DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

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CITY 3 BJP CONFIDENT OF

GAINING EDGE

OPINION 6 DYNAMIC CONTOURS OF **ELECTORAL POLITICS**

WORLD 10 HAMAS ACCEPTS EGYPTIAN-QATARI PROPOSAL FOR CEASEFIRE

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY MAY 7, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

Established 1864 the pioneer

next four phases will be on May

13, May 20, May 25 and

June 1. Counting of votes

is on June 4. Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag-

Rajouri Lok Sabha seats

were also to vote in the

third phase of polling.

However, due to several

Election Commission of India

During the campaign, the BJP

had to face the ire of the

Kshatriya community over a

remark made by Rupala in

He had claimed several rulers

from the community had "roti

and beti" (marriage and trade) relations with the British and

Continued on Page 8

other foreign invaders.

connectivity issues,

rescheduled it to May 25.

Raikot.

MUST WIN GAME FOR DC 12 SPORTS

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Poll battle enters crucial Phase III

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

7ith stakes being high for the BJP which had won

overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Guiarat, Karnataka, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, in the 2019 general elections, political bigwigs Union Ministers Amit Shah, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Mansukh Mandaviya,

Parshottam Rupala Congress stalwart Digvijay Singh, to NCP's (Sharad Pawar faction) Supriya Sule and Samajwadi Party's Dimple Yadav are amongst several others from ruling and Opposition side who are in the fray for the voting to be held in 93 constituencies spread over 12 States and Union Territories on Tuesday in the third phase of Lok Sabha polls. Over 1,300

candidates, including around 120 women, are in the fray for the 93 parliamentary seats in 12 States and Union Territories. Modi and Shah will cast their votes at booths in Ahmedabad city that fall under Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat.

After the third phase of polling, more than half of India will be covered. A total 283 will be covered after the third phase of

polling.
According to EC, over 17.24 crore voters will cast their vote in the third phase for 93 parliamentary seats. A total of 1,041 inter-State and 275 International Border check posts are keeping strict vigil on any illicit flow of liquor, drugs,



cash and freebies. Strict surveillance has been kept at sea and air routes.

With the BJP bagging Surat unopposed, 25 seats in Prime Minister Modi's home State of Gujarat will go to polls on May 7, besides 11 seats in Maharashtra, 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh, the remaining 14 of the 28 in Karnataka, seven in Chhattisgarh, five in Bihar, four each in Assam and West Bengal, and all two in Goa.

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (2 seats) and nine seats in Madhya Pradesh, including Betul where elections were deferred, will also go to polls on Tuesday and over 11 crore people will be eligible to vote. Campaigning for the third witnessed the

Constitution and reservation issue dominating the poll discourse. The stakes are significant for the BJP and its allies, which had, in 2019, won 75 of the 93 seats going to polls

on Tuesday, while the INDIA Bloc parties had won only 11. Four seats had gone to the undivided Shiv Sena, two were won by independents, and one by the AIUDF. With the first two phases

registering a dip in voter turnout as compared to 2019, the question is whether the third phase will buck the trend amid hot weather and heat waves in these States.

After the third phase, voting will be completed in 283 out of 243 seats in the Lok Sabha. The

CONSTITUENCY | CANDIDATES PARTY BJP Gandhinagar Amit Shah Congress Mohammedanish Desai BSP Baramati Supriya Sule NCP (Pawar) NCP BJP Jyotiraditya Scindia Rao Yadvendra Singh Congress Dhaniram Chaudhary BSP BJP Rajgarh Rodmal Nagar Digvijay Singh Congress Dr. Rajendra Suryavanshi BSP Berhampore Nirmal Kumar Saha **BJP** Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Congress usuf Pathan TMC Vidisha Shivraj Singh Chouhan Pratap Bhanu Sharma Congress BSP Kishan Lal Ladiya SP B.JP Pralhad Joshi Congress Vinod Asooti South Goa BJP Capt. Viriato Fernandes Congress BJP SP Dimple Yadav BSP Shiv Prasad Yadav Dhubri **AIUF** Badruddin Ajmal

STARS IN FRAY

LG recommends NIA probe against Kejriwal

SAUMYA SHUKLA II NEW DELHI

Troubles seem to be mounting for the jailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena recommended National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe against the AAP chief for allegedly receiving political funding from the banned terrorist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice' to the Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday. The LG claimed that Kejriwal "has received a staggering amount of \$16 million in funding from Khalistani groups between 2014 and 2022.

The move comes a day ahead of the Supreme Court considering granting Kejrwal interim bail in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The AAP chief, who is in Tihar jail, was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with an excise policy linked money laundering case. In a letter to the Union Home

secretary, the Lieutenant Governor's secretariat said Saxena Lieutenant had received a complaint that the Kejriwal-led AAP allegedly received USD 16 million funding from extremist Khalistani groups for facilitating the release of Devendra Pal Bhullar.

"Keeping in view, the sensitivity and seriousness of the allegations levelled in the complaint, the LG has desired that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, may consider referring the matter to the NIA for conducting comprehensive investigation into the matter," the letter to the Home

Ministry read

Bhullar, who is in Amritsar Central Jail, was convicted in connection with the killing of nine people in a bomb blast in 1993 in Delhi. He was sentenced to death by a designated TADA court on August 25, 2001 and is undergoing life imprisonment after the Supreme Court commuted his death sentence.

Reacting to the development, senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj called it "yet another conspiracy against Kejriwal at the behest of

"They are losing all seven seats in Delhi and are rattled by the fear of defeat in Lok Sabha polls," he claimed, adding that the LG is the agent of BJP and the party had done something similar before also in Punjab elections.

The complaint was filed by World Hindu Federation's National General Secretary Ashoo Mongia. **Continued on Page 8**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with NDA candidates and leaders at a public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha polls in Berhampur,

BJP's all-weather ally in **Odisha faces Modi heat**

NEW DELHI/BERHAMPUR

ess than two months before Less man two modern of Lok Sabha polls, when the BJP and BJD were discussing an alliance in Odisha and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik received praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at public rallies, the latter asserted on Monday that the expiry date of the BJD Government in Odisha is June 4, the day when Lok Sabha and Assembly election results will

be announced.

Addressing his first election rally in the State, Modi said, "Odisha mein BJD ast hain, Congress past hai aur log BJP per ashwasth hai. Sirf BJP ummido ka nava surai ban kar ubhri hain (in Odisha, the BJD is setting sun, the Congress is battered and people are sure of BJP. And the BJP has emerged as the only ray of hope for the people)." BJD leaders expressed dismay and complete shock over the PM's 'sharp attack' on the

party, as well as Patnaik, who left no stone unturned to support the NDA in Parliament. In February this

Rajya Sabha under the BID quota. Patnaik also regarded the BJP with a tacit strategy, as it never aligned with the Congress-led Opposition alliance or any Third Front, which was proposed a year ago by

several non-BJP parties to challenge Modi in the Lok Sabha polls. Both parties were working to forge an alliance after breaking ties 15 years ago, though they cooperated in tandem on legislative matters.

In an apparent dig at Naveen Patnaik, the Prime Minister said, "Odisha needs a CM who understands Odia language and culture?

The BJP will form a doubleengine Government here after the ongoing elections. The expiry date of the BJD Government is June 4, 2024," Modi said at the Berhampur

rally. When the talks were ongoing year, he sent Union Minister
Ashwini Vaishnaw to the until they proved futile at the end of March, both Modi and Patnaik acknowledged each other's contributions, despite not being partners in Governments.

The pact was formed in 1998, orchestrated by senior leaders Bijay Mohapatra and the BJP's stalwart strategist late

Pramod Mahajan. In

1998 Patnaik was

Minister of Steel and Mines in the Vajpayee Cabinet. "Naveen Patnaik always regarded the BJP as a party of late PM Atal

Bihari Vajpayee. The alliance was successful and even when in between there were no trucks, the BJD was tacitly with BJP in every sphere and never aligned with the Opposition side," said a BJD leader also quoting Patnaik's reaction post

Modi's speech. **Continued on Page 8**

The stage is set for the third phase of elections in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies

which will go to polls on Tuesday, with all eyes on the first family of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav who are in the electoral frav. While SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple is aiming to retain the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat which she won in the bypolls following the demise of her father-in-law Mulayam, Akshaya Yadav, son of Ram Gopal Yadav, the national principal general secretary of SP, will try to reclaim the Firozabad seat, which he had won in 2014.



Rakibul Hussain

Besides, Aditya Yadav, the son of SP national general secretary Shivpal Singh Yadav, is making his electoral debut from the Budaun Lok Sabha seat which was represented by his cousin Dĥarmendra Yadav in 2014. The 10 constituencies in UP that will vote in the third phase on Tuesday are

Sambhal, Hathras (SC), Agra Fatehpur (SC),

Spotlight on Samajwadi Party's first family

Congress

Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Budaun, Aonla Bareilly. In the earlier two phases of elections, polling was held in 16 out of the total 80 Lok

Sabha constituencies in



members, polling will be held to seal the fate of Union Minister SP Singh Baghel, UP Tourism Minister **Jaiveer** Singh, Minister of State for

Revenue Anoop Pradhan Balmiki. Baghel, Jaiveer Singh, Balmiki

contesting from Agra (SC), Mainpuri, and Hathras (SC) Lok Sabha constituencies respectively.

Rajveer Singh, son of former Chief Minister of UP and Bharativa Ianata Party stalwart Kalyan Singh, is looking to score a from the Etah parliamentary constituency, which was also represented in 2009 by Kalyan Singh as a candidate of the Jan Kranti Party. In Bareilly, the main contest has narrowed down to the BIP's Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar and Praveen Singh Aron of the SP after the nomination paper of Bahujan Samaj Party candidate Master Chhotey

Lal Gangwar was rejected.

Continued on Page 8

Capital sees 67 per cent surge in wrong side driving prosecutions

WRONG

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

staggering surge of almost 67 per A staggering surge of number of driving prosecutions for 'wrong side driving' was witnessed in the national Capital in 2024, during the period from January 1 to April 30, compared to the same period in the previous year. While in the earlier year, a total of 18,047 violators of traffic rules were caught by the traffic police in the city. the number saw a considerable jump,

taking the total to 30,062 in 2024. A Delhi Traffic Police official said in response to the alarming increase in incidents of driving against the flow of traffic in the Capital city, the Delhi Traffic Police has launched a robust crackdown campaign to ensure road safety and discipline.

"Over the past few months, there has been a noticeable surge in the number of vehicles violating traffic norms by

driving against the designated flow of traffic. This reckless behaviour not 1,3289 violators. Sarita Vihar stands at only endangers the lives of the

congestion," said the official.

The police have intensified its measures in order to curb this in Kamla Market. dangerous practice. Special teams have been deployed across key intersections

and thoroughfares to monitor traffic flow and identify violators. Strict legal action, including fines and heftv penalties, is being taken against individuals found driving against the established traffic

the established traffic direction," said the authorities.
Further, top 10 traffic circles have been identified by the police with

the second number with 1,333 offenders but also poses a significant violators, followed by 1,133 in threat to other road users, leading to a BhajanPura, 1,093 in Punjabi Bagh, rise in accidents and traffic 1,062 in Kalyan Puri, 1,056 in Kotwali, 1,041 in Dwarka, 998 in Sangam Vihar, 968 in Rajouri Garden and 966

"The Delhi Traffic Police has also conducted

comprehensive analysis of the top ten traffic circles with the highest number of challans issued in 2024. This study makes it possible to target enforcement operations to improve

with the highest prevalence of these orderly environment for all," the types of offences," a senior police statement by the traffic police said.

In a bid to raise awareness and make citizens understand the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations, the traffic police is collaborating with various including civic and educational stakeholders, authorities and "Public institutions. outreach programmes, awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives are being conducted to instil a sense of responsibility and civic duty among all road users," the police said.

Further, they urged citizens to prioritise safety and compliance with traffic laws while commuting on the city's roads. "It is imperative for every individual to respect traffic road safety and regulations, follow designated traffic adherence to traffic flow directions, and contribute regulations, follow designated traffic regulations by identifying the areas towards creating a safer and more

Marine heatwave scorches pristine coral reefs of Lakshadweep

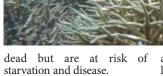
ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T_{\text{picture} \text{sque}}^{\text{he vibrant corals of the}} \\ \text{Lakshadweep}$ sea nestled in India's smallest union territory off the coast of Kerala are losing their sheen as it is experiencing prolonged marine heatwaves since late October 2023.

These marine heat waves, characterised by extended becomes excessively warm, periods of abnormally high causing corals to expel the ocean temperatures, have microscopic algae residing

4 °C-weeks, posing a severe threat to coral health, said scientists at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) as they observed alarming levels of coral bleaching, indicating significant stress on marine ecosystems in the region. Coral bleaching occurs when

the water temperature pushed the Degree Heating Within their tissues. Experts Week (DHW) indicator above say bleached corals are not "Such heat stress levels signify



a severe threat to coral health. leading to extensive bleaching where corals lose the symbiotic

compromising their survival by depriving them of essential beyond 12 °C weeks, it could

(zooxanthellae), nutrients. If the DHW continues to rise, reaching

precipitate an unprecedented biodiversity crisis due to multispecies mortality," KR Sreenath, senior scientist at CMFRI, said on Monday. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA), this level of DHW poses a substantial risk of coral bleaching, threatening the region's diverse marine ecosystems.

Corals are living organisms that make up the reefs and provide the ecosystem for

marine life to thrive, especially fish. Coral reefs are a natural barrier, protecting these islands against the swelling of the seas, and keeping salt water out of the limited freshwater sources in the region. Shelton Padua, another senior

scientist, identified the primary causes of these marine heat waves as excessive heat atmospheric transfer coupled with shifts in ocean currents. leading to unusually high water temperatures.

Continued on Page 8

according to a timetable. "I dedicated more time to sub-

jects where I needed improvement and practised relevant questions, while revising those

where I excelled," she explained. Daughter of a scien-

tist at the Remote Sensing

Centre, Archita aims to crack

JEE and join IIT-Delhi before

Sariya Khan (Class 12), who

secured 99.75 per cent marks,

expressed extreme happiness

with her success, attributing it

to regular test-taking. "I aspire

to become a doctor and serve

the underprivileged by provid-

ing healthcare," she stated.

Sariya said she avoided social

media during preparations as she viewed it as a potential dis-

traction requiring self-control.

Kanishka Mittal, another Class 12 topper with 99.75 per cent

pursuing Civil Services.

ICSE, ISC results: Keeping off social media was crucial

There was a considerable amount of enthusiasm amongst the students when the ICSE (Class 10) and ISC (Class 12) results were declared on Monday morning. Anushka Singh (Class 10) of

City Montessori School, who secured 99 per cent marks, said she followed the teachers' advice and also revised what was taught in the class on a daily basis. "I studied for six to seven hours on a regular basis," she said.

She added that she aims to become a neurosurgeon because she has interest in that field and also aspires to crack Civil Services exams.

She said she kept away from social media during her prepa-

Rajoushri Chakrovarthy from Class 10, who scored 98 per cent marks, said she was happy with the result although she expected a little more. "I am content with whatever I have

got," she added. She said that she has chosen the science stream and is looking forward to cracking JEE, preparations for which are going on. "I was consistent with my studies and did not leave anything for the next day," she added. Kirti Pandey of Class 10, who secured 96 per cent marks, said she expected more. "The best strategy is to listen to your

teachers and we were given all

the facilities required for the

preparations at our school.

Solving last year's question papers is important. One should solve questions not only from the syllabus book but also from other books as well," she said, adding she kept away from social media all this while. She said she has opted for commerce and is going to appear for CLAT.

Sohani Trigunaik (Class 12), who scored 96.2 per cent marks, said: "The success mantra is hard work and commitment. I am planning to do engineering." She also said that she kept away from social media while preparing for the

Aditya Rajput (Class 10), who scored 98.8 per cent marks, said. "I practised physics numericals and maths daily and also revised other subjects on a daily basis." However, he said he did not keep away from social media completely and consumed sports content. He said he also played games to bust stress. He added that he is preparing for JEE.

Lakshya Verma (Class 10), who scored 95.6 per cent marks, said he expected more. "I solved the previous years' question papers and studied consistently. I am preparing for JEE and want to join a prestigious IIT," he added.

Sakshat Singh (Class 10), who scored 95 per cent marks, said he is planning to become a doc-

A fraudster duped the State Bank of India branch office

of over Rs 8 lakh by impersonating a businessman who pur-

portedly had an account at the

bank's Vikas Nagar branch. According to reports, the fraud-ster contacted the branch man-

ager, Manoj Kumar, posing as

Sarvjeet Kalra, claiming to be

the director of Kuldeep Motors

The impersonator expressed

interest in opening a new bank

account and having a fixed

Believing the impersonator's

ruse, Manoj Kumar provided

courteous assistance and hospi-

tality, saving the impersonator's mobile number under the

On April 22, Manoj Kumar

attempted to arrange a meeting

with the impersonator, but the

latter claimed to be busy with

pre-scheduled commitments

The next day, the impersonator

contacted Manoj Kumar, who

mistakenly believed it was

Sarvjeet Kalra. The imperson-

ator informed Manoj that he

would meet during the second

shift. Shortly afterward, the

impersonator sent a letter via

WhatsApp, requesting a transfer of Rs 8.02 lakh through

NEFT to a specified bank

account, citing a shortfall of cheque books. Manoj was

requested to retain the original

Manoi Kumar, matching the

impersonator's signature with records of a current account

under Kalra's name, proceeded

to transfer the funds as instruct-

ed. However, Manoj did not receive the original authorisa-

tion letter for several days, and

subsequent attempts to contact the impersonator failed as his

request letter.

deposit.

name 'Kalra'.

and did not meet.

PNS LUCKNOW

tor. Talking about his strategy for preparations, he said he consulted reference books and went by the notes given by the teachers.

Honouring of Meritorious CMS Students

who have created history

very high aggregate percentage

Manan Tripathi (Class 10), who scored 97.6 per cent marks, said the success mantra was to have proper sleep.
"I plan to appear for JEE and

rack Civil Services exams," he added. Ishant Agarwal (Class 10), who scored 99.6 per cent marks, said he was planning to do aerospace engineering after Class 12. "It is important to study daily and follow your routine," he said, adding he wants to work with the ISRO. Shlok Vishwanath (Class 10), who secured 96.2 per cent marks, said hard work and dedication worked. "We should write down the difficult things and be regular with studies. It is also necessary to be stressfree and happy. I was on social

media and used it as a source

of entertainment and knowl-

edge," he said. He added that he wants to appear for CLAT.

Meanwhile, the students of
Colvin Taluqdars' College performed well in the ISC 2023-24 Board Examinations. Prakhar Verma of Class XII with science topped with 97.75 per cent marks. He was also the College Captain. He was followed by Saksham Rastogi (commerce) in the second position with

Mohammed Zaid (commerce) secured the third position with 95.25 per cent marks.

Moulik Gupta (science)

96.75 per cent marks.

secured 93.50 per cent marks while Abhishek Agarwal (com-merce) scored 92 per cent

Yug Dwivedi of Class 10 (science) topped the college with 97.07 marks in the aggregate. Kushagra Kumar Katiyar (science) secured the second position with 95.3 per cent marks. Shwetang Parashar secured third position with 93.9 per

cent marks while Drishaan Trivedi bagged the fourth position with 91.7 per cent marks. Career Convent Girls' College Class 10 students Kaljal Raipoot secured 90 per cent marks, Isha Jamal 90 per cent, Alisha Maurya 87 per cent, Nandani Chaurasia 86 per cent, Hafsah Afa 85 per cent, and Zakia 85 per cent. Class 12 stu-dents Azrah Zainab secured 92 per cent marks, Palak Verma 96 per cent, Samriddhi Mishra 94 per cent, Amina Mobeen 93 per cent, Pari Yadav 92 per cent, and Zainab Fatima 91 per

At the Lucknow Public Collegiate, Class 10 students Ishan Sharma scored 97.8 per cent, Srija Tiwari 95.6 per cent, Navya Gangwar 94.8 per cent, Priyansh Gupta 94.4 per cent, Nikhil Verma 93.8 per cent, Shreya Rastogi 93.4 per cent, Zeeshan Anwar 92.4 per cent, Pavitra Jain 91.2 per cent, Tanmay Sharma 90.2 per cent, cent.

Toppers aspire to crack Civil Services exams

 $T_{are\ aspiring\ to\ crack\ the}^{he\ toppers\ of\ ICSE\ and\ ISC}_{civil\ Services\ examinations.}$ The students were euphoric after the results were declared

on Monday morning. Chandransh Rai, a Class 10 student from City Montessori School who secured 99.8 per cent marks, shared his success mantra, emphasising consistency and hard work.
"Discipline is crucial for achiev-

ing such results. My strategy involved thorough revision of everything taught in school. It's important to stay stress-free during exams and approach them with a sense of fun," he remarked.

Chandransh highlighted hobbies like cricket and football as effective stress busters. With both his parents being teachers, he aims to crack JEE and enter a prestigious IIT, followed by the Civil Services examinations to contribute to the nation's development.

Despite the challenge of social media, he limited usage to once a week for friend interactions, emphasising hard work as the key to success.

Archita Singh, a Class 12 student, also from City Montessori School who secured 99.75 per cent marks, stressed the impor-tance of daily, structured study

marks, expressed profound gratitude for her achievement and thanked everyone who supported her. "I've secured admission to National University in Delhi for a law course, which equips one with critical thinking and argumentative skills," Kanishka shared. Balancing board examinations with law entrance tests, she highlighted her strategy of prioritising and alternating between the two tasks. She also refrained from social media during this critical period of preparation.

and Zaid Ahmad 89.4 per cent. In Class 12, Nimra Khan was the topper with 92 per cent, followed by Sehajmeet Singh 86.5 per cent, Sneha Tiwari 85.5 per cent, Abdullah Waris 84.5 per cent, Aashish Rana 83.8 per cent, Anushka Singh 83.3 per cent, Harsh Kumar 83 per cent, and Dakshita Srivastava 81.0 per

At St Joseph College Group, Class 10 students Prakhar Singh and Imdad Khan emerged joint toppers with 97.40 per cent marks, followed by Aryan Patel with 96.80 per cent marks. Class 12 students Aryan Singh came out as the topper with 97.75 per cent marks, followed by Shubh Srivastava 97 per cent, and Anitesh Kumar 96.75 per cent.

NOTICE

AMEENUDDIN to AMINUDDIN S/O MUINUDDIN R/O 105/619,GANDHI PARK FAHIMA

NOTICE

I, Vinay Kumar Dwivedi S/O Prasad Dwivedi Residence of Vill.- Khandedev, po. & thana Banthara, Disst. Lko, U.P. Due to lack of good conduct, I evict my son Anshum Dwivedi alias Vishmay, aged 26 years, address above from all my movable and immovable property. In future, I will not have any kind of relationship with him nor will he have any legal right on my movable or immovable property. They will be responsible for any of their actions and I will not be responsible for that

NOTICE

Due to mistake in school records of my daughter miss Quamar Jahan my(mother's) name is written as Rehana Parveen whereas my correct name is Rehana Khatoon. Please correct accordingly. Mrs. Rehana Khatoon W/O Mr.Aftab Alam R/O Kadi Pura ,Mau Nath Bhanjan Distt.Mau Uttar Pradesh 275101

NOTICE

It is inform that my Daughter,s name is Keri Rajbhar is in my service record. But I want to change my daughter name Srishti Rajbhar in my service record. Now known as. Brijesh Rajbhar S/o Narotham Rajbhar Vill.- Pandey Atarkusha, Thana-Tarwa, Azamgarh Army No, 17020446P Rank, Sep Name Brijesh Rajbhar Unit 4 Corps Zonal Work Shop C/o 99APO misamari Assam

NOTICE

I have changed my name from JABIN W/O AMINUDDIN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE R/O 105/619,GANDHI PARK FAHIMA BAD, KANPUR UP

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Jaya Singh to JAY SINGH S/o Ram Nath R/o Ummar Kheda PO. Hafijabad Distt. Unnao for all future purpose

NOTICE

I, Lal Bahadur Sharma S/o Ram Chandra, my property is Plot No. M/13/A P.D. Nagar, Unnao Area 115.50 Samts., the original chain deed registered in S/R Office. Doc. No. 2405, dt. 02.06.2000 Unnao, was lost, I have not used the said sale deed in any finaninstitution. FIR/LAR 20240000355314 Dt.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Kureley to Pranavi Kurele.Pranavi Kurele D/O Sanjay Kumar kurele. R/O 15/M/20 Dabouli kanpur nagar

NOTICE

I am Kharag bahadur Ex HAV-ILDAR army no. 7122097 S/o late Shashi Ram address H.no.-9/486 sector 9 indira nagar (PPO Lucknow S/Corr/6CPC/43954/2012) am from. In my army discharge book and PP0 my wife age 1951 is marked which is wrong. Correct DOB is 16/04/1954. Please note the correct DOB 16/04/1954 in the discharge book and PP0.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Israr Siddiqui To Israr Ahmad S/O Mohammad Husain R/O 11/26-C, Civil Lines Kanpur for future purpose

NOTICE

I Adhija Mishra D/o Lalit Mohan Mishra, Vill. Lohcha, Pargana Haraha Tehsil & Dist. Unnao. Notify that my mother's name written in my BA LL.B marksheets as Manisha Mishra whereas her correct name is Garima Mishra. Manisha Mishra and Garima Mishra both are the names of one and same person.

