before July 15.

The bypoll to the Jalandhar West assembly constituency was necessitated by the resignation of Sheetal Angural. Angural was AAP's Jalandhar West (SC) lawmaker. He resigned from the assembly on March 28, a day after he and then-Jalandhar MP Sushil Rinku switched over to the BJP



from AAP. During the 2022 assembly polls, Angural defeated Rinku, who was the Congress candidate, from the Jalandhar West constituency. The Amarwara assembly seat in MP was won by Kamlesh Shah on a Congress ticket in the November 2023 elections when he defeated BJP nominee Monika Manmohan Shah Batti by a margin of 25,086 votes. The byelection was necessitated after Kamlesh Shah, a three-time Congress MLA from Amarwara, resigned on March 29 this year and joined the ruling BJP soon after. Shah subsequently resigned from the state assembly. Historically, since 1972, the BJP has won the Amarwara (ST) seat, twice—in 1990 and 2008—while the Congress bagged it nine times. The Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP), a tribal outfit, secured this constituency once in 2003. Bypolls for three assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh represented by three

Independent lawmakers who resigned from the assembly and joined the BJP. The three Independent MLAs -- Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur), Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra) and KL Thakur (Nalagarh) -- resigned from the assembly on March 22 and joined the BJP the following day.

The byelection to the Rupauli assembly seat, a part of the Purnea Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar, was necessitated following the resignation of sitting JD(U) MLA Bima Bharti, who recently switched over to the RJD and contested the Lok Sabha polls as its candidate from the Purnea seat.

The Badrinath seat in Uttarakhand fell vacant after Congress MLA Rajendra Bhandari resigned from the House in March and joined the BJP. The bypoll to the Manglaur seat was necessitated by the death of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA Sarwat Karim Ansari last October.

# Sonia meets Bangladesh PM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi met with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here on Monday and held discussions on a wide range of issues.

Sonia Gandhi was accompanied by her son and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, besides her daughter and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, and General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra called on the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed this afternoon in New Delhi," the Congress said in a social media post.

"We discussed a wide range of topics to further strengthen the natural bond that India

and Bangladesh share, based on trust, cooperation, and a commitment to mutual growth," Rahul Gandhi said in a post on his WhatsApp channel. He also shared a video of the meeting with Hasina.

The Congress also shared the video, besides pictures of the meeting and said they discussed a wide range of topics to strengthen the India-Bangladesh bond.

The photos showed Hasina greeting Sonia Gandhi with a hug. The Gandhi family shares a close bond with Sheikh Hasina's family. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka also met with the visiting Bangladesh delegation accompanying the prime minister.

Hasina arrived in Delhi on Saturday to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on June 9.

# IAF Chief to attend graduation ceremony at AFA



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari will attend the graduation ceremony at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, in Hyderabad on June 15, officials said here on Monday.

This will mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the defence ministry said in a statement.

"The Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad, will be held on 15 June, 2024, with traditional military splendour, to mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the Flying and Ground Duty branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF)," it said.

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari would be the Reviewing Officer of the parade, the statement said. During the function, he will confer the President's Commission to the graduating trainees.

# President Murmu meets Maldivian counterpart, Nepal PM at Rashtrapati Bhavan



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday met her Maldivian counterpart Mohamed Muizzu and Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

During the meeting with Prachanda, Murmu said Nepal is a priority partner under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and conveyed the country's commitment to "further strengthen our unique ties".

Both leaders discussed ways to take forward the developmental initiatives across various sectors in Nepal, which are benefitting the people of both countries, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

Welcoming President Muizzu, Murmu conveyed her greetings to the new government and the people of the Maldives and

expressed confidence that the island nation will continue on the path of prosperity and development under his leadership. "Both leaders noted the longstanding and multifaceted ties between two countries and highlighted important pillars of our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation including people-to-people linkages, capacity building, cooperation, economic and trade relations and development cooperation," the statement said.

The President expressed hope that India-Maldives relations will continue to strengthen in the years to come, it added.

Both Prachanda and Muizzu were among seven leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Council of Ministers here on Sunday.

# Modi did no favours to farmers by releasing fund due to them: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did no special favour to farmers by releasing the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi fund, which was due to them a month ago but delayed by the poll code, the Congress said on Monday.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the release of the 17th instalment of funds, which Modi is touting as the first decision of his new government, is the legitimate entitlement due to farmers, according to the policy of his government.

If he is genuinely concerned about farmers, the prime minister should grant legal status to minimum support price (MSP) for their produce, announce a farm loan waiver and provide guaranteed insurance payment directly into their bank accounts, he said.

Taking charge as prime minister in his third term, Modi on Monday signed his first file authorising the release of the 17th instalment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi fund, amounting to nearly Rs 20,000 crore that will benefit around 9.3 crore farmers. After signing on to the release of the fund, Modi said, "Ours is a government fully committed to 'kisan kalyan (farmers' welfare)'".

# Jaishankar holds meetings with leaders of neighbouring countries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held separate bilateral meetings with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Jaishankar also called on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay and Seychelles Vice President Ahmed Afif.

The seven leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region were in Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Council of Ministers on Sunday.

"Delighted to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of Maldives today in New Delhi. Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely," Jaishankar said on X. Jaishankar was the external affairs minister in Modi's previous Cabinet. He took oath as a Union minister on Sunday.

It was Muizzu's first visit to India after he became the island nation's president on November 17 last year. The ties between India and the



Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. The Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians earlier this month.

After his meeting with Hasina, Jaishankar said, "Honoured to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh today. The India-Bangladesh Maitri continues to advance."

On his meeting with Wickremesinghe, Jaishankar said, "Appreciate President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka for receiving me this morning in New Delhi. Recognized the steady progress in India-Sri Lanka relations."

"Great to meet PM Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan. Spoke about our unique and multifaceted friendship," Jaishankar said on the meeting with Tobgay. He said the meeting with Mauritius Prime Minister Jugnauth, reflected the special bond between the two countries.

On the meeting with the Nepalese prime minister, Jaishankar said: "So glad to call on PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' of Nepal. Discussed the growing various facets of India-Nepal cooperation."

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif also attended Modi's swearing-in ceremony.

# Celebrities congratulate Modi on securing third term as PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Film stars Chiranjeevi, Sidharth Malhotra, Varun Dhawan, Kamal Haasan and Paresh Rawal on Monday congratulated Narendra Modi for taking oath as the prime minister for the third consecutive term.

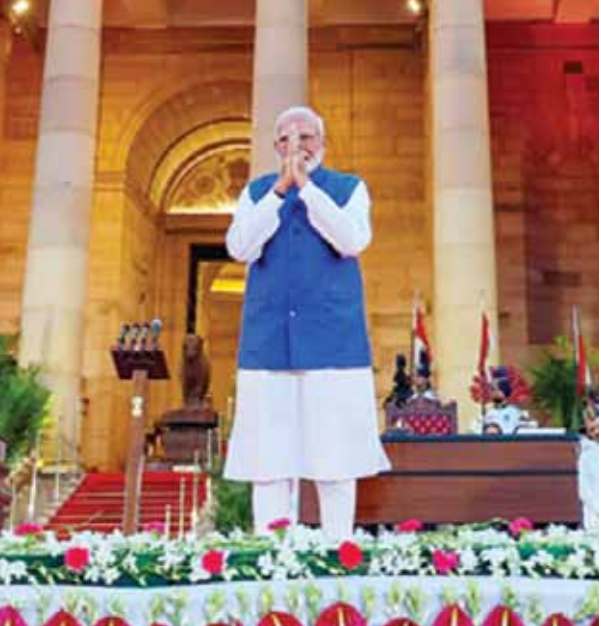
Modi, 73, was sworn in as the PM for the third time in a row at a grand ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday evening here. He became only the second prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to secure a third consecutive term.

Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi, who was named a Padma Vibushan recipient earlier this year, extended his wishes to the prime minister on X. "Hearty Congratulations to Shri @narendramodi ji on being sworn in as the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for a historic third term! I wish you and all the wonderful ministers in your cabinet all the strength to take our country forward on the path of pros-

perity and glory," he wrote. His son and "RRR" star Ram Charan also congratulated Modi.

"Congratulations to India's beloved Prime Minister @narendramodi ji and #NDAGovernment commencing your historic third term. Looking forward to a more prosperous India under your reign. Jai Hind #Narendramodi #PMOath #ModiCabinet," Charan said. "PM @narendramodi, congratulations for a historic 3rd term. Jai Hind," wrote Malhotra on his Instagram Stories. His "Student of the Year" co-star Varun Dhawan tagged Modi on X and said: "May you guide our country to greater heights. Hari Om." Haasan, founder of political party Makkal Needhi Maiam in Tamil Nadu, urged the prime minister to work together to create a "more inclusive India".

"Nations that harness their greatest strength – their people – shall accomplish the greatest glories. Congratulations to the Hon.



Prime Minister of India, Shri @narendramodi ji, on your third term. "In the spirit of national interest, unity, and patriotic duty, let the elected representatives of the 18th Lok Sabha work together to fulfil the dream of

a stronger, brighter, and more inclusive India. Jai Hind!" he wrote in an X post.

Rawal, former BJP MP from Ahmedabad East Lok Sabha seat, said Indian citizens look forward to more terms under the Modi government.

"The people of India extend their heartfelt best wishes to our respected leader Shri @narendramodi ji on this historic occasion of him becoming the Prime Minister for the third time. Remember one thing that the people love you a lot, so they will not just count till three, they will keep counting further. Jai Ho. Jaikar Ho."

"Congratulations to Shri Narendra Modiji on your remarkable third term as our Prime Minister. India's future certainly looks bright with your leadership at the helm," wrote Malayalam superstar Mohanlal on X.

He also congratulated actor and BJP's sole MP from Kerala Suresh Gopi (Thrissur) and Kerala BJP General Secretary George Kurian on being sworn in as Union Ministers of State.

"I extend my congratulations to Thiru. @narendramodi Avl on being sworn in as @PMOIndia for the third consecutive term," said Tamil cinema star Vijay, according to his political party Tamilaga

Vettri Kazhagam's official X page. In an X post, Suneil Shetty wished Modi "continued strength and wisdom in your leadership".

The prime minister's swearing-in ceremony was attended by a host of film celebrities, including Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, Rajinikanth, BJP MP-elect from Mandi Kangana Ranaut, Anil Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Raveena Tandon, Vikrant Massey, Anuradha Paudwal, Rajkumar Hirani, Mahaveer Jain, and Kailash Kher.

After the ceremony, Kher shared the video of Modi taking oath on his official X page. "An oath that makes Indians feel empowered and secure! Jai Hind! #PrimeMinister #India," the actor captioned the clip.

"Best wishes, Prime Minister @narendramodi ji, on your swearing-in. May your tenure be marked by progress, strength, and unwavering commitment to the nation's prosperity. Bharat Mata ki Jai!" Kapoor wrote on the microblogging site.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN MODI 3.0		
SL. NO.	NAME	MINISTRY
		Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
CABINET MINISTERS		
1.	Rajnath Singh	Minister of Defence.
2.	Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation.
3.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
4.	Jagat Prakash Nadda	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
5.	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Rural Development.
6.	Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs.
7.	Dr. S Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.
8.	Shri Manohar Lal	Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Minister of Power.
9.	H. D. Kumaraswamy	Minister of Heavy Industries; and Minister of Steel.
10.	Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry.
11.	Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education.
12.	Jitan Ram Manjhi	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
13.	Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
14.	Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
15.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
16.	KR Naidu	Minister of Civil Aviation.
17.	Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy.
18.	Jual Oram	Minister of Tribal Affairs.
19.	Giriraj Singh	Minister of Textiles.
20.	Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
21.	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
22.	Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
23.	Gajendra S Shekhawat	Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism.
24.	Anpurna Devi	Minister of Women and Child Development.
25.	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs.
26.	Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
27.	Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.
28.	G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines.
29.	Chirag Paswan	Minister of Food Processing Industries.
30.	C R Patil	Minister of Jal Shakti.
MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)		
1.	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture.
2.	Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space.
3.	Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
4.	Jadhav P Ganpatrao	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
5.	Jayant Chaudhary	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education.
MINISTERS OF STATE		
1.	Jitin Prasada	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2.	Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
3.	Pankaj Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.
4.	Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation.
5.	Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
6.	Ram Nath Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
7.	Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
8.	Anupriya Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
9.	V Somanna	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
10.	CS Pemmasani	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications.
11.	SP Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
12.	SS Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
13.	Kirtivardhan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.
14.	BL Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
15.	Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
16.	Suresh Gopi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism.
17.	L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
18.	Ajay Tamta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
19.	Bandi Sanjay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
20.	Kamlesh Paswan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.
21.	Bhagirath Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
22.	Satish Chandra Dubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines.
23.	Sanjay Seth	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.
24.	Ravneet Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
25.	Durgadas Uikey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
26.	Raaksha Nikhil Khadse	Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
27.	Sukanta Majumdar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
28.	Savitri Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
29.	Tokhan Sahu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
30.	RB Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
31.	Bhupathi RS Varma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel.
32.	Harsh Malhotra	Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
33.	NJ Bambhaniya	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
34.	Muridhar Mohol	Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
35.	George Kurian	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
36.	Pabitra Margherita	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles.







FIRST COLUMN

A TREASURE TROVE OF TIMELESS WISDOM

The Puranas, with their vast and varied content, are living texts



SWAMI CHARNASHRIT

The Puranas are a vast genre of ancient Indian literature that holds a significant place in the cultural, religious, and philosophical tapestry of India. These texts are not merely historical or mythological accounts; they are rich repositories of wisdom, encompassing a wide array of subjects that continue to resonate with and inspire people across generations.

