

# **INDIAN ELECTIONS TOUCH HALFWAY**

STARS IN

CONSTITUENCY CANDIDATE

Kannaui

Begusarai

Asansol

Hyderabad

Bardhaman

Kirti Azad

Tippe Gowda

Yusuf Pathan

Y S Sharmila

Arjun Munda

Y S Avinash Reddy

Kali Charan Munda

Narayan Deepika

Nirmal Kumar Saha

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

Nandamuri Balakrishna

Durgapur

Hindupur

Baharampur

Kadapa

Khunti

Krishnanagar

## Phase IV Voting Today

#### RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

high-decibel fter а A campaign, the Lok Sabha elections will, on Monday, cross the halfway mark in its fourth phase of voting out of the seven-phase general elections, with 96 seats across 10 States and Union Territories going to the polls. This includes the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in Kashmir, which will witness its first major election after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. After Monday, 379 seats will have completed the

polling. The electoral fate of several prominent candidates like Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Union Minister Giriraj Singh, TMC's firebrand leader Mahua Moitra, AIMIM's

Asaduddin Owaisi, former cricketers Yusuf Pathan, Kirti Azad, Bollywood actor Shatrughan Sinha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Ajay Kumar Mishra Teni, Nityanand Rai, Madhvi Latha, Pankaja Munde, YS Sharmila, will be decided

in the fourth phase. The BJP-led NDA has MPs from over 40 of these 96 seats.

EPON

According to the Election Commission, over 17.70 crore voters, including 8.97 crore male and 8.73 crore women will cast their vote for the 96 parliamentary constituencies in 10 States and



over 19 lakh polling officials have been deputed across 1.92 lakh polling stations.

So far, voting has taken 285 place in constituencies since April 19. The voter turnout in the last phase stood at 64.4 per cent, which was the lowest

compared to the preceding phases (66.14 per cent and 66.71 per cent respectively).

Uttar Pradesh recorded the lowest turnout, while Assam saw the highest.

The fourth phase voting will be held in all 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana, all 25 seats in Andhra Pradesh, 13 in Uttar Pradesh, five Union Territory. Data showed in Bihar, four in Jharkhand, eight

in Madhya Pradesh, 11 in Maharashtra, four in Odisha, eight in West Bengal and one in and Kashmir. Iammu Additionally, this phase marks the commencement of polling in Jharkhand and Odisha. According to the EC, the heatwave conditions are one of the reasons for lower voter turnout in the last three phases as compared

to the 2019 parliamentary polls. Citing an India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, the poll authority on Sunday said that there is no significant concern regarding hot weather conditions for the polling in Phase 4". Keeping in mind the hot weather conditions and people's reluctance to step out in the afternoon, the

EC has increased poll timing in some Telangana seats. While the usual hours of voting are from 7 am to 6 pm, they are curtailed keeping in mind the terrain, time of sunset and security situation. Voting will simultaneously be held in all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, which is

witnessing a triangular contest involving ruling YSRC, the Congress-led INDIA Bloc and the NDÅ, comprising the BJP, Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP).

The run up to the fourth phase polling saw the EC and Opposition INDIA Bloc entering into a spat over delay in release of voter turnout data. **Continued on Page 8** 

#### ADITI SHARMA/ABHI SINGHAL/SAMAR PANDEY/RISHABH MALIK NEW DELHI

s the Delhi Lok Sabha Aelections approach on May 25, residents and families face a tough choice between prioritising holiday getaways and fulfilling their civic responsibilities. With a long weekend on the horizon, starting from Buddha Purnima on May 23, until Sunday, May 26, residents might opt for travel over voting.

People said keeping in mind the dynamic tariff in the hospitality industry they booked their travel and lodging plans much before the announcement of the Lok Sabha election schedule was announced and now they feel that to meet the obligation of voting they will have to incur a financial loss.

national Capital, The however, has a history of low voter turnout. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the total voter turnout in Delhi was 65.1 per cent, which declined to 60.5 per cent in 2019. The most upscale areas consistently record the lowest voter turnout rates, especially in the New Delhi and South children's vacations could Delhi constituencies.



**Vaca**i

family

where the vacations start on

May 16, said he is also

travelling outside of Delhi,

but their train tickets are

still waiting. He said if their tickets get

confirmed, they will skip the

Many families said they

would travel to different

cities outside of Delhi as a

tradition of visiting the

grandmother) house during

Delhites plan their trips

during May and June to cooler regions of the

country such as Uttarakhand and Himachal

Pradesh to escape the hot

summer vacations.

(maternal

voting.

nani's

head

Conversations with parents, teenagers, adults, children, mothers, and college students reveal Delhiites' college divided priorities. With school summer vacation excitement building up, many families have eagerly organised trips to visit relatives or explore other destinations, seeking a much-needed break from their daily routines, as

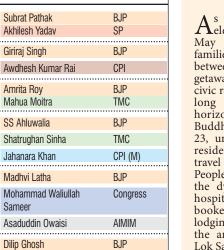
summer vacation starts around May 20. The onset of summer vacations in Delhi's schools is likely to see a possibility of a dip in voter turnout for the Lok Sabha elections in the national Capital. People's pre-planned trips and travel arrangements due to

weather. **Continued on Page 8** 

## Sonia spent more than 70 per cent of MP funds on minorities, claims Shah

Thion Home Minister

**PTI** ■ RAEBARELI/PRATAPGARH Raebareli, Shah said, "You "Many people here told me gave the Gandhi family a that this is a family seat... It is chance for years, but no true. The people of Raebareli development work has been have made the Gandhi and



TMC

TDP

YSR

BJP

TMC

Congress

Congress

Congress

Congress

YSR

BJP

Congress

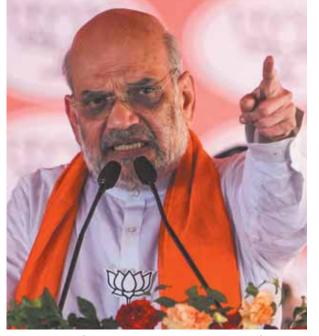
FRAY

PARTY

UAmit Shah on Sunday launched a blistering attack on senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, accusing her of "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "spending more than 70 per cent of her MP funds on "specific that the per cent of her MP funds minorities" and the Gandhi family of being experts in

Rahul Gandhi is fighting the Lok Sabha elections from Raebareli the seat held by his

development done ... They (Congress) do not believe in development.



Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a election rally in Rae Bareli on Sunday PTI

anything from the MP fund? If you have not received it,

then where did it go? It went

to their vote bank. Sonia

Gandhi has spent more than

70 per cent of the MP funds

on minorities," Shah claimed. Intensifying his attack, he

said, "This Gandhi family is

an expert in lying. They are

every woman. In the

elections, they had said that

they would give Rs 15,000 to

every woman. The women of the state elected them (Congress) ... Forget about Rs

15,000, they did not even give

(assembly)

Telangana

mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades. She recently moved to the Rajya Sabha. Rahul Gandhi has also been fielded from Wayanad in Kerala.

Raebareli will vote in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections on May 20.

Shah also addressed an election rally in Pratapgarh where he said that Rahul Gandhi can be scared of Pakistan's "atom bomb" but now promising Rs 1 lakh for the BJP is not, and that every woman. In the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir belongs to India and "we will take it". He was referring to Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks on Pakistan having the atom bomb.

At an election rally in Rs 1,500."

Nehru families win for years. They do not even come to you

candidate Dinesh Pratap Singh, the Union minister said, "We will connect Raebareli with Modiji's Modiji's development journey." "The 'shahzada' (prince) has

But after getting elected from here, how many times did Sonia Ji and her family come to Raebareli? Okay, Sonia ji's health is not good, but has Rahul baba or sister Priyanka come?"

After the rally, Shah visited the residence of Samajwadi Party MLA from Unchahar Manoj Pandey, who on February 27 resigned from the post of the party's chief whip and cross-voted in favour of the BJP candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls.

In Pratapgarh, Shah referred to Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks on Pakistan and said, "Rahul baba, if you want to be scared of the atom bomb, then be scared, we are not scared. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir belongs to India and we will take it."

In a video, Aiyar has been heard saying that India should give respect to Pakistan as it is a sovereign nation and engage

with it as it also possesses the atom bomb. He indicated in the video that if a "mad person" comes to power there and uses the atomic bomb, it will not be good and will have its effect here too. While Aiyar said the video

was old and dredged up now as the BJP's election campaign is faltering, the Congress said it totally disagreed with the remarks made by Aiyar some

come here to seek votes. You have been voting for many months ago. Addressing the rally, Shah said years. Have you received

that this time, the people of Kaushambi would have to ensure three hattricks.

"First is to make Narendra Modi the prime minister for the third time. The second hattrick in UP is to completely wipe off the SP, BSP and Congress for the third time and the third hattrick is to make my friend (Vinod) Sonkar the MP for the third time," he said. Polling in Kaushambi (SC) Lok Sabha seat too will be held in the fifth phase on May 20. INDIA bloc constituent Samajwadi Party's Pushpendra Saroj is the main challenger to the BJP in this seat.

Prime Minister Narendra candidate for Patna Lok Sabha constituency Ravi Shankar Prasad, Bihar Chief Minister and BJP's ally Nitish Kumar at a road show in Patna on Sunday evening. Earlier in the day Modi held a roadshow in Barrackpore in West Bengal



## Ladakh stands alone in Lok Sabha roll call

What should have been a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress in the Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency is now a three-corner fight with an alliance of local groups fielding an Independent to challenge the national parties. The seat, the largest in the

country in terms of area (173.266 square kilometers), goes to polls on May 20 — the first major electoral battle in the region after it was carved out of Jammu and Kashmir and granted Union Territory status in 2019.

PTI 📕 LEH

While the BJP has fielded Tashi Gyalson, chief executive councillor-cum-chairman of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh), from the seat after dropping sitting MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, the Congress has nominated Tsering Namgyal as its candidate.

Springing a surprise, the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) fielded Haji Haneefa Jan, the Kargil district president of the National Conference (NC), which like the Congress is a constituent



#### demands.

The Congress has won the However, now with the KDA seat for the highest number of fielding Jan, the challenges for times — six — and had fielded Tsering Namgyal, the the Congress as well as the leader of opposition in the LAHDC, according to an agreement with the NC, as they were members of the INDIA Bloc and the Leh Apex Body (LAB).

of the INDIA Bloc.

It was the LAB and the KDA that were spearheading the agitation in support of various demands of the Ladhaki people, including Statehood and sixth schedule of the Constitution, for the past four years. But it hit a block in March after the BJP-led Centre did not agree with the The agitation had intensified on March 6 with Leh observing a complete shutdown followed by a 66-day hunger strike which was suspended three days ago in view of the Lok Sabha elections. Renowned educationist and social reformer Sonam Wangchuk, who was also part of it, ended his 21-day hunger strike on March 26. Talking to reporters after

arriving here on Saturday, Rijiju said, "...All the big demands of the people can only be fulfilled by the

central government. I have come here to convey the message that any pending issue will be resolved by the PORT (Narendra) Modi Government alone."

Seeking cooperation and support of the people of Ladakh, Rijiju said it is imperative for the BJP to win the seat because "if we lose the elections, we will be sad after doing so much for the region over the years, including fulfilling the dream of UT status".

He said it is the right of the

people to raise their issues and "it is our responsibility to safeguard the future of Ladakh which is a very sensitive and fragile region having distinct culture, traditional practices, customs and language...". Thupstan Chhewang won the

seat for the BJP for the first time in 2014. However, he resigned from the party's basic membership in 2018 and is currently heading the LAB.

The BJP managed to retain the seat in 2019 with Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, who was denied the ticket by the party this time and who openly revolted against the decision. However, he

joined the campaigning for Gyalson after being persuaded by the BJP leadership. Trouble for the Congress candidate started when the KDA unanimously decided to field Jan as an Independent and also persuaded two others, who were contesting as Independents, to withdraw their candidature in his

support. **Continued on Page 8** 

BJP has increased in this seat that has more than 1.84 lakh voters -- a majority (95,926) in Muslim-dominated Kargil district and 88,877 in Leh district. The resentment against the

BJP over its Government at the Centre not fulfilling the demands is palpable and the party, which is eyeing a third consecutive term from Ladakh, has rushed Union Minister Kiren Rijiju to handle the situation. He arrived in the Union Territory (UT) on Saturday.



## city 02

## **Akhilesh terms Lok Sabha** ('This is collective battle against BJP' polls 'samvidhan manthan'

#### PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav emphasised that the ongoing Lok Sabha elections are not ordinary; rather, they represent a crucial moment of 'samvidhan manthan' (Constitutional churning). He depicted a stark dichotomy, with one side aim-ing to dismantle the Constitution and the other striving to uphold it. Akhilesh criticised the focus

on 'Mann Ki Baat' (speaking one's mind) without addressing 'Samvidhaan Ki Baat' (Constitutional discourse). Addressing a substantial gath-

ering at Andhe Ki Chowki on Kasmandi road in support of party candidates Ravidas Mehrotra (Lucknow) and RK Chaudhary (Mohanlalganj), Akhilesh stressed the importance of safeguarding Dr BR Ambedkar's Constitution. He underscored that the Constitution ensures protection and justice, serving as a vital lifeline for progress.

"The current elections revolve around defending this foundational document," he said. Observing the enthusiastic turnout, Akhilesh predicted an unprecedented victory for Chaudhary in Mohanlalganj. He attributed this potential success to symbolic elements, noting that 'Mohan' in Mohanlalganj symbolises Lord Krishna, and 'Lal' signifies the red cap synonymous with the party. Akhilesh predicted defeat for the BJP, asserting that the public is independent-ly contesting this election, contrasting sharply with the BJP's unfulfilled promises. He questioned the BJP's

decade-long governance at the Centre and Yogi Adityanath's

## **108 ambulance** service mobile app hacked

Lucknow (PNS): Unidentified accused hacked the online attendance mobile application of a company providing 108 ambulance and related services, falsifying attendance records of absent employees. Company officials reported the incident to the cyber police station in Lucknow. The complaint was filed by Raj Kamal ai, senior manager of the

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav with candidates Ravidas Mehrotra (Lucknow) and RK Chaudhary (Mohanlalganj) at Andhe Ki Chowki in Lucknow on Sunday

seven-vear rule in Uttar Pradesh, highlighting per-ceived failures in skill developduce. ment and job creation.

Akhilesh ridiculed the BIP's double-engine government claims, suggesting that one of those engines seem dysfunctional, akin to a "khatara". He criticised unfulfilled promises of doubling farmers' incomes, alleging collusion with corporations to exploit BJP's purportedly inadequate efforts.

farmers' lands. Akhilesh expressed solidarity with protesting farmers, applauding their resilience against contentious farm laws. He condemned the BJP for allegedly favouring corporate interests over farmers' welfare. He pledged that under SP's leadership, farmers' loans would be waived, and fair prices ensured for their proand police assistance.

Akhilesh promised enhanced ration distribution under SP Turning to youth issues, governance, including free wheat and data services. He Akhilesh condemned the BJP's alleged mishandling of employment initiatives, cit-ing instances of exam paper flayed the BJP's electoral bonds as a reflection of their finanleaks and temporary job schemes. He promised perma-nent jobs under an SP admincial backing from wealthy donors.

Highlighting SP's role in Lucknow's development, paristration, contrasting with the ticularly the Agra Expressway completed in 21 months, He accused the BJP of selling Akhilesh contrasted this with national assets, including air-BJP's allegedly slow progress ports, railways, and telecom-munications, while also crition infrastructure. He pledged support for dairy farmers, promising to purchase milk at cising economic policies such competitive rates. Akhilesh pointed out rising

Akhilesh concluded by noting public discontent with the BJP, predicting heightened frustration by the seventh phase of elections.

# SHARMILA KRISHNA

## LUCKNOW

It's noon, and Samajwadi Party candidate RK Chaudhary is heading towards Kasmandi road where party president Akhilesh Yadav is scheduled to address a gather-ing. Chaudhary describes his rigorous campaign schedule, spanning from 10 am to 10 pm, encompassing door to door encompassing door-to-door visits and community interactions. He expresses a sense that this election is not just about him but a collective battle against the BJP.

tle against the BJP. During campaigning, Chaudhary accepts offerings of water, jaggery, and occasional-ly 'petha' from locals, empha-sising his connection with the people. After meeting Akhilesh, he plans to campaign in Dubagga and Malihabad. Akhilesh, he plans to campaign in Dubagga and Malihabad. Regarding the scorching heat, Chaudhary, hailing from a farming background, down-plays its impact, noting he does not even wear a cap. When questioned about incumbent Kauchal Kishora'

incumbent Kaushal Kishore's performance in Mohanlalganj, Chaudhary criticises the government's favouritism towards corporate interests over farmover government agencies, sug-gesting a backlash from the ers. He highlights concerns about reduced urea availability and the scarcity of jobs for populace. educated youth, exacerbated by

Emphasising his track record in Mohanlalganj, Chaudhary exam paper leaks.

Chaudhary laments the polarassures voters of his commitisation of public discourse, priment to local development if marily focused on Hinduelected. He cites slogans raised by supporters advocating for comprehensive infrastructure Muslim issues rather than substantive topics like electoral bonds. He criticised Prime Minister Modi's alleged control improvements.

Acknowledging voter disillu-sionment, Chaudhary attributes declining turnout to unmet expectations from the Modi government. Responding

to Yogi

Chaudhary dismisses him as more of a religious figure than a seasoned politician, highlighting India's diverse demographic and the need for inclusive governance. He speculates on Modi's shifting rhetoric, interpreting it as a sign of anx-iety amidst changing political dynamics.

Adityanath's prediction of BJP's

overwhelming victory,

## Poll training for state employees commences

Lucknow (PNS): A four-day training program aimed at educating state employees and teachers engaged in the upcom-ing Lok Sabha elections commenced at the main auditorium of Collectorate on Sunday. The primary focus was to familiarise participants with technical aspects of electoral procedures to ensure smooth polling operations.

Past experiences have shown that voting during polling days can be disrupted by conflicts arising from technical issues between the general public and election officials, leading to prolonged delays and potentially depriving waiting voters of their rights.

The training utilised large screens to visually explain key points for better comprehension. The participants were also provided with handouts detailing important procedures to be retained until the conclusion of the electoral process. Divisions Lucknow Commissioner Roshan Jacob highlighted the importance of utilising the expertise of retired officers and experienced state employees who have extensive election experience to enhance the skills of those dealing with voters. She clarified that while retired state employees are valuable resources, their involvement in poll services is restricted by service rules. Meanwhile, to maximise voter turnout, Lucknow Development Authority Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi and Municipal Commissioner Inderjeet Singh engaged with members of the Christian community, urging them to participate actively in the voting process at their respective polling stations. Addressing the community, District Magistrate and District Eelction Officer Surya Pal Gangwar encouraged them to exercise their franchise without fear, acknowledging concerns about past law and order issues that might have deterred partic-ipation on polling days.

## Domestic help arrested for theft at employer's house to the woman followed by

as demonetisation.

inflation and healthcare costs

under BJP rule, contrasting

them with SP's initiatives like

improved ambulance services

### PNS LUCKNOW

Police claimed to have arrested a house help who, while employed to take care of and 120b (criminal conspiraan elderly woman's medications, substituted her pre-scribed drugs with sleeping pills and then proceeded to steal her valuables and cash run," the DCP explained. while she slept. 'The house he working for two years and col-laborated with his father and a distant relative to carry out these thefts. His accomplices supplied him with sedatives, which he administered to the elderly woman. Over a span of several months, the perpetrators managed to steal orna-ments valued at over Rs 15.50 lakh and cash exceeding Rs 1 lakh," DCP (West) Durgesh Kumar said. On Sunday, the police arrest-ed the house help, Mohammed Suhail (19), along with his father Mohammed Sharif (40), and relative Shakil (30), all natives of Sitapur. The police recovered ornaments worth Rs 15.5 lakh and approximately Rs 50,000 in cash.

Singh is said to be at large. theft. An FIR was registered on April 25 under IPC sec-Mishra has been booked under IPC Section 406 (crimtions 328 (administering poiinal breach of trust). son), 380 (theft in a building),

The incident came to light when Arun Chaudhary, a resident of Basti, approached the police. Chaudhary intendcy), and a special team was deployed to apprehend the suspects who had been on the ed to travel to Kuwait for work and had engaged Vivek and Aditya, who operated a shop named Sarla Enterprises Tour and Travels at Dharma Tower in Vibhuti Khand. paid them Rs 75,000 in installments via online transactions and Rs 10,000 in cash. They also escorted me to a Gulf medical centre in Chowk for a medical examination, but I never received my visa. Despite repeated follow-ups, they eventually provided me with a visa that turned out to be fake when I attempted to use it for travel," Chaudhary stated in his complaint. "When I tried to contact them, they ignored my calls. Upon visiting their shop, I discovered that they had absconded by closing their establishment. Additionally, I received threatening messages via WhatsApp when I attempted to file a police complaint," Chaudhary added. The police said they are investigating the criminal background of the suspects to determine they if have defrauded individuals. other

s the elections approach, As the Bengali community in the city is gearing up to vote for the party that supports and the party that supports and respects their rich culture. Arun Banerjee, secretary of Bengali Club and a prominent member of the Bangla commu-nity in Lucknow, emphasised their collective aspirations for

PNS LUCKNOW

their collective aspirations for good governance, security, and community support. He high-lighted specific cultural demands, including enhanced security during Durga Puja fectivities proper arrangements festivities, proper arrangements for visarjan, and celebrations for Netaji Subhash Chandra Jayanti and Rabindranath

Tagore Javanti. Banerjee stressed the need for financial backing from the Culture department to promote Rabindra Sangeet and theatre, similar to support provided in other regions. He emphasised

the significance of the PC Ghosh Memorial All-India Drama Festival, urging for government assistance in organising such cultural events.

Bengali community to support

The community also seeks recognition and promotion of barrister Atul Prasad Sen's contributions, particularly in Lucknow and across India and Bangladesh. Banerjee high-lighted the deep-seated cultural values among Bengalis, emphasising their historical influence on Indian thought. Recognising Bengal's pivotal role in the country's indepen-dence, Banerjee underscored the importance of preserving Bengali culture for future generations. He emphasised the community's proactive efforts, led by the Bengali Club, to safe-guard their heritage without making political demands.

Banerjee recounted past struggles, including efforts to estab-lish statues of Rabindranath

party that respects their culture Tagore and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, often requiring extensive processions and protests. He lamented challenges faced during Durga Puja celebrations due to imposed restrictions and advocated for academic initiatives such as a Rabindra Sangeet course at

Bhatkhande University and an optional Bengali subject at Lucknow University. Reflecting on past interactions with former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav in 2014, Banerjee recalled latter's support during the Bengali Club's centennial Durga Puja celebration. He highlighted discus-sions about establishing a Bengali Akademi modelled after Shantiniketan, featuring a statue of Rabindranath Tagore,

music instruction, Bengali lan-

guage classes, and a small audi-

torium. He added that Yadav

had encouraged them to locate

suitable land for this initiative.

human resources department at EMRI Green Health Power

House in Ashiyana. Rai said the company had implemented a GPS-enabled app for employee attendance, freely available for registration of presence based on GPS location. Someone had unauthorisedly manipulated this app to record fake attendance.

According to Rai, the hackers utilised a GPS emulator to falsify employees' presence data, charging them to mark atten-dance remotely. This unauthorised cloning of the app compromised attendance records. The cloned application allowed users to exploit developer options on smartphones, bypassing the attendance app's face identification. The hackers demanded payment for app validity, ensuring the continued use of the manipulated software. Rai mentioned that the company's technical team identified a UPI number associated with this scam, through which customers were coerced into making payments.