NOTICE

I have changed my daughter from RIDHIMAA BHARTI to RIDHIMA TARUN BHARTI D/O TARUN BHARTI R/o-Villa No-1, Harmony 12/480, Macrobert ganj Kanpur Nagar-01. In future I would be known & recognise by this name

NOTICE

I have changed my daughter's name from MANYA TIWARI to MANIKARNIKA TIWARI and henceforth my daughter shall be Known as MANIKARNIKA ΓΙWARI for all purposes, Ajai Kumar Tiwari S/o P.D.Tiwari R/O 109/31, Nehru Nagar, R.K.Nagar, Kanpur

Information

My name is ASUTOSH SINGH and date of birth is mentioned as 12/02/2000 in Army records which is wrong. According to high school mark sheet and other records my correct name is ASHUTOSH SINGH and date of birth is 7/08/2000. This should be corrected and read. Ashutosh Singh son of late Raj Singh, village

Madhukarpur, police station

Lalganj, district Raebareli

Bank duped of ₹8 lakh Hosp owner alleges fraud by officials of tile company

ny have been accused of defrauding the owner of a hospital in Hasanganj of Rs 5 lakh on the pretext of supplying tiles.

The complainant, Moni Gaud of Thakurganj, who is a promoter and shareholder of the hospital, filed a complaint against the accused identified as Ashish Kumar Gupta (regional head of Somany Ceramics Limited), Punit Tiwari (company's representative), and Neeraj Agrawal, whose bank account received

the fraudulently transferred money via NEFT. According to reports, the hospital director and architect visited the company's ware-house, selected tiles, and requested a quotation. Subsequently, they paid Rs 5 lakh as an advance sum for the tile delivery.

"Both Ashish Gupta and Punit Tiwari visited the construction site to finalise the deal. We transferred the money on

phone was switched off. Upon realising the deception, Manoj Kumar contacted Kuldeep Motors, only to discover that no such mobile number was associated with the company or its director. Interestingly, the fraudster's mobile number appeared as 'Sarvjeet Kalra' on Truecaller.

Lucknow (PNS): A senior December 20, 2023, to Neeraj official, a representative, and Agarwal's bank account, expecting the goods to be delivered within 10-12 days," the complainant stated. However, the delivery did not

materialise as promised. "After repeated reminders and assurances from Ashish and Punit, we were given new delivery dates, but they failed to follow through," the complainant explained.

Excuses were made about traffic congestion due to a religious event, followed by claims that the transferred money had not reached the company's account," she added. The complainant revealed that due to the delay caused by the company, the hospital had to order tiles from another supplier and is now facing difficulties in obtaining a refund. "Neeraj Agarwal's bank state-

ment shows a credit of Rs 5 lakh from our account, which we borrowed to make the payment," she added. The police have registered a case of criminal breach of

trust against the accused.

Subsequently, Manoj Kumar reported the incident to the bank's regional manager, who directed the complaint to chief manager Akriti Srivastava of the Indira Nagar branch.

Akriti Srivastava filed an official complaint after which police registering a case in this

Impersonator arrested for extorting ₹85L from woman

PNS LUCKNOW

The cyber crime police arrested an accused on Sunday for digitally extorting Rs 85 lakh from a woman by impersonating a CBI officer and falsely accusing her of involvement in illegal activities. The accused, identified as Rai Debahsish from Azamgarh, intimidated the victim by claiming that a cargo booked in her name had been intercepted containing fake passports, ATM cards, and a

psychotropic substance known as MDM. He then digitally "arrested" the woman by coercing her over the phone.

'Digital arrest' is a new tactic coined by cyber criminals, exploiting the digital realm to deceive people. Scammers officers, such as CBI or customs officials, and manipulate victims into staying home under false threats while coercing them to transfer money online.

A police spokesperson stated evidence.

that the accused was appre-hended at Mandakini Apartment in Gomti Nagar Extension, and that he admitted to the crime during interrogation. The police investigation revealed that the victim's transferred funds were either impersonate law enforcement withdrawn through cheques or transferred to other bank accounts online.

During the arrest, the police seized bank cheque books, passbooks, and a CPU from the accused's possession as

Milk vendor killed in road mishap

house in Jankipuram Colony in

A45-year-old milk vendor was killed in a road mishap in Dubagga police station area on Monday morning. Reports said Ashraf of Dubagga was going towards Joggers' Park when a speeding tractor hit his motorcycle. He died on the spot. The errant driver took to his heels soon after the incident. Ashraf was a native of Hardoi district.

In another incident, a 34-yearold painter was crushed to death by a speeding vehicle in Gosainganj police station area on Monday morning. The victim, identified as Ranjeet aka Modi of Karaura village in the area, was crossing the road near Sharda School when he met the mishap and died on the spot. Police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigations. Meanwhile, the 72-year-old

wife of a retired LESA employee was found hanging at their

Gudamba police station area on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. The deceased, identified as Krishna of Sector H in the area, was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck. Police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigations.

TWO KILLED AS BIKE **COLLIDES WITH CRANE**

Two men were killed after their motorcycle collided with a crane in Kaushambi, police said on Monday. Sharda (25) and his cousin Suresh (24) were returning home when their motorcycle collided with a crane coming from the opposite direction near Punwar village in the Pashchim Sharira police station area of the district, Police Circle Officer (CO), Kaushambi, Abhishek Singh said. The police said the duo was rushed to a district hospital, where they were declared brought dead. The

मुख्य अतिर्व

crane driver fled the scene after the incident, CO Singh said, adding that the crane has been taken into custody and investigations are underway. sustained injuries when their car caught fire after it collided Prayagraj-Ayodhaya highway, they Superintendent of Police (ASP), said the car caught fire after the Vikas and Ankit were declared brought dead, ASP Singh said,

Meanwhile in Pratapgarh, two persons were killed and three with a truck here, police said on Monday. Prayagraj residents Vikas Sahu (24), Ankit Sahu (22) and three others were returning home from Ayodhva when the incident took place near Sonawan village on the said. Additional East, Durgesh Kumar Singh head-on collision with the truck. All the injured were rushed to a hospital, where adding that the other three are undergoing treatment at Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, Prayagraj.

Prof Verma takes charge as acting VC of BBAU

Lucknow (PNS): Prof Neel Mani acting Vice-Chancellor of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University on Monday, following approval from the University's Visitor, President Droupadi Murmu. Sanjay Singh formally transferred the responsibilities to Prof Verma, who previously served as the acting vice-chancellor of the university from August 2018 to February 2019. "We must prioritise the university's interests above all else to excel in education, research, sports, and other academic pursuits," he

Prasad Verma assumed office as the

Rajnath underscores Sardar Patel's role in uniting India economy, but under the leadership of માહિતાં રત

PNS LUCKNOW

Defence Minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh said here on Monday that every child in India knows that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played an important role in uniting

Speaking at a programme organised in Niralanagar, Singh said: "The India that you are seeing may not have been the same. There were some princely states not ready to merge. The result of Sardar Patel's policy was that India could become a united country." Singh pointed out that after being sworn in, Prime Minister Narendra

people from every village of India. All the governments have contributed Modi decided to make the tallest statto India's development in some way ue of Sardar Patel which was built by or the other but the kind of work done under the leadership of PM Modi has collecting iron from farmers and

never been done before. Today, when India speaks on international forums, the whole world listens," he said. Singh said that before 2014, India was ranked 11th in the world in terms of PM Modi, India has jumped 11 places to reach the fifth position. "Not only this, experts of economics also claim that India will soon be included in the worlds' top 3 economies. Many previous governments claimed to remove poverty from India but with but no one except Modi tried to lift the poor above the poverty line. In the next 10 years, PM Modi will work to completely eliminate poverty from India," he said.

He urged people to go out and vote on May 20. "By 2047, India will become a developed country. We want to make India a superpower not to attack or occupy any country but for the welfare of the world," he

Aayenge phir Modi hi, says Yogi

was BJP which believed in

divine power, and on the other

there were "Ramdrohi" (those

who betray Ram). He stated that the Congress was oppos-

ing 'Shri Hari Vishnu' because

the party itself has gone crazy.
"Recently, the party repri-

manded a spokesperson for

visiting the Ram temple, which is highly condemnable. Such

actions will ensure the party's eventual downfall," he said.

He further remarked, "The Congress members who

oppose divinity have lost their way. Their downfall is

inevitable. People across the nation assert that only 'Ram Bhakts' (those who uphold the principles of Ram) will pre-

vail, not 'Ramdrohis' (those

Chief Minister Yogi added, "A medical college is built in Hardoi, and the Ganga Expressway also passes through Hardoi. Through the

Ganga Expressway, a commuter will reach Delhi from

Hardoi within four hours and

Prayagraj in one and a half to

two hours. Besides, industrial

clusters will be set up along the expressway, providing jobs and

employment opportunities for thousands of youth."

Speaking in Shahjahanpur,

Chief Minister Yogi recounted

an incident in Mainpuri two days ago, where SP activists

who betray Ram)."



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at an election rally in Hardoi on Monday

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath embarked on a hectic campaign trail, making stops at Unnao, Hardoi and Shahjahanpur Lok Sabha constituencies on Monday to gar-ner support for Bharatiya Janata Party candidates. He urged voters to re-elect Sakshi Maharaj from Unnao, Jaiprakash Rawat from Hardoi and Arun Sagar from Shahjahanpur.

While addressing the crowd, Chief Minister Yogi highlighted the importance of respecting faith and criticised the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance. He also lauded the BJP governments for their focus on inclusive development schemes, aimed at ensuring happiness and prosperity of future generations even after 25 years. He emphasised the necessity of giving Prime Minister Narendra Modi a third term to achieve this

Overwhelmed by the large turnout despite the scorching heat, the chief minister remarked that the enthusiasm of the people indicates that "Aayenge fir Modi hi".

vision.

Addressing a gathering in Unnao, the chief minister

Lord Ram. In such circumstances, one should never place trust in them."

Continuing his attack, Chief Minister Yogi accused the SP of attempting to withdraw cases against terrorists during its regime. "These individuals sought to revoke cases against terrorists responsible for attacks on Ayodhya, the CRPF Rampur, camp in Sankatmochan temple in Kashi, as well as the courts in Lucknow, Ayodhya and Varanasi," he stated. The court vehemently

opposed this move, cautioning that today they talk of withdrawing cases, tomorrow they might honour them (terrorists) Padma awards. Subsequently, the court intervened and halted the SP's actions," he said.

In a blistering attack on Congress, Chief Minister Yogi likened it state to 'Vinaash kaale vipreet buddhi' (As doom approaches, the person's intellect works against his best interest).

Congress, throughout its existence, has been guilty of wrongdoing. Instead of rectifying their actions, they seem determined to tarnish even their 'hell' as they head towards it, he added.

remarked, "Congress and SP have a history of opposing Hardoi that on one side there

'Cong Ramdrohi, rashtradrohi'

aunching a scathing attack Lon the opposition parties on Monday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described the Congress and the INDI Alliance as 'Ramdrohi' and 'rashtradrohi' (anti-national). Answering a query during a press briefing held at his official residence here regarding the humiliation of Congress leader from Chhattisgarh, neader from Chnattisgarn, Radhika Khera, by the party members for paying obeisance to Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, Chief Minister Yogi remarked: "The incident shows that 'Ramdroh' is there in the DNA of Congress, Samajwadi Party and the INDI Alliance, and whoever is 'Ramdrohi' is 'rash-tradrohi' as well. Chhattisgarh belongs to Lord Ram and any Ram devotee can belong to any party." He added: "This is the charac-

ter of the INDI Alliance. They have always disrespected Lord Ram and his devotees. They make every effort to make the majority community feel insulted. Whether it is Congress, Samajwadi Party, National Conference, or DMK Munnetra (Dravida Kazhagam), the conduct of all these parties is condemnable. And it is this 'Ramdrohi' conduct of these parties that is throwing them into the abyss." Yogi said that the Congress had

climbed the statue of national hero Maharana Pratap and attempted to damage its spear, a symbol of his valour. They vandalised the statue and used

derogatory language. He emphasised, "It is crucial to remind the descendants of remind the descendants of Akbar and Aurangzeb that this is the new India, where disrespect towards national leaders is not tolerated. Previously, SP activists also attempted to vandalise the statue of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution" tect of India's Constitution." He continued, "Even with the establishment of law and order in the state, as elections approach, the activities of SP goons escalate. They believe

never missed an opportunity to demean India in the eyes of the world, nor had it hesitated to disparage the Hindu

religion.
Chief Minister Yogi urged people to consider the 'Ramdrohi' behaviour as 'rashtravirodhi' (anti-national), regardless of one's affection shown to them, in the interest of the nation. Yogi mentioned that the public is vigilant and making their own informed decisions.

Emphasising that the greater the 'Ram Bhakt', guarantees the greater 'rashtra bhakt' (patriot), Yogi described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the epitome of 'Ram Bhakt' and 'rashtra

"After a 500-year wait, the long-cherished dream of Ayodhya has finally come to fruition with Ram Lalla once again gracing the city. This transformation of Ayodhya was made possible under Modi's leadership and guidance. Today, the new Ayodhya unveils a fresh chapter before us," he remarked.

Prime Minister Modi's presence in Ayodhya not only impressed the nation but also Ram devotees worldwide. Lakhs of devotees eagerly awaited Prime Minister Modi's visit and he received an unprecedented welcome in Ayodhya, Chief Minister Yogi

they can once again wreak havoc on the public, but this is a misconception. When the election results are announced,

'Sapa ke gundon ki garmi apne aap shaant ho jaegi." Discussing infrastructure development, Chief Minister Yogi mentioned that an expressway passes through Shahjahanpur and an air strip is also going to be built on it so that if ever there is a war with any enemy, the Indian Air Force planes can land on the Shahjahanpur expressway and attack.

Chief Minister Yogi also paid his homage to the freedom fighters, who secured indepen-dence for the country by defeating the British.

MSY, Kalyan's unexpected union echoes in Etah's political terrain

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ETAH

Etah, resonating with historical significance through luminaries like Amir Khusro and Tulsidas, recently witnessed the resurgence of a bygone era as the unlikely camaraderie between former foes Mulayam Singh Yadav and Kalyan Singh rekindled. Their once-prominent alliance, pivotal in shaping Etah's political contours, now rests as a relic of history, leaving behind a legacy defined by shifting loyalties and entrenched caste dynamics. Kalyan Singh, synonymous with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, forged a surprising alliance with Mulayam Singh Yadav, affectionately known as Maulana Mulayam, during the 2009 Lok Sabha elections the 2009 Lok Sabha elections in Etah. Contesting as an independent after parting ways with the Bharatiya Janata Party, Kalyan Singh secured a landslide victory, partly attributing his success to the support extended by Mulayam Singh Yadav. However, their brief alignment dissolved brigh Yadav. However, their brief alignment dissolved post-election, highlighting the transient nature of political affiliations in the region. Etah's political narrative intricately intertwines with caste considerations.

considerations, alliances form and disband based on intricate caste permutations. The Lodh community, constituting approximately 16 per cent of the electorate, remains steadfast in its allegiance to Kalyan Singh's

legacy, ensuring the electoral triumph of his son, Rajveer Singh alias Raju Bhaiya, who clinched victories in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and now vies for a third term. Conversely, the Yadav community, comprising 14 per cent of the electorate, traditionally aligns with the Samajwadi Party, although the BJP has recently sought to penetrate the Yadav voters. The recent defection of Kunwar Devendra Yadav, a staunch SP loyalist, to the BJP, has injected a new dynamic into Etah's electoral

equation. With Yadavs and Lodhs evenly matched in numerical strength, the pivotal role lies with the Shakya voters, constituting approximately 8 per cent of the electorate. The departure of Devendra Singh Yadav to the BJP prompted SP chief Akhilesh Yadav to pin his hopes on Devesh Shakya, a prominent figure within the Shakya community, renowned for his electoral prowess. In a bid to consolidate support,

Akhilesh Yadav has intensified efforts to court Jatav voters, comprising 12 per cent of the electorate. At a recent rally, he launched a scathing attack on the BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, accusing them of harbouring intentions to alter the Constitution, and urging voters to perceive the upcoming elections as a watershed moment with farreaching implications for future generations.

Meanwhile, the Bahujan Samaj Party has fielded a Muslim candidate, Mohammad Irfan, banking on the support of the 9 per cent Muslim electorate. Irfan's candidacy poses a potential challenge to Akhilesh Yaday's PDA (Pichhada, Dalit and Alpsankhyak) formula, although the extent of its impact remains uncertain. Despite the intricate electoral calculus and shifting alliances,

the enduring legacy of Kalyan Singh continues to wield formidable influence in this Lodh-dominated constituency. The popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, coupled with tangible improvements in law and order, have bolstered the BJP's prospects, potentially dampening the anti-incumbency sentiment faced by sitting MP Rajveer Singh alias Raju Bhaiya.

As Etah's political landscape evolves, driven by intricate caste dynamics and shifting allegiances, the electorate grapples with a myriad of pressing issues, ranging from infrastructural inadequacies to socio-political aspirations. In this crucible of competing interests and ideological fervour, the fate of Etah hangs in the balance, awaiting the verdict of its discerning electorate come election day.

CANDIDATES:

Devesh Shakya (SP) Rajveer Singh (BJP) Mohammad Irfan (BSP)

Priyanka to camp in Rae Bareli till campaign ends on May 18

To ensure the victory of her brother Rahul Gandhi from Rae Bareli and also to wrest the Amethi Lok Sabha seat from Smriti Irani who defeated Rahul last time, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reached Rae Bareli on Monday. She would camp there till the end of campaigning for the fifth phase on the evening of May 18.

Grant Teached Bhuemau Guest House in Rae Bareli in the evening and held a meeting with the 'Special 24' team formed by her mother Sonia Gandhi to ensure that former Congress president Rahul Gandhi retains her traditional Rae Bareli seat.

Privanka also interacted with a 40-member team which is active to ensure victory of the Gandhi family's trusted lieutenant Kishori Lal Sharma, who has been fielded from Amethi.

To help Priyanka, two former chief ministers, Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh and Ashok Gehlot from Rajasthan, have also been appointed senior party observers in Rae Bareli and Amethi, respectively. The appointment was made by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday morning.
Former Congress MLC Deepak

Singh confirmed on Monday evening that Priyanka would camp in Rae Bareli till the end of campaigning for the fifth phase of polls on May 18. He said besides campaigning in Rae Bareli and Amethi, Priyanka would also cover other important constituencies across the country to ensure the victory of maximum candidates of the party and INDIA bloc.

Meanwhile, more than half a dozen vehicles parked outside the Congress office in Gauriganj area of Amethi were allegedly vandalised and the party leaders were also attacked on Sunday night.

Congress district spokesperson Anil Singh accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of orchestrating the incident that

claimed that some people sitting inside the cars had sustained injuries. The Congress leaders alleged that BJP workers were desper-

ate as they sensed the defeat of Union minister Smriti Irani and had lost their cool. They also accused the local

administration of working on the diktat of Smriti Irani and her associates, saying that no action was taken against those involved in the attack. "The BJP leaders and workers

attacked supporters of Congress candidate Kishori Lal Sharma in the presence of police and some of the miscreants also vandalised our vehicles," the Congress leaders

of Dhananjay's wife **Srikala in Jaunpur**

In a surprise move, Bahujan Samajwadi Party has changed its candidate in Jaunpur after cancelling the ticket of mafia-turned-politician Dhananjay Singh's wife Srikala Reddy.

After four days after Srikala filed her nomination

papers from Jaunpur, the BSP replaced her with Jaunpur's sitting Member of Parliament Shyam Singh Yadav. Shyam Singh Yadav is overjoyed at getting the ticket for the second time for the Lok Sabha elections. Yadav said he had no hope of getting the ticket. He was to leave for Lucknow on Monday morning, but on Sunday night, Mayawati called and asked if he was ready to contest the election again and he said yes, with her blessings.

Shyam Singh Yadav filed his nomination papers on Monday afternoon.

It may be mentioned here that Shyam Singh Yadav was in touch with the Congress to fight the election from Jaunpur on its symbol but in the Congress-Samajwadi Party seat-sharing agreement, the Jaunpur seat went to the SP so he remained in the BSP.

Srikala Reddy had filed her nomination papers as BSP candidate four days ago. Her election campaign was also going on in full swing. There are reports that Srikala may contest the election as an independent but no formal announcement has been made in this regard. Monday was the last date for filing nomina-

tion from Jaunpur. Polling will be held in the Jaunpur Lok Sabha constituency in the sixth phase of elections on May 25 and a triangular contest between Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party will be seen for this seat. BJP has given its ticket to Kripashankar Singh for the Jaunpur seat while SP has fielded Babu Singh Kushwaha.

Meanwhile, the BSP also changed its candidate at the last moment in Basti. The move has irked the Brahmin community.

BSP district president Jaihind confirmed that Luvkush Patel was made the party candidate from Basti Lok Sabha seat and was given the symbol on Monday after

which he filed his nomination papers.
The BSP move has created troubles for the SP. Luvkush Patel is the son of former MLA late Nandu Chaudhary, who was a close and distant relative of SP candidate from Basti and former minister Ramprasad Chaudhary, and now he is pitted against his own uncle. The party has not yet confirmed in writing that BSP supremo has made Luvkush Patel its candidate by removing Dayashankar Mishra, but sources said that the party changed its candidate before the closing of nomination on Monday, and Luvkush Patel filed his papers on BSP's symbol at the last moment.

Luvkush is the son of two-time former BSP MLA from Sadar constituency in Basti, Jitendra Chaudhary alias Nandu Chaudhary. His entry into the fray will weaken the chances of INDIA Bloc candidate Ramprasad Chaudhary and Bharatiya Janata Party will directly benefit from this.

BSP cancels ticket | BJP confident of gaining edge over opp in third phase poll

A head of the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections 2024 slated for May 7, there is confidence in the Bharatiya Janata Party camp in Uttar Pradesh of once again gaining an edge over the opposition in the state, as in the

previous two phases.
Polling will be held in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies of UP -Sambhal, Bareilly, Budaun, Etah, Aonla, Fatehpur Sikri, Hathras, Firozabad, Mainpuri, and Agra in the third phase on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath vigorously campaigned for the party candidates in all these constituencies.

During his rallies and public

meetings, Chief Minister Yogi urged the beneficiaries of both Central and state government welfare schemes in UP to participate actively in the voting process.

It is worth mentioning here that over the past seven years, in these 10 constituencies, a plethora of schemes, including PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Kanya Sumangala Yojana, PM SVANidhi Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana, have benefitted numerous eligible individuals and women under the joint efforts of the Central and state governments. The beneficiaries include a significant number of farmers.

During his rallies and public meetings, Chief **Minister Yogi urged** the beneficiaries of both Central and state government welfare schemes in **UP** to participate actively in the voting process

Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi alone, 24,35,533 farmers have benefitted in these 10 constituencies. Besides, under the PM/Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana, a total of 1,47,352 houses have been built for the underprivileged between 2017 and 2024 in these constituencies.

Moreover, a total of 23,28,799 toilets have been constructed in these Lok Sabha constituencies both individual and community toilets.

The Yogi government has fostered self-reliance among UP's citizens through initiatives such as providing pensions for the destitute, elderly and the differently-abled. As part of these efforts, 6,41,702 women in the 10 constituencies are receiving a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 under the Destitute Women's Pension Scheme. Similarly, 11,40,101 elderly individuals are benefiting from the Elderly Pension Scheme and 1,14,926 differently-abled from the Divyang Pension Scheme. Moreover, in these 10 Lok Sabha constituencies, 37,249 mass marriages of the daughters have been solemnised. Similarly, 2,06,266 girls have availed themselves of the Kanya Sumangala Yojana, which offers financial assistance at various stages from birth to graduation. Initially providing Rs 15,000, the government recently increased this assistance to Rs 25,000 under the scheme.

Furthermore, bank accounts have been opened for 69,77,096 people under PM Jan Dhan Yojana in these 10 constituencies while 42,93,385 people have been issued Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards. Likewise, in these 10 Lok Sabha constituencies, excluding the Agra-Fatehpur Sikri, 25,68,180 ration card holders are benefiting from the free ration scheme.

Additionally, through the PM SVANidhi Yojana, 1,97,361 street vendors have availed of loan facilities without the need for guarantees. Furthermore, the Yogi government has distributed 15,50,287 free cooking gas connections to women under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Shyam Lal Pal appointed UP unit president of Samajwadi Party

In the midst of Lok Sabha elections, the Samajwadi party appointed Shyam Lal Pal as its UP unit president. A native of Prayagraj district, Pal has replaced Naresh Uttam Patel, who is contesting the Lok Sabha election from Fatehpur Lok Sabha constituency.
SP president Akhilesh Yadav made

this appointment keeping in mind the stakes in the Backward, Dalit and minority i.e. PDA (Pichhada, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) vote bank.

Shyam Lal Pal is a resident of Mohiuddinpur, a small town in the Pratappur assembly constituency in the Prayagraj district and retired from the post of principal of Jan Seva Inter College in Mohiuddinpur. SP national secretary Rajendra Chaudhary said Naresh Uttam had written a letter to the party national president Akhilesh Yadav to relieve him from the post.

"His request has been accepted and Pal has been made the new state president. Presently Pal was holding the post of state vice-president in the

party," Chaudhary said. Presently Pal was holding the post of state vice president in the party, he added. He has been associated with the Samajwadi Party since 2007. He was first made the party's state secretary before being elevated to the post of chief general secretary and then state vice-president of the party. In 2007, Shyam Lal Pal contested the assembly elections from the Pratappur constituency on the Apna Dal ticket but had to face defeat. After that, he joined the Samajwadi

took place on Sunday night and alleged. UTTAR PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** UPSIDA Head Office Building, A-1/4 Lakhanpur, Kanpur - 208024 web : www.upsidc.com

Notice for Public Objections/Suggestions on Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Orai Site-I, Distt. Jalaun by which Industrial Plot H-22/23 has been amalgamatio and created a new Plot No. H-22/23 (Area 1600.00 Sq. mtr).