**Origin and Structure of the Puranas**

The term "Purana" is derived from the Sanskrit word "pura," meaning "ancient" or "old." Traditionally, the Puranas are attributed to Vyasa, the sage who is also credited with compiling the Mahabharata and the Vedas. There are eighteen major Puranas, known as the Mahapuranas, and an equal number of secondary Puranas, known as Upapuranas. Each Purana varies in length and content but generally follows a similar structural format comprising five main topics: the creation of the universe (Sarga), the secondary creation (Pratisarga), genealogies of gods, sages, and kings (Vamsa), the reigns of Manus (Manvantara), and the history of dynasties (Vamsa Charitra).

**Cosmology and Metaphysics**

The Puranas offer a profound exploration of cosmology and metaphysics, detailing intricate theories about the creation, sustenance, and destruction of the universe. The concept of cyclical time, as opposed to linear time, is a central theme, with the universe undergoing endless cycles of creation and dissolution. This perspective provides a holistic view of existence, emphasizing the impermanence of the material world and the eternal nature of the soul.

**Ethical and Moral Teachings**

At their core, the Puranas are repositories of ethical and moral teachings. They emphasize the principles of Dharma (righteousness), Artha (prosperity), Kama (pleasure), and Moksha (liberation). Through various narratives and parables, the Puranas highlight the importance of living a virtuous life, the consequences of actions (karma), and the ultimate goal of attaining liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

**Theistic Devotion**

The Puranas are rich in devotional content, promoting Bhakti (devotion) towards various deities such as Vishnu, Shiva, and the Goddess. They provide detailed descriptions of the forms, attributes, and stories of these deities, fostering a personal and emotional connection between the devotee and the divine. This devotional aspect underscores the idea that sincere love and devotion can lead to spiritual enlightenment and liberation.

**Social and Cultural Insights**

The Puranas play a crucial role in preserving and transmitting the cultural and religious traditions of ancient India. They serve as encyclopaedic texts, containing information on rituals, festivals, pilgrimages, and social customs. By doing so, they have helped maintain continuity in cultural practices and have provided a sense of identity and continuity to generations.

**The Arts and Sciences**

The Puranas are remarkable for their integration of art and science. They include discussions on astronomy, astrology, medicine, architecture, and even the performing arts. For instance, the Vishnu Purana and the Bhagavata Purana provide elaborate accounts of cosmology, while the Agni Purana offers insights into various scientific disciplines, reflecting the comprehensive knowledge system of ancient India.

*(The writer is a spiritual guide, views are personal)*

# The long and short of Modi's welfarism



UTTAM GUPTA

The Govt is doing a good job of supplying food, fuel and fertiliser at subsidised cost but the largesse recipients are unlikely to make space for other deserving people

An overarching policy instrument Prime Minister Narendra Modi uses in relentless pursuit of a welfare State is his unflinching commitment to ensuring adequate supply of three essential items, namely fertilisers, food and fuel, to the target beneficiaries/consumers at 'throwaway' price or even for free.

In fact, he tells them about his intentions in this regard well in advance. Look at these facts: Urea is a widely used fertiliser that supplies primary nutrient nitrogen or 'N' and constitutes nearly half of India's total fertiliser consumption. To make it affordable to farmers, the Union Government controls its maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level unrelated to the cost of production/import and distribution, which is much higher. The excess cost over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer/importer as subsidy which varies from unit to unit, depending on its cost.

During its first term, under a comprehensive New Urea Policy 2015 announced on May 13, 2015, the Modi Government had frozen the urea MRP of ₹268 per 50 kg bag for a period four years till 2019-20. Even thereafter, the price remained unchanged at ₹242 per 45 kg bag (currently, urea is sold in 45 kg bag; so on pro rata basis, the price is the same as earlier). This price is nearly one-tenth of the cost of making it available leading to huge subsidy payout. On June 28, 2023, Modi announced its continued availability to the farmers at this price for three years, up to FY 2025-26.

As for food, the National Food Security Act (NFSA) enacted by the erstwhile UPA Government in 2013 had provided for giving wheat, rice and coarse cereals to eligible beneficiaries at a throwaway price of ₹3/2/1 per kg respectively. The excess of minimum support price (MSP) paid to farmers plus handling and distribution costs over this price (read ₹3/2/1 per kg) was reimbursed to the State handling agencies such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as subsidy.

Even as the NFSA had frozen the price to be paid by beneficiaries for three years, ie till 2016, the then Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Ram Vilas Paswan, announced that the price won't be increased for three years. In 2020, due to the Corona pandemic, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Government also started giving 5 kg of rice or wheat per person per month for 'free' to all the 820 million beneficiaries under the NFSA.

Meanwhile, the pandemic-induced PMGKAY was withdrawn from January 1, 2023. However, from the same date, the Government started giving regular supplies under the NFSA for 'free' (instead of ₹3/2/1 per kg charged earlier). This modified scheme was renamed as PMGKAY. Later in the year, in November 2023, addressing a poll rally in Chhattisgarh, Modi announced extension of the PMGKAY for another five years, ie till 2028.

In case of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), ever since 2015, the Government remains committed to making it available for household consumption at a low price although unlike in fertilisers and food, Modi hasn't announced as to 'for how long'. At present, over 100 million poor households who have been provided free gas connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) are eligible to receive subsidy at the rate of ₹300 per cylinder (14.2 kg) for 12 fills per annum.



“

WE COULD END UP WITH A SCENARIO WHERE CRORES OF PEOPLE DON'T NEED TO EARN THEIR LIVING AND SIMPLY WAIT FOR THE STATE FREEBIES TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THEIR NEEDS

If the welfare scheme beneficiaries are assured that they will continue to receive the benefits perpetually, all the more when these concern essential items such as fertilisers, food, fuel and that too with zero or near-zero price tag, they couldn't have asked for more. They can use the money thus saved for spending on other things, say education, health etc that can help them enhance their productive capacity and improve the quality of living. But, this may not happen in all cases. What if they fritter away the savings on unproductive stuff?

A bigger risk has to do with complacency that this could give rise to amongst the recipients of the benefits. When the Government arranges their basic needs for free (in Delhi, the State Government gives electricity and water free), it could trigger a feeling as to 'why should they work at all?' We could end up with a scenario where crores of people don't need to earn their living and simply wait for the State freebies to take care of all their needs.

Such an approach also comes in the way of extending the benefit of welfare schemes to other deserving persons who are currently not included in beneficiaries list. For instance, the current list of PMGKAY beneficiaries being based on the Census of 2011, over 100 million persons who became eligible post-2011 don't have access to

free food.

Giving them access without deleting equivalent number from existing list will require more allocation for food subsidy. If fund constraints don't permit hike in the budget, those 100 million will continue to be denied access.

Under the current system of giving fertiliser subsidy, farmers are prone to excessive use of urea leading to imbalance in fertiliser use, drop in crop yield, deterioration of soil health and adverse impact on the environment. Even as there is a dire need to reduce imbalance by curbing excess use of urea, its availability at throwaway price won't let that happen.

For this very reason, there is rampant leakage/diversion of urea for industrial uses. Further, because manufacturers and importers get full reimbursement of the excess of cost over the MRP as subsidy on 'actual' basis, there is no incentive to reduce cost and improve efficiency in operations. The existing system of giving food subsidy also suffers from leakages, misuse and inefficiency in operations.

When Modi says the supply of fertilisers and food for free or at throwaway prices will continue perpetually, dubious operators too get to continue with their illicit gains. To address these anomalies, the Government needs to drastically restructure its welfare schemes. First, there should be an exit clause

for a beneficiary under the scheme. The clause can be triggered when she crosses the poverty threshold. For instance, 250 million persons who have come out of poverty shouldn't be eligible for free food under PMGKAY.

Two, our political brass should do away with the 'free' tag to any item even if it is food. While no one can deny the need for some subsidy to make it 'affordable' to the poor, insisting that the commodity be given for free or at small fraction of the cost (as in case of urea) is a risky idea. It is an invitation to all kinds of wrongs such as fictitious claims, diversions, inflated cost and so on.

Three, instead of delivering a commodity at a low price, the Government should deposit the subsidy in the account of the beneficiary. The latter can buy her needs from the market where prices are determined in a competitive manner, thereby ensuring that the gains of efficiency improvements and cost reduction accrue to all consumers. In this scenario, there won't be any scope for misuse or diversion.


Four, a plethora of subsidies under different heads can be merged and given as a single lump sum amount as income support. This can save a lot of administrative work and associated costs involved in running multiple schemes.

*(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)*

# Canada in covert talks with India over Nijjar's killing

## India and Canada share a complex relationship, shaped by historical ties, diaspora influence and geopolitical interests

In the intricate dance of international diplomacy, Canada's intelligence chief, David Vigneault, embarked on clandestine visits to India earlier this year, delving into the shadowy realms of the Khalistani activist's controversial demise. These covert exchanges, veiled in secrecy, unfold against the backdrop of heightened tensions between the two nations, as a parliamentary report unveils India's ranking as the second most significant foreign threat to Canadian democracy, closely trailing behind China. With Prime Minister Trudeau's pledge to confront foreign interference head-on, Canada grapples with safeguarding its democratic integrity amidst the swirling currents of global power struggles.



SANTOSH MATHIEW

India and Canada share a complex relationship, shaped by historical ties, diaspora influence, and geopolitical interests. The Indian diaspora in Canada, particularly the Sikh community, has played a significant role in shaping Canadian society and politics. However, issues related to Sikh separatism and human rights in India have often been contentious points in bilateral discussions. Nijjar's assassi-

nation has brought these issues to the forefront once again, reigniting debates about the treatment of minorities in India and the extent of Canada's involvement in addressing these concerns. The Indian diaspora in Canada is significant and steadily growing. It's estimated that there are over 2 million people of Indian origin in Canada, making the Indian community one of the largest and most influential ethnic groups in the country. Over the years, the Indian diaspora has made significant contributions to various sectors of Canadian society, including business, politics, academia, and culture. This demographic's influence is a testament to the deep-rooted connections between the two nations.



has led to increased scrutiny of Indo-Canadian relations. The alleged involvement of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and a close aide of Ajit Doval in covert operations underscores the complex interplay between intelligence, diplomacy, and geopolitics. As India seeks to assert itself on the world stage, it must navigate these challenges with

caution, ensuring that its actions are guided by principles of transparency, accountability, and respect for international law. For Canada, the incident has highlighted the delicate balancing act it must perform in managing its diverse population while upholding democratic values. The Canadian government's response has been measured, focusing on ensuring justice for Nijjar while maintaining diplomatic channels with India. This approach is crucial for preserving the multifaceted relationship that exists between the two countries. While differences may exist on certain issues, there are also areas of common interest where cooperation can flourish. Moreover, the tragic loss of Jaswinder Singh Nijjar serves

as a reminder of the importance of upholding democratic values and protecting the rights of all individuals, regardless of their beliefs or backgrounds. This commitment to justice will not only honour Nijjar's legacy but also reinforce the values that both nations espouse. Moving forward, Indo-Canadian relations will likely face challenges as both countries navigate the aftermath of this incident. However, with mutual respect, dialogue, and a commitment to shared values, there is hope that they can emerge stronger and more resilient than before.

In conclusion, the assassination of Jaswinder Singh Nijjar has cast a spotlight on the intricacies of Indo-Canadian relations, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is a pivotal moment for both nations to reflect on their shared history, reaffirm their commitment to justice, and work towards a future marked by cooperation and mutual respect. The road ahead may be fraught with difficulties, but with a concerted effort, India and Canada can continue to build a relationship that is both robust and resilient, benefiting not only their citizens but also contributing to global peace and stability. Indo-Canadian relations are like a symphony, where each note, no matter how different, contributes to the harmony of the whole. Let us play our parts with respect, understanding, and a commitment to peace.

*(The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)*



# With coffers running dry, Chandrababu as CM faces huge task to deliver super six promise

PTI ■ AMARAVATI (ANDHRA PRADESH)

TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu who is set to take the reins of power in Andhra Pradesh shortly will have the daunting task of making bleak coffers ring to fulfill the “Super Six” that his party promised during the run-up to the recently concluded Assembly polls.

Naidu is scheduled to be sworn in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on June 12. As a precursor to his journey of financial challenges, Naidu needs over Rs 4,500 crore to disburse social pensions to about 65 lakh beneficiaries by July 1.



The new TDP government will have to mop up over Rs 10,000 crore to fulfill the financial requirements for July, a retired senior bureaucrat said. According to him, the state government has a committed expenditure of nearly Rs 1.30 lakh crore annually to meet

the requirements of salaries, pensions, loan repayments and interests. According to the Reserve Bank website, the Andhra government offered to sell securities worth Rs 2,000 crore on June 11 through auction. The state needs Rs 2,600 crore

every month to meet the social pension alone. Similarly, as part of the manifesto, the Telugu Desam Party promised free travel to women in government-run buses. An official of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation said the APSRTC earns about Rs 450 to Rs 500 crore through ticket revenue monthly and women passengers are expected to be in the range of 35-40 per cent. He, however, said there was no study on women travellers done so far in the state.

According to him, the Telangana RTC which implements a similar scheme estimated that women constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total commuters. Towards the free travel scheme, the new government will have to reimburse nearly Rs 2,000 crore annually to the APSRTC. Under “Super Six,” the TDP also promised Rs 15,000 to every school-going child per annum. The outgoing YRS Congress Party government had earmarked Rs 6,500 crore

towards a similar scheme called “Ammu Vodi.” With Naidu removing the cap on the number of beneficiaries, the amount may go up substantially. The party also promised three free cooking gas cylinders to every household per year and Rs 20,000 annual financial assistance to every farmer, among others. According to the government budget document 2023-24, the state has Rs 4.83 lakh crore public debt (33.3 per cent of GSDP), besides Rs 1.39 lakh crore government guarantees and Rs 26,296 crore of loans from the Centre. The total Revenue Receipts in the Budget (vote-on-account) for 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 2,05,352.19 crore while the expenditure was pegged at Rs 2,30,110.41 crore. While launching the YSRCP manifesto during the run-up to the recently concluded Assembly polls, the outgoing Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged it will cost an exorbitant Rs 1.21 lakh crore per annum to fulfil the TDP’s poll promises.

