CITY 3

20 FIRST-TIME CANDIDATES IN PURVANCHAL

OPINION 6

EPIC ELECTION BATTLE ENTERS **DECISIVE PHASE**

WORLD 10

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER PRAYS FOR LATE PRESIDENT, OTHERS

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY MAY 23, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

Established 1864

the pioneer

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.160 Issue 138 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

GURBAZ SAYS KKR IS **FAMILY TOO** 12 SPORTS

EC makes its presence felt

Underlines nation's inviolable socio-cultural milieu

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Tith only two phases of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections remaining, the Election Commission has now upped the ante against political parties particularly the BJP and the Congress asking them to desist from campaigning along caste, community, language, and religious lines, asserting that India' sociocultural milieu cannot be made a casualty to elections.

The two phases will see polls on 115 seats including in Delhi on Saturday. The Election Commission on Wednesday in a stern warning to both the BJP and the Congress, the EC has also directed them to issue a formal notice to its 'star campaigners' disallowing them from making statements that 'divide the society' and may cause tension between different castes and communities. The EC had last month issued

notices to JP Nadda on Opposition charges that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan's Banswara. A similar notice had been issued to Mallikarjun Kharge, too, based on the complaints filed by the BJP against him and the main Opposition party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi regarding their remarks. The commission rejected the defence by Nadda and Kharge and asked them to instruct their parties' star campaigners to desist from campaigning along caste, community, language, and religious

The EC also asked the Congress not to politicise defence forces and make potentially divisive



regarding statements economic composition of the armed forces.

The EC had broken from norms when it issued notices to the BJP and Congress presidents on April 25 on complaints against Modi by the Opposition and against Rahul and Kharge by the ruling party. While the EC did not name Modi or Rahul, it asked Nadda and Kharge for their "comments" on the "star campaigners" alleged MCC violations.

"Elections are periodic exercises, they come and go, but political parties like yours endure; even more enduring preserve is India's socio-cultural milieu; political parties are in the task of nurturing leaders for the country for present and future," the commission said. It also asked the Congress to ensure that its star campaigners and candidates do not make statements which give false impression that the Constitution may be abolished or sold. The EC asked the presidents

of the two national parties to issue

notes to campaigners to correct discourse, exercise care and maintain decorum.

Referring to their respective replies to the notices issued to them on April 25, the election authority said "technical loopholes or extreme interpretations of other political utterances" discharge the parties and their campaigners from the core responsibility of their own

content which ought to be corrective to the ongoing "and not discourse further plummeting the quality of campaign discourse".

It reminded the two parties of provisions of the model code which state that no party or candidate will include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or

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www.dailypioneer.com

Voter sympathy for Kejriwal ebbs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $R_{
m after}^{
m iding}$ high on the electoral sympathy Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) seems to have lost its advantages after the alleged assault on Raiya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal in the run up for the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi.

The Maliwal incident has dented Kejriwal's image badly, who is facing corruption charges in the excise policy scam case, which is visible in the party's campaign. The saffron party seems to have an upper hand in all seven seats as this has not gone well among the women voters.

progress.

power.

Modi further accused Congress

and Samajwadi Party of being

"sympathisers of Pakistan" and

instilling fear about its nuclear

They say we need to be scared

of Pakistan because it has an

atom bomb. Don't they know

what a 56-inch chest means? This is not the weak Congress government, but the strong

government of Modi," he said

and added, "India does not spare those who try to bully it."

Beginning his speech with the traditional greeting, Ram-Ram

to all brothers and sisters," the prime minister connected

directly with the people.
Reflecting on the ongoing elec-

tions, Modi emphasised the

government's reaffirmation

through five phases of voting, highlighting the opposition's

Top BJP leaders are confident to repeat the 2019 results. The BJP, which is banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma and corruption free administration in his 10 vears rule, has now focussed its strategy, years rule, has now focussed its strategy, utilising the alleged assault on Maliwal, to portray its top leadership, including Kejriwal, as responsible — first through "silence", acceptance, and then a "direct attack" on Maliwal — for "denigration" and "assault" of their own women

colleagues.

On the other hand, Kejriwal who has On the other hand, Kejriwal who has maintained radio silence, seems to be on back foot, hurting the party's electoral prospects. The BJP's campaign strategy to counter the INDIA Bloc in Delhi has been to target the AAP more than the Congress.

more than the Congress.
Besides, the BJP has consistently raked up corruption allegations against the AAP, including the now-scrapped excise policy and 10 other alleged scams. AAP hopes Kejriwal's arrest will generate sympathy for the party in the general elections and help it win maximum seats in Delhi and Punjab. Continued on Page 8



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath greet supporters during a public meeting for the Lok Sabha elections in Basti on

inconsistency and forgetfulness. Modi urged voters to consider the significance of their vote. "A vote for Congress holds no meaning. No voter wishes to see their vote go to waste. Your vote should go towards forming the desired government," he stated.

Highlighting the moral duty of voting, Modi emphasised its role in fostering national development and self-reliance. He nostalgically recalled January 22, 2024, in Ayodhya, emphasising the nation's roots in Ram, development in heritage, and modernity in spirituality. Asserting India's enhanced global stature, Modi criticised family-based parties for their

to 1984 riots when Sikhs were burnt alive. "It was in

this very Delhi that my Sikh

brothers and sisters were

burned alive with burning

appeasement politics and questioned Congress' commitment to constitutional principles. In a direct appeal to the audience, Modi promised the construction of three crore permanent houses for those living in dilapidated conditions. "Raise your hands and affirm

your support. Every such family will receive a permanent house under the Modi government," he pledged, stressing the transformative potential of their vote. The rally concluded with Modi underlining the critical importance of high voter turnout to ensure the continuation of development projects and the establishment of a robust government.

SC slams Soren for half truths, he withdraws plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tailed former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday failed to get any relief from the Supreme Court which pulled him up for "suppressing material facts" in his plea against his arrest in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

A vacation bench of justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma allowed Soren's counsel Kapil Sibal to withdraw the pleas for interim bail for Lok Sabha poll campaigning and against his arrest after the apex court indicated that it would dismiss them as Soren has not approached the court with clean hands.

The court pointed out that Soren did not apprise it of the April 4 order of the special



courts for the same relief... We (Soren) was acting in a bonafide manner...," it said.

Continued on Page 8

PMLA court and dismissed on May 13.

cognisance of the prosecution complaint, which is the Enforcement Directorate's equivalent to a charge sheet, and also that his regular bail petition was filed on April 15 ... You had approached two

have doubts that your client

Modi rips into INDIA Bloc's Communal plank SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday tore into the INDIA Bloc accusing it of being extremely casteist and extremely nepotistic" as he alleged that the Congress is to be blamed for the anti-Sikh

Addressing a rally in West Delhi's Dwarka sector 14, the Prime Minister said the BJP's development model is committed to 'nation first' but for the Congress and the

INDIA grouping, the only agenda is family first.

Modi denounced the communal and casteist agendas of the INDIA Bloc, accusing them of prioritising vote-bank politics over the welfare of the nation. He criticised their divisive tactics and highlighted instances of communal violence and corruption under their rule.
"The country



Delhiites throng Dwarka sector 14 to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday

understands that if by mistake any vote is cast in favour of the INDIA alliance, that vote is not going to be of any use to the country. Every vote given to BJP will strengthen the resolve of 'Viksit Bharat'. That is why this huge sea of people

is also saying in one voice 'Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar'," he said. He said, "The BJP's development model says, Nation First. On the other hand, Congress and the INDI alliance's only agenda is family first. This INDI alliance is a symbol of every evil that exists

in the country today. They are highly communal, casteist, and family-oriented. Our Delhi has been a direct witness to their communalism." Attacking the Congress and the INDIA Bloc, he referred

tires around their necks. Whose crime was this? Congress. Today, every party standing under the Congress umbrella is guilty of the Sikh riots. It is Modi who is delivering justice to the victims of the Sikh riots. As soon as Modi came to power, an SIT was formed. Hundreds of cases were reopened. The Congress leaders who

were roaming freely have been punished by us," he said. During his speech, Modi emphasised the stark differences between the governance models of the BJP and the Congress-led INDIA Bloc. He underscored the BJP's

commitment to fast-paced development and efficient

governance, contrasting it with the slow progress and systemic injustice perpetuated by the Congress and its allies.

Speaking about the Congress and INDIA Bloc's misrule and caste-based politics, Modi said, "Who doesn't know about the prestigious Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University in Delhi? For 60 years, it remained a

regular educational institution, there. backward classes, and tribals used to get reservations. But in 2011, the Congress Government played a trick.

Suddenly Jamia was declared a minority institution. This imposed a 50 per cent reservation for Muslims in Jamia. Earlier, all SC/ST/OBCs used to get reservations in admissions. Now even that has been restricted based on religion."

Continued on Page 8

WORST NOT OVER YET! Brace up for more fire from the skies

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the India
Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a red alert in Delhi forecasting the city to sizzle at 47 degrees Celsius on May 25, the day of the Lok Sabha polls, political parties are grappling with speculations about voter participation. A million dollar question is: Whether or not voter turnout in Delhi will surpass the 60 per cent mark recorded in 2019 general elections.

This phase six involves 58 Lok Sabha constituencies across six States, including Delhi, Haryana, Odisha, and Bihar, as well as two Union Territories. All seven seats in Delhi and all ten seats in Haryana will be contested in this phase amid fear of blistering heat with temperature going up. disturbance, the mercury is and Delh According to senior IMD expected to rise again in the Mahesh



scientist Naresh Kumar, the coming days. temperatures, rising particularly in Rajasthan, have prompted the issuance of red alerts, indicating heatwave extreme conditions. In Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, while there has been a slight decrease in temperatures due to a western

As per the IMD, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are very likely in most parts of West Rajasthan, in many/some pockets over Punjab, Haryana-

Chandigarh, Rajasthan and West Uttar Pradesh, in isolated pockets of northwest Madhya Pradesh and Delhi till Sunday. Palawat,

president of Skymet Weather and a private Indian weather forecaster, was quoted by a media report that, "Our warning indicates that temperatures are likely to reach high heatwave levels in the national Capital."

The apprehension surrounding voter turnout in Delhi's upcoming elections is likely to be compounded by the heat index, which measures the apparent temperature that people feel outside due to a combination of high temperature and humidity.

humidity.

For example on Wednesday
Delhi faced scorching
temperatures at 42 degrees
Celsius, however, the heat
index soared to a staggering degrees Celsius, highlighting the severe heat stress and discomfort endured by residents.

Continued on Page 8

Israel honours Kerala caregivers KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

 $N_{
m Ambassador}^{
m aor}$ Gilon, the Ambassador of Israel to India, while celebrating National Day of Israel in India said both the Government and the people of India stood on the side of Israel since October 7. Gilon thanked the Government of India and the people for standing with the Jewish nation in its hour of crisis. "From October 7, both the Government and the people of India stood on the side of Israel. And this we will never forget. The amount of support we get here is nothing short of amazing. It's a testimony of the extraordinary relations between the Indian and the Jewish people," said

the Israeli Ambassador. Ambassador also paid tributes to two Keralites who risked lives to save aged couple during the attack by Hamas on October 7. "I take



this occasion to salute the heroism of people of Indian descent: Meera and Sabitha, caregivers from Kerala, who saved an elderly couple during the terror attack; and Romi (6), an Israeli child of Indian descent, whose parents were murdered in front of her, tried to protect her little sister — Lia (3) during the attack. They have shown extraordinary courage and a strong spirit, inspiring the entire nation of Israel," said

Hamas to release the 128 citizens of Israel who were taken hostage by the Hamas on October 7, 2023. Israel's National Day was organised by the Embassy of Israel in India with Vinay Mohan Kwatra, the foreign secretary of India, gracing the occasion as chief guest. Despite the deep wounds inflicted by the

The 76th anniversary of Israel

was observed on Tuesday at

New Delhi with a call to the

people, the Ambassador paid glowing tributes to the two caregivers from Kerala who saved an aged couple from the jaws of death. He stated that this Independence Day was complicated and painful. "But

Hamas terrorists on Israeli

our resolve is strong. While we mark this Independence Day, our thoughts are with the 128 loved ones who are still held captive. Their immediate release remains our sincere hope and ongoing mission. Speaking at the event, Foreign

Secretary Kwatra said, "We join the people of Israel to celebrate this momentous occasion. It is deeply inspiring that the extraordinary iourney of a nation that has not only survived and thrived against all odds, but also transformed itself into a flourishing landscape of innovation, advancement, and growth.

Continued on Page 8

Population of Gangetic dolphins on the rise in UP | History-sheeter held after

The efforts of the double-engine government and the Namami Gange Mission towards cleaning the river Ganga and maintaining its uninterrupted flow have led to significant increase in the population of Gangetic dolphins in the recent times. Experts have even described the increase in Gangetic dolphin's population as a "positive environmental

According to the Indian Wildlife Institute, there are currently about 4,000 dolphins also falls on UP.

In this regard, Uttar Pradesh

in the Ganga and its tributaries. It indicates that the Ganga provides a favourable habitat for dolphins and that the river's water is also clean. The number of dolphins is expected to increase even further in the

According to estimates, the number of Gangetic dolphins in Uttar Pradesh is expected to reach 2,000, more than half of the total Gangetic dolphins found in India. Therefore, the primary responsibility for their conservation and development

has implemented a new tourism policy for the state and declared a Dolphin Sanctuary area in the Chambal Sanctuary. Currently, approximately 111 dolphins have been recorded in the Chambal region.

After Prime Minister Modi announced Project Dolphin, public interest in this unique and rare mammal has increased. However, a significant portion of the population remains unfamiliar with this charismatic megafauna. Therefore, conserving the Gangetic dolphins will not only raise awareness about protecting this species but also enhance efforts to maintain the purity and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga.

Awareness and public participation are the main aspects of the Namami Gange Mission. Based on this, the goal is set to stabilise the population of Gangetic dolphins by 2030 and double the number of more endangered species.

In this, the Clean Ganga Mission has succeeded in fostering better coordination among state governments, experts, non-governmental organisations and local people. Through pollution reduction measures, conservation of wetlands, and efforts to improve river flow under the Namami Gange project, suitable habitat has been provid-

ed for Gangetic dolphins. The river dolphin is an extremely special megafauna of the Indian subcontinent, classified as critically endangered globally. Efforts are underway to conserve it in India. They are found primarily in the Ganga and its tributaries, including the Ramganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Ghaghara, Rapti, Son, Gandak, Chambal and Koshi.

encounter with police

A joint team of the Special Operation Group and Chinhat police arrested a history-sheeter and dreaded criminal after an encounter with him early in the morning in the area on Wednesday. DCP (East) Prabal Pratap Singh said the joint team was tipped-off about the miscreants involved in the indiscriminate firing at a luxury car in the night on May 19 at Chinhat overbridge to create terror and extort money from the occupants of the car.

"We were tipped-off that the miscreants involved in the firing were roaming in a car which did not have a registration number. The grey colour car was later located in the area and the cops asked the occupants to stop the car for checking. However, the occupants in the car opened fire at the police team sped off behind the Dayal Farm in Chinhat. The police teams surrounded the miscreants and asked them to surrender but they fired again at the police and attempted to flee. They were challenged and the police team fired on the miscreants after they did not surrender. In the exchange of firing, prime accused Nitin Kundi suffered bullet injuries on his leg and was nabbed," the DCP

He said Nitin Kundi was a his-



Chinhat and was involved in terrorising people and extorting money from them.

"His aide managed to escape," he said. The officer disclosed that Nitin, who has been admitted to a hospital, has formed a gang of youths of tender age. He is a drug peddler and involved in extortion and is a drug

Nitin had a rivalry

with gangs which were operating in the same area.

DEAD: A 65-year-old man died after he fell down in a drain in Saadatganj on Wednesday. Police said Shyamu

Singh and (above) the injured miscreant being taken addict, he added. away following the encounter in Chinhat area on early The DCP said Wednesday

of the area worked as a mason and was alcoholic. The police said Shyamu fell into the drain

(Top): The police team led by DCP (East) Prabal Pratap

and drowned. "He was inebriated so he could not raise an

BSP facing biggest threat from own 'deserters'

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA LUC-

Having won four Lok Sabha seats in the last parliamentary elections out of the constituencies going to polls in the sixth phase in Uttar Pradesh on May 25, Bahujan Samaj Party is facing the biggest threat from its own sitting MPs who deserted the party to contest the election from other political outfits.

Those whom BSP once trusted the most and fielded them ignoring the demands of party cadre, today they are challenging the BSP by becoming strangers for the party. In this sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, in the three constituencies which BSP had won last Lalganj MP Sangeeta Azad has

time, its rebel MPs are now challenging it by going to the rival camp. Now it remains to be seen how much success these BSP rebels get from other parties and how the BSP army is able to defeat them.