Notice is hereby given that the Draft Amalgamation Plan for all Plot. H-22/23 at Industrial Area Orai Site-I Distt- Jalaun of UPSIDA has been prepared & a copy is available for inspection till 15 days from the date of this publication at UPSIDA RM OFFICE, Jhansi between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on all working days and also or website onlineupsida.com.

Objection/Suggestions are invited with respect to this draft plan and can be sent in writing to office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA at Administrative Building Growth Centre, Bijauli Jhansi within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as "Regarding public Objection/Suggestions on Draft Amalgamation plan for all Plot H-22/23 at Industrial Area Orai Site-I Distt- Jalaun. Any person making the Objection or Suggestions should also give his/her Name Address Email id and Contact Number

U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 15.02.2024 calling upon the borrower Mr. Abhilash Srivastava S/o Mr. Gajendra Lal Srivastava to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 3,22,058.31 (Three Lakh Twenty-Two Thousand Fifty-Eight and Paise Thirty-One) with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 2nd day of May of the year 2024;

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India Rajajipuram Branch for an amount Rs. 3,22,058.31 and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of the Borrower

Description of Immovable property mortgaged / owner of the property

mentioned in the Notice u/s 13(2) Date of Demand & Possession Notice

Amount o/s as

BRANCH: RAJAJIPURAM Borrower:

Abhilash Srivastava S/o Mr. Gajendra Lal Srivastava, -2090, Rajajipuram, ucknow - 226 017 (U.P.) Guarantor:

Mrs. Kamla Srivastava W/o Arun Kumar Srivastava C-3100. Block C. Sector-06, Rajajipuram Lucknow - 226017 (U.P.)

All the part & parcel, House No- C-3100, Block C, Sector-06, Rajajipuram, Lucknow Utta Pradesh-226017 Area: 41.91 sq.meter., Owner: Mrs. Kamla Srivastava W/o Arun Kumai Srivastava, Boundaries : North Plot No. C-3126, South: Road, East : EWS House No. C-3098, West EWS House No. C-3102

Rs. 3, 22,058.31 charges **Demand Notice**

dt 15.02.2024

Possession Notice dt 02.05.2024

Authorized Officer

Place: Lucknow, Date: 07.05.2024



Indian Bank

Zonal Office Lucknow, New Building, 2nd Floor, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Ph. 0522-2286272, 2287283, Fax: 0522-2288033, E-mail id: zolucknow@indianbank.co.in NOTICE OF SALE E-AUCTION

Notice in intended sale under rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) had taken constructive possession of the following property / ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with righ to sell the same of "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upto failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act platform provided by the Service Provider contact & detail for Symbolic Possession of property is available at present.

	•		<u>'</u>				
Sr. No.	Borrower(s)/Pro	ddress of the oprietor/Partners/ /Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immov Property mortgaged		Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Notice Out.Amt. as per Demand Notice		Date & Time for submission of EMD Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	(Borrower and Mo	o Sri Mohammad Ali ortgagor), R/o SS-93, sh Kunj, Indira Nagar,	House No-SS-92,EWS situated a Yojna, Ward-Gomti Nagar, Luckno land area 36.75 Sq.Mtr. in the Ahamad Ali, Bounded by:-North Complex, South: 25 ft wide Ros No-91, West: Plot No-93	w, measuring name of Mr. : Commercial	30.12.2023 16.04.2024 Rs. 26,05,721.00 as on 30.12.2023 with further Interest Cost other Charges & expenses thereor	Hazratganj Branch	12.06.2024 at 11.00 AM
	Bank Website	E-Auction Website	Property Location		hoto of roperty	Name & Mobile authorised Officer/	
					(= □ ()	Authorised J K MAS Mob.: 8745 Branch Ma Jayanti K Mob.: 9811	SAND 5913726 anager: Cumari
2.	2. 1. Smt. Pooja Rathaur W/o Mr. Sanjay Rathaur (Borrower and Mortgagor), Add-1: R/o H.No-534/84, Shekhpur Habibpur, Campwell Road, Lucknow-226017 Add-2: Part of Khasra No-726 Min, Village-Barawan Kala, Ward-Balakganj, Lucknow-226003 Add-3: H.No-543/84, Shekhpur Habibpur, Near Eram Degree College, Campwell Road, Lucknow-226017 2. Shri Sanjay Rathaur S/o Mr. Ram Sevak Rathaur (Co-Borrower), Add-1: R/o H.No-		Part of Khasra No-726 Min, Vill Kala, Ward-Balakganj, Lucknow-Area-223.048 Sq.Mtr or 2400.00 name of Pooja Rathaur Bounded by:- North: Plot of Journal South: 20 Ft wide Road, East: West: Plot of Prabhu Dayal Sale Deed executed through Khand No-16100 on pages 273 to No-3748 before Sub Registrardated 21.03.2018 register registrar(IV) office of Lucknow.	226003, Plot, Sq. Ft. in the lamuna Devi, Plot of Laloo, Book No-01, 0314 at Serial IV, Lucknow	30.12.2023 23.04.2024 Rs. 58,81,323.00 as on 30.12.2023 with further Interest Cost other Charges & expenses thereor	Hazratganj Branch	12.06.2024 at 11.00 AM

Lucknow-226017					
Bank Website	E-Auction Website	Property Location	 noto of operty A	Name & Mobile Authorised Officer/E	
				Authorised J K MAS Mob.: 8745 Branch Ma Jayanti K	AND 913726 Inager: umari

Branch : Kaiserbagh

Lucknow-226017

3. 1. Mrs. Vaishali Pandey W/o Mr. Prashant All that part and parcel of the property co Kumar Pandey (Borrower & Mortgagor) Address: E 2/753, Vinay Khand 2 Gomti

534/84. Shekhpur Habibpur, Campwell Road

Add-2: Part of Khasra No-726 Min. Village-Barawan Kala, Ward-Balakganj, Lucknow-

Add-3: H.No-543/84, Shekhpur Habibpur,

Near Eram Degree College, Campwell Road,

2. Mr. Prashant Kumar Pandey s/o Mr. Ashok Kumar Pandey (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor), Address: E 2/753, Vinay Khand 2 Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Office Address: Alpha En Engineering Pvt Ltd E-03, 5th floor A.F.S Elegance Plot no 7B

E-Auction Website

All that partails parcer of the property consisting	
of House no 647/P-058 (KH-411) Build on half of	
Plot no 58,Area 114.498 Sq Mt(1310.00 Sq Ft)	┢
village madiaon Ward Jankipuram Lucknow	ı
Uttar Pradesh in the name of Mr. Prashant	ı
Pandey s/o Sri Ashok Kumar Pandey and	ľ
Mrs. Vaishali Pandey W/o Mr. Prashant Pandey.	
Registered at Bahi no 1 jild no 16487 Pages	
From 297 to 336 Sr No. 9684, within the	ı
Registration Sub-District Sadar 4th Lucknow	ı
And District Lucknow, Bounded; East: Khasra	ı
No 412 of Nand Kishore Maurya, West: Road	ı
25 feet., North: Plot no 59 Mrs. Neeta Garg,	
South: House Built on remaining half part of plot	

of House no 647/P-058 (KH-411) Build on half of
Plot no 58,Area 114.498 Sq Mt(1310.00 Sq Ft)
village madiaon Ward Jankipuram Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh in the name of Mr. Prashant
Pandey s/o Sri Ashok Kumar Pandey and
Mrs. Vaishali Pandey W/o Mr. Prashant Pandey.
Registered at Bahi no 1 jild no 16487 Pages
From 297 to 336 Sr No. 9684, within the
Registration Sub-District Sadar 4th Lucknow
And District Lucknow, Bounded; East: Khasra
No 412 of Nand Kishore Maurya, West: Road
25 feet., North: Plot no 59 Mrs. Neeta Garg,
South: House Built on remaining half part of plot
No. 58 of Mr. Pramod Joshi

of Residential House on Plot No 12, Khasara No 689 Minjumla, Madiyaon, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow

Area-55.762 sq. mt (600 sq ft). in the name of

le madiaon Ward Jankipuram Lucknow Pradesh in the name of Mr. Prashant ley s/o Sri Ashok Kumar Pandey and Vaishali Pandey W/o Mr. Prashant Pandey, stered at Bahi no 1 jild no 16487 Pages n 297 to 336 Sr No. 9684, within the stration Sub-District Sadar 4th Lucknow District Lucknow, Bounded; East: Khasra 12 of Nand Kishore Maurya, West: Road et., North: Plot no 59 Mrs. Neeta Garg, th: House Built on remaining half part of plot 68 of Mr. Pramod Joshi				
Property Location Pho				

30.05.2023

19.10.2023

08.05.2023

26.04.2024

Name & Mobile Number of uthorised Officer/Branch Manage **Authorised Officer:** Mohd Faheen Mob.: 9452464632

b) Rs. 1.80.000/

a) Rs. 55.03.000/-

b) Rs. 5,51,000/-

FSC: IDIB000H561

Hazratganj Branch

d) Rs. 10,000/

c) 6127853725

at 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM

12.06.2024

Till 11 06 2024

at 11.00 AM

to 05.00 PM

12.06.2024

at 11.00 AM

to 05.00 PM

Branch Manager: Swapnil Shrivastava Mob.: 7905699766 a) Rs. 18,02,000/-

4. 1. Mrs. Monita Badhavan W/o Mr. Jatin All that part and parcel of the property consisting House No 107/83, Baisi Ki Masjid, Near ODEAN Cinema, Lucknow-226001

Address: Residential House on Plot No 12, Khasara No 689 Miniumla, Madiyaon,

rinacara rio coo minjama, maarjacii,				
Pargana Mahona, Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab,				
Lucknow-226201				
2. Mr. Jatin Wadhawan S/o Mr. Om Prakash				
Wadhawan (Guarantor) Address: House No				
107/83, Baisi Ki Masjid, Near ODEAN Cinema,				
Lucknow-226001				

Bank Website

uction Website	Property Location	P P	
Mr. Om Prakash ress: House No ODEAN Cinema,			
on Plot No 12, nla, Madiyaon, ikshi Ka Talab,	Mrs Monita Badhawan W/o Mr.Ja	itin Badhavan a talab bahi no	





c) 6127853725 Rs. 18.64.343.00 as on 08.05.2023 SC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch d) Rs. 10,000/ & expenses therec

Name & Mobile Number of Authorised Officer/Branch Manage **Authorised Officer:** Mob.: 9452464632

> Branch Manager: Swapnil Shrivastava Mob.: 7905699766

В	Branch: Aliganj						
5.	 M/s J.P Construction Company (Proprietorship Firm), Add: 						
	(Proprietorship Firm), Add:						
	C-1/44, Priyadarshini Yojna Sitapur Road						
	Lucknow						

2. Smt Jyoti Verma W/o Jagdish Prasad Verma (Proprietor/Borrower & Guarantor) Add:- C-1/44,Priyadarshini Yojna Sitapur

Sri.Jagdish Prasad Verma s/o Late

Bank We

A property at house no. C-1/44, measuring area 128 Sqmtrs or 1377.28 Sqft situated at Sector C, Priyadarshini Yojna Sitapur road Lucknow. Sale deed executed on 25.10.1996 registered with Sub-registrar-II Lucknow in Book No.2, Khand No.1150 on pages from 153 to 186 at serial No.5580 in the name of Mr Jagdish Prasad Verma as given in the schedule hereunder belonging to 2nd of you, Boundaries- East- Vacant Land, West- 9 mtr wide road, North- Plot no.1/43, South- Plot	_
wide road, North- Plot no.1/43, South- Plot no.1/45	

i, measuring area	19.0
ituated at Sector-	24.0
ur road Lucknow. D.1996 registered win Book No.2, pm 153 to 186 at e of Mr Jagdish n the schedule D 2nd of you, and, West-9 mtr/43, South-Plot	as on 1 with furt Cost oth & expens

8.2023 4.2024	a) Rs. 1,26,36,000/- b) Rs. 12,64,000/-	1111 11.00.2024
26,295.00 19.08.2023 ther Interest ner Charges ses thereon	c) 6127853725 IFSC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch d) Rs. 10,000/-	to 05.00 PM 12.06.2024 at 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM

y Lai Verma (Guarantor & or), Add:- C-1/44, Priyadarshini Yojna Road Lucknow		wide road, North- Plot no.1/43, no.1/45	South- Plot			
ebsite	E-Auction Website	Property Location		noto of operty	Name & Mobile Authorised Officer/E	
蘇勒					Authorised J K MAS Mob.: 8745 Branch Ma Manoj M Mob.: 7985	SAND 5913726 anager: lishra

1. M/s MODERN SYSTEMS (Prop.Firm/ Building No. 10A Murli Bhawan Ashok Marg

2. Mr. Vidhan Kr Bhattacharya S/o Late Niranjan Bhattacharya (Prop) Add-1: Room No.305-306 3RD Floor Building No.10A Murli Bhawan Ashok Marg Raja Ram Mohan Rai Add-2: 109/120 Model House, Laxmi Sahay

Road Near Nayar Clinic Lucknow UP. 3. Mr. Ashish Saxena s/o Siya Saran Saxena (Guarantor), K 17 Sanjay Gandhi Puram aizabad Road Lucknow

4. Mrs Alpana Bhatacharya (Guarantor), Room No. 305-306 3RD Floor Building No. 10A Murli Bhawan Ashok Marg Raja Ram Mohan Rai Lucknow-226001 5. Mr. Vidhan Kr Bhattacharya S/o Late

Niranian Bhattacharya (Mortgagor), Add-1: Room No.305-306 3RD Floor Building No.10A Murli Bhawan Ashok Marg Raja Ram Mohan

Rai Lucknow-226001 Add-2: 109/120 Model House,Laxmi Sahay Road Near Nayar Clinic Lucknow UP.

6. Mrs Alpana Bhatacharya (Mortgagor), Room No.305-306 3RD Floor Building No.10A Murli Bhawan Ashok Marg Raja Ram Mohan

E-Auction Website

Place : Lucknow, Date : 07.05.2024

Rai Lucknow-226001

Bank Website

1. A property at office space room no-305 area 277 sq fit(25.743 sq mtr) at III floor building no 10A murli Bhawan Ashok Marg Lucknow at Raja ram Mohan rai ward, having registered sale ram Monan rai ward, naving registered saie deed dated 26.6.2009 at vahi no-1 Zild no-8688 pages 1-22 Sr No-6474 in name of Mr Vidhan kumar Bhattacharya, Boundaries-East-Office space no-306, West-Office space no-304, North-Gallery South-Other property

2. A property at office space room no-306 area-358 sq fit (33.271 sq mtr) at III floor building no 100 murit Bhawan Ashok Marql. Lycknow at Paja

358 sq ht (33.271 sq mtr) at III floor building no-10A murli Bhawan Ashok Marg Lucknow at Raja ram Mohan rai ward,having registered sale deed dated 12.09.2008 at vahi no-1 Zild no-7844 pages 277-306 Sr No-9930 in name of Mrs Alpana Bhatta Charya w/o Vidhan kumar Bhattacharya, Boundaries- East- Other property, West- Office space no-305, North-Gallery, South-Other property

Property Location

a) Rs. 27,80,100/-22.11.2023 22.04.2024 b) Rs. 2,78,000/-Rs. 19,31,356.00 c) 6127853725 as on 22.11.2023 SC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch & expenses there d) Rs. 10,000/-

a) Rs. 36,23,400/ b) Rs. 3.62.300/ c) 6127853725 FSC: IDIB000H561

Hazratganj Branch

d) Rs. 10,000/

12.06.2024

Name & Mobile Number of thorised Officer/Branch Manage Authorised Officer: J K MASAND Mob.: 8745913726

Branch Manager: Manoj Mishra Mob.: 7985135369

For verification about be document, property & inspection thereof, the intending bidders may contact Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad contact above mentioned Branch.

For downloading further details and Terms & conditions, please visit: (1) http://www.ibapi.in (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com THE BORROWER(S)/GUARANTOR(S) ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED ABOUT THE SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

INDIAN BANK (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)



AICC gen secy criticises PM for increasing pollution in Ganga

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Avinash Pande strongly criticised the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for increasing pollution in Ganga river. Talking to the reporters here on Monday, along with UPCC president and INDIA Bloc candidate from Varanasi Aiay Rai, national secretary Raiesh Tiwari and others, Pande said the 'pseudo love' of Modi for Maa Ganga has been exposed. Reacting to the PM's statement of 'Maa Ganga ne bulaya hai' when he contested for the first time from this holy city in 2014, the Congress



of the PM's love for Maa Ganga was exposed when the Central Pollution Board declared Ganga as the most polluted river in the country.

"In the name of development, the PM has destroyed the image of this ancient city for his industrialist friends and through his personal influ-Rashtriva ence. the Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

people got entry in educational institutions like Banaras Hindu University (BHU)," he said. The PM had also cheated the boatmen and farmers, he alleged. Pande said till now, while holding the coordination meetings in support of the candidates of INDIA Bloc in 38 Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, he has seen the tremendous support of the intellectuals and the common people in the favour of INDIA Bloc as the people want to see the formation of a coalition democratic and secular government by ousting the 'dictatorial regime' in 2024.

Reacting to the attack on Amethi district Congress

tion of the frustration and lost popularity of Smriti Irani and BJP among the public because Congress candidate KL Sharma has been a dedicated and loyal Congress worker of the party who has served the public all his life. In response to a question, he said that those who are taunting Rahul Gandhi by calling him 'Shahzada' should know that he is a 'Shaheedzada' whose father and grandmother were martvred for this country. "About 83 per cent of the youth of the country are unemployed today. UP has become a 'paper leak' state and 32 farmers are committing suicide every day", he said.

Rajeshpati Tripathi extends support to INDIA Bloc

 $F^{
m ormer\ MLC\ Rajeshpati}_{
m Tripathi\ has\ extended\ sup-}$ port to the candidates of INDIA Bloc saying that the victory of this alliance in 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be in the interest of the nation and democracy by dethroning Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Addressing a press conference at Aurangabad House here on Monday, he said that as he is the heir of Pandit Kamlapati Tripathi dynasty so he cannot do politics against the political ideology of his grandfather (Pt Kamlapati). Just a day ago, Aurangabad House witnessed a split in political ideology when Someshpati, cousin of Rajeshpati, extended his support to BJP candidate and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rajeshpati said he believed in democracy, which gives ide-ological freedom to everyone and nevertheless, he considered the Gandhi-Nehru thought and tradition of nation building as an unbreakable way of life, which has a relationship with the ideas of Sangh and BJP like the North and South Pole, in which reconciliation is not possible. "Therefore, if we do BJP's politics in the name of Pt Kamlapati, it will be against his ideological legacy", he said, indirectly reacting to his cousin's move. "We can spend

the rest of our lives in farming, but cannot think of politics against the ideological legacy of our grandfather", he said, adding that due to personal reasons, he and his son and ex-MLA Laliteshpati separated themselves from the Congress three years ago, but we could not move away from the ideological legacy of our grandfather and father.

"We faced great temptations and pressures to join BJP, but we could not betray the values of our ancestors. Therefore, on the request of Mamata Banerjee, who was deeply associated with Pt Kamlapati Tripathi since 1980, we joined her party, but sat quietly at home", he said. According to him, in the last assembly elections, Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav left the Madihan assembly seat in Mirzapur district for Trinamool Congress (TMC) in favour of Laliteshpati, but we remained away from the elec-

tions also. "When INDIA Bloc was formed on the basis of legacy of ideas of Pt Kamlapati Tripathi, Mamata and Akhilesh asked Laliteshpati to contest elections from Bhadohi and along with it they got the blessings of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, then in the elections Laliteshpati has decided to contest from Bhadohi Lok Sabha seat", he said.

Dharampal gives mantra for increasing voting percentage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

State general secretary (Organisation) of BJP Dharampal Singh gave a mantra to panna pramukhs for increasing voting percentage. He was addressing the Panna Pramukhs' Conference in Pindra assembly constituency of district under Machhalishahar Lok Sabha seat.

"Before voting, all the booth presidents, including the committee members and panna pramukhs should contact all the houses in their respective areas at least two-three times and they should also give Modi's guarantee letter to every voter", he said. Singh said only panna pramukhs will help BJP win with huge votes in this election. "Along with panna pramukhs,

all the party office-bearers associated with voting management were given the task of increasing the margin of victorv at every booth. The panna pramukhs should vote around in the morning along with their families and neighbours", he said. He asked the panna pramukhs to explain and tell all the voters about Modi's guarantee written in the BJP's Sankalp Patra during door-todoor contact. Regional (Kashi) BJP president Dilip Patel and Machhalishahar Lok Sabha candidate and sitting MP BP Saroj also expressed their views. Pindra MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh welcomed the participants and the function was conducted by Ajay Udal. Dr Ajay Singh, Hariom Mishra, regional general secretary Sushil Tripathi, district vicepresident Suresh Singh and others were also present.

Meanwhile, as per the programme decided by the BJP organisation, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' visited many major temples and maths (monasteries) of Kashi and sought the blessings of the Almighty in favour of the PM for historic victory in Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. He also contacted the mahants of temples and maths. He also discussed increasing the voting percentage in the elections. Besides, impressed by the public welfare works of the PM and the policies of BJP, president of Mahanagar Dhobi Kalyan Samiti Chaman Lal Kanojia, secretary of city Congress Committee Manoi Yadav, Mandal in charge of Youth Congress Prince Singh Rajput along with many others joined the BJP in the presence of BJP's Varanasi Lok Sabha convenor Surendra Narayan Singh Odhe, district president and MLC Hansrai . Vishwakarma, city chief Vidyasagar Rai, former MP Dr Raiesh Mishra, state spokesperson Ashok Pandev and Lok Sabha co-convenor Rahul Singh and others at the central election office of Varanasi Lok Sabha.

of Ramesh Awasthi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

B^{JP} legislator Mahesh Trivedi, while speaking at a programme organised in the honour of senior citizens at party's Kidwai Nagar assembly election office, alleged that the Congress is now planning to deprive women of their 'mangalsutras' and jewellery. It was now talking about the survey of their property. He alleged that the INDI Alliance was not a 'gathbandhan' but a 'thagbandhan. Convenor of Election Committee and former BJP's south unit president Ramdeo Shukla said senior citizens are party's priceless heritage. The party had always paid due respect to them. He appealed to the senior citizens to cast their

vote in favour of party candidate Ramesh Awasthi on May 13. Election co-incharge Kaushal Kishore Dixit said from May 8 to 10 polling parties will ensure the voting of senior citizens above 85 years of age and divyang with over 40 per cent disability at their door. District president Shivram Singh, Ramakant Tripathi, Santosh Singh, Ganesh Shukla, Prakash Vir Arya, Sanjay Dubey, Raju Bajpai, Vinod Mishra, Sushil Vishnoi, Akhilesh Shukla and Ajit Singh Chhabra were present.

ARRESTED: The police arrested four persons in an encounter in Bilhaur police station area. During the exchange of fire, one of them sustained bullet injury in his limb.

Appeal to vote in favour | Students jubilant over **CISCE** results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

There was a mood of jubila-I tion among the students of Christian missionary schools, known for their high standards of education, when the results of both ICSE (class X) and ISC (class XII) of the Council of the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), were announced on Monday.

Principal of St Joseph's School Sister Sajimol has informed that the total number of students appeared in class X were 250 and all of them were declared passed. As many as 58 students got above 90 per cent marks while 237 above 60 per cent. In class XII, 115 passed their examinations and 16 students got above 90 per cent



Jubilant students of St Joseph's Schoo in Varanasi after the results were announced on Monday

marks while 105 above 60 per cent. The results of St John's School branches at BLW, Marhauli and Ledupur besides St Francis School Ramnagar, WH Smith Memorial School and others were also excellent.

HBOT facility commissioned

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The first Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) facility in Purvanchal (eastern UP) has been commissioned in Trauma Centre of Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) on Monday. This cutting-edge HBOT facility, marks a signif-icant milestone in advanced medical care for the community. This innovative therapy is poised to redefine treatment protocols, particularly in the realms of trauma and wound care. Prof VK Shukla, ex-Rector, BHU, Prof S Pradhan, Director, Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai), Dr Gagandeep Bhanot, Consultant HBCH and RC, Vishakhapatnam, and other senior and junior healthcare professionals were present during the commissioning of the HBOT facility. In addition to this, a fully mechanised laundry with international

standards has also been made

functional. Prof Saurabh Singh, Professor-in-Charge, Trauma Centre, IMS-BHU remarked, "The hyperbaric oxygen therapy facility represents a pivotal moment in ongoing quest to elevate healthcare standards within the community. HBOT holds tremendous promise in facilitating swifter healing, mitigating the risk of complications, and ultimately enhanc-

ing patient outcomes."
HBOT administers pure oxygen within a pressurised chamber, enabling patients to breathe oxygen at levels exceeding atmospheric pressure. The contraindications to HBO therapy are untreated pneumothorax, cisplatin therapy and disulfiram therapy. Relative contraindications include obstructive lung disease, asymptomatic pulmonary blebs or bullae on chest radiograph, history of spontaneous pneumothorax, upper respiratory or sinus infections, recent ear or thoracic surgery, uncontrolled fever, claustrophobia, seizure disorder, pregnancy and pacemaker device.