# People from Manipur taking refuge in Assam after fresh violence

PTI ■ SILCHAR (ASSAM)

People affected by fresh incidents of violence in Manipur have started arriving in Assam’s Cachar district in search of safety, the local MLA said on Monday. Security along the inter-state border has been tightened, a police officer said. Two police outposts, a forest beat office and at least 70 houses were torched in Jiribam by suspected militants on Saturday, leading to fresh tension in the neighbouring state which has been witnessing ethnic violence since May last year. Residents of the bordering areas claimed that about 600 people have taken shelter in various parts of Lakhimpur in Cachar district, entering the state by crossing the Jiri river over the last four days. They are taking shelter in villages at Jirighat and Lakhimpur, though no government relief camp has been opened for them, they said. “The people who have come from Manipur are being allowed to stay here safely.



The local administration is taking all steps to ensure no spread of any violence here,” Lakhimpur MLA Kaushik Rai told PTI. Cachar Superintendent of Police Nomal Mahatto said that police and other security forces have been deployed in the border areas. “There are no reports of any untoward incident in Cachar so far. Police patrolling in Jirighat on the border as well as along the national highway and nearby villages is being conducted,” he told PTI. The SP added that the situation on the Assam side is completely under control and the police are keeping a strict

vigil following the violence in Jiribam. Jiribam, which has a diverse ethnic composition of Meiteis, Muslims, Nagas, Kukis and non-Manipuris, had so far remained unaffected by the ethnic strife that has been raging in the northeastern state since May last year. The MLA said that most of the people who have entered Cachar are Kukis and Hmars. The ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hill-based Kukis began in May last year and led to the deaths of over 200 people, besides rendering thousands of people homeless.

# Naxal problem now confined to only five Jharkhand districts: DGP

PTI ■ RANCHI

Coordinated and concerted offensives against Naxalites in Jharkhand have restricted their activities to only five of the 24 districts, with Chaibasa being the most affected, DGP Ajay Kumar Singh said on Monday. Continuous operations are underway to minimise the threat posed by the rebels, and their impact is evident in the state, Singh added. He made these remarks while speaking to reporters after a review meeting on key issues including law and order, the Naxal menace, and crime control. The DGP expressed confidence that the success of anti-Naxal operations would soon lead to a significant reduction in incidents. Police have detailed information about Naxalites’ movements and hideouts, and operations have been intensified accordingly, he added. Over 400 Naxalites were arrested last year, he said. Singh also mentioned that



special campaigns are ongoing to curb drug trafficking and actions have been taken against peddlers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, resulting in substantial opium recoveries. The Jharkhand High Court recently criticised the state government for its failure to effectively tackle drug trafficking. Other issues discussed at the meeting included the recent Lok Sabha elections, crime

control, law and order issues, and the registration and disposal of cases under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. “The Lok Sabha elections were incident-free. Discussions also covered the upcoming Assembly elections scheduled for later this year,” Singh added. The meeting was attended by SPs from various districts, DIGs, IGs, and other senior officials.

# Congress to face consequences in Maharashtra polls for opposing interests of Marathas: Jarange

PTI ■ JALNA (MAHARASHTRA)

Quota activist Manoj Jarange on Monday claimed the Congress was speaking against the interests of the Maratha community and would face consequences in the Maharashtra assembly polls due later this year. Newly-elected Jalna Congress MP Kalyan Kale met Jarange at Antarwali Sarathi village, where the activist continued his indefinite fast for the third day, and said he supports the agitation for Maratha quota. The Congress MP also acknowledged the influence of the Maratha reservation movement in his victory in the recent Lok Sabha polls. Notably, Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar had opposed reservation to the Maratha community from the share of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Asked about Wadettiwar’s comments, Jarange told reporters, “The Congress took votes from the Maratha people in the recent Lok Sabha elections and now they are speaking against our interests. They will face the consequences in the Vidhan



Sabha elections.” In the recently held Lok Sabha polls, the Congress won 13 out of 17 seats it contested in the state as part of the opposition alliance. After meeting Jarange, Kale said, “Wadettiwar should not talk like this. I do not endorse his statement.” “Because of Jarange, I have been elected from the Jalna Lok Sabha constituency,” he added. In February this year, the Maharashtra legislature unanimously passed a bill

providing 10 per cent reservation for the Marathas in education and government jobs under a separate category. Jarange on Monday reiterated his demand for implementation of the draft notification that recognises Kunbis as “sage soyare” (blood relatives) of Maratha community members and sought a law to identify Kunbis as Marathas. Kunbi, an agrarian group, falls under the OBC category, and Jarange has been demanding

that Kunbi certificates be issued to all Marathas, thus making them eligible for quota benefits. Jarange on Monday also demanded implementation of the Hyderabad Gazette for the Kunbi records of Marathas. e said 57 lakh documents have been received proving that Marathas and Kunbis are the same. He also demanded withdrawal of cases against protesters seeking Maratha quota. Before this, the activist held the agitation over the quota issue between February 10 and 26. Political analysts believe unrest among the Maratha community members as well as farmers, and lack of major development projects in the Marathwada region contributed to the defeat of BJP-led Mahayuti candidates in the general elections. The Bharatiya Janata Party lost all four seats it contested in the region, including Jalna and Beed, where Union minister Raosaheb Danve and former state minister Pankaja Munde suffered defeats, respectively.

# Telangana Govt to soon form farmers, education panels

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday announced that his government would soon constitute panels to deal with issues relating to education and farmers. Speaking at an event here, he said the minorities and women’s commissions receive complaints and makes recommendations and directives to the governments to address problems (of minorities and women). “Our government has specially identified two areas. One is education and the other is farming. Our government has decided to appoint a mechanism to continuously work towards addressing your problems through an education commission,” Reddy said. The proposed farmers commission would address the grievances of ryots with regard to spurious seeds, fertilizers and others and make recommendations for their welfare.

# Bengaluru court sends Revanna to 14 days judicial custody

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Account here on Monday sent former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse against several women, to 14 days judicial custody. He was produced before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court as his Special Investigation Team (SIT) custody ended today. The court on May 31 remanded him to SIT custody till June 6, and later extended it till June 10. While in their custody, the SIT conducted a detailed investigation, including gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses, and questioned Revanna extensively about the allegations. The court, taking into consideration the gravity of the allegations and the evidence presented by the SIT, decided to remand him to judicial custody for 14 days, till June 24. The 33-year-old grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former PM H D Deve Gowda had failed in his bid to retain the Hassan parliamentary constituency in the recent polls. SIT officials arrested Revanna soon after he landed at Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport from Germany on May 31. He had left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to the polls. A ‘Blue



Corner Notice’ seeking information on his whereabouts had earlier been issued by the Interpol, following a request by the SIT via the Central Bureau of Investigation. A Special Court for Elected Representatives issued an arrest warrant against Revanna on May 18, following an application moved by the SIT. He was arrested in a case registered against him in Holenarasipura in Hassan district on April 28. He was accused of sexually harassing a 47-year-old former maid. He is listed as accused number two, while his father and MLA, H D Revanna, is the primary accused. Prajwal Revanna has been booked in three cases of sexual assault. There are also charges of rape against him. The cases of sexual abuse came to light after pen-drives containing explicit videos allegedly involving Prajwal Revanna were reportedly circulated in Hassan, ahead of Lok Sabha polls there on April 26. JD(S) suspended

# Karnataka Congress leader takes dig at NDA for not inducting from State any BCs/Dalit MP in Cabinet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister and senior Congress leader G Parameshwara on Monday took a dig at the NDA government for not inducting any MP from backward classes and Dalit communities from the state into the union council of Ministers. He said it was evident that these communities have been “neglected” in the government formation exercise. “It looks like they (BJP/NDA) don’t want backward classes and Dalit communities. There are several people from such communities who have got elected in the state from that party,” Parameshwara told reporters here. “They could have considered them, but it is left to their discretion. But it is evident that these communities have been neglected,” the former president of the party’s state unit said.

Five Members of Parliament from Karnataka were part of the council of Ministers of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sworn in on Sunday. Nirmala Sitharaman (representing Rajya Sabha) and Pralhad Joshi of the BJP and JD(S)’ H D Kumaraswamy were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers, while BJP’s Shobha Karandlaje was inducted as Minister of State along with V Somanna. While Sitharaman and Joshi are Brahmins, Kumaraswamy and Karandlaje are from the dominant Vokkaliga community. Somanna hails from another dominant community in the state — Lingayats. The NDA got 19 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, with BJP winning 17 and JD(S) two. The ruling Congress in the state has won nine seats. Congratulating the five MPs who have become Ministers, Parameshwara said there are several State issues pending for

resolution before the Central government, like GST share and irrigation projects requiring its nod. “I’m confident that as the representatives of the state they will take them up on priority and try to resolve them,” he said, adding that in case they fail, it is a set back to them and their party. “We will wait and watch....If our issues are not resolved, naturally we will have to blame them.” On whether there were discussions in the ruling Congress in the state about appointing more Deputy CMs on the basis of communities, Parameshwara said: “There is no such thing, no such discussions have happened. Just because someone speaks it cannot be a party issue.” Whatever the party leadership decides is final, he said, adding, if they feel there is a need for such a move, they will decide. D K Shivakumar from the Vokkaliga community is the only Deputy CM in the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet now.

# Village in Beed grapples with poor road infrastructure, transportation

PTI ■ LATUR

For residents of Tat Borgaon in Beed, stepping out for work or to school every day means walking 3 km to the nearest bus stop, as services of the Maharashtra State Roads Transport (MSRTC) have not reached the village. With a population of 1,500, Tat Borgaon falls under the Ambajogai tehsil and borders Latur, Beed, and Dharashiv districts. According to villagers, the Zilla Parishad school in the village is equipped to teach students up to Class 4, and after that, children have to walk at least 3 km to schools in other villages to continue their studies. Talking to PTI, college lecturer Dr Pandurang Shitole, a native of the village, said, “Lack of a motorable road was one of the major issues. But now, under the leadership of Sarpanch

Vithal Shitole, road construction is underway. Villagers have been waiting for bus services for many years.” Residents claim that local politicians came to the village for poll campaigns over the years, but the issues of road infrastructure and transportation remain unaddressed. Shubhangi Kaldate, a pharmacy student, said, “I have to walk 3 km daily to catch a bus to my college in Latur. This journey is arduous.” Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the MSRTC said the corporation operates buses up to Aapegaon, a few kilometres away from the village, as the road ahead is not motorable. The transport body has not received any demand for bus service from the village, he said. The MSRTC will send a traffic inspector to survey the road to the village before deciding to start the service, the official said.

# LS polls: BSP’s vote share rose in Madhya Pradesh

PTI ■ BHOPAL

The Bahujan Samaj Party failed to win a seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls but its vote share increased marginally in Madhya Pradesh, with its candidates getting more than one lakh votes in several constituencies. While the Mayawati-led BSP had garnered 2.38 per cent votes in Madhya Pradesh in the 2019 polls, it rose to 3.28 per cent in 2024, data from the Election Commission showed.

# Despite drubbing in LS polls, Mann says AAP won 3 seats, vote share also increased

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Despite his party facing a drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said the AAP won three of the total 13 seats and its vote share also increased as compared to the 2019 general elections. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress dealt a blow to the ruling AAP and the opposition BJP and SAD, winning seven of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in the high-stakes polls in Punjab even as two independents registered a surprise victory. The AAP could manage to win only three seats -- Anandpur Sahib, Hoshiarpur and Sangrur -- as against the target of winning all 13 Lok Sabha constituencies in the just-concluded general elections. Replying to a question on the AAP’s performance in the Lok Sabha elections, Mann said that his party had won only one seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and its vote share was just 7.50 per cent. “This time, we won three seats. We wrested the Sangrur seat, which is our stronghold,” Mann told reporters in Mohali after offering prayers at a gurdwara on the occasion of the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev. He said the AAP’s vote share also increased to 26 per cent in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Mann said while the Congress got 35.50 lakh votes, the AAP polled 35.20 lakh votes in the



elections. Commenting on the rival parties’ performance, the chief minister said the Congress party’s vote share declined from 40 per cent in 2019 to 26 per cent this time. The BJP, which drew a blank, lost its stronghold Hoshiarpur, he said. Mann said many of the candidates of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) lost their security deposits. The AAP leader said his party is reviewing the poll outcome and added that wherever there were shortcomings, they will be removed. Responding to a question, Mann slammed the BJP for its slogan of ‘400 paar’, saying the saffron party fell short of the majority mark. “Now they (BJP) do not call the Modi government. They have started saying the NDA government. They have realised that they fell short of the majority mark. Now the dictatorship, which they earlier did, will not work now,” he said. Mann further said big faces in the BJP like Smriti Irani and Arjun Munda lost the elections.



# Sri Lanka’s plantation workers rejoice over Modi’s success

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It turned out to be a special Sunday on the 9th June for hundreds of plantation workers in Harrington Tea Estate in Kotagalla village of Sri Lanka’s Nuwara Eliya district. The day on which Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time in succession, devotees of Muthumari Amman Temple in the picturesque plantation gathered in large numbers to thank the presiding deity for his success. Swami Bhasker Sharma, the chief priest, told the devotees that Modi’s victory in the elec-

tion is the result of the good deeds done by him and his government during the last ten years. “Modi’s victory is the fall out of the silent prayers from us as he had ordered the construction of 10,000 houses for the plantation workers in Sri Lanka who had no roofs over their heads. He also played a major role in the realization of the Lord Ram Temple at Ayodhya, the aspiration of Hindus across the world,” said Sharma. Ramaswami Wijayabalan, the owner of Harrington Estate pointed out that Modi was the

perfect ambassador of Sri Lankan Tea. “We were all moved to tears when he pointed out that the Sri Lankan Tea is flavored by the island nation’s salubrious soil and weather and the sweat of the Tamil plantation workers from India. He was the first top leader who acknowledged the role of Tamil workers in the cultivation of Sri Lankan tea,” Wijayabalan told the Pioneer from Nuwara Eliya. The Harrington Estate is unique because of the presence of Seetha Matha Temple. “It is here that the demon king Ravana who had kidnapped

Seetha Matha kept her in captivity. The spot is known as Seetha Eliya and it was from a nearby Thevurum Temple that Seetha did the Agni Pravesh. Former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan had visited the Seetha Matha Temple when the UPA Government was in power in New Delhi. Though Chauhan had offered Rs one crore towards the temple, the Congress-led government did not allow it,” said Wijayabalan. The money was meant for the renovation and Maha Kumbhabhishekam of the temple.