Last time, the BSP had won the Ambedkar Nagar, Shravasti, Lalganj and Jaunpur Lok Sabha seats amongst the 13 constituencies which will go to polls in this phase. Except launpur, the MPs representing the other three constituencies have joined other parties. Ambedkar Nagar MP Ritesh Pandey is contesting the election on BJP ticket. Shravasti MP Ram Shiromani has joined the Samajwadi Party and is

joined BJP, but the ruling party has given ticket to Neelam Sonkar from there. Actually, Jaunpur MP Shyam Singh Yadav was also looking to contesting the election on the ticket of some other party, partic-ularly Congress, but after for-mation of INDIA Bloc and SP and Congress joining hands, he was left with no other option but to wait for Mayawati's nod to again contest on BSP ticket

to retain his seat. Interestingly, the BSP had given its ticket to gangster-turned-politician Dhananjay Singh's wife Shrikala Singh from Jaunpur, but just a day before the last day of nomination, her ticket was withdrawn and sitting MP Shyam Singh Yadav was asked to file his nomina-

tion from Jaunpur. Now Dhananjay and his wife are supporting BJP candidate Kripa Shankar Singh.
It is to be seen what support these sitting BSP MPs will get after they shifted their loyalties to contact the election on this equation when it was in alliance with SP.
This time the BSP has placed its bet on Muslim candidate Moinuddin Ahmed from Shravasti. Lalganj is a safe seat

to contest the elections on tickets of other parties or support them. Talking in terms of caste equa-

tion, Dalit voters in Ambedkar Nagar are said to be around 28 per cent. Muslims are around 15 per cent and Brahmins are around 14 per cent. The BSP has placed its bet on Muslim candidate Qamar Hayat Ansari on the basis of Muslim and Dalit equation. In Shravasti, Muslims are said to be around 28 per cent and Dalits around 17 per cent. The BSP had won

for BSP as 27 per cent voters are Dalits and 14 per cent are from Muslims. Due to it being a reserved seat, the BSP has fielded Dr Indu Chaudhary from Lalganj. Indu Chaudhary is assistant professor in the English department of Banaras Hindu University. Now it remains to be seen how successful the BSP's strategy will be and how many voters support it especially when its sitting MP Sangeeta Azad has left the party to join BJP and is supporting Neelam Sonkar.

SGPGIMS completes 200 bone marrow transplants

PNS LUCKNOW

Dr Sanjeev, associate professor (Clinical/ BMT) of the haematology department of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow said here on Tuesday that recently they had completed 200 bone marrow transplants with a very good success rate which is comparable to the good transplant centres of India. He said that it was a big achievement for their BMT

He further informed that the Transplant) programme was started way back in 1999 in SGPGIMS by Prof Soniya (total 209 transplants, since the inception of the department). "Bone marrow transplantation is a team work. The BMT unit of SGPGIMS has got the award Nityanand.

gramme, Old BMT unit had its own limitations and large num- benign and malignant haemabers of transplants were not

possible, hence a new BMT unit was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in December, 2019. We started the BMT programme in the new unit in January, 2020 but after three transplants we were forced to stop the programme due to COVID-19 pandemic,"

he said. He said that after the second wave of COVID-19, in July 2021, they restarted the programme and since then 109 transplants (66 autologous and 43 allogeneic) had been done, (total 209 transplants, since the for the second consecutive year "It was the fourth centre in India to start the BMT proas allogeneic HSCTs for various

Cyber thugs duping man of over Rs 30 lakh held PNS LUCKNOW

The cyber police on Wednesday arrested two miscreants who 'digitally' arrested a man and duped him of over Rs 30 lakh. Those arrested were identi-

fied as Rajiv Bhasin aka Raju

and Mohit Chopra aka Nanu, both of Agra district. They had duped one Niranjan Singh while posing as custom officers and later as CBI officers and threatening him of legal consequences, saying a parcel was booked in his name in Cambodia and his passport had been used in the crime of

sending parcels illegally. The accused also terrorised the victim, saying his name could figure in a case of money laundering and asked him to ered from courier packets or Telangana, two from Assam

It is alleged that the accused did not allow the victim to move out of his room by taking him on Skype call and asking him to say yes or no to the deal. Left with no option, Singh paid Rs 30.5 lakh to the miscreants as ransom to walk out of the 'digital' arrest in which a person is kept on hold in Skype talk with the miscreants and is forced to pay them money for freeing himself. Singh in his complaint had stat-

ed that he got a call from an unidentified mobile number and later was asked to talk to the senior officer who identified himself as a CBI officer. The miscreants owned up their crime and disclosed that they used the information they gath

addresses and called the victims on Skype or video call while showing the victims a police station-like set-up. They threatened victims that they had been 'digitally' arrested and then spelt out the deal.

The money taken from victims was credited in the bank accounts of the mentors of the miscreants operating from foreign countries. The miscreants were given 1.8 per cent of the total deal.

The police were stunned when they checked the bank account transaction details. A total of 39 transactions of Rs 1.68 crore were done - one from UP, six from Andhra Pradesh, two from Haryana, three from Rajasthan, two Maharashtra, six from settle the issue or face the parcels sent to different and one from Bihar.

Warm night conditions to prevail in city been beefed up. Fresh drinking water is filled in the morning and

PNS LUCKNOW

There will be no respite from heat for the city denizens. While the morning temperatures are already high in the city, from Thursday

onwards the nights are also going to get warmer.

Senior scientist of the Met department, Mohammed Danish, said that the day temperature in Lucknow would be 40-42 degree Celsius and the night temperature would touch 30 degree Celsius, which would be above normal.

"Easterly winds are not allowing the night temperature to drop in Lucknow," he said. He said that warm nights would prevail for the next three days. aborating on the scene prevailing in Uttar Pradesh, he said that in the western UP, heat wave conditions would prevail for the next five days. "In the eastern UP, the heat wave will not prevail for the first two days but from the third day the heat wave conditions will appear." he said. He further informed that in the western UP, warm westerly winds were causing heat

weak and hence heat wave conditions will start in after two days." he added. Meanwhile Lucknow Zoo

Director Aditi Sharma said that to protect the wild animals from the heat, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Park, Lucknow had taken several measures for different wild animals as per their needs.

"In the enclosures of many wild animals, where there is more sunlight, a large number of trees and plants have been planted around them so that there is natural greenery there and the wild animals get relief from the heat. First of all, the provision of clean drinking water for wild animals has

evening in the enclosures for the wildlife to drink. The cages of wild animals are cleaned daily by washing them with water so that the enclosures remain cool and cleanliness is also maintained," she

alarm for help," the police said.

"More than 25 coolers have been installed in the enclosures of wild animals to protect them from heat," she said

wave conditions. She said that sprinklers had also "In eastern UP, the warm been installed to keep the enclowesterlies are gaining strength sures of wild animals cool and to and the easterlies are getting protect the animals by spraying

It is to inform general public that Original Sale Deed dated 01.12.2009, executed by Rameshwaram Sahkari Greh Nirman Samiti Ltd in favour of Neelam Vishawkarma in respectof PlotNo. 39-A, area 1500 So, Ft. Part of Khasra No. 139 Village Kamlabad Badhauli, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil BKT and District Lucknow, registered in the office of Sub Registrar BKT, Lucknow in Book No. 1. Volume 2782, Pages 183-206, at Serial No. 7813, on 01.12.2009 now owned by Smt. Geeta, has been lost at Chatha Meel Chauraha, Lucknow, on 23.01.2022 near about 6 PM while going to Chatha Meel Chauraha for getting its photocopy from her house. Now, Smt. Geeta is mortgaging said property with ICICI HFC against Ioan. Use of this sale deed by any other person will be void. If any person or financial institution has find it or has any interest or objection in this regard, please contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection in writing and with relevant documents, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mr. Amit Kumar Singh Rathaur Advocate, Chamber No. 7, UGF, Krishna Tower, Chakbast Road, Quaiserbagh, Lucknow. Mobile No.9559811119

NOTICE

I, TANYA Agarwal have change my name to Tanya Jain for all future purposes. Tanya Jain D/o Manoj Agarwal, Add.- S3 127/611 W Block Keshav Nagar Kanpur.

NOTICE

I Shailendra Kumar Verma S/o Ramdaras Verma R/o Village-Tandawa Jalal, District-Ambedkar Nagar. In my service records (Army no-14832330K, Rank-Naik) my father's name is recorded as Ramdarash and DOB is 01/07/1953.which is wrong. In other dacuments of my father The correct name is written Ramdaras Verma and DOB is 05/02/1957.which is correct. This should be considered

NOTICE

This is to inform that my family name is Chirag Tiwari While my name is mentioned as Akshav Kumar in all educational and government documents in future. I Should be Recognized and written by this name. Akshav Kumar S/O Sanjeev Kr. Tiwari R/o 310/12, Babupurwa Colony T.P.Nagar , Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I bring to you kind notice that my name is Rishba Sultan D/o Sultan Ahmed R/o 768 Talib Sarain City & Distt. Unnao (U.P.) I have change my name Rishba Sultan Ahmad to Rishba Sultan D/o Zinat Fatma Farooqui to Zinat Fatima as the above address

Change of Name & Dob

tological diseases.

I No-15679819A hav (LMM) Sanjai Kumar Bindra Residing of Village & Post- Dhelwan, Teh. & Disst. Ghazipur Pin-233302 U.P. My Fathers and Mothers Name & Dob Wrongly Mentioned. Fathers Name Shri Kuber Ram Dob- 01-07-1952 And Mothers Name Mewatee Devi Dob-01-07- 1957 in my Service Records Is Correct Name & Dob are Fathers Kuber Dob-01-07-1962. Mothers Name Mevati, 01-07-1964. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before Public Notary Dated 13-05-2024

सूचना

पूर्व नाम प्राची पुत्री स्व० श्री राजेश कुमार वर्मा, पता, 1/632 सेक्टर 1, विकास नगर, लखनऊ 226022 को भविष्य में राधिका सिंह नाम से जाना एवं पहचाना जाए।

NOTICE

I, Rakesh Jaiswal, father of Aadvika Jaiswal, born on 25-06-2017 in Lucknow, residing at 3/498, Vastu Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, hereby declare that my daughter's name has been changed from Aadvika Jaiswal to Anaya Jaiswal. All relevant documents will reflect this change. Rakesh Jaiswal

NOTICE

I hereby declare that in some of my documents my name is registered as Neetu Lath while in most of the documents my name is registered as Neetu Agrawal which is correct. Hence, in all the documents my correct name Neetu Agrawal will be written and known.Neetu Agrawal W/O Sandeep Lath R/O Station Road, Vijay Laxmi Nagar, Tehseel and District-Sitapur

Grain trader looted in Itaunja

Two unidentified miscreants riding a motorcycle looted cash from a grain trader in Itaunja police station on Wednesday.

There were reports that the

miscreants fired several rounds in the air while fleeing. DCP (North) Abhijeet R Shanker disclosed that the miscreants, wielding countrymade pistols, forced the grain trader Arif of Itaunja to go inside the shop and looted the

cash box containing the cash.

He denied reports that the

miscreants opened several rounds of fire in the air. "We have formed teams consisting of the crime branch and the surveillance cell and hope to crack the case soon," the

DCP said.

According to the DCP, the miscreants reached Arif's shop at Usrana crossing by a motor-cycle. They entered the shop and held Arif hostage at gun-point. They then looted the cash and sped off the scene. Arif is a wholesale dealer of

wheat. The neighbouring shop owners said they could not guess foul play as they mistook the miscreants as customers and wheat sellers. They said Arif raised an alarm after the miscreant sped off the scene and it was only then that they came to know of the loot.

The traders have demanded immediate arrest of the miscreants.

Sources in police said the teams were probing the rival-ry angle also in the loot case. 'It is possible that the miscreants had some old rivalry with Arif and they executed the crime to avenge it," they

Teenager killed in road mishap

PNS LUCKNOW

Tn a tragic incident, an 18year-old boy was killed after an uncontrolled e- rickshaw hit him in Talkatora police station area in the night on Tuesday. As per reports, the victim, Gangasagar of E Block of Rajajipuram, was returning home after getting the tank of his motorcycle filled when an e-rickshaw hit his two-wheeler at D Block crossing around 10:30 pm. He was rushed to Rani Laxmi Bai Hospital where he died during treatment in the night. Police registered a case and started an investigation. The agitated local residents demanded curbs on plying of e-rickshaws in the area. "The erickshaws have become a menace for the people living in the area. Every now and then road mishaps are caused by e-rickshaws. Most of these e -rickshaws are being driven by minors or those who do not have a commercial driving licence. Besides, the e-rickshaws have no registration

numbers and so it is practical-

ly difficult to identify the vehicle involved in an accident," the residents said.

Meanwhile, the 13-year-old student Anwar Ali of Panchasara village in Gosainganj, who had suffered critical injuries in a road mishap, succumbed to the injuries at the Trauma Centre. His family filed a complaint on Wednesday.

Anwar was returning home on May 15 when he was hit by a loader at Kapera village. He was taken to CHC in Gosaingani where the doctors referred him to the Trauma Centre of KGMU in view of his serious condition. He, however, died on May 19.

In another incident, a divyang spending his days at a tempo stand in Rajajipuram and eking out his living by begging alms was crushed to death in the area on Wednesday. The victim, identified as

staying at a corner of the tempo stand and begged alms to feed himself. On Wednesday, when he was

Pooran of Hardoi district, was

out begging alms near the tempo stand, a truck laden with LPG cylinders ran over him around 9:30 am. The driver escaped after the accident. The commuters rushed Pooran to Rani Laxmi Bai hospital where he was pronounced

SUICIDE

A 12-year-old girl was found hanging at her home in Gosainganj on Wednesday. The girl, Mahi of Kanji Khera, along with her sibling Mahak, was at home and her parents had gone to the field to harvest crops. Around 8 am, Mahak called her father, Jitendra Kumar Rawat, and informed him that Mahi had committed suicide.

Jitendra rushed home and broke open the doors in the presence of villagers and other members of his family. Mahi was found hanging from a bamboo pole with a saree tied around her neck. The police sent the body for autopsy and started the investigation.

LPC camp ends

Lucknow: Each year the Lucknow Public Collegiate, Sharda Nagar organises a customary 8-10 day summer camp for its students to provide them. with exciting opportunities and to keep alive the fun element without losing the sight of learning. The Summer Camp provides a safe and healthy environment for kids to learn and achieve expertise in whatever they are trying to master. More than 150 students enrolled for different activities. namely, taekwondo, skating, art & craft, dance, Indian and Western music, football, volleyball, table tennis, etcetera in the summer camp which culminated on May 22 with a closing ceremony in which the students with the help of their instructors put up an engaging show for the par-

ASIAN FERTILIZERS LIMITED

CIN: L99999UP1986PLC007621 Regd. office: Flat No. 202, Preet Garden, 3A/172, Azad Nagar, Kanpur, 208002 Corporate office: P.W.D. Officer's Colony, Near Sahara Press, Park road, Gorakhpur-273001

E-mail. afl@asianfertilizers.com, investor@asianfertilizers.com Phone: (0551) 2203421, 2202436, Website: www.asianfertilizers.cor NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 (Listing Regulation), Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of directors of the Asian Fertilizers Limited is scheduled to be held on 30th May 2024, interalia, to consider and approve the audited financial results of the Company for the year ended 31'

The said notice may also be accessed on the Bombay Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com and company's website at <u>www.asianfertilizers.com</u>

FOR ASIAN FERTILIZERS LIMITED Place: Gorakhpui Managing Director

Date: 22/05/2024 बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region 118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

Possession Notice (Branch: Sandalpur, Kanpur Dehat Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/quarantors and the public in general

conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the operty and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount k interest thereon.

that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time vailable to redeem the secured assets

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date

Village Mankapur, Post Office Sandalpur, Sikandra Road, Kanpur Dehat. Demand Notice Date: 29-02-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 17.05.2024 Property: Land Situated at Gata No. 73 Kha, Village Hawaspur, Pargana & Tehsil Sikandra Distt Kanpur Dehat. Owner of Property: Smt. Reena Devi W/o Shri Rajendra, Area: 833.14 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North: Link Road Hawaspur to Hiswa, South: Agriculture Land of Pancham, East

Borrower: Shri Rajendra S/o Shri Sundar Lal and Smt. Reena Devi W/o Shri Rajendra, Both R/o

Agriculture Land of Ram Swaroop, West: Plot of Dharam Das Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 13,77,964.97 + Intt. +Others Charges

Total Dues as on Dated 11-05-2024: Rs. 14,08,338.86 + Intt. +Others Charges Place : Kanpur Dehat Date: 23-05-2024

Authorised Officer





Those who praise Pak should pack their bags by Jun 4: Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

said Wednesday those who praise Pakistan should pack their bags by June 4 and stop being a burden on India, appar-ently referring to remarks by Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar that surfaced recently. "They should seek refuge in Pakistan," he said, addressing a rally at the Government Inter College Mungarbadshahpur ground to seek votes for the BJP's Jaunpur Lok Sabha candidate Kripashankar Singh.