BHS students bring glory tion, the students who bagged PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The students of Boys' High

School (BHS) and College once again excelled in ICSE (class X) and ISC (class XII) 2024 Board examinations. The school has achieved cent per cent result in the ICSE and ISC examination. In the ICSE, all the 527 students and in the ISC 344 students who appeared for the examination passed with flying colours. As many as 104 students have secured more than 90 per cent marks in the ICSE examination. In the ISC examination, 31 students secured more than 90 per cent marks in the aggregate. The toppers in the ICSE (High School) examination are Anmol Krishna Singh (99 per cent), Saksham Prajapati (98 pc), Madhur Kapoor (98 pc), Pranay Tripathi (98 pc), Aryan Tiwari (98 pc), Tatsat Tiwari (97 pc), Arpit Singh (97 pc), Shaurya Rai (97 pc), Abhinav Singh (97 pc), Saumya Tripathi (97 pc), Arnav Gupta (97 pc), Divyansh Dwivedi (97 pc) and Satvik Deorah (97 pc). Similarly, in the ISC examinatop, the students who bagged top position in the college included Vinayak Chandra Srivastava (98 pc), Shreyash Krishna (97 pc), Mohd Abbas Mehdi (97 pc), Annirrudha Mohan Srivastava (97 pc), Pratyush Pandey (96 pc), Siddharth Tripathi (96 pc), Aditya Gupta (94 pc), Aariz Khan (94 pc), Vedant Gupta (94), Shivansh Agrawal (94 pc), Divyansh Krishna (94 pc), Shishir Kumar Singh (94 pc) and Yash Jain (94 pc). Principal DA Luke congratulated the achievers for their astounding success and keeping the flag of the school flying high. He appreciated the efforts of teachers and parents in shaping the future of the students.

ATIQ'S SONS GET OVER 70 PC MARKS

Slain mafia-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed's two sons, Ahzam Ahmed and Aban Ahmed, got above 70 per cent marks in the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) the results of which were declared



Opposition echoing voice of Pakistan: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he BJP on Monday high-}}_{\text{lighted a series of state-}}$ ments made by INDIA Bloc leaders that it said were against the nation's interest, as the ruling party accused the Opposition of echoing the voice of Pakistan and asked people to be wary of such "trai-

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi cited Maharashtra Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar's allegation that an RSS-affiliated police officer and not terrorist Ajmal Kasab killed the then anti-terrorism squad chief Hemant Karkare and former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's claim that the attack on IAF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir was a poll stunt to slam the party.

He cited five other instances, including Pakistani leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and praise of Rahul Gandhi, and Farooq Abdullah's reference to Pakistan having nuclear weapons, to allege that these INDIA Bloc leaders are echoing the neighbouring country's

What the National Conference leader has said is very "astounding, revealing and shocking" as so far only a few Pakistani leaders considered reckless or radicalised religious leaders have made such comments, he claimed.

Replying to a question related to Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, the former J-K chief minister removed, he said.



wearing bangles and has nuclear weapons. Such remarks are also an insult to women, the BJP leader said. Noting that Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has written a column in a Bangladeshi newspaper slamming Modi while analysing the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, Rajya Sabha MP Trivedi said while elections are being in India he is building public opinion in another country.

The Congress leader has also referred to the Valley as Indiaadministered-Kashmir, he alleged

One INDIA Bloc leader is giving "cover fire" to Pakistan on Mumbai terror attack, another is speaking about its nuclear weapon while somebody is describing the martyrdom of a solider as a poll stunt, he said. Modi had said the Congress manifesto carried Muslim League's imprints, he noted, adding that every work spoken by its leaders echoed Pakistan's stand. The Left parties want the country's nuclear stockpiles

had said that Pakistan is not All these development are not merely a coincidence but a deliberate and dangerous experiment, Trivedi said. "In whose hands these leaders are playing," he asked, telling people to be wary of "traitors" hiding within the country. Various kinds of powers outside are attempting to halt the rise of a proud and confident India, he

> At the press conference, the BJP leader also took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi over the recovery of a huge amount of cash from the house of a domestic help allegedly linked to the secretary of Jharkhand minister and Congress leader Alamgir

> He said Rahul Gandhi speaks about doing an economic survey and dividing the country's wealth and the Enforcement Directorate's raid has shown the way assets are being divided in Jharkhand when so much of money, between Rs 20 crore and 30 crore, is with the help of a minister's PA.

> After looking at so much amount of money, nothing is left to explain, he added.

VCs, scholars slam Rahul for FIR against Nadda, varsity appointment claims

As many as 181 academicians, including Vice Chancellors (VC) and former VCs, have accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of spreading "falsehood" regarding the appointment process for university heads and sought lawful action against

In an open letter, they said the Congress leader has alleged that vice chancellors are appointed solely on the basis of affiliation with some organisation rather than merit as they slammed his claims. The process by which VCs are selected is characterised by stringent and transparent rigorous procedure grounded in the values of meritocracy, scholarly distinction and integrity, they claimed.

Jawaharlal University Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Delhi University VC Yogesh Singh and AICTE Chairman T G Sitharam are among the academicians who have signed onto the letter.

The selection has been completely based on academic and administrative prowess and with a vision to take universities ahead, they said. Though they did not quote Rahul Gandhi's specific claims, the Congress leader has in the past alleged that affiliations with the Hindutva organisation RSS is often the guiding factor in appointments to academia.

Among the signatories to the letter are Vinay Pathak, VC, CSJM University, Kanpur, Bhagwati Prakash Sharma, Chancellor, Pacific University,



Udaipur, N C Gautam, former Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Vishvavidyalaya, Chitrakoot, Alok Chakkarval, VC, Guru Ghasidas Central University, Bilaspur and Vinay Kapoor, fomer VC, BR Ambedkar National Law University, Sonipat.

Universities in India have undergone a significant transition as evident in their ascent in global rankings, prominent accreditations, world class research and innovations, curriculum facelift narrowing the industry academia gap and higher placement prospects reaffirming their commitment to academic quality and societal relevance, they asserted.

They said, "The array of academic disciplines and professional experiences represented amongst us stands as evidence of the unbiased and inclusive nature of the selection procedure."

It reflects their dedication to cultivating an atmosphere that values and promotes diversity, encourages independent thinking, and supports scholastic achievement, they said.

"Rahul Gandhi has resorted to falsehood and has defamed the Office of the Vice Chancellors at large with the intent to derive political mileage out of it.

It is, therefore, earnestly prayed that appropriate action be taken against him forthwith in accordance with law,"

The academics said in their letter that as guardians of knowledge and administrators of academia, they maintain an unwavering commitment to maintaining the utmost levels of governance integrity, ethical behaviour, and institutional integrity. Urging everyone involved to exercise discernment in distinguishing fact from fiction, to abstain from spreading unfounded rumours, they called for dialogue that is well-informed, constructive, and supportive of their shared goal of creating a dynamic and inclusive educational environment.

Malviya in Karnataka over social media post

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

An FIR has been registered against BJP president JP Nadda, the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya and Karnataka unit chief BY Vijayendra in connection with a social media post allegedly intimidating members of SC and ST community not to vote for a par-ticular candidate, police said on Monday. On the other hand Congress

alleged that professionals working for its social media department are being "harassed" and 'intimidated" by police at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The action on BJP leaders was taken following a complaint lodged by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) with the Election Commission and police on Sunday alleging violation of model code of conduct, they said. They were booked under the sections of Representation of People Act and section 505 (2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or illwill between classes) of the Indian Penal Code, a senior police officer said.

In the complaint, the KPCC cited a video uploaded on the social media platform 'X' by the official account of Karnataka State BJP which, it alleged, is operated by Malviya, on instructions of Nadda, Vijayendra and Social Media incharge — Karnataka BJP, on May 4.

"The said video posted on social media featured animat-



ed characters of (Congress leader) Rahul Gandhi and (Chief Minister) Siddaramaiah. In the clip, the SC, ST and OBC community are portrayed as "eggs" in a nest and it also suggested Rahul Gandhi planting a big egg labelled as Muslim community. It is projected as though funds are being fed to the chick depicting the Muslim community, which then kicks out SC, ST and OBC communities," it alleged.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate alleged that people of the Congress' social media team are being "harassed". The opposition party's assertion came days after the Delhi Police's Special Cell arrested a national coordinator of the Congress' social media team for allegedly uploading and circulating online a doctored video of Shah.

Professionals are being intimidated at the behest of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. These professionals are the people who chose the ide-ology of Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, Bose and stood with the Congress.

The BJP is scaring those who chose truth and justice and rejected your false worship," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said.

Rapid infrastructure development aiding destination weddings in India: Ministry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Union Tourism Ministry on Sunday said the rapid infrastructure development happening across the country, especially improvement in accessibility due to number of airports getting doubled in last few years besides improvement in digital and physical connectivity are aiding destination weddings across the

Speaking during the inauguexpo at Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, Manisha Saxena (IAS) Director General, Ministry of Tourism, said along with cultural aspects of India the holistic development is a boon for destination wedding which also is a booster to the economy as well as employment.

An initiative of Ministry of Tourism, Government of natural beauty and cultural India, the 'Wed in India' expo is being organised jointly with Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan and



Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) alongside the Great India Travel. It is also supported by Hotel and Restaurant Association of Rajasthan (HRAR), Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA) and Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators

"With its unique blend of traditionswhich can actually invoke magic in weddings, Rajasthan along with Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana,

destination for Wed-in-India. The Northeast is also fast emerging as a preferred destination especially the tea gardens of Assam, Darjeeling, Siliguri, Mizoram, and Manipur, Saxena added. Citing the experience of one of the G20 Tourism Group meetings held in Goa during India's G20 Presidency, Saxena said, "We catered to all the ministerial delegates in a 500-years old house which keeps its 200 years old cutlery. India has several such kinds

of assets. We, in the Ministry of Tourism, are in process of documenting this repository of assets both tangible and Delivering her address in the

inaugural session, Gayatri Rathore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan said, "Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan is delighted to hold first ever 'Wed in India' expo. Rajasthan has long been a preferred destination for celebrity weddings due to its tings. The state's magnificent palaces forts and havelis converted into luxury heritage hotels provide a regal backdrop for extravagant celebra-

Rajasthan's world-class hospitality, traditional cuisines and vibrant entertainment create unforgettable experiences for the couples and their guests. "Setting the tone of the expo, Chetan Vohra, Chair, FICCI Wedding Tourism Taskforce & Managing Director, Wedding

Line said, "Hospitality runs in the veins of every Indian and we were raiseḋ with one belief, to open our hearts and our homes to every guest as if they were God - something we call "Atithi Deva Bhavo". The Wed in India summit is a testament to our commitment in making this dream a reality." Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI & CMD, Lalit Suri Hospitality Group said, "This expo is going to be a long way towards making it international. Besides Rajasthan, India has a lot of which are equally beautiful and appealing."

Policymakers, key players from the tourism and hospitality industry and tour operators from over 50 countries are participating in the 'Wed India'

Representatives of Tourism Boards from various states, including Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, too are participating alongside stalwarts from India's tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors.

Congress targets Modi Government over Chinese transgressions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Monday targeted the Modi Government on the issue of Chinese transgressions, and asked whether it has "surrendered" thousands of square kilometres in Depsang and Demchok to China or is it still trying to return to the status quo ante before May 5, 2020. On the fourth anniversary of the clashes between Indian Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh that culminated in the fatal engagement in Galwan on June 15, 2020 in which 20 soldiers were killed, the Congress also asked the Prime Minister when he will take responsibility for the "abysmal failure" of his China

Has anyone been held accountable for India's biggest strategic and intelligence lapse in several decades," AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked in a post on X.

NTA dismisses reports of NEET-UG question paper leak



Posing questions to the Prime still believe your 19 June 2020 statement, made after 20 of our soldiers gave their lives in Galwan, that 'Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai' (No one has entered India nor has anyone occupied any post)". "Has your government surrendered to Chinese control over thousands of square kilometres in Depsang and Demchok for the foreseeable future or are you still trying to return to the status quo ante before 5 May 2020," he

Taking on Modi, he charged that, "The PM's clean chit to China four days later when he said 'Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai' was a profound insult to our fallen soldiers and became the legitimisation of Chinese control over 2,000 square kilometres of land in eastern Ladakh." Despite 21 rounds of military

talks over four years, the situation remains unfavourable. has clearly shown that our troops were unable to reach 26 out of 65 patrolling points that they could access prior to May 5, 2020, Ramesh claimed. China's aggressive build up and intrusions are not restricted to Ladakh, he said, adding that along Arunachal Pradesh, the Chinese continue to build forces and infrastructure that pose a direct threat to India's Siliguri Corridor, which connects northeast India with the rest

Baghel, Gehlot appointed AICC senior observers for Raebareli, Amethi constituencies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/RAEBARELI

Congress on Monday appointed former Chief Ministers Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot as AICC senior observers for Rae Bareli and Amethi Parliamentary constituencies, respectively. Party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reached Uttar Pradesh to spearhead the campaign in Rae Bareli and Amethi, and camp in these Parliamentary constituencies from Monday to ensure the party's victory in the two high-profile seats.

She met party workers in Raebareli to bolster Rahul Gandhi's campaign from the family bastion. Rahul is pitted against BJP leader Dinesh Pratap Singh from Rae Bareli. Rae Bareli and Amethi will go to vote in the fifth phase of election on May 20.

Priyanka Gandhi will be holding hundreds of 'nukkad sab-has', meetings and door-todoor campaign programmes, the sources said. "The centre will be Rae Bareli where she will be stationed at a guest house. From booth management to outreach, everything would be handled by her," the Gandhis in the two key seats.



Strong foundations that Feroze Gandhi laid in Rae Bareli were later nurtured and strengthened by his wife and former prime minister Indira Gandhi, who won the seat in 1967, 1971 and 1980, followed by friends and members of the Gandhi family. In Amethi, a non-Gandhi family member is in the fray after 25 years to take on incumbent BJP MP Smriti Irani. Irani had defeated Rahul Gandhi by more than 55,000 votes in 2019 in

Dinesh Pratap Singh by more than 1,67,000 votes. Sharma was the key person who had looked after the two prestigious constituencies and been a representative of the

Amethi, while in Rae Bareli

Sonia Gandhi defeated BIP's

Coast Guard detains Iranian fishing vessel with six Indians

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) detained an Iranian fishing vessel, with six Indian crew, west of Beypore off the coast of Kerala late Sunday, Defence Ministry said here on Monday adding the swift seaair coordinated operation involved the ships and aircraft of the ICG.

After intercepting the boat, an ICG team boarded the vessel and thoroughly investigated it to check the involvement of any anti-national activity. Initial investigation revealed that the owner of the boat was an Iranian sponsor who had contracted these Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu, and issued them Iranian Visas for fishing off the Iran coast. The crew alleged that the

sponsor ill-treated and deprived them of basic living conditions, besides confiscating their passports. The crew said that they had decided to escape from Iran to India using the same boat. The detained vessel was safely brought to Kochi on Monday for further investi-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** Even as the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday dismissed reports of

a question paper leak in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam as "completely baseless and without any ground" on Monday, the main Opposition Congress party criticised the BJP-led Centre over the incident, denouncing it as a betrayal of students' aspirations and an indication of the government's incompetence. Taking the Government to task on the issue, the Congress on Monday said this trend has been going on for the last 10 years and that is why unemployment and corruption in jobs are the biggest issues of this election. This criticism came in response to the NTA's assurance that every question paper had been properly

paper. "It has been ascertained from NTA's security protocols and Standard Operating Procedures that the social media posts pointing towards any paper leak are completely baseless and without any

managed and that images cir-

culating on social media were

unrelated to the actual exam

'To put rumours to rest, it is



question paper has been accounted for," said Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director, NTA. She added that no external person or agency can access the centres once the examination starts. "After the gates of the examination centres are closed, no one from outside is permitted access inside the halls, which are under CCTV surveil-

However, taking the NTA clarification with a pinch of salt, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the also stated that every single news of the NEET exam years with the destruction of

the dreams of more than 23 lakh students and their fam-

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "Be it the students who dream of getting admission in college after passing 12th or the promising youth who are struggling for government jobs, the Modi government has become a curse for everyone."

"The youth and their family, who have been paying the price of the BJP government's incompetence for the last 10

their future, have now understood that there is a difference between speaking and running the government," he

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too took the X platform to criti-cize the government. "Once again there are reports of a NEET paper leak. The future of 24 lakh youth of the country was again at stake. This trend, which has been going on with crores of promising youth for the last 10 years, is showing no sign of stopping. Will the Prime Minister of the country say anything about

this?" she said. Noting that a law against paper leaks was passed in Parliament, the Congress general secretary asked where that law is and why it is not applicable.

Congress general secretary, in-charge communications, Jairam Ramesh, said news of NEET paper leak has come to light in Bihar. "Apart from this, there have also been complaints from Rajasthan about wrong sets of question papers of NEET exam being distributed at the examination centres," he said.

'In the last 7 years, more than 70 papers have been leaked. Due to this, the future of more than 2 crore candidates has been ruined. Despite there being laws regarding paper leaks in many states, papers are being leaked," he

Citing some examples, Ramesh said 3.75 lakh candidates had participated in the teacher recruitment examination in Bihar on March 15 but within a few days, the exam had to be cancelled due to paper leak. "60 lakh candidates took part

in the UP Police examination on February 17 and 18 February. On February 24, the Yogi government had to cancel the examination due to paper leak," he said.

Ramesh pointed out that one of the five 'Yuva Nyay' guarantees is 'Paper Leak Se "Our laws will ensure the

highest standards of honesty and fairness at every stage of the examination process -from paper setting, printing, transportation, administration and inspection -- for paper-based and computerbased examinations," he said. The entrance exam was conducted on Sunday at 4,750 centres in 571 cities including

14 cities abroad. The NTA had on Sunday claimed that the distribution of wrong question papers at an exam centre in Rajasthan led to some candidates walking out with the papers. The agency had denied any leak of the question paper.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Holding up the mirror

The roots of Khalistani extremism in Canada run deep; S Jaishankar just made it public

n a recent critique of the Trudeau administration, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar accused Canada of granting visas to individuals linked to organised crime, despite warnings from New Delhi, while also legitimising extremism, separatism, and advocates of violence under the guise of free speech. Regarding the escalation of pro-Khalistani activities in Canada and the recent arrest of three individuals in connection with the killing of India-designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Jaishankar remarked that certain individuals have organized politically, influencing politicians to believe they hold sway over community support, thus carving out a space for themselves in the politics of democratic nations. This has been the Indian answer to Canadian charges of killing a Canadian Sikh on its soil. S Jaishankar has effectively retorted to the Canadian charges by saying that the Canada government gives visas to dubious people from India despite the Indian government's warnings. The roots of Khalistani separatism gained significant trac-



tion in the 1980s culminating in violence and the tragic events of Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. The wounds inflicted during this period continue to fester, providing fertile ground for extremist ideologies to thrive, particularly among Sikh diaspora communities. Canada, with its sizable Sikh population. became a hub for Khalistani activists and sympathisers, offering refuge to those fleeing persecution in India while inadvertently providing a platform for the propagation of separatist ideologies.

The liberal immigration policies and multicultural ethos of Canada provided a conducive environment for the Khalistani movement to gain momentum, with sever-

al prominent figures finding sanctuary and support within its borders. However, the issue transcends mere ideological sympathies and delves into the realm of organised crime and terrorism. Over the years, there have been numerous instances of Khalistani elements in Canada being implicated in activities ranging from fundraising for militant outfits to carrying out targeted attacks against perceived enemies of the movement. India has repeatedly raised concerns about Canada's perceived leniency towards individuals with ties to Khalistani extremism. Minister for External Affairs, S Jaishankar's criticism reflects India's growing unease over the role of certain segments within the Canadian establishment in enabling and even legitimizing Khalistani activities. He has done the right thing in showing the mirror to the Canadian government which had accused India of a Sikh Canadian on its soil. Canada, on its part, has taken some steps to address these concerns but the fact is Canada's Govt has been largely sympathetic to such elements. Only a couple of days back Khalistani slogans were raised in the presence of Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau. Canada must strike a delicate balance between upholding its commitment to freedom of speech and association while preventing its territory from being used as a staging ground for violence and terrorism.

PICTALK



Polling officials travel via a boat to reach their respective polling booths, a day before the voting, in Kamrup

Dynamic contours of electoral politics



In a nation where election season seems perennial, the traditional distinction between campaign fervour and governance blurs into a continuous political landscape

he election season is here. The reaction to the statement could well be that election season is now almost there around the year. There are some elections in some parts of the country going on constantly. In short, almost every season has become an election season. It would be tempting to ask oneself if this is a good thing or a bad thing. It's normal to be judgmental in matters which appear to be significant. However, it would not matter which way the judgment goes because the judgment would not affect the actual run of the situation. That may be another matter.

However, the present election fever is unique in its type because it affects every part of the country and is not confined to a small region or another. The concern of the day is national rather than regional, as it often is. This makes the issues of national significance to figure out a choice in the fray. National issues could come up in many areas, such as defence, taxation, education and interstate movements. The special entry provisions that govern certain regions of the country, or indeed the kind of inter-regional transportation structure, including waterways, as it affects human movement, trade, or commerce. The list enumerated itself is loud and can be added to. However, it makes a basic point. The issues in this election are issues that cut across states, have pan-India bearings, or affect the identity of citizens in the country. All this adds to the exclusivity of the election. Conceptually, what has been set in the preceding few lines is correct. But operationally, there are many

other shades and colours. A dominant theme affecting these elections seems to be religion, whereas worship is always a private thing. In India, methods of worship have often served as a method of aggregation of identity. This is a particularly unique gift of the way independence was achieved in this country. No country in the world in the postcolonial era was ever partitioned based on religion, as India was, as a prerequisite for independence. How this helped anyone or any

cause is not quite clear. If the basis of partition was religion, there was something strange about one country proclaiming its identity to be one religion and another country emphatically proposing that it would not have any religious identity. That, however, was the choice of August, 14 and 15, 1947, by the two countries that brought into existence freedom, or more technically, the withdrawal of colonial rule. The British were particular in pointing out that they were giving back power from where they had taken it when they started the rule of thenunified India. The rest has to say is history. But post August 15, 1947, saw an experience throughout the subcontinent that was unique and has been

The British India territories would have elected government, yet the princely India would have their choice of secession to India or Pakistan. The rest, as they say, is history. Barring Multan, North st Frontier territory Jammu and Kashmir, Junagarh and Hyderabad, the merger issues were largely smooth and without too much contention. Even the territories named above had a choice exercised sooner than what seemed most like-

termed by some historians as

the 'unification of India'. There

was a British India and a

princely India.



THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN **ELECTORAL** PROMISES, THE **ISSUES THAT WIN VOTES AND HOW** THE ELECTED PARTY **ACTUALLY GOVERNS** AND IMPLEMENTS THEIR AGENDA ONCE IN POWER LEADS TO MANY UNEXPECTED AND PERPLEXING OUTCOMES

emergence of a unified India and a unified Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir remained the only state in which a deliberate contention was kept alive. Indeed, there was no contentious issue if the terms of the Freedom Act were followed, but in one way or another, the matter continues to evoke emotions, in a unique way, in several people. It is not just religion at play, there are several factors, including geopolitical ones. It is also possible not to recognize how the matter has been made increasingly complex by an unnecessary play of force, some of whom have no locus standee at all in the case. One would have thought that elections held at a national

ly possible. The result was the

of controversy in Jammu and Kashmir needless. Alas, that is not the case. Elections have a certain pattern in this country: give and take a few arguments here and there. However, choices have to be exercised and the numerical outcome of those choices determines how the country is governed. So the question arises as to what the net findings of the propositions

thrown up as electoral issues

are. In many states, local

EDITOR

level, so often, so regularly and

so fairly across the length and

breadth of the country, would

have rendered the whole issue

issues seem to be inclined to determine the balloting that would take place for national representation. This appears to be the case, especially in Karnataka, Bihar, Manipur and some other states.

The essence of the matter is that choices have to be exercised and the arguments of the choices need only to be communicable in terms of the strength that the community appears to endorse in the legislature. It is worth remembering that, at the end of the day. once the election results are announced, there is no accountability for the correlation between how choices made on issues during elections will be exercised when the party concerned, which wins the election, administers the issue. It may well be said that elections as a process still await better mellowing and maturing to make them an internally consistent one. At the moment, it is satisfying to note that by and large, the process of exercising choices, its panning out in the legislature and its administrative implementation are increasingly becoming worthwhile efforts and, a coherent method of administering, sensibly, a large country, such as India.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

Climate startups: Innovative climate crisis warriors



SAIRAM Subramanian

Startups, pivotal in the shift to a net-zero future, can revitalise economies and communities while providing innovative solutions

eux ex machina is a technique deployed by writers to solve a seemingly hopeless situation by external, magical and often unimaginable intervention. It is debatable if Deux ex machina exists in real life, nonetheless, Startups being creatures with innovation, disruption and problemsolving in their DNA can offer faster, creative and localised solutions, for the increasingly hopeless real-world crisis of Ćlimate Change.

Be it a startup supplying an animal feed supplement that can cut down bovine emissions significantly, another one using Biotech and robotics technologies for developing GMO seeds and seaweeds that act as powerful carbon sinks, a climate tech company developing agroforestry at a global scale or simpler everyday solutions that aim to greenify consumer finance or track individual efforts to reduce emissions, they can consolidate as a powerful force against climate change. World Economic Forum estimates that startups create value, nearly on par with the GDP of a G7 economy and the



firms create almost half of the new jobs, suggesting their burgeoning economic power and potential to create impact

The race to net zero is propelled by energy and technology transition which on one hand is an opportunity for startups and a threat to local economies and livelihoods on the other. Take the case of coal being phased out; this might result in the currently bustling mining centres turning into silent junkyards. The modern world's triumphs in Silicon Valley or a Shanghai SEZ may guide the establishment of new climate innovation hubs. Brain port Eindhoven in the Netherlands is one such example showcasing the transition from conventional industries to futurthe proliferation of such a model 'Can' be addressed by a few suggestions of 'How': Blended Finance for Climate Innovation Hubs Practical experience suggests that 'Impact Capital' often expects social impact plus commercial returns. For startups social impact then becomes an additional responsibility and not an opportunity to improve margins or a business avenue to seriously pursue climate-positive opportunities over the long term. Blended finance can incentivise climate startups to agglomerate within the Climate Innovation Hubs. Monetising Sustainability — Startups should have opportunities to monetise their efforts on reducing emissions, either in the form of reduced taxes and lower cost of capital or claim premiums for climate-positive brand

Reputation Capital — Unless climate-positive efforts are rewarded by markets in the form of valuations or additional capital or brand value, climate-positive behaviour will continue to be talk and no Research

istic setups. The questions on Development (R&D) Support While large corporations have reserves that can be deployed for R & D, startups have only access to highly demanding capital that usually funds sales for growth and rarely for investments for innovations (unless the startup is incubated in a technical university).