The incident came to light when the elderly woman's son, Saif Samadi, who is a perfumer residing in the Saadatganj, noticed the gradual disappearance of orna-ments and alerted the police. "An investigation uncovered the administration of sedatives

Following the arrest, addi-tional IPC sections 411 (possession of stolen property), 413 (receiving stolen property), 413 (receiving stolen goods), and 414 (disposing of stolen items) were appended to the FIR. According to police reports, Suhail would administer sedatives to induce sleep before pilfering small amounts of jewellery and cash to evade detection. Subsequently, he would pass the stolen items to his associates, Mohammed Sharif and Shakil.

#### GANG ISSUING FAKE **VISAS BUSTED**

With the arrest of a man on Sunday, police claimed to have busted a gang involved in issuing fake visas for various countries. The gang oper-ated by deceiving individuals with promises of legitimate

visas in exchange for large sums of money, only to abscond by closing their operations in the area. Vibhuti Khand police appre-hended Vivek Mishra aka Nilesh Chauhan and Vinod Shukla from Amethi. His accomplice Aditya Vikram



A voter awareness rally being taken out by Tempo, Taxi Evam Autorickshaw Sanyukt Morcha in city on Sunday

## Graphic designer killed over family land dispute

designer Mohammed Zaid was killed in a dispute over his family's land allegedly by his cousins and uncles in Bhadeva under Bazaarkhala police station on Saturday night.

This incident followed a previous attack on Zaid allegedly by the same group in 2023, in Thakurganj police station area. Despite the registration of a case at that time, the lack of police action allegedly emboldened the attackers, ultimately resulting in Zaid's death in the recent attack.

Zaid had been actively pursu-ing the legal case related to the previous assault and was vocal about the issue, which made him a target for the accused. According to his brother Faiz Alam, the attackers, including Mohammed Karim aka Parvez, Mohammed Zubair, Taham, Shahab, Mohammed

## Lucknow (PNS): Graphic Mohammed Haris, and Mustafa (all residents of Bhadeva in Bazaarkhala), along with 3-4 accomplices, con-fronted Zaid outside a mosque after he had dropped his wife off at her parents' house. They fatally stabbed him. Zaid was rushed to KGMU Trauma

Centre where he succumbed to injuries. Faiz blamed the police for their negligence in handling the previous complaint, allowing the assailants to remain at large and ultimately leading to Zaid's murder. He emphasised that Zaid's vocal advocacy against the accused's land-related motives made him a target. However, the Bazaarkhala inspector dismissed allegations of police inaction and high-lighted that the case had been registered at Thakurganj police station. He assured that efforts

were underway to locate and

apprehend the accused.

## **CITYBRIEFS**

**UP DARSHAN PARK** 

#### The Uttar Pradesh Tourism department organised an excursion for nearly 3,000 students from Youth Tourism Club to the newly-inaugurated UP Darshan Park in Lucknow. The excursion took place from May 8 to 11 with the aim of showcasing the rich heritage of UP and promoting its diverse tourism potential. The park features replicas of 16 prominent tourist destinations from across the state, including the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Dudhwa National Park, Fatehpur Sikri, and Vidhan Bhawan. The park offers a condensed view of iconic landmarks and spiritual sites across UP. Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Mukesh Kumar Meshram emphasised the department's commitment to nur-

turing well-informed citizens who can contribute to the state's flourishing tourism sector. He said that providing students with immersive experiences aims to instill pride in their culture and heritage, ultimately paving the way for a brighter and prosperous future.

#### **CII SESSION WITH DM**

The Confederation of Indian Industry, Uttar Pradesh, organised an interactive ses-

sion with Lucknow District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar. Interacting with the CII members and young entrepreneurs, Gangwar said such kind of conversational gatherings with young entrepreneurs promote the collaboration and coordination between the public and the government besides helping in awareness regard-ing policies meant for the development of the business community. Chairperson of CII UP State Council Smita Agarwal said Gangwar brings with him a wealth of experience, a visionary outlook, and a profound commitment to the betterment of society.

#### VOTER SLIPS DISTRIBUTED

The BJP Lucknow unit started a two-day special campaign for giving voter slips along with leaflets of development works to various households going door to door. BJP city president Anand Dwivedi said that in the wards under Lucknow Mahanagar, officials and public representatives would deliver voter slips to every house till booth level. He started the campaign and distributed voter slips and leaflets of development works along with Mandal president Rajan Verma, and others.

## **New twist to Sitapur killings**

#### PNS LUCKNOW

The death of six members of a family, including three children, in Sitapur took a new twist with a kin alleging that the entire family was brutally mur-dered over a property related dispute.

Six members of a family died a painful death in Pehlapur village under Rampur Mathura police station of Sitapur district. According to police, deceased Anurag Singh (45), in a drunken state, killed his three children Ashimi (10), Ashna (12) and Abhijeet Singh (6) by throwing them off the roof one by one. He also hit his children's head before throwing them from the roof, police claimed on Saturday.

After this, Anurag shot his sleeping mother Savitri and wife Priyanka (40) and later committed suicide by shooting himself. The cops claimed that Anurag's brother Ajit Singh informed them

of the incident after seeing the bodies lying in pools of blood. The police sent the bodies for post-mortem.

The cops on Saturday claimed

that Anurag was an alcoholic and due to financial crunch, he killed all five members of the family before committing suicide. Anurag's brother-in-law Ankit Singh on Sunday gave a new

twist to this case. He said that at the time when the murders were being committed, not six but seven people were present in the house.

He said Anurag's younger broth-er Ajit Singh was also present at home, but the police had not mentioned this in their statement

vet. Ankit said that Anurag was a big trader of watermelon and he used to do farming on 100 bighas of land and it was wrong to say that he was facing financial crunch.

Ankit Singh and Anurag's in-laws

said it was surprising that Anurag kept shooting people and throw-ing children down from the roof one by one, but the people living in the neighbourhood did not even get a hint of it.

"How can this happen?". they say. Ankit Singh has also raised many questions on the police investigation.

However, the superintendent of police said that the case was being investigated from all angles and would be worked out soon.

According to the villagers, last evening Anurag was working in the field as usual and he met people. He was slightly intoxicated, but not so intoxicated that he would kill his own family. The villagers who worked with Anurag said he could not commit such killings.

The villagers said that Anurag's brother Ajit Singh, who is a teacher, also came home on Saturday.



## Will declare UP mafia-free after June 4: CM Yogi

#### PNS LUCKNOW

During an exclusive inter-view with a private television channel, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reiterated his government's firm stance on criminal syndicates.

He announced a decisive measure set for June 4, when a fixed deadline will be established to declare Uttar Pradesh as a 'mafia-free' state.

Chief Minister Yogi said, "The properties amassed by notorious mafia figures will face confiscation, with the seized assets slated for redistribution to underprivileged segments of society, including the impover-ished, orphaned, women's shelters, and facilities catering to the needs of the differentlyabled?

The chief minister's bold proclamation comes amidst heightened scrutiny of the government's anti-mafia endeavours, as he addressed inquiries regarding the administration's strategies in combating both criminal elements and political opposition during the televised dialogue.

Chief Minister Yogi said,

**Mirzapur** 

PNS LUCKNOW

Chand Bind.

"Hospitals and schools will be built on the illegal lands of the mafia. In the first phase, a crackdown on the mafia will be launched, whereas in the second, their properties will be confiscated. Our action plan is also ready for this."

extending seven generations." Furthermore, he underscored the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and security of the state's womenfolk, not-The chief minister also ing a palpable enhancement in their protection under the preanswered the question related

to senior Samajwadi Party sent administration. leader and former minister Addressing another inquiry, Mohammad Azam Khan. On Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath the allegations of running bullelucidated the transformative dozers on Azam Khan's prop-erties, Chief Minister Yogi said, impact of the government's measures in instilling a climate 'He is another 'Kaka Shree' of of security and confidence. that Mahabharata family. He illustrated the deterrence When Draupadi was being disagainst criminal activity, illusrobed, everyone was silent in trating that perpetrators now find themselves compelled to publicly implore for clemency, front of Duryodhana and Dushasan. 'Jaisi karni, vaisi bharini' (as you sow, so you reap), whether it is Azam Khan symbolic of the fear-free environment established within the or any mafia leader. They hinstate. In response to assertions dered the development of the made by certain Islamic fundamentalists regarding Ghazwa-e-Hind, Chief Minister Yogi state. Therefore, strict action was taken against such people." When queried, Chief Minister Adityanath unequivocally dis-Yogi Adityanath affirmed a missed the notion, affirming stringent stance against rioting, India's enduring identity. He emphasised that Ghazwa-easserting that transgressors will Hind, a purported prophesied

face severe consequences. Emphasising the gravity of the conquest, holds no faith and deterrent, Chief Minister Yogi that India will steadfastly Adityanath said, "Those found remain India until the end of

time.

guilty of inciting unrest in Uttar Pradesh will bear the bur-Regarding the contentious notion of 'vote jihad' advocatden of punitive measures ed by Congress leader Salman Khurshid's niece, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath admonished such attempts at exploiting religion for elec-toral gains. He condemned the practice, asserting that those who engage in such tactics will find no solace hereafter, label-

ing it as deeply regrettable. Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inclusive governance approach over the past decade, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed the administration's commitment to transcending divisive lines of caste and religion. He underscored the equitable distribution of social welfare benefits to all sections of society. Additionally, he cautioned against divisive forces seeking to polarise society, noting their insidious intentions.

He expressed skepticism towards individuals who propagate such division, suggesting their ulterior motive of perpetuating societal discord rather than genuinely advocating for the welfare of Muslims.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

criticised Congress and its leader, Rahul Gandhi, asserting that their authority will be significantly diminished come June 4. Mockingly, he refer-enced the iconic song lyric, Chal ud ja re panchi, yeh desh hua begana..., suggesting their impending irrelevance.

With unwavering confidence, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath forecast a dismal electoral outcome for Rahul Gandhi's alliance, stating with conviction that they would fail to secure any seat in Uttar Pradesh. He recalled Rahul Gandhi's historical tendency to seek refuge abroad during times of crisis, hinting at a similar retreat post-June 4. Highlighting the Congress party's dwindling influence in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath pointed out their meagre representation of only two MLAs in the 403-seat

UP assembly. He derided Rahul Gandhi's electoral strategy, questioning his decision to contest from Wayanad instead of focusing on Uttar Pradesh. He further criticised Rahul Gandhi's vacillation, noting his shift from Amethi to Rae Bareli in successive elections.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at an election rally in Bahraich on Sunday

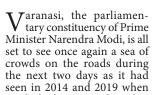
## **SP** fields Modi's Kashi roadshow today **Ramesh C** PNS VARANASI/LUCKNOW

**Bind from** Modi had contested parliamentary elections from this

Samajwadi Party on Sunday announced two candidates holv city. for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. It changed its candidate from Mirzapur Lok Sabha seat and fielded Ramesh The SP also named Chhote Lal Kharwar as its candidate from Robertsganj Lok Sabha con-Haveli.

stituency. In a surprise move, the SP cancelled the ticket of Rajendra S Bind, who was earlier fielded by the party from the Mirzapur constituency. Ramesh Chandra Bind, who is the outgoing BJP MP from Bhadohi, has been fielded by the SP to take on Apna Dal (Sonelal) chief and Union

minister Anupriya Patel. Earlier, Ramesh Chandra Bind was denied a ticket by the Bharatiya Janata Party, prompting him to switch sides head of the Lok Sabha elec-



Modi is arriving in the city on Monday and in the evening he will take out his roadshow from Malviya Statue (near BHU Main Gate, Lanka) to Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, passing through densely-pop-ulated localities like Assi, Shivala, Sonarpura, Pandey Madanpura, Jangambadi, Godowlia and

Bansphatak of this ancient city. The next day (Tuesday) Modi will file his nomination papers from Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency on the auspicious occasion of Ganga Saptami. Union Home Minister Amit

Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with other senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party, including party state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary came here to be held in this office from now ke stock of the preparations



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Kashi Vishwanath temple on Sunday

and Kashi Vishwanath Vishwanath temples. After the inauguration of the Temples seeking blessings for media centre, all the press conferences related to the Lok the prosperity of Uttar Pradesh and victory of the BJP in the Sabha elections of the prime Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Earlier on Saturday, both Amit minister's constituency will Shah and Yogi Adityanath on while the BIP's organisa attended the Ganga aarti at

izen should face any problem during it. Meanwhile, Rashtriya Lok Dal

chief Jayant Chaudhary will take part in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Varanasi on Monday. An official spokesmar

UP Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said here on Sunday that polling parties had been despatche to their respective booths. He said to ensure free and fair polls and transparency in the polling process, over 50 per cent of the booths would go for webcasting. The 13 constituencies going to polls on Monday are considered politically significant as they fall in the central region of UP. In 2019, Bharatiya Janata Party had swept these constituencies despite the alliance

Shahjahanpur district will also

be held on Monday. There are

10 candidates in the fray and

their fate will be sealed by 3.72

lakh voters — 1.99 lakh males and 1.72 lakh females.

PNS LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of

India has made elaborate

arrangements for voting in 13

Sabha elections on Monday.

between Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal. This time Congress and SP are contesting the polls together in UP as partners of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

**UP** gears up for fourth phase of

LS polls in 13 constituencies

parliamentary constituencies of Uttar Pradesh going to polls in the fourth phase of Lok If the BJP faces the challenge of Voting will take place in this phase in Shahjahanpur (SC), replicating its 2019 perfor-mance in this phase, the SP's top concern is to regain the prestigious Kannauj seat. All Kheri, Dhaurahra, Sitapur, Hardoi (SC), Misrikh (SC), eyes in this phase of elections will be on the Kannauj from Unnao, Farrukhabad, Etawah (SC), Kannauj, Kanpur, Akbarpur and Bahraich (SC) where SP president Akhilesh Yadav is seeking a re-election. constituencies where the fate of 130 candidates will be decided Another prominent candidate by 2.46 crore voters - 1.31 in the fray in this round is crore males and 1.15 females -Union Minister of State for in 16,334 polling stations hav-Home Ajay Mishra Teni, who ing 26,588 polling booths. Along with the Lok Sabha polls, by-election to Dadraul assembly constituency in

is contesting from Kheri. Among the 13 poll-bound constituencies, Kannauj will see a contest between the SP chief and sitting BJP MP Subrat Pathak, while in Unnao, incumbent BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj (Swami Sachidanand Hari Sakshi) is pitted against SP's Annu Tandon (a former Lok Sabha MP from Unnao). Tandon had contested against Sakshi Maharaj as a Congress candidate in 2014 and 2019, but In the INDIA bloc, the SP has fielded candidates from 11 Lok Sabha constituencies in this phase, while two seats --Kanpur (Alok Misra) and Sitapur (Rakesh Rathor) - have Congress candidates.

city 03

Four BJP candidates — Union minister Teni (Kheri), Rekha Verma (Dhaurahra), Mukesh Rajput (Farrukhabad) and Devendra Singh alias Bhole (Akbarpur) — are eyeing a hattrick, while Rajesh Verma is eyeing a fifth term from Sitapur.

Ashok Kumar Rawat and Ram Shankar Katheria are eyeing a fourth term from Misrikh (SC) and Etawah (SC) respectively. Sitting MP from Hardoi (SC) Jai Prakash and incumbent from Unnao Sakshi Maharaj are eyeing their sixth terms in the Lok Sabha.

Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Etawah and Bahraich have a big chunk of Dalit voters. The BSP has never been able to open its account in six of the constituencies -Shahjahanpur, Kheri, Hardoi, Farrukhabad, Kannauj and Kanpur — while the SP has historically struggled to win the Kanpur and Akbarpur seats. Around 28 per cent of the candidates contesting in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections have criminal cases while 41 per cent are crorepatis. Polling will commence at 7 am and conclude at 6 pm. Special arrangements of drinking water, shed, sitting facilities and other things to cope with the heat wave conditions have been made in all the booths.

tions. He will file his nomination on May 14.

Another SP candidate from the Robertsganj constituency Chhote Lal Kharwar will contest against Apna Dal (Sonelal) candidate Rinki Kol.

Voting in Mirzapur and Robertsganj Lok Sabha constituencies will take place on June 1 in the seventh and final phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh.

show and his nomination. They also made a strategy to make the prime minister's roadshow and nomination historic. Both the leaders reached Varanasi on Saturday evening and participated in many programmes during the last two days. On Sunday, Shah inaugurated the party's media centre while Yogi offered prayers at Kal Bhairav and Kashi

tional meetings and workers' for the prime minister's roadconferences will be held in the central election office opened at Tulsi Udyan in Mahmoorganj.

Before embarking on an elec-tion campaign, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offered pravers at Kal Bhairav and Kashi Vishwanath temples in Varanasi on Sunday.

Yogi worshipped and per-formed aarti at Kal Bhairav

Dashashwamedh Ghat and sought blessings of Maa Ganga for the historic victory of the BJP. After Ganga aarti, they also watched the drone laser show based on Vikas Yatra of Kashi organised at the ghat. Shah emphasised on strengthening every booth and the role of panna pramukhs. He directed the party leaders that the roadshow should be grand and unprecedented, but no cit-

party said the RLD was committed to ensuring victory of all the National Democratic Alliance candidates and trouncing the INDI Alliance which was a bunch of opportunists. RLD national secretary

Anupam Mishra said the party leaders were working hard to ensure victory of NDA candidates with a huge margin of votes.

had lost on both occasions. She had won the Unnao Lok Sabha seat in 2009 on a Congress ticket. Of the 13 parliamentary con-

stituencies going to polls in the fourth phase, the BJP has reposed its faith in 11 sitting MPs by giving them tickets, while it has fielded new candidates Ramesh Awasthi from Kanpur and Anand Kumar from the Bahraich (SC) seat.

## Oppose those who want to change Constitution, says Akhilesh Yadav

#### PNS BARABANKI

said the ongoing Lok Sabha election was between people who wanted to "change the Constitution" and those protecting it. Yadav took part in a rally in

here in support of Tanuj Punia, the INDIA bloc candidate who is contesting from Barabanki Lok Sabha constituency on a Congress.

"On one side are the people who want to change the Constitution and on the other side are the people of INDIA bloc, SP and Congress who want to protect it. The election here has turned out to be between people of Barabanki and false guarantees," Yadav said while addressing the rally. The public has taken matters into their own hands and are not going to spare those who talk about running a double-engine government, Yadav added.

While attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central gov-ernment for inflation and 'three anti-farmers farm laws', the SP chief said, "These people brought farm laws to snatch the lands of the poor farmers and give it to the big

industrialists." Yadav said that after coming to Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday ment would ensure guaranteed minimum support price for the crops produced by farm-

Talking about youth, Akhilesh Yadav said that the BJP had also cheated them by not providing jobs or by stopping paper leaks of recruitment exams.

He said that if BJP came to power again, the jobs of police personnel would be made temporary.

Uttar Pradesh's former chief minister, Akhilesh Yadav, said that the INDIA bloc government would "improve the quality of free ration being given to the poor".

He also attacked the Bahujan Samaj Party, alleging that it has joined hands with the BJP. I want to say to our people of 'bahujan samaj' that you must have seen that BSP and BJP have joined hands in hiding. So, beware of them and vote for the INDIA bloc candidate to ensure his victory," he said. Tanuj Punia is pitted against Rajrani Rawat of the BJP.

Polling in Barabanki will be held on May 20 in the fifth phase of ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

## Modi has given country's wealth to four or five rich people: PGV

Rae Bareli: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of giving the country's "entire wealth" to "four or five rich people". Addressing election rallies here in support of her brother and the Congress' Rae Bareli Lok

Sabha seat candidate Rahul Gandhi, she alleged the BJP has not done anything for the pub-lic in the last 10 years and was bringing up religion in its poll campaign to divert voters' attention.

Rahul Gandhi is fighting the Lok Sabha elections from Raebareli, the seat held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades. She recently moved to the Rajya Sabha. Rahul Gandhi has also been

fielded from Wayanad in Kerala. Priyanka Gandhi said, "Privatisation is not bad in itself but if the prime minister gives the entire wealth of the nation to four or five rich peo-

ple, then that is not right. Today coal, electricity, ports and airports of the country are all with the friends of the prime minister." "Our prime minister organises

big events where you will see many big capitalists but not a single poor person," she said. Mentioning former prime ministers and Congress leaders Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi, she said they visited villages and asked people about



their issues. But PM Modi did not visit any village in his Varanasi constituency and ask the farmers about their wellbeing, the Congress general sec-

retary alleged. Referring to Rahul Gandhi's two yatras across the length and breadth of the country, she said her brother walked 4,000 kilometres to understand people's problems.

"After his journey, my brother made it a point to make a manifesto that could solve inflation and unemployment which are the biggest problems for the public," Priyanka Gandhi said and recounted the Congress' promises made in its "Nyay Patra" for the polls.

"Modi says that if Congress comes to power they will steal your mangalsutra, will take away your buffalo. The public is laughing over this. The PM is saying this because he has not

done any work," she said. She alleged that Modi waived loans of big industrialists and not of the farmers. The Congress leader said if the Congress comes to power after the Lok Sabha polls, it will provide a legal guarantee for MSP and remove GST from farm products to increase farmers' earnings. "The BJP has stopped all avenues of employment generation," she said.

Targeting the BJP over the electoral bonds issue, Priyanka Gandhi said, "They call us corrupt. But the Congress party could not become a rich party in 55 years (it was in power), but the BJP has become the richest party in the world with-in 10 years." "They used to talk about bringing back black money and depositing Rs 15 lakh in everyone's accounts. I think they deposited all black money in their party," she said.

## 'Nari Shakti' helpless, crime against women high in BJP rule: Congress

#### PNS LUCKNOW

On Mother's Day, the Congress attacked both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, claiming that crime against women had increased in their regime but what was more shocking was that the government had given "open patronage" to the accused and instead punished the victim for raising their voices.

India Congress All Committee's national coordinator Garima Mehra Dasouni made these allegations during a press conference held at the party's state headquarters here on the occasion of Mother's Day, on Sunday.

She claimed that mother was the pivot of the family and the imagination of creation was incomplete without maternal power (Nari Shakti). "But today, if anyone is oppressed the most in the Modi-Yogi government, it is the mother power. The slogan of the Bharatiya Janata Party government has become, save rapists and drive away rapists. In BJP, tyrants, adulterers and corrupt people are all given shelter, and the daughters who appeal are punished," Dasouni said.

"After the Modi government assumed power, the crime rate against women has **All India Congress Committee's** national coordinator Garima Mehra Dasouni made these allegations during a press conference held at the party's state headquarters here on the occasion of Mother's Day

increased to 64.4 per cent against 54 per cent in 2014. There has been a huge increase in crimes against women. In 2014, there were 3,37,922 crimes against women every year, which has increased to 4,45,256 today. That means 1,219 women are becoming victims of criminals every day in the country, Dasouni claimed.

"Today, the screams of women are being heard from every corner of the country under BJP rule. The daughter who appealed to the BJP govern-ment got punished. From Hathras to Hassan (in Karnataka), from Manipur to Unnao, from Pauri Garhwal to Sonbhadra, from Kaiserganj to Varanasi, the BJP government is supporting the rapists," she alleged, adding that today, women are being harassed in every way under the BJP government, from rape, inflation, unemployment of their capable children, malnutrition, dis-

crimination at workplaces etc. Dasouni said that the women across the country were raising their voice to remove the Modi government and empower women.

The congress leader said that a recent report released by the Home ministry revealed that the country's cultural capital,

Uttar Pradesh, had been transformed by the BJP government into a den of female criminals. In UP, 2,88,505 women have become victims of criminals from 2017 to 2022. The shocking facts are that about 80,000 women were kidnapped, 68,000 women were molested, more than 21,000 were raped, and the most shocking aspect is that the highest number of acid attacks on women in the country are taking place in Uttar Pradesh," the Congress leader said, while releasing the crime data of the National Record Crime Bureau (NCRB) in support of the allegations.