# Manipur CM’s security convoy ambushed

PNS ■ IMPHAL/NEW DELHI

Suspected militants ambushed the advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in Kangpokpi district on Monday morning, leaving one personnel injured. The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam district when it came under attack around 10.30 am near Kotlen village along a stretch of National Highway-53, police officials said. Multiple gunshots were fired at the vehicles of the security forces, who retaliated, a police officer said. The driver of one of the convoy vehicles suffered bullet injuries on his right shoulder, and he is being taken to a hospital in Imphal, the officer said. "Security forces have reached the ambush site,

around 36 km from the state capital, and launched combing operations to trace the gunmen," he said. "CM Biren Singh, who is yet to reach Imphal from Delhi, was planning to visit Jiribam to take stock of the situation in the district," said an official. "Two police outposts, a forest beat office and at least 70 houses were torched in Jiribam by suspected militants on Saturday in a fresh bout of violence in the ethnic strife-torn state. Biren was in Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he described as his responsibility as a Chief Minister. Singh condemned the ambush and termed it a direct attack on himself and the people of the

State, assuring that the "rule of law" will be established. Speaking to reporters at Shija hospital, where the injured person is undergoing treatment, Singh said, "It is very unfortunate and highly condemnable. It's an attack on the Chief Minister, which means a direct attack on the people of the State. The state government has to do something... We will take a decision."Singh explained that fortunately the person was not seriously injured. He said, "Earlier, the State Government did not retaliate much in the hope that an understanding could be achieved through talks."However, certain violent acts have been perpetrated on people as if a state government does not exist. This has hurt me

deeply. There have been consistent insults to existing state machineries, and we have tolerated them for so long. The attack on an advance security team of the CM is an attack on the CM himself," Singh said, adding, "All are requested to decide for themselves who are with the Government and who are against it." Meanwhile, additional State and Central forces, including Assam Rifles and CRPF, rushed to the ambush site and launched search operations to apprehend the perpetrators. However, no arrests have been made. Jiribam district has been affected by violence since June 6. More than 70 houses have been torched, along with two police outposts and one forest beat office.

# Delhi Police scores big in India-Pak T20 match

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Known for its witty post and humorous takes, the Delhi Police’s handle on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) has left netizens laughing through its unique meme soon after the blockbuster India-Pakistan clash in the T20 World Cup in New York as the Indian team beat its archrivals in a low-scoring nail-biting clash. The post garnered over one million views in less than a day. As millions were glued to their screens as India defeated Pakistan by six runs in the highly-anticipated T20 World Cup 2024 on Sunday, celebratory posts flooded social media. As fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah ended the

game by taking three wickets, the Delhi Police were quick to share a quirky post while tagging the New York Police Department (NYPD). The police posted, "Hey, @NYPDNews We heard two loud noises. One is 'Indiaaa.. India!', and another is probably of broken televisions. Can you please confirm?" The post went viral almost immediately. It was reposted by over 7,700 people, reached over one million views, was liked by over 46,000 people, and had more than 1,200 comments. However, this is not the first time that the police department is deploying social media for its use. An 'X' user replied, "The one handling

this deserves a raise," while another posted "What a ripper. I admire the fellow who manages this handle. You guys rock," and accompanied it with smileys. Earlier too, the police have used this platform to connect with the people through creative means including the trend "look between your keyboard". As the trend went viral, the Delhi Police jumped on the bandwagon of memes that used this trend to warn people about texting while driving. Delhi Police posted, "If you look at your keyboard while driving, the thing between Q and R will meet you with a challan." On Sunday, the Delhi Police yet another quirky post alarmed the New

York police of a ‘fight’. On a post in X, the police said, “Dear @NYPDnews, Just to tip you off: An interesting, delightful fight is expected at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium today. Good luck to #TeamIndia! #INDvsPAK #INDvsPAK #T20WorldCup” The India-Pakistan cricket rivalry, one of the most intense in the sporting world, never fails to captivate audiences. This match was no exception, drawing viewers from across the globe and showcasing the spirit and passion of cricket. It was reposted by over 195 people, reached over 59,000 views, was liked by over 1,800 people, and had more than 30 comments.

# Will win three out of four seats in Bengal bypolls: Suwendu

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Fresh from an electoral drubbing at the hands of the Trinamool Congress, the Bengal BJP leaders have said that they would revive and restore the party's lost glory in the upcoming by-elections for four Assembly seats. The by-elections to Raiganj, Bagdah, Ranaghat South and Manikatala seats would be held on July 14. Three out of the four seats including Raiganj in North

Bengal — other seats including Manikatala which is an Assembly segment in the Kolkata North parliamentary constituency are in South Bengal — were clinched by the BJP in 2021 Assembly elections but all the three MLAs later switched turned coat to join the TMC. “There is a difference between the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections... the issues are different, often candidates too are different... so the result often changes... besides this time round the votes that went to Left and

Congress would return to the BJP considering the fact that the BJP has once again emerged as the only opposition party for all practical reasons... the people will definitely vote for us and we shall win at least three out of four seats,” State Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari who returned to Kolkata after a brief stay in the national Capital said. Confident from its fantastic show in the parliamentary polls TMC leadership however said that the by-elections were going to be an encore of the Lok Sabha polls.

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### BJP KEEPS PLUM OF CABINET PIE

Education Ministry. Gujarat BJP president Chandrakant Raghunath Patil has been appointed as the new Jal Shakti Minister. Alongside Patil, V Somanna and Raj Bhushan Choudhary have been appointed as Ministers of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Somanna also takes on the role of Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, according to an official statement. Dr Jitendra Singh is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; MoS in the Prime Minister's Office; MoS in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy; and MoS in the Department of Space. Arjun Ram Meghwal is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and MoS in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and MoS in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary is MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and MoS in the Ministry of Education. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan is all set to become the new Minister of Food Processing Industries. Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy will head the Ministries of Steel and Heavy Industries. Ravneet Singh Bittu, who lost the Ludhiana seat in the Lok Sabha elections, will head the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Former Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju will take charge of Parliamentary Affairs, a role previously held by Pralhad Joshi. Joshi has been reassigned to the Food, Consumer Affairs, and Renewable Energy departments. Giriraj Singh has been moved to Textiles, a department formerly managed by Smriti Irani. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will now be the Minister of Culture and Tourism. All eyes will be on who is chosen to head the BJP as JP Nadda has been given charge of Health and Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilizers. Meanwhile, Mansukh Mandaviya has been moved to Ministries of Labour and Employment, and Youth Affairs and Sports. Annapurna Devi, one of the two women Cabinet Ministers, will head the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Savitri Thakur is the new Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Former Bihar CM and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi will head the Ministry of MSME while JD(U) leader Ram Nath Thakur MoS Agriculture.

### MANHUNT TO NAB J&K TERRORISTS

their tenterhooks in the run-up to the beginning of the Amarnath yatra from June 29 as pilgrims from different parts of the country are scheduled to perform the pilgrimage. The Union Territory administration had already demanded the deployment of additional paramilitary forces during the yatra period to ensure incident-free pilgrimage. Armed with surveillance equipment,

including drones and sniffer dogs, a massive combing operation was underway in the adjoining areas of the Reasi district to instil confidence among the local population and the pilgrims visiting the religious places and other tourist destinations in the close vicinity during the summer break. Meanwhile, a local team of the National Investigation Agency, State Investigation Agency (SIA) and sleuths of the Forensic department also visited the spot of the terror attack to lift samples ahead of initiating a comprehensive probe. Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police RR Swain along with ADGP, Jammu Anand Jain also visited the terror spot on Monday and took stock of the ongoing operation. According to survivors of the Reasi terror attack, at least two terrorists were involved in the gruesome attack on a pilgrim bus. Santosh Kumar, who was undergoing treatment in District Hospital Reasi, told local reporters that a terrorist, dressed in combat fatigue, face covered with black patka, opened indiscriminate fire targeting the driver of the bus. The driver, according to the eyewitness, received a bullet injury on his forehead and lost control of the bus before it rolled down into a deep gorge. The terrorists, according to the eyewitness, opened fire on passengers when they were struggling to come out of the wreckage of the bus after it veered off the road. According to hospital records, at least 10 passengers received gunshot injuries in the terror attack.

This is the fourth major terrorist strike in the Jammu region since January 1, 2024. An IAF soldier was martyred and four others were injured when terrorists ambushed their vehicle at Surankote in Poonch district on May 4. On April 28, 2024, a Village Defence Guard (VDC) was martyred in a terror attack at Basantgarh in Udhampur district.

A Social Welfare Department (SWD) official was killed by the terrorists in Rajouri on April 22. His brother, a Territorial Army jawan, who was the target, survived the attack after he took shelter at a safe location. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha visited injured passengers at GMC and Narayana hospitals on Monday and said the terrorist attack was part of a nefarious design to spread turmoil in the Jammu region. Such attempts would be thwarted, he asserted. LG Manoj Sinha earlier announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 10 lakh to be given to the next of kin of pilgrims martyred in the Reasi terror attack. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000. The injured pilgrims are being treated at different hospitals in Jammu & Reasi. At several places anti-Pakistan protests also broke out across the Jammu region, including Katra, Doda town and Kathua district, calling for increased security measures to prevent such incidents. Accusing Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the protesters demanded action against the neighbouring country.

### TWO FROM BALRAMPUR AMONG NINE KILLED

Jammu. Terrorists opened fire at a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district on Sunday, killing nine and injuring several. The 53-seater bus, on its way from the Shiv Khori temple to Katra, veered off the road following the barrage of gunfire and fell into a deep gorge near the Teryath

village of the Poni area. Ruby and Anurag Verma, both children, from Kandhbhari village died while 10 were injured and have been admitted to hospitals in Jammu, the Balrampur district magistrate said, adding the sub-divisional magistrates of Utharaula and Balrampur have been instructed to contact the affected families and provide them help. Gonda District Magistrate Neha Sharma said eight members of a family from the district were also injured in the terrorist attack. All of them have been evacuated by the relief and rescue team and admitted to hospitals, she added. Sharma said she has spoken to the family members of the survivors and assured them of all possible help from the administration. “We are keeping an eye on the situation. Some of the devotees were injured after being shot at while many suffered serious injuries as the bus fell into the gorge,” she said. “Some of the injured devotees had to undergo surgery. A magistrate and a deputy SP-rank police officer from the district are being sent to Jammu to help the victims,” the Gonda DM said. Suryanath Gupta, a resident of Bhikharipur village, said eight members of his family had left for Jammu on June 4 to offer prayers at the Vaishno Devi shrine. While one of his family members has been admitted to the government hospital in Katra, the rest have been admitted to a hospital in Jammu, he said. Those injured in the terrorist attack also included four pilgrims from a family from Gorakhpur. Seventeen family members from Gorakhpur had embarked on the pilgrimage. Two of the injured are residents of Purdilpur Kali Mandir Gali, while the other two are from Bhairpur in the Kuraghat area. Gautam Gupta (District Disaster Expert-District Disaster Management Authority, Gorakhpur) confirmed the incident. He said the injured are receiving treatment in a local hospital and are reported to be in stable condition. The district administration is providing necessary assistance to the victims and their families, the official said. Gupta added the family had split into two groups, with 13 members staying in Katra and four heading to the Shiv Khori pilgrimage site. It was during this journey that the terrorist attack took place.

### MODI THANKS ESTRANGED LEADERS OF CANADA, PAK

congratulated Modi for forming a Central Government for the record third time. He noted that the Lok Sabha election mandate reflects the confidence of the people in Modi's leadership and urged to "replace hate with hope". "My warm felicitations to Modi on assuming office for the third time. Your party's success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in your leadership. Let us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia," he wrote on X. The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". "Thank you @CanadianPM for the congratulatory message. India looks forward to working with Canada based

on mutual understanding and respect for each other's concerns," Modi said in a post on X'. In his June 6 message, Trudeau said Canada stands ready to work with the new Indian Government to advance the ties if they are anchored to human rights, diversity, and the rule of law. "Congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his electoral victory. Canada stands ready to work with his Government to advance the relationship between our nations' peoples anchored to human rights, diversity, and the rule of law," the Canadian Prime Minister said. India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistani elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity. There have been instances of pro-Khalistani elements threatening to harm Indian diplomats. Days after Trudeau's allegations last year, India had asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity. Canada subsequently withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from India. Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in British Columbia in Surrey on June 18 last year. The murder is being probed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Incidentally, Prime Minister Modi took four days to reply to Trudeau's congratulatory post, whereas he had promptly responded to similar well-wishes from other world leaders. In a related development, Prime Minister Modi on Monday thanked world leaders for their wishes after he took oath for a third term in office. Replying to the greetings of Ugandan President Yoweri K. Museveni, Modi said in a post on X, "We will advance our strong partnership with Uganda. We were proud that Africa Union became a permanent member of G20 Presidency. We will further develop our historical connect in all areas."

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, his Slovenian counterpart Robert Golob, former Afghan president Hamid Karzai and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates were among those whom Modi thanked for their wishes. As regards Sharif, he was not invited to Modi's swearing in ceremony. On the other hand, key figures from India's neighbouring countries and the Indian Ocean region, including President Mohamed Muizzu of the Maldives, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' of Nepal, and President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka, attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony alongside the Union council of ministers on Sunday. Ties between India and Pakistan have always been frosty, barring a few instances when the leaders of both nations sat together to ease the conflict. The exclusion of Shehbaz Sharif from the invitation list highlights the ongoing diplomatic tension between the two countries. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India on August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two Union territories. India has been maintaining that it desires

normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement.