While the existing carbon economy still grapples with the issues of just transition, the political economy of climate change signals shifts in geo-political equilibrium and technological leapfrogging in climate solutions is yet to emerge, startups as business organisations are only going to achieve greater proportions of power, prosperity and influence in the world. With focused support from policymakers, development finance institutions and international researchers, the global startup ecosystem can be geared up to take on threats of climate change head-on. Who knows we may have a Deux ex machina in the real world of climate change.

The writer is a Chevening Scholar and an International Development expert; views are personal Madam — Apropos the news article, "Saffron cultivation: Replicate Poonch's success story," published on May 4, this is my response. The story of saffron cultivation in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, is not just about agriculture; it's a narrative of resilience and transformation. Ajaz Ahmad's journey exemplifies a shift from traditional farming to embracing the potential of saffron. His vision of Poonch becoming a saffron hub reflects the region's evolving agricultural landscape.

SAFFRON: A BLOSSOMING OPPORTUNITY

However, challenges loom large. Environmental shifts, like erratic rainfall and untimely snowfall, threaten saffron production in Kashmir. Such concerns emphasise the need for sustainable farming practices and governmental support, not just in terms of subsidies but also in ensuring security and mitigating wildlife threats. Yet, amidst these challenges, saffron's allure persists. Its medicinal properties and premium market value make it a lucrative venture for farmers. With initiatives like the National Saffron Mission, there's hope for revitalising saffron cultivation and uplifting Kashmir's socio-economic fabric. As saffron blooms in Poonch, it signifies not just a crop but a promise of

prosperity for the region. **Virat Chatterjee** | *Pune*

PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND HOPE Madam — Apropos the news article, "Narendra Modi introduces India to its Ashtalakshmis," published on May 4, this is my response. Reading about the political landscape and developmental challenges across India, especially in the neglected North East, evokes a mix of emotions. From the perpetual promises of politicians during election seasons to the persistent issues of floods, droughts and insurgencies, it's a reminder of the complex tapestry of our nation's journey. The failure to address fundamental issues like water scarcity and regional development highlights systemic shortcomings that transcend party lines.

However, amidst these challenges, there's orous preparation for CUET 2024, lever-

Call for transparency



propos the news article, "Covishield's Shield in Question," published on May 5, this is my response. The unfolding saga surrounding the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine underscores a pressing need for transparency and accountability in vaccine distribution and oversight. Alex Mitchell's harrowing experience, alongside numerous others, sheds light on the gravity of poten-

a glimmer of hope. The efforts made by the current government, particularly in the North East, show a commitment to inclusive growth and infrastructure development. Modi's North East Story sheds light on the transformative changes underway, offering a narrative of progress and resilience. It's heartening to see dynamic leaders and policymakers taking proactive steps to uplift these regions while preserving their unique cultural heritage. The book's portrayal of the North East's beauty and potential serves as an invitation for all Indians to engage with and support the holistic development of these often-overlooked states.

Ishika Verma | Jaipur

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Leveraging NCERT textbooks for CUET," published on May 4, this is my response. he Common University Entrance Test (CUET) stands as a significant milestone for students aspiring to secure undergraduate admissions in India. Amidst the rigtial side effects and the imperative of informed consent. As legal battles loom against pharmaceutical giants, questions mount regarding regulatory diligence and corporate responsibility. The admission of rare but severe side effects prompts reflection on the balance between vaccine bene-

fits and risks The petition, led by advocate Vishal Tiwari, encapsulates the public's demand for rigorous scrutiny and redress mechanisms. Calls for expert medcal panels and a vaccine damage payment system underscore a quest for justice and safeguarding public health. Amidst the cacophony of voices, from grieving parents to sceptical netizens, one message resonates: transparency breeds trust. As the global vaccination campaign continues, robust surveillance, thorough investigation and proactive communication remain indispensable in navigating the complexities of vaccine safety. Arnav Reddy | Hyderabad

aging NCERT textbooks emerges as a strategic move. These textbooks, integral to classrooms nationwide, offer more than just academic aid. They serve as a robust foundation, aligning seamlessly with CUET syllabi and offering structured content presentations. From basic principles to advanced concepts, NCERT textbooks provide a roadmap.

Their clarity, supplemented by visuals and practice exercises, enhances comprehension and problem-solving skills. Moreover, their standardised content ensures equitable access to quality education, levelling the playing field for CUET aspirants. To optimise CUET preparation, students should adopt a subject-wise study approach, leverage visual aids, prioritise practice and revision and supplement with additional resources. By harnessing the potential of NCERT textbooks, students can bolster their confidence and maximise success in the CUET 2024 Exam.

Sanya Khanna | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



RETHINKING **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Excessive consumerism contradicts our spiritual values ingrained in our heritage



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

he US economy is very often seen as the engine of the world economy, and that is why any sign of slowdown in the US raises serious concerns about harmful spillovers to the other economies. Any keen student of current economics would know well that the economic policies of America, especially during the last few years, have not worked well. In fact, the defeat of the most powerful leaders in the presidential elections that were held in the past few decades is attributed mainly to the failure of their economic policies which created many problems for the country. However, most people do not realise that the economic problems faced there, emanate not merely from wrong policies, adopted recent-

Their roots are hidden in some wrong economic, political and cultural concepts and the models built on them over a period of time. For example, the mounting unemployment and the huge foreign debts are not the phenomena that have sprung up overnight and the phenomenon of estimated 11.5% Americans, living in poverty, also has not arisen in the short period of only one or two years. The roots of their sad economic state go at least to as far a period as the end of the World War-II when they adopted a very lavish life-style and an utterly consumeristic attitude and built their economy on militarism, giant industries, transactional and multi-national business corporations, import of raw materials at cheaper rates from the undeveloped countries and export of their goods to such nations and economic capture of foreign markets through their multinational corporations. In short, they thrived on the basis of this economic system as long as other industrial nations did not come up strongly to stand up to them or the weaker nations did not stand up against



their economic exploitation or injustice. Nevertheless, their economic system was not, based on some morally sound and enduring economic principles. As mentioned earlier, it was based on commercialism, competition, consumerism and exploitation of weaker nations and on hot or cold war with an adversary nation, or on considering their nation as the strong military- man of the world, ready for hot or cold war. Now, when some other industrial nations have grown stronger, they cannot compete with them and have, therefore, to close down or to retrench workers as was done recently by many industrial giants. Also, now when there is no war— hot or cold—they are forced by economic reasons to sell their military hardware as they recently sold fighter jets to many Asian countries in order to keep the workers in employment. Their country has had either the ills of recession, or inflation, or heavy taxation, or it had to resort to deficit budgets, foreign debts, protectionist policies, etc. to keep the economy going. It would have, therefore, been appropriate if developing nations like India had learnt some lessons from the failures of the so-called developed models of economy and had, instead. kept in mind their own national ethos and ancient heritage which suggests that a right system of economy is one which is based on social justice, and on economising rather than borrowing and deficit-financing. We should also keep in mind our own national situation which necessitates national and regional self-sufficiency and affords opportunities of full employment to its citizens and promotes balance between rural and urban economy, equitable distribution of income and wealth and prevention of the growth of very wide disparities in income and wealth. We must remember that unbridled consumerism and commercialism and also large-scale borrowing are against the value-system which is embedded in our spiritual heritage and will, sooner or later, lead us to grave economic crisis. So,let us all learn to lead a life of simplicity and frugality and be honest and just to all.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Reimagining Tagore's educational philosophy



Rabindranath Tagore, the polymathic Nobel Laureate from Bengal, is celebrated not only for his literary brilliance but also for his visionary ideas on education

Rabindranath Tagore (May 7, 1861 to August 7, 1941), the polymathic Nobel Laureate from Bengal, is renowned not only for his literary brilliance but also for his progressive ideas on education. His philosophy of education, rooted in the principles of creativity, freedom, and humanism, continues to resonate with contemporary educational discourse. In today's rapidly changing world, where traditional educational paradigms are being challenged and redefined, Tagore's insights offer valuable perspectives for reimagining education in a manner that fosters holistic development and meaningful engagement with the world.

At the heart of Tagore's educational philosophy is the belief in the innate creativity and potential of every individual. He envisioned education as a process of nurturing this inherent creativity rather than imposing predetermined knowledge. In his seminal work, "Siksha: Herok Ek Jibon" (Education: A Continuum of Life), Tagore emphasized the importance of cultivating curiosity, imagination, and critical thinking skills in learners. He advocated for an education system that encourages students to explore, question, and construct their understanding of the world, rather than passively receiving information.

Further, central to Tagore's philosophy of education is the concept of "Shantiniketan," or the abode of peace and later Sriniketan - which he established as an experimental educational institution in rural Bengal. Shantiniketan epitomized Tagore's holistic educational philosophy, integrating intellectual, artistic, and spiritual facets of human life. Education transcended traditional confines, embracing nature, arts, and community involvement. Tagore emphasized fostering reverence for nature, aesthetic sensibility, and interconnectedness with all life. He advocated for intellectual development through imagination, free thought, and perpetual curiosity. This personalized approach prioritized holistic growth, including physical development through exercises, yoga, and sports, echoing Tagore's belief: "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.'

According to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, "A teacher can never truly teach, unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp, unless it continues to burn its own flame". In his essay 'Ashramer Shiksha' (Ashram's Teaching), Tagore extolled the virtues of patience in teaching, advocating that only those imbued with affection for their students deserve the mantle of a teacher. He rejected authoritarian teaching methods, viewing them as indicative of governance inadequacy. K M O'Connell (University of Toronto, Canada) had written that Rabindranath Tagore stands with the pioneering educators, like, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel, Montessori, and Dewey Malcolm Knowles, who have striven to create non-authoritarian learning systems appropriate to the surround-

Furthermore, Tagore's educational philosophy emphasizes fostering a love for humanity and advancing universal brotherhood through recognizing the interconnectedness of all beings and promoting empathy across cultures. Central to his approach is establishing harmony



HIS NOTION OF FREEDOM IN EDUCATION **EMPHASISES** LINKING NATURE, SOCIETY, AND LEARNERS' EXPERIENCES. HE ADVOCATES FOR LEARNING IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS TO NOURISH BODY AND SOUL. PRIORITISE CREATIVITY, AND ENGAGE CRITICALLY WITH TRADITIONAL

between individuals, nature, and the divine. Tagore advocates for freedom in education to unlock individuals' inherent potential and stresses the significance of moral and spiritual development alongside academic learning. His vision aims at cultivating wellrounded individuals capable of selfless service and social integration, ultimately contributing to a conscientious and harmonious

In today's context, characterized by rapid technological advance-ments, globalization, and environ-mental challenges, Tagore's emphasis on holistic education is more relevant than ever. The prevailing thought on standardized testing and rote memorization (read learning) often stifles creativity and critical thinking, leaving students ill-prepared for the complexities of the modern world. Tagore's philosophy, instead, calls for a shift towards a more studentcentered, inquiry-based approach to learning that empowers learners to navigate uncertainty, think critically, and adapt to change. Tagore's educational philosophy, as elucidated in his essay "The Centre of Indian Culture," emphasizes the imperative for education to reflect and engage with the socio-cultural milieu in which it operates, asserting that genuine education must be attuned to its contextual realities to foster

healthy growth. This sentiment resonates in Sunil Banga's (Lancaster University Management School) analysis - in his paper "The global relevance of Tagore's cosmopolitan educational philosophy for social justice in a post-Westphalian world" published in Journal of Philosophy of VALUES AND Education (August 2023, Oxford) - which underscores Tagore's cosmopolitan approach to education as a potent instrument for social justice and equity in today's

commitment to societal transformation through education, evident in his advocacy for women's empowerment, condemnation of oppression, and advocacy for India's independence (read freedom). Despite emerging from the colonial era, Tagore's philosophy remains pertinent, particularly his emphasis on education as a catalyst for moral and social development, aiming towards societal harmony and integration to address contemporary global chal-

Moreover, Tagore's emphasis on the integration of arts, music, and literature into the curriculum offers a counterbalance to the narrow focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education prevalent in many educational systems today. Arts play a crucial role in fostering creativity, empathy, and emotional intelligence, which are essential for navigating the complexities of human relationships and societal challenges.

Sunil Banga underscores Tagore's educational paradigm as an early advocate of global interconnectedness. Tagore posited that education's primary objective was the attainment of self-realization, which he termed 'Atma Shakti,' wherein individuals harmonize with nature and society. Drawing from Hindu literature, Tagore envisions a 'universal man' embodying faith in universalism and humanity. He further advocates for personality development through arts and music, leading to a transcendent understanding of human nature. He contends that humans, upon achieving self-realization, unite with 'God' or 'Manav Brahma,' thereby becoming the 'complete man' and 'soul.'

Rabindranath Tagore's educational philosophy underscores the integral role of education in fos-

world. Banga highlights Tagore's tering connections between individuals and humanity while promoting holistic development.

In essence, at the heart of Tagore's vision of cosmopolitan education is the idea of freedom - freedom to engage critically with traditional values and beliefs; and freedom to imagine citizenship in a globalized world, that enables an exploration and negotiation of multiple allegiances in sympathy with others. His notion of freedom in education emphasizes linking nature, society, and learners' experiences. He advocates for learning in natural environments to nourish body and soul, prioritize creativity, and engage critically with traditional values and beliefs.

Rabindranath Tagore's philosophy of education provides a compelling framework for reimagining education in the 21st century. lis emphasis on creativity, free dom, holistic development, and social engagement offers valuable insights for addressing the multifaceted challenges of today's world.

By embracing Tagore's vision, educators can create learning environments that empower students to become compassionate, critical thinkers capable of shaping a more just, sustainable, and humane society and boosting student's morale.

On the occasion of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 163rd Birth Anniversary, we may well reflect on his philosophy advocating for an education that transcends mere impartation of knowledge, rather instills a profound harmony with all existence. Revisiting Tagore's principles may serve as a guiding light for Indian educational institutions in this globalised age.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are

Vision for India: A State-led roadmap for effective governance

Amid India's socio-economic shift, Karthik Muralidharan's new book shines as a guide for the nation's trajectory

t was during the mid-1960s that I had a first-hand Lexperience with Kochi, popularly known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea. Other than Kochi Port, the small aerodrome and the star hotel of yore years Sea Lord and Malabar, there was nothing attractive about the city. Scavengers carrying night soil collected from homes and hotels on their heads were the first sight that welcomed people during the daybreak. Some discernible changes are there in Kochi and other cities in the State. Scavengers are gone and their places have been taken over by cycle rickshaws with the hoarding "For cleaning septic tanks, please contact us.." In the hinterland, farmers wearing loincloths plough their farmland with bullocks



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

despite India being one of the largest manufacturers of tractors of all kinds. The mention of the word farmer brings to mind the images of loin-clothclad men beating their bollocks to force them to plough

You go to Madurai in Tamil Nadu, which the DMK touts as a role model of Dravidian development. What welcomes you to the small towns and villages are thoroughfares and

ring roads being used as public comfort stations by the residents. Dravidian leaders do not like the idea of Swachh Bharat and insist that their followers use roads, rivers and beaches as public toilets. It is in these contexts that a

book for the economic and social development of India has hit the shelves. Karthik Muralidharan, renowned economist and Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego, has authored a book "Accelerating India's Development - A State-led Roadmap for Effective Governance", a blueprint for Comprehensive

Development of India. Productivity, competitiveness, the number of jobs created and the skill of the labour force are some of the most important ingredients of the economic growth of a country. It is for the Central and Governments to generate enabling conditions for speedy economic and social development, according to Muralidharan.

The author says that land, labour, capital, policies on taxation, bankruptcy, environmental regulation and promoting competition are the enabling services that ensure speedy economic and social development. Muralidharan, who has no

love lost for the Modi Government at the Centre, says the present Central Government is always ahead in resolving issues that retard economic progress. "India's public discourse on growth mainly focusses on Central Government actions to promote it, though many of the key issues above are in the domain of State Governments. It is critical to analyze and improve the effectiveness of State level actions for boosting productivity and job quality. State-led initiative and innovations followed by rapid replication of successful ones can play a key role in accelerating both growth and development in India," writes Muralidharan in the chapter "Jobs, Productivity and Economic Growth".

What makes the book interesting is Muralidharan's call for improving job quality rather than job quantity. It is not the number of jobs created but the quality of jobs that determines the welfare of the people, says

just a source of income. It also provides identity, dignity and social engagement. With over 95 per cent of India's population relying primarily on labour income for sustenance, improving job quality will directly improve the welfare of hundreds of millions of Indians," says the economist. This is an open call to finish once-and-forever jobs like scavenging, ploughing the land with bullocks and other mean

works. The earlier we introduce Artificial Intelligence and robots for such jobs, the better. Instead of using this technology to deceive the public with deep fake videos and political rivals, it would be better if we use this technology to uplift the status of jobs.

Millions of Indians are reliant

Muralidharan. "A job is not on casual wage labour for sustenance. An average income earner supports 2.7 dependents. "This is why improving living standards in India depends critically on improving worker productivity and creating more highquality jobs to generate higher, more reliable incomes," Muralidharan writes.

The skill development programme initiated by the present government should be invigorated and made compulsory for students and school dropouts.

The Agniveer scheme is an innovation that inspires the mind. One need not go to engineering colleges or medical colleges to emerge as a skilled professional in high-quality jobs. There is a severe shortage of electricians,

plumbers and mechanics with expertise in household jobs. Even as the central and State governments can increase the number of medical colleges, no stone should be left unturned in increasing the number of ITIs and technical schools. Equal priority should be given to increasing the agricultural productivity in which India lags behind China Vietnam etc. The situation is favourable to India. Skill development, Agniveer and increase in agriculture productivity should be implemented with full vigour. There is hope for India to become the world leader by

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)





Maharashtra readies to witness ripple effect of Sena, NCP splits

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The ripple effect of a politi-L cal tsunami caused by the dramatic splits witnessed in the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in June 2022 and July 2023 respectively -which spawned two new breakaway parties in the state --- will be felt for the first time, as eleven constituencies go to polls in the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections in

Maharashtra on Tuesday.
The third phase of LS polling is very crucial, considering that at stake are seven politi-cally influential seats in sugarrich western Maharashtra ---Baramati, Solapur, Madha, Sangli, Satara, Satara, Kolhapur and Hatkanangale, two seats in coastal Konkan region - Raigad and Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, and two seats from Marathwada -Osmanabad and Latur.

The mother of all electoral battles in Maharashtra is being waged between the prominent members of the Pawar family

-- Sharad Pawar's daughter and three-time MP Supriya Sule and his estranged nephew and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar --- in Baramati Lok Sabha constituency. This is the first-ever occasion in the Maharashtra political history that the two members of the Pawar family are pitted against each other in an election.

Two scions of iconic Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Shrimant Maharai Chhatrapati Shahu Maharai and Shrimant Chhatrapati Udyanraje Bhosale – are trying their luck in Kolhapur and Satara constituencies respec-

tively. Senior BJP leader, former chief minister and current Union Minister Narayan Rane, who is seeking election to the Lok Sabha for the first time from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, and veteran Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde's daughter Praniti Shinde (Solapur) are two other prominent con-



tenders in the third phase of

That the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra is of vital importance can be evidenced from the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed as many as seven rallies ---in Pune, Solapur, Madha, Satara, Kolhapur, Osmanabad (Dharashiv) and Latur – and reached out voters in all the poll-bound constituencies in western Maharashtra and neighbouring Marathwada. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar

Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath campaigned for the BJP in Sangli, Solapur and

Kolhapur. Chief minister Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar of the NCP, two breakaway outfits and allies of the BJP, have also campaigned extensively in the poll-bound constituen-From the Opposition side, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi have addressed rallies in Pune and Latur respectively. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, who is leading the

Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) from the front, has addressed rallies in all the eleven poll-bound constituencies, while NCP chief Sharad Pawar - who wields considerable influence among the people in western Maharashtra, has covered a majority of the pollbound constituencies.

The BJP has maximum stakes in the third phase of polling as it is contesting six out of the 11 poll-bound seats, while the NCP (Ajit Pawar) has fielded candidates in three constituencies and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena is in the fray in two seats.

From the Opposition MVA side, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena is contesting a maximum of five seats, while the NCP (Sharad Pawar) and Congress have put up candidates in three constituencies each. This is the first major elections being held after the vertical split in the Shiv Sena, which has thrown up a new Shiv Sena headed by chief minister Eknath Shinde, and the rebellion within the NCP which saw Ajit Pawar walked out a majority of the party MLAs and joined the Eknath Shinde Sena-BJP government on July 2, 2023.

Owing to the split in both the

Sena and NCP and subsequent formation of new break-away outfits headed by Eknath Shinde and Ajit respectively, the parent parties have suffered badly so much so that the Uddhav Thackeray-headed Sena and Sharad Pawar-led NCP have lost party's name as well as their symbols. It remains to be seen how both the parent parties and their off-shoots will fare in the elections. From among all the 11 pollbound constituencies, an unprecedented electoral battle is going on in NCP chief Sharad Pawar's home turf of Baramati. Though the contest is Supriya Sule of the NCP (Sharad Pawar) and Sunetra Pawar of the NCP (Ajit Pawar), it has become a battle of prestige between the uncle and the estranged nephew.

EC warns parties against misuse of Al to create deepfakes

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising number of manipulated or deepfake videos taking a centre stage in the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the Election Commission (EC) warned the political parties against misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based tools to create deep fakes that distort information or propagate mis-information and directed the political parties to remove the video clips and other content "within 3 hours of coming to their notice", emphasising the need to uphold the integrity of

the electoral process. Recently, a political slugfest erupted over a doctored video of Home Minister Amit Shah and notices were served to 17 persons, including Telangana Chief Minister and Congress leader Revanth Reddy. Ărun Reddy, who handled 'Spirit of Congress' X account, was arrested in connection with Amit Shah's doctored video case. Besides, Shah, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Bollywood actors Aamir Khan, Ajay Devgan, Kajol, Rashmika Mandana and Ranveer Singh posted on certain social media handles were taken down and criminal complaints were filed.

Additionally, EC wrote to political parties detailing the provisions of laws against misuse of such tools and said, "In view of the existing legal provisions, amongst other directions, the parties have been specifically directed to refrain from publishing and circulating deep fake audios/videos, disseminate any misinformation or information which is patently false, untrue or misleading in nature, to refrain from posting derogatory content towards women, to abstain from using children in campaigns, to avoid depicting violence or harm to

One killed in bomb blast in Hooghly day before Phase III polling

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

A teenager died and his two friends injured on Monday after a bomb they mistook as ball exploded at Pandua in Hooghly district of Bengal triggering war of words between the rival political outfits. The incident occurred a day ahead of the State going to the third phase of polling in four minority-dominated seats of North and South Malda, Jangipur and Murshidabad. Three boys suffered grievous injuries when the bomb exploded but one of them passed away at the Chinsurah Imambarah Imambarah Hospital, police said adding one person had been arrested in connection with the blast. The conditions of the other two injured persons was also said to

be critical. Even as intense war of words ensued between sitting BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and the Trinamool Congress with the former staging a dharna at Chinsurah demanding the arrest of the culprits and alleging that the "TMC is readying its bombs to scare away the votes," State Trinamool Congress vice president for the third phase of polling in Jaiprakash Majumdar said it four constituencies in two disploy to disturb the rally of his party's general sec- While about 7.3 million voters this round is taken out then the

Hooghly on Tuesday. Bombs were also recovered by the security forces at Jangipur and Sagarpara in Murshidabad district where two parliamentary constituencies were going to polls on Tuesday. The bomb squad of the state police defused the socket bombs that were kept in a field at Jangipur. At Sagarpara in Jalangi block the police defused another bag full of crude bombs likely to have been kept for use in the elections, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission had arranged for a massive security bandobast

was to address a meeting in franchise — in 7,360 polling go up to 72 per cent.

stations - in these four constituencies where the main electoral issues are going to be unemployment, migrant labour, sagging bidi industry, infiltration, Ganga erosioin and Citizenship Amendment Act sources said. Demographically Malda and

Murshidabad are the two districts where the Muslim population is in majority. While Malda has about 57 per cent Muslim population, Murshidabad has about 68 percent of minority voters. If Murshidabad district headquarters Behrampore — from where Adhir Chowdhury and Yusuf Pathan are contesting retary Abhishek Banerjee who were likely to exercise their number of Muslim voters could

Mass resignation in Kargil NC unit over diktat to back INC pick

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Kargil unit of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Monday tendered mass resignation from the primary membership of the party after the party high command issued a diktat to them to support the official candidate of the Indian National Congress from the Ladakh Parliamentary seg-

The Kargil Unit of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and the Congress had unanimously supported the candidature of Independent candidate Haji Haneefa Jan much to the chagrin of the party high com-

On Monday, Party President Dr Farooq Abdullah directed the Kargil unit of the party to support the INDIA bloc candidate - T Namgyal in the Lok Sabha election for the Ladakh seat. Dr Abdullah also told his colleagues that failure to follow this directive would be seen as a serious breach of party discipline.