## state 04

## Modi to interact with BJP workers after nomination

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi will interact with the BJP workers of Varanasi Lok Sabha at Rudraksh Convention Centre in Sigra after filing nomination on May 14. This was informed by regional BJP president Dilip Patel while addressing the meeting of party workers engaged in the arrangements at the BJP's Gulab Bagh office here on Sunday. Patel said that the prime

minister will come to the city minister will come to the city on his two-day visit on May 13 and his grand roadshow will start at 4 pm from Malaviya statue to Kashi Vishwanath Dham. He said that the workers have geared up to make the roadshow historic as Kashi is eager to welcome its MP and prime minister. He further said that after



Regional BJP chief Dilip Patel holding meeting with party workers in Varanasi on Sunday.

filing nomination on May 14, the PM will interact with the workers at Rudraksh Convention Centre. In the proposed 'samvad' (dialogue) programme, Shakti Kendra conveners and in-charges,

up for BJP's big victory

Bansal asks workers to gear

mandal presidents and in charges, assembly conveners and in charges of Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency, Lok Sabha convenor, Lok Sabha in charge, members of Core Committee and Varanasi Lok

Sabha Election Management Committee, city, district, regional and Varanasi Lok Sabha office-bearers apart from state and national officebearers of BJP living in the city will participate. Patel said that everyone should discharge the responsibility given to him/her engaged in arranging this dialogue of the PM with full dedication. He said that atten-tion should also be paid to the arrangements for drinking water, parking for vehicles, seating for women workers etc. District BJP president and

MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, city chief Vidyasagar Rai, Sanjay Sonkar, Ashok Patel, Anil Srivastava, Praveen Singh Gautam, Atma Vishweshwar, regional media in-charge Navratan Rathi, co-media in charge Santosh Solapurkar, JP Singh, Vijay Gupta, etc were also present in the meeting.

## One killed in road mishap PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

ADCM driver was killed when his vehicle collided with a truck on the highway in front of a petrol pump in Rasdhan village under Sikandra police station of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday early morning. The seriously injured driver was taken to the district hospital where doctors declared him dead. Reports said that Jai Prakash (30) of Kharka, Akbarpur Kotwali police area, was carrying milk pouches on the DCM towards Sikandra, his vehicle collided with the truck vehicle collided with the truck on Auraiya-Kanpur highway in front of a petrol pump in Rasdhan village under Sikandra police station area. As a result Jai Prakash was serious-ly injured. On getting information Rasdhan outpost incharge Gajendra Singh rushed to the spot and sent the injured Jai Prakash to the district hospital Prakash to the district hospital on the toll plaza's ambulance with the driver of another vehicle Sanjiv. Dr Nishant Pathak on emergency duty there declared the DCM driver dead. After sending the body to mortuary, the doctor sent a memo to the police. Rasdhan outpost incharge said the kin of outpost incharge said the kin of the deceased had been



Polling in Kanpur LS

Polling officials see the list of block as they arrive to collect EVMs for the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections at a distribution centre in Kanpur on Sunday. PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR deployed on all the polling centres. With the end of publicity

In view of the polling in Kanpur Lok Sabha con-stituency on Monday, the city police commissionerate has divided the district in 44 zones and 276 sectors. A sub-inspector and a homeguard had been

Monday, the district had been divided in 44 zones and 276 sectors. He said around 6,000 police personnel would ensure the peaceful polling on all the polling centres on Monday. Besides, three control rooms were set up to initiate action against all the complaints received there, he added.

District Election Officer (DEO) Rakesh Kumar Singh said that around 35,76,785 voters will cast their votes at 3,614 polling booths of 1,411 polling stations of Kanpur to elect their Lok Sabha representative. He said there will be one pink booth in each legislative assembly constituency where only women voting staff would be deployed.

Similarly, one booth will be managed by the persons with physical disability in the dis-trict. There will be one model booth in each assembly con-stituency also, he said.

## polling in the constituency on Programme for creating

campaigns 48 hours before the

polling, the security had been beefed up at all the prominent

Srivastava said in view of the

DCP (Crime) Ashish

spots of the city.

## awareness among voters PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARAMASI

National general secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunil Bansal has asked the party workers to gear up at every booth for a big win of BJP. Addressing the organisa-tional meeting of mandal in tional meeting of mandal in charges and others at the Central Election Office, Mahmoorganj here on Saturday, he said the time has come for booth victory cam-

paign. "Workers should gear up to bloom lotus at every booth. During the booth victory campaign, all the party workers and all the seven fronts should reach their respective booths and all frontal units and workers have been given different responsibilities and targets", he said, adding that the booth victory campaign will run from May 15 to 20, giving further impetus to the preparations to achieve the target of 370 plus at every booth. According to



Saturday.

with the youth at every booth

apart from meetings with

women, beneficiaries and

other voters. The list of names

of polling agents at every booth has to be made by May

20 and their training work-shop is to be held in every

Mandal after May 25", he said,

him, during the booth victory campaign, voter grading has to be cross- checked with the panna pramukhs in the booth meetings and they have to contact every house twice, first time with calendars and stickers and second time with handbills.

"We have to keep meeting asking every panna pramukh to have his 'panna' (page) in his pocket by June 1 and voter grading is to be done from panna pramukh from May 25 to 28.

"Only when the workers at Only when the workers at the booth level come togeth-er and work to strengthen the organisation, the party becomes strong at the state and national level. Booth empowerment work has been done continuously to expand the organisation and increase the party's support base", he

Varanasi Lok Sabha coor-dinator of BJP and MLC Ashwani Tyagi, Lok Sabha in charge and former minister Dr Satish Dwivedi, state vicepresident Mohit Beniwal, district and city in-charge Arun Pathak and Lok Sabha convenors Surendra Narayan Singh, Rahul Singh, Suresh Singh, Vaibhav Kapoor, Navratan Rathi, Shailendra Mishra etc were also present on the occasion.

Role of nursing

staff important

informed. Raids were on to nail the absconding truck driver, he said. Meanwhile a youth was feared drowned in the Ganga while three of his friends were

while three of his friends were rescued by the divers when they were bathing under the railway bridge in Gangaghat police station area of Shuklaganj, Unnao, on Sunday afternoon. According to a report received here, four friends Deepak Kashyap (16), Prince Kumar (16), Aditya Kumar (17) and Vishal Sahu (17) residents of Bagabi Bhatta (17), residents of Bagahi Bhatta, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur, had gone to Gangaghat for bathing in the river. When they started slipping into deep water, the divers rescued three of them while Vishal Sahu disappeared in the stream. The police rushed to spot and pressed the divers to trace him. The police have also informed the kin

The members of the social organisation 'Sultan Club' organised a programme for organised a programme for creating awareness among vot-ers at its Rasoolpura office here on Sunday under the chairmanship of Dr Ehteshamul Haq, president of the organisation, to ensure 100 per cent voting on June 1. Everyone took a pledge that by doing intensive public rela-tions in their area, they will make all the voters aware and make all the voters aware and appeal for maximum voting so that the target of making the record of highest voting can be achieved.

Club president Dr Ehteshamul Haq appealed to all to strengthen the democracy as Club voting is our right so we should use their franchise in every situation. "Be alert about misuse of votes by being lured by money. Participation of women in voting is very important and vote for the right candidate. By voting one can bring positive



The Sultan Club organising a voter awareness programme in Varanasi on Sunday

improvements in the future", he said, adding that on the election day, first vote and then have refreshments and do some other work.

In the awareness programme, vice presidents Ajay Kumar Verma and Mehboob

ed to the patients.

Ranking Tournament Series

will be organised at Ragendra

cates. To participate, players can contact Ashutosh Satyam

Jha (9956325357), Anuj Kumar Gautam (9140372374) and

Sahil Srivastava (8318896961).

On the pattern of Indian

Badminton Federation and UP

Badminton Association, three

district ranking tournaments will be held in Kanpur also to

be followed by the district championship. On the basis of

their ranking in these toura-

ments, players will be awarded

points. After the last tourna-

ment, winner/runner-up and players of semi-finals will be

felicitated with special prize.

Alam, general secretary H Hasan Nanhe, secretary Javed Akhtar, treasurer Shamim Riaz, Wafa Ansari, Abdur Rahman, Naseemul Haq, Hafiz Munir, Muhammad Ikram, Mukhtar Ahmed, Zeeshan, Akhtar etc were also present.

## Seminar organised on Int'l Nurses Day PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI taking care of patients and sup-

n International Nurses

about the incident.

porting doctors during treatment. Nursing is not a profes-sion but a responsibility that takes better care of human life. Other important responsibilities performed by them include monitoring the vital parame-ters of the patients, noting down their medical history for the doctor's observation, helping the patients understand the prescriptions and much more", she said. On the occasion Sister Rajkumari, Girish, Veena Shah, Madhuri Rai, Saroj Devi, Kamalvati, Girish Kumari, Dean of the college Vishnu Narayan, Principal Kavita and other health workers were present. On the other hand, Sister in charge Meera Devi said nurses take care of the patients and help oversee Nurses Day was celebrated at Urban Community Health the entire medical process, including aftercare and recov-Centre (UCHC) Durgakund. Superintendent Dr Sarika Rai ery. "Throughout the treatencouraged all the nurses. Dr ment conversation, nurses Manjusha, Dr Sonal, Dr monitor patients' progress and Imarsia, staff nurse Suman, Parvati, Sadhna Singh, Neetu, alert doctors when needed", Pooja, Priyanka, Bandana, Reshma and other health work-



Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham decorated ahead of 'Ganga Saptami' festival in Varanasi on Sunday.

## Adequate arrangements for drinking water at stations PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI Ashok Kumar, said. gers by running Og

In view of the heat the Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) has made adequate arrangements for the availability of pure drinking water at all the sta-tions in order to provide convenient and comfortable travel experience to the passengers during the journey. As many as 2,281 water taps and 348 hand pumps, including 72 water coolers, are functional for providing cold drinking water to the passengers at various sta-tions of this NER division, Public Relations Officer (PRO),

As per requirement, water coolers, water taps and hand

pumps are being installed at other places and faulty water coolers, water taps and hand pumps are being repaired and made functional. Similarly, in order to provide cheap, accessible and pure drinking water as per the demand of passen-gers, RO water is being provided to railway passengers at cheap rates through water vending machines at major stations.

Various works are also being done by the division for the convenience of the passen-

gers by running Operation Samvedna in summer in which, for the convenience of general coach passengers at major stations, all refreshment rooms of the division have been provid-ed space in front of these coaches to sell food and water bottles so that general coach passengers do not have to go far to the platforms. Water service is being provided to the passengers by providing drinking water to the passengers with the help of NGOs, Scouts and Guides

commissioner got such cases list-

ed. After this, reports were sought from the police stations con-

cerned whether anyone had been

involved in any criminal cases

recently. After this the matters were

settled. After the implementation

of the Police Commissionerate sys-

and other social organisations to provide free water to the general coach passengers at the high-ly crowded stations.

## in hospital: Dr Agarwal

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

¬o mark the International I Nurses Day here on Sunday A colourful programmes was organised in various hospitals of the city. A street drama was organised by Vatsalya Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Civil Lines. Nursing sciences, Civil Lines, Nursing students gave the message through the drama about how they take care of the patients wholeheartedly. Before this, a cake was also cut in Vatsalya Auditorium

PTI

and everyone was congratulated on Nursing Day. Director of the institute, Dr Kirtika Agarwal encouraged the nursing students. In the programme organised here, Dr Agarwal while addressing the nursing students, said the nursing staff plays an important role in the hospital. They take care of patients suffering from pain. Therefore, having a spirit of

service is very important. She advised to always keep moving forward in the nursing field. Principal of the institute, Dr Jyoti Marthe appreciated the work of her nursing staff.

Similarly, Pushpa, Nursing Officer at SRN Hospital said – "I consider the hospital as my home and the patients admitted here as members of my family. Taking care of patients with a spirit of service and arranging their medicines etc. is included in the daily routine.

Sister in charge Renu Singh at Swarooprani Nehru Hospital has been among the patients for 15 years. She never shied away from duty. On the other hand, Mala Sharma, posted in the PICU

ward of Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital, said – "I am a nurs-ing officer as well as a mother and we have double duty. When I come to the hospital, I take care of the patients admit-ted here with the same dedication that I bring up and take care of my children at home. I salute all those nursing staff who have chosen this field".

Day, a seminar was organ-ised at Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital located in Kabirchaura here on Sunday. Along with this a blood donation camp was organised under the auspices of the hospital in collaboration the hospital in collaboration with Mission College and Shiv Surgical College. During this period, about 25 nursing stu-dents donated blood. International Nurses Day is celebrated every year on May 12 to honour and appreciate the contribution of nurses who take care of patients with utmost devotion. This year the theme of the day was Our Nurses. Our Future. Economic Power of Care'. The day was first celebrated in 1974 to dedicate to the famous nurse Florence Nightingale, because May 12

is the birthday of Florence



Jaiswal said nurses are responsible for the service and care of patients. "Their main job is to monitor the patient's condition, take care of treatment and medicines as well as provide them medical advice. Nurses serve the patients day and night along with doctors. The role of a nurse is the same as that of a doctor in the lives

is the Drumany Nightingale. During the seminar, Accistant Nursing proper protocol in the hospishe said. Suman Pandey said the specific roles played by nurses in health care include Youth found hanging

## PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

youth was found hanging

A youth was found hanging in a field near Ludhaura village under Bilhaur police sta-tion on Sunday morning. On getting information the police rushed to the spot and probed the issue. His kin alleged that the youth was killed and then his body was hanged. According to a report, Santosh of Kutra village, Bilhaur, is a farmer. His son Udaivir (21) had gone to field to see waterhad gone to field to see watermad gone to held to see water-melon crop on Saturday night and did not return home. Around 9 am on Sunday Udaivir was found hanging from a shisham tree in the field of Ahbad Ullah of the village and his kin were informed. Hundreds of villagers immedi-ately rushed to the spot and police also carried out investipolice also carried out investi-gation after sending the body for autopsy. His kin alleged that after killing Udaivir, the body was hanged from the tree. Station House Officer (SHO) Keshav Tewari said the body

had been sent for an autopsy

and a probe was on taking the allegations of kin into consideration. On receipt of autopsy report, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said.

Meanwhile a slaughter house worker was stabbed to death by his colleague follow-ing a dispute in Banther under Achalganj police area of Unnao on Saturday afternoon. His other colleagues present there caught hold of the assailant and handed him over to the police. Noor Mohammad of Gonda ment. Participants will be awarded prizes and certifisuddenly got into a fight with Babu of Nanapara, Behraich. Thereafter Noor attacked Babu with the knife. Due to multiple attacks, Babu fell unconscious on the floor. The injured was admitted to a nursing home in Kanpur where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. SO Sanjiv Kushwaha along with forensic team also rushed to spot and carried out investigation. Elder brother of the deceased Ezaz lodged an FIR against Noor Mohammad.

TOURNAMENT: The First Kanpur Badminton

## Woman commits will be organised at Ragendra Swarup Sports Academy, Kalyanpur, from May 17 to 19. Registration for participation will be done online or at the Academy office till May 15. Shuttlers from different age groups including U-9, U-13, U-17 (boys/girls singles), U-13 and U-17 (boys/girls doubles) will take part in the tourna-ment. Participants will be suicide PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

ers were present.

A woman allegedly commit-ted suicide by hanging her-self in Mahut Dera of Ludhauri village under Vidhnu police area on Saturday evening.

On getting information about the incident, when her aunt rushed to spot, she found that all the members of her inlaws' family had asbconded leaving the body on a cot. The police sent the body of the deceased for an autopsy after a 'panchnama' in presence of the magistrate.

Reports received here said that Rizwana (22), daughter of Mohammad Shami of Maharajpur, was married to Ashu of Ludhauri village in 2020. Station Officer (SO) Prem Chandra Kanaujia said action was being initiated in the matter after a probe.

## **32-year-old** man dies of electric shock PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ the team of doctors declared Court made a unique record Court made a unique record

A<sup>32</sup>-year-old man died of electric shock in Diwanganj market under Phulpur police station here on Sunday. Rakesh Kumar who was posted as gram panchayat officer in a block of Sultanpur district was ironing his clothes on Sunday morning when sud-denly he got electrocuted due to the electric current in the iron. As a result of which he was seriously injured. His family members immediately took him to the community health

him dead. The deceased Rakesh was married two years ago. The wife is said to be pregnant. A pall of gloom descended on the family. The police took the body into custody and sent it for the post-mortem examination. On getting information a huge crowd of villagers and others gathered at the hospital. When the information about his death was received at Sultanpur, the staff there expressed grief over his untimely demise.

tem in Prayagraj, 3,853 Goonda DISPOSED OF: The Act cases were transferred to the centre (CHC) Phulpur where Prayagraj Commissionerate Police Commissioner's Court.

late on Saturday night. Marathon hearings were conducted to dispose of Goonda Act cases pending for years. By late night the court disposed of total712 cases of Goonda Act. The

he pioneer

#### LUCKNOW | MONDAY | MAY 13, 2024

Format C-1

Court of Bombay.

complainant and same is

#### Section(s) of/Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s) SS. 499, 500 IPC Status of case(s) Trial was stayed by the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in terms of order 10.02.2021 in Special Criminal Application No. 1744/2021 filled by the complainant. Name of Court Court of Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate 13, Ahmedabad, Gujarat Case No. and dated Criminal Case No. S. No. Alleged defamation case against Ahmedabad District Co-operative Bank and its Chairman on deposit of 750 crores during demonetization. 29989/2019 (As per the judgement dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) Name and address of candidate: Rahul Gandhi, 10 Janpath, New Delhi 110001 complainant. A private criminal complaint was filed with regard to an alleged defamatory statement made by the Accused against the so-called Modi Samaj under SS. 499, 500 IPC. Court of Additional District & Sessions Judge 8th, Surat, Gujarat SS. 499, 500 IPC Criminal Appeal No. 254/2023 Name of political party: Indian National Congress Alleged defamatory statement made by the accused against allegedly the so called Modi Samaj. Name of Election Lok Sabha General Election- 2024 SS. 499, 500 IPC. Candidate-Accused was convicted and sentenced to Simple Imprisonment for 2 years on 23.03.2023. As it was a 2 year sentence hence sentence was suspended for 30 days by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat on 23 March 2023. 8th Additional Sessions Judge, Surat granted bail to the Accused on 3 April 2023 and suspended the sentence of the Accused pending appeal vide order dated 3 April 2023. The order of conviction has been stayed vide order dated 4 August 2023 by Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (Crl.) No. 8644/2023 which is pending. Pursuant to the Supreme Name of Constituency: 36- Rae Bareli Parliamentary Constituency Rahul Gandhi, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents: (A) Pending criminal cases Section(s) of/Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s) SS. 228A IPC S. No. Name of Court Case No. and dated Status of case(s) Not Available FIR No. 240/2021 dated 09.09.2021 Delhi. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in W.P.(C) 8210/2021 SS. 23(4) POCSO SS. 74 Juvenile Justice Act its order dated 24.01.2024 referred to the existence of the aforementioned FIR. Alleged disclosure of identity The FIR per direction of the of parents of minor rape Hon'ble High Court is in sealed cover. I am victim girl on the Twitter handle of the candidate. therefore, not aware of the details of the FIR. I am also Pursuant to the Supreme Court order on 4 August 2023 the Lok Sabha issued a notification dated 7 August 2023 canceling the "disqualification". not aware of whether I am arraigned as an accused in this FIR. I am, however, disclosing its existence out of abundant caution. Court of Metropolitan Magistrate 16, Ahmedabad, Gujarat Trial was stayed by the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in terms of order dated 24.02.2021 in Special Criminal Application No. 2010/2021 filed by the complainant. 10 Criminal Enquiry Case No. 36580/2019 SS. 499, 500 IPC Alleged defamation against Bharatiya Janata Party, its leaders, supporters and workers with reference to criminal antecedents of the President of the Party. FIR No. 0362/2022 dated h Addl. Chief Investigation was stayed in 2 Copyright Act u/s 63 Metropolitan Magistrate Court, terms of order dated 16.12.2022 in Writ Petition No. 25123/2022 by Hon'ble IT Act u/s 66 and SS 34, 120B, 403, 465 IPC 4.11.2022 Yeshwanthapura Police Station, Bengaluru City, Nrupatunga It is alleged against the accused that they have used song/(s) that the Road, Bangalore Karnataka High Court of Karnataka. On 28.6.2023 the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka City 11 Special Judicial **Criminal Case Complaint** Trial was stayed by the SS. 499, 500 IPC Complainant had copyrights was pleased to dismiss the over in the social media/Twitter handle of Hon'ble Patna High Court in terms of order dated Magistrate MP/MLA Court, above writ petition. (P) 1551/2019 Alleged defamatory statement made by the accused against allegedly all 24.04.2023 in Special Indian National Congress Patna, Bihar while covering a video of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Criminal Misc No. 73323/2019. persons with surname Modi. WP/3011/2023 filed before SS. 499, 500 IPC 3 Court of Complaint Case No. Special Court MP/MLA, Ranchi, Complaint Case 1993/2019 (MP/MLA Case 1. Cr. M.P. No. 152/2020 u/s 482 of Cr.P.C. against 12 SS. 499, 500 IPC the Hon'ble Bombay High Court challenging order Metropolitan 311/SS/2023 Magistrate 9th summoning order before Hon'ble Jharkhand High Alleged defamatory No. 17/2021) Alleged defamation against RSS with reference to the Jharkhand dated 23.11.2019 rejecting Court Bandra, statement made by the the application for dismissal Mumbai, accused against so called of Complaint on the ground that two separate offences Court. The petition was murder of journalist Gauri Maharashtra dismissed vide order dated Modi clan Lankesh. 5.7.2022. cannot be tried together is pending. 2. WP Cr. No. 302/2023 was allowed vide order dated 16.08.2023 Complaint Case No. SS. 499, 500 IPC 4 Special Court The order dated 1698/2018 (MP/MLA Case 15.09.2018 passed in Cr. MP/MLA, Ranchi, exempting personal Revision No. 281/2018 by which the Magistrate was Jharkhand No. 16/2021) Alleged defamation against appearance by the Hon'ble Bhartiya Janata Party, its High Court at Ranchi. leaders, supporters and workers with reference to directed to take a fresh look on the materials available 13 Court of 40th Complaint Case CC No. Trial was stayed by the SS. 499, 500 IPC on record, after he had criminal antecedents of the Metropolitan Magistrate Hon'ble Bombay High Court in terms of order Alleged defamation against Prime Minister Shri Narendra 6200/SS/2021 dismissed the complaint, President of the Party. was challenged in Cr. M.P. No. 4241/2018 before the Girgaon, Mumbai, dated 22.11.2021 in Writ Modi. Petition No. 4391/2021. Hon'ble High Court of Maharashtra Jharkhand at Ranchi and vide order dated 16.02.2024 the WP was 1. Cr.M.P. No. 1368/2022 14 Special MP/MLA Complaint Case 229/2021 SS. 499, 500 IPC Court. Chaibasa, u/s 482 of Cr.P.C. in dismissed Jharkhand Jharkhand High Court Alleged defamation against Bharatiya Janata Party, its leaders, supporters and against summoning order is 5 Court of Chief Complaint Case C.R. Criminal Revision Petition SS. 499, 500 IPC pending. Judicial 559/2016 No. 26/2023 was filed workers with reference to criminal antecedents of the Alleged defamation against Magistrate, before the Additional 2. W.P. Cr. No. 230/2024 District and Sessions Judge RSS with reference to Kamrup persons belonging to RSS not allowing the Accused to was filed challenging order dated 27.02.2024 passed President of the Party (Metropolitan), by Complainant challenging Guwahati, Assam order dated 18.3.2023 by learned Magistrate, Chaibasa issuing NBW. passed by the learned visit Barpeta Satra. Additional Chief Judicial Hon'ble High Court vide Magistrate, Kamrup in C.R. Case No. 559/2016. The order dated 20.03.2024 stayed NBW for one month. Criminal Revision Petition was allowed vide order 3. W.P.(Cr.) No. 276 of dated 22.09.2023. The 2024 filed before the Hon'ble Jharkhand High ACJM, Kamrup, Guwahati was directed to hear both Court and vide order dated 25.04.2024 it has been parties afresh and pass fresh order. directed that further proceedings shall remain Court of the 3rd 1. WP ST/14290/2023 filed SS. 499, 500 IPC 6 Complaint Case SCC by the Accused challenging the admissibility of stayed. Jt Civil Judge, JD, JMFC, 2425/2014 Alleged defamation against 15 Complaint Case No. The Hon'ble Court was SS. 499, 500 IPC ACJM (Custom), documents is pending before Hon'ble High Court Bhiwandi, RSS with reference to Lucknow, Uttar 628/2018 pleased to dismiss the Maharashtra association of members of of Bombay. 2. WP/799/2022 filed by the Pradesh aforementioned private Alleged defamation of Prime RSS with the murder of complaint vide order dated 26.09.2019. Mahatma Gandhi. Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Complainant challenging Bhartiya Janata Party, its order rejecting application for issuance of witness Criminal Revision 283/2022 leaders and workers. summons was rejected on was filed by the 22.6.2022 by Hon'ble High