### GET READY FOR SECOND-DEGREE BURNS

the worst hit. However, these figures might be just the tip of the iceberg as data from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi which also experienced blistering weather were not included. The IMD has forecast that the heatwave is likely to affect several States, including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Gangetic West Bengal. As per the IMD bulletin, heatwave conditions are likely in pockets of Jammu division, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, and Odisha during the next 5 days; Himachal Pradesh from June 12 to 14; Uttarakhand from June 11 to 14; Rajasthan on June 12 and 13; Madhya Pradesh from June 12 to 14. Heatwave conditions are also likely in parts of Gangetic West Bengal until June 13. Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are predicted in isolated pockets from June 10 to 12 and in parts of Bihar from June 10 to 12. They were likely in parts of Uttar Pradesh until June 14. IMD director general M Mohapatra said the fresh spell of heatwave is expected mainly due to an anticyclone which is causing subsidence of hot air over northwest India. “The onset of heatwaves is often attributed to anticyclones, which result in the subsidence of hot air over affected regions. This phenomenon leads to the compression and heating of air, creating a heat dome effect that traps heat and suppresses cloud formation. Consequently, cooler air currents are displaced, exacerbating the heat,” explained a Met official. While extreme heat can be a risk factor for all ages, older people, pregnant women, and people with chronic morbidities besides those from the marginalised communities like labourers, are particularly at risk of mortality and morbidity associated with (extreme) heat. The Union Health Ministry has been conducting review meetings with states to ensure preparedness for heatwaves and to prevent incidents like hospital fires during the summer months. DGHs Dr Atul Goel in a recent meeting on June 6 had urged the State health authorities to conduct follow-up reviews for ensuring dedicated Heat Stroke rooms, ORS corners and strengthening surveillance as well as implement critical fire and electrical safety measures at all health care facilities. The country has this year witnessed the worst heat wave in May. Hills of Assam, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, recorded all-time high temperatures with mercury breaching 50 degrees Celsius in Rajasthan and neared this mark in Delhi and Haryana. According to 'World Weather Attribution', a group of leading climate scientists, similar heatwaves could occur once every 30 years and these have already become about 45 times more likely due to climate change. As per a World Bank report, India could account for 34 million of the projected

80 million global job losses from heat stress-associated productivity decline by 2030 while yet another study has warned that India faces food losses worth USD 13 billion a year, with only four per cent of fresh produce covered by cold chain facilities.

### GOVT FORMATION SIDESHOW IN ODISHA, ANDHRA, ARUNACHAL

Sikkim, the swearing in ceremony was delayed due the party's preoccupations in Delhi as Modi was to take oath for the third time. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) which is the major partner of BJP in NDA has also convened its Legislature Meeting on June 11 to elect N Chandrababu Naidu as the leader and the oath ceremony is being scheduled for Wednesday. BJP secured a majority by winning 78 seats in the 147-member Odisha Assembly. However, the party is yet to choose a leader who will be at the helm of the State. While the chance of senior Odisha MP Dharmendra Pradhan becoming the next Chief Minister of the State seems bleak after his induction into the Modi 3.0 Government, the focus is now on Brajarajnaraj MLA-elect Suresh Pujari, who returned from New Delhi on Monday. Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, the BJP's Odisha in-charge, said, "The legislature party meeting will be held on Tuesday and the new Government will take oath on June 12." "Experienced leaders led by newly-appointed observers Rajnath Singh and Bhupender Yadav will hold a discussion with the legislators," Pujari told the media. Besides Pujari, state BJP president Manmohan Samal, KJ Singh and Mohan Majhi are also in the race for the Chief Minister's post. However, the BJP leadership might also spring a surprise as it had done in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh by announcing CMs, whose names had not been anticipated by political experts, a senior leader said recently. The party has proposed to conduct a road show of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the State Capital before the swearing-in ceremony on June 12. BJP also bagged 20 of 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Naidu after the meeting would meet Governor S Abdul Nazeer and stake claim to form the Government to be sworn-in on Wednesday. NDA won a landslide victory in the recently concluded simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the southern State. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Himalayan State on Monday. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium here. Tamang, 56, became the Chief Minister for a second consecutive term. The SKM returned to power in Sikkim by a landslide victory, winning 31 seats in the 32-member Assembly. The Opposition Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which ruled the State for 25 years in a row till 2019, could manage only one seat. Modi congratulated Tamang on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim and wished him a fruitful tenure.



# Far-right election surge shakes EU, prompting Macron’s snap polls

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Far-right parties rattled the traditional powers in the European Union with major gains in parliamentary seats, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron, who called snap legislative elections. Some ballots in the vote for the European Parliament were still being counted Monday, but the outcome showed the 27-nation bloc’s parliament membership has clearly shifted to the right. Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her party’s seats in the assembly. And despite being hounded by a scandal involving candidates, the Alternative for Germany extreme right party still rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Sensing a threat from the far right, the Christian Democrats of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had



French President Emmanuel Macron appears on television screen at the French far-right National Rally party election night headquarters, Sunday.

already shifted further to the right on migration and climate ahead of the elections — and were rewarded by remaining by far the biggest group in the 720-seat European Parliament and de facto brokers of the ever-

expanding powers of the legislature. But the surge by nationalist and populist parties across Europe will make it much harder for the assembly to approve legislation on issues ranging from

climate change to agriculture policy for the next five years. Undoubtedly however, the star on a stunning electoral night was the National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, which dominated the French polls to such an extent that Macron immediately dissolved the national parliament and called for new elections to start later this month. It was a massive political risk since his party could suffer more losses, hobbling the rest of his presidential term that ends in 2027. Le Pen was delighted to accept the challenge. “We’re ready to turn the country around, ready to defend the interests of the French, ready to put an end to mass immigration,” she said, echoing the rallying cry of so many far-right leaders in other countries who were celebrating substantial wins. Her National Rally won over 30% or about twice as much as Macron’s pro-European centrist Renew party that is projected to reach less than 15%.

## European election dents German leader’s authority, boosts conservatives, far right

AP ■ BERLIN

Dismal results for Germany’s governing parties in the European Parliament election have dented Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s authority and could prompt even more of the infighting that just cost the government dearly. A clear win for Germany’s mainstream conservative opposition boosts its confidence as the country begins to look ahead to a national election expected in the fall of 2025, but raises questions about why it isn’t benefiting more from the unpopularity of Scholz’s government. And a second-place finish for the far-right Alternative for Germany, despite scandals and setbacks, underlines its enduring appeal to many unsettled voters and its strength in the formerly commu-

nist east — where it emerged as the strongest party and hopes to win three state elections in September. The defeat of the three parties in Scholz’s unpopular coalition “really wasn’t surprising, but the level they’ve dropped to is quite shocking for a governing coalition,” said Andrea Rommele, a political science professor at the Hertie School in Berlin. Scholz’s Social Democrats, the environmentalist Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats secured less than a third of the vote. Scholz’s party polled only 13.9 per cent, its worst post-World War II showing in a nationwide vote, while the Greens crashed to 11.9 per cent from a peak of 20.5 per cent five years ago. All were significantly below their performance in Germany’s 2021 national election.

Scholz’s coalition government set out to modernize Germany but has gained a reputation for constant discord and poor communication as the economy struggles to generate growth. The coalition partners argued through the campaign about how to put together a 2025 budget while adhering to Germany’s tight self-imposed rules on running up debt. That problem already forced a hasty, court-mandated reshuffle of the 2024 budget, complete with subsidy cuts that prompted protests by farmers. “The sense in Germany at the moment is that the current government is not getting things done,” Römmele said. “I do think they are getting things done, not all of them but quite a number of them, but they have to communicate that properly ... and they have to stop having these inter-

nal coalition fights.” Chances of that don’t look good. The Social Democrats’ co-leader, Lars Klingbeil, said Sunday night that “our people want to see us fight” for its priorities. The party’s general secretary, Kevin Kühnert, told Phoenix television that, with the Cabinet due to present a draft budget within weeks, “it isn’t plausible that everything will get quieter tomorrow if all just pull themselves together.” Opposition leader Friedrich Merz celebrated his Union bloc’s win and described the outcome as “a serious defeat for the chancellor, who was on posters across the country.” Fellow conservatives suggested that Scholz should call a parliamentary confidence vote or that new elections might be needed — suggestions the governing parties dismissed.

## Indian-origin man killed in Canada; targeted killing suspected

**Ottawa (PTI):** A 28-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead in a suspected “targeted killing” in Canada’s British Columbia province, according to the police, who have arrested and charged four people with first-degree murder in connection with the case. The victim, identified as Yuvraj Goyal, was found dead by the police when they were responding to the call of a shooting in Surrey on Friday morning, the homicide unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement. Goyal worked at a car dealership in Surrey, Global News reported, quoting his sister, Charu Singhla. She said the family had no idea why he was killed and that they had no indication that he had any ties to organised crime. Goyal’s brother-in-law, Bawandeep, said the victim was on the phone with his mother, who lives in India, just before he was shot.

“He came back from his gym, (his) daily routine, and he stepped out of his car, and he was shot,” Bawandeep said. Police arrested four suspects — 23-year-old Manvir Basram of Surrey, 20-year-old Sahib Basra of Surrey, 23-year-old Harkirat Jhutti of Surrey, and 20-year-old Keilon Francois of Ontario — shortly after the shooting. They have been charged with first-degree murder, CBC News quoted the police as saying. In a statement released on Saturday, the homicide unit said authorities were alerted to a vehicle fire shortly after the shooting. On Saturday, the four were charged with first-degree murder, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said. Police said that while initial evidence suggests it was a “targeted shooting, investigators are working to determine the reason that Mr Goyal, a 28-year old community member with no history of police contact, was killed.” The homicide unit also urged anyone with information or people driving in the area with dash-camera footage to contact the police.

## UN food agency pauses aid work at Gaza pier over security concerns

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The director of the UN World Food Program said Sunday the programme has “paused” its distribution of humanitarian aid from an American-built pier off Gaza, saying she was “concerned about the safety of our people” after what had been one of the deadliest days of the war there. Saturday saw both an Israeli military assault that freed four hostages but left 274 Palestinians and one Israeli commando dead, and, Cindy McCain said, two of WFP’s warehouses in Gaza had been “rocketed” and a staffer injured. Sunday’s UN announcement of the pause appears the latest setback for the US sea route, set up to try to bring more aid to Gaza’s starving people. The US Agency for International Development described the pause as a step to allow for a security review by the humanitarian community in Gaza. USAID works with the World Food Program and their humanitarian partners in Gaza to distribute food and other aid com-



Smoke rises from the Palestinians Al Fara'a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank following an Israeli military raid, Monday, June 10, 2024. Israel's military killed a 15-year-old Palestinian in an overnight raid on Al Fara'a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, according to Palestinian health officials. The military said Monday that it had begun what it described as a "counterterrorism" raid into the camp. It said soldiers killed one militant and injured two more with live fire and said the heavy exchanges of gunfire were ongoing.

ing from the US-operated pier. Completed in mid-May, the US pier was operational for only about a week before being knocked offline by storm damage for two weeks. After repairs,

it returned to operation again Saturday, bringing in 1.1 million pounds (492 metric tons) of food and other aid, before McCain said her agency was pausing its humanitarian work there.

The UN agency gave no further details, including how long the pause would last. WFP spokespeople did not respond to requests for further details. Asked about the pier operation during an appearance on CBS’s “Face the Nation” McCain said: “Right now we’re paused.” “I’m concerned about the safety of our people after the incident yesterday,” McCain said, without elaboration. “We also, two of our warehouses, the warehouse complex were rocketed yesterday.” “We’ve stepped back for the moment,” she said, and want “to make sure that we’re on safe terms and on safe ground before we’ll restart. But the rest of the country is operational. We’re doing ... everything we can in the north and the south.” USAID said in a statement to The Associated Press that it was working with other US government officials and with humanitarian groups in Gaza “to ensure that aid can safely and effectively resume movement following completion of the security review that the humanitarian community is currently undertaking.”