The BJP leader's remark alluded to an old video in which Aiyar was heard saying that India should give respect to Pakistan as it is a sovereign nation and engage with it as it also possesses an atom bomb. The clip sparked a row amid the ongoing election season. Adityanath reiterated his 'Rambhakt versus Ramdrohi' tirade against the opposition.

Can a struggling country like Uttar Pradesh Chief Pakistan be a threat to a vast nation such as India which has the largest emerging economy? Ramdrohis engage in casteist and dynastic politics and also incite caste-based conflicts," he claimed.

> Adityanath said the Congress has intentionally aligned with tainted, corrupt and dynastic parties, committing to causing chaos and disorder in the coun-

> "Under Modi's leadership, sig-nificant strides have been made in development and welfare for the poor in India's evolving landscape. Under Modi's leadership, India provides free rations to 80 crore people, while 23 crore people in Pakistan are suffering from hunger," he added.

The Jaunpur Lok Sabha was got to polls on May 25 in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha election. Votes will be counted on June 4.

Pakistan; it has atomic bombs.' manifesto of the INDIA bloc proposed that if the Congress government assumes power, reservation benefits allocated for backward classes, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes will be extended to Muslims.

He referred to incidents like stampedes, clashes, chaos and 'nuuraa-kushtii' (pretend fighting) as regular occurrences at the Samajwadi Party's election rallies.

The chief minister was referring to recent rallies of SP president Akhilesh Yadav in Phulpur (Prayagraj), Sant Kabir Nagar and Lalganj (Azamgarh), where the party's workers created a ruckus trying to reach the dias.

"Five phases of Lok Sabha elections have passed. There is a unified voice across the nation 'Phir ek bar Modi Sarkar', 'Abki bar 400 par'. The resonant chant of these slogans upset the Samajwadi Party beyond measure. The regional party is contesting elections on only 60-

Yogi to campaign in Odisha and Bihar today

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party's star campaigner Yogi Adityanath will be campaigning in Odisha and Bihar on Thursday. He will address a total of four public meetings, cov-

ering two constituencies in each of the two states. Chief Minister Yogi's first public meeting will be for the Puri Lok Sabha seat, where he will urge support to vote for BJP candidate Sambit Patra. His second public meeting will be in

Kendrapara constituency, from where the BJP has fielded Baijayant Jay Panda. Panda is the national vice-president of the BJP and also party's the election in-charge for Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, Yogi Adityanath will rush to Bihar where he will hold a public meeting in support of senior BJP leader and East Champaran candidate Radha Mohan Singh. Yogi's fourth public meeting will be for BJP candidate from West Champaran Dr Sanjay

"They say, 'Don't provoke Adityanath also alleged that the BJP to be wiped out from eastern UP: Akhilesh

PNS LUCKNOW

Camajwadi Party president Bharatiya Janata Party would be wiped out from eastern Uttar Pradesh in the sixth and seventh phases of Lok Sabha elections and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also lose from Varanasi. Akhilesh Yadav said the INDIA

Block was ahead of the BJP in all Lok Sabha constituencies of eastern Uttar Pradesh and on June 4, the day of counting of votes, a film would be released 'Ek Thi BJP'. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is

scared of the opposition INDIA Bloc so he is attacking its leaders. The prime minister, instead of focusing on his party's agenda, is targeting the 'shahazade' (Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi). Both the shahazade are not only giving 'shah' (challenge) they will also defeat the BJP," Akhilesh Yadav said while addressing an election rally in Azamgarh on Wednesday.

Dharmendra Yadav, cousin of Akhilesh Yadav, is the SP candidate from Azamgarh.

Akhilesh Yadav was elected to Lok Sabha from Azamgarh Lok Sabha constituency in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Claiming that Azamgarh is his real home, Akhilesh Yadav said, "Etawah, Kannauj and Mainpuri are the traditional turf of the SP;



Azamgarh is the place which will change the course of politics of Uttar Pradesh." He said the people of Azamgarh and

the rest of eastern Uttar Pradesh had decided to show the door to the BJP. He said during the decade-long rule of the BJP at the Centre, the saffron party had only ditched the poor, the farmers and all other sections of society.

"Instead of honouring its promise of doubling the income of the farmers, the common man's life has been devastated by the galloping inflation and unemployment," he

Urging the electorate to ensure the ruption by the BJP,"

victory of the SP candidate from Azamgarh with a record margin, Akhilesh Yadav promised that the INDIA Bloc government will ensure that one lakh rupees are credited in the saving accounts of women across India. He said the INDIA Bloc government would also double the free food grain to the poor and also scrap the Agniveer scheme for recruitment of jawans in the Indian Army.

Accusing the BJP of amassing huge wealth through electoral bonds, Akhilesh Yadav said, "The Supreme Court order quashing the electoral bond scheme has exposed the cor-

Terming the all-India vaccination drive after the COVID-19 pandemic as "scam", the SP chief charged that "people were forcibly vaccinated against their will".

He said all those who got the vac-cine would fall ill and may even suffer heart attack.

He claimed that the vaccine manufacturing company is now withdrawing the vaccine from the mar-

Akhilesh Yadav asserted that the SP candidate will win from a record margin in Azamgarh. "I have constructed a new house in Azamgarh and we will celebrate the victory here on June 4," the SP chief said.

20 first-time candidates in Purvanchal

Purvanchal, or eastern Uttar Pradesh, has long been a crucible of political thought and innovation, often serving as the launching pad for new political talents. This election season is no exception, with approximately 20 first-time candidates contesting the Lok Sabha elections in this key region.

Leading the charge is the Bahujan Samaj Party, which has introduced fresh faces in 11 out of the 13 Lok Sabha constituencies in Purvanchal. The BSP's strategy is deeply rooted in caste dynamics, aiming to maximise their appeal across different voter groups. For instance, in Azamgarh, the BSP has fielded Bhim Rajbhar to attract the significant Rajbhar voter base. The Bharatiya Janata Party, in alliance with the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, could see a split in these votes due to Rajbhar's candidacy. Other notable BSP candidates include Umesh Singh in Ghazipur, Satyendra Maurya in Chandauli, and young Manish Tripathi in Mirzapur. Additionally, the BSP has chosen Dr

Indu Chaudhary from Banaras Hindu University for the Lalganj Lok Sabha seat and advocate Dhaneshwar Gautam for the Robertsganj seat. Both are contesting their first elections. In Ballia, Lallan Yadav will face BJP's Neeraj Shekhar, son of former prime minister Chandrasekhar.

The BSP has also fielded Irfan Ahmad from Bhadohi and former IAS officer Kripashankar Saroj from Machhlishahr. In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency, Varanasi, the BSP has fielded Athar Jamal Lari.

The ruling BJP has introduced first-time candidate. newcomers in four of the 13 con-

stituencies, while the Samaiwadi Party has fielded three first-time candidates. Among the notable contestants, the BJP has fielded Parasnath Rai, a teacher, against SP's Afzal Ansari in the key Ghazipur parliamentary seat. Rai is close to Lt Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha, who won elections here twice but lost to Afzal Ansari in 2019.

In Jaunpur, a Rajput-dominated constituency, the BJP has fielded Kripashankar Singh, a former president of Maharashtra Congress and minister of state for home in Maharashtra, marking his debut in the Lok Sabha elections. Additionally, Dr Vinod Bind, a doctor from Chandauli, will contest from the Bhadohi constituency for the BJP. The SBSP, an ally of the BJP, has fielded Arvind Rajbhar from the Ghosi constituency. He is another

The SP's new faces include former a political analyst.

Chandauli parliamentary seat. Singh, originally from Varanasi, is contesting his first Lok Sabha election. In the reserved Machhlishahr seat, the SP has chosen Priya Saroj, an advocate and the daughter of senior SP leader Toofani Saroj.

The INDIA Bloc has fielded Ujjawal Raman Singh from Allahabad. Although Singh has won two assembly elections from Karchhana on a SP ticket, this is his first Lok Sabha election. He will face another new entrant in politics, Neeraj Tripathi, son of former governor Keshari Nath Tripathi.

With their bold move to field new faces, all the political parties aim to bring fresh perspectives and energy to the Lok Sabha, challenging the established order and potentially reshaping the political landscape in Purvanchal," said Rajesh N. Bajpayee,

One arrested for love jihad in Ghazipur

Dalit girl trapped by friend's father

case of love jihad has come to A case of love Jihad has come to light in Ghazipur district where a 22-year-old Dalit girl, studying in BA third year, was trapped by her friend's 45-year-old father in a

romantic relationship.
The accused has been identified as Mohammad Sameer. According to reports, when the girl went to attend the wedding ceremony of her friend, Sameer seduced her and eloped with her on May 11. However, the authorities eventually apprehended the girl on Tuesday night after she returned.

Sameer had already married and divorced two Muslim females after which he took a Hindu woman as his third wife 25 years ago and the couple has four children. Last Friday, the victim's father com-

plained to the Dullahpur police

that his daughter, a BA third year student, went to Jalalabad in Ghazipur in February this year to attend her friend Sahiba's wedding where she met her father and the two got acquainted. He alleged that the two shared their mobile numbers and he started using deceptive tactics and offered her inducements to lure her into his trap. He succeeded in taking her away on May 11. The family members searched for her but were unable to find her. She was found in Ghazipur on May 17, after

The victim's father revealed that the offender has four kids. He has been married thrice. He divorced her first two Muslim wives before marrying a Hindu in 1999.

According to information, Sameer regularly called the Dalit girl after he met her at his daughter's wedding. He then entered her residence when

she was alone and raped her. He also promised to marry her and took her to Vapi in Gujarat on May 11. The girl somehow managed to come to Ghazipur from there on May 17.

She narrated her ordeal to her family members after which a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged and the cops began looking for Sameer.

He has been booked under Section 366 of the Indian Penal Code and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Section 376 (rape) of the IPC was added following the girl's statement. The police came to know about Sameer's presence at his Ghazipur home on Tuesday night after which a raid was conducted and he was nabbed.

He was sent to jail under judicial custody. Further investigation is under-

इंडियन बेंक Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD 🛕 इलाहाबाद Zonal Office: 15/287, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, The Mall, Bada Chauraha, Kanpur U.P.-208001

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with les 8 & 9 of the said rules. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be draw attention to the redemption over the

borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount and interest & charges there on as described here in below: We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities.					
-	Name of the Borrowers	Name of Mortgagors Guarantors	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession Notice Outstanding Amt.	
1.		Shri Surendra Singh S/o Late Shambhu Nath Singh Smt. Aruna Singh W/o Shri Surendra Singh	All that Part & Parcel of Land & Building built over Premis No. 60-B, Part of Arazi No. 60 Min, Khata No. 00198 situat at Panki Road, Kalyanpur Khurd, Kanpur. Area of the Property: 128.95 Sq. Mtr. Owner of the Property: Shri Surendra Singh S/o S Shambhu Nath Singh. Boundary is as under: East: 120 Ft. i.e. 36.58 Mtre Road West: Premises No. 49 Lal Ji Gupta North: Common Wall therafter House No. 60-A, JVS Tower South: R.P. Complex	Rs. 87,40,115.00 (Rupees Eighty Seven	
2.	M/s Ramrati Ram Prakash Cold Storage Partners: 1. Shri Vijay Singh Yadav S/o Shri Ram Prakash Singh Yadav 2. Smt Vimlesh Kumari w/o Shri	1. Shri Vijay Singh Yadav S/o Shri Ram Prakash Singh	Mortgaged assets: a). All that Part & Parcel of Land & Building situated at Khata No. 1770, Mauza: Gangemau, Tehsii & Distt. Kannuaj Area of the Property: 0.571 Hect Owner of the Property: Shri Vijay Yadav S/o Ram Prakash Boundaries: East: Field of Ram Swaroop & Other West: Pacca Road then Field of Seller North: Field of Vimlesh Kumar South: Field of Thakur Saheb b). All that Part & Parcel of Land & Building situated at Mauza: Gangemau, Tehsii & Distt. Kannuaj Khata No. 1771, 1776, 1777 Kh & 1778 Kh, Total Area of Property: 0.227 Hectare, Share of Property: 2/3, Area of Share in Property: 0.15133 Hectare Khata No. 1771 Kh & 1777 Ga, Total Area of Property: 0.275 Hectare, Share of Property: 1/3, Area of Share in Property: 0.09166 Hectare Khata No. 1776 Kh, Total Area of Property: 0.024 Hectare, Share of Property: 1/3, Area of Share in Property: 0.090800 Hectare Grand Total Area of Share in Property: 0.25099 Hectare Owner of the Property: Smt. Vimlesh Kumari W/o Shri Ranjit Singh Boundaries: East: Field of Narendra Singh & Others West: Field of Maheshwar North: Connecting Road South: Field of Vakil Saheb. c). All that Part & Parcel of Land & Building situated on Two Story Building at Mohallah: Gandhi Nagar, Tirwaganj, Distt. Kannauj. Area of the Property: 1. Shri Vijay Yadav S/o Shri Ram Prakash Singh Yadav, 2. Shri Ravish Chandra Katiyar S/o Shri Suresh ChandraKatiyar, 3. Shri Udajpal Singh S/o Shri Vidya Ram Yadav Boundaries: East: House of Vinod Kumar West: House of Nishchint Kumar North: 4 Ft. wide Gallery then House of Akhilesh Kumar South: Garden & House of Dwarika Prasad d). All that Part & Parcel of Land & Building situated on Part of Arazi No. 768 Ka & 769 Ka, Thathia Road, Mohalla: Annapurna Nagar, Distt. Kannauj Area of the Property: Smt Ramrati W/o Shri Ram Prakash Singh Yadav Boundaries: East: Theld of Bhagwandin & Others West: East to West 10Ft. wide Raasta then Arazi No. 768 & 769 North: Tirwa – Bilhaur Road South: Field of Shri Gopal Das & Others West: House of North Ram Prakash Singh Yadav Jo.	Rs. 3,20,05,885.00 (Rupees Three Crores Twenty Lakhs Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eight Five Only) as on 19.05.2024 with further interest w.e.f. 20.05.2024, charges and other expenses thereon.	

Date: 22.05.2024

Storage both Present & Future

Hypothecated Assets: Plant & Machineries of the Cold

Hypothecation of Potatoes stored & endorsement of Tatnatti

Receipt by the Farmers ultimately in favour of the Bank for the

Potato stored in the Cold Storage including all other Current &

Movable Assets of the Firm both present & Future The Authorized Officer: Indian Bank

NDA will cross 400 mark: Dr Patel Ajay Rai: Kashi will not forget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Apna Dal (Sonelal) MLA from Rohania Dr Sunil Patel said that not only there has been remarkable development in the city areas of Varanasi Lok Sabha seat but the rural areas also witnessed huge changes as the face of villages has changed during the last 10 years. Rohania and Sewapuri are two rural assembly seg-ments of this parliamentary constituency whereas the other three are urban assembly segments. Addressing a chaupal programme organised in Sajoi village under Rohania assem-bly area here on Wednesday, Dr Patel said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will, definitely, cross 400 mark this time. He said that before the arrival of Modi, the condition of rural areas was pathetic. "Earlier the rural roads were in a dilapidated state but now, pucca roads have been built in the villages. Water



AD(S) MLA Dr Sunil Patel addressing a chaupal in Rohania area in Varanasi on

electricity is being available day and night", Dr Patel said, adding that the beneficiaries have also got gas connections under the Ujjwala scheme while under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, they are getting houses as continuous development work is being seen in the rural areas because

of the leadership of Modi. He appealed to residents to take a pledge to ensure 100 per cent voting in Rohania assembly. Dr Narendra Patel, facility is available in the houses through pipe lines and now Lal Patel, Rajkumar Verma,

Vijay Patel, Barsati Patel, Pramod Gaur, Suit Verma and many others were also present.

Meanwhile, as only nine days are left for voting, the public representatives, BJP office-bearers and workers are working day and night to contact the voters and highlight the achievements and public welfare schemes of the Central government led by Modi. In this direction, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal went door to door and met the voters in

Shivpur and Sarsauli wards under City North assembly and motivated the people for 100 percent.