(A) Pending criminal cases

		No.1024 of 2016 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which was disposed off vide order dated 12.02.2016, whereby all inferences and conclusions drawn by the High Court, on the various factual aspects in the matter were expunged and liberty was granted to raise all the issues before the trial court. Moreover, trial court proceedings have been stayed on 22.02.2021 by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on a 482 petition (CrI.M.C. No. 578/2021) filed by the Complainant. These is no charge and no conviction.		1	Complaint Case No. 18712/2019, Metropolitan Magistrate, Surat Order of conviction dated 23.03.2023	A private criminal complaint was filed with regard to an alleged defamatory statement made by the Accused against the so-called Modi Samaj under SS. 499, 500 IPC. I was convicted and sentenced to Simple Imprisonment for 2 years on 23.03.2023. As it was a 2 years sentence hence sentence was suspended for 30 days by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat on 23 March 2023. 8th Additional Sessions Judge, Surat granted bail to me on 3 April 2023 and suspended the sentence to me pending appealvide order dated 3 April 2023. The order of conviction has finally been stayed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (Crl.) No. 8644/2023 vide order dated 4 August 2023 Pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on 4 August 2023, the Lok Sabha issued a notification dated 7 August 2023, the Lok Sabha issued a notification. And restored my Membership as Member of Parliament.		2 years	
			Supreme Court, which was disposed off vide order dated 12.02.2016, whereby all inferences and conclusions drawn by the	M/s Young Indian and its Directors.	(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences   Name of Court & date(s) of S.No. Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed			Maximum Punishment Imposed	
7	Court of Ms. Taniya Bamniyal, ACMM-III, Rouse Avenue Courts, New Delhi	Complaint Case No. 18/ 2019	The summoning order dated 26.06.2014 was challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide Crl. M.C. No. 3333 of 2014. The Hon'ble High Court was pleased to dismiss the petition vide order dated 7.12.2015. Against the order dated 07.12.2015 a SLP Crl	SS. 403, 406, 420 r/w 120-B IPC Private Complaint by Dr. Subramanian Swamy, former MP Rajya Sabha (former Member of BJP National Executive) regarding alleged conspiracy to criminally misappropriate and cheat the shareholders of M/s The Associated Journals Ltd. by	18	Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru, Karnataka	Complaint Case 7399/2024	Matter is currently pending before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru for service of other accused parties.	<b>SS. 499, 500 IPC</b> It is alleged that the accused have made false imputations against the ministers and office bearers of the Bhartiya Janta Party for having a rate card for appointment and transfer in important government posts.
			dismiss the petition vide order dated 10.03.2015. Against the order dated 15.12.2014 an SLP Crl. No. 3749/2015 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which was dismissed as withdrawn vide order dated 01.09.2016.		17	Special Court MP/MLA, Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh	Criminal Misc. Case No. 1943/2018	The matter is currently pending in the Special Court MP/MLA, Sultanpur where process was issued on 08.01.2024 and the accused was admitted to bail on 20.02.2024. A plea is yet to be recorded and the trial is pending.	<b>SS. 499, 500 IPC</b> Alleged defamation against Bharatiya Janata Party, its office bearers with reference to criminal antecedents of the President of the Party.
			Order dated 20/9/2021 by Hon'ble High Court of Bombay. 4. The summoning order dated 11.07.2014 passed by the Ld. J.M.F.C, Bhiwandi was challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay vide Criminal Writ Petition No. 4960 of 2014. Hon'ble High Court was pleased to		16	ACJM COURT NO.27, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh	Criminal Misc. Case No. 126818/2022	The Hon'ble Court was pleased to dismiss the aforementioned private complaint vide order dated 14.6.2023 Criminal Revision 547/2023 was filed by the complainant and same is pending before Hon'ble Special Court, MP/MLA Court No. 19, Lucknow.	SS. 499, 500 IPC Alleged defamation of Shri Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.
			Court of Bombay. 3. WP/376/2019 filed by the Complainant challenging application rejecting to mark the transcript copy as an Exhibit. Rejected vide	 				complainant and same is pending before Hon'ble ADJ, Court No. 14, Lucknow.	

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Wild card

The interim bail to Kejriwal for campaigning adds yet another layer to an already intricate election

elhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had been under judicial custody for 50odd days after the Enforcement Directorate named him in the multi-crore liquor scam, has made a wild card entry as a participant in electioneering. Known for his dynamic role as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, his sudden release from incarceration injects a new fervour into an intense electoral situation, particularly impacting the BJP's strategies and reinvigorating the Opposition campaign. As expected, Kejriwal has come down heavily on the ruling party, accusing it of subverting democracy and misusing law-enforcement agencies to imprison the Opposition leaders on one pretext or the other. Interestingly, he also now claims that the BJP's senior leaders are being sidelined and India is being pushed into a "one nation, one leader" paradigm. The situation is indeed ominous for the BJP; Kejriwal's absence had provided it with a temporary advantage to consolidate its support base without facing the AAP challenge in cer-



tain regions where it holds influence and sway. Kejriwal's return, however, resumes the battle in earnest and necessitates a reassessment of campaign strategy. The BJP must now recalibrate its outreach efforts to counter AAP's influence, especially in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana (The polling in Gujarat has already concluded). The party poses significant challenge to the BJP with its anti-corruption and populist policies. Though he is not the proverbial all-powerful leader, Kejriwal has the ability to galvanise support, particularly among urban voters and the youth, and his presence significantly boosts the prospects of the Opposition's INDIA bloc. With the voting percentage remaining consis-

tently low and several Supreme Court decisions going against it, the BJP must find new ways to take on its challengers. The party leaders have reached out to satraps Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray in Maharashtra ahead of Phase IV, but the latter have not responded positively to the BJP's overtures. In the light of these developments, the BJP must intensify its efforts to consolidate its support base and mitigate the potential impact of Kejriwal's resurgence. It must rely upon Modi's oratorial skills, aggressive campaigning, targeted messaging and new alliances to win in crucial constituencies. It is time for the BJP to capitalise on its nationalistic agenda and developmental initiatives to appeal to voters, presenting itself as the party best equipped to lead India forward. For the Opposition, Kejriwal's release offers hope and a renewed sense of purpose. By leveraging public dissatisfaction with the status quo, working to heighten the feeling of antiincumbency among the electorate and raking up issues of public concern such as corruption, inflation and unemployment, the Opposition can cobble up a more cohesive and effective campaign. Given the unpredictable nature of voter preferences, it is hard to tell what resonates with them. They may act emotionally at times but they are not foolish, are they?



# Pakistani military tightens grip



pinion 06

BHOPINDER SINGH

Imran Khan's confrontational stance against the military establishment seems to be leading to his own downfall. Khan's defiance has only served to further isolate him

merican scholar, Stephen Cohen, notes in his article title Pakistan: Army, Society and Security, There are armies which guard their nation's borders, there are armies which are concerned with protecting their own position in society, and there are armies which defend a cause or an idea. The Pakistan Army does all three". Even though it is a Military that has never won any war (1947-48, 1965, 1971 or 1999) and is struggling miserably to contain elements of religious extremism from across the Durand Line - it remains the last institution that hasn't succumbed to the curse of puritanism that is eating into the already moth-eaten Pakistan. It can be argued that besides the Pakistani Military, the two other pieces of the ruling troika i.e., ivilian politicians and the clergy, have failed the sovereign, far more. Counterintuitive as it sounds, the Pakistani 'establishment' (read, Military), despite all its manipulations is still the best bet to protect the Pakistani State from imploding.

Despite vile attempts by unhinged politicians and the clergy to fan divisive passions on the lines of sectarianism, regionalism, or ethnicities - the disciplined and 'monolith' construct of the Pakistani Military inherited from the British Raj integrated its diversities in Balouch Regiment, Frontier Force Regiment, Punjab Regiment, Sindh Regiment et al. Few derelictions like General Zia-ul-Haq or Hamid Gul aside, the institution was relatively westernized, moderate, and inclusive. It zealously protected its ways and interests with disproportionate budgetary allocations and ensuring that it always had the right of the way, formally or informally. It chose dispensations without harbouring any ideological preferences and brazenly chose and dropped those who didn't toe the line. It didn't not even the 'no-go' zones of eally care about optics of contradiction and shifting preferences, as it chose between the Bhuttos PPP (Pakistan People's Party) and Sharifs PML-N (Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz) with impunity. In 2018, the 'establishment' tired



of both the PPP and PML-N brought in and 'selected' Imran Khan's PTI (Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaaf) as the face of governance, even though the strings were pulled by the Generals neighbouring from Rawalpindi.

But what they hadn't bargained for was the seriousness and immaturity with which the vainglorious Pathan from Mianwali would start imagining his own prowess. Imran mistakenly thought he had outgrown the need to remain beholden to the Pakistan 'establishment', and that was to be his undoing. A reluctant, screaming, and shouting Imran Khan was ousted from power and the much discredited and familiar faces from the past, ushered in. It was an important lesson in Pakistani politics. When the tide turns, any political force that appeals to the Generals, can stage a comeback. Except perhaps Imran Khan, who dug his heels and refused to learn from history. His cadre perpet-uated the 'May 9' riots and plunder that spared no one cantonments or residences of

the most popular leader and the Bhuttos and Sharifs the most despised, it is the latter who are in power, courtesy the Pakistani Military. The obstinate Imran has boxed himself into a corner by pivoting his credentials to grandstanding against the Pakistani Military, and that denies him the realistic chance to return. His only chance to succeed with his current strategy is the Pakistani Military were to become irrelevant, but such a hypothetical situation would also make the survival of A RELUCTANT, Pakistan as a sovereign state, SCREAMING, AND untenable.

Faultlines deepen with the SHOUTING IMRAN Military mouthpiece Inter Services Public Relations KHAN WAS OUSTED (ISPR) insisting that dialogue FROM POWER AND with PTI is only possible if it "earnestly apologises publicly in front of the nation". It THE MUCH added for good measure that PTI must adopt "constructive DISCREDITED AND politics" and avoid, "politics of FAMILIAR FACES anarchy". Clearly it would be FROM THE PAST, suicidal for PTI to stoop so low after much theatric defiance and acceptance of its role USHERED IN. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT LESSON IN

PTI. It seems the Pakistani Military is hell bent on making PTI and Imran pay dearly for daring to challenge the 'establishment', and this recent precondition for thawing relationship was meant to harden the divide and make it impossible for PTI/Imran to soften stand.

As if on cue, the Pakistani Military is making efforts to normalise its relations with the historical ally, the United States of America (as the same was specifically targeted by Imran Khan). It also acts as a hedge against Chinese support, and it strengthens equations with Arab Sheikhdoms, concurrently. As it is, the bloody battle ensuing currently for the Pakistani Military is with the Afghanistan based Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TPP), on whom Imran Khan or 'Taliban Khan' was particularly accommodative. Clearly there is no upside for the Pakistani State to retain the belligerence and extremist stand as championed by Imran Khan in his hustings, and therefore all such policies, would scar PTI with anarchial PTI infrastructure, and Imran and unpatriotic attributions (as Khan personally must become despite history Pakistani the sacrificial goat Imran has none, but himself to blame for the same (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Ándaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

Generals. The Pakistani 'establishment' did what it does better - care two-hoots for the popularity of Imran Khan and attacked his party, people and infrastruc-ture. While Imran is arguably

PAKISTANI POLITICS

Military remains the beacon of patriotism, in Pakistani consciousness). This showdown with railing words between the Military and PTI also counters the accusations of 'false-flag operation', as alluded to by the

India Gate lit in red to raise awareness on World Thalassemia Day, in New Delhi

## Empowering working mothers financially



LALITHA BHATIA

The crucial role of insurance in hedging uncertainty and financial planning for working women cannot be overstated

and pursue future aspira-

tions. One of the key advan-

options, enabling working

mothers to tailor their cover-

age according to their specif-

tion, preserving the family

other's Day is a truly special day to cele-brate the amazing women who have played an irreplaceable role in our lives. Amidst the daily balancing act of career aspirations and family responsibilities, the critical need for securing their financial future often takes a back seat. Despite the gradual increase in insurance buyers, the proportion of women availing themselves of this essential protection remains disproportionately low. This underscores not only a gap in workforce demographics but also highlights a pervasive perception among women that life insurance is not a pressing neces-

Mothers be it working professions or homemakers are the unsung heroes of many households. The working mother adeptly managing both professional commitments and familial duties with grace and resilience while the homemaker juggles varying responsibilities within the home to ensure that their families are taken care off. They serve as pillars of strength, providing unwavering support and love to their



families. However, amidst the daily whirlwind of activities, the critical aspect of ensuring financial protection for their loved ones can sometimes be sidelined. In the realm of financial plan-

ic needs and financial goals. ning, term insurance emerges as a silent yet formidable By accurately assessing their shield, offering comprehenfamily's lifestyle, expenses, sive protection against life's outstanding debts, and longuncertainties. Unlike other term aspirations, mothers can determine the optimal sum forms of insurance, term assured that adequately insurance provides pure protection coverage, ensuring addresses their loved ones' that in the unfortunate event requirements. of the policyholder's demise Life is inherently unpreduring the policy term, their

beneficiaries receive the prelikes to dwell on worst-case determined sum assured. scenarios, prudent planning Safeguarding the Future: For for the unexpected is paraworking mothers, term insurmount, especially for working ance holds paramount impormothers. Term insurance protance in safeguarding the vides peace of mind, knowing future well-being of their that irrespective of life's loved ones. It acts as a safety uncertainties, their family's net, ensuring that in the safeguarded. Whether it's absence of the primary breadensuring continuity of educawinner, the family's financial

needs are adequately met.

Whether it's covering daily home, or securing a comfortexpenses, children's educaable retirement for aging partion, or servicing outstanding ents, term insurance empowdebts, the lump sum payout ers working mothers to plan from a term insurance polifor the future with conficy alleviates financial burdens, dence and assurance. allowing the family to main-tain its standard of living With the constant rise in

inflation rates, retirement planning has become increasingly critical, especially for working mothers. tages of term insurance is its flexibility and customization It's essential for them to secure their finances before retiring. One effective method is to opt for a term insurance plan with a maturity benefit. This allows them to accumulate a substantial corpus over time, providing a lump sum amount upon maturity, thus ensuring financial stability during retirement. Whether women are achieving greater financial independence or dictable, and while no one assuming primary roles in caregiving and household management, it's crucial that they recognize the importance of securing their future. They must take proactive measures to align their savings and financial protection with their evolving needs financial security remains and responsibilities.

(The writer is an insurance professional;

views are personal)

#### LETTERS EEDITOR

## **POLITICAL TURMOIL**

Madam — Apropos the editorial "Testing Times," published on 11th May, this is my response. In Haryana, politics has become a chess game of checkmates who intend to play foul with one another. Consequent to support withdrawn by three independent MLAs, the ruling BJP Government has turned into a minority, JJP has submit-ted a letter to the Governor's office seeking the floor test for the Saini-led BJP Government.

In this era of political upheaval, JJP is embroiled in party discord. The news of its three MLAs indirectly supporting the BJP is going viral. In defeating the BJP, the chances of JJP breaking up are becoming stronger. At present, it is not only the time of litmus test for the BJP, but the opposition parties are self-indulgent in the dirty game of condemnation and their lust for power has forced them to join hands besides leaving ideological differences

#### **CENSORSHIP IN CINEMA**

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Aamir Khan says he was unsure about censor board passing 'Sarfarosh' over mentions of Pak, ISI," published on May 11, this is my response. Aamir Khan's revelation about the challenges faced during the making of "Sarfarosh" sheds light on the censorship climate of its time. The film's bold portrayal of India-Pakistan tensions, despite concerns, resonated with audiences, earning both critical acclaim and commercial success. Naseeruddin Shah's reminiscence of Pakistani admiration for his role underscores the film's impact beyond borders.

The behind-the-scenes anecdotes, like the censorship of the goat scene, offer intriguing insights into filmmaking challenges. Director John Matthew Matthan's secrecy surrounding the film's theme adds to its mystique. Moreover, the actors' reflections highlight the film's significance in their careers, with Sonali Bendre expressing gratitude for a role that show-



on't you know that the Palestinians, who were evicted by Israel from their land with the help of America, will not get their own country even in this 21st century? Seeing the suffering and pain of Palestinians, my doubt had changed into belief that, there is no justice anywhere in this world. Be it the United Nations or the International Court of Justice. no one has any right to end injustice. Only one law rules on this earth, and that is 'Might is Right' or "my way or

cased depth. Overall, "Sarfarosh" stands not only as a compelling thriller but also as a testament to cinema's power in addressing complex socio-political issues.

Kiara Sharma | Mumbai

#### **BOUNDLESS HUMAN POTENTIAL**

Madam - Apropos the news article, 'Traits of a Successful Person," published on May 11, this is my response. Every morning, as I delve into the pages of the newspaper, I find myself drawn to stories that transcend mere information-they ignite a spark within, nudging me to ponder the essence of human existence. The narrative about embracing our fullest potential resonates deeply, reminding me that life is an odyssey from the ordinary to the extraordinary. The analogy of muscles resonates profoundly—the notion that our minds, like muscles, require constant stretching to grow and adapt. It's a call to action, urging us to embrace challenges as catalysts for personal evolution. The tale of Rahul Bajaj's sons repurposing scrap from INS Vikrant for scooters exemplifies this ethos. It's a testament to the power of

## **Palestine's struggle**

highway". Now see, it has been 79 years since the UN was established.

The UN General Assembly's recent resolution advocating Palestine's full membership highlights the international community's ongoing efforts to address the long-standing conflict and ensure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood, despite the lack of progress in the peace process. The Arab and Palestinian-sponsored resolution, which left the world body with 25 members absent, was approved by the bloc of 143 by 9 votes. The United States, along with Israel, Argentina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and New Guinea, competed against Papua and opposed it. The overwhelming majority vote will still deny Palestine full membership. Yes, Palestine will now attend some meetings. In some departments of the UN, its officers can be appointed

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

audacious ideas and the willingness to venture into the unknown. Moreover, the concept of the Universe conspiring in our favour strikes a chord of optimism. It's a belief in the interconnectedness of all things, where positive thoughts manifest into tangible outcomes. This aligns with the philosophy of shouldering responsibility with a 'YES MIND', fostering synergy and abundance within teams.

At its core, it's about cultivating a mindset of abundance, gratitude and unwavering faith in a higher power. Whether we attribute it to divine intervention or the cosmic dance of energy, the essence remains the same: the power of positive thinking shapes our reality. As I set down the paper, I carry with me a renewed sense of puroose—a reminder to harness the boundless potential within and embrace life's journey with open arms. For in the pursuit of greatness lies the true essence of being human

Kabir Mehra | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

aside

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

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## **FIRSTCOLUMN POLL RHETORIC: ETHICS TAKE A BACKSEAT**

Politicians' spiritual claims and secular pledges belie their true motives



VINOD BEHL

n the heat and dust of national elections marked by the fiercest poll slugfest, we are seeing the ugly face of humanity with ethics getting a big hit. On the face of it, politicians of all hues flaunt their spiritual and secular credentials, making rounds of religious shrines and swearing by the secular constitution. But their public discourses in election rallies and conduct are to the contrary as they take to deception and false narratives with truth being a major casualty. With their poisonous outbursts, they display their unholy behaviour as they don't hesitate even to resort to character assassination to run down their opponents. In this digital age, the rampant use of AI makes matters even worse.

Today in the poll arena where money and muscle power have become a byword, we see dignity, honesty, and nobleness giving way to greed, dishonesty, wickedness and immorality. Seeing the everincreasing trend of 'turncoats' and election engineering by political parties, we find that society is being divided on the lines of caste, community and religion, with impunity.

Truly speaking, the problem with us is that we humans are in a mad race for power and material possessions. This weans us away from spirituality. So overwhelming is the influence of materialism that we even forget our true identity as 'Spiritual Beings' (a constituent of Super soul /Divine Soul- God). Instead, we consider the physical body and all material assets associated with it as our identity. Blinded by the glitter of materialism, our true nature- purity and nobility gets completely overshadowed and we end up embracing sinfulness. And then we don't mind going to any length in selfish-



ness, cheating, corruption and criminality for material gains and to fulfil ulterior motives. Our intoxication of wealth and power leads to moral bankruptcy, robbing us of happiness and peace.

We may have wealth and high positions. But what's its use if it comes at the cost of our moral values and ethics? Such material success is devoid of bliss. Humans are a crown creation among all species on this planet earth and we have been given this rare birth with a mission to know God and become one with Him. The oneness of God leads to the oneness of humanity. Once that self-realization dawns on us. our negative tendencies gradually give way to divine attributes. Maintaining the purity of our soul leads us to become true human beings, real and everlasting happiness and peace come into our lives when we stay connected with One God, the powerhouse of love, happiness and peace and learn to maintain a balance between spirituality and materialism. In the midst of heated national elections characterized by intense political rivalry, we witness a disturbing erosion of ethics and morality. Despite politicians' outward displays of spiritual and secular values, their actions tell a different story as they resort to deceit and character assassination for electoral gains. As money and power dominate the political landscape, principles like dignity and honesty are overshadowed by greed and immorality. Political tactics based on division along caste, community, and religious lines further fragment society. Fundamentally, humanity's relentless pursuit of power and material wealth has distanced us from our spiritual essence. We often prioritise material possessions over our true identity as spiritual beings, leading to moral degradation and a pursuit of selfish gains at any cost. However, true fulfillment lies in aligning with our spiritual nature and connecting with the divine, which fosters unity and genuine peace.