## Hunter Biden’s gun trial enters its final stretch

AP ■ WILMINGTON

The criminal trial of President Joe Biden’s son heads into its final stretch Monday as the defense tries to chip away at prosecutors’ case laying bare some of the darkest moments of Hunter Biden’s drug-fuelled past. Hunter Biden’s lawyers could call at least one more witness when the case resumes in Delaware’s federal court — the first of two trials he’s facing in the midst of his father’s re-election campaign. It’s unclear whether prosecutors will call any rebuttal witnesses before the case goes to closing arguments, and then to the jury. Hunter Biden is charged with three felonies stemming from the October 2018 purchase of a gun he had for about 11 days. Prosecutors say he lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. Hunter Biden has pleaded not

guilty and has accused the Justice Department of bending to political pressure from former President Donald Trump and other Republicans to bring the case and separate tax charges after a deal with prosecutors fell apart last year. Hunter Biden has said he has been sober since 2019, but his attorneys have said he did not consider himself an “addict” when he filled out the form. The case has put spotlight on a turbulent time in Hunter Biden’s life after his brother Beau’s 2015 death. First Lady Jill Biden has watched it unfold from the front row of the courtroom. President Biden was away in France much of last week, and heads to Europe again this week for the Group of Seven leaders meeting in Italy. Hunter Biden’s struggles with a substance addiction before getting sober more than five years ago are well documented. But defence lawyers argue there’s no evidence Hunter

Biden was actually using drugs in the 11 days that he possessed the gun. He had completed a rehab programme weeks earlier. Jurors have heard emotional and tawdry testimony from Hunter Biden’s former romantic partners and read personal text messages. They’ve seen photos of Hunter Biden holding a crack pipe and partly clothed, and video from his phone of crack cocaine weighed on a scale. His ex-wife and two onetime girlfriends testified for prosecutors about his habitual crack use and their failed efforts to help him get clean. One woman, who met Hunter Biden in 2017 at a strip club where she worked, described him smoking crack every 20 minutes or so while she stayed with him at a hotel. Hunter Biden hasn’t taken the witness stand and it’s unclear if he will. But jurors have heard him describe at length his descent into addiction through audio excerpts played

in court of his 2021 memoir “Beautiful Things.” The book, written after he got sober, covers the period he had the gun but doesn’t mention it specifically. A key witness for prosecutors is Beau’s widow, Hallie, who had a brief troubled relationship with Hunter after his brother died of brain cancer. She found the unloaded gun in Hunter’s truck on October 23, 2018, panicked and tossed it into a garbage can at a grocery store in Wilmington, where a man inadvertently fished it out of the trash. “I didn’t want him to hurt himself, and I didn’t want my kids to find it and hurt themselves,” Hallie Biden told jurors. From the time Hunter returned to Delaware from a 2018 trip to California until she threw his gun away, she did not see him using drugs, Hallie told jurors. That time period included the day he bought the weapon. But jurors also saw text messages Hunter sent to Hallie in October 2018 saying

he was waiting for a dealer and smoking crack. The first message was sent the day after he bought the gun. The second was sent the following day. The defence has suggested Hunter Biden had been trying to turn his life around at the time of the gun purchase, having completed a detoxification and rehabilitation program at the end of August 2018. “There is no evidence of contemporaneous drug use and a gun possession,” defense lawyer Abbe Lowell wrote in court papers filed Friday. “It was only after the gun was thrown away and the ensuing stress ... that the government was able to then find the same type of evidence of his use (e.g., photos, use of drug lingo) that he relapsed with drugs.” Hunter Biden’s daughter Naomi took the stand for the defence Friday, telling jurors about visiting her father while he was at a California rehab centre weeks before he bought the gun.

## Islamic State militants kill dozens in Congo

**Goma (Congo) (AP):** Militants allied with the Islamic State group in eastern Congo have killed at least 41 people in several villages in North Kivu province, the national government said Monday, as residents openly wondered why security forces weren’t protecting them. The statement said Friday’s attacks were carried out by Allied Democratic Forces militants in the villages of Masala, Mahihi and Keme. Local civil society members asserted that the true toll was higher, with as many as 80 killed. Richard Kirimba, a civil society official in the area that was attacked, said the militants appeared to be expanding their operations and that local mines were drawing them in. “There’s no state authority in this area, and in many villages there are no police, no soldiers, no national intelligence agency,” he told The Associated Press.

“The population is worried because the enemy is roaming around the neighbourhood,” said Kambale Vunyatsi Kiongozi, who represents some civil society groups. Residents have long called on the Congolese army to protect the local population. The government statement said Congo’s government has launched an operation to pursue the militants responsible and has killed a number of them and freed hostages in the process, without providing figures. Eastern Congo has struggled with armed violence for decades as more than 120 groups fight for power, land and valuable mineral resources, while others try to defend their communities. Some armed groups have been accused of mass killings. The violence has displaced nearly 7 million people, many beyond the reach of aid.

## Gen Z turning away from military service in Aus

**Tasmania:** The Australian Defence Force is facing an acute recruitment crisis. Only 80 per cent of the 69,000 personnel needed to meet future challenges have signed up. The government recently announced recruitment will be opened up to some foreign citizens to try to fill this gap. Not only is the Australian military failing to achieve planned growth, it is actually shrinking, as Defence Chief General Angus Campbell told a Senate inquiry in February. There are two fundamental reasons for the current recruitment impasse. One is economic – low unemployment and a perception of better opportunities, work conditions and future prospects in the private sector. The other reason is cultural: a declining willingness of Gen Z to identify with – and fight to defend – their nation. Either way, the key to the recruitment crisis lies in understanding the motivations of

this generation, the main pool of potential recruits today. We recently interviewed 19 serving Australian soldiers from a range of demographics (two were Gen Z) and across military branches in a study funded by the Australian Defence Force. We wanted to find out what makes Gen Z recruits tick, and what the force might do to persuade more of them to serve their country. Researchers study every new generation as a guide to the future, from the baby boomers to Generation X (like the authors of this article), and millennials. None is more distinctive than generation Z, or Zoomers – people born roughly between 1997 and 2008. They are the first generation to grow up with smartphones and social media. In his current bestseller, *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt outlines the cataclysmal effect: he claims a large increase in depression and anxiety in young people is

the direct effect of unsupervised social media use during adolescence. Zoomers’ mental health is a barrier to service, as US Marine Corps Lieutenant Matthew Weiss spells out in his book on Gen Z military recruitment. A military career can be detrimental to psychological wellbeing, as Australia’s Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide has demonstrated. The force’s rigorous mental health entry standards may have reinforced this perception. The soldiers we spoke to said mental health is an issue for recruitment. On one hand, they agreed that service is mentally challenging, and that younger soldiers are more psychologically vulnerable. On the other hand, interviewees said the force’s mental health support has been improving. This is a step in the right direction – it may well be that media coverage of veterans’ mental health issues worries Zoomers considering enlistment. Weiss argues

private sector jobs (and money) afford much more online currency than military service. The respondents in our interviews agreed younger recruits were very savvy about pay and conditions. But there may be another motivator: as shadow Defence Minister Andrew Hastie recently told the ABC: “People who join the Defence Force don’t just do it for economic reasons, they do it because they love their country.” This means if love of country falls from generation to generation, military recruitment falls too. Weiss suggests in the United States, low patriotism partly explains Gen Z’s reluctance to enlist. Our interviewees said traditional nationalism played only a modest role for enlisting for young people. They thought a lesser sense of obligation and service is one reason. Another is the fact that the black-and-white picture of “my

country right or wrong” has been muddled following media coverage of alleged Australian war crimes in Afghanistan. The evidence confirms waning national pride among young Australians. We analysed publicly available data from the World Values Survey, a wide-ranging poll of people’s values around the globe conducted since 1981. It shows in 1981, 70.3 per cent of Australians were “very proud” of their nationality. This fell to 60.8 per cent in 2018, the first year to feature Gen Z members in the survey. That year, only 41.6 per cent of twentysomethings (including some millennials) were very proud Australians – the lowest proportion of any Australian age group in any year since the survey began. All else being equal, older adults tend to be more nationalistic, as surveys in different periods and countries show. But the nationalism gap between old and young has opened up further with Gen Z.

## Aus PM urges activists to ‘turn heat down’ after US Consulate vandalised

Sydney (AP) Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged activists on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian debate to “turn the heat down” after the US Consulate in Sydney was vandalized on Monday. Surveillance video showed a person wearing a dark hoodie using a small sledgehammer to smash nine holes in the reinforced glass windows of the building in North Sydney after 3 am, a police statement said. Two inverted red triangles, seen by some as a symbol of Palestinian resistance but by others as supporting Hamas, were also painted on the front of the building. Albanese urged people to have “respectful political debate and discourse.” “People are traumatized by what is going on in the Middle East, particularly those with relatives in

either Israel or in the Palestinian Occupied Territories,” Albanese told reporters. “And I just say, again, reiterate my call to turn the heat down and measures such as painting the US consulate do nothing to advance the cause of those who have committed what is, of course, a crime to damage property,” Albanese added. The consulate was closed on Monday because of a public holiday in New South Wales state but would reopen on Tuesday, a consulate statement said. New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said an overwhelming majority of Australians did not approve of such vandalism. “We can make our point in this country without resorting to violence or malicious behavior,” Minns said.

## Bulgaria’s centre-right party sweeps in national polls

**Sofia (AP):** Bulgaria’s centre-right GERB party led by former Prime Minister Boyko Borissov has received most votes in the country’s parliamentary election but will need at least two partners to form a governing coalition. The country’s sixth vote for the National Assembly in three years was held Sunday parallel with European Parliament elections. Both votes were marked by apathy that kept turnout at a record low of about 30 per cent. The results produced one more deeply fragmented parliament, which does not offer many options for restoring political stability in the European Union’s poorest member country. Many observers suggest that the most likely scenario is another snap parliamentary election later this year.



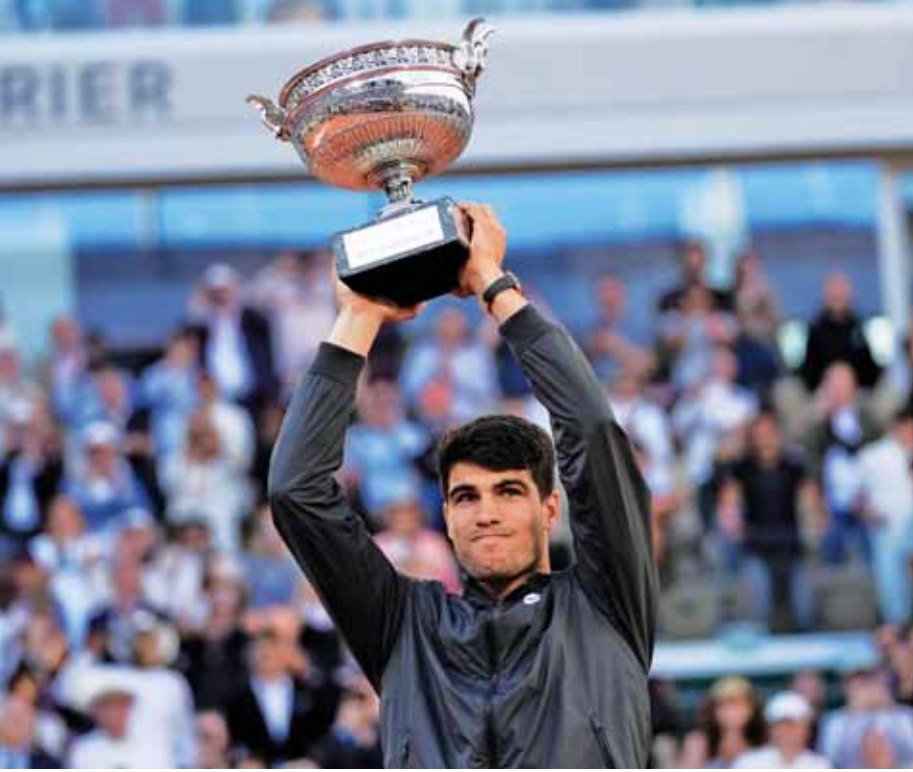
# Carlos Alcaraz Wimbledon title defense starts July 1

AP ■ PARIS

Carlos Alcaraz plans to continue his tradition of celebrating Grand Slam titles with tattoos by getting ink of the date he won his first French Open championship and a drawing of the Eiffel Tower. That art to help remember Sunday's 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 comeback against Alexander Zverev in the final at Roland Garros will go near Alcaraz's left ankle. His right ankle already bears the date of his 2023 Wimbledon triumph and an image of a strawberry; his left arm carries the date of his first major trophy, which arrived at the 2022 US Open. At the rate he's going, the 21-year-old from Spain might run out of skin. Alcaraz, though, noted Sunday that he assured his mother he would not keep printing the dates of every Slam victory for the rest of his career on his body. Instead, he'll keep it to just

dates of the first title from each of the four most important events in tennis - which means all that remains is the Australian Open, and who would doubt that he eventually will add that one, too? As it is, Alcaraz is the youngest man to collect a Slam title on clay, grass and hard courts, much as he was the youngest, at 19, to reach No. 1 in the ATP rankings. "My game suits ... Every surface," he explained, "because I practice it." He first learned the sport on clay. He finds himself most comfortable on hard courts - he sought to excel there because that's what is used at most tournaments - and his always-look-to-attack style is a perfect fit for grass, as his win over seven-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic in last year's final at the All England Club proved. Alcaraz's title defense there begins July 1. Of course, he said, he works on his defence. And, his drop shots and volleys are valuable

tools, as Zverev and so many others see. But Alcaraz's underlying principle is this: "My main goal is being aggressive, as much as I can." In the semi-finals in Paris, he wore down Jannik Sinner - who replaced the injured Djokovic at No. 1 in the rankings on Monday, ahead of No. 2 Alcaraz - and came back from a two-sets-to-one deficit by grabbing eight of the last 11 games in a four-hour, nine-minute match. In the final, Alcaraz wore down the fourth-ranked Zverev, again erasing a 2-1 deficit in sets, this time by rolling through 12 of the last 15 games in a four-hour, 19-minute match. "We're both physically strong, but he's a beast. He's an animal, for sure. The intensity he plays tennis at is different to other people," Zverev said. "He can do so many different things." Alcaraz dealt with cramps against both Sinner and Zverev and said the real key he has



found is in the mind. "If you're not strong in your head and you don't show mental strength," Alcaraz said, "you won't win Grand Slams." Greatness has been predicted of him for quite some time and, so far, he has met the outsized expectations. The standards he's setting only serve to increase the volume of the praise - and the projections of what might be possible. As he answered questions in English and Spanish on Sunday night, Alcaraz was asked in both languages how many of these trophies he could keep winning. A reporter mentioned Djokovic's men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles (which, if you're keeping track, is 21 more than where Alcaraz's total stands). Another brought up that number, as well as the 14 French Open championships won by his countryman and, to use Alcaraz's word, "idol," Rafael Nadal (just, oh, 13 ahead of Alcaraz).

Alcaraz laughed and called those two accomplishments otherworldly. When someone wanted to know whether equaling Djokovic is something he dreams about and is achievable, Alcaraz smiled that wide smile of his. "I don't know," he said. "I hope so." Then, Alcaraz related a conversation he had Saturday with his coach, 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, about how "difficult" it is to win one Slam - and how "unbelievable" it is that Djokovic has won 24. "Right now, I can't think about it. I just want to keep going, and let's see how many Grand Slams I'm going to (own) at the end of my career. Hopefully, reach the 24," Alcaraz said before reaching his left hand toward the silver Coupe des Mousquetaires he had just earned and adding, "but right now, I'm going to enjoy my third one and let's see in the future."