Similarly, Varanasi Cantt MLA Saurabh Srivastava took out a 'prabhat pheri' in the morning and met the voters door to door in Bengali Tola, Jangambari, Ramapura of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Mandal and urged the voters to help the PM win with record votes. He was accompanied by Abhishek Mishra, Sudhir Singh, Abhinav Pandey, corporator Amit Singh Chintu, Chandranath Mukherjee, Vijay Dwivedi, Ram Gopal Verma etc. Besides, district BJP president and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, along with booth presidents and workers at booth numbers 186 and 187 of Kardameshwar Mandal under Rohania assembly visited the houses of the beneficiaries and discussed changes they have seen in their lives. Gopal Patel, Sudhir Verma Raju, Bihari Patel, Jaiprakash Singh, Sanjay Mishra, and others were also present.

crimes against women in BHU

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) president and party candidate from Varanasi Lok Sabha seat Ajay Rai said Kashi will not forget crimes against the women on the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus in recent years. Addressing a joint press conference at his central election office, Lahurabir here on Wednesday, along with senior women leaders of allied parties of INDIA Bloc, Ajay Rai asked the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath whether the bulldozers would demolish the houses of those who are close to the ruling party and were involved in crimes against the women or not and alleged that in most of recent cases doubleface of the government was seen. He was reacting to the claims of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP candidate from this constituency at



Congress candidate Ajay Rai holding a meeting with Rajatalab tehsil advocates in Varanasi during poll campaigning

a Nari Shakti Samvad in the city a day ago. To show solidarity, women's wing leaders of Mahila Congress Anuradha Yadav, Vishwakarma, Poonam Anamika Yadav, Samajwadi Party's Shashi Yadav, Aarti Yadav, Aam Aadmi Party's Sharda Tandon, Pooja Yadav, daughter of former Kolsala MLA comrade Udal, Rama Udal and others jointly said that the people of Kashi will never forgive those who play with the identity of women.

Ajai Rai said it was a matter of shame that when a few years ago the BHU girl students were staging a dharna at Singh Dwar (main gate of BHU), the PM was in the city but instead of knowing the plight of the girls, he had changed his route. Not only this, in a recent shameful heinous act against IIT-BHU girl, Modi remained mum despite his several visits to his parliamentary constituency. He slammed the Modi government on the issue of inflation, unemployment and corruption and asked whether our women are not suffering from all these problems.

Meanwhile, national president of Jan Adhikar Party Devendra Kumar Prajapati, president of Rashtriya Samajwadi Jankranti Party SL Thakur, chief of Ambedkar Azad Party Rohit Kumar Badal and president of State Employees' Joint Council Ramashray Yadav extended

their support to Ajai Rai. In a joint press conference, they said that as the democracy is going through a difficult phase and threats looming large on the Constitution and reservation, they supported the INDIA Bloc snd flayed the ruling party for remaining silent on the issues of inflation, unemployment, corruption, farmers' problems, the future of Dalits, backward classes, tribals, youth and women etc. Earlier, Ajay Rai participated in a programme organised by Bar Council Rajatalab in Rajatalab tehsil area. The advocates said today the city needs an MP who understands Banaras. Besides, senior CPI leader Nandlal conducted intensive public relations from Chittaranjan Park to Azad Park in Lahurabir while Ajay Rai attended a meeting organised at the Sanskrit Vidyalaya of senior Congress leader Ánjani Mishra, next to

Owaisi targets Modi

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi targeted PM Narendra Modi in here on Wednesday. Owaisi said, "the PM is cheating the Dalits and backward caste people in the name of reservation. Injustice is being done to the youth in UP. The leak of UPPSC and constable recruitment exam papers is the failure of the government". He said the government should answer why the papers are being leaked. Why is PM not speak-ing on inflation and unemployment in his meeting, he said. Owaisi had reached Pratapgarh and Mauaima in Prayagraj in support of the PDM candidate in Pratapgarh. He targeted the

NOTICE IN THE COURT OF Ld. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, KHARAGPUR Dist.- PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL Money Suit No - 27/2023

Akmal Husain Plaintiff is hereby notified to Sk. Mohammad Faisal S/o-Late- Qaseem Anwar, Proprietor of "Qaseem Anwar & Sons" that the plaintiff named Akmal Husain, S/oate Md. Hanif, resident of Kalkati Debalpur, PO-Khargapur, PS- Kharagpur (Town), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, WB, 721301 has filed the above noted case for ecovery of Rs. 30,50,000/- against you before the Ld. Court of Senior Civil Judge, Kharagpur, Paschim Medinipur, WB vide Money Suit No- 27/2023. It is notified that under the seal & signature of the court.
Address to which Notices were sent: Sheikh Mohammad Faisal, S/o Late Qaseem Anwar 1) (Prop. - Qaseem Anwar & Sons), 110/219, RK Nagar Dist. - Kanpur JP, Pin-208012 2) Honey Building (1 Floor), Peshkar Road, Chamangani Dist. Kanpur, UP, Pin-208012 3) E 4, Johri arm, Noor Nagar Extension Jamia Nagar, South Delhi. Pin-110025 But all the otices served were returned undelivered. lence, Sk. Mohammad Faisal S/o- Late-Qaseem Anwar is hereby directed to appear in person/through Counsel before this Court on 06.07.2024 failing which the case will be proceeded/heard ex-parte according to law.

By Order Sheristadar Ld. Court of Senior Civil Judge

Kharagpur, Paschim Medinipur

Samajwadi Party along with the BIP. He said that PDM is in the race on every seat. So far, very positive results are being seen in the election campaign. Owaisi said the PM should also explain why

he is not speaking about the factories which are locked, lockdown and demonetisation. The PM has nothing to tell about the work done in 10 years, he added.

BUSTED: The police busted an illegal arms manu-facturing factory after con-ducting a raid in Nawabganj's Ganganagar area here and arrested two accused in this connection. Apart from 14 semi-finished pistols and cartridges, parts used in making arms were also recovered. They were identified as Anuj Pandey and Ajit Mishra of Pratapgarh. Dozens of cases are registered against them. They used to make weapons and supplied them to

SP suffers setback

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Samajwadi Party (SP) has suffered a major setback before the polling to be held here on May 25. Ajay Srivastava, who contested the mayoral election from Prayagraj on the SP ticket, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday.

Ajay Srivastava took BJP membership in the presence of Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya and UP Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna in the party office located at George Town. Babu Lal Bhanwara, who was a minister in the BSP government, and independent corporator Kusumlata Gupta also joined the BJP. Ajay Srivastava, who was in the SP, was one of the stalwart leaders of the party. Ajay has been in the SP since 2017. After joining the BJP, Ajay said he joined the BJP only after being influenced by the policies of PM

Modi and CM Yogi. In the programme at the party office, Keshav Prasad Maurya said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is a disciplined party. BJP is a party working in the national interest in the country. He congratulated all the leaders for joining the BJP family and asked them to work in the interest of the party and emphasised on increasing the vote percentage in the elections. Cabinet minister Suresh

Khanna, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani and Mahanagar President Rajendra Mishra congratulated all the leaders who joined the party. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said today many pradhans also took membership of BJP. On the occasion, MLA Guru Prasad Maurya, Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Varun Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Sanjay Gupta, Prashant Shukla, Rakesh Bharti, Kuldeep Mishra, Deep Dwivedi etc.

4 women hit by car, die

 ${
m F}$ our women were killed after being hit by a speeding car while crossing a road here, the police said on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Eastern Region) Shravan Kumar Singh said the incident occurred on Tuesday night when some women were crossing the GT Road near Maharajpur police station and were hit by a passing car.

The women were rushed to a hospital where they were

declared dead, police said.

Those killed were identified as Sarita (40), Poonam Pandey (40), Jyoti Tiwari alias Rupa (30) and Divya alias Chanchal (26), they said. A case has been registered against the car driver who fled from the spot after the accident. Efforts are on to arrest the accused, the

Give correct electricity bills to consumers: Goel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), Lucknow, Dr Ashish Kumar Goel, directed the department officers to give 100 per cent correct electricity bills to the consumers. Addressing a review meeting in Shivshakti Auditorium located at Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) Headquarters here on Tuesday, Dr Goel also asked the power department officers to treat the consumers properly during revenue collection. He said the electricity connection of any consumer should not be disconnected during the collection of power dues.

During the meeting, he also reviewed the progress of revenue collection, billing



quality, defective meters, electricity tripping, cable blast, line maintenance and transformer damage. The chairman expressed his displeasure over the action of some of the superintending engineers (SEs) and executive engineers (EEs) and directed them to complete their work with utmost care. He also ordered them to take action against the responsible officers and expressed his displeasure over the answers given on social media to solve the problems of

The meeting was mainly attended by Managing Director of PuVVNL Shambhu Kumar, Director (A&P) Ravindra Director Kumar Jain, (Commerce) Jitendra Prasad, Director (Commerce) Santosh Kumar Jadiya, Director (Finance), Director (Technical) Jitendra Nalwaya, Chief Engineer (Distribution), Varanasi Region-I Arvind Kumar Singhal, CE (D), Varanasi Region-II Mukesh Kumar Garg, superintending engineers, executive engineers and other officials concerned.

Two killed, three seriously injured in road accident

wo persons died while I three women seriously injured when their car rammed into a stationary bus on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway under Auras police station area of Unnao early on Wednesday morning. The injured were referred to the Trauma Centre in Lucknow.

According toa reports the car coming from Delhi rammed into the Roadways bus of Mathura depot going to Lucknow from Agra from behind near Koiliva Kheda village around 5 am. As a

including the driver, were injured in the incident. They included Lukman (40) a resident of Sakrauli under Dubagga police station, Lucknow, Maruf (45) a resident of Durgaganj, Shabina (35) wife of Laik; Ruhi (30) and Mehar Jahan (60), wife of Asid Ali. They had gone to Delhi to bring medicine for Mehar

The UPEIDA team sent all the injured to the Auras community health centre (CHC) where car driver Lukman and Maruf were declared dead. Shabina, Ruhi and Mehar Iahan were referred to the Trauma Centre in Lucknow.

RSS leader for promotion of Indian knowledge tradition PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI expressed", he said, adding that Mission for the rare manu-

Sah Sarkaryavah of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Suresh Soni said there is a need to bring the knowledge element of Indian knowledge tradition in front of the public. He was speaking at a programme as the chief guest at the Yog Sadhana Kendra in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) here on Wednesday. He said Sanskrit was the language of our philosophers, scientists, mathematicians, poets, gram-marians etc. The RSS leader said apart from Vedic literature, a very detailed study of all other sciences and knowledge is available in Sanskrit language. "Through this language, India's finest wisdom, talent, invaluable thinking, contemplation, wisdom, creativity and ideological intelligence have been

in the field of Vyakaran (gramand Mahabhashya) while in the field of astronomy and mathematics, the works of Aryabhata, Brahmagupta and

Bhaskar showed new paths to the human world and Charak

and Sushruta did important work in the field of medicine. During his visit to the SSU, the RSS leader also performed 'ahuti' in the Chaturveda Mahayagya being organised for the welfare of the world for the last 71 days as 'yajman' and said this will promote global welfare and spiritual uplift through positive energy. He was overwhelmed by the con-

servation work being done

under the National Manuscript

scripts preserved in Saraswati mar), there is no one in the whole world equivalent to Bhawan Library and seeing the rare manuscripts preserved Panini and Patanjali (authors of in the university, he said along knowledge elements will be created by doing research on it. Vice-Chancellor Prof Bihari Lal Sharma, while presiding over the function, said an important feature of the Sanskrit language is that it connects the individual to the whole. He said the SSU is committed to the promotion and preservation of Indian knowledge. In the beginning, the V-C welcomed the chief guest Suresh Soni. Registrar Rakesh Kumar, Prof Rampujan Pandey, Prof Rajnath, Prof Dinesh Kumar Garg, Dr Padmakar Mishra, Dr Vijay Kumar Sharma, Dr Dinesh

2nd training of polling personnel organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

duct of Lok Sabba General Elections-2024 was held at Uday Pratap Inter College, Uday Pratap Public School and RSMT located in Uday Pratap College campus here on Tuesday.

The first shift was held from 10 am to 1 pm while the second shift from 2 pm to 5 pm. A total of 4,000 personnel of 1,000 polling parties were trained at all three training sites. As many as 36 employees were found absent in the training. Chief Development Officer (CDO)/ In-charge Personnel Himanshu Nagpal, while communicating with the polling personnel provided all the information regarding the elec-

tions and directed the department heads concerned to stop The second training of the day's salary of the absent I polling personnel for the employees. He also directed to file first information repor (IFR) under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) as per the direction of the Election Commission against the absent employees.

TRAINING ENDS: The Department of Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry at the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi South Campus of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Barkachha (Mirzapur), organised a seven-day handson training programme on basic biomedical laboratory techniques. The programme commenced on May 15 and concluded on Tuesday.

Legal Cell: HDFC Bank Ltd, 2nd Floor, Experio Building, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226010 "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 19th June 2024, for recovery of Rs.10,92,077/- o/s is , Asis whatis , and whatever there is on 19th June 2024, for recovery of Rs. 10,32,071-05 as on 06-SEP-2021 along with further interest and charges applicable due to the HDFC Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor from (i) M/s. Shakti Industries Through Its Proprietor Sh. Anan Raj Singh (Borrower), (ii) Sh. Anan Raj Singh S/o Sh. Ghanshyam Singh (Co-borrower) & (iii) Sh. Murlidhar Singh S/o Late Brinda Singh (Co-borrower & Mortgagor). The reserve price will be Rs.26,95,500/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.2,69,550/- Short description of the immovable property.

Unit No A1/301, Type Great, On The Third Floor Of Block No. A1, Situated At Sahara City Homes, Unit No A1/301, Report of the price of the strength of

Hardol By Pass Road, Near lim Lucknow, Having Super Area Approx 74.21 Sq Mtr, Tehsil Baksh Ka Talab, District Lucknow. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the lini rovided in HDFC Bank Ltd, Secured Creditor's website https://www.hdfcbank.com/persona

AUTHORISED OFFICER, HDFC BANK LTD. Date: - 15.05.2024, Place: - Lucknow



NOTICE INVITING TENDERS TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Last Date & Time Estimated Availability Tender Enquiry No. of Bid Submission Cost/EMD of Bid Date and time of Work Description (Rs.) Document Opening of bids TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001677/24-25 TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001677/24-25 | 44.17 Crs/ Rate Contract for Supply of 4G based | 24,00,000 13.06.2024;1500 Hrs/ 23.05.2024

1-Ph Smart Meter						
CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION						
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids				
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001669/24-25 Rate Contract for Supply of DT Meter Kit	30.04.2024	27.05.2024 at 1500 Hrs/ 27.05.2024 at 1530 Hrs				

Without Wiring Harness Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our bsite www.tatapower-ddl.com→Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents

Youth ends life

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

youth committed suicide Aby hanging himself due to family dispute in Jhakarkati locality under Raipurwa police station area on Tuesday night. He was identified as Shanker Kumar (23). On Wednesday morning when Shanker's friend went to his room to wake him up he found him hanging. The kin of the deceased and the police were informed about the incident. The police sent the body for an autopsy and quizzed the kin and other peo-

According to a report received here, Shanker Kumar, son of Indra Kumar of Sahaigarh, Amethi, was operating the loader of his cousin Ravi Kumar in Kanpur. His family comprises mother Puja, an elder brother Raja Babu and married sister Rajni. He was living with his uncle Shivkumar and aunt Neelam in Jhakarkati for the past five years. Ravi Kumar said Shanker's elder brother Raja Babu used to consume liquor after selling the entire household goods. This led prevail discord among family members. On Tuesday uncle Shiv Kumar had gone to Amethi with family members while Ravi was in another house. On finding himself alone, Shanker hanged himself late on Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning when Shanker's friend Ram Kumar, went to wake him up after cooking he found him hanging. Ram Kumar informed Ravi and then at the Dial 112. The police said during prima facie investigation family discord came to the fore as the cause of the incident. MEETING: District

Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Singh while chairing the meeting of district health committee held at the collectorate auditorium directed the chief medical officer, additional chief medical officer and other concerning officers present at the meeting to ensure proper cleaning of the hospital, seating arrangements for patients and availability of potable water. He also directed the CDO to conduct detailed review of all the programmes of the Health department with the incharge nodal officers. He directed the CMO to submit proposal before the district health committee according to guidelines of state administration and NHAM. CDO Sudhir Kumar, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Alok Ranjan, all ACMOs, nodal officers of different schemes, representatives of all district level hospitals and other officers were present at

& evaluation practices conducted PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Sir Padampat Singhania

L Education Centre (SPSEC) continuously strives to empower and update its teachers in various aspects of the teachinglearning process, including teaching methodology, pedagogy, evaluation, and assessment. In line with this commitment, the school conducted a two-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on strengthening assessment and evaluation practices organised by the CBSE at its premises on May 21 and 22. It saw participation from numerous educators from the institution and other reputed CBSE schools here. The CBSE training programme provided valuable insights and skills to enhance the educators' approach to assessment and evaluation.