# AMU breaks the gender barrier



analys \$ 07

AKHTARUL WASEY

Professor Naima Khatoon's historic appointment as AMU's first woman V-C in over a century represents a significant milestone for gender equality in Indian academia



ortunately, Professor Naima Khatoon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, a moment long-awaited by the Aligarian community. Professor Khatoon's journey within AMU has been extensive, having served previously as the Principal of the Women's College. Her association with the university spans an impressive 46 years, beginning as an outstanding student who consistently excelled in her examinations. Graduating with a doctorate in Psychology in 1989, Professor Khatoon's rise to the Vice Chancellorship on April 22, 2024, a testament to her dedication and academic prowess. An interesting facet of her appointment is the transition from her husband, Professor Muhammad Gulrez, who held the position of Acting Vice Chancellor prior. Professor Gulrez is recognised for his significant contributions to West Asian Studies and has displayed exemplary integrity and resilience during his tenure. Professor Khatoon's administrative journey within AMU includes noteworthy positions such as Chairperson of the Department of Psychology and Director General, Superintendent, Provost and more. Her appointment as Vice Chancellor also holds historical significance, marking her as the second Muslim woman to hold such a position at a Central University. This achievement follows Dr. Najma Akhtar's appointment as the first Muslim lady Vice Chancellor at Jamia Millia Islamia five years prior. The legacy of women's Leadership at AMU traces



back to its inception, with Begum Sultan Jahan being the universi-ty's first elected Chancellor in December 1920. Professor Khatoon's contribu-

tions to the field of Psychology are well-documented, with six books and 31 papers, earning acclaim both nationally and internationally. Her academic pursuits have taken her across the globe HER STRATEGIC on various academic assignments, enriching her perspective and

It is anticipated that Professor Naima Khatoon will leverage the expertise of the internationally renowned scholar, Professor Raheem Abdur Kidwai, Honorary Director of the K. A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies. Professor Kidwai, besides being a Professor of English, has earned acclaim for his critiques on the translations of the Quran into English and other languages. The Department of Islamic expertise. Beyond her scholarly Studies and the Faculty of and a commitment to faith. Her Professor Theology at AMU hold the potential to evolve into Think Tanks for Muslims worldwide. Aligarh Muslim University, known not only for its academic excellence but also as a centre of Muslim culture and Civilisation can reshape the narrative. Indian Muslim faculty Members specialising in Islamic Studies and Sunni and Shia theology dedicated to nation-building and community welfare. They are well-positioned to provide guidance grounded in scriptures and to serve as beacons of harmony and unity within the Indian Muslim community. The AMU Jama Masjid stands out as perhaps the only mosque, besides the Kaaba and the Prophet's mosque, where both progress Sunnis and Shias offer congrega-tional prayers. This model of fraternity should be emulated across India. Nigerians should

various schools of thought. Aligarians take pride in the fact that the first educational institution to impart modern knowledge was established at Aligarh. The election of a Muslim woman as Vice Chancellor of AMU, following in the footsteps of Professor Najma Akhtar, underscores this legacy. Professor Naima Khatoon, who has recently assumed office, brings with her impeccable academic credentials

(The writer is a veteran journalist; views are personal)

APPOINTMENTS, SUCH AS THAT OF

Khatoon's adeptness in adminis-PROFESSOR trative roles underscores her capability as a leader to steer AMU towards greater heights of ANWAR MASUD excellence. ALAVI AS

achievements,

Recognising in the evolving land-PRINCIPAL OF THE scape of education, there is a pressing need to boost depart-WOMEN'S ments offering professional and technical education while also COLLEGE, REFLECT HER introducing emerging disciplines. Professor Khatoon's leadership is expected to facilitate the success-ful launch of these new pro-COMMITMENT TO grammes. Additionally, there is a ACADEMIC call to establish new centres for EXCELLENCE AND regional and area studies, building upon the foundation laid by **DIVERSITY WITHIN** previous leaders like Professor Abdul Aleem. THE INSTITUTION

Her strategic appointments, such as that of Professor Anwar Masud Alavi as Principal of the Women's College, reflect her commitment to academic excellence and diversity within the institution.

success will undoubtedly bring honour to AMU and our nation. The appointment of the first female Vice Chancellors at both AMU and JMI reflects the evolving landscape of our country. Asrarul Haq Majaz, the author of the AMU Tarana (Anthem), an eminent Urdu poet, had expressed the hope that women would one day be the catalysts for social transformation. This hope is gradually being realised. It is heartening to note that Professor Khatoon, in addition to her academic achievements, embodies this spirit as a practising Muslim woman. We extend our best wishes to Professor Khatoon and fervently pray for her remarkable

(The writer is Professor Emeritus, Jamia Millia Islamia & Former Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur; views are personal)

## Indian troop withdrawal troops marks regional paradigm shift

India's strategic redeployment of troops from the Maldives reflects evolving alliances and diplomatic shifts in the Indian Ocean region

n a move that underscores the evolving dynamics of regional geopolitics, the recent withdrawal of Indian military personnel from the Maldives has sparked discussions about the future of Indo-Maldivian relations. This strategic redeployment, marked by the departure of the final batch of Indian troops stationed in the archipelago, comes amidst shifting alliances and diplomatic recalibrations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The name "Maldives" is believed to have originated from the Sanskrit words "Mala" (meaning "garland") and "dvipa" (meaning island"). Together, they form name reflects the unique ner for India in its maritime



SANTOSH MATHEW

geography of the Maldives, which is an archipelago consisting of numerous coral islands grouped in a chain formation in the Indian Ocean. Over time, the name evolved into "Maldives" in English. The Maldives, a nation comprising 1,192 coral islets strategically positioned across key east-west international "Maladvipa," which translates shipping routes, has historito "garland of islands." This cally been a significant part-



However, the tenure of President Mohamed Muizzu has witnessed a series of policy shifts, with the Maldives increasingly gravitating towards China while seeking to reduce dependence on India across various sectors, including healthcare, food security and defence cooperation. President Muizzu's "India Out" campaign during the presidential election last year signalled a departure from the traditionally close

ties between the two countries. The concern over the Maldives falling into China's debt trap diplomacy is indeed significant. As the Maldives seeks investments and infrastructure development, it must carefully navigate its relationships with external partners to avoid potential pitfalls. While Chinese investments can offer growth opportunities, they also come with the risk of indebting the nation and compromising its sovereignty. The withdrawal of Indian

military personnel, comprising more than 80 troops responsible for operating helicopters and an aircraft gifted by India, symbolizes a tangible manifestation of this evolving relationship. Muizzu's insistence on the

complete repatriation of Indian troops by the May 10 deadline underscores his administration's commitment to reshaping the Maldives' foreign policy orientation. Simultaneously, the Maldives' burgeoning engagement with China, evidenced by recent agreements on military equipment and training, adds a layer of complexity to the regional dynamics. While the Maldives retains its sovereignty to pursue partnerships that align with its national interests, the strategic implications of deepening ties with China amidst heightened Indo-Pacific tensions warrant careful consideration.

From India's perspective, the withdrawal of military personnel from the Maldives

reflects a pragmatic response to the evolving geopolitical landscape. The decision to respect the Maldivian Government's request for repatriation underscores India's commitment to upholding the principles of sovereignty and non-inter-ference in the internal affairs of its neighbours. Moreover, the withdrawal process, facilitated through four rounds of meetings of the India-Maldives High-Level Core Group, highlights the diplomatic maturity and bilateral dialogue mechanisms that underpin Indo-Maldivian relations. Despite divergent policy trajectories, both countries have demonstrated a willingness to engage con-structively and find mutually beneficial solutions.

Looking ahead, the recalibration of Indo-Maldivian relations presents opportunities for both countries to reevaluate their strategic priorities and explore avenues for collaboration in areas of mutual interest. Whether it involves maritime security cooperation, economic partnerships, or regional connectivity initiatives, the foundations of the Indo-Maldives relationship remain resilient amidst evolving geopolitical realities. As the Indian military withdrawal from the Maldives

take the lead in promoting better

understanding and unity among

marks the closing of one chapter, it also heralds the beginning of a new phase in bilateral relations-one characterized by adaptability, pragmatism and a shared commitment to fostering stability and prosperity in the Indian

Ocean Region. Amidst the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean lies the Maldives, Asia's smallest nation and South Asia's only archipelago. The Maldives' pivot towards China raises concerns, but a shift towards closer ties with India presents a win-win scenario. Embracing India offers strategic stability, economic growth and cultural affinity, fostering a robust Indo-Maldives partnership. By aligning with India, the Maldives secures regional harmony and safeguards its sovereignty while India gains a trusted ally in the Indian Ocean, reinforcing mutual interests and prosperity for both nations.

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



# LUCKNOW I MONDAY I MAY 13, 2024 The pioneer / Control of the pioneer / Parties in valley accuse local authorities of detaining workers on poll eve

#### MOHIT KANDHARI SRINAGAR

Even before the gates of the polling booths were thrown open to allow residents across five districts of Kashmir valley to exercise their right to franchise, for the first time after the Abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, two main rival contesting candidates running for the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat Sunday while demanding 'free and fair polls' accused the local authorities of harassing their party workers and detaining them ahead of the polling day. Post Abrogation of Article 370, the ground situation has remarkably changed in the Valley. The graph of terroristrelated violence and incidents of law and order situation has

also come down. Stone pelting being picked up by the police since yesterday. I got a call from has taken a back seat and this time no one is spearheading a campaign to boycott the Lok

Sabha polls. In the last two weeks, the rival candidates took to the streets and organized campaign meetings freely.

On the eve of the polling day, two main rival candidates raised a red flag claiming the local authorities were deliberately trying to manipulate the poll results.

First Jammu and Kashmir National Conference candidate Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, while raising the issue on X (earlier Twitter), demanded his party workers' immediate release.

a senior colleague A R Rather informing me about the arrests of our workers from Chrarsharif. Similar calls from the colleagues from Khansahab

and Chadoora. Would the Election Commission please care to explain these arrests? I also want the immediate release of our workers and those of PDP if the reports of their arrests are correct".

On the other hand, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Para Waheed Ur Rehman in his post on X wrote, "In the past, Kashmir has experienced boycotts at the behest of separatists. Today, we're witnessing a similar scenario, with an IPS officer of ADGP rank, Mr. Vijay Kumar, allegedly

Mehdi wrote, "Our workers are

directing officials to minimize voter turnout by detaining and harassing our workers. Such actions serve the interests of anti-national elements, not India".



Commission of India (ECI) to urgently address and relocate the official from his sensitive position".

passionate appeal to the Prime Minister and Home Minister of India to ensure free and fair polls in the valley.

Without naming any official Para said the events were akin to the "rigging" of elections in 1987., He wrote on X, Dear @PMOIndia

and @HMOIndia, the Actions of certain officials influenced by one political party are reminiscent of the mistakes made by Congress and NC in 1987. Arrests, harassment, and raids on PDP workers undermine the essence of democracy. We demand free and fair elections. Manipulating elections equals rigging and echoes the dark days of 1987, killing hopes in democracy. Hope you won't let anyone derail the process".

On Friday Para also issued a Meanwhile, the entire security grid has been kept in a state of high alert ahead of the polling day on Monday. Approximately 17.47 lakh vot-

ers have been enrolled in the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat from where a total number of 24 candidates are in the fray.

The high-profile seat is set to witness a triangular contest between NC's Aga Syed Ruhullah, PDP's Waheed ur Rehman Para, and Apni Party's Mohammad Ashraf Mir. The biggest challenge for the

Commission Election Authorities is to not only ensure higher voter turnout but also free and fair polls in the region.A little over 14 percent voter turnout was recorded in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Dr Farooq Abdullah of the

National Conference defeated his rival candidate of the PDP by a margin of over 70,000 votes.

LOK BARAA 2024 //EPONT

This time, PDP candidate Waheed Ur Rehman Para is giving a tough fight to the famous Shia cleric Aga Ruhullah Mehdi of the National Conference.

Around 2,135 Polling Stations have been set up across 5 districts of Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Shopian. Over 8,500 polling staff, including reserves, will be deployed on duty on the polling day. A total of 26 Special Polling Stations have been established for migrant voters with 21 Polling Stations in Jammu, 4 in Delhi and 1 in Udhampur District respectively.

## **BJP** struggles to retain seven seats as 11 Maharashtra constituencies go to polls

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

With no wave in the air, anti-incumbency staring in its face and the Opposition better placed than it was in the 2019 polls, the ruling BJP is battling hard to retain seven seats that it had won in the 2019 polls, as eleven Lok Sabha constituencies go to fourth phase of the polls in Maharashtra on Monday.

Unlike in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls when the BJP contested in alliance with the united Shiv Sena, it rode the Modi wave and walked away with seven out of the eleven seats, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) --- comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar) – has made inroads int0 ruling party's strong holds and is threatening to upset its plans in three or four seats.

One more factor that is working against the BJP is that unlike in the 2019 polls when it contested in alliance with the United Shiv Sena led by then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, the ruling saffron party is contesting the 2024 polls in alliance with the breakaway group of the Shiv Sena led by chief minister Eknath Shinde which is not organisationally as strong as the rival Sena faction.

The eleven poll-bound con-stituencies that are spread over Shivajirao Adalrao Patil.-Shivajirao Patil -- who was ear-The eleven poll-bound con-

three regions -- Nandurbar, lier with Eknath Shinde-led Jalgaon, Raver, Jalna, Shirdi, (all in north Maharashtra) Aurangabad, Beed (both in Marathwada) and Maval, Pune, Shirur and Ahmednagar (all in

Western Maharashtra). That the BJP has a lot at stake in the election can be evidenced from the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed election rallies in four poll-bound constituen-

cies – Pune, Beed, Ahmednagar and Nandurbar. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed one rally in Pune, while his sister Priyanka Gandhi elicited an excellent response at the rally that she addressed in the predominantly tribal constituency of Nandurbar on Saturday. NCP chief Sharad Pawar has addressed more than half a dozen rallies, while Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray has not only been drawing crowds, but

he has also been finding traction with the audiences. As much as it is a high-stake election for the BJP, both the feuding factions of the Shiv Sena are slugging it out in three constituencies - Aurangabad, Maval and Shirdi (SC). The two factions of the NCP - led by Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar are locked in a keen contest at Shirur, where sitting NCP (SP) Dr Amol Kolhe is taking

Shiv Sena - switched over to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP a few weeks ago, just to contest the polls on NCP (Ajit Pawar) ticket.

Unlike in the earlier three phases, there are not many known faces. The only relatively familiar face is Pankaja Munde, who is the eldest daughter of late BJP leader Gopinath Munde and niece of BJP national leader Pramod Mahajan.

The BJP has in a way rehabil-itated Pankaja politically by giv-ing her a ticket in place of her younger sister Dr Pritam Munde who – after the death of her father -- won the Beed Lok Sabha seat with a record margin of 6,96,321 votes. In the 2019 elections, Dr Pritam had emerged victorious by defeating the then United NCP nominee Bajrang Sonwane by a margin of 1.68 lakh votes.

A former minister in the previous BJP-led saffron alliance government in the state, Pankaja had been defeated by her cousin Dhananjay Munde in the October 21 State Assembly polls by a margin of 30.701 votes in their home constituency of Parli in Beed district of Marathwada.

This time around, her erstwhile cousin Dhananjay - who being a part of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP is also in the BJP-led MahaYuti - is assisting Pankaja

in the Lok Sabha polls. Pankaja is locked in a direct contest against Bhajrang Sonawane of the NCP (Sharad Pawar). Mundes hail from the Vanjari community and has an excellent following among the OBC community members, while Sonawane is a Maratha. The contest in the neighbouring Aurangabad seat which is currently held by Imtiyaz Jaleel of the Asaduddiun Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has evoked considerable interest. Jaleel had surprised many in the state political circles by winning the Aurangabad seat for the first time. He had earlier in 2014 been elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from Aurangabad Central constituency. This time around, Jaleel is

involved in a three-cornered contest against Sandeeprao Bhumare of the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and former MP Chandrakant Khaire of Shiv Sena( UBT). It remains to be seen if the AIMIM candidate will be able to retain Aurangabad seat in this election.

The Nandurbar seat has evoked considerable interest in the 2024 polls as both Modi and Privanka Gandhi addressed rallies within 24 hours of each other. Priyanka, who evoked tremendous response from the tribal women voters present at

the Nandurbar rally, went hammers and tongs at Modi and advised the latter to learn lessons of courage and determination from her grandmother and late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who divided Pakistan into two,

In Jalgaon where the saffron party has replaced its sitting MP Unmesh Patil, the replaced BJP candidate Smita Wagh is taking on Karan Pawar from the Shiv Sena (UBT).

In Raver, Raksha Nikhil Khadase of the BJP is fighting Shriram Patil from the NCP (Sharad Pawar).

fight between Shrirang Barne of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Sanjog Waghere Patil from the Uddhav Thackerayled Shiv Sena.

Given that both Modi and Rahul Gandhi campaigned in Pune, the contest here between Murlidhar Mohol of BJP and Ravindra Dhangekar of the Congress has evoked interest. In the neighbouring Ahmednagar, Dr Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil of the BJP is taking on Nilesh Dnyandev Lanke of the NCP (Sharad Pawar).

In Shirdi constituency where the famous Shirdi temple is located, Sadashiv Lokhande of the Shiv Sena (Ekanth Shinde) is fighting Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure of the rival Shiv Sena (UBT).

retail community comprising a

substantial vote bank in the

all retailers within one year of

being elected. On the occasion,

particularly Kirana stores, high-

lighted their crucial role in the

wins, their voices will be taken

these retailers, advocating for

policies to protect employment

in the unorganized retail sector

and promote ease of doing busi-

ness in India, said Mishra.

## Modi accuses Congress of Muslim appeasement

#### SAUGAR SENGUPTA **BARRACKPORE/SANKRAIL**

Once again Prime Minister Narendra Modi has branded the Congress with Muslim appeasement saying the tricolour party has promised to introduce separate reservation policy for the Muslims at the cost of SCs, STs and other backward castes.

Addressing massive election rallies at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas and Sankrail in Howrah the Prime Minister on Sunday said that the "Congress is trying to take away the reser-Introducing a new coinage "Vote Jihad" for the Congress, Left and Trinamool Congress the Prime Minister said that these parties stood for corruption, anarchy and vote jihad which was the other name of appeasement politics. The TMC, Congress and the

Left pursue the politics of appeasement," so much so that the Hindus have been rendered into second class citizens in Bengal," the Prime Minister said referring to a statement by TMC MLA Humayun Kabir who had earlier threatened to throw the BJP people in Bhagirathi River.

INDIA alliance in Bengal he said, "the TMC, Congress and the Left have put Bengal into an identity crisis he said, "the TMC is calling the rest of Indians whocome to Bengal as outsiders whereas they give shelter to the infiltrators to the effect that in some districts the infiltrators have become majority ... this emboldens them to threaten the Hindus to throw them in the Bhagirathi River." Appeasement politics is a part of Congress and TMC'spolicy of "vote jihad," he said.The Prime Minister held addressed four rallies at Barrackpore, Sankrail, Chinsurah and Arambagh in Sankrail, Bengal. Earlier on May 3, Modi addressed rallies at Krishnagar, Purba Bardhaman and Bolpur Lok Sabha constituencies. Saying that Bengal was an important state for the BJP the Prime Minister said the Congress, Left and such other parties ruled Eastern India for so many years but gave only poverty despite the states being capable, rich in capability mineral resources and agriculturally fertile. Attacking

the TMC he said whereas the Congress stood for corruption and dynasticism, the Left gave anarchy the TMC combined the attributes of both the parties. The TMC has given Tolabaji (extortion) in Bengal where no business is possible without giving commission ... corruption is a full time business in Bengal

Attacking the constituents of ... TMC leadership means lust and anarchy," the Prime Minister said.

Attacking the TMC Government for playing with the women's honour at Sandeshkhali he said, "the incident at Sandeshkhali has been watched by the entire country and shamed everyone," referring to some new video footages where a BIP leader was saying that the entire game was hatched by t he BJP in lieu of money the PM said "today they have started a new

game," but the people of Bengal know the truth," adding how the Mamata Banerjee Government was trying to protect the persons accused of sexual attacks on women and grabbing their lands.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who too was addressing election rallies elsewhere however hit back immediately saying the Prime Minister had a new Sandesh (message) from Sandeshkhali and that was "Modi is going ... no one can save him from coming back to power." Referring to the twin incidents of Sandeshkhali where women were reportedly made victims of sexual assault and allegations of molestation leveled on Governor CV Ananda Bose by a contractual employee at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata, Banerjee said, "Modi ii is still telling lies about Sandeshkhali incident about which the truth is out

#### vation SCs,STs and OBCs and Maval is witnessing a direct give it to the Muslims ... but as long as Modi is there no such reservation will be allowed ... no one can take away the reservations from the SCs or STs."

## Fresh video again sparks ruckus in Sandeshkhali

#### SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

There was fresh tension at Sandeskhali when a group of BJP supporters including women on Sunday thrashed some Trinamool Congress workers and virtually kept hostage a local MLA for making fake videos on the Sandeshkhali incident. The purported video suggested that the BJPhad paid 72 women Rs 2,000 each to make

allegedly beaten up by the BJPworkers while they were holding a closed-door meeting with the local TMC MLA Sukumar Mahto. The incident took place near the Sandeshkhali Police Station. A large contingent or RAFwas deployed to defuse the situation. The incident took place during a protest movement by the BJP against alleged mak-

The entire NC unit of Kargil

resigned from the party on

candidate Tsering Namgyal instead of Jan. The NC has

won the seat twice in the

past, while independents

have won it thrice. After attaining UT status,

Ladakh witnessed elections to both Leh and Kargil

chapters of the LAHDC in October 2020 and 2023,

respectively. While the BJP retained

power in the Leh hill council

elections by winning 15

seats -- five short of its 2015

election tally, the Congress

From Page 1

ing of fake

false complaints of rape. Local TMC workers Tatan Gayen and Dilip Mallick were videos where a BJP local leader was seen telling that the entire Sandeshkhali movement was thehandiwork of a senior BJP leader who had purchased women to make false claim of rapes. The Sunday's incident came simultaneously with another fake video emerging where it wasalleged that the same BJP leader had promised Rs 2,000 each to 72 women to claim that theywere sexually assaulted by the TMC goons.

Ladakh stands alone...

May 6 to revolt against its elections, the NC-Congress

leadership for "putting combine won 22 seats pressure" on them to against two by the BJP and support INDIA Bloc two by Independents. The

went to Independents.

and the Congress 10.

nine seats while two seats

In the Kargil hill council

NC on its own got 12 seats

Amid intensified Lok Sabha

poll campaigning, which also saw several BJP leaders,

including national general secretary Tarun Chugh,

secretary farun Chugh, reaching out to the voters, Gyalson had said his primary focus will be resumption of dialogue between the Centre and the Ladakh loadarship for

Ladakh leadership for resolution of "pending

"My primary focus will be

issues".

increased its tally from six to resumption of stalled people," he said.



The Pioneer had not confirmed the contents of the video footage.Sandeshkhali is a riverine island at the mouth of Sunderbans in North 24 Parganas where a localTMC strongman Sheikh Shahjahan and his men had allegedly grabbed hundreds of acres of landsbelonging to the poor farmers. Some of local women were also gang-raped according to initial complaints registered before the police. Sk Shahjahan was presently in CBI custody.

dialogue

manifesto.

(between the

Ladakh leadership and

Central Government). I

don't believe that the dialogue is derailed but

because of the Model Code

of Conduct, no headway has

taken place. Once the new

government is in place, I am

sure about the resumption of

Congress candidate Tsering

Namgyal said his party has taken a historic decision to

include granting sixth schedule to Ladakh in its

"We support the four-point demand of the LAB and the

KDA and we will forcefully raise the demands within

and outside Parliament to

fulfill the aspirations of the

the dialogue," he had said.