## Prannoy to spearhead Indian challenge in Australia Open badminton

PTI ■ SYDNEY

HS Prannoy will look to regain his lost form when he spearheads India's challenge at the Australian Open badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday. Prannoy, seeded fifth here, didn't have best of results in the last two tournaments. He was stunned by compatriot Meiraba Luwang Maisnam in the men's singles opening round of Thailand Open last month. If that was not enough, world No. 10 Prannoy lost to world No. 11 Kenta Nishimoto 13-21 21-14 15-21 in a 45-minute Round of 16 match in Singapore Open. And the Indian will be desperate to turn things around in the BWF Super 500 event here as he opens his campaign against Ygor Coelho of Brazil. Sameer Verma will play Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo of Indonesia in the opening round, while Ravi faces a tough opponent in eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. Other Indians to feature in the men's singles are Mithun Manjunath, who will take on Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, Kiran Geoge who is up against Canada's Xiaodong Sheng, S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian who is pitted

against top seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia. In women's singles, eighth seed Aakarshi Kashyap will lead the Indian charge. She will play Ukraine's Polina Buhrova in the opening round. Ashmita Chaliha will play Peru's Ines Lucia Castillo, Anupama Upadhyaya will lock horns with Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching, Samiya Imad Farooqui has a tough opponent in top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, while Keyura Mopati and Malvika Bansod will feature in an all-Indian contest. No Indian features in the men's doubles, while Panda sisters, Rutuparna and Swetaparna, seeded seventh, and the pair of Harshita Rout and Sruti Swain will lead India's charge in the women's doubles. There are three Indian pairs in the mixed doubles. Eighth seed B Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy will play Malaysian duo of Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in their opener, while Tarun Kona and Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli will be up against another Malaysian combination of Hoo Pang Ron and Cheng Su Yin. The third Indian mixed doubles pair of Ayush Raj Gupta and Sruti Swain will play against Australian duo of Jordan Yang and Sydney T'jonadi in the opener.

PTI ■ DOHA

The influential Sunil Chhetri's absence will be a difficult void to fill as the Indian football team enters a testing transition phase with a crucial FIFA World Cup qualifying match against heavyweights Qatar here on Tuesday. The 39-year-old Chhetri called time on his glorious international career by playing in last week's fixture against Kuwait in Kolkata, which ended in a goal-less draw as the team failed to give him a fitting farewell. Chhetri ended with 94 goals in 151 matches, having led the country with aplomb for more than a decade. The Indian team will be led by the 32-year-old first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who has so far appeared in 72 internationals and is the most experienced player in the 23-member squad after Chhetri's retirement. An acid test awaits India as they run into two-time Asian champions Qatar at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, knowing well that a defeat will end their campaign and dash all hopes of securing a maiden entry into the third round of the

## Chhetri less India enter testing transition phase with crucial WC qualifier against Qatar

World Cup Qualifiers. India remain in the second spot with five points and a goal difference of -3. Afghanistan, who also played out a 0-0 draw with Qatar in their last outing in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, are in third spot with a goal difference of -10, the stalemate making the job much more difficult for Igor Stimac's wards. Qatar, who have already qualified for the third round as group-toppers, have named a largely youthful squad, with 21 out of their 29 players below the age of 24. "We have watched the Afghanistan versus Qatar game and will work on the attacking transition, with a hope to start scoring goals from the chances we create," said Stimac on arriving here. India had their first practice in Doha on Sunday evening and are having the official training session on Monday at the match venue. For the Blue Tigers, a result is a must. If they lose against Qatar, they will be eliminated



from the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers third round. They will then be doing battle in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers third round matches for a place at the 2027 tournament in Saudi Arabia. However, if India beat Qatar, they will be in pole position to make the World Cup Qualifiers third round and a

direct spot at the Asian Cup thanks to their much-superior goal difference over Afghanistan. If India draw against Qatar, they will qualify for the third round only if the match between Kuwait and Afghanistan, which will kick off in Kuwait City two hours after India's match, also ends

in a draw. In that scenario, India will finish second in the group with six points, the same as Afghanistan, but with a better goal difference. Kuwait are at the bottom of the table with four points but with Qatar already through to the third round, all the other three teams remain in contention

for the second and final berth from Group A. For over a decade, one question that has dogged Indian football is, "Who, after Sunil Chhetri?" The team is yet to find a lethal striker to succeed him. Rahim Ali struggled as a substitute in the previous match and lacked clinical finishing skills. The likes of Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh and David Lalhlansanga comprise India's forward line but they are yet to make a statement upfront. The fancied Qatar side will look to exploit wherever the India team is found wanting, making it extremely important for defenders Anwar Ali, Mehtab Singh, Nikhil Poojary and Rahul Bheke to be on their toes at all times. In the midfield, the likes of Sahal Abdul Samad, Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco and Lallianzuala Chhangte will need to be creative with their passing and intelligent with movement off the ball.

## Nagal attains 77th place in ATP rankings; set to represent India in Paris

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Sumit Nagal climbed 18 places to 77th in the latest ATP rankings issued on Monday, all but sealing a spot in the Paris Olympics men's singles draw. Nagal has 713 ATP points. The improvement in his rankings was due to Nagal bagging the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany on Sunday, beating Switzerland's Alexander Ritschard in a three-set thriller. The Indian won 6-1 6(5)-7 6-3 in the final that lasted two hours and 22 minutes. Rankings, as on Monday, will be the basis for deciding entries for the Games. As per the established criteria, the top 56 players, both in men's and women's rankings, will attain automatic qualification for the Olympics but no



more than four per country can make the cut for the Games, a rule which allows lower ranked players to sneak into the draw. Nagal looks good to secure the last available ranking-enabled spot in the draw. The last time India had a player in the Olympics main draw was the 2012 Games when Somdev Devvarman made it

thanks to a wildcard. "Elated to win the title in Heilbronn this week. It was an important week for me, and I'm proud to have produced my best tennis when it mattered the most," Nagal posted on X after his final win. "If I win a match like this, I can be proud because the fight was insane. Ranking is secondary, first goal is to play good tennis," he said at the end of his match. The 26-year-old Nagal would be the sole Indian in the men's singles event in Paris. This was the sixth ATP Challenger title for Nagal and the second of the year after the Chennai Open crown on home soil earlier this year. Nagal, who is currently the best-ranked Indian singles player, has won four ATP Challenger titles since 2023 and the win in Heilbronn was his fourth title on clay tennis courts.



## Di Maria scores, Messi returns in Argentina's Copa America warmup victory over Ecuador

AP ■ CHICAGO

Angel Di Maria scored as Lionel Messi returned to the international stage for the first time in six months, helping Argentina to a 1-0 victory over Ecuador in a Copa America warmup match. Messi was sidelined for the first half before replacing Di Maria in the 56th minute on Sunday night. A right hamstring injury kept the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and Inter Miami star from participating in Argentina's previous two Copa America warmup matches against El Salvador and Costa Rica in March. "Sometimes there is no need to risk it, not only with Leo. It is about taking care of them so that they arrive in optimal conditions," Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni said of his decision to sit Messi for the first half. With Messi watching from the bench, Di Maria sent a reverse pass from Christian Romero into the net to open the scoring in the 40th minute. "It helps to play against a rival like that, especially because Ecuador plays at a high level, they make it difficult for anyone," Scaloni said. "And we needed to get together, compete, add minutes and feel the sensation of putting on the shirt before a Cup that is going to be difficult." It was Di Maria's second consec-

utive goal in an international match. He also scored against Costa Rica on March 26. With the 31st goal of his Argentina career, the 36-year-old midfielder is tied with Gonzalo Higuain for the fifth-most goals in the country's history and sits just four scores behind Diego Maradona at No. 4 on the leaderboard. Argentina - the reigning World Cup and Copa America champion - hasn't fallen in its last seven meetings with Ecuador, a streak dating back to 2019. "The goal is to continue competing, and these guys have competing in their blood," Scaloni said. "Sometimes it turns out well and other times it doesn't turn out well. But you have to keep playing. There are always things to play for. Now the Copa America, then the qualifiers. ... Our goal is always to compete at our best." UP NEXT Argentina's squad will wrap up its pre-Copa America slate in Washington D.C. On Friday with a warmup match against Guatemala before opening its group stage of the tournament against Canada on June 20. Ecuador: A pair of international friendly matches remain against Bolivia on Wednesday and Honduras on June 16 before opening the Copa America schedule against Venezuela on June 22.

AP ■ MONTREAL

Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third straight year for the Red Bull star's 60th Formula 1 victory and sixth in nine races this season. Verstappen started second in the rain alongside pole-sitter George Russell and dominated late again at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Ile Notre-Dame on Sunday. The 26-year-old Dutchman has a staggering 50 victories in the last 75 F1 races. Verstappen finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile (4.36-kilometer) road course. Last year, Verstappen started from the pole and led every lap. The race Sunday started with a soaking wet track before the sun emerged 10 minutes in, but rain showers returned periodically throughout the afternoon. "It's a lot of fun to drive these kinds of races now and then," Verstappen said. "You don't want it all the time because that's too stressful. But I had a lot of fun out there today." Norris lost a 10-second lead when Logan Sargeant brought put the safety car on Lap 26.

"We should have won the race today and we didn't so, frustrating," Norris said. "We had the pace. We should have won today. It's as simple as that." Mercedes took the third and fourth spots, with Russell third and seven-time Montreal winner Lewis Hamilton fourth. Oscar Piastri was fifth for McLaren, followed by Aston Martin drivers Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, the lone Canadian in the race. "It was a tough track with the condition, so I'm really satisfied to score points," Stroll said. "Lots of points, the sixth and seventh positions are really good for the team." Verstappen increased his season lead to 56 points over second-place Charles Leclerc of Ferrari. "As a team, we made the right calls today," said Verstappen, coming off a sixth-place finish in Monaco.



"It's great to have three wins in a row here. I hope I can add more in the future." On Lap 46, Norris stayed out while Verstappen and Russell pitted. Verstappen regained the lead three laps later when

he squeezed past Norris as the McLaren driver came out of the pit lane. Verstappen hung onto the top spot the rest of the way. Verstappen managed to avoid hitting a groundhog on Lap

31. "He was almost dead," Verstappen said. "I started to get to the last chicane and I thought it was debris initially. So I started to close in and then I'm like, Oh

my God, that's an animal! Last year, a bird flew into my car, so I didn't want to have a groundhog stuck in my car as well." Verstappen joined Hamilton and Michael Schumacher as the only drivers to three-peat in Montreal. The three-time season champion is third on the career victory list behind Hamilton (103) and Michael Schumacher (91). Ferrari had a terrible weekend. Leclerc retired on Lap 43 after gambling with his tire strategy and falling far behind, and Carlos Sainz exited later when he spun out. "Just a very weak, disappointing weekend for the whole team," Sainz said. "We never seemed to find pace." Organisers said 350,000 spectators made the trip to the track over the event's three days. Verstappen started second Sunday on a tiebreaker after having the same lap time as Russell in qualifying Saturday.



# S Africa pip B'desh by 4 runs

PTI ■ NEW YORK

South Africa edged out Bangladesh by four runs in their T20 World Cup match here on Monday. Opting to bat, South Africa posted 113 for six. Spinner Keshav Maharaj then took two wickets in the final over as Bangladesh could manage only 109/7 in 20 overs. Earlier, pacers Tanzim Hasan Sakib and Taskin Ahmed excelled in favourable conditions to help Bangladesh restrict South Africa to a modest 113/6 in their T20 World Cup match here on Monday. Tanzim (3/18) ran through the Proteas top order in company of Taskin (2/19) while Mustafizur (0/18) too played his part well as

Bangladesh produced a collective show despite strong resistance from Heinrich Klaasen (46) and David Miller (29). Klaasen and Miller looked to revive South Africa from a shaky start with a 79-run stand for the fifth wicket, but the pair could never really accelerate on a two-paced wicket on which the Bangladesh spinners also displayed control. Tanzim struck thrice in his opening burst to leave South Africa reeling at 23 for four inside the first five overs. After Quinton de Kock (18) showed aggressive intent by hitting the right-arm bowler for a six and a four in the initial exchanges, Tanzim made immediate amends to his line and length and hit

Reeza Hendricks in front of the stumps for a golden duck. In fact, it was his simple yet effective tactics of bowling at the wickets paid high dividends as Tanzim cleaned up South Africa captain Aiden Markram (4), who missed a straight one with his bat coming down a bit awkwardly. Tristan Stubbs (0) had done a fine job of rebuilding the innings for South Africa in their last outing against the Netherlands, but the right-hander too had a soft dismissal to endure. As if the ball stopped on Stubbs — like it had on a couple of Indian batters a day before at this venue — he played one meekly to Shakib Al Hasan at cover who put in a dive to collect the ball.

South Africa also had the luck favouring them when Miller, on 13, was given a reprieve by Litton Das behind the wickets on the first ball of Mahmudullah's spell. To their credit, both Klaasen and Miller assessed the conditions and the pitch perfectly to lead the rescue act for the Proteas. Klaasen hit a couple of sixes upfront against Bangladesh spinners to push them back while Miller was content in rotating the strike. However, he was cleaned up by Taskin late in the innings after a 44-ball knock, studded with two fours and three sixes. Klaasen and Miller did find run-scoring difficult on the Nassau County pitch since they were forced to curb their attacking instinct.