The resourcepersons from CBSE for the workshop were Tarun Rupani and Neelam Awasthi. The workshop commenced on the first day with the traditional lighting of the lamp followed by a welcome speech. The resource person emphasised the importance of training programmes for educators to keep them abreast of the changing scenarios. He learning. He urged to use the



Kumar Tiwari etc were present.

CBP on strengthening assessment

added how assessments besides curriculum and pedagogy hold great significance in determining learning outcomes. The day progressed with an introductory session whereby the student teachers shared the challenges they faced in class. It was followed by a detailed discussion of the new structure of assessment, concerning the need for the same evaluation practices at CBSE and for the assessment of learning.

The resourcepersons acquainted the teachers with various aspects and purpose of multiple assessments, periodic testing, student portfolios and subject enrichment activities. Talking about the subject enrichment activities, Rupani gave teachers a powerful tool called the "4 A's," namely, activate the previous knowledge, acquire new knowledge,

3 E's approach, i.e., educate, encourage and enlighten. The workshop covered various types of assessments, including formative, summative, diagnostic and self-assessment. Teachers explored the purpose, characteristics and implementation strategies for each assessment type, fostering a comprehensive approach to evaluating student progress.

Student mentors were also given hands-on experience making a blueprint and the question paper of a pen-andpaper test of their subjects keeping in mind the typology of questions. The second day of the workshop commenced with the structuring of the learning outcomes and incorporating the LAAR (Learning Outcome, Activity, Assessment, Reflection) cycle of assessment. The learners were also apprised about the significance of the co-scholastic

activities. The participating teachers were then made to develop effective rubrics for competency-based questions during the workshop. Teachers were also guided in creating questions that aligned with each level, thus promoting higher-order thinking skills among students.

Talk on menstrual hygiene

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Centre of Excellence for Adolescent Health and Development, OPD-104, IMS-BHU, conducted an insightful and educational menstrual hygiene talk at the Government Girls Polytechnic College in Sunderpur here on Wednesday. The session was attended by around 200 adolescent girls, all eager to learn about various aspects of menstrual health and hygiene.

Dr Shuchi Jain from the

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, led the session, providing comprehensive information on menstruation. premenstrual syndrome (PMS), the menstrual cycle and its duration and effective menstrual hygiene management. She also addressed the social aspects and myths related to menstruation, fostering a better understanding and breaking down taboos surrounding the topic. Naveen Pandey, a counsellor at the Adolescent Centre, educated the attendees about anemia and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), emphasising the importance of nutrition and vaccination in adolescent health.



2024 LS elections have 8,360 candidates, highest since 1996

A total of 8,360 candidates A are contesting the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the highest since 1996, according to an analysis of official data.

In the 2019 polls, there were 8,039 candidates, and in 1996, a record 13,952 candidates were in the fray for 543 seats of the Lower House of Parliament.

The 2024 general elections are being held in seven phases, with five rounds of polling completed. The sixth and last rounds will be held on May 25 and June 1, respectively. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

The fourth phase of the elections held on May 13 had the highest number of candidates in the fray, 1,717 in 96 parliamentary constituencies in 10 states and Union Territories (UTs). The first phase held on April 19 had 1,625 candidates in 102 constituencies in 21 states and UTs, according to Election Commission (EC)

There were 1,198 candidates in the second phase on April 26 in 89 constituencies across 13 states and UTs, 1,352 candidates in the third phase on May



dates in the fifth phase on May 20 in 49 constituencies across eight states and UTs.

In the upcoming sixth and seven phases on May 25 and June 1, there are 869 and 904 candidates, according to the EC data. Fifty-seven constituencies are going to polls in seven and eight states and UTs on May 25 and June 1, respectively.

The number of candidates contesting the Lok Sabha polls has seen a rise of over four times from 1,874 in 1952 -- the first time elections were held -7 in 94 constituencies in 12 - to 8,360 in 2024, and the states and UTs and 695 candiaverage number of candidates - to 8,360 in 2024, and the age of 3.83 contestants per constituency, the number

per constituency has increased from 4.67 to 15.39 on an average, according to official data. There used to be only around three to five contestants per Lok Sabha seats on an average till as late as the sixth Lok Sabha elections in 1977 but in the previous elections 14.8 candidates contested per constituency across the country. There has been a marked increase in the total number of candidates contesting the elec-tions over the years. While in 1952 there were 1,874 candi-

dates for 489 seats with an aver-

didates to 4,629 with an average of 8.54 per seat, the data

steadily increased to 2,784 can-

didates in 1971 with an average

of 5.37 per constituency,

In 1977, 2,439 candidates con-

tested and average candidates

according to official data.

per constituency stood at 4.5. The 1980 elections saw an increase in the number of canshowed. In 1984-85, the eighth general elections, had 5,492 candidates with an average of 10.13 contestants per con-The ninth general elections in

1989 had 6,160 candidates in the fray with an average of in the tenth general elections in 1991-92, 8,668 candidates contested for 543 seats with an average of 15.96 per constituency, according to official

There were a record 13,952 candidates in the fray for 543 Lok Sabha seats in 1996 with the average contestants per seat increasing to 25.69 from 16.38 in the previous elections in 1991, the data showed. The increasing of security deposit from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000 by the EC apparently helped in bringing down the number of contestants per seat to 8.75 candidates in the 1998 Lok Sabha elections.

It was after a long gap that the total number of contestants was less than 5,000 (4,750) that only increased marginally in the 1999 general elections to 4,648 candidates, averaging 8.56 candidates per seat. In 2004, the number of contestants again crossed the 5,000-mark with 5,435 contestants in the fray for 543 Lok

Sabha seats, averaging just over 10 contestants per seat. The 2009 general elections saw a 8,070 candidates with the average of contestants per seat sharply increasing to 14.86. A total of 8,251 candidates are in

the fray in the 2014 Lok Sabha

Women less than 10 per cent of LS picks: ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ress than 10 per cent of the Lcandidates contesting in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections are women, according to an analysis of data shared by the poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Of the 8,337 candidates analysed, only 797 are women, representing a mere 9.5 per cent of the total candidates contesting across the seven phases of the elections.

This is the first election since the passage of the women's reservation bill to reserve onethird of seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, reviving a bill pending for 27 years for want of consensus among parties. The bill is yet to come into effect.

During the first phase of the elections, out of 1,618 candidates, only 135 were women. This pattern continued in the subsequent phases, with women candidates remaining a small fraction of the total. Phase 2 saw 1,192 candidates of

which affidavits of 1,198 candidates were analysed and as many as 100 were women. Phase 3 had 1,352 candidates, including 123 women and 244 with criminal cases.

In phase 4, affidavits of 1,710 out of 1,717 candidates were analysed and 170 were women. Phase 5 had the fewest candidates at 695, with 82 women,

while in phase 6, affidavits of 866 out of 869 candidates were analysed, and there were 92 women. In phase 7, there will be 904 candidates candidates, with only 95 women.

This significant gender imbalance has sparked criticism from political analysts and activists, who question why political parties are waiting for the women's reservation bill to be implemented instead of proactively issuing tickets to vomen.Dr. Sushila Ramaswamy, Professor at Delhi

University's Jesus and Mary College, has emphasised that political parties should take concrete steps to promote women's candidacy.
"Political parties should have

been more proactive and fielded more women candidates," she said, highlighting the effectiveness of seat reservations for women within party struc-tures, as seen in Britain's Labour Party.

With women constituting near-

ly half of India's electorate, their under-representation in the candidate pool raises broader questions about the barriers hindering women's full participation in the political sphere, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad Ansari, Associate Professor at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), said. Beyond symbolic gestures and promises, he stressed the importance of structural reforms to ensure equal opportunities for women in politics, underscoring the critical role of party leadership in promoting gender diversity. "Political parties must prioritise gender inclusion in candidate selection and provide adequate support to women aspirants," he emphasised.

The issue of women's political representation extends beyond numerical quotas to encompass systemic changes in party dynamics and electoral processes, noted Farhat Jahan, a retired faculty member at Abdullah Women's College at

SC cancels bail given by HC to eight PFI members

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a verdict of the Madras High Court which had granted bail to eight accused in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against alleged PFI operatives, holding that national security is of

paramount importance. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal directed the accused, who were granted bail by the high court on October 19 last year, to surrender forthwith and go back to jail. "The impugned order passed by the high court is set aside," the bench said while pronouncing its judgement.

denied that national security is the PFI, which had been always of paramount importance and any act linked to terrorism is liable to be restricted. The bench delivered its verdict on a plea filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the high court judgement granting bail to

The eight accused -

Abuthahir, Khalid Mohammed, Syed Ishaq, Khaja Khalid Mohaideen, Yasar Arafath and Fayaz Ahmed — were arrested in September 2022.

On October 20 last year, the apex court had posted the NIA's plea challenging the high court order for hearing after advocate Rajat Nair, appearing for the anti-terror agency, mentioned it for urgent listing.

In its plea, the NIA had claimed that the PFI is a fundamentalist Islamic organisation and it was formed only to achieve the "dangerous goal" of establishing Muslim rule in India governed by Sharia law.

It had said an FIR was registered against the alleged office spreading the extremist ideology across Tamil Nadu after establishing its state headquarters at Purasaiwakkam in Chennai and offices in various districts of the state through their frontal organisations. The petition said the accused

had "conspired to commit acts of terror, recruited members for

Barakathullah, Idris, Mohamed furthering their extremist ideology and imparted training to commit terrorist activities, organised mass drills for displaying their might by gathering their members in combat uniforms, intending that participants shall be trained to use criminal force for violence against other religious communities to spread fear or alarm or insecurity.

"It is respectfully submitted that the leaders/cadres of PFI had formed the organisation only to achieve a dangerous goal of 'Vision India 2047' that is to make this country ruled by Muslims as per sharia law," it had said.

The plea claimed tactical weapons training was being imparted and dence on record which showed that PFI cadres where influenced, brainwashed and indoctrinated by the accused.

"All the acts were done by the accused in an effort to raise an armed militia to take up the fight for usurping and violating the sovereignty and integrity of the country," it had alleged.

Congress questions EC over difference in voter turnout data

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress on Wednesday raised questions over the difference between the real time voter turnout data and the final figures released by the Election Commission, and said voters are worried over the "strange goings-on" in the poll

Congress leader and head of media and publicity department of the party Pawan Khera said the difference is around 1.7 crore votes, and termed it as unprecedented.

"Voters are worried about the strange goings on in the Election Commission through the four phases of voting Fire the Election Commission takes 10-11 days to bring out the final figure of voting and then the difference between real time data and final figure turns out to be 1.7 crore votes. This is truly unprecedented," Khera said on X. "Unanswered questions about the missing EVMs are also very worrying," he



AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "This difference of 1.07 crore overall translates into an increase of 28,000 in each LS seat. This is HUGE." "The discrepancy is maximum in states where BJP is expected to lose seats heavily. What is happening?" Ramesh asked. Other opposition parties have also raised questions over the delay in release of final voter turnout. Lok Sabha polls are

being held in seven phases

and the results will be declared

IAF chief inaugurates emergency medical helpline for Air Force staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

 \mathbf{I}^{n} order to provide expert guidance and definitive care during medical emergencies of serving personnel and their families of the Indian Air Force (IAF) across the nation, an Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS), was inaugurated by IAF chief V R Chaudhari at Command Hospital Air Force, Bengaluru on Tuesday, IAF officials said here on Wednesday.

The EMRS is a first of its kind 24/7 telephonic medical helpline for serving IAF personnel and their families across India. The system aims to provide prompt response by a ment towards incorporating the nearest medical echelon. medical professionals to the caller experiencing the emergency anywhere across the country.

The responding medical professional shall provide immediate advise to the caller, while simultaneously getting in touch with the IAF medical facility nearest to the caller. This facility symbolises IAF's commit-



quality healthcare in the event of an emergency. The sole aim of EMRS is to save valuable lives. The event featured a demonstration of the system's capability and outreach, highlighting the ease with which expert guidance would be provided to the distressed caller, as well as expeditious launch of a medical support team from

sioned this concept, highlighted the importance of the EMRS and further added "this initiative is not just a milestone for the Indian Air Force but a significant advancement in medical readiness, representing a critical step forward in the ongoing efforts to provide immediate and expert medical care during emergencies".

Alert citizens helping DoT prevent cybercrimes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vigilant and alert citizens are V playing an indispensable role in preventing cybercrimes. Through their proactive reporting of suspected fraud communications via the Chakshu-Report Suspected Fraud Communications facility on the Sanchar Saathi portal, these alert citizens are contributing significantly to a safer digital environment.

Their watchful eyes and swift actions protect not only themselves but also countless others from falling victim to scams, phishing attempts, and fraudulent activities. By reporting suspicious messages, calls, and impersonation attempts, these citizens act as the first line of defence against cyber criminals, ministry of communications said here on Wednesday. This prompt approach of citizens helps the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) combat and prevent cybercrimes. The DoT expresses gratitude to the vigilant citizens who enable the Department in ensuring a safer and secure digital ecosystem.
With these inputs, the DoT has

been taking prompt and strict action on cyber/financial frauds. In the latest cases, people were being duped by fraudulent communication in the name of fake LIC officials and Insurance company represen- create awareness on fake



tatives and SMSs for redemption of SBI Rewards.

The DoT received inputs from citizens on 19.05.2024 regarding such frauds from 14 mobile numbers. Within 24 hours, the DoT analysed these cases and generated all linkages for these mobile numbers. Therefore, 372 mobile handsets linked to these mobile numbers were blocked on pan-India basis on 21.05.2024 Also, 906 mobile connections were suspended and flagged for re-verification. The Department has urged citizens to stay vigilant and report such fraud communications at 'Chakshu – Report Suspected Fraud Communications' facility of Sanchar Saathi portal

(www.sancharsaathi.gov.in/sfc).

Such proactive reporting helps DoT in prevention of misuse of

telecom resources for cyber-

Advisories have been issued on

a regular basis for the public to

crime, financial frauds, etc.

DoT/TRAI, suspected fraud communications and malicious calls via press, SMS, and social

This collaborative approach is safeguarding citizens against fraudsters and DoT expresses gratitude to them for coming rward and reporting, keep vigilant, keep reporting and Let's fight it together Chakshu is the latest addition

to the citizen centric facilities already available on the Sanchar Saathi portal of the DoT. 'Chakshu' facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS, or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding like KYC expiry or update of bank account/payment wal-let/SIM/gas connection/electricity connection, sextortion, impersonation as government official/relative for sending money, disconnection of all mobile numbers by the DoT,

CBI terminates service of inspector held taking bribe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has terminated the services of its inspector Rahul Raj who was arrested by the agency while allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 10 lakh from the chairman of a Madhya Pradesh-based nursing college, officials said on Wednesday.

Following its policy of "zero tolerance towards corruption", the agency sacked Raj under Article 311 of the Constitution that allows termination of services of government employees, they said.Raj was caught "redhanded" on Sunday while allegedly accepting an illegal gratification of Rs 10 lakh from Malay College of Nursing chairman Anil Bhaskaran and his wife Suma Anil, an official alleged. The couple has also been arrested.

The CBI has also attached its Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashish Prasad to the headquarters. He was named in the FIR in the case.

Sushil Kumar Majoka and Rishi Kant Asathe, both on attachment with the CBI from the Madhya Pradesh Police, will be repatriated to the state police soon as their alleged role in the bribery racket has surfaced. The CBI swung into action

after inputs and surveillance by its internal vigilance unit indicated that one of the support teams constituted on the orders of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to examine infrastructure in nursing colleges in the state was indulging in corruption. "CBI, ACB, Bhopal, had constituted seven core teams and three-to-four support teams, comprising officials from CBI, those nominated by nursing colleges in Madhya Pradesh and patwaris, in compliance of the directions of the high court for conducting statewide inspections to ascertain whether nursing colleges satisfied the laid down norms and standards for nursing colleges in respect of infrastructural facilities and faculty," CBI spokesperson said.

The agency said during monitoring of inspections being carried out by the various teams, officials of one of the support teams, including Raj, were found to be indulging in corruption. It said it was observed that they were giving favourable inspection reports in lieu of bribes collected through conduits. The CBI has arrested 13 people, including Raj, for giving favourable inspection reports to pursing inspection reports to nursing colleges in Madhya Pradesh in exchange for bribes collected through conduits, officials said.

10th International Day of Yoga held



As the 10th International Day of Yoga was com-memorated by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) on Tuesday with a distinct focus on 'Yoga for Women Empowerment', Sister BK Shivani, a motivational speaker underscored the significance of yoga in nurturing resilience and informed decision-making, especially among the younger generation. Likewise, in her inaugural speech, AIIA Director Prof.