General Secretary Ladakh the unit's decision to party INC unit Kargil"



president Farooq Abdullah in

In his letter addressed to the Party President Dr Farooq Abdullah, Qamar Ali Akhoon wrote, "In the interest of the Ladakh region as a whole and to secure the future of our region, the Ladakh Democratic Alliance has unitedly decided to project a joint candidate namely Mohd Haneefa Jan 'as an Independent candidate for the forthcoming Lok Sabha election supported by all the political and religious institutions unanimously coming across the party/religious affiliations". He further wrote, "The party high command is pressurizing us both telephonically as well as social media to support the official Ladakh which is unacceptable Qamar Ali Akhoon conveyed to us including J&k NC and

Poonch terror attack: ₹20 lakh bounty placed on two Pakistan terrorists mation about the whereabouts

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Security forces combing the Othickly forested belt of Surankote in Poonch for the last three days on released sketches of two suspected Pakistani terrorists, believed to be behind the attack on the Indian Air Force (IAF) vehicles, on Saturday. One IAF personnel hailing from Madhya Pradesh sacrificed his life while four others received multiple bullet

The security forces while circulating these sketches also declared a reward of Rs 20 lakh for those providing information on these two terrorists.

As per the latest intelligence assessment Sajjid Jutt, a dreaded terrorist operating from Pakistan and PoJK, may have masterminded the terror attack ahead of voting for Parliamentary elections in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency. According to the poster released in the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch by the local officers, "A group of two to three terrorists were behind the attack on the IAF convoy near Shahsitar area in Surankote give fruitful and reliable infor- some of these OGWs.

of these terrorists leading to their arrest will be rewarded and identity will be kept secret." The officials have also provided four mobile numbers on which people can contact and share information. The numbers are — 9541051982, 8082294375, 9541051982, and 8082294375.

Meanwhile, a joint team of security forces continued massive search operations in Surankote and Mendhar for the third consecutive day chasing these hiding terrorists. The army has pressed elite para

commandos to hunt down these terrorists. Sniffer dogs are also embedded with the teams of foot soldiers conducting cordon and search operations in the

The Army is also maintaining aerial reconnaissance with the help of drone cameras.

So far the team of investigators have gathered inputs about some of the over-ground workers (OGW) who may have provided food and shelter to these terrorists before the attack took

The sketches were prepared on Saturday. Anyone who will based on the inputs shared by

10 schools in **Ahmedabad** receive hoax bomb threats

PNS AHMEDABAD

On the eve of Lok Sabha elections in Ahmedabad, as many as 10 schools received an email on Monday threatening bomb blasts, though a police statement said this was a hoax as searches failed to unearth anything suspicious. After being alerted, police as well as bomb detection and disposal squad, dog squad and Crime Branch teams reached these schools and conducted a thorough search, a statement by Ahmedabad City Crime Branch informed. "No explosives were found

during the search operation. Our teams are patrolling these areas and technical surveillance has also been initiated about the sender of the email. We appeal to people not to panic and to stay away from rumours. This threat was a hoax," the statement said. Ignore this email (sent to schools) and exercise your voting rights tomorrow without any fear, it asked citizens. The schools that received the threat email included DPS and Anand Niketan in Bopal, Udgam School on SG Highway, Calorx Vidyalaya at Chandkheda and Army Cantonment on Airport

BJP's all-weather ally in Odisha...

"BJP and Modi are day dreaming to capture Odisha, how foolish," the leader how foolish," the leader quoted their CM which later went viral late evening.

either party. In the 2019 elections, BJD and BJP secured 12 and eight

senior BJD leader and Naveen Patnaik's close aide VK Pandian said, "Patnaik would take oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha for the sixth consecutive time between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm on June 9."BID-BIP alliance saw success in two Assembly elections and three Lok Sabha polls in Odisha. The partnership, forged in February 1998, enjoyed a strong foundation, with both parties successfully contesting Lok Sabha elections in 1998, 1999, and 2004, as well as Assembly elections in 2000 2004.The strategic

importance of Odisha, with its 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 assembly seats, is not lost on went viral late evening. secured 12 and eight Responding to Modi's claim, parliamentary constituencies and 112 and 23 Assembly constituencies, respectively.

The alliance could not materialise this year because for the Assembly elections which is being held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha, BJD was pushing for a larger share of seats, proposing to contest 105 out of the 147 available seats, leaving the BJP with 42 seats. Simultaneously, in the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP expected to secure a significant portion of the seats. Of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha pressed for 13-14.Once considered the BJP's most reli

Poll battle enters crucial ...

The current important for Mulaym Singh Yadav's family, with Dimple Yadav aiming to retain the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat. Akshaya Yadav, son of Ram Gopal Yadav, is contesting from Firozabad, and Aditya Yadav is making his electoral debut from the Budaun Lok

In Madhya Pradesh where Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and former State Chief Ministers Shivraj Chouhan Singh and Digvijaya Singh are in the fray. At stake is the political future of Scindia, seeking to reclaim the home turf Guna which he lost in 2019 when

he was in the Congress. Maharashtra, spotlight is on the highstakes battle in Baramati, where Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule is pitted against Sunetra Pawar, wife of the veteran leader's estranged nephew and Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Spotlight on Samajwadi Party's...

From Page 1 In the third phase, the

Bharatiya Janata Party has given tickets to five new faces - Chhatrapal Gangwar from Bareilly, Durvijay Singh Shakya from Budaun, Anoop Pradhan Balmiki from Hathras (SC), Vishwadeep Singh from Firozabad, and Jayveer Singh from Mainpuri

Lok Sabha seat. The first four replaced Santosh Gangwar, Sanghamitra Maurya, Rajveer Singh Diler, and Chandrasen Jadaun. Jayveer Singh is the sole candidate in this phase who replaced a losing candidate from BJP.

The saffron party retained the winning candidates from Etah, Agra (SC), Aonla, and

Fatehpur Sikri. It also gave a ticket to Parameshwar Lal Saini from Sambhal Lok Sabha seat. The Congress has fielded one candidate -Ramnath Singh Sikarwar from Fatehpur Sikri - while its INDIA Bloc ally, the Samajwadi Party, has fielded candidates in the remaining nine seats in this phase.

Marine heatwave scorches pristine coral reefs...

From Page 1

He explained that since October 27, 2023, the Lakshadweep Sea, spanning from 80.0 to 12.0 N latitude and 71.0 to 75.0 E longitude, has been experiencing these conditions, with temperatures consistently registering rises greater than 1°C above the

Viewing that the health of marine ecosystems is integral to the livelihoods of coastal

influencing communities, tourism and fisheries sectors, Sreenath said the ongoing marine heat waves are likely to cause significant economic losses for the inhabitants who are mostly dependent on the earnings from the sea whether it is a fish or allied community or the tourists sector.

The heatwaves also threaten other critical marine habitats, including sea-grass meadows. Similar to corals, sea-grass meadows are experiencing detrimental impacts due to the heat waves such as impaired photosynthesis, reduced hindered growth, and reproductive functions.

Lakshadweep came into the limelight earlier this year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. Lakshadweep's island's sea vibrant corals have always been a huge draw to the tourists.

"The degradation of these

ecosystems can lead to the collapse of local marine food webs, affecting a wide range of marine species, from fish communities to marine mammals like dugongs and dolphins," Sreenath warned. The waters of the archipelago, though, are spread over 400,000 square kilometres and are rich in marine life and resources. But the CMFRI observation has come as an alarm to the authorities.

Furthermore, the heat waves also endanger critical marine habitats sea-grass meadows, photosynthesis, growth, and reproductive functions. The degradation these ecosystems can disrupt local marine food webs, impacting a wide range of species, from fish communities to marine mammals like dugongs and dolphins. To address these challenges,

CMFRI is actively researching ecological changes affecting coral reefs and has initiated a impairing national project to investigate coral reef resilience. By integrating advanced

climatic modeling, deeplearning, and ecological research, the institute aims to develop resilience-based management strategies to ensure the sustainability of coral reef ecosystems.

LG recommends NIA probe against...

From Page 1

"I am directed to forward a complaint dated 01.04.2024 (in original) received from Ashoo Mongia National General Secretary (World Hindu Federation India), along with printout of posts on platform 'X' (erstwhile Twitter), made by Dr Munish Kumar Raizada, former worker of Aam Aadmi Party, referred to in the enclosed letter and a pen drive as received," the letter stated.

The LG further said "the complainant has requested for a comprehensive enquiry into the allegations regarding funding of Aam Aadmi Party

The complaint is made against a Chief Minister and relates to political funding received from a banned terrorist organisation, the

for facilitating the release of Bhullar, the letter stated, 'The complainant has referred to the contents of a video (in enclosed pen drive), purportedly featuring Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, (Khalistani terrorist and founder of banned organisation Sikhs For Justice), wherein he has

Arvind Kejriwal has received a staggering amount of \$16 million in funding from Khalistani groups between 2014 and 2022."

"It has also been alleged that Claiming that Kejriwal received millions in funding for facilitating the relations of the second state of Sikhs at Gurdwara Richmond Hills, New York. During the said meeting, Kejriwal purportedly promised to facilitate release of Devender Pal Bhullar, in return for substantial financial backing from Khalistani factions to Aam Aadmi Party," the LG claimed.

seem to be Troubles

Kejriwal as Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar recommended Saxena National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe against the AAP chief for allegedly receiving political funding from the banned terrorist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice' to the Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday. The

Chief Minister Arvind

LG claimed that Kejriwal "has received a staggering amount of \$16 million in funding from Khalistani groups between 2014 and 2022."

The move comes a day ahead of the Supreme Court by Extremist group Justice alleged that AAP-led by mounting for the jailed Delhi considering granting Kejrwal

interim bail in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The AAP chief, who is in Tihar jail, was arrested on March 21 by Enforcement Directorate in connection with an excise linked money laundering case.

In a letter to the Union Home secretary, the Lieutenant Governor's secretariat said Saxena had received a complaint that the Kejriwalled AAP allegedly received nine people in a bomb blast USD 16 million funding in 1993 in Delhi. He was from extremist Khalistanii sentenced to death by a groups for facilitating the release of Devendra Pal

Bhullar. "Keeping in view, the imprisonment after the

sensitivity and seriousness of the allegations levelled in the complaint, the LG has desired that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, may consider referring the matter to the conducting for comprehensive investigation into the matter," the letter to the Home Ministry read.

Bhullar, who is in Amritsar Central Jail, was convicted in connection with the killing of designated TADA court on August 25, 2001 and is undergoing life Supreme Court commuted his death sentence. Reacting to the development,

senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj called it "yet another conspiracy against Kejriwal at the behest of BJP". "They are losing all seven seats in Delhi and are rattled

by the fear of defeat in Lok Sabha polls," he claimed, adding that the LG is the agent of BJP and the party had done something similar before also in Punjab elections.

The complaint was filed by World Hindu Federation's National General Secretary Ashoo Mongia.

"I am directed to forward a complaint dated 01.04.2024 (in original) received from Ashoo Mongia National General Secretary (World Hindu Federation India), along with printout of posts on platform 'X' (erstwhile Twitter), made by Dr Munish Kumar Raizada, former worker of Aam Aadmi Party, referred to in the enclosed letter and a pen drive as received," the letter stated. The LG further said "the

complainant has requested for a comprehensive enquiry into the allegations regarding funding of Aam Aadmi Party by Extremist group Justice for Sikhs".

Third phase of Assam polls to decide Polling in both LS seats in Goa today fate of 47 candidates in four seats

The political fate of 47 candidates in four Lok Sabha seats will be decided on Tuesday when the third and final phase of the elections in the State will be held.

Polling will begin at 7 am and conclude at 5 pm in the four constituencies – Kokrajhar (ST), Dhubri, Barpeta and Guwahati.

All eyes will be on the prestigious Guwahati seat where both BJP and Congress have put up woman nominees - Bijuli Kalita Medhi and Mira Borthakur Goswami respectively.

The other prominent candidates are AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal who is seeking re-election for the fourth successive term from Dhubri, Congress MLA Rakibul Hussain, eight time Asom Gana Parishad legislator Phanibhushan Choudhury and CPI(M) MLA Manoranjan Talukdar. Barpeta has the highest of 14 candidates and Guwahati the lowest of eight in the fray while six women are while six women are contesting in the final phase. The BJP has put up only one candidate in this phase for the Guwahati seat, while its alliance partners AGP are contesting in two — Dhubri and Barpeta — and the UPPL in Kokrajhar.

The Congress and the Voters

Road Map Part Rashtriya Ulen Ekam Sanatan Bl Bahujan Maha contesting in or while 16 indep also in the fray.

A total elector lake including the formula of the voters and the voters.

The Congress and the Voters Party International (VPI) are fighting in all four seats, while the BPF, the Trinamool Congress, Bharatiya Gana



Parishad, SUCI(C) Republican Party of India Asom Jana Morcha, National Road Map Party of India , Rashtriya Ulema Council, Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal and Bahujan Maha Party are contesting in one seat each while 16 independents are

A total electorate of 82.11 lakh including 41.27 men, 40.84 women and 112 belonging to the third gender will be eligible to exercise their franchise in 9,516 polling stations.

and Polling will be held amid tight security with 60 companies of (Athawale) are contesting in two each. The AIUDF, CPI(M), Gana Suraksha Party, Hindu Samaj Party, a direct contest is on the cards between BJP's Bijuli Kalita Medhi and Congress candidate Mira Borthakur Goswami, both debutants in

Lok Sabha polls. The contest in Barpeta is expected to be triangular among NDA partner Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) candidate Phanibhushan Choudhury, CPI(M)'s Manoranjan Talukdar and Deep Bayan of the Congress. In Dhubri, 13 candidates are in the fray with AIUDF

seeking a fourth term, locked in a triangular contest with Congress MLA Rakibul Hussain and NDA partner AGP's Zaved Islam.

In Kokrajhar (ST), triangular contest is also on the cards among UPPL's Jayanta Basumtary, Congress' Garjen Mushahary and Bodoland People's Front's (BPF) Kampa Borgoyary.

The sitting independent Kokrajhar MP Naba Kumar Sarania, representing the seat reserved for Scheduled Tribes since 2014, had filed his nomination papers which was rejected following the striking down of his Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Assam Chief Electoral Officer

Anurag Goel said that all arrangements have been completed for conducting the polls in a free, fair, safe and peaceful manner. In the first phase of polls held on April 19, 78.25 per cent of the electorate exercised their franchise to decide the fate of 35 candidates for the Kaziranga, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Sonitpur and Lakhimpur constituencies. In the second phase held on April 26, 81.17 per cent of the voters cast their votes to decide the fate of 61 candidates for Karimganj, Silchar(SC), Diphu (ST), Nagaon and Darrang-Udalguri.

In the outgoing Lok Sabha, BJP held nine seats, Congress three, AIUDF and independent one each from

 $M_{\rm are}$ eligible to exercise their franchise in elections to both the Lok Sabha seats in Goa on Tuesday, where the Congress and BJP are locked in a straight fight.

The coastal state has two Lok Sabha constituencies — North Goa and South Goa. "We are all ready with all the required facilities at polling stations. I appeal to all the voters to cast their ballots from 7 am to 6 pm," North Goa district collector Sneha Gitte said.

The polling booths are set up as per the Election Commission's guidelines.
Considering the hot weather

conditions, voters will be provided refreshments and water at polling booths, she North Goa will see the BIP's

sitting MP Shripad Naik take on Congress's Ramakant Khalap, while in South Goa, the saffron party has fielded entrepreneur Pallavi Dempo against Navy-veteran-turned politician Viriato Fernandes of the Congress. The South Goa Lok Sabha

seat is currently held by Congress' Francisco Sardinha.

Sixteen candidates, eight each in North and South Goa Lok Sabha constituencies, are in the fray.

As per the data on the website of the office of Goa's Chief Electoral Officer, the state has 11,79,644 voters, including 5,80,710 in North Goa and 5,98,934 in South Goa, as on April 19. Of the total number of

"Of these, 43 model polling voters, there are 5.71.617 men, 6,07,715 women and 12 members of the transgender community. Besides, there are 300 service

voters, including 133 in North Goa and 167 in South Goa, the data stated.

The run-up to the elections saw rallies by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the BJP, and the Congress roped in its senior leaders Shashi Tharoor and Pawan Khera for campaigns in Goa.
A total of 1,725 polling stations have been set up across the coastal state, including 863 in North Goa and 862 in South Goa, state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ramesh Verma said in a media statement.

booths have been identified in North Goa and 45 in South Goa. The move is aimed at streamlining the voting process and reducing the waiting time," he said. Medical camps will be held at eight model polling stations in urban areas where there is a higher percentage of elderly voters, Verma said. "After casting their vote,

senior citizens can avail health checks by doctors from the Directorate of Health Services," he said. To empower women voters the ecological footprint of and promote gender equality, the electoral process," he 40 dedicated polling stations, also known as 'pink booths', have been set up in both districts, the official said.

"These polling stations will

be exclusively managed by women personnel, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for female voters to exercise their democratic right," he said. Verma said environment

sustainability has been prioritised, and 40 'green' polling stations have been set up.
"The eco-friendly booths are

decorated using sustainable materials such as bamboo and coconut leaves sourced from local vendors, reflecting a commitment to reducing

Divyang polling stations have also been set up — five in North Goa and three in South Goa, he added.

Congress treated tribals as vote bank; BJP under Modi gave them respect: Arjun Munda

PTI ■ KHUNTI (JHARKHAND)

Union minister Arjun an interview with PTI.
Munda on Monday Munda, Union tribal and claimed that the Congress agriculture minister, is and INDIA bloc converted tribals into "mere vote bank", while the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured that these people get due respect.

Attacking the Congress, the former three-time Jharkhand trafficking, poverty, opium chief minister claimed that cultivation and Naxalism, the party believed that tribals who lived in jungles were 1,445 votes, and is once again criminals by nature and the locked in a direct fight with Modi. We are confident to Atal Bihari Vajpayee Congress government first took interest Kalicharan Munda. in their welfare

regime treated tribals as mere vote bank only. There were vote banks whereas the no schemes, no policies for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) them. When their rights and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to ensure that they get due recognition and respect. This Department. They believed is why the Prime Minister chose Khunti to launch major schemes including a Rs 24,000 crore programme for

Vulnerable Tribal Groups) from Khunti," Munda said in

reserved seat that is identified with tribal icon Birsa Munda. In 2019, Munda won the Khunti LS seat, facing the problems of human with a slender margin of

This is true that 'The Congress in its 60 years society has been used as a systems were adopted later, Congress ensured that tribal issues came under the Home that those who resided in jungles were criminal by nature," he claimed.

It was the then Prime (Particularly Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

who took interest in their welfare and later Modi ensured justice to them, Munda said.

agriculture minister, is He claimed the tribal society contesting Lok Sabha understood the game plan of elections from Khunti Congress that it wanted to Congress that it wanted to keep them away from development to reap the benefits of their innocence and now they are aware of their rights and understood who was working for them. "They will vote for BJP under a dynamic and visionary

leader like Prime Minister candidate cross the 400 mark this time and in Jharkhand, we will win all 14 Lok Sabha seats irrespective of tribal or nontribal seats," Munda claimed. To a question, he admitted that Khunti and Simdega are known for human trafficking, particularly of girls.

'I have undertaken an innovative step to boost confidence and provide employment to girls here. I had initiated moves like learning while earning - a programme to ensure mainstream, he said.



successful as becoming thousands of girls have been trained by Tata Electronics. Now mobile parts of mobile phones like Apple are being made by Khunti girls," he said.

horticulture Massive initiatives are also being taken to bring youths engaged in drug trafficking extremism to and

Shivaji descendant hopes to

breach Pawar fortress in Satara

"I am happy that an witnessing record production to introduce MSP on all agroexperiment is of fruits vegetables. and Khunti is not able to reap the benefits as it lacks food processing units and market links.

> Munda said, "I admit that the eastern region lacks infrastructure and channelised agencies. The procurement of products from the region through minimum support price is also less. The governments in

committed to ensuring a agriculture sound infrastructure in the belt for cash crops and horticulture so that these can be sent to the national market. Jharkhand will be accorded special attention." On lac and tussar silkworm cultivation, he said steps were being undertaken to promote these in national and international markets, while a large laboratory is being set up at Khunti under Honey

produce, he said it may be a populist measure in the short term, but how much it will be beneficial in the long run is a matter of research.

Mission.

"They are promising this on the eve of this election whereas they were in power for 60 years. They would have done it long back," the BJP leader said.

On the BJP's promise of providing ration for 80 crore the past did not pay attention people for the next five years,

stock and there is no need for imports." Asked how confident he was

of his win since the margin last time was only 1,445 votes, the minister said, "I accept the contest was close last time. But the people of Khunti are deciding the best for them." He listed the development

measures that have taken place at Khunti, such as setting up Eklavya Model Schools and raising the number of students and teachers in existing ones. Hitting out at the JMM-led alliance in the state. Munda

said that they deliberately delayed release of funds and implementation of central schemes to show the BJP in a bad light. Countering JMM-led

alliance's accusation that funds were not released under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and hence the state had to launch Abua Awas Yojan from their funds, he said the ground reality is different as

to this. But we are now he said "We have sufficient they failed to utilise Rs 5,000 crore funds properly for water supply.
Likewise, the allotment of

Adarsh Gram Yojana model project was pending for three years and was just released ahead of elections, he alleged. "Illegal transfer of tribal land is rampant in Jharkhand, it is a major issue and the state government should have checked it. Unfortunately, the former CM himself faces such charges of grabbing land," he said referring to an allegation against Hemant Soren.

People have no sympathy for him. Munda claime

On the INDIA bloc's accusation that the Centre has been using CBI and ED to harass opposition leaders, he said if they felt so, they could seek justice from the court of law. Munda attacked the state government for keeping control over sand, saying that it was a minor mineral and Gram Sabha has rights over minor minerals in the traditional system.

Congress dream to win elections on false promises will be shattered: Anurag Thakur

PTI ■ HAMIRPUR (HP)

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday said the Congress leaders are living in a fool's paradise and their dream "to win the elections on false promises" will be shattered once the poll results are announced on June

The BJP leader also took potshots at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying he has forgotten his own slogan "daro mat" and running from one seat to another while fearing defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

"First he ran from Amethi to Wayanad and now he is contesting from Rae Bareli and the Congress is sure to be wiped out from Rae Bareli also," he told PTI.

Thakur, who is contesting from the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat, claimed that the people of the constituency were with him and his victory margin this time would be more than the previous margin of about four lakh

Thakur, a four time MP, expressed optimism that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would win more than 400 seats.

votes.

Escalating his attack on the opposition, the BJP leader country 62 times," he said.



said the Congress gave thousands of acres of India's land to foreign powers during its 60 years of rule.

gave Katchatheevu Thev Island to Sri Lanka, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi strengthened the army in the past 10 years, he said. Thakur alleged the hand of foreign powers is clearly visible in the Congress manifesto.

The limit was crossed when their evil eye fell on the ancestral property which belongs to your children and the Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge are yet to come out with a clarification on this

issue, he said. Thakur further said the leaders Congress spreading lies that the BIP would abolish reservation and the Constitution if it comes to

power.
"But the people of the country know who imposed the emergency and who changed



contestants vying to be MP from Satara say what matters is the common person and ground level issues such as jobs and education. The BJP has nominated Udayanraje Bhosale, the 13th descendant of the Maratha warrior king, to take on former MLA Shashikant

Shinde of the (Sharadchandra Pawar). NCP "I have never used Chhatrapati Shivaji's name in elections or in my life. I live in a democracy. If I am from that family, so be it. But I live as a common man," Bhosale told

According to Shinde, voters in Satara want a common person to represent them. He is banking on Sharad Pawar, who remains a formidable political player and is still capable of checkmating rivals.

"The new generation needs an industrial hub, better education, an IT park and health infrastructure. We have thousands of sugarcane farmers but the ban on sugar exports by the Centre has made them angry," he told



The parliamentary constituency of Satara, which goes to the polls in the third phase on May 7, derives its name from the seven forts in the area. It covers the assembly segments of Karad North, Satara, Karada South, Patan, Koregaon, and Wai.

Satara has deep historical connections as the capital of the Maratha Empire under Shivaji. The region was also the site of many battles between the Marathas and foreign invaders.

The past is glorious, the present troubling.

Lack of jobs and poor industrial and educational infrastructure are key issues in the constituency, located in the state's sugar belt. Thousands of youth move to Pune or Mumbai for better education, say locals.

In 2019, Bhosale won the Satara seat for the third consecutive time as a

candidate of the undivided strength and not on anyone's NCP, but resigned within a few months and joined the BJP. In the ensuing bypoll, he lost as a BJP candidate to NCP's Shrinivas Patil.

A photo of a rain-soaked Sharad Pawar, then 79, delivering a speech in Satara was said to have ensured Patil's victory and changed the NCP's fortunes in the Maharashtra assembly polls that year.

A lot has changed since then, with NCP seeing a vertical split. One section of the original party, headed by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, is now a constituent of the BJP-led Mahayuti, which also has a section of the original Shiv

Sharad Pawar, who now heads the NCP (SP), is a part of the opposition coalition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which also comprises Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress.

Traditionally, Satara was a Congress stronghold, with

Shiv Sena representing the seat for a few years. After Sharad Pawar broke ranks with the Congress and formed the NCP in 1999, it became his party's strong base. Bhosale, currently a Rajya

Sabha member, rejected the suggestion that the Sharad Pawar factor might be behind his past victories.

"I had won on my own

name. You can ask anyone here. People ensured my victory because of the work I have done." He said he talks about the

promises he has fulfilled when he meets people. "I have done work worth about Rs 10,000 crore in the last five years." The BJP's campaign in Maharashtra has been led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who draws massive

crowds, and Union Home

Minister Amit Shah. A few voters questioned the work done by NCP, expressing hope that Bhosale would be able to solve their issues. Many were reluctant to express their views. Most, however, agreed that Satara has a huge tourism potential due to its historical links though it is yet to be

tapped. According to Shinde, a lot of people from Satara are in the armed forces.