## Retailer Association comes out in support BJP Chandni Chowk candidate Khandelwal Chandni Chowk seat, with the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delh

Tn a major boost to the electoral region. Expressing gratitude for FRAI's support, Khandelwal emphaprospects of Praveen Khandelwal who is fighting on BJP ticket from Chandni Chowk sized his commitment to repre-Lok Sabha constituency, the senting the interests of retailers Federation of Retailer and traders in the Lok Sabha. He Association of India (FRAI), pledged to end inspector raj for which represents a large number of micro, small, and medium retailers across the nation the FRAI members also highand has a membership of 42 lighted the plight of micro, small, and medium retailers, retail associations has rallied behind the candidature of Khandelwal who is also the founder and general secretary of the Confederation of All India nation's retail landscape and hoped that once Khandelwal Traders (CAIT). up in the Parliament. The organisation has been

At a programme held here recently, Abhay Raj Mishra, actively working to address issues affecting the livelihoods of National Spokesperson of FRAI, urged fellow retailers to support Khandelwal's candidacy, citing his dedication to their cause. FRAI's endorsement is expected to significantly bolster Khandelwal's campaign for the

## **Delhi voters...**

From Page 1 Vikas Dixit, a resident of Malviya Nagar, said with schools starting their summer vacations on May 15, and as a Government employee, he will also have a long weekend due to the elections, making it convenient for him to plan a

trip. "With everyone rushing to book trips and vacations, ticket prices tend to rise as days pass. To sidestep any potential obstacles in our plans, we prefer booking in advance and plan our trips as early as possible. That's why we've decided to depart from Delhi on the night of May 20," Dixit said.

The upcoming 10th and 12th-grade results have already set in holiday plans

for teens, their families and school teachers. "I've been studying and giving exams non-stop, now, I just want a break. Thinking of heading to hill stations with my friends for some chill time," he said.

Conversations across generations highlight the city's divided priorities and despite the election buzz, many families stick to their vacations, pre-planned emphasising the importance of relaxation amid school and work pressures. As the holiday mood sets in, the city contends with balancing leisure with civic responsibility. Although the Election Commission has issued an advisory of paid holiday on May 25 for private and public employees.

## Phase IV Voting... From Page 1 The poll body accused

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge of creating impediments in the conduct of free and fair elections and said Kharge's allegations are unwarranted, without facts and 'reflective of a biased and deliberate attempt to spread confusion'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed rallies in Barrackpore, Hooghly, Arambagh and Howrah, West Bengal and road shows in Patna.

The fourth phase also features a bit of glamour in the east of the country, where Bollywood veteran Shatrughan Sinha is seeking re-election in West Bengal's Asansol, and to the south, where actress Maadhavi Latha from the BJP Maadnavi Latha from the BJP is standing for the Hyderabad seat in Telangana. Latha is pitted against Asaduddin Owaisi, a four-time MP from the All India Majlis-e-Ittebadul Mudimeen party Ittehadul Muslimeen party. Two World Cup-winning cricketers will be testing the political pitch in Bengal. The 65-year-old former Indian cricketer Kirti Azad, who was part of the 1983 World Cup winning squad is contesting from Bardhaman-Durgapur Lok Sabha Constituency while Yusuf Pathan, 41-yearold former member of the Indian cricket team that won the World Cup in 2011, is testing political waters from Baharampur seat in Murshidabad against senior Congress Party leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who has been representing since 1999. Yet, the most high-profile electoral battle in the State on May 13, is in Krishnanagar, where the fiery TMC parliamentarian and fierce critic of Modi, Mahua Moitra, is seeking a second term. In December 2023, the firebrand MP was expelled from parliament after being accused of accepting cash to

ask questions.

## If you choose AAP on May 25, I will not have to go back to jail: Kejriwal to voters

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow in Delhi on Sunday said if people choose Aam Áadmi Party on May 25, he won't have to go back to jail.

Earlier, Kejriwal held a meeting with his party MLAs and lead-ers at his residence and claimed that the BJP's plan was to top-ple the AAP governments in Punjab and Delhi after his arrest but this did not fructify. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) became more united and stronger "after my arrest", the Delhi chief minister said while addressing MLAs of his party following a meeting here.

This was his first meeting with the legislators after his limited outing of 21 days from the Tihar Jail, effected by the Supreme Court judgment giving him interim bail for election campaigning.

Okhla MLA Amantullah was not present in this meeting. Khan and his son Anas Ahmed are facing allegations of assaulting and threatening staff at a fuel pump in Noida Sector 95. Police have claimed that Mr Khan and Anas are "under-

ground". <sup>6</sup>BJP people would say before my arrest that they will break the party and topple the gov-ernments in Delhi and Punjab," Kejriwal said.

"They had a plan that they will arrest me, break the party, top-ple the government in Delhi and then in Punjab also. After arrest, their plan failed. You all did not break,"said Kejriwal added all the MLAs did excellent work to ensure that the people of Delhi did not face any

problem in getting electricity, vater and medicines

Later he held a road show in New Delhi and North-west constituencies. Accompanied by his Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Kejriwal held a roadshow in Moti Nagar in support of party's New Delhi Lok Sabha candidate Somnath Bharti.

"I have to go back to jail after 20 days.



If you choose jhadu (AAP's symbol), I won't have to go back to jail," the chief minister said

The AAP national convenor is out on interim bail till June 1. He has to surrender on June 2. 'They sent me to jail because I worked for you. The BJP does not want that work of Delhi people are done," he said.

Kejriwal alleged that his insulin injections were stopped for 15 days inside TIhar jail.

"If I went back to jail, the BJP would stop your work, free electricity, degrade schools and shut down hospitals and Mohalla Clinics," he charged. He also asked people to vote for Bharti since he would be available for people in need even at odd hours.

The polling for all seven seats in Delhi will take place on May 25.

the pioneer (WAY 13, 2024) LUCKNOW | MONDAY | MAY 13, 2024

## **Kejriwal back with guarantees**

**RAJESH KUMAR/SAUMYA** SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Days after walking out of Tihar jail, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal gave a renewed push to the Aam Aadmi Party's Lok Sabha polls campaign, announcing "Kejriwal ki Guarantee", listing 10 works (guarantees) that will be done on a war footing.

These include giving full independence to the Indian Army to reclaim India's land currently occupied by China, scrapping the Agniveer scheme, providing free electricity, education, and health, and creating two crore jobs in the next year if the Opposition's INDIA Bloc forms the Government at the Centre.

With polling yet to take place in 18 of the 22 Lok Sabha constituencies that the AAP is contesting — four in Delhi, 13 in Punjab, and one in Haryana — the Delhi Chief Minister pitted his vows to Minister pitted his vows to the people of India, called "Kejriwal ki guarantee", against the Prime Minister's "Modi ki guarantee". The Opposition bloc, which has parties such as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Congress, Trinamool Congress, Pravida Munpetra

Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam among others as its members, was formed to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Álliance in the Lok Sabha polls.

Interestingly, the Congress manifesto and all parties that



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal with party leaders Bhagwant Mann during a Press conference, in New Delhi, on Sunday. Kejriwal on Sunday announced 'Kejriwal ki Guarantee' — a list of promises for Lok Sabha elections

phases of elections left.

'I have not discussed it with

the rest of the INDIA Bloc

but this is like a guarantee that no one will have any

problems with. I take this

guarantee that after the

INDIA Bloc comes to power,

I will make sure that these

guarantees are implemented,"

he said while making the

announcement, adding he

will press upon INDIA Bloc

partners to fulfill these

guarantees. "Out of the 10 guarantees,

the first guarantee is that we will provide 24-hour

electricity in the country. The

electricity but the usage is

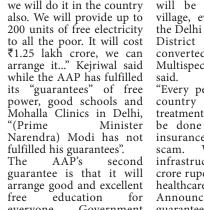
are part of the India Bloc have not mentioned anything related to reclaiming the country's land currently occupied by China. Addressing Press а

conference at the AAP Kejriwal headquarters. reiterated his promise of full statehood to Delhi and also claimed that the INDIA Bloc will form the next Government and his AAP will be part of it. "The BJP has always failed on

its promises; my guarantees have proven track record," Keiriwal said. People have to take a call

country has the capacity to generate 3 lakh MW of whether to go for the Kejriwal ki Guarantee or Modi Guarantee, he said. On the announcement of his guarantees, Kejriwal said this

can produce electricity more than the demand. We have was delayed due to his arrest but there are still many done it in Delhi and Punjab,



everyone. Government schools will provide a better education than private schools. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

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"The country can progress only if children get access

to proper education. "Today, the condition of schools is very poor. Over 18 crore children study in 10 lakh schools across the country and they have no future. In Delhi and Punjab, we have shown that we can do it and we will do it across the country," the AAP chief said.

He said, "This will cost the Government ₹5 lakh crore, half of which will be spent by the Centre and half by the States. To keep up the standards, every year, it will cost the Centre Rs 50,000 crore. This is not a lot of money keeping in mind that all children will have access to good education." AAP's third guarantee is

only 2 lakh MW. Our country Mohalla Clinics."We will arrange good treatment for everyone. Mohalla clinics

will be opened in every we will do it in the country village, every locality," said the Delhi CM. District hospital will be converted into Multispeciality Hospital, he

> "Every person born in this country will get free treatment. Treatment will not be done on the basis of insurance as this is a big scam. We will create infrastructure. Rs 5 lakh crore rupees will be spent on healthcare," he added. Announcing his fourth guarantee, Kejriwal said land

stick on Modi. occupied by China will be freed and Rashtra Sarvopari is our guarantee. "China has occupied our land but our Central Government is denying it...

Whenever we ask the Centre, it says no one has come into our land... The whole world knows as this is the era of satellite images. There is a lot of strength in our Army. All the land of the country which has been occupied by China will be freed. For this, efforts will be made at the diplomatic level on one side and the Army will be given complete freedom to take whatever steps it wants to take regarding this," he

said. Scrapping Agniveer scheme is his fifth guarantee. Kejriwal promised to stop the contractual form of the Agniveer scheme and said all those who have been inducted through the programme will be given permanent postings.

PM on a hat trick, moving towards target of creating of Viksit Bharat, says Anurag

PTI HAMIRPUR

Asserting that continuity in governance is important for the country's progress, Union minister Anurag Thakur has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ready to hit an electoral hattrick and move towards the target of building "Viksit Bharat" (developed India). In an interview to PTI, Thakur said no charges hurled by the Opposition can

Dubbing as "laughable" the opposition's claim of victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Thakur exuded confidence that the BJP was well on its way to achieving the goal of 370 seats which includes the 303 seats it won last time and 70 seats where it finished second. These 70 seats were part of 160 parliamentary segments that the BJP had identified after 2019 to launch an extensive ministerial outreach.

"I can say after the third phase of elections that Modi ji is on a hat-trick. I say this due to one-sided polling. Congress workers have retreated from the battlefield. In Surat and Indore, Congress candidates withdrew from elections. In Odisha, they returned tickets. Rahul Gandhi ran away from Amethi and fled to Wayanad in 2019. Now he has come to Rae Bareli. I don't know where he will go next," the minister noted. Thakur, a four-time MP from



"When anti-India forces

From our side, action should

have been taken against Rahul

ji, Sonia ji and Chidambaram

ji a long time back. Even in

Nirbhaya rape case, the crime

tukde gang' people join the Congress and why PFI and Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh contesting for the SDPI support the Congress. fifth time in a row, said it is in Modi's name that he was seeking people's mandate support the Congress, a once again and also in the natural question that arises is name of development works initiated over the last few to what extent can the Congress fall for votes," years as MP.

Thakur alleged. Stability and continuity are On whether the charges key for the country's progress and enable the government to against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia continue with policies and programmes to ensure India Gandhi in the National Herald matter will be expedited, Thakur said probe remains on track to become the third largest economy just agencies were independent to as it has leaped from the 10th largest economy pre 2014 to act. "How much time the Court the fifth largest under Modi takes in punishing the culprits, no one can decide. rule," he said.

The senior minister also flagged an old video of veteran Congressman Mani Shankar Aiyar urging India to respect Pakistan and asked, "How come they remember Pakistan and how come Pakistan remembers Congress?"

was committed in 2012 but the punishment was given in

He also asked why 'tukde

2020. It is a legal process and courts have to decide," he explained.

Bihar: Five Lok Sabha seats to go to polls, two Union Ministers in fray

## PTI PATNA

Five Lok Sabha seats in Bihar will go to polls on Monday, when 95 lakh voters will decide the electoral fate of 55 candidates, including two Union Ministers. The seats going to polls are Begusarai, Samastipur, Ujiyarpur, Munger and Darbhanga.

In Begusarai Lok Sabha seat, which has the largest electorate of 22 lakh among the five constituencies, Union minister Giriraj Singh's bid for a second consecutive term has been challenged by CPI's Awadhesh Rai.

ho was a CPI candidate by a

#### the constituency

However, unlike last time, 2019 delimitation. Samastipur is now the name of when it ploughed a lonely reserved seat, previously furrow, the CPI now has a truck with Congress and the known as Rosera, where the mighty RJD, a combination that had paid rich dividends in battle is primarily between two debutants, both children of senior JD (U) leaders and ministers in the Nitish Kumar assembly polls less than three years ago. In Ujiyarpur, which has the cabinet. Congress candidate

lowest number of voters at 17.48 lakh but the maximum number of 13 candidates, Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, is aiming at a hat-trick.

His main challenger is Alok Mehta, a senior RJD leader and former state minister who

In 2019, Singh had defeated is the MLA from the former INU students' union eponymous assembly seat. president Kanhaiya Kumar, Mehta has also been a former MP from Samastipur, the

minister known to be very close to the Bihar chief seat was known before the minister. At a recent rally in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged voters to support the LJP (R) candidate, whom he described as the "youngest" of all fielded by the BJP-led NDA.

Another seat with an intense contest is Munger, which former JD (U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' hopes to Sunny Hazari has the benefit of his party representing a broader alliance, besides the retain. His main challenger is fact that his father Maheshwar Hazari had won the seat for ID RJD candidate Kumari Anita, who is seen as a proxy to her husband Ashok Mahto. The Hazaris had reportedly earlier approached Chirag

Mahto, a dreaded gangster, is known for political ambitions Paswan, a close relative, for a and a strident anti-upper caste ticket of his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). However, stance. However, conviction in Paswan fielded Shambhavi criminal case has а him Choudhary, daughter of malified from

A widower in his 60s, Mahto tied the knot with Anita two months ago, reportedly upon advice from RJD president Lalu Prasad. The muscle power that Mahto brings to the table seems to have caused some consternation in the NDA camp, though the PM had held a rally in the constituency. A controversy was stoked with

the release, on parole, of Anant Singh, a UAPA convict, whose wife Neelam Devi is the MLA from Mokama, falling under Munger Lok Sabha seat, and had crossed over from RJD to JD (U) when the NDA government in Bihar won a trust vote in February.

Since walking out of jail, Anant Singh has been holding

predicting before supporters and media a massive win for Lalan, whom his wife had challenged in 2019 as the Congress candidate.

In Darbhanga, Gopal Jee Thakur feels confident of retaining the seat for BJP, his prospects having received a boost with a rally of the PM only last week. His main rival

Lalit Kumar Yadav is the sitting RJD MLA from Darbhanga Rural and, hence, no pushover.

Besides, the RJD has received a shot in the arm with the return of former Union minister Ali Ashraf Fatmi, who had won the Darbhanga seat four times and is now trying his luck the adjoining from

Madhubani, which goes





margin of over 4 lakh votes in name by which the Lok Sabha Ashok Choudhary, another contesting polls.

He alleged that right from 2014, when Andhra Pradesh

was bifurcated, the Central Government did not do

In all issues concerning

Andhra Pradesh including the

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

privatisation issue, which is

has done "immense injustice"

and continues to do it.

residual state.

promise.

(U) in 2009.

court at his residence, polls in the fifth phase.

## Vijayawada LS constituency, a battlefield for two brothers

#### PTI VIJAYAWADA

The Vijayawada Parliam entary constituency has emerged as the battleground between brothers K Srinivas of Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSRCP and K Sivanath, candidate of the main opposition TDP in the May 13 Lok Sabha polls.

While Srinivas is a seasoned politician, a transport tycoonturned-politician, his younger brother Sivanath, also a businessman, is trying his electoral luck for the first time. Srinivas (58), the older brother, was a key TDP leader until some months ago but differences with some party leaders at the local and state level compelled him to jump ship to the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP in January, according to his supporters. One of the main reasons attributed to the exit of Srinivas from TDP was the party's decision to replace him with Sivanath as the candidate for the Lok Sabha election. Popularly known as Kesineni Nani and the owner of the now defunct Kesineni travels company, Srinivas, a Parliamentarian for nearly a decade, had also resigned as an Vijayawada Lok Sabha constituency encompasses the Assembly constituencies of Tiruvuru (SC), Vijayawada West, Vijayawada Central, Vijayawada East, Mylavaram, Nandigama (SC) and Jaggayyapeta. In the 2019 election, Srinivas

secured 5.75 lakh votes, trouncing his YSRCP rival P V Prasad, who secured 5.66 lakh votes while Janasena's M Prasad Babu got 81,650 votes.



Srinivas's poll plank was the "dedication of his life for the city of Vijayawada," located in the heart of the southern state and also a major commercial centre.

As a two-time MP, Srinivas did manage to gain some goodwill, said a 70-year-old local resident, K Tata Rao, who regularly spends his evenings on Bandar Road to relax over a cup of tea with friends.

'Kesineni Nani (Srinivas) developed flyovers in the city. Kanakadurgamma flyover and a flyover near the Benz Circle. He did a good job, he will come next time as well," Rao told PTI. However, he termed Sivanath contesting against his MP when he had quit the TDP. own brother as a "selfish move."

The younger Kesineni brother is testing the political waters and lacks the experience possessed by his older brother. Bevond the sibling rivalry, Rao, a retired government employee, said he and other common people were more worried about the fate suffered by the southern state due to what he described as the "apathy" of the BJP-led Central Government.

## Vasco turnout hit as Goa registered voters headed back to UP for family weddings: MLA

#### PTI 📕 PANAJI

The Lok Sabha poll turnout has been affected in Goa's Vasco assembly segment as many electors registered there left before the polling date for their native places in Uttar Pradesh to attend family weddings, local BJP MLA has claimed.

In the May 7 polls to the two Lok Sabha seats in the coastal state, the Vasco assembly segment, which comes under the South Goa Lok Sabha constituency, witnessed the lowest turnout of 68 per cent,

as per official figures. Goa recorded 75.20 per cent

Goa recorded 75.20 per cent turnout during polling on May 7. The voting was 76.34 per cent in the North Goa Lok Sabha seat and 73.90 per cent in the South Goa anything worthwhile to the "What did the Congress government do at that time, it said they will give special category status (SCS) for 10 parliamentary constituency, years and the BJP also supported it. BJP came to according to data released by the Election Commission of power and said SCS is a closed India (ECI).

chapter. Ten years have passed Vasco assembly segment has been the BJP's stronghold. Talking to PTI on Saturday,

by and what good did BJP do to Andhra Pradesh?" he asked. Vasco MLA Daji Krishna Salkar said during the Rao reminded that the PM had promised SCS "at the feet of Sri Venkateswara Swamy in campaigning, efforts were Tirupati" in the run-up to made to convince voters to stay back till the polling day. "But we could not stop them 2014 polls and yet he broke his from going to their native places as this is the wedding Though the southern state is contributing thousands of

crores of rupees worth GST, Rao said the Narendra Modiseason and everyone has to participate in the functions," led Centre is not "returning its ĥe said. rightful share" of tax revenues.

If elections were held in the non-wedding season, the turnout would have been more, the Vasco MLA claimed.

opposed by people, Rao claimed the BJP government He said Vasco has several voters with transferrable jobs as they work in the Indian Navy, at the Mormugao Port Rubert Pereira.



central and government establishments. Hence, there are many people whose names are there in the voters' list but they have stopped staying in Goa after transfer, Salkar

said. Notably, the Indian Navy's INS Hansa base is located near the Vasco assembly segment.

Salkar said he has filed a complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI), seeking the deletion of names of those who have been transferred elsewhere.

A group of voters has two voting cards, one in Vasco and the other at their native place in neighbouring Karnataka, he said. These voters travelled to their native places in Karnataka to exercise their franchise as the date of polling in Goa clashed with that in their state, he claimed. In South Goa, the Congress denied renomination to its sitting MP Francisco Sardinia and fielded Viriato Fernandes against BJP candidate Pallavi Dempo and Revolutionary Goans Party's

spar after MP CM's gaffe about his party MLA PTI BHOPAL

Congress, BJP

Madhya Pradesh Congress has taken a swipe at Chief Minister Mohan Yadav after he apparently forgot the assembly seat of his party MLA from the state during an event.

The BJP, however, hit back saying the Congress is upset because of the welfare works done by Yadav's government. A video of CM Yadav, during a programme on Friday at Janapav (the birthplace of Lord Parshuram) under the Mhow assembly seat in Indore district from where Usha Thakur is the BJP MLA, surfaced on social media on

Sunday. Yadav, while addressing the gathering, is heard in the video congratulating his cabinet minister Kailash Vijayvargiya on his birthday. Vijayvargiya on his birthday. "I congratulate Kailash ji Bhaisaheb. He worked here together with Usha ji. Now even though Usha ji is no longer the MLA here, earlier Usha ji was the MLA here."

A voice from the public is then heard saying she is "still the MLA from here (Mhow)". Amid laughter, the CM then said, "Bharat Mata ki Jai. I thought you were shifted to Indore number-3, sorry Didi." The video also shows Indore-3 seat MLA Golu Shukla sitting at the dais where the CM was delivering the speech. The MP Congress shared the video on its X handle and claimed, "Meet the bhulakkad (forgetful) Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Calling his own sitting legislator a former MLA. The MLA from another area also had to stand up and get his seat confirmed."

#### PTI SITAPUR/VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the DNA of Congress, Samajwadi Party, INDIA bloc are similar to Pakistan where people are starving and there is lack of development.

development. "The poor used to die of hunger during the time of SP-Congress. And now people are starving to death in Pakistan, whereas 80 crore are getting free ration in India," he said during a public meeting at Gandhi Degree College in Sidhauli in the Sitapur Lok

Sabha constituency. Sharpening his attack on the opposition, Adityanath said, "Congress had opportunity for 60-65 years to work for the development of India, but it did not. There was lack of medical facilities during the to play with people's faith, allowed the poor to die of hunger and drove farmers to suicide." UPA government. They used

"The DNA of Congress, SP, INDI alliance and Pakistan seem to be similar," he added. The chief minister urged people to ensure that the candidates of such political parties that dared to play with the future of the country lost their deposits in this parliamentary election. Before embarking on election campaign in different districts, Adityanath offered prayers at

Baba Kaal Bhairav and Shri Kashi Vishwanath temples in Varanasi on Sunday morning. On Saturday evening, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Adityanath participated in the Ganga Aarti Dashashwamedh at Ghat. Following this, both the senior BJP leaders held a late night meeting to finalise preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nomination filing roadshow scheduled and on Monday in Varanasi, according to an official statement.

During his rally in Sitapur, Adityanath said those who are corrupted and do not want India to develop are upset over

Prime Minister Narendra Modi securing the position for the third time. "They (INDIA bloc) oppose India, Lord Ram, marginalised communities, including scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, daughters, and businessmen. So the citizens have decided to re-elect PM Modi with overwhelming majority to realise the dream of a developed and self-reliant

India", he added. "The Congress-Samajwadi Party didn't have a vision for development. The pace of development during their time was terribly slow as all that they were interested in was commission," he said.

Adityanath reiterated his allegation that if elected to power, the Congress and SP are conspiring to tamper with the reservations for backward classes, scheduled castes, and tribes by altering the Constitution framed by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. He asked the people to not let the opposition interfere with their rights. He further mentioned that RJD's Lalu Prasad Yadav, a key member of the INDI alliance, had said in Bihar during the UPA government that he would give OBC reservation to Muslims.Adityanath the emphasised that Ambedkar had explicitly stated that reservations cannot be based on religion. The chief minister further

accused the opposition of aiming to introduce a 'Jizya' tax by imposing inheritance tax on Indians' ancestral property.

Continuing his attack on the opposition, Adityanath said they intended to grant the minorities the freedom of eating beef, therefore promoting cow slaughter in the country, which the nation would never tolerate.