(Dr.) Tanuja Nesari, appealed to everyone to celebrate this Yoga Day for women's empowerment, for guidance and to strengthen minds, spirits, and souls, to unite within ourselves, and to unite with the outside world by following Ayurveda's way of living. "Áyurveda and yoga are two

sides of the same coin. Ayurveda is the physical aspect of yoga, and yoga is the spiritual aspect of Ayurveda," she said and urged everyone not only to teach but also to practice both yoga and Ayurveda. "Youth of today should understand the importance of per-severance and the significance of Yoga for bringing a change for the betterment of humanity," she said.

Indian Navy must remain combat ready: Navy chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy must times to safeguard national maritime interests, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has said. This assertion came amid China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean and volatile situation in the Red Sea. In an address to officers posted at the naval headquarters here, the Navy chief he delved into the current security environment in the strategic waters and consequent actions

required by the Navy. He emphasised that as the primary manifestation of India's maritime power, the "raison d'etre of Îndian Navy is to remain combat ready at all times to safeguard national maritime interests anytime,

anywhere, anyhow". In his remarks to the officers on Tuesday, the Navy chief reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Indian Navy towards the government's Aatma Nirbharta (self-reliance) initiative.

Admiral Tripathi laid emphasis on finding in-house solutions, innovation and embracing niche technologies to address the existing and emerging challenges in the maritime domain to remain a responsive



force.

He conveyed to the mid and senior level leaders posted at the naval headquarters that they must remain focused on being "the solution providers" and "prioritising outcomes" towards a combat ready, credible, cohesive, and future ready

The admiral praised the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the personnel in meeting all mandated tasks by the service, according to a Navy spokesperson. In the last few months, the

Indian Navy provided assistance to a number of cargo vessels after they came under attacks in strategic waters around the Red Sea.

The Houthi militants have been targeting the merchant ships in the Red Sea apparently to build pressure on Israel to stop its military offensive in

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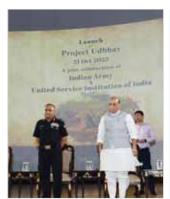
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Warcraft for all

Project Udbhav celebrates India's rich heritage in military statecraft and makes it citizen-inclusive

he adage, "If you want peace, be prepared for war," reflects a longstanding philosophy in India. Historically, India has maintained peace while staying strong, refraining from warmongering unless provoked. This approach stems from ancient Indian wisdom, emphasising the importance of advancement in warfare to deter any potential threats. India's rich and ancient heritage in military statecraft, rooted in the Vedas, Puranas and the Mahabharata, forms a significant yet often overlooked aspect of its cultural legacy. The Army's Project Udbhav aims to bring this historical wealth into the public eye, engaging citizens in the defence domain and fostering a deeper understanding of India's strategic and military traditions. The Vedas, among the oldest sacred texts, provide early references to warfare, strategy and the ethical dimensions of combat. The Puranas, a genre of ancient Indian literature, elaborated on the principles of statecraft and warfare. Texts like the Vishnu Purana and Agni Purana offer insights into military



organisation, the roles and responsibilities of warriors and the strategic use of resources. The Mahabharata, one of the greatest epics in world literature, is a treasure trove of military wisdom. The epic not only narrates the Kurukshetra war but also delves into detailed discussions on strategy, the art of war and the moral dilemmas faced by warriors.

Other ancient Indian texts offer timeless wisdom adaptable to modern defence strategies, such as intelligence, psychological warfare and ethical conduct. Launched last year, Project Udbhav delves deep into these ancient texts and aims to promote indigenous discourse in the Army by integrating India's ancient strategic acumen

into contemporary military domain, ensuring that the force remains future-ready. It is also an endeavour to involve our citizens and educate them about warfare for any eventuality. Involving citizens in understanding warfare and being prepared is crucial for several reasons. It fosters national pride and identity by highlighting India's intellectual and strategic achievements, countering one-dimensional portrayals of its history. Under Project Udbhav, workshops, seminars and online courses will educate citizens about ancient Indian military texts and their modern relevance. Collaborations with universities and research institutions will ensure academic rigour and accessibility. Additionally, a series of books, documentaries and articles will highlight various aspects of Indian military statecraft, including translations and commentaries on key texts for a broader audience. Project Udbhav is laudable as it represents an endeavour to weave a strategic vocabulary and conceptual framework deeply embedded in India's philosophical and cultural heritage. This initiative underscores the importance of understanding and valuing the rich military heritage that has shaped India's strategic culture, offering invaluable lessons for contemporary and future defence strategies. It is indeed a praiseworthy effort to revive ancient wisdom lest it is lost.



Epic election battle enters decisive phase SIDHAR



The ultimate battleground is UP, where Yogi Adityanath's unwavering leadership is crucial in the BJP's fight to maintain its stronghold

nother 10 days to go and the two-monthelection process would be over. These elections would be remembered for the spearhead of the ruling party, Narendra Modi and of the opposition, Rahul Gandhi battling the heat and dust of the famed Indian summer to spur their cadres to give the best per-

In the national media, what's being discussed is the punishing schedule of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda trying to match him with almost equal vigour. From the opposition side, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has ensured to create the perspective that the campaign just did not rest on the shoulders of the Gandhi family.

In any war, there always is a clinching battle that decides who won and who lost. In World War II, the Battle for Berlin proved to be the most crucial. It's the image of the Soviet soldiers putting the flag of the USSR on the Reichstag in Berlin in May 1945 which marked the defeat of Germany under Adolf Hitler.

Similarly, the general elections of 2024 will always be remembered and will be decided on who wins the battle of Uttar Pradesh. With 80 seats, Uttar Pradesh is the citadel of the BJP monolith, which has a dominant presence in the Hindi heartland States of Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Unlike MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Haryana, in Uttar Pradesh the BJP is not in a direct contest with the Congress but a strong regional outfit — Samajwadi Party. UP also cannot be compared to Bihar, where it's fighting another strong regional party - the Rashtriya Janata Dal but in the companionship of another strong regional outfit — the Janata Dal (United).

Thus in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is completely on its own with nowhere else to look forward to al times and has also caused but its cadres and leaders. Here concern among his supportthe role of Uttar Pradesh chief

minister Yogi Adityanath becomes crucial. The Mahanth of the Goraknath Math has been in campaign mode ever since he retained power with a thumping majority in 2022.

He first delivered the Ram temple at Ayodhya. The consecration of the idol at Ramlalla temple in January this year has been the biggest-ever achievement of the right-wing schema in the country. This would not have been possible but for the determined, firm and passionate execution of the construction plan by the Uttar Pradesh Government of not just the temple complex but the whole of the city of Ayodhya.

The second has been to galvanise the cadres and keep them functioning for a full two months to ensure that the rivals are stopped and checked in their determined assault. He started the polls campaign with the Prabudh Jan Sammelan on March 27 and would continue it till May-end the last phase of polling.

Prime Minister Modi's campaign has been faulted severers for allowing the achieve-

Madam — Strange are the ways of meeting death for a young soul. A five-yearold girl has died of brain-eating amoe-

ba after taking a bath in a pond in Malappuram district of Kerala. She

was undergoing treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College of Institute

of Maternal and Child Health. She had

taken a dip in the pond on May 1 and

started showing symptoms of fever,

headache and vomiting on May 10. The

girl, afflicted by amoebic meningoen-

cephalitis, a rare brain infection caused

AMOEBA KILLS

ments of the past ten years to be pushed to the background in pursuing a very polarising agenda. The campaign has not aligned with Modi's espousal of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" (Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth, Everyone's Trust) slogan, which encapsulates an inclusive approach aimed at fostering economic growth and social cohesion.

Prime Minister's initiatives, such as Make in India, Digital India and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), which underscore his commitment to modernising India's economy and infrastructure, have seldom found space in his speeches. This has somewhere allowed the opposition to attack the Government. On the other hand, Yogi Adityanath, who in the past seven years has combined his vision with a strong emphasis on law and order and cultural nationalism (Hindutva), has contining its flag, the contributions ued to keep his campaign on of the Uttar Pradesh chief the same track His leader- minister would as much be ship in Uttar Pradesh is characterised by a drive to restore cultural heritage and end minority appearement, as grand celebration of Diwali in Ayodhya and the renam-

ing of places to reflect their historical Hindu significance.

The lynchpin of his governance has been the emphasis on strict law enforcement, aiming to improve safety and reduce crime, which resonates even with many of his non-Hindu constituents. His determined perusal of anti-crime drives has found a fan following that goes beyond the traditional Hindutva admirers. Coming back to the battle of Uttar Pradesh, it would take the collective strength of the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to make the BJP bandwagon have a safe journey to the national Capital. Modi and Yogi are both distinct personalities and both have significantly impacted Indian politics and governance, albeit in different ways. On June 4, in the event of the BJP unfurlaccounted for as that of the

(The writer is the author and president of The Centre seen in initiatives like the for Reforms, Development & *Justice*; views expressed are personal)



YOGI ADITYANATH. WHO IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS HAS **COMBINED HIS** VISION WITH A STRONG EMPHASIS ON LAW AND ORDER AND CULTURAL NATIONALISM (HINDUTVA), HAS CONTINUED TO KEEP HIS CAMPAIGN ON THE SAME TRACK

CHE EDITO

Fighting age fraud for Indian football's integrity ARYAN RAJVANSH



From local matches to the big leagues, age falsification distorts fair play and erodes the essence of sportsmanship

The issue of age fraud has plagued Indian football for decades. This persistent dishonesty has not only undermined the integrity of the sport but has also stunted the growth of genuine talent, ultimately leading to India's poor performance at the senior team level.

For the last 50 years, age fraud has been an open secret within the football community. Players, coaches and officials are all aware of it, yet the problem persists unchecked. From local tournaments to State, district and national leagues, age fraud is rampant. Shockingly, it even extends to the national team, where overage players take the field under pretences. This systemic dishonesty is a national disgrace. The lack of genuineness and honesty in our footballing ecosystem is a national embarrass-

My personal experience highlights this issue vividly. When I was 14, I shared accommodation with much older players-some even 24-yet they possessed fake birth certificates claiming older players competed alongside me in national leagues, creating an uneven

field and undermining the credibility of the competi-tions. This personal encounter opened my eyes to the widespread nature of this fraud.

The impact of age fraud is profound. Young, talented players who play by the rules find their careers destroyed by those who cheat the system. Genuine athletes are overshadowed by older players who dominate youth categories through sheer physical C cognitive advantage. This not only robs honest play-

they were my age. These ers of opportunities but also skews the development pathway, leaving India with a senior team that lacks the authentic experience and growth needed to compete

internationally. Cases of age fraud emerge regularly from all corners of the country, yet there is little action from authorities. Until the Government takes decisive measures to eradicate this issue, Indian football will remain stagnant. ensures that we will never achieve success on the international stage. It is a profound shame and it of our sport and the generundermines the spirit of the ations of players to come. sport. The rigged system favours deceit over talent

and honesty, leaving the sport in shambles. It is time for a rigorous overhaul, strict enforcement of age verification processes and a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud. Only through a genuine commitment to integrity can Indian football hope to reclaim its lost potential and earn respect on the global stage. Until then, we must

acknowledge this harsh reality: as long as we continue to cheat, we will never truly win. The future of Indian football depends on our ability to foster a culture of honesty and fairness, giving every player a fair chance to shine based on merit, not deception. The future of Indian football hinges on our commitment to integrity. We must give every player a fair chance to succeed based on their true abilities. Until we do, our The current State of affairs dreams of footballing glory will remain just thatdreams. The time for change is now, for the sake

(The writer is a football coach; views are personal)

by a free-living amoeba found in contaminated waters, Still waters are dangerous. Don't let go. This is not the first case reported. Amebiasis is an intestinal (bowel) illness caused by a microscopic (tiny) parasite called Entamoeba histolytica, which is spread through human feces (poop). Often there are no symptoms, but sometimes it causes diarrhoea (loose stool/poop), nausea (a feeling of sickness in the stomach) and weight loss. The main symptoms of the disease are fever, headache, vomiting and seizures. All infected patients have lost their lives due to the disease so far, as the mortality rate

> Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai **DRONES IN AGRICULTURE**

for this rare brain infection is 100 per-

Madam — Apropos the article, "Promise and challenges of drones in agriculture", published on May 20, this is my response. Drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are becoming increasingly popular in India's agricultural sector. Drones offer a range of benefits to farmers, like improved efficiency and enhanced crop yields. However, some challenges may hinder the adoption of drone technology such as fear of job loss, lack of knowledge and training and regulatory barriers. Drones can capture high-resolution images and provide information on crop health, growth and

Leadership vacuum in Iran



propos to the front page article, "Iran Pres dies in chopper crash after stinging Israel," published on May 21. The shocking death of the President in a helicopter crash had left Iran in the lurch and uncertainty from

This can help farmers to identify issues are an inevitable part of our lives as they early and take corrective measures to optimise their inputs and outputs. But, drones are expensive and many farmers may not have the financial resources to invest in this technology. Hence, there is a need for more subsidies incentives and economical financing options to make drones more affordable and attractive to farmers. It requires a coordinated effort from the Government, the industry, farmers and the civil society to create a conducive and supportive environment for the use of drones in agriculture. There is little doubt that drones can be a powerful tool for transforming Indian agriculture and ensuring the country's food security and prosperity. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

MUSEUMS PRESERVE HISTORY

Madam — Apropos of the article "Museums are pillars of culture and education," published on May 21. Museums

all sides. For the last three years; after he took the Presidential position in 2021, Mr Raisi has managed to frame Iran as a Shia Muslim leader block of the world with his conservative cler-

Prime Minister.

His sudden death had created a leadership vacuum in Iran in the devil's time. The US and Israel are among the direct culprits of Tehran's current situation, despite their denial on personal grounds respectively. Iran needs time to cope with all the big losses it has suffered recently, according to the according to the President, Foreign Minister and other key authorities. The recent death incident had scratched the old scars of Iran when it lost its Revolutionary Gaurd General Qasem Soleimani. Iran has been a victim of targeted killings especially for VVIPs, ever since its bitter relationship with the US over the last two decades. Time will heal everything itself, the domestic and international uncertainty will shed away for Iran with time and normalcy will be restored. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

depict culture, history and artefacts. They tell us about the evolution of man and let us get familiar with the historical and scientific facts as well. But these days, people, especially children, hardly show interest in visiting museums as

they find it boring.
The educational institutions must include visits to museums in the curriculum to enable students to broaden their horizons and get valuable knowledge. Museums are a great source of understanding our civilisation, culture and heritage and help explore various branches of research work. The Government should take the initiative to help the masses visit museums as they are the storehouses for preserving our

ancient history and heritage. Abhilasha Gupta | Mohali

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FIRST COLUMN

DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF WORKPLACE GASLIGHTING

It is a menace that undermines individuals' perceptions, beliefs and reality



In the network of modern workplaces, emerges a shadowy spectre, threatening the very fabric of organisational culture and well-being -Gaslighting, a form of psychological manipulation in which one person seeks to undermine another person's perceptions, beliefs or reality often done regularly or subtly making the victim doubt their perception, memories or sanity by shifting blame or responsibility onto the vic-

Gaslighting can create a hostile work environment where employees feel anxious and confused and at times even question their competence causing a detrimental effect on themselves, their teams and organisational culture. It is a form of psychological manipulation that can have serious consequences for the well-being and productivity of those involved. When talked about the workplace, the term Gaslight can manifest in myriad forms, often subtle and insidious. It may begin with seemingly innoxious comments undermining an individual's contributions or abilities and may gradually lead to dealing with small instances of manipulation that escalate over time. Gaslighting tactics often target an individual's sense of self-worth, competence and confidence resulting in significant emotional distress, including feelings of anxiety, depression and confusion. It even isolates victims from their support networks by undermining their relationships with coworkers, friends and even fam-



It is often believed that toxic workplace gaslighting can stem from various causes that are often rooted in systemic issues, interpersonal dynamics or individual motivations such as power imbalances, insecure leadership, lack of accountability, interpersonal conflicts and many more. When communication breaks down, tensions escalate, egos clash and employees/individuals start resorting to gaslighting as a means of gaining leverage or inflicting harm.

Addressing the toxic workplace gaslighting requires a comprehensive approach that involves raising awareness, fostering a culture of respect and accountability and providing support for those impacted. Promoting transparency, accountability and psychological safety in organisations is crucial to recognise toxic gaslighting behaviour effectively.

Undoubtedly, workplace gaslighting thrives on power imbalances and psychological manipulation. Victims of gaslighting suffer immense stress, anxiety and identity erosion. Prolonged exposure leads to physical health issues like headaches, GI problems and sleep disturbances, weakening immunity and increasing illness risks.

It becomes crucial for the victims to first recognise and validate their experiences, refusing to internalise the gaslighter's manipulations. The use of assertive communication techniques, such as "I" Statements and boundary-setting, can help individuals confront gaslighting behaviour while preserving their self-esteem and dignity. Additionally, fostering a culture of accountability and transparency within organisations empowers employees to speak out against gaslighting tactics without fear of reprisal.