"In some villages, every household has a member in the military. But no fresh recruitment is happening in the police or military. Our boys have no option but to enrol as Agniveers (who serve in armed forces for four years). So people are angry."
Shinde represented the

Koregan assembly constituency in Sangli district in 2009 and 2014 as a member of the undivided NCP.

There will be jungle raj in country if INDIA Bloc comes to power: Shah

PTI ■ SAMASTIPUR (BIHAR)

There will be 'jungle raj' in the country if INDIA bloc partners - Congress and RJD are voted to power, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Monday.

He also claimed that cash recovery in Jharkhand proves INDIA bloc leaders are corrupt.

Addressing an election rally in favour of senior BJP leader and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, in Bihar's Samastipur district, Shah said, "The latest recovery of Rs 30 crore and more from the house of a minister in Jharkhand proves INDIA bloc leaders are

corrupt." He also said, "If they come to power, there will be a complete 'jungle raj' in the country as well as in Bihar." Notably, the Enforcement Directorate on Monday claimed to have recovered a amount huge

"unaccounted" cash during searches at the premises of a domestic help allegedly linked to the secretary of Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam.

"Who will be the PM of the INDIA bloc? Will Sharad Pawar be the prime minister? Will Mamata Banerjee become (the PM) or MK



Stalin or Uddhay Thackeray? I will take another name. Please don't laugh. Can Rahul baba become the PM?" Shah said.

He also alleged that leaders of the RJD and the Congress did not attend the consecration ceremony of the Ayodhya Ram temple because of vote bank politics. RJD's Lalu Prasad and

Congress always opposed the

construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, he claimed. Shah also said Congress has always opposed reservation to backward classes. Sarairanjan block comes

under the Ujiarpur Lok Sabha constituency where Rai is seeking reelection. Rai, who is the NDA nominee, is pitted against RJD's Alok Mehta, who is the

candidate Mahagathbandhan, prototype of the INDIA bloc in Bihar.

LUCKNOW | TUESDAY | MAY 7, 2024

Hamas accepts Egyptian-Qatari proposal for ceasefire

announced Monday it has accepted an Egyptian-Qatari proposal for a cease-fire to halt the seven-month-long war with Israel in Gaza, hours after Israel ordered about 100,000 Palestinians to begin evacuating from the southern city of Rafah, signalling that a long-promised ground invasion there could be imminent.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the deal, and details of the proposal have not yet been released. In recent days, Egyptian and Hamas officials have said the cease-fire would take place in a series of stages during which Hamas would release hostages it is holding in exchange for Israeli troop pullbacks from

It is not clear whether the deal will meet Hamas' key demand of bringing about an end to the war and complete Israeli withdrawal.

Hamas said in a statement its top leader, Ismail Haniyeh, had delivered the news in a phone call with Qatar's prime minister and Egypt's intelli-gence minister. After the release of the statement, Palestinians erupted in cheers in the sprawling tent camps around Rafah, hoping the deal meant an Israeli attack had been averted. Israel's closest allies, including the United States, have repeatedly said that Israel shouldn't attack Rafah. The looming operation has raised global alarm over the fate of around 1.4 million Palestinians shelter-

ing there. Aid agencies have warned that an offensive will worsen Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe and bring a surge of more civilian deaths in an Israeli campaign that in nearly seven months has killed 34,000 people and devastated the territory.

U.S. President Joe Biden spoke Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and reiterated U.S. concerns about an invasion of Rafah. Biden said that a cease-fire with Hamas is the best way to protect the lives of Israeli hostages held in Gaza, a National Security Council spokesperson

said on condition of anonymity to discuss the call before an official White House statement was released.

Hamas and key mediator Qatar said that invading Rafah will derail efforts by international mediators to broker a ceasefire. Days earlier, Hamas had been discussing a U.S.-backed proposal that reportedly raised the possibility of an end to the war and a pullout of Israeli troops in return for the release of all hostages held by the group. Israeli officials have rejected that trade-off, vowing to continue their campaign until Hamas is destroyed.

Netanyahu said Monday that seizing Rafah, which Israel says is the last significant Hamas stronghold in Gaza, was vital to ensuring the militants can't rebuild their military capabilities and repeat the Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an army spokesman, said about 100,000 people were being ordered to move from parts of Rafah to a nearby Israeldeclared humanitarian zone called Muwasi, a makeshift camp on the coast. He said that Israel has expanded the size of the zone and that it included tents, food, water and field hospitals.

It wasn't immediately clear, however, if that material was already in place to accommodate the new arrivals.

Around 450,000 displaced Palestinians already are sheltering in Muwasi. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said it has been providing them with aid. But conditions are squalid, with few bathrooms or sanitation facilities in the largely rural area, forcing families to dig private latrines.

After the evacuation order announcement Monday, Palestinians in Rafah wrestled with having to uproot their extended families once again for an unknown fate, exhausted after months living in sprawling tent camps or crammed into schools or other shelters in and around the city. Few who spoke to The Associated Press wanted to risk staying.

Mohammed Iindivah said that at the beginning of the war, he had tried to hold out in his home in northern Gaza after Israel ordered an evacuation there in October. He ended up suffering through heavy bombardment before fleeing to

He's complying with the order this time, but was unsure now whether to move to Muwasi or another town in central Gaza. We are 12 families, and we don't know where to go. There is no safe area in Gaza," he said. Sahar Abu Nahel, who fled to Rafah with 20 family members including her children and grandchildren, wiped tears from her cheeks, despairing at a new move.

"I have no money or anything. I am seriously tired, as are the children," she said. "Maybe it's more honorable for us to die. We are being humiliated."
Israeli military leaflets were

dropped with maps detailing a number of eastern neighborhoods of Rafah to evacuate, warning that an attack was imminent and anyone who stays "puts themselves and their family members in danger." Text messages and radio broadcasts repeated the message. UNRWA won't evacuate from Rafah so it can continue to provide aid to those who stay behind, said Scott Anderson, the agency's director in Gaza. "We will provide aid to people wherever they choose to be," he told the AP.

told the AP.
The U.N. says an attack on Rafah could disrupt the distribution of aid keeping Palestinians alive across Gaza.
The Rafah crossing into Egypt, a main entry point for aid to Gaza, lies in the evacuation zone. The crossing remained open Monday after the Israeli order. Jan Egeland, secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, condemned the "forced, unlawful" evacuation order and the idea that people should go to Muwasi. "The area is already over-stretched and devoid of vital services," Egeland said. He said that an Israeli assault could lead to "the deadliest phase of this

war." Israel's bombardment and

ground offensives in Gaza have killed more than 34,700

Palestinians, around two-thirds of them children and women, according to Gaza health officials. The tally doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. More than 80% of the population of 2.3 million have been driven from their homes, and hundreds of thousands in the north are on the brink of famine, according to

Tensions escalated Sunday when Hamas fired rockets at Israeli troops positioned on the border with Gaza near Israel's main crossing for delivering humanitarian aid, killing four soldiers. Israel shuttered the crossing — but Shoshani said it wouldn't affect how much aid enters Gaza as others are work-

Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes on Rafah killed 22 people, including children and two infants, according to a hospital. The war was sparked by the unprecedented Oct. 7 raid into southern Israel in which Hamas and other militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250 hostages. After exchanges during a November cease-fire, Hamas is believed to still hold about 100 Israelis captive as well the bodies of around 30 others.

The mediators over the ceasefire — the United States, Egypt and Qatar — had appeared to scramble to salvage a cease-fire deal they had been trying to push through the past week. Egypt said it was in touch with all sides Monday to "prevent the situation from ... get-

ting out of control." CIA Director William Burns, who had been in Cairo for talks on the deal, headed to meet the prime minister of Qatar, an official familiar with the matter said. It wasn't clear whether a subsequent trip to Israel that had been planned would happen. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. In a fiery speech Sunday evening marking Israel's Holocaust memorial day, Netanyahu rejected international pressure to halt the war, saying that "if Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand

UK facing 'disaster' of hung Parliament, warns Sunak after local election debacle

PTI ■ LONDOON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak warned on Monday that an analysis of the local election results shows the country is headed for a hung Parliament led by the Opposition Labour Party, which "would be a disaster for Britain".

The 43-year-old British Indian leader told 'The Times' in the wake of a debacle for the gov-erning Conservative Party, who lost hundreds of local council seats and key mayoralties across England in results over the weekend, that he was bitterly disappointed but determined to fight back.

He sought to paint a less bleak picture for party rebels, demanding a change of politi-cal course to win back voters in time for a general election, expected later this year.

These results suggest we are heading for a hung parliament with Labour as the largest party," Sunak told the newspaper.



"[Labour Leader] Keir Starmer propped up in Downing Street by the SNP [Scottish National Party], Liberal Democrats and the Greens would be a disaster for Britain. The country doesn't need more political horse-trading, but action. We are the only party with a plan to deliver on the priorities of the people," he insisted.

He went on to acknowledge the frustration of the voters because of a tough few years due to a

cost-of-living crisis and soaring household bills, which had made them less inclined to vote for Tory councillors and mayfor Tory councillors and mayors in the polls last Thursday. "I know the last few years have been tough, and I understand why people are frustrated. Losing good Conservative councillors and a mayor as fantastic as Andy Street who has denote the word for the Worth done so much good for the West Midlands is of course bitterly disappointing. But I am determined to show people that we are delivering for them, and standing up for our values," he said. After the final votes were counted on Sunday, the Tories had lost control of 10 councils and more than 470 council seats. They also lost 10 Police and Crime Commissioners, with most of the gains made by Labour and the Lib Dems who pushed the Tories to the third position.In an apparent message for the rebellious voices from the Conservative backbenches, being led by former home sec-

retary Suella Brayerman who has demanded the Prime Minister move on from "managerialism" and show strong leadership, Sunak added: "There's work to do and more progress to be made and I am determined that we will come together as a party and show the British people we are delivering for them." Sunak's comments on a hung Parliament reflect analysis by leading psephologist Professor Michael Thrasher for 'Sky News', which suggested Labour would win 294 seats at a general election, short of the

326 for a majority. The projection, which some other polling experts have dismissed, used the local election results to project a nationwide estimate of vote share at a general election.

It assumes everyone would vote the same way at a general election as in last week's local elections when smaller parties and Independent candidates tend to do better in local elections.

UN nuclear watchdog chief travels to Iran as its monitoring remains hampered

The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog travelled Monday to Iran, where his agency faces increasing dif-ficulty in monitoring the Islamic Republic's rapidly advancing nuclear program as tensions remain high in the wider Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war. Rafael Mariano Grossi already has warned Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weaponsgrade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. He has acknowledged the agency can't guarantee that none of Iran's centrifuges may have been peeled away for clandestine enrichment. Those challenges now find themselves entangled in attacks between Israel and Iran, with the city of Isfahan apparently coming under Israeli fire in recent weeks despite it being surrounded by sensitive nuclear sites. Grossi is likely to attend an Iranian nuclear conference there while

on his two-day trip to Iran. "Problems will not disap-

pear," Grossi told an International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors meeting in March. "They will only get worse. So, we need to address this in a serious way."

In Tehran, Grossi and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian shook hands in front of journalists before going into a meeting. Authorities offered no immediate comment on their discus-

Grossi will travel to Isfahan on Tuesday before heading back to Vienna, where he plans to give an update to journalists. Tensions have grown between Iran and the IAEA since then-President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. Since then, Iran has abandoned all limits the deal put on its programme and enriches uranium to 60% purity — near weaponsgrade levels of 90%.

IAEA surveillance cameras have been disrupted, while Iran has barred some of the agency's most experienced inspectors.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials have increasingly threat-ened they could pursue atomic

weapons.
"For us, making the atomic bomb is easier than not building atomic bomb," said Mahmoud Reza Aghamiri, the chancellor of Tehran Shahid Beheshti University and a specialist in nuclear physics. Iranian media quoted Aghamiri acknowledging Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had previously said making an atomic bomb is forbidden.

"But if his fatwa and viewpoint is changed, we have ability to build atomic bomb, too," Aghamiri added.

Aghamiri's comments follow a drumroll of others by Iranian lawmakers, those in its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and a former head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran suggesting Tehran could build the bomb.

Iranian diplomats for years have pointed to Khamenei's preachings as a binding fatwa, or religious edict, that Iran wouldn't build an atomic bomb.

We do not need nuclear bombs. We have no intention of using a nuclear bomb," Khamenei said in a November 2006 speech, according to a transcript from his office. "We do not claim to dominate the world, like the Americans, we do not want to dominate the world by force and need a nuclear bomb. Our nuclear bomb and explosive power is our faith." But such edicts aren't written in stone. Khamenei's predecessor, Grand Avatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued fatwas that revised his own earlier pronouncements after he took power following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. And anyone who would follow the 85-yearold Khamenei as the country's supreme leader could make his own fatwas revising those pre-

EU's executive decides to end legal standoff with Poland

Brussels (AP): The European Union's executive decided on Monday to end its 6-year dispute with member state Poland, saying Prime Minister Donald Tusk has initiated the necessary changes to reverse what the bloc called the previous government's backsliding on democratic principles. The EU's decision to withdraw its case over rule of law complaints follows one in February to start releasing billions of euros that it had

frozen in the dispute.

"Today, marks a new chapter for Poland," said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, calling the breakthrough the result of the country's determined reform efforts. "The ongoing restoration of the rule of law in Poland is great for the Polish people and for our union as a whole."

Trump fined \$1,000 for gag order violation in hush money case

 $T^{\text{he judge presiding over}}_{\text{Donald Trump's hush}}$ money trial has fined him \$1,000 for violating his gag order and sternly warned the former president that additional violation could result in jail time. The fine marks the second sanction for Trump for inflammatory comments about witnesses since the start of the trial last month. He was fined \$9,000 last week for nine violations. Judge Juan M Merchan warned Monday that additional gag order violations could potentially result in jail time. though he said that was "the last thing I want to do".

Prosecutors in Trump's hush money trial are moving deeper into his orbit following an inside-the-room account about the former president's reaction to a politically damaging recording that surfaced in the final weeks of the 2016 campaign. Hope Hicks, a for-



mer White House official and for years a top aide, is by far the closest Trump associate to have taken the witness stand in the Manhattan trial.

Her testimony Friday was designed to give jurors an insider's view of a chaotic and pivotal stretch in the campaign, when a 2005 recording showing Trump talking about grabbing women without their permission was made public and when he and his allies sought to prevent the release of

stories. That effort, prosecutors say, included hush money payments to a porn actor and Playboy model who both have said they had sexual encounters with Trump before he entered politics.
"I had a good sense to

believe this was going to be a massive story and that it was massive story and that it was going to dominate the news cycle for the next several days," Hicks said of the "Access Hollywood" recording, first revealed in an October 2016 Washington Post story. "This

washington Post story. This was a damaging development."

The trial enters its third week of testimony Monday with prosecutors building toward their star witness, Michael Cohen, Trump's for-Michael Cohen, Trumps for-mer lawyer and personal fixer who pleaded guilty to federal charges related to the hush money payments. Cohen is expected to undergo a bruising cross-examination from defense attorneys seeking to

other potentially embarrassing undermine his credibility with jurors. Trump faces 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with payments made to stifle potentially embarrassing stories. Prosecutors say Trump's company, the Trump Organization, reimbursed Cohen for payments to porn actor Stormy Daniels and gave Cohen bonuses and extra payments. Prosecutors allege that those transactions were falsely logged in company records as legal expenses. Trump has pleaded not guilty and denied sexual encounters with any of the women, as well as any wrongdoing. So far, jurors have heard from witnesses including a tabloid magazine publisher and Trump friend who bought the rights to several sordid tales about Trump to prevent them from coming out and a Los Angeles lawyer who negotiated hush money deals on behalf

US, Philippine forces stage combat drills near strategic channel off southern Taiwan

US Marines and their Filipino counterparts darted out of Black Hawk helicopters during combat drills Monday in the Philippines' northernmost island town along the strategic Bashi Channel off southern Taiwan a flashpoint in the military rivalry between Washington and Beijing. The show of allied bat-tle readiness in Itbayat in Batanes province is part of annual military exercises that started last month, dubbed Balikatan, Tagalog for "shoulder-to-shoulder," and involving more than 16,000 American and Philippine military personnel.

This year's exercises by the longtime treaty allies — the largest yet — are meant to deter possible aggression. They come against the backdrop of China's increasingly assertive actions in the disputed South China Sea, where Chinese and Philippine coast guards and accompanying ships have had several increasingly tense faceoffs since last year.More than 250 French and Australian forces are also participating, along with observers from several allied and security partner nations, led by Japan and European nations. The drills, which began April 22, end later this week. In Monday's mock battle scenario, American and Filipino forces took positions at the airfield, ringed by low-lying hills, as three Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters landed to deliver combat supplies. Rennaissance and counterreconnaissance drills were also planned in the far-flung region. The Associated Press was among a small group of journalists invited to attend the maneuvers. "We are absolutely battle-ready and that's what we train for day in and day out," Marine Maj. Robert Patterson said. "It's important to enhance inter-

operability with our Filipino

Washington and Manila say the drills are not directed at any country and are crucial for improving the response to emergencies in the Philippines, one of the world's most disasterprone countries. However, this vear's drills focus on territorial defense and are being staged mainly in two of the most sensitive fault lines in the regional rivalry between China and the United States: the disputed South China Sea and the Bashi Channel.

The critical waterway

between Taiwan and the Philippines, an important trade conduit laden with international undersea cables, has been closely watched and guarded by Chinese and American forces. China considers Taiwant a part of its territory, to be annexed by force if necessary. In a telephone call last month, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed to President Joe Biden that Beijing will not tolerate separatist activities by Taiwan's independence forces, as well as "exterior indulgence and support," an apparent reference to Washington's support for the island.Biden raised concerns about China's actions in the South China Sea, including efforts to impede the Philippines, which Washington is treaty-obligated to defend, from resupplying its forces on the fiercely disputed Second Thomas Shoal.Derek Grossman, a senior defense analyst at RAND Corporation, said the message of deterrence was important. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s decision to allow U.S. forces indefinitely access to two Philippine air force and naval bases in Cagayan province near Batanes under a 2014 defense pact, "would likely upgrade the U.S. military's ability to intervene in a Taiwan contingency in a more timely manner," he said.

Activists in B'desh march through universities

AP DHAKA

viously issued.

 Γ housands of activists in Bangladesh backed by the ruling party's student wing marched through universities around the country Monday to demand an end to the Israel-Hamas war and the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League marched through the campus of the prestigious Dhaka University chanting anti-Israel slogans, carrying Bangladeshi and Palestinian flags and spreading banners saying "Free Palestine, Stop Genocide." Many other students also joined the rally, organizers said. Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority nation of nearly 170 million people, maintains no diplomatic relations with Israel and has called for an independent Palestinian

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, of the ruling Awami League, has slammed Israel over what she has alleged is genocide committed by its government. The student group said it organised the demonstrations in solidarity with protests in the United States and because of growing rage against the Israeli military action in Gaza. It called for action "against atrocities, massacres and ongoing human rights violations". Student leaders cited Israel over what they described as brutal and indiscriminate attacks that killed women and children and damaged hospi-

Meanwhile the children of Gaza aren't getting enough food and water, said Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, an organiser. We have never seen attacks on hospitals in any war, but we have seen that in Gaza," he

Other protesters said they joined the demonstrations to send a message to the world that they were against any oppression.

Sunita Williams set to fly into space for third time

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

 $I^{n dian-origin\ astronaut\ Sunita}_{Williams\ is\ ready\ to\ fly\ into\ space\ for\ the\ third\ time\ on}$ Tuesday as the pilot aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in its the first crewed test flight. Boeing's Starliner will blast off for the International Space Station from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Starliner will carry Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station, marking what could be a momentous and long-awaited victory for the beleaguered

Boeing programme.
The scheduled lift-off is set for 22:34 local time on Monday (8:04 am IST on Tuesday)
"We are all here because we are

all ready. Our friends and family have heard about it and we've talked about it and they are happy and proud that we are



part of the process to fix it all," the BBC quoted Williams as saving The mission has been delayed for several years because of setbacks in the spacecraft's development.

If it is successful, it will become the second private firm able to provide crew transport to and from the ISS, alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX.Such a scenario — with both SpaceX's Crew

Dragon and Starliner flying regularly — is one for which the US space agency NASA has long waited. Design and development is hard — particularly with a human space vehicle, said Mark Nappi, vice president and Starliner programme manager at Boeing, during a Thursday news briefing. "There's a number of things that were surprises along the way that we had to over come. ... It certainly made the team very, very strong. I'm very proud of how they've overcome every single issue that we've encountered and gotten us to this point," Nappi said.
"This is history in the making,"

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said of the upcoming Starliner mission during a March 22 news conference. "We're now in the golden era of space exploration."

This is Boeing's second flight to the International Space Station

and third Starliner flight test overall, following a second Orbital Flight Test, the uncrewed mission also known as OFT-2, in May 2022. Boeing also completed pad abort demonstration in November 2019, according to NASA. As the final flight test for Starliner, NASA's Boeing crew flight test will validate the transportation system, including the launch pad, rocket, spacecraft, in-orbit operational capabilities, and return to Earth with astronauts aboard, it said. SpaceX and Boeing developed their respective vehicles under NASA's Commercial Crew Programme, a partnership with

private industry contractors. From the outset, the space agency aimed to have both companies operating at once. The Crew Dragon and Starliner spacecraft would each serve as a backup to the other, giving astronauts the option to keep flying, even if technical issues or other setbacks grounded one spacecraft.

of both Daniels and Playboy

model Karen McDougal.

Williams received her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy from the United States Naval Academy in May 1987. Williams was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998 an astronaut by NASA in 1998 and is a veteran of two space missions, Expeditions 14/15 and 32/33. She served as a flight engineer on Expedition 32 and then commander of Expedition 32. During her first spaceflight 33. During her first spaceflight, Expedition 14/15, Williams was launched with the crew of STS-116 on December 9, 2006, docking with the International Space Station on December 11, 2006. While onboard, she established a world record for females with four spacewalks totalling 29 hours and 17 minutes. Astronaut Peggy Whitson subsequently broke the record in 2008 with a total of five spacewalks.

Rublev overcomes fever and praises doctors after winning Madrid Open for the 1st time

espite sleepless nights struggling with a fever, Andrey Rublev found a way to fight back and win the Madrid Open for the first time. Rublev was feeling sick all week but rallied to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime in three sets on Sunday and clinch his second Masters 1000 title second Masters 1000 title.

Rublev won 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 after Auger-Aliassime double-faulted on the last point of the final at the clay-court tournament in the Spanish capital. "I would say this is the most proud title

of my career," Rublev said. "I was almost dead every day. I was not sleeping at night. The last three, four days I didn't sleep."

days I didn't sleep.
Rublev gave "full credit to the doctors," who were "doing some tricky things" just to make sure he could play.
"I have no words," the eighth-ranked Rublev said. "If you knew what I had been through in the past nine days you

would not imagine that I would be able to win a title."

The 26-year-old Russian won his first Masters 1000 title at Monte Carlo last vear. Auger-Aliassime was playing in his first final at this level.

Rublev entered Madrid on a four-game losing streak after early exits at Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo and Barcelona. One of his victories in



Madrid came in the quarterfinals against home-crowd favorite Carlos

He now has 16 career titles, and two this season after Hong Kong in January. He had arrived with a 5-1 record against Auger-Aliassime, including a win in their sole matchup on clay.

Auger-Aliassime's path to the final saw second-ranked Jannik Sinner withdraw because of an injury ahead of the quarterfinals, and Jiri Lehecka retired against the Canadian in the first set of the semifinals. Other injuries hit the men's draw in Madrid, starting with Novak Djokovic's withdrawal before

the tournament. Daniil Medvedev retired in the quarterfinals, while Alcaraz was hampered by a sore right arm and Rafael Nadal bowed out of what was likely his last appearance in his home country.

Iga Swiatek won the women's title for the first time in her career on Saturday.

Klopp keeps the drama going to end as Liverpool beats Spurs 4-2

The smile is back on Jurgen Klopp's face - even if his Liverpool players seem intent on testing his nerves right to the end.

The Premier League title may be all but beyond the Merseyside club, but that doesn't mean the drama is over for Klopp, who will step down at the end of the season.

Last week he was arguing on the sideline with Mohamed Salah as Liverpool effectively dropped out of the title race. dropped out of the title race. And while Salah opened the scoring in a 4-2 win against Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday, it was Harvey Elliott who appeared to bring the broadest smile to Klopp's face with a wonderful long-range goal in what looked like being a cakewalk for Klopp's team. a cakewalk for Klopp's team.
"What a goal," the Liverpool manager said. "In the game you only see it flying in and I thought, That was a good shot.' The goal I saw afterwards, there was not a lot of space left or right. It went exactly where

or right. It went exactly where it should be be. Top goal." Elliott's strike, after goals from Salah, Andy Robertson and Cody Gakpo, fired Liverpool into a 4-0 lead before the game had even reached the hour mark. What followed was the mark. What followed was the unlikeliest of fightbacks from Spurs that might have made this another frustrating day in what has ultimately been a disappointing finale for Klopp at the end of nearly nine trophy-filled years.

Goals from Richarlison and Son Heung-min made it a much closer contest than it had ever looked like being. And it rect looked like being. And it needed two outstanding saves from Alisson, a goal-line clearance from Joe Gomez and a VAR call to prevent it from being closer still.