If the state were governed by the SP and the country by the Congress, Ram devotees would have faced bullets, akin to the events of 1990. Those who target Ram devotees, betrav Ram, or support terrorists should not govern this nation, he added.

## world 10



## **Israel battles regrouping Hamas in northern Gaza**

#### AP RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

∎sraeli forces pushed deeper into Gaza's southern city of Rafah on Sunday and battled Hamas in parts of the devastated north that the military said it had cleared months ago but where militants have regrouped. Warnings continued against the growing offensive in Rafah, considered the last refuge in Gaza for more than a million civilians as well as Hamas' last stronghold. Some 300,000 people have fled Rafah following evacuation orders from Israel, which says it must invade to dismantle Hamas and return scores of hostages taken in the Oct 7 attack against Israel that sparked the war.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated opposition to a major military assault on Rafah, telling CBS that Israel would "be left holding the bag on an enduring insurgency" without an exit from Gaza and postwar governance plan.

nance plan. The expanding Rafah operation has drawn warnings from neighbouring Egypt, whose foreign ministry said it intends to formally join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice alleging Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, which Israel rejects. The statement cited "the worsening severity and scope of the Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians". "A

cannot take place," United a standstill.

Nations human rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement, adding he cannot see how it can be reconciled with international humanitarian law. Gaza has been left without a functioning government, leading to a breakdown in public order and allowing Hamas' armed wing to reconstitute itself in even the harddence. est-hit areas. Israel has yet to offer a detailed plan for postwar governance in Gaza, saying only that it will maintain open-ended security control

over the coastal enclave home to about 2.3 million Palestinians. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a Memorial Day speech vowed to continue fighting until victory in mem-

ory of those killed in the war. Netanyahu has rejected postwar plans proposed by the United States for the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israelioccupied West Bank, to govern Gaza with support from Arab and Muslim countries. Those

plans depend on progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state, which Netanyahu's government opposes. The Oct 7 attack killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 250 hostage. Militants still hold about 100 captives and the remains of more than 30. Internationally mediated talks over a cease-fire and full-scale offensive on Rafah hostage release appear to be at

offensive has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its figures. Israel says it has killed over 13,000 militants, without providing evi-

HEAVY BOMBARD-MENT IN THE NORTH Palestinians reported heavy Israeli bombardment overnight in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp and other areas in northern Gaza, which has suffered widespread devastation and been largely isolated by Israeli forces for months. UN officials say there is a "full-blown

famine" there. Residents said Israeli warplanes and artillery struck across the camp and the Zeitoun area east of Gaza City, where troops have battled militants for over a week. They have called on tens of thousands of people to relocate to nearby areas. "It was a very difficult night," said Abdel-Kareem

Radwan, a 48-year-old from Jabaliya. He said they could hear intense and constant bombing since midday Saturday. "This is madness." First responders with the

Palestinian Civil Defense said they were unable to respond to multiple calls for help from both areas, as well as from Rafah

Ohio police officer

killed after being

'ambushed' on

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, Israel's air, land and sea the top Israeli military spokesman, said forces were also operating in Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. The two towns near Gaza's northern border with Israel were heavilv bombed in the opening days of the war.

"Hamas' regime cannot be toppled without preparing an alternative to that regime," columnist Ben Caspit wrote in Israel's Maariv daily, channeling the growing frustration felt by many Israelis more than seven months into the war. "The only people who can govern Gaza after the war are Gazans, with a lot of support and help from the outside? CIVILIANS FLEE IN THE SOUTH

The United Nations' agency for Palestinian refugees, the main provider of aid in Gaza, said 300,000 people have fled Rafah since the operation began there. Most are heading to the heavily damaged nearby city of Khan Younis or Mawasi, a tent camp on the coast where some 450,000 people are already living in squalid conditions.

Rafah was sheltering some 1.3 million Palestinians before the Israeli operation began, most of whom had fled fighting elsewhere.

Israel has now evacuated the eastern third of Rafah, and Hagari said dozens of militants had been killed there as "targeted operations continued". The United Nations has Profound sadness and anger grip Israel on its Memorial Day

Israel marks its

Memorial Day for fallen sol-

attack on October 7. But unlike scores of other families of soldiers killed that day, Chen doesn't have a grave to visit because his son's remains are held captive in Gaza. The

absence of a final resting place is being felt acutely now, as Israel marks its Memorial Day for fallen soldiers, when cemeteries are brimming with relatives mourning over the graves of their loved ones.

"Where are we supposed to go?" Chen said. "There is no burial site for us to go to." Memorial Day is always a somber occasion in Israel, a country that has suffered

through repeated war and conflict throughout its 76year history. But Chen's tor-

warned that a planned fullscale Rafah invasion would further cripple humanitarian operations and cause a surge in civilian deaths. Rafah borders Egypt near the main aid entry points, which are already affected. Israeli troops have captured the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing, forcing it to shut down. Egypt has refused to coordinate with Israel on the

**Tel Aviv :** Ruby Chen's son, ment underscores how this the prime minister down." Itay, was killed in the Hamas year it has taken on a pro- Israel marks it vear it has taken on a profound and raw sadness coupled with percolating anger over the failures of October 7 and the war it sparked.

Families of the fallen, along with broad segments of the public, are demanding accountability from political and military leaders over the blunders that led to the deaths of hundreds in the deadliest attack in the country's history. "Too many peo-ple were killed on that day because of a colossal misjudgment," said Chen, who for months thought his son was still alive after he was snatched into Gaza, before receiving confirmation earlier this year that he was dead. "People who made the misjudgment need to pay, from

Israel - a cornerstone of region-al stability - at high risk. The delivery of aid though the crossing because of "the unacceptable Israeli escalation," the official was not authorized to brief media and spoke on constate-owned Al Qahera News television channel reported. dition of anonymity. US

A senior Egyptian official told The Associated Press that weapons to Israel for Rafah. Cairo has lodged protests with Israel, the United States and On Friday, his administration said there was "reasonable" European governments, saying the offensive has put its decades-old peace treaty with evidence that Israel had breached international law

trauma of October 7 looming large, each day is expected to feel dramatically different diers and victims of attacks

from previous years. More than 600 Israeli beginning at sundown Sunday with an official cersoldiers have been killed emony and smaller events the since Hamas launched its following day at military cemeteries across the counsurprise attack on October 7, when thousands of militants try. The solemnity is then rampaged across southern abruptly interrupted by the Israeli military bases and abruptly interrupted by the fanfare of Independence Day, which begins Monday evening. Grouping the two days together is intentional-ly meant to highlight the link between the costly wars sleepy communities on a Jewish holiday. Roughly 1,200 people were killed that day, about a quarter of them soldiers, and another 250 were taken captive into Gaza, according to Israeli authori-Israel has fought and the establishment and survival of ties. The attack sparked the war, now in its eighth month, the state, a contrast that this which has killed more than vear will be hard to reconcile 34,700 Palestinians, most of at a time when Israel is actively engaged in warfare and Israelis feel more insethem women and children. according to local health officure than ever. With the cials.

> protecting civilians -Washington's strongest statement yet on the matter.

Israel rejects those allegations, saying it tries to avoid President Joe Biden has said he harming civilians. It blames Hamas for the high toll won't provide offensive because the militants fight in dense, residential areas. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

Fire burns down

shopping centre

Warsaw (AP): A fire broke out

almost entire

## **Fourth Indian held** for suspected role in killing of Nijjar

#### PTI WASHINGTON/ OTTAWA

A fourth Indian national has been arrested by Canadian authorities in connection with the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a week after police arrested three Indians linked with the highprofile case that has severely strained India's relations with Canada.

Amandeep Singh, 22, a resident of Brampton, Surrey, and Abbotsford areas of Canada, has been charged with firstdegree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Nijiar, 45, was killed outside Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18 . 2023 The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said that Singh was arrested on May 11 for his role in the killing of Nijjar. He was already in the custody of the Peel Regional Police for unrelated firearms charges, the release said. "This arrest shows the nature of our ongoing investigation to hold responsible those that played a role in the homicide of Hardeep Singh Nijjar," said Superintendent Mandeep Mooker, the Officer in Charge of IHIT. "IHIT pursued the evidence and gained sufficient information for the British Columbia Prosecution Service to charge Amandeep Singh with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder," the police statement said. Investigators said no further details of the arrest can be released due to ongoing investigations and court processes. Citing a source familiar with the case, the Global News reported that Singh is believed to be one of the two armed men who ers were then seen running to a try.

## getaway car. Like his co-accused, Singh

arrived in Canada on a temporary visa, but was allegedly involved in violent crime, the source said. The four hitmen are suspected of links to the Bishnoi gang, it

added. Singh was one of five men charged with firearms and drug offences following a traffic stop in Brampton by the Peel police Specialized Enforcement Bureau

on November 3, 2023. During the arrests, police seized an FN 509 9mm pistol with a 24round extended magazine, and two extended magazines with 24-round capacities containing 9mm ammunition, police said at the time.IHIT investigators on said. May 3 arrested three Indian nationals - Karan Brar (22), Kamalpreet Singh (22) and 28-year-old Karanpreet Singh — for the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.All three individuals are Indian nationals living in Edmonton and have been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.India has dismissed Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and "motivated." Nijjar was a Khalistani separatist and he was wanted in India on various terror charges. Days after Trudeau's allegations, India asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity. Subsequently, Canada withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from India. India has been asserting that its "core issue" with Canada remained that of the space given to separatists, terrorists and opened fire on Nijjar. The shoot- anti-India elements in that coun-

## disturbance call; suspect sought

Euclid (Ohio): An Ohio police officer was shot and killed after being "ambushed" while answering a disturbance call over the weekend, and a suspect was being sought, authorities said Sunday. Police in the Cleveland suburb of Euclid said officers were dispatched just before 10 p.m. Saturday to a home due to

a reported disturbance. "While police were investigating, a gunman ambushed an officer, striking him with gunfire," police said. The officer, whose name wasn't immediately released, was taken to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries, police "Multiple law enforcement age

## Trump tells crowd he's being forced to endure 'Biden show trial' in hush money case

## AP WILDWOOD

Sandwiched between his Donald Trump headed on Saturday to the Jersey Shore, where he repeatedly blamed President Joe Biden for the criminal charges he's facing as the presumptive nominees prepare to face off in the November election and called his New York hush money case "a Biden show trial." Blasting the Democratic pres-

ident "a total moron," Trump before a crowd of tens of thousands repeatedly characterized the cases against him as politically motivated and timed to harm his ability to campaign."He's a fool. He's not a smart man," Trump said of Biden. "I talk about him differently now because now the gloves are off.



Republican presidential nominee, drew what his team called a "mega crowd" to a Saturday evening rally in the southern New Jersey resort town of Wildwood, 150 miles (241

kilometers) south of the New prostitute.

York City courthouse where he has been forced to spend most weekdays sitting silently through his felony hush money

Lisa Fagan, spokesperson for the city of Wildwood, told The Associated Press that she estimated a crowd of between 80,000 and 100,000 attendees, based off her own observations on the scene Saturday, having seen "dozens" of other events in the same space.

Trump was joined on stage by several high-level endorsers including North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and NFL Hall of Fame linebacker Lawrence Taylor, who is still listed as a registered sex offender after pleading guilty in New York in 2011 to misdemeanor criminal charges of sexual misconduct and patronizing an underage

The beachfront gathering, described by Rep. Jeff Van Drew, R-N.J., as the largest political gathering in state his-tory, was designed to serve as a show of force at a critical moment for Trump, who is facing dozens of felony charges in four separate criminal cases with the election less than six months away.

Hours before he was scheduled to take the stage, thousands of Trump loyalists donning "Never Surrender" T-shirts and red "Make America Great Again" hats crowded onto the sand between the boardwalk and carnival rides to greet the former Republican president. The everyday American people are 100% behind him," said Doreen O'Neill, a 62year-old nurse from hiladelphia.

on Sunday morning in a vast shopping centre housing 1,400 shops and service outlets in the Bialoleka district in Poland's capital. The fire brigade said more than 80 per cent of The Marywilska 44 shopping complex was on fire, and 50 teams, including chemical and environmental rescue specialists, were carrying out rescue operations. A police spokesperson told the news agency PAP

there were no injuries reported. Authorities also sent a text message warning Warsaw residents about the fire and telling them to stay home with the windows closed. Footage aired by private broadcaster TVN24 showed thick black smoke rising over he area

trial.

cies" were involved in a search for the person responsible, authorities said.

The Ohio attorney general's office posted photos online of the 24-year-old suspect and the

vehicle being sought. WKYC reported that residents who live on the street reported hearing about a dozen gunshots.Euclid police asked in a statement early Sunday that people "keep the fallen officer, his family, loved ones, and our agency in your thoughts and prayers."WJW reported that the officer was a military veteran and had been on the force for less than two years. "He was an amazing human being. Just a great heart. Had an incredible smile. The world's a better place

with him in it," said Euclid Police Chief Scott Meyer.Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail said in a statement Sunday that "we find ourselves grappling with a pro-found sense of sorrow and disbelief." The mayor called on the community "to come together in solidarity and support, not only to honour a hero who selflessly served and protected us but also to offer strength to one another in this time of grief."

## Crews prepare for demolition to remove Key bridge structure

PTI NEW YORK

Crews are preparing to use controlled explosives to demolish a large piece of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge atop the cargo vessel Dali that has been stranded since March in Baltimore with its crew of 20 Indians and one Sri Lankan onboard after it collided against the bridge. The Key Bridge Response Unified Command is scheduled to use precision cuts made with small charges to remove a large section of the bridge wreckage from on top of the Dali.

The Key Bridge Response Unified Command said in a statement that the safest and swiftest method to remove the bridge piece from on top of the Dali is by "precision cuts made with small charges. This is an industry-standard tool in controlled demolition that will break the span into smaller



pieces, which will allow the work of refloating the vessel and removing it from the federal channel

The 2.6-km-long, four-lane Francis Scott Key Bridge over the Patapsco River came crashing down on March 26 after the 984-foot ship 'Dali' collided against it. The crew onboard the Dali included 20 Indians and one Sri Lankan. The crew has

been on the ship since the accident and has been cooperating with the investigation.

The exact time of the precision cuts will depend on multiple environmental and operational factors. Authorities said that the small charges, a standard controlled demolition tool, will split the large section of truss at specific locations to create multiple, smaller sections, which allows salvors to use cranes and Sound levels outside of the noise radius will be no louder barges already on scene to remove these sections of the than a standard fireworks show bridge and ultimately remove and will last 2-5 seconds. the Dali from the channel.

for the Port of Baltimore." The Key Bridge Response Unified Command coordinated

with Maryland Department of

Emergency Management to issue a cellular notification

ahead of the controlled demo-

lition to maximize awareness to

the communities near the

bridge. The Unified Command

has advised that hearing protec-tion is not required outside of the 2,000-yard noise radius.

Similar methods were previous-We remain focused on restorly used in the area for the coning the Marine Transportation trolled demolition of the Harry System, while ensuring the pro-tection of the public and the environment," said Capt. David W. Nice Memorial Bridge in March 2023 in Charles County, Maryland. O'Connell, Key Bridge Response Federal On-Scene Coordinator. Last month, US authorities opened a criminal investigation "By using precision cuts, we reduce risks to our personnel and can safely and efficiently continue clearing the channel

into the Baltimore bridge collapse incident that is also looking into whether the ship's crew, which included Indians, left the port "knowing the vessel had serious systems problems." The Washington Post had reported that the FBI opened the criminal investigation "focusing on the massive container ship that brought down the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore last month — a probe that will look at least in part at whether the crew left the port knowing the vessel had serious systems problems."

## Rise in UK knife attacks stokes public anxiety

#### AP LONDON

familiar horror reached A Pooja Kanda first on social media: There had been a sword attack in London. And then Kanda, who was home alone at the time, saw a detail she dreaded and knew all too well. A man with a sword had killed a 14-year-old boy who was walking to school. Two years ago, her 16-year-old son, Ronan, was killed by two sword-wielding schoolmates while walking to a neighbour's to borrow a PlayStation controller.

"It took me back," Kanda, who lives near Birmingham, said about Daniel Anjorin's April 30 killing in an attack in London's Hainault district that also wounded four people. "It's painful to see that this has hap-

pened all over again." In parts of the world that ban

or strictly regulate gun ownership, including Britain and much of the rest of Europe, knives and other types of blades are often the weapons of choice used in crimes. Many end up in their own statistics. the hands of children, as they can be cheap and easy to get. Although the number of fatal stabbings has mostly held steady in England and Wales stabbings in England and Wales in the 12 months ending with March 2023 — the most recent figures available — 101 were over the past 10 years, headline-grabbing attacks and an overall rise in knife crime have committed with kitchen knives, stoked anxieties and led to calls for the government to do blade, according to the Office of National Statistics. more

But the uptick in knife crime "Knife-enabled" crime — in and a steady drumbeat of which knives were used to shocking attacks, including those that killed Ronan Kanda, commit crimes or someone was caught illegally possessing Daniel Anjorin and three peo-ple in Nottingham last year, has one — rose 7 per cent in England and Wales last year,"

the government said last month, noting some localities were not included. pushed the issue to the forefront.

"It seems like every day something like this is reported in the press," Sanjoy O'Malley-Kumar, In London, such crimes jumped 20 per cent. The other two UK countries, Scotland and Northern Ireland, keep whose 19-year-old daughter Grace O'Malley-Kumar was among the Nottingham vic-tims, said on "Good Morning With knives so readily available, there's only so much that can be done. Of the 244 fatal Britain" after the recent attack in London.

In last week's local elections, candidates debated policies such as stop-and-search. Even movie star Idris Elba has weighed in.

"I can pick up a phone right now, type in knives and I'll get inundated with adverts for far surpassing any other type of them," the London-born star of "The Wire" and "Luther" said during a protest in January. Guns are heavily restricted in the UK and there's not much debate about it.

# Duchess of Sussex, speaks with women about her Nigerian roots

#### AP ABUJA (NIGERIA)

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, says it's been "humbling" to find out through a genealogy test that she is partly Nigerian as she met with women in the West African nation on Saturday. On her second day in Nigeria, where she is visiting for the first time with Prince Harry to also promote mental health for wounded soldiers and young girls, Meghan acknowledged Nigeria She added: "It's been eye-open-

ing to be able to know more about my heritage." "Never in a million years would

I understand it as much as I do



Nigerian," she said at the event now. And what has been echoed so much in the past day on women in leadership cohosted by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a Nigerian economist is, 'Oh, we are not so surprised when we found out you are

and head of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"It is a compliment to you because what they define as a Nigerian woman is brave, resilient, courageous, beautiful," Meghan told the audience.

The Duchess of Sussex had announced on her podcast in October 2022 that she found out through the DNA-based test that she was "43 per cent Nigerian".

Her first reaction after finding out was to tell her mother, she said at the event in Nigeria's capital, Abuja. "Being African American, part of it is really not knowing so much about your lineage and background ... and it was exciting for both of us," she said.

as "my country".



www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

# vivacity 1

# **AN: PRE-DIABETES ALERT**

Certain skin changes can signal underlying health issues like insulin resistance and diabetes. Characterised by dark, velvety patches on the skin, often in body folds like neck and elbow, Acanthosis nigricans (AN) is one such condition. ARCHANA JYOTI gives more details

## CASE 1

Suniti Verma, a 35-year-old woman, noticed dark, velvety patches forming on her neck and underarms. Initially dismissing them as a result of friction or aging, she became concerned when the patches started spreading and became thicker over time. After visiting a doctor, she learned about AN.

### CASE 2

Manohar, a 45-year-old man, has been feeling increasingly fatigued and thirsty lately. During a routine check-up, his doctor noticed velvety patches on his neck and suggested testing his blood sugar levels. The tests revealed elevated glucose levels, and Manohar is now diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

### CASE 3

The parents of Maria, a 14-year-old girl, became conscious when they noticed dark patches forming on her armpits and groin area. They initially attributed them to hormonal changes during puberty but became worried when the patches did not fade over time. They took her to a pediatrician, who diagnosed her with AN and recommended lifestyle changes to improve her overall health.

These are just a few cases that several endocrinologists and dermatologists are getting frequently which they say is being often attributed to sweltering heat waves. But health experts warn that in actuality, the AN signals something deeper than just a change in appearance. Endocrinologist **Dr Lakshmi** 

Nagendra, Associate Professor, Department of Endocrinology, JSS Medical College, Mysore recently tweeted, "This patient with velvety patches on neck came with cosmetic concerns and was diagnosed with diabetes. This is known as AN and could be a harbinger for underlying diabetes and metabolic disorders. Get vourself tested!'

Dr Sunita Sayammagaru, a renowned Diabetologist and Endocrinologist too highlighted the issue as she posted, "As we navigate through the scorching heat wave in Telangana, it's essential to address concerns regarding our children's skin mothers approaching me, mistaking their kids' darkened neck regions for sun tan and seeking creams to alleviate the



DR LAKSHMI NAGENDRA Associate Professor Department of Endocrinology, JSS Medical College, Mysore





Endocrinologist



DR NAVAL K VIKRAM Endocrinologist. Department of Internal Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi



DR ATULA GUPTA Dermatologist, Skin Aid Clinic, Gurugram

patches around the neck, armpits, and groin.

weight loss is imperative for the "Sometimes, skin tags may also be present. Importantly, this condition well-being of these children. "I urge all parents to prioritize their children's health by seeking is frequently associated with obesity and metabolic syndrome, appropriate medical guidance and with insulin resistance being a common underlying disturbance. adopting lifestyle changes aimed at promoting weight loss and "Insulin resistance is a precursor to improving metabolic health. developing prediabetes and rring when the child diabetes oc begins producing more insulin than usual. Therefore, addressing health. I've noticed quite a few AN is not merely a cosmetic concern but a significant health issue that warrants attention. "It's essential to understand that there are no cosmetic treatments darkening. AN manifests as for AN. Treatment lies in darkening of the skin and the addressing the root cause, which appearance of blackish, velvety primarily involves weight loss. occurs when the child starts pancreas produces more insulin, resistance also plays a significant

producing more insulin than is usually seen.

"The only definitive treatment is lifestyle modification which ensures weight loss. And given the rate at which Diabetes is progressing in India, weight loss is a must for these kids.

endocrinologist at All India syndrome, and certain drugs or Institute of Medical Sciences endocrine disorders. The (AIIMS), Delhi said that insulin resistance, which physically manifests as AN can lead to type 2 diabetes. He explained insulin body's cells do not respond effectively to insulin, a hormone that helps regulate blood sugar levels. To compensate, the

leading to higher levels in the bloodstream. This excess insulin stimulates the growth and multiplication of skin cells, resulting in the appearance of AN.

He said AN can be found in conditions such as obesity, type 2 Dr Naval Vikram, a well-known diabetes, polycystic ovary underlying causes must be identified and treated, as AN itself can be considered a marker for these conditions. Dr Naval has conducted several studies in the field of metabolic disorders with special emphasis on insulin resistance and obesity and his work explained insulin

role in the development of type 2 diabetes. Over time, the pancreas becomes unable to maintain sufficient insulin production, leading to consistently high blood sugar levels.

Dr Sunita added that weight loss mainly happens with diet control. Weight loss doesn't happen much with exercise. There is no point in a child cycling for 45 minutes and eating biscuits and cakes.

Food control alone is the mantra. "The easiest way for a child to lose weight is to restrict processed foods and junk foods. Anything that comes out of a packet like chips, crisps, instant noodles, or biscuits to be avoided. Anything made out of maida like bread, burgers, buns, pizza, etc to be avoided. Anything sugary to be avoided like soft drinks, carbonated drinks, sweets, chocolates etc. Anything deep fried, especially deep fried items from outside to be avoided."