# Pakistan lost the plot after 15 overs, players under pressure: Kirsten

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Perplexed by Pakistan's sudden disintegration in the T20 World Cup match against India here, the team's recently-appointed head coach Gary Kirsten said his batters "lost the plot" after 15 overs and are under pressure after failing to perform at their best. Pakistan are on the verge of being eliminated from the tournament after consecutive losses to debutants USA and arch-foes India. The loss to Rohit Sharma's on Sunday was a classic case of implosion with the side going from 80/4 in the 15th over to ending at 113/7 while chasing a modest 120. Kirsten emphasised the significance of strike rotation, particularly on challenging surfaces like the one here. He said his team failed to follow the strategy. "I think certainly on a pitch like that, it is really, really important to be able to rotate the strike. So, I agree with you that sometimes it's fun to watch a game like this where it's not only about hitting boundaries," Kirsten said in the post-match press conference. "But you also have to be able to use 120 balls really well. As I said, we did for 15 overs and then we lost the plot...We're losing too many wickets. "As a batting unit, you can't lose as many wickets as we are losing. Players have got to take responsibility when that opportunity comes," he added. Pakistan were guilty of consuming 59 dot balls during the chase. Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah did the most damage with figures of 3/14 in his four overs.



The side's next game will be at the same venue against Canada on Tuesday. It will be a virtual do-or-die encounter for the runners-up of the last edition. "These guys are all international players and they're aware that when they're not performing at their best that there's going to be pressure put on them. That's understandable," Kirsten, who has coached the 2011 ODI World Cup-winning Indian team, said. "...But a lot of these guys have played a lot of T20 cricket around the world over many, many years and it's really up to them to decide how they're going to take their games forward," the South African stated. Asked if the team lacks the ability to handle pressure, Kirsten stressed upon the importance of continual growth and adaptation in the fast-paced world of international cricket. "I'm having a look into the environment and looking at what the issues are. I look at these players, I've watched them play many, many years on TV and kind of getting to

know them, they're fantastic guys," Kirsten, who was appointed just a few weeks before the World Cup, said. "I mean, there's a lot of very disappointed guys in the change room now. I think for me the most important thing for every international player is that you continue growing..." he explained. "The game is changing pretty much every year. So, if you're not up to it and you're not improving, you're going to get found out somewhere." On what exactly was the team's strategy while chasing, Kirsten said the focus was on capitalising on loose deliveries and rotating the strike. However, he expressed disappointment over the team's loss of momentum during the crucial phase of the innings. "...I thought we did that brilliantly for 15 overs. We kept it at a run a ball, and then we lost wickets and then we stopped scoring ones and then we were looking for boundaries and once you've got to that point, it was always going to be hard. "So, the message was to do

what we executed on for 15 overs," the coach said. Amid the disappointment of defeat, Kirsten found solace in the team's bowling performance, especially in the death overs. "(It) got better and better and we've tracked their stats over the last 15 odd games, and they've been an incredible bowling unit from overs 10 to 20. I think our record between overs 10 to 20 as a bowling unit is up there with the best," he said. "We've got four fantastic seamers and Imad Wasim I thought bowled really well today as well. So, we've got some nice options on the ball with the team and I think we're going to be a difficult team to bat against if we bowl like that," he added. Kirsten diverged from the criticism aimed at the drop-in pitches of the Nassau stadium, refraining from joining the bandwagon of discontent. Despite witnessing a series of low-scoring matches, he remained diplomatic about Sunday's wicket and the chatter surrounding its uneven bounce, which has been dubbed dangerous in several quarters. "I think it wasn't dangerous, I mean the odd one rose up, but not many. Generally it kept a little bit lower, it was difficult to score from both batting sides and also a fairly slow outfield so it was never going to be a big total," said Kirsten. "I would have said 140 would have been a really good score on that pitch, so India didn't get that and so I thought we had the game," added the South African.

# Pak eye big win against Canada to keep T20 WC hopes alive

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Shocked by the USA and scarred by India, Pakistan have little to play for and everything to lose when they meet Canada in their penultimate group league encounter of the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday. If the Super Over loss against the co-hosts in their opening Group A match was not enough, Pakistan slumped to six-run loss at the hands of arch-rivals India in a low-scoring match here on Sunday. Pakistan's Super Eight qualification chance now hinges on winning big against Canada and Ireland, besides hoping that the Americans lose big to India and Ireland. Even in that scenario, both the teams will end on four points each and it will boil down to which team has a better net run rate. Hence Pakistan can only pray for divine intervention in best case scenario. USA after two wins enjoy a healthy run-rate of +0.626 and just a victory against

Ireland would suffice while Pakistan with a dismal NRR of -0.150 would not only need to win but also by comprehensive margins. In the two matches so far, the 2009 champions never really looked the formidable side it was once known to be. There seems to be no clarity in Babar Azam's leadership. The two factions in the team -- one led by the skipper with his close friends Mohammed Rizwan and Shadab Khan while other including, recently sacked Shaheen Shah Afridi is also making matters worse. Not a single department clicked for Pakistan in the two matches so far and they will need a more cohesive effort in the remaining matches to give themselves an outside chance. While Babar and Shahdab Khan scored 40 odd runs against USA to post 159 for 7, Pakistan failed to defend the target, losing the match in Super Over. And then while chasing an underwhelming 120-run target, none of

the Pakistani batters could up the ante as they consumed 59 dot balls to be restricted 113 for 7. Pakistan's major concern going forward is the underwhelming performance of their batters as the likes of Fakhar Zaman, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan and Ifikhar Ahmed played loose shots to make life difficult for them against India. While Mohammed Rizwan took 44 balls to score his 31 runs, Wasim consumed 23 balls for his 15. The only bright sport for Pakistan on Sunday was the performance of their bowlers with Naseem Shah (3/21) and Mohammad Amir (2/23) leading from the front. But premier fast bowler Shaheen needs to take more responsibility upfront in the remaining two games to give Pakistan an outside chance. He has hardly been able to get swing in conducive conditions. Going forward Pakistan will have to do some soul searching if they want to revive their faltering campaign.

# Year ago people asked if I am finished, now they say I am at my best: Bumrah

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Jasprit Bumrah couldn't help but laugh at how the narrative about him has changed in a year's time — from being someone whose career is finished to the one who is at the peak of his prowess. In 2022, Bumrah underwent surgery for a lower back stress fracture and missed the T20 World Cup in Australia. Just before his comeback in a home bilateral series, he developed a strain and was out for more than 10 months. As a result, people became sceptical of his ability to handle the workload of three formats. But Indian cricket's rare gem sealed the lips of 'Doubting Thomases' with 67 wickets across three formats in the last one year, including a match-winning 3/14 against Pakistan in the low-scoring T20 World Cup thriller on Sunday.

"See a year ago, the same people were saying that I might not play again and my career is over and then now the question changed," he said taking a shot at all those who doubted his ability to fight back. India restricted Pakistan to 113/7 after posting a mere 119 here thanks largely to Bumrah's stupendous performance. He understands the fickle nature of criticism and knows that despite being a cliched phrase, controlling the controllables works best for him. "For me, I am not looking at whether I am bowling at the best of my ability. I try to solve the problem that is there in front of me. I know it's a cliched answer...But I was trying to focus on what is the best option over here on a wicket like this," the 30-year-old revealed. "How do I make shot-making difficult? What are the best options for me? So that way, I try to stay in

the present and focus on what I have to do." **NO BAGGAGE OF IPL:** Outside noise and pressure can gobble one up in a high-stakes game. But it's something that Bumrah successfully avoids by creating his his own bubble. "Because if I look at the outside noise, if I look at people and pressure and emotion takes over, then things don't really work for me," the 30-year-old explained. The IPL-17, that concluded last month saw an unprecedented 1260 sixes being hit on tracks that resembled roadways. The 'Impact Player' rule also hurt top quality bowlers who were often dispatched to the stands with disdain. "When it's bat vs bat, I switch off the TV. I have been a fan of bowling since childhood. When there is a challenge between bat



and ball, that is the game I like," Bumrah said. But the Indian bowling unit that has come for the T20 World Cup hasn't shown any scars of the IPL. "Obviously, the IPL that we played was not very bowler-friendly but we are very happy that we didn't come here with that baggage and when we are getting help here, we were trying to use it. "I have played a lot of cricket in my young years. - when the bat and ball challenge is good it is more interesting to watch the match." **ROHIT, BUMRAH AND THE 'MI TEMPLATE':** Bumrah, the bowler, has played most of his franchise cricket under Rohit Sharma's captaincy. The captain-strike bowler combination was central to Mumbai Indians' five title wins and Bumrah saidn he knew how to control low-scoring

games. "So, once we started, we were very clear the message in the huddle was that now that is over, what is next? What are the things that are in our control? So, we will try to focus on that and not to create panic because yes, there will be boundaries here and there. "People might play good shots, but we'll have to try and be composed and try to hold our shape. So that was the biggest positive, not at any stage did I feel that the panic had spread in the team and we were looking too far ahead. So that's a really positive sign for us." **MAGIC DELIVERIES OFTEN DON'T WORK:** Low-scoring matches often force bowlers to try effort deliveries like yorkers or bouncers but Bumrah doesn't want anyone to overdo that stuff. "If we go for magic deliveries and try to be too desperate, run-making becomes easy and they know the

target. So, we had to be very mindful of not overdoing it," he said. "Whenever there is help, you can get excited. You can try pole hunting -- bowl bouncers, out-swingers, in-swingers. But you don't have to do that. I have learned that. "But this time, it was not happening a lot. The ball was not doing a lot. Yes, we did create pressure. A little bit of lateral movement was there but not too much, not as pronounced as the last game." **'JASSI JAISA KOI NAHIN':** As one of greatest pacers active currently, Bumrah could well be called the leader of 'Fast Bowlers' Union'. "I always advocate bowlers, but we're very happy with the appreciation that bowlers have received because our country is obviously a batsman-loving country and we understand but we are very happy that bowlers are coming up front," Bumrah said.

# New Zealand looked rusty, disorganised: Smith

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Former New Zealand cricketer Ian Smith has questioned the readiness of his country's team in the T20 World Cup, saying it looked rusty and completely disorganised in the humiliating defeat against Afghanistan. New Zealand suffered an embarrassing 84-run loss to Afghanistan in their tournament opener here on Friday. They were dismissed for 75 in their chase of 159, with Rashid Khan and Fazalhaq Farooqi grabbing four wickets each. The Kiwis are placed fifth and last in Group C and will next play the West Indies in Trinidad on Wednesday with the negative net run rate making their task of qualifying for the knockouts an uphill task. "They've got to beat the West Indies, and hope that they (West Indies) get beaten by Afghanistan, because New Zealand's run rate situation is so poor - we're going to be very behind the eight ball when it comes to that," Smith, who has played 63 Tests and 98 ODIs, told Sen Radio on Monday. "I just don't know they're going to get up to speed from the flat performance they had the other day (against Afghanistan). What kind of team are they going to pick?



Are they going to make any changes? The people they bring in haven't played any cricket either," he added. New Zealand had made it to the semifinals of the 2022 T20 World Cup after topping the group stage, riding on fine performances from Devon Conway, Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, among others. But with Conway returning to the side after a long injury layoff and Finn Allen not quite hitting his straps, things are not looking great for the Kiwis, known for their work ethics and competitive spirit. Besides, they have entered the World Cup having not played a single official warmup match. "He (Conway) looked decidedly rusty, in fact very

average, he looked down on practice with the gloves on. And he's been out of form with the bat for a little while," Smith said of the top-order batter who missed the entire IPL 2024 due to injury. "Apart from the fact that he's had injuries, Conway played no cricket in the IPL even though he was contracted, and still they maintained they didn't need to have anything like a specialist wicketkeeper in this tournament." With Finn Allen going for a first-ball duck and Conway mustering just eight runs, the Kiwis didn't get the desired start in the chase against Afghanistan. "They missed opportunities to put pressure on Afghanistan early on, one partnership was all they

needed to win the game. It was probably one of the worst performances I've seen, when you consider all aspects of the game, from a Blackcaps side that I can recall," Smith said. "It was underdone, it was rusty, it was disorganised — they were so far not ready it was not funny." "Finn Allen has got a bit to prove, I've been saying this for a while — they basically ended the career for Martin Guptill to make way for Allen. They couldn't pick him in the 50-over World Cup because he wasn't consistent enough at that point, and I don't see much difference between then and now," Smith added. Smith also lamented the poor Kiwi fielding, saying it was quite unlike the side that puts its heart and soul into every aspect of the game. "One thing New Zealand has always done over the years is field well as a unit. We've been able to answer (to that) pressure with some really good fielding performances, we aren't doing it at the moment. "Here again, we start with a poor performance, and I kept going back to Kane Williamson (in the post-match interview) and he said 'we lost it in the first ten overs' because that set the tone," Smith said. "The only way you get those things sorted is to play cricket."

# Lamichhane to join Nepal team in West Indies for last two league matches

PTI ■ KINGSTOWN (ST VINCENT)

Denied US visa, Nepal's most high-profile cricketer Sandeep Lamichhane is joining his team for its Caribbean leg of the T20 World Cup campaign, the country's cricket association said on Monday. Lamichhane, who had an eight-year sentence for rape overturned on appeal because of "lack of evidence", was denied US visa twice last month despite interventions from the Nepal government. The 23-year-old was initially included in Nepal's 15-member squad for the tournament last month. The T20 World Cup is being co-hosted by the United States and West Indies. "We would like to inform you that Nepali player Sandeep Lamichhane will be included in the Nepali national cricket team for the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in West Indies," the CAN said in a statement. Lamichhane also confirmed the development on X. "I am now joining the national team for the last two matches in the West Indies and looking forward to



fulfilling my dreams and the dream of all cricket lovers," Lamichhane posted on X, formerly Twitter. He was arrested in October 2022 over allegations of raping an 18-year-old woman, leading to his suspension by the CAN. But after he was acquitted by the Patan High Court in May, the player was reinstated by the country's apex cricket body. Lamichhane's addition to the Nepal squad will have to be approved by the ICC's Event Technical Committee. Nepal take on South Africa on June 14 and play Bangladesh on June 16.

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
No. E-499218/3 Dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for 47 building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website <https://www.assamtenders.gov.in>.  
The last date of submission of tender is 02-07-2024 upto 2:00 PM.  
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