"It's a little bit of a mirror of the season. Really, really, really, good until we were really rubbish and then, we were

okay again," Klopp said.
A nervy finish didn't stop the home fans from beckoning Klopp to produce his trademark post-match triple fist pump to the crowd after his penultimate home game in charge, with Feyenoord coach Arne Slot set to take over next season.

not over for third-place Liverpool, which sits five

size of the task he took on

almost a year ago.
"We need change. Change has to happen," Postecoglou said ahead of Tottenham's 4-2 loss

at Liverpool on Sunday. It was

at Liverpool on Sunday. It was a fourth defeat in a row, something that hasn't happened since those grim final days of Jacques Santini at Spurs in late 2004.

Over the past month, there has been a 4-0 loss at Newcastle, a 3-2 home loss to

Arsenal when Tottenham was three goals behind at

halftime, a 2-0 loss at Chelsea and then a defeat at Anfield

that saw a lethargic-looking Spurs fall 4-0 down after 59

points adrift of leader Arsenal with two games remaining. But, in reality, a late-season slump has killed Klopp's hopes of walking away with a second Premier League crown of his

His team had been heavily rebuilt over the past two seasons and was not expected to contend at the top so soon. But this season at one point offered Liverpool the hope of a quadruple of trophies. Now it feels like it is ending on an underwhelming note.

underwheiming note.
Still, Klopp, who delivered the
English League Cup in
February, will walk away from a team that is on the up and leave his successor with plenty of young talent to work with. The 21-year-old Elliott is a

prime example and he showcased his ample potential with an assist and a goal as Liverpool threatened to run riot.

His perfectly placed curling cross provided Gakpo with the simple task of heading in Liverpool's third and then he swept an unstoppable shot from around 20 yards (meters) into the top corner and beyond Guglielmo Vicario.

"Harvey is exceptional. Still so young. So exceptional," Klopp said. "In the midfield position, it was probably one of the top three performances from him today. The goal was exceptional. Everyone needs moments to gain more confidence. It was a good moment. That helps definitely."
VILLA SLIPS: A bad week for Aston Villa got worse after a surprise 1-0 loss at Brighton. Unai Emery's team lost 4-2 at home to Ólympiakos in the first leg of their Europa Conference League semifinal on Thursday. And on a day when it could have secured its

place in next Champions League, it suffered another setback when Ioao Pedro headed home a rebound in the 87th after seeing his penalty saved by Robin Olsen. Only Spurs' loss at Anfield prevented it from being a bigger blow after the result at the Amex Stadium had given Ange Postecoglou's team hope in its pursuit of Villa in fourth. But Villa still missed out on the chance of making certain of a top-four finish.

CHELSEA ROUTS WEST HAM: Chelsea's troubled season could still end on something of a high after Mauricio Pochettino's team boosted its chances of European soccer next season with a 5-0 rout of West Ham. The win at Stamford Bridge moved Chelsea up to seventh in the standings and two points behind sixth-place Newcastle. Only the top six teams in the Premier League will be guaranteed a place in Europe next season.

"We need to keep this momentum and belief going," Pochettino said.

While Chelsea's exorbitant spending under U.S. Owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital was supposed to put the 2021 Champions League winner back in contention for the biggest prizes, qualification for Europe would represent progress after finishing in the bottom half of the table last year and another season of struggle this term.

After a morale-boosting 2-0 win against Tottenham on Thursday, Chelsea followed it up by thrashing West Ham. Nicolas Jackson scored twice in the second half after Chelsea had raced to a 3-0 lead by the

break through goals from Cole Palmer, Conor Gallagher and

Mbappé plays his final CL game in Paris with PSG; defence back in spotlight Dortmund, trailing 1-0 from

Mbappé plays his final CL week. The But it's the defence that is back disapped.

in the spotlight. No doubt Kylian Mbappé will be greeted with loud cheers Tuesday night.

League match in the French capital in a Paris Saint-Germain shirt.

summer after a seven-season stint, hoping the journey concludes with a Champions League triumph in Wembley on June 1.

AP ■ LONDON

disappointment in the first leg and PSG now expects a strong reaction from the club's alltime leading scorer to overturn the deficit, especially after he failed to score in his last two appearances Dortmund.

"We're confident we'll come back from that score and qualify for the final," Mbappé said on Sunday, as quoted by French media. In support of Mbappé, PSG has plenty of firepower upfront,

Ramos or Randal Kolo Muani available. Coach Luis Enrique has more worries in defence after former

since it opened in 2019. Arsenal, though, is surely losing hope of a favour from

its north London neighbour.

Similarly, Tottenham fans might be starting to lose hope that Ange Postecoglou is the man to bring a winning culture to the club without a

It all started well for the first-

ever Australian to coach in

Tottenham was top of the league in early November, unbeaten and playing the attacking football its supporters always crave.

No manager had ever taken

26 points from his first 10

games in the Premier League before Postecoglou came

line and an aggressive, front-

foot style.

League.

Premier

trophy since 2008.

with Ousmane Dembele,

Bradley Barcola, Gonçalo



Bavern Munich defender Lucas Hernandez was ruled out for the remainder of the season with an anterior cruciate ligament rupture that

required surgery.
The injury was a tough blow for PSG, which has conceded 14 goals in the competition this season but finally stabilized the heart of its defence with the pairing of Marquinhos and

After Hernandez came off injured last week against Dortmund and was replaced by Lucas Beraldo, the Brazilian substitute's lack of experience was obvious.

Luis Enrique will, however,

over the weekend after wrapping up the Ligue 1 title, has never won Europe's top club competition.

Arsenal needs a favour from Tottenham in title race It also seems that, as a whole, Postecoglou refreshing outlook, even if his

Burnley and already-relegated Sheffield United - the bottom two teams in the league. Spurs are seven points behind fourth-place Aston Villa and four ahead of sixth-place

because either side of the visit

of City are matches against

Newcastle. It raises the question of whether the first season under Postecoglou has been a success.

Spurs fans likely would have taken a fifth-place finish after seeing England captain and record scorer Harry Kane leave for Bayern Munich last August.

With Hugo Lloris and Eric Dier also departing during the season, a huge amount of experience was lost and it's in these tough final weeks of the season where that lack of senior leaders in the squad has been exposed.

insistence on sticking to his attacking principles can come across as naive as it is bold. "I believe what I believe down to my core. I'll stand on the highest ground, die a noble death, believing in what I believe," he said.

and

'Maybe, the Premier League is a step too far. Who knows? Maybe, maybe - but I will still be on that hill, wounded, my dying breath saying, I believe, I do believe."

Whether Postecoglou will bring more balance to his managerial philosophy next year remains to be seen.

For the moment, Arsenal will just be praying that Tottenham - the team it wants to see lose any normal week of the season - can pull off an improbable victory over City to change the course of the title race ahead of the final round on May 19.

Milan Skriniar, who is back from injury and lacks both competition and rhythm. the first leg in Germany last The France striker was a

and applause when he takes to the Parc des Princes pitch on It will be his final Champions

Mbappé is leaving the club this

But first things first, as Mbappé tries to engineer a fightback in the second leg of their semiagainst

 ${
m F}^{
m our}$ straight losses — the team's worst run of results

for 20 years. Two clean sheets

Those looking at Tottenham Hotspur to provide a late twist

in the Premier League title

race are, given the current evidence, going to be disappointed.

Manchester City's May 14 trip

to the Tottenham Hotspur

Stadium, for its next-to-last

game of the season, appeared

to many the last possible stumbling block for the

champions in their bid to reel in Arsenal and secure an

unprecedented fourth straight

After all, not only have Spurs plenty to play for — they're still just about fighting for Champions League qualification — but they haven't lost, or even conceded a goal against City in their

a goal, against City in their

since the end of October.



Hernandez.

have to consider giving him a starting role or put his trust in

Another option would be to pair Danilo Pereira with Marquinhos to add strength and presence in the air, particularly on Dortmund's set pieces. Solid defending will again be crucial for PSG, which faces a team with great attacking qualities and 11 different

scorers on the European stage this season. The winner will play Real Madrid or Bayern Munich in

the final in London. The old rivals drew 2-2 in their semifinal first leg in Germany. PSG, which enjoyed a rest day

Mathematically, at least, it is



along with a high defensive Mourinho and Antonio pragmatic Conte, and four league meetings at Postecoglou, it seemed, was Tottenham's new stadium the perfect antidote to Jose defence-first coaches whose spells in charge of Tottenham

promised so much but ended so sourly. Fast-forward six months and it feels like the season cannot

end soon enough for Spurs, who are limping to the finish line, and Postecoglou, who is beginning to understand the

And, this is the team Arsenal

hopes can halt the City juggernaut next week? Tottenham should still seal fifth place, and qualification for the Europa League,

minutes.

Premier League referee to wear camera to offer insight into demands of being a match official

AP ■ LONDON

The referee for Monday's Premier The referee for Monday's Premier League match between Crystal Palace and Manchester United will wear a camera on his head for a program that will be broadcast later this year offering an insight into the demands of being a match official.

The league said the head-mounted

device — or "RefCam" as it is being called — worn by Jarred Gillett at Selhurst Park will be integrated into the referee's usual communications system.

The technology is being used on a one-off basis, the league said, as part of filming for a short program promoting match officials. The footage will not be

broadcast live.
"Fans will be able to view it later in the year as part of a program ... Aimed at offering further insight and education into the demands of officiating in the Premier League," the competition said.

Frank Nsubuga set to become oldest player at this year T20 World Cup

PTI ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

Uganda off-spinner Frank Nsubuga is set to become the oldest cricketer to play in the upcoming T20 World Cup at the age of 43. On Monday, the Uganda Cricket Association announced a 15-member squad for the marquee event set to be held in the Americas from June 2, the nation's first-ever appearance in the main round of the competition.

Brian Masaba will lead the side, while Riazat Ali Shah has been named his deputy. In the Africa Qualifiers, Uganda finished second in the Regional Final, behind Namibia, to seal their berth.

They will get their campaign underway versus Afghanistan on June 3 in Guyana, having been clubbed in Group C, which also includes New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and hosts West Indies.

Uganda squad: Brian Masaba (c), Riazat Ali Shah (vc), Kenneth Waiswa, Dinesh Nakrani, Frank Nsubuga, Ronak Patel, Roger Mukasa, Cosmas Kyewuta, Bilal Hassun, Fred Achelam, Robinson Obuya, Simon Ssesazi, Henry Ssenyondo, Alpesh Ramjani and Juma Miyaji.

Reserve players: Ronald Lutaaya and Innocent Mwebaze.

India's first ever hybrid pitch unveiled in Dharamsala

PTI DHARAMSALA

India's first-ever 'hybrid pitch' was unveiled at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in a grand ceremony here on Monday.
The event was attended by IPL Chairman

Arun Dhumal and cricket dignitaries including Paul Taylor, a former England cricketer and SIS's international cricket

"The introduction of hybrid pitches is set to revolutionize cricket in India, following their success in iconic venues like Lord's and The Oval in England," said Dhumal, who hails from Himachal Pradesh. The hybrid pitch, which combines natural turf with synthetic fibres, promises enhanced durability and consistent

playability, reducing the strain on ground staff and maintaining quality playing conditions. With only 5% synthetic fibres, the pitch ensures that the natural characteristics essential for cricket are preserved.

Taylor expressed gratitude towards the HPCA for their collaboration on this pioneering project.
"With the ICC's approval, we're excited to

see the positive impact these pitches will have on the sport, starting with

installations in Mumbai and Ahmedabad next," he said.

The 'Universal Machine', a critical component in installing the hybrid surface, was developed by SISGrass in

2017 and has been instrumental in the rollout of similar pitches across England's county cricket grounds.

This innovation aligns with the ICC's recent sanctioning of hybrid pitches for

T20 and one-day international matches, with plans to expand their use in four-day county championships starting this year.
The integration of technologies like SISAir, a root aeration system, further underscores the commitment to enhancing cricket infrastructure in India. This system improves the pitch's health and resilience, benefiting players with better and safer playing conditions. PTI NEW DELHI

elhi Capitals would require Rishabh Pant's killer instinct and Jake Fraser McGurk's unbelievable flair in their bid to stay alive in the IPL playoff race when they square off against a rampaging Rajasthan Royals in a mustwin game here on Tuesday.

The Capitals have been inconsistent so far, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games. While winning the remaining three games is a must for Pant's men, even that will only take them to 16 points which might not be enough to qualify for the last four stage of the tournament. Apart from KKR (16 from 11 games) and RR (16 from 10 games), there are at least three teams, namely Chennai Super Kings (12 from 11), Sunrisers Hyderabad (12 from 10 games) and Lucknow Super Giants (12 from 11 games), who can go beyond the 16-point mark.

MUST WIN GAME FOR DC

might not be enough for qualification, but Pant would look to only "control the controllables," a policy advocated by his mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni. On a flat Feroz Shah Kotla deck, the challenge will be two-fold for the DC skipper.

At one end, he would want the Khaleel Ahmeds, Ishant Sharmas and Kuldeep Yadavs to restrict the Yashasvi Jaiswals, Sanju Samsons, and Riyan Parags to a manageable level but then with barely 60-metre boundary on one side, it will be a challenge to stop a team, whose jersey's colour (Pink) resembles their overall health. With 380 runs to his credit and three impactful half-centuries in his kitty, Pant would like to once again perform, especially when his team has been Given the situation, DC's best pushed to the wall. He will



have new Aussie sensation It is time that Khaleel (ER 9.47) Fraser-McGurk, who has gone off the boil in the last couple of games. These two batters can

Inese two batters can individually change the complexion of a game, but DC will be wary of the Royals' bowling attack, which will pose a very different challenge at the Kotla compared to Sawai Man Singh.

Facing spinners of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin's calibre isn't easy, and in veteran Sandeep Sharma, RR has a bowler, who can take pace off the deliveries. The Rajasthan bowling attack

has been able to maintain a decent economy rate but for DC, only Axar Patel (ER of 7.24) and Kuldeep (ER 8.45) have shown the wherewithal to stop opposition batters on their tracks.

and Mukesh Kumar (ER 11.05) also show more consistency. South African pacers Lizaad Williams (ER 12 in 2 games) and Anrich Nortje (ER 13.36) have simply not looked the

The last time the two teams

met was in Jaipur in March and DC then had lost control during the second half of their bowling innings with Riyan playing a superb innings.

The Royals batters would be licking their lips after having a look at the surface which can't

get flatter than what it is right

Riyan, skipper Sanju Samson, the dashing Yashasvi, along with finishers Rovman Powell, Shimron Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel give Royal a very scary look and DC bowlers can only pray that it doesn't turn out to be 'Nightmare 2.0' for the

TEAMS: Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant

(c), David Warner, Abishek Porel, Ricky Bhui, Yash Dhull, Shai Hope, Prithvi Shaw, Tristan Stubbs, Kumar Kushagra, Swastik Chikara, Ishant Sharma, Jhye Richardson, Rasikh Dar Salam, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Praveen Dubey, Khaleel Ahmed, Sumit Kumar, Axar Patel, Mitchell Marsh, Lalit Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk. Rajasthan Royals: Sanju

Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, Ravichandran Kuldeep Sen, Saini, Keshav Ashwin, Navdeep Maharaj, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan, Rovman Powell, Shubham Dubey, Tom Kohler-Cadmore,

Mushtaq, Nandre Burger.

SKY steers Mumbai to comfortable victory

Suryakumar Yadav's special hundred after a disciplined bowling effort set up Mumbai Indians' seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Monday.

Suryakumar smashed 102 not out off 51 balls for his second IPL hundred, taking his team to an emphatic win in 17.2 overs. SRH had recovered to

post 173 for eight. The win lifted Mumbai Indians from the bottom of the points table to the ninth spot while SRH, despite the loss, remained fourth with 12

points in 11 games.
Joining forces inside the powerplay with MI left reeling at 31 for three, the pair of Suryakumar and Tilak Varma (37 not out off 32) did a superb recovery job with 143-run unbeaten stand to script a comprehensive Suryakumar's victory. sensational knock included 12 fours and half a dozen sixes.

For that matter, MI could have been reduced to 31/4 had a Bhuvneshwar Kumar delivery in the fifth over not

pitched outside the leg stump with the veteran seamer pinning Varma in front of the wickets. Ishan Kishan (9) perished early once again while Naman Dhir (0) endured a nine-ball duck.

With their backs against the wall, Suryakumar picked Marco Jansen to attack as he collected 22 runs off the seventh over with two sixes and two fours to begin his job.

stretching and wincing in pain while looking to manage a strain, presumably to his groin — one of the reasons why he missed cricket for nearly four months from late last year.

outings.
Earlier in the first half,
Pandya struck form before
the T20 World Cup while
veteran Chawla also bagged three wickets as Mumbai Indians restricted Sunrisers Hyderabad for a below-par total.

Pandya found rhythm and momentum to return 4-0-31-3 while Chawla (4-0-33-3) produced an impactful performance to trouble the SRH batters.

However, to his credit, SRH skipper Pat Cummins chipped in with a 17-ball 35 (2x4s, 2x6s) late in the innings to take them past the 150-run mark.

In complete contrast to last time these teams met earlier in this IPL when SRH hammered 277/3, their usually free-flowing batters struggled for momentum and lack of initiative meant they could never really trouble the Mumbai bowlers.

Travis Head top scored with 48 while skipper Pat Cummins made a quick 17-

Versatility of Jadeja makes him class act, says Finch

Paron Finch has termed India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja a "class player" because of his versatility which brings in a lot of balance in all the teams that he represents.

Jadeja scored 40-odd runs and took three wickets in Chennai Super Kings' victory over Punjab Kings on Sunday. "Ravindra Jadeja is such a versatile player, which makes him so effective. With the ball,

he would have loved more wickets," Finch told Star Sports. "He's been economical, going at under eight per over throughout the tournament. Leading with three wickets today (Sunday), he showed he is an absolute class player." Finch was impressed that Jadeja returned with fine figures of 3/20 in his full quota of four overs while defending a not-so-big total of 169. "Three wickets for just 20 runs

when the Punjab Kings were chasing a total of 170 odd runs



is just superb. It just shows why he's one of the best players in the world," the Australian said. Finch also spoke highly about Kolkata Knight Riders' Sunil Narine. The 2021 World T20winning Australian skipper feels that it is extremely difficult to contain Narine for a long period of time. "It's truly remarkable, isn't it? I

mean, seeing Sunil Narine stride out to open the batting. "Before this season, you're thinking, if we can just keep him quiet for a couple of balls,

he'll try and do something and play a big shot. But this season, he's not only getting off to explosive starts but also batting smartly and seizing control of the innings," Finch said.

The 35-year-old Narine smashed 81 off just 39 balls to power KKR to a comfortable 98-run win over Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday night. In the process, Narine also became the fourth player to score more than 450 runs and take 10 plus wickets in a single IPL edition.

OTHER SPORTS

Indian women and men 4x400m relay

Jyoti to lead Indian junior women hockey team for Europe tour

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Jyoti Singh was on Monday named the captain of the Indian Junior Women's team by Hockey India with midfielder Sakshi Rana as her deputy in a 22member squad which will tour Europe from May 21 to 29.

India will play six matches across three nations against Belgium, Germany and two club teams in the Netherlands — Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push and Oranje Rood — from May 21 to 29.

"There's great camaraderie in the squad. All of us have gotten to know each other pretty well during the camp. Everyone here is very skilful and talented," Jyoti said in a HI release.

"It will be fun and a good learning experience playing abroad against other topquality teams."

India will play their first match on May 21 against Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push in Breda before taking on Belgium at the same venue on May 22.

India will then play Belgium a second time but with the latter

playing host on this occasion on May 24. This will be followed by consecutive games against Germany on May 26 in Breda and May 27 in Germany respectively. India will then return to Breda to play their final game of the tour on May 29 against Oranje Rood. "Playing against good teams from other countries helps in

developing an understanding of different approaches to the game. An exposure tour like this provides all of us with a tremendous opportunity to take our game to the next level," vice-Captain Sakshi Rana said

TEAMS: GOALKEEPERS: Maheshwari, Nidhi

DEFENDERS: Jyoti Singh (C), Lalthantluangi, Anjali Barwa, Puja Sahoo, Mamita Oram, NirruKullu

MIDFIELDERS: Kshetrimayum Sonia Devi, Kerketta, Priyanka Raiani Khaidem Shileima Yadav. Chanu, Sakshi Rana (VC), Anisha Sahu, Supriva Kujur FORWARDS: Binima Dhan, Hina Bano, Lalrinpuii, Ishika, Sanjana Horo, Sonam, Kanika Siwach.



Apart from Suryakumar's

However, to his credit, the world No 1 T20 batter hung around till the end to take MI

PTI ■ NASSAU (BAHAMAS)

here on Monday.

The Indian men's and women's

4x400m relay teams qualified for Paris Olympics after finishing second

in their respective second-round heats at the World Athletics Relays

In the women's competition, the

quartet of Rupal Chaudhary, M R Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi and

Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes

and 29.35 seconds to finish second

behind Jamaica (3:28.54) in heat

number one to book a Paris Games

Later, the men's squad of Muhammed

Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal,

Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob finished

with a collective timing of 3 minutes

and 3.23 seconds to also finish second

in their heat, behind USA (2:59.95).

The top two teams in each of the three

heats in the second round were to

qualify for the Olympics to be held

game with a flurry of boundaries — two sixes and as many fours off his last four

struggles while batting, the decline in Rohit Sharma's form also came to the fore with the India captain mistiming one to be dismissed for a mere four be his fourth score in single

qualify for Paris Olympics

from July 26 to August 11.

It was a sort of a surprise that the women's 4x400m team qualified for the Olympics as the focus was more on the men's 4x400m team which has broken Asian record in back-to-back global events — Tokyo Olympics and 2023 World Championships — as well

as winning 2023 Asian Games gold. The Indian women's team had finished fifth in the first-round qualifying heat on Sunday with a time of 3 minutes and 29.74 seconds. The men's team had failed to finish in the first-round qualifying heat after second leg runner Rajesh Ramesh

Roma draws 1-1 against Juventus

pulled out midway due to cramps. Arokia Rajiv took the place of Ramesh in the team and he ran the third leg after Anas and Ajmal.

The Indian men's 4x400m team was on third position when anchor-leg runner Jacob took the baton from Arokia but the Delhi boy ran a fantastic race to overtake his Mexican opponent and finish second.

It was not about the timing but more about Olympics qualification for the Indian men's team which ran 3:00.25 at the Tokyo Olympics for the then Asian record before bettering it during the 2023 World Championships with yet another Asian record of 2:59.05. Monday's timing was well below the team's best. India had even given a mighty scare to formidable USA during the heat race the 2023 Budapest World Championships before settling for the second place.

Meanwhile, India pulled out of the

neat races on Monday not available after suffering muscle cramps while running the men's 4x400m first round heat on Sunday. Ramesh had run both the mixed 4x400m and men's 4x400m races on Sunday. India had featured in mixed 4x400m relay in the Tokyo Olympics where the event made its debut. The Indian women's 4x400m relay team will be returning to Olympics

mixed 4x400m relay second round

after missing out in Tokyo Games. The Paris participation will be the eighth time for the Indian women's 4x400m team, the first being in 1984 Games. For the men's 4x400m, this will be the fourth time India will be taking part in the Olympics, the first being in the 2000 Sydney Games.

With this, India now have at least 19 Paris-bound track and field athletes and the list includes defending javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra among others.

The athletics events at the Games will begin on August 1.

A total of 70 teams have qualified for relay events at the Paris Olympics following two days of thrilling action at the World Athletics Relays

AP MILAN

ticket.

Roma attempted to bounce back from European disappointment but could only draw 1-1 against Juventus in Serie A on Sunday in a result that did little to help its hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League. Bremer canceled out Romelu

Lukaku's first goal from open play against Juventus. Both teams also hit the woodwork as Juve's winless run continued. Third-place Juventus, which is winless in its last five matches, is six points ahead of fifthplace Roma with three rounds remaining. The top five in Serie A qualify for the Champions League after Italy earned an extra spot in next season's competition.

Roma is just three points above

sixth-place Atalanta, which has

also played two matches fewer. Roma was looking to recover from a 2-0 loss to Bayer Leverkusen in the first leg of the Europa League semifinals on Thursday, and started positively with Rasmus Kristensen's header coming off the crossbar in the 11th minute.

The capital side took the lead just four minutes later in somewhat circumstances. Paulo Dybala pulled the ball back from the byline and Bryan Cristante's shot was blocked by Juventus defender Federico Gatti on the line but went straight to Lukaku for the tap in.

It was his first goal against

Juventus from open play after



Chiesa came close to firing his

team in front right at the start

of the second half but his effort

went off the right post and

across the face of goal

netting from the spot against the Bianconeri for Inter. Juve leveled in the 31st minute

when Federico Chiesa whipped in a cross from the right and Bremer headed it in Milan's hardcore fans protested during the team's 3-3 draw against Genoa. There was a strange atmosphere at San Siro as the

MILAN PROTEST: AC

Milan ultras - who also unveiled banners calling for more ambition. communication and a clear

transfer strategy — remained silent during the match and left 10 minutes before the final whistle.

Milan was leading 3-2 by then, after recovering from Mateo Retegui's early penalty, but conceded a comical third goal as Morten Thorsby's cross ricocheted off Retegui and Fikayo home defenders Tomori and Malick Thiaw. It went down as an own-goal by Thiaw. It was a sixth straight match without a win for Milan, which nevertheless is second and mathematically assured of Champions League soccer next season.

RELEGATION BATTLES: Hellas Verona boosted its chances of Serie A survival with a 2-1 win over Fiorentina as fellow strugglers Empoli and Frosinone played out a disappointing 0-0 draw.

All three teams had been locked on 31 points ahead of the weekend, just two points above the relegation zone.

Verona was helped by Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Italiano opting to rotate his team ahead of the second leg of the Europa Conference League semifinal on Wednesday. Fiorentina beat Club Brugge 3-2 in the first leg last week.

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