Remember, when personal gain takes precede over ethical conduct, gaslighting may become a tempting strategy. The only way that may benefit the victims of gaslighting is by seeking support from trusted colleagues, mentors or mental health professionals. By creating a workplace culture that promotes open communication, respect and accountability can the organisation help prevent gaslighting and other forms of manipulation from taking hold as left unchecked, it can inflict lasting psychological harm, exacerbating issues of mental health and well-being in the workplace.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Do not withdraw capital support for oil PSUs



The Government slashes equity infusions for three major oil sector CPSUs by 50 per cent, contradicting its 2023–24 budget commitments



n the Budget for the financial year 2023-24 (April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024) presented on February 1 last year, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an equity infusion of Rs 30,000 crore in three Central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), are majority-owned by the Government of India (GOI). She had also proposed Rs 5,000 crore for buying crude oil to bolster its strategic reserves (SRs) in underground storages at Mangalore in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The equity infusions in IOCL/BPCL/HPCL were meant to support their capital investment plans for the transition to 'Green Energy and achieve 'Net Zero' objectives. Net zero refers to a situation where the emissions of polluting gases such as carbon dioxide due to human activities and their removals are in balance over a given period. On the other hand, the allocation for SRs was meant to guard against the possibility of any disruption in its supply.

Under the above, IOCL and BPCL had done necessary spade work including approval by their respective boards for coming up with 'rights issues' of requisite amounts to enable the Union Government to give effect to its capital contribution (albeit by way of equity) promised in the budget. In the case of HPCL, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) having acquired majority equity shares from the GOI in FY 2017-18 was to come up with the issue of the preferential issue to give effect to the latter's budgetary intention. However, in a big climb down, in November 2023, the Government reduced the amount of equity infusion to the trio by 50 per cent to Rs 15,000 crore even while deferring implementation of the budgetary announcement on the SRs. Meanwhile, the Interim Budget for FY 2024-25 presented by Sitharaman on February 1, 2024, didn't show any allocation for equity infusion for FY 2023-24. The said amount has been earmarked for the FY 2024-25. This was confirmed by Finance Secretary T V Somanathan at a post-budget press conference. As for SRs, the budget documents do not provide any funds either in the revised estimate for FY 2023-24 or during FY 2024-

Why did the Government climb

Even as the Ministry of Finance (MoF) hasn't given any reason, it seems the decision was prompted by a significant boost to their profitability during 2023-24. The IOCL posted a standalone net profit of close to Rs 40,000 crore as against a profit of a little over Rs 8000 crore during 2022-23. The BPCL posted a net profit of around Rs 26,500 crore in 2023-24, compared to about Rs 1,850 crore profit during 2022-23. The HPCL posted a profit of around Rs 14,500 crore during 2023-24 against a loss of about Rs 9,000 crore IMPROVED in 2022-23.

When the companies good profits hence, a good investible surplus for meeting their investment commitments, why do they need the Government's budgetary support? But, there is much more than what meets the eye on a plain reading of the profit numbers. First, out of the net profit, a substantial amount is paid as dividends to the shareholders. For instance, in case IOCL @Rs 7 on a share of Rs 10 each, the payout during 2023-24 on a total of 1,412 crore outstanding shares would be around Rs 10,000

crore.
Second, these undertakings are engaged in the business of refining crude oil to produce a range of finished products such as petrol, diesel, LPG etc besides importing them to meet their demand. That makes their operations highly capitalintensive. Consequently, their investment requirements for expansion and growth are heavy. This is exacerbated by their commitments regarding the transition to 'Green

achieve 'Net Zero' by 2040, BPCL and HPCL intend to reach this goal

Third, the most potent reason as to why the Government shouldn't backtrack on the capital support once promised to oil PSUs has to do with the loss the latter had suffered during FY 2022-23, courtesy of directions given by the former regarding setting retail prices of petrol and diesel. To understand the full ramifications of such orders, let us look at some basics.

Petrol and diesel were deregulated long back in June 2010 and November 2014 respectively. As a result, oil PSUs got the freedom to fix their retail prices. The price is fixed as refinery-gate price or RGP (import parity price or EPP and export parity price or EPP of the fuel in the ratio of 80:20) plus freight, marketing costs, marketing margin, dealers' commission taxes and duties. Considering that over 85 per cent of India's crude oil needed for making refined products is imported (the balance 15 per cent is sourced from domestic companies such as ONGC, Oil India Limited or OIL) etc, an increase/decrease in its international price should lead to corresponding increase/decrease in the retail price of petrol and diesel but only if the marketing PSUs are allowed to fix the price strictly as per the formula. But, this is rarely done. The Government issues tacit instructions to IOCL/BPCL/HPCL (together, they account for around 90 per cent of the domestic fuel retail network in the country) to fix the retail price. This is driven by extraneous considerations. Ever since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022, the international price of oil has been on the boil. The average of the basket of crude oil that India imports during April-September 2022 was \$ 103.7 per barrel against the \$90 per barrel that

these PSUs were told to keep the price of petrol and diesel unchanged for six months. This led to substantial under-recovery from the sale of these products.

For instance, in June 2022, the price of petrol in Delhi remained at Rs 97 per litre corresponding to the prewar crude price of US\$ 90 per barrel. This was despite the price of crude jumping to US\$ 116 per barrel which would have required the price to be set at Rs 112 per litre. Consequently, on the sale of petrol during June 2022, the PSUs suffered under-recovery of Rs 15 per litre (112-97).

Cumulatively, the three PSUs incurred a loss of around Rs 40,000 crore during the first half of FY 2022-23. As the crude price started to decrease from October 2022 onward, their finances became a shade better during the second half. For the whole year, they posted a meagre profit of Rs 850 crore. The capital infusion of Rs 30,000 crore proposed in the budget for 2023-24 was meant to help them offset the losses incurred in the previous year.

Just because during FY 2023-24, they have improved their profits due to continuing moderation in the price of crude oil, it won't be logical to trim the promised budgetary support. Moreover, they need some cushion to guard against crude prices moving north yet again; that possibility is not ruled out considering the continuing tense geo-political situation. For the same reason, the Government shouldn't defer bolstering the strategic buffer of crude

In sync with its emphasis on 'predictability' and 'stability' of the policy, having deregulated petrol and diesel, the Government shouldn't interfere in the process of setting prices by the oil PSUs.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

Energy'. While IOCL has decided to prevailed before the war started. But, Is AI a game changer or a disruptor in the communication landscape?

JUST BECAUSE

DURING

FY 2023-24,

THEY HAVE

CONTINUING

THE PRICE OF

CRUDE OIL, IT

LOGICAL TO TRIM

THE PROMISED

BUDGETARY

SUPPORT

WON'T BE

MODERATION IN

Artificial Intelligence has introduced complex dilemmas, balancing data-driven insights with human ingenuity and profoundly impacting various sectors

he growing tentacles of AI have become a push factor for change, innovation and disruption in the borderless world that we live in today. AI tools, processes and its vast architecture have been billed as game changers, influencing a vast range of stakeholders including policymakers, Governments, multilateral bodies, agencies and institutions, which are responsible for carving out the road ahead. The debate today hovers around whether AI has become a disruptor or a transformative catalyst leading to a related to ideas, content, data new normal, which is unpredictable, tech-driven and bereft of the necessary human connection. It has disrupted the new normal driving the we over-depend on machines,



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

times is daunting, unpredictable, spontaneous and instant.In the given context, it is important to understand that AI has truly created layers of dilemma, a tug-of-war analysis and the conflict between human minds and data-driven mindsets. We are in a situation perhaps where

ecosystem that is technology savvy, the behaviour of stakeholders being driven by data metrics and accompanying models and influenced by the power of prediction. The impact of AI has been profound in several areas, as the search for the unknown has grown bigger. A report on India's media and entertainment sector published by EY #Reinventin 2024 mentions that AI can provide an Rs 450 billion boost to the Indian M&E sector by 2027. The report also mentions AI and especially Gen AI - gives it the tools the sector has always dreamed of and can result in a 10 pr cent revenue growth and 15 per cent cost efficiency. AI is now used for measurcommunication engagement their learning tools & prematrix to a terrain that at dictability leading to an paigns, the growth of cusing the effectiveness of cam-

tomised solutions for addressing issues, analysing data for data-driven narratives and stakeholder engagement and changing equations in the context of the client-agency relationship. There is a need to balance human competence with tech tools and the fear of the unknown in the future. For AI to succeed its performance indicators must be based on open, transparent and inclusive. Its tools are reengineered to reflect the spirit of "Oneness", and "The World is One Family" and the social and economic impact is studied and analysed.

As far as outreach is concerned, the need is to balance the technology push that characterises AI outlining its operational efficiency and the creative quotient of human beings. As a tool for outreach AI supplements outreach with data-focused audience insights which provide practitioners with a feel of audience preferences and behaviours leading to focused and targeted communication strategies.

The data processing of the medium also leads to a better and more comprehensive understanding of stakeholder demographics, dynamics, strategy protocols and audience behaviour.

There is an urgent need to integrate the communication matrix with the broad themes to ensure a seamless operation of both verticals. AI being futuristic commands the means to create a positive perception of the AI architecture. Some of the themes to be dis-

Learning in communication networks, AI-powered communication networks: Shaping a greener digital future and including other sectors such as health, environment and edu-

In all such discussions, the process of communicating the theme will be critical for both policymakers and practitioners.It is also critical that in the era of change, the continuity of technology is weaved with access that is open and democratic. The benefits of positive change must be beneficial to all through the principle of open sourcing: tools, processes, opportunities and commu-

nity participation. There must be standard operating procedures and processes that ensure the standardiscussed are AI and Machine ation of algorithms, address

the frailties of human behaviour and integrate the machine

human mind. Technological advancement is only possible if the gap is bridged between the haves and have-nots. AI as a tool for policy formulation and information dissemination should be based on the strong foundations of adaptability, cohesiveness, inclusivity, access and a proper understanding of the complex and diverse social ecosystem of which we are its

key constituents. As the impact of AI grows across different terrains, the evolution has to be in sync with human abilities and the irreplaceable human trait that characterises outreach.. To ensure a sustainable process, AI needs to follow the five mantras of outreach communication: Being Receptive, Responsive, Responsible and Reciprocal and Reconcile to the needs and requirements of an ecosystem that believes in equity, equal participation, mutual recognition and collaboration. The success of communication depends on the balance between perception, tools and trust i.e. positioned across different platforms and sectors. A model of this nature will certainly ensure a perfect symphony between AI and the communication landscape bringing forth an effective and lasting communication process.

(The writer is a former civil servant. Views are Personal. Inputs by Vaishnavie Srinivasan and Zoya Ahmad)

Only Modi, not Rahul can bring back PoK: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not Rahul Gandhi was capable of wresting Pakistan Occupied Kashmir back from that country because the Congress leader was afraid of the north-western neighbor.

Addressing an election rally at Purulia the Home Minister said that "Pakistan Occupied Kashmir always belonged to India, it continues to belong to India and will continue to be so," adding "Rahul Baba does not want to get it back as he can never get it back for India because he," like the erstwhile Manmohan Singh Government "is afraid that Pakistan is an

atomic power." Like Prime Minister Narendra Modi did away with the Article 370 from the Indian Constitution "it is Modi ji's job to wrest PoK back" and he was determined to do so, Shah



Addressing more than one election rallies at Purulia, Ghatal and Kanthi the Home Minister attacked the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance leadership saying they did not have a single candidate who could assume the role of

the Prime Minister. There is no one Prime Ministerial candidate for the INDIA alliance ... they want to have five candidates for five years which means that they will have rotational Prime Ministers," which would be against the national interest," Shah said insisting "in any case it is Narendra Modi who is once again going to form the

Saying that the leaders of the INDIA bloc were interested only in promoting their own dynastic interests he said, while in Maharashtra Sharad Pawar wants his daughter to be the Chief Minister whereas in Bengal Mamata Banerjee wants her nephew to succeed her ... In Tamil Nadu Stalin wants to see his son as the Chief Minister whereas Sonia Gandhi

wants Rahul Baba

to become the Prime Minister." Attacking Mamata Banerjee for allowing unchecked infiltration he said, how the Bengal Chief Minister was "committing a sin by allowing infiltration to serve her vote bank politics." "Bengal is today a safe haven for infiltrators which is why the demography of the State is changing, impacting not only Bengal but the entire country," Shah said once again slamming the Chief Minister for attacking the monks of Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha accusing them for their alleged BJP connections.

High profile Anantnag seat to witness multi corner contest

 $F^{\text{rom the North Kashmir}}_{\text{battle ground the focus has}}$ now shifted to the South Kashmir Parliamentary constituency of Anantnag-Rajouri in the last leg of the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The high-profile seat is also witnessing a multi-corner contest between the National Conference, the Peoples Democratic Party and the JKAPNI party candidate on

ground zero.
The JKNC has fielded the tallest Gujjar leader Mian Altaf Ahmad, five-time MLA from the Kangan Assembly seat while former Chief Minister and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti is testing political waters from the newly carved out Lok Sabha seat. For the PDP Chief, it is turning out to be a 'do or die' battle ahead of the much-awaited Assembly polls. Mehbooba Mufti won the seat in 2004 and 2014 before the scrapping of Article 370. Her father and former Union Home Minister, the Late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, won the

Masoodi of the National Conference won the seat in 2019 and in 2009 Mehboob Beg emerged victorious.

Another unique feature of the contest is the role of the BJP in this close contest. After BJP decided not to field its candidate in the fray, the party high command deployed several senior party leaders to jointly organize campaign meetings in support of the APNI party candidate Zaffar Iqbal Manhas. Since last week BJP leaders have been seen conducting door-to-door campaigns distributing handbills and attending joint public meetings with the APNI party leaders.

On the other hand, both JKNC and PDP are also trying to woo Pahari voters to emerge victorious. Zaffar Iqbal Manhas of the APNI party is expected to disturb the apple cart of the winning candidate by eating considerably into the share of Pahari voters. As some of the former PDP legislators are currently members of the JKAPNI party they are also helping Manhas with the support of the BJP cadre to garner maximum votes from the seven Assembly



segments of Rajouri and Poonch.

According to official sources, a total of 18,16,371 voters comprising 9,23,434 men and 8,92,910 women are expected to exercise their right to vote on Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat.

Out of them, as many as 7,29,830 voters are distributed across seven assembly segments of Rajouri and Poonch districts, while the remaining 10,86, 541 voters are in eleven constituencies of three districts-Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag of South Kashmir. Approximately 60 percent of the total 7,29,830 voters in Rajouri and Poonch districts belong to the Pahari community while the remaining 40 percent are Gujjar and Bakerwal community votes.

munity are expected to tilt the balance of power in the favour of the winning candidate. The National Conference relies

heavily on the charisma of Mian Altaf Ahmad. As he hails from a family with political and spiritual influence on the tribal community across Jammu and Kashmir he is expected to garner majority votes among the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahadi communities.

Camping in the region for the last two days PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti is leveling serious allegations about how the ruling party is misusing the official machinery to create fear psychosis among the bureaucracy to help and support a candidate of their choice and on the other hand the National Conference is playing the religion card to terrorize voters if they voted against their party candidate. Addressing a series of meetings and during her interaction with the members of the civil society and other associations, Mufti appealed to them to exercise their right to vote on pure merit to ensure their voice is heard in the Parliament.

GNDU ranks in top 9.3 per cent worldwide

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Nanak uru University ranks in the top 9.3 per cent (at 1975 out of 20966 universities) worldwide according to the 2024 edition of the outcone-basef Global 2000 list released by the Centre for World University Ranking.

The ranking is based on four objective indicators i.e. education, employbility, faculty, and research. The Ranking is based on 62 million outcomebased data points. According to the survey, GNDU ranks at 767th place in Asia. It's employbility and research ranks are placed at 1541st and 1899th rank respectively.

GNDU is the only multi-specialty State University of Northern Region (Jammu, Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh) to attain these outstanding achievements. Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu congratulated the faculty, staff, research scholars, and the students for taking the university to high peaks worldwide.

Bangladesh MP found dead in Kolkata

ABangladesh ruling party
MP Anwarul Azim was found dead on Wednesday inside a rented apartment at up market New Town area in the north-eastern fringes of Kolkata, police said adding they were investigating the claims that he had been murdered. Azim reportedly an Awami League MP who had come to India on May 12 for medical treatment had gone missing for the past a few

News agencies quoted Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan calling the MP's killing a "planned murder." They also said that the Bangladesh Police had already arrested three Bangladeshi nationals in that connection. Gopal Biswas a friend of the deceased person in Kolkata Bangladesh Minister.

said that he had been contacted by the MP's daughter after she failed to contact him. As he could not be contacted the said friend of the MP lodged a missing complaint at Bidhannagar Police Station.