According to Dr Atula Gupta, Dermatologist, Skin Aid Clinic at Gurugram, AN appearance can cause distress and selfconsciousness. There is no single "cure" for prediabetic pigmentation or AN, she said, noting that the most effective treatment approach multifaceted, combining targeted therapies like topical medications or lasers with management of the underlying cause. "While treatments for AN can help improve the appearance of darkened skin patches, they may not eliminate them. "It is essential to have realistic expectations and understand that results may vary depending on the severity of the condition and individual response to treatment.@

Fortunately, there are several treatment options available, including creams and laser therapies, that can help improve this pigmentation.

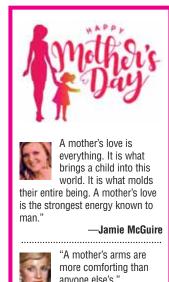
She said that Retinoids, derived from vitamin A, are commonly used to treat AN by promoting cell turnover and exfoliation of the affected skin. Topical retinoids help to lighten pigmentation and improve the texture of the skin over time. Tretinoin, a topical retinoid, has shown some success in reducing hyperpigmentation and

## **International Nurses**

Organ donation from brain dead patients can indeed be a lifeline for those in need of organs, such as hearts and livers. It's essential to raise awareness about organ donation and encourage people to consider this selfless act that can make a significant difference in the lives



of others, said Dr Vimal Bhandari, former Director of the National Organ and Tissue Organisation Transplant (NOTTO). He was speaking at an event held at ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad recently to mark the International Nurses Day as a part of the Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) program of the College. It was inaugurated by its Dean, Professor Asim Das. The occasion was graced by College Medical Superintendent Dr AK Pandey, Dean Dr. Sandeep., besides senior administrative staff, including AK Ranga Deputy Director. Dr Bhandari, who currently heads Kidney Transplant Unit and Department of Surgery, ESIC Medical College also led the organ donation pledge taken by the nurses at the college and hospital. A comprehensive discussion was also held on palliative care, pain management, and psychological aspects of severely ill patients.



Together we can safeguard the future health of our children and mitigate the risk of developing chronic conditions like diabetes. "It is usually seen in Obesity and Metabolic syndrome and the resistance occurs when the underlying disturbance is Insulin Resistance. Insulin Resistance is a developing precursor to prediabetes and Diabetes and

Given the alarming progression of

diabetes in India, focusing on

thickening associated with pre diabetic pigmentation. Similarly, agents like ammonium lactate can help remove excess keratin buildup, a hallmark feature of pre-diabetic pigmentation. "Then we have laser treatments

which offer a more targeted approach for managing pre-diabetic pigmentation," she added.

anyone else's. -Princess Diana

"A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity, it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path." -Agatha Christie

## Nursing in India: Insights from a Male Nurse

In India, nursing remains predominantly female bastion, but perceptions are changing, breaking stereotypes along the way. Meet KANISHK YADAV, a Nursing Officer at AIIMS, Delhi, whose journey into the profession was sparked by his mother's treatment in a hospital, where he witnessed the profound respect given to healthcare staff. In a discussion with **ARCHANA JYOTI**, he offers a glimpse into his role, challenges, and aspirations within this evolving landscape

#### **What inspired you to pursue a** career in nursing?

My mother's gallstone treatment in a hospital during my 10th grade ignited my interest in healthcare, seeing the respect for the staff there motivated me to become a healthcare worker.

#### Could you describe your typical workday as a male nurse?

Working in a high-dependency unit, I care for critically ill patients and assist over 50 patients daily with various blood-related treatments across hospitals and departments.

□ Have you faced any specific challenges or prejudices as a male nurse in a predominantly femaledominated profession in India? Despite nursing being femaledominated, I've experienced acceptance and support from colleagues. The increasing presence of male nurses globally has positively influenced acceptance by patients over time.

#### **Do you feel your gender** influences your career advancement opportunities in nursing?

Once one becomes a professional nurse, opportunities are equal for all, irrespective of gender.

How do cultural norms and

#### □ How do you navigate genderspecific cultural sensitivities while providing care to patients of different genders?

your role as a male nurse in India?

Nursing has its code of ethics based

on cultural norms and societal

expectations, emphasizing patient

comfort, safety, and privacy. These

guidelines are easier to follow now

with

representation.

increased male nurse

We explain procedures to patients and relatives, offering assistance from female colleagues if needed, ensuring compliance with ethical standards during all medical procedures.

**Do you believe there's been a** shift in societal perceptions regarding male nurses in India in recent years?

There are few states left where we find only female nurses. Now, we can see representation of male nurses from every corner of the country. This shows the society has accepted male nurses. During Covid-Pandemic we all must have seen many motivational stories of male nurses working tirelessly along with their female colleagues. Many male nurses have received Florence Nightingale for their exemplary work, I think these all have helped us.

societal expectations influence D What support systems or feedback from these two. My



KANISHK YADAV, Nursing Officer at AIIMS, Delhi

you feel are resources do necessary to enhance the representation and inclusion of male nurses in Indian healthcare settings?

Patients' feedback is most to make important our presentation stronger. They all work as ambassadors for us. If they are satisfied with our work then policymakers will start thinking of us as far as our participation is concerned. Second, our work is teamwork, if my team members from bottom to top feel the same, also helps us a lot. All Policymakers (Health) empower a particular group after getting positive

Council, and DR. RAMLING B. MALI, holding the position of President at the Maharashtra Nursing Council, stand as notable examples of male leaders in the nursing profession. STANLY JONES is the Chief Nursing Superintendent at the Southern Demand for Male Nurses in the Nursing Profession In India, at least 20.5% of nurses in 2018 were male, according to a WHO report.

concern is to give an equal chance What are your careerHow do you envision the role of to all team members to represent themselves.

## promote diversity and inclusion among nursing staff?

Our workplace reflects "unity in diversity," with staff from various states collaborating effectively, environment fostering an conducive to learning and growth.

□ Have you observed any genderspecific differences in roles or responsibilities among male and female nurses in your workplace? Roles in the medical field are gender-neutral, but as a male nurse, I may have certain responsibilities towards female patients, such as during CPR procedures. During CPR, I am supposed to take charge of giving compressions and a female colleague can be given the responsibility of medication, calling other team members, activating the alarm, etc.

□ What strategies do you employ to foster collaboration and teamwork among colleagues, irrespective of gender differences? We attend training sessions, workshops, and seminars, participate in clinical case discussions, and engage in regular communication to foster a collaborative environment.

aspirations within the nursing profession?

aim to inspire change through **How does your workplace** exemplary work and community service, believing in the principle of leading by example. I learned this during the COVID-19 pandemic when I requested to depute in the COVID-19 ICU and the story went viral after one of the faculty members saw this. I received hundreds of messages and calls from every corner of India and my story inspired them a lot to work for the nation in crisis. Same is the

story during blood donation, organizing medical camps, etc. □ What advancements and best practices do you find in nursing, particularly in the Indian healthcare context vis-à-vis

worldwide? India's healthcare system is evolving rapidly, with initiatives like the establishment of nursing simulation labs and new nursing colleges, indicating a commitment to producing skilled nurses.

What advice would you give to aspiring male nurses in India, considering the unique challenges and opportunities they might face?

I encourage aspiring male nurses to master their craft, and work with dedication, compassion, and passion, embracing challenges as opportunities for growth.

## male nurses evolving in Indian healthcare in the coming years?

It's not limited to any gender. I would say that the role of Nurses in Indian Healthcare is increasing and becoming demanding day by day. As the healthcare system in India strengthens, it would require more skilled and empowered nurses to fulfill the requirements and upliftment of the healthcare system.

#### □ What changes or initiatives do you believe are necessary to further promote gender diversity and inclusivity in nursing in India?

Recruitment initiatives like the inclusion of male nurses in the Military Nursing Services would promote gender diversity. Exclusionary practices should be addressed to ensure equal opportunities for all nurses.

**Do you foresee any specific** trends or challenges that might impact the nursing profession, particularly for male nurses, in Îndia?

Gender-specific reservations in nursing vacancies and the need specialization present for challenges. However, initiatives to address these issues and meet the growing healthcare demand imperative for are the profession's advancement.

DR T DILIP KUMAR, serving as the President of the Indian Nursing

Railways Hospital in Chennai.

## sports 12







PREMIER LEAGUE

Chennai Super Kings' MS Dhoni being honoured by the team management after an Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 T20 cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai on Sunday PTI

## **CSK** brighten play-offs prospects

## PTI KOLKATA

hennai Super Kings stayed in contention for a place in the IPL play-offs with a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals after pacer Simarjeet Singh exemplified the home team's discipline with the ball with career-best figures of 3/26

here on Sunday. In a low-scoring match which had its share of drama with Ravindra Jadeja being given out for obstructing the field, CSK chased down a target of 142 with 10 balls to spare on a tricky surface.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was the star for CSK with the bat, remaining unbeaten on a 41-ball 42.

Rachin Ravindra (27 off 18 balls) and Gaikwad balls) and Gaikwad managed a 32-run stand

before the former was dismissed by Ravichandran Ashwin in the fourth over. However, that did not have any impact on Gaikwad and Daryl Mitchell (22 off 13 balls) as they maintained a balls) as they maintained a run rate of over nine and ended the powerplay at 56 for one. Pacer Sandeep Sharma was the most expensive bowler for the visitors during this phase and was hammered for 23 runs. Mitchell appeared to be the man on a mission, but his stay was cut short by spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who trapped him leg-before wicket in the eighth over to end a 35-run partnership with Gaikwad.

Moeen Ali (10 off 13 balls) came in next, but he holed out to Nandre Burger in the 12th over. With the score reading 92

for three in the 13th over, Shivam Dube decided to have a go at Ashwin in his final over. halfway down the pitch. The third man hurled it to Sanju Samson, who aimed the ball at the bowler's end

While Dube hammered Ashwin for a six and two fours in the over, the veteran had the last laugh, which also turned out to be his 50th IPL wicket at this venue.

Also, Jadeja (5 off 6 balls) survived a scare in the subsequent over after Jos Buttler dropped him off

Chahal at long-on. Rookie Sameer Rizvi then hit an eight-ball 15 not out with three fours to end the game in a jiffy after Jadeja became the third batter in IPL history to be adjudged out for obstructing the field after miscommunication with Gaikwad, who refused to go for a second run even as the all-rounder was

slow wicket.

Opting to bat, the RR openers were off to a cautious start. After RR but the throw hit Jadeja. RR appealed, and the third ended the powerplay at 42 for no loss, the 26-year-old Simarjeet made the first umpire was convinced that Jadeja knew in which direction the ball was breakthrough in the seventh over, getting rid of Jaiswal (24 runs off 21 balls). Simarjeet came up with the

heading. CSK needed 21 off the final four overs, and the duo of Gaikwad and Rizvi got the second breakthrough in the ninth over, with Jos Buttler (21 off 25 balls) departing. job done. The win took CSK to the third spot on the points table, while RR suffered their third straight defeat but remained in second position.

Earlier, Simarjeet dished out his best performance in the IPL while helping CSK restrict RR to a modest total. For the visitors, the in-form

Riyan Parag top-scored with a 35-ball unbeaten 47 on a

## Samson failed to get going, and it was Simarjeet again and it was Simarjeet again who grabbed the prized wicket of the RR skipper, ending his 42-run partnership with Parag. Deshpande, bowling the final over, got rid of Jurel and Shubham Dubey (0 off 1 ball) in consecutive ball) in consecutive deliveries. Eventually, the

visitors didn't get a big enough total on the board.

## CB also keep their hopes alive 56 runs for the fifth wicket off

visitors.

by McGurk near third man.

off Khaleel Ahmed (2/31).

PTI 📕 WARSAW

## PTI BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru kept their playoff dreams intact through Rajat Patidar's blazing fifty and a strong-willed effort from the bowlers, who set up the hosts' 47-run victory over Delhi Capitals in the IPL here on Sunday.

The target of 188 was not insurmountable, but the Capitals' chase descended into disarray once they lost four wickets inside 3.3 overs upfront, eventually finishing at 140, with Axar Patel 57 (39b, 5x4, 3x6) playing a lone hand.

RCB now have 12 points from 13 matches – same as the Capitals – and need a win against Chennai Super Kings in the last league match here on May 18 to push their case for a playoff berth.

The Capitals also need a win in their final league game against Lucknow Super Giants on May

14 to stay in the hunt. Cutting back to the match, Impact Player David Warner, who missed the action for close to a month due to a wrist injury, slog-swept left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh into the waiting

hands of Will Jacks at deep. The dismissal flagged off Capitals' train of disaster. Leftarm pacer Yash Dayal (3/20) consumed Abhishek Porel, slumped to 30 for four. covers by Lockie caught at

#### Ferguson, in the first ball of the third over.

Delhi suffered a body blow in the very next ball. The in-form Jack-Fraser McGurk, who smashed Mohammed Siraj for two fours and a six in the



as Shai Hope's straight drive rattled the stumps after taking a deflection of Dayal's outstretched left-hand.

Siraj trapped Kumar Kushagra, who came in for the suspended Rishabh Pant, plumb in front with a nip-backer as DC Axar and Hope (29, 23

#### Abhishek Porel.

36 balls but the partnership offered only temporary relief RCB, however, found Patidar in full flow. His first scoring shot than any real hope to the was a magnificent cover driven four off Mukesh and he never Axar, who took over the reins of let that early momentum fade. The elegance soon gave way for DC in the absence of Pant, played a handy innings, but it just delayed the inevitable. brute force as Patidar brought forth his six-hitting abilities, smashing Axar for two sixes The rest of the DC batters were and sending Kuldeep Yadav bogged down by a confused over long-on for a maximum. The DC fielders too helped mind, best exemplified by the run out of Tristan Stubbs. Patidar copiously. Hope dropped the right-hander on 42 Stubbs sprinted out of the nonstriker's crease as if chased by a lion after Axar defended a length ball from Cameron Green, who quickly grabbed the ball and completed the simple off Kuldeep and five runs later Axar grassed him off pacer Rasikh Salam.

Assikn Salam. At the other end, Jacks, who was given a reprieve on 19 by Axar off Kuldeep, displayed his untrammelled power and the left-arm wrist spinner was at ball and completed the simple task of hitting the stumps. Earlier, RCB could not exploit Patidar's quick fifty to the optimum, settling for an underwhelming 187 for nine. Patidar (52, 32b, 3x4, 3x6) and ball sailing over long-on twice. Just as the alliance was blossoming, DC managed to Jacks (41, 29b, 3x4, 2x6) added 88 runs off 53 balls for the third-wicket as RCB overcame

latch on to a catch. Axar atoned for his previous failures as he made a fine the early departures of skipper Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli. Du Plessis' slice off pacer tumbling catch off Salam to Mukesh Kumar was gobbled up terminate the stay of Patidar. Jacks soon followed his partner as a weak slap off Kuldeep ended in the hands of Axar at Kohli gave signals of another T20 masterclass while creaming 27 off 13 balls, including two the edge of the ring. sixes off Ishant Sharma and one The dismissals of two set batters

affected the run-scoring rate of But a waft outside the off-stump RCB. From 137 for four in 14.4 with little foot movement overs they could only add 50 resulted in a catch to stumper runs in the remaining overs.

## GT face formidable KKR in must-win game PTI AHMEDABAD hubman Gill's return to

Sform will provide a big boost to Gujarat Titans as they square off against table-toppers Kolkata Knight Riders in their must-win IPL game here on Monday.

Gill roared back into form with his fourth IPL hundred to keep GT's slim playoff hopes alive with a comfortable win against Chennai Super Kings at home in their last outing. Gill and Sai Sudharsan's twin

centuries were the cornerstone of the hosts' huge total and their role will be crucial once again as they face KKR, which has become the first team to qualify for the playoffs.

As many as seven teams are still in the race for the playoffs. While Rajasthan Royals (16) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (14) are wellplaced at second and third position, three teams -- CSK, Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants -- are at 12 points each.

GT and Royal Challengers Bengaluru are at 10 points and can reach a maximum of 14 points. With a neg

remaining two games to seal a top-two finish after they qualified for the playoffs with

> in their last outing. Mohit Sharma's variations and knuckle balls were effective and Rashid Khan's guile also stood out and they would hope for another good

outing. But it will again boil down to the top-order batting, which has failed to fire in the last few games before Gill and Sudharsan came up with sensational tons en route a record 210 opening stand. KKR, on the other hand, nee

an 18-run win over Mumbai Indians in a rain-hit game last night. Sunil Narine (461 runs & 15 wickets) has carried the team with his all-round brilliance, while fellow West Indian Andre Russell has been another impactful player with 222 runs and 15 wickets this season. Leg spinner Varun Chakravarthy with 18 wickets in his kitty has been in a good rhythm. Phil Salt too has given the team sensational starts but has been off the boil

just one win in their

a bit in the last three innings. Others such as Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Ramandeep Singh have also stepped up when needed as the two-time champions emerged as the most consistent team this season. The venue has proved to be batter-friendly and has witnessed some high-scoring games. GT has beaten KKR twice in the last three meetings but the hosts can't lower their guard as it was here where Rinku Singh had

given them a nightmare when he slammed Yash Daval for five successive sixes in the final over last year.

GT's chance are the least and it will take a miracle for the former champions to sneak into the top four.

However, one thing is clear, GT will once again have to play out of their skin and register big wins to keep their mathematical chances alive. GT's bowling has lacked teeth this season with the pacers inconsistent and spinners leaking runs. But the bowlers did manage to snap three CSK wickets in the first three overs

## **OTHER SPORTS**

## We are working to be in best shape possible for Paris: India men hockey captain

#### PTI BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team has identified areas that "needed attention" following its whitewash by Australia in the five-Test series and is ready for the tough European leg of the Pro League, said skipper Harmanpreet Singh on Sunday.

Last month, India, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists, lost all their matches to the Kookaburras, raising doubts about their preparations for the Paris Games later this vear.

But drag-flicker Harmanpreet said the squad has done a lot of high-intensity training and the confidence in the side

continues to grow. "We are in the last stages of an intense training block right now. The team has worked on the areas we felt needed attention after the tour of Australia," said Harmanpreet in a Hockey India release. "Soon, we will head to Europe

to play some essential matches in the Pro League 2023/24 to test ourselves against some tough opponents like Argentina, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain.

"The chemistry in the squad continues to grow and with only 75 days left for the Paris Olympics we are working to be in the best shape possible,"



he added

India will begin their Olympic campaign against New Zealand on July 27. The other teams in Pool B are Belgium, Australia, Argentina, and Ireland.

Pool A comprises the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, South Africa, and hosts France.

India vice-captain Hardik Singh said the experience of stalwarts like goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and former captain Manpreet Singh has come in handy while preparing youngsters for the Summer Games.

"The team is leaving no stone unturned in our endeavour to change the colour of our previous medal and clinch gold at the Olympics this time. We have players like PR Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh who could be playing their fourth Olympics along with quite a few players who could

captain.

be playing their third Olympics, including our State

Grand Chess Tour. Carlsen, on 18, is a distant India's R Praggnanandhaa scored yet another victory over world number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway second at this point and the main reason behind that is Praggnanandhaa, who has been beating the world number one often these days to keep himself afloat even as Wei Yi of China stretched his in the faster version of the

lead to a massive 2.5 points in the Superbet rapid and blitz game. Praggnanandhaa, however is far behind the leaders with chess tournament, a part of 14.5 points which makes it With nine rounds still to literally a two-horse race for come in the blitz event, Wei the title.

Yi has amassed 20.5 points with seven wins on the first In fourth spot is Arjun Erigaisi on 14 points while day of blitz. Ending the day Duda Jan-Krzysztof of with 7.5 out of a possible Poland is right behind him on nine, Yi, seems like a man possessed and unless a 13. Nodirbek Abdusattorov of



**Praggnanandhaa beats Carlsen but remains third in Superbet chess** 

and the eighth spot is now taken by early leader Kirill Shevchenko of Romania with 11 points. Anish Giri of Holland

remained a cause for worry for world championship challenger D. Gukesh who is languishing at the last spot with 9.5 points in the USD 1,75,000 prize money tournament.

Carlsen notably mentioned that his nervous system had collapsed following his second-round loss against Praggnanandhaa. The world number one ended with six points out of nine, which is by all standards a decent result but following his loss to the Indian he blundered again and went down to Abdusattorov from a winning position.

leader as the Indian could only score 2.5 points in all. With victories over Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh, Arjun ensured he remained in contention for a podium finish. Losing to Wei Yi and Carlsen,

Arjun scored five wins and two draws in his other games and will be optimistic on the final day of the event.

Final results rapid: 1. Wei Yi Wei Yi started the day with a loss against Gukesh but 20.5; 2. Magnus Carlsen 18; 3. R. Praggnanandhaa 14.5; 4. Arjun Erigaisi 14; 5. Duda recovered in quick time to only concede a draw to Carlsen while winning the Jan-Krzysztof 13; 6. Nodirbek Abdusattorov 12.5; 7. Vincent Keymer 11.5; 8. rest of the seven games. For Gukesh, it was a tough Kirill Shevchenko 11; 9. Anish Giri 10.5; 10. D.Gukesh 9.5. day despite a great start against the tournament

## Messi plays through a scare, Inter Miami Deeksha sets new Indian record

PTI NEW DELHI

the Grand Chess Tour.

Indian track athlete K M Deeksha set a new national record in the women's 1500m while Avinash Sable finished second in men's 5000m event at the Sound Running Track

Fest in Los Angeles. The 25-year-old Deeksha finished third in the final on Saturday after running the distance in 4:04.78, bettering the previous record of 4:05.39 set by Harmilan Bains in 2021 Stadium in Bhubaneswar in at the National Open Athletics Championships in Bains to win gold. Warangal.

Deeksha's previous personal best was a 4:06.07 set in the the last five years training final of the National Interunder coach S K Prasad. Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Parul

narrowly missed out on improving her national record while compatriot Ankita ended 10th with a time of 15:28.88. Sable finished second in the men's 5000m with a time of 13:20.37 and not his pet

3000m steeplechase event, and in the same event, Gulveer Singh ran a 13:31.95. Sable's 5000m national record time is 13:19.30. Kartik Kumar ran the last lap

2023, where she upstaged in 62sec in the men's 10000m Deeksha who is from Amroha, UP has been part of but that could only fetch him a second-place finish. He the MP Athletics academy for clocked 28:07.66s.

This is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event.

rallies past Montreal 3-2 for fifth straight win AP MONTREAL, (AP) Lionel Messi played the entire game despite a first-half injury

scare, Benjamin Cremaschi broke a tie in the 59th minute and Inter Miami overcame an early two-goal deficit to beat Montreal 3-2 on Saturday night for its fifth consecutive Major League Soccer victory. Luis Suarez got his 11th goal of the season for Inter Miami, and Matías Rojas scored off a free kick. Jules-Anthony Vilsaint and Bryce Duke scored for Montreal (3-5-3). Inter Miami (8-2-3) extended

its unbeaten streak to seven matches (5-0-2) despite Messi

being held without a goal or an assist for the first time in his nine MLS appearances this season. Inter Miami is 7-0-2 in those nine games; one of its losses came against Montreal in March, a game where Messi didn't play.

Playing in Canada for the first time, Messi briefly left late in the first half after some sort of issue with his left knee after being fouled by defender George Campbell. The eighttime Ballon d'Or winner as the world's best player went down immediately, holding his knee and writhing in pain. Inter Miami's medical staff went onto the field to treat

Messi, who got up after about two minutes and walked to the Miami sideline. He was not subbed out, which allowed him a chance to return moments later. And for whatever reason, the match changed in that moment. Inter Miami was down 2-0

when Messi got hurt; it was 2-1 when he returned and tied moments after he got back onto the field. Rojas scored off a free kick - one that Messi would have ordinarily taken - to get Inter Miami on the board, and Suarez tapped in a goal off a corner kick late in first-half stoppage time.

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Chaudharv

15:10.69s in the women's 5000m to finish fifth. Parul