Meanwhile Akhilesh Chaturvedi IG CID said depending upon "reliable inputs" that Anwar "may have been murdered," adding "we had no prior intimation of the Bangladeshi MP's arrival to this city... We only came to know about him after his acquaintance in Kolkata filed a missing diary on May 18." According to sources the apartment the MP was living in at was visited by several person including some women, sources said. The police were taking all angles into consideration to crack the case, sources said but they would not comment on the statements

HC cancels all OBC certificates issued by Mamata Government

 $N_{
m ongoing}^{
m ow}$ in the midst of the ongoing general elections an OBC certificate scam seems to have burst in the face of the Mamata Banerjee Government. In yet another embarrassment for the Bengal Government in the election season the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday ordered cancellation of all the Other Backward Caste certificates issued during Trinamool Congress rule.

Though the Court would not take the name of the Government directly the timing of the stated OBC certificates would suggest that they relate to the present regime. The certificates were meant for the period post 2010 the present Government came to power in the first half of 2011. The Court however said that the benefits derived thus far

that the people who might have got any job based on these certificates will not lose them," said an advocate.

The PIL filed (in 2011) claimed that all OBC certificates given out after 2010 bypassed the 1993 (West Bengal Backward Class Commission) Act. Those actually from backward class were not offered their due certifi-

The Division Bench decision today annulled all OBC certificates given out after 2010. Those with OBC certificate before 2010 will not bear the brunt of the Calcutta HC hearing," Advocate Sudipta

Dasgupta said. Earlier a Division Bench of Justice Tapabrata Chakrabarty and Rajasekhar Mantha delivering a judgment on a Public Interest Litigation challenging

based on the certificates would not be taken back. "This means the process of granting OBC certificates ruled that procecertificates ruled that procedures through which such certificates were issued were "ille-

> The Court directed that new list of OBCs be prepared based on the West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes Act of 1993. The li8st would be prepared by the West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes.

> Reacting to the Wednesday's order Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that it was all the handiwork of the BJP which was trying to malign her Government and added that her Government would move higher courts on appeal.

"This is a BJP's order and we are not accepting it... Why don't they talk about policies in BJP- ruled states ... OBC reservation will continue... This is a dark chapter in the country,": she said adding certificates too."

however that the entire classification was done not by her but by a former minister Upen Biswas who was also the Joint Director of CBI who cracked the animal husbandry case. By the Wednesday's verdict about 5 lakh people would be affected, sources said adding, "others who had applied for such certificates too would be affected."

When asked to comment on the Wednesday's development State BJP leader Pronoy Roy said, "Mamata Banerjee sees the ghost of BJP everywhere because she knows that she will soon be deposed by the BJP." CPI(M) leadership too said that "whatever Mamata Banerjee touches starts to stink

.. there is no field that is free from corruption ... this is another such area and investigation may reveal that money changed hands while issuing

CDS Chauhan attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

hief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha - 2024'and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities.

The comprehensive cyber defence exercise is being conducted by Defence Cyber Agency from May 20-24. It aims to further develop cyber defence capability of all cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders, defence ministry said here. The exercise focusses on enhancing collaboration and integration among participants from various military and prominent national organizations.

The CDS highlighted the critical need for jointness among all stakeholders in the cyber domain and praised the initiative for fostering a collaborative

environment to tackle emerging cyber threats. He commended the participants and staff for their dedication and efforts in organizing the Exercise. which aims to empower participants by enhancing their cyber defence skills, techniques and capabilities; share best practices, and work towards a unified and robust cyber defence posture. It will promote jointmanship and synergy in planning and preparation of a Cyber Defence Framework. The event reaffirms the commitment of the Indian Armed Forces to safeguarding national security in the increasingly important cyber domain.

Voter sympathy for Kejriwal ebbs

The BJP hopes that Kejriwal's arrest has dented his image and the image of a party with a difference (AAP), and it would not get any sympathy votes in Delhi. BJP leaders in Delhi, however, are confident of retaining all the seven seats the party has held since 2014.

According to political pundits, the election is being contested between two personalities -Modi and Kejriwal in Delhi. This is for the first time that an election is being fought without any issues. Interestingly, there is no anti-incumbency factor against the Modi Government at the Centre. The BJP has crafted its electoral campaign well planned to corner the Keiriwal Government.

The BJP has also sought to balance the caste factor in fielded seven candidates here announcing its candidates -fielding Harsh Malhotra a
Punjabi from East Delhi against
BSP emerged as a significant
BSP emerged as a significant AAP candidate Kuldeep Kumar. Baniya leader Praveen Khandelwal from Chandni Chowk against Congress veteran Jai Prakash Aggarwal, MLA and Gujjar leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri from South Delhi and AAP candidate Sahiram Pehalwan, Jat leader Kamaljeet Sehrawat from West Delhi against AAP leader and former Congress MP Mahabal Mishra and Dalit leader Yogendra Chandolia from the

reserved North West Delhi seat Delhi, it has fielded Md Waqar

It has retained sitting MP Manoj Tiwari from North East Delhi where Congress has fielded former JNU president Kanhaiya Kumar. Aggarwal and Mishra have

posed some challenges to BJP candidates while Kumar is facing a financial crunch to run the campaign. Kumar is collecting money through crowdfunding. The alliance of AAP and Congress, which are fighting jointly in Delhi, also seems to have not worked. Insiders said AAP supporters

do not want to revive the Congress. Similarly, Congress supporters are also against the AAP. Besides, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has also Delhi's competitor established political parties. However, it gradually lost its support and voter share to the AAP and onwards. Despite this setback, the BSP's resilience and determination

steadfast. The party has this time given a ticket to former Delhi Minister Raaj Kumar Anand, who resigned from Government and AAP in April, from New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. In East

against Congress leader Udit Choudhary who earlier claimed to have campaigned for AAP. The BSP has given tickets to Muslim candidates on two more seats - Abul Kalam Azad, a lawyer, in Chandni Chowk and Abdul Basit in South Delhi. The other candidates include Vishakha, the lone woman in the BSP's line up, from West Delhi, Vijay Bauddh from the reserved constituency of North West Delhi and Ashok Kumar in North East Delhi.

The party sent 17 Councillors to MCD in 2007, 15 in 2012 and three in 2017. It, however, failed to open the account in 2022. Delhi has witnessed split voting in the past 10 years, voters backing the BJP overwhelmingly in national elections and the AAP in Assembly Elections. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP again swept Delhi, winning all seven seats. The AAP's vote share fell to 18 per cent, while the BJP's improved to 57 per

In the 2019 elections, the BJP had secured 56.5 per cent of the polled votes in the national Capital, the Congress 22 per cent, and the AAP 18.1 per cent. In the 2020 Vidhan Sabha elections, the AAP again won 62 of the 70 seats, its vote share jumping to 54 per cent, while the BJP's declining to 39 per

Israel honours Kerala caregivers

"Over the years, our partnership has grown exponentially and is marked by mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration

across various sectors." "The terror attacks on October 7 have left us all shaken. India itself is a victim of crossborder terrorism and has a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justifications for acts of terror. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the hostages and innocent lives lost in these heinous acts," he

The national anthems of India and Israel were played along with a special video message by the Isaac Herzog, the President of Israel. Elsewhere in Kerala, the Christian Alliance and Action for Social Action reiterated its commitment to Israel in fighting the terrorists attacking the Jewish State. "Our hearts are with the people of Israel. We pray for the safe return of the 128 hostages at the earliest," said Kevin Peter, CASA's president.

SC slams...

From Page 1

"This is not the way you try to come before the court, without disclosing material facts... Your conduct is not fully without a blemish," it said. Sibal claimed it was a "mistake" by him but he had no intention to mislead the court and his client Soren had no role in it. The ED had earlier told the apex court that Soren's arrest on January 31 has been upheld by the Jharkhand High Court and his regular bail application was dismissed by the trial court on May 13.

On May 13, Soren had referred to the top court's order granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam and sought identical relief for himself. As the court rebuked Soren Wednesday, Sibal tried to defend the JMM chief saying that he was in custody and nobody was in touch with

him. Soren is currently lodged in judicial custody in

Ranchi's Birsa Munda Central Jail.

Modi rips...

From page 1

"Earlier, the authority of the Minority Educational Institution Commission was limited to colleges. But Congress suddenly included universities as well. Now you tell me. It has been almost a decade and a half, hundreds of admissions have happened, hundreds of recruitments have taken place, but all SC/ST/OBCs are not getting their rights. This is what they want to implement across the country," he

Discarding Congress and INDIA Bloc's appeasement and vote bank politics, Modi said, "Just today, the Calcutta High Court has given a big slap to this INDI alliance.

The court has canceled all OBC certificates issued since 2010. Why? Because they issued unwarranted OBC certificates to Muslims. They have crossed every limit in their obsession with appeasement."

Highlighting deep-rooted corruption in Congress and the INDIA Bloc, the Prime Minister said, "Many times, even though speaking thousands of lies, the truth eventually comes out of Shehzada's mouth. Today, the Shehzada of Congress has accepted a big truth. The Shehzada has admitted that the system established during his grandmother's, father's, and mother's corrupt people's wealth.

Dalits, backward classes, and tribals. This very system of Congress has destroyed many generations of SC-ST-OBC. Today, Shehzada himself has acknowledged this fact." Modi said the Congress "tarnished"

time, was vehemently opposed to

the image of the 2010 Commonwealth Games by "looting" Delhi. Recalling the CWG scam, Modi attacked the Congress and INDIA Bloc for looting the people.

"In 10 years, 36 lakh crores have been given to the beneficiaries. If Congress was here then 31 lakh crores would have been eaten by the middle men. Who can forget CWG? Congress had the opportunity to showcase India's capabilities in front of the world but Congress looted the people of Delhi. You have seen that in this very Delhi G20 was organised. In the whole world, India was praised. Tell me how it happen? This happened because of development of the BJP."

In an apparent attack on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, he said in Delhi, a game of 'kattar bhrastachari' is being played out.

"These people have left no stone unturned to loot the people of Delhi and even courts are stunned by this. The people who came to change politics did the biggest betrayal," he said, adding that all INDIA Bloc members are "extremely corrupt".

Modi warned that after returning for a third term, he will do an X-ray of

Brace up for more fire from the skies

From Page 1

On May 25 when mercury is expected to soar at record 47 degrees Celsius, the heat index is also likely to notch a higher reading, authorities said. On its part, the EC has assured elaborate measures taken to ensure that polling stations are adequately equipped with amenities such as drinking water and cool shades to mitigate the effects of high temperatures. Efforts have been taken to adjust polling hours accommodate voters more

comfortably and ensure a smooth electoral process. At the same time, political parties have intensified their voter mobilisation efforts, using digital platforms, social media, and community outreach to remind and motivate voters to participate despite the heat. Some are considering providing transportation to polling stations to facilitate easier access for voters.

The IMD officials said the heatwave situation in Madhya Pradesh are also northern India, particularly in under observation, with an States like Delhi, Punjab, orange alert issued for

Haryana, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, and western Uttar Pradesh, is reaching critical levels. This has pushed power demand to a seasonal high of 234 gigawatts (GW) on Tuesday, exceeding the Government's projected range of 225-235 GW for May. The demand is anticipated to rise further in June, reaching between 235-240 GW. The impact of the heatwave is

not confined to one region, as neighbouring States like

IMD. This widespread phenomenon underscores the staying importance of informed and taking necessary precautions to mitigate the risks associated with extreme heat.

"Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and children, should be protected from the adverse effects of the heatwave," said Dr Ajay Professor of Chauhan, Internal Medicine at Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. He said due to heatwave conditions, there is

northern parts, as per the a very high likelihood of developing heat illness and heat stroke in all ages. If RML has recently opened its first heat stroke unit amid

rising temperatures, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and a dedicated team, to enhance emergency responses and public health preparedness during the heatwave season, many hospitals across the country too have geared up to prepare for heat-related illnesses with dedicated beds, education, and emergency measures to treat patients

EC makes its...

In his reply to the notice, Nadda had maintained that the statements of BJP's star campaigners rely on facts to expose the "mal intent" of the Congress to the nation. He had also told the EC that the Congress and the INDIA Bloc, in pursuance of vote-bank politics, have begun opposing India as a nation, its identity, its original Hindu religion.

The poll body rejected Nadda's defence describing it as "not-tenable" and asked him and his party's star campaigners to desist from campaigning on religious and communal lines. It also asked the BJP to stop campaign speeches that may divide society. "The commission expects BJP,

as the ruling party at the Centre, to fully align the campaign methods to the practical aspects of the composite and sensitive fabric of India.

Shah: INDIA Bloc does not have any leader who can become PM

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on launched Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the "corrupt INDI alliance" and said the opposition bloc doesn't have any leader who can become Prime Minister. While addressing a rally at Ghatal, Shah said the INDIA bloc leaders just want their dynasty to move ahead and "neither have any leaders to lead the country nor have any intention for the development of the nation." Shah, while referring to Wednesday

Shah, while referring to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir said "PoK is part of India and we will take it".

"The INDI alliance doesn't have any leaders. The INDI considers the country as his alliance wants five PMs in five years. The INDI alliances neither have leaders nor have any intention for the development of the nation," he said

The BJP leader said the ongoing parliamentary elections are about choosing ongoing between "leaders of dynastic politics or honest leader Narendra Modi"



family. "Sharad Pawar wants his daughter to be the chief minister. Mamata Banerjee wants her nephew to succeed her as chief minister. Stalin (Tamil Nadu CM) wants to see his son succeed him. Sonia Gandhi wants Rahul Baba to become the Prime Minister of the country. On the other side, there is

Narendra Modi Ji who considers the entire country as his family," he said.

Hitting out at Congress leaders for not supporting the leaders for not supporting the demand of taking over PoK, Shah said, "Congress leaders say it should not be done as they have an atom bomb. But let me say this Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of India, was part of India, and we will take it."

Delhiites brave scorching heat

degrees Celsius, three notches

above the season's average, and

remained in the 'Yellow' alert

zone. Chants of "Modi, Modi"

and "Jai Shree Ram" rent the air

while many, including women, danced to drum beats as the

prime minister reached the

stage around 6.15 pm. They

waved their mobiles with

flashlights on while chanting

"Modi ji ko Jai Shree Ram" and
"Abki baar 400 paar" to greet
Modi. "Not only from Delhi,
people have arrived from

different parts of the country the listen to PM Modi's

speech," said Krishna Devi,

who reached the rally site from

A mid a scorching temperature of 43.4 degrees Celsius and prevailing heat wave conditions that have ruined campaigning programmes, nothing deterred the people in the national Capital on Wednesday to witness Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing them in West Delhi's Dwarka. Donning saffron clothes, a massive crowd from across Delhi and neighbouring areas braved the summer heat to gather at the BJP's poll rally site in sector 14 well in advance to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Many sported shirts with quotes like 'phir ek baar modi sarkaar' and 'Modi ka Pariwaar' to show their unwavering support to the BJP. Two female friends wearing saffron sarees sat eagerly with a big grin on their face to meet their beloved PM. Seema, a 45 year old woman, said that she is sitting in the heat to just get

a glimpse of Modi once.
"I want to really see him. I can bear the heat if it means I get to witness him here. The reason I am voting for BJP this time is because I believe that I'll be

voting for development and women empowerment," she said, while adding that woman have been empowered during the 10 year regime of Prime

Ankush Kumar, a resident of Ankush Kumar, a resident of Gurgaon in Haryana where polling would be held in the sixth phase on May 25 along with Delhi, said that he reached the rally site, close to Sector 14 Dwarka Metro Station, around 2 pm. "I came here just to see the prime minister," he said.

The national capital on Wednesday recorded maximum temperature of 43.4 Shahdara.

Another person at the rally, Karan Singh, said, "We want a 'Majboot (strong) sarkar', not a 'majboor (helples) sarkar'. We are witnessing development across the country, look at the expressways. A huge gathering like this is always expected at the PM's address irrespective

of the weather." Karuna Singh, a Delhi resident, mentioned the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the 2016 surgical strike and the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 to say, "We are lucky to witnessed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed during a public meeting in support of BJP candidates for Lok Sabha polls, at Dwarka in New Delhi, on Wednesday Photo: Ranjan Dimri / The Pioneer

moments." Many folk artistes from Punjab and Haryana performed at the rally. A boy was seen holding a sketch of PM Modi while his mother and a group of women were seen in saffron sarees and 'pagdi' with the BJP's poll symbol lotus attached to the headgear. "People must emember free LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana and houses for the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana while voting. I feel that he is not well, still he is always there for the people of his country," said Ram Maheshwari, a resident of

AP police teams on hunt for YSRCP MLA who damaged EVM

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Kumar Meena on Wednesday said police teams wednesday said police teams have been formed to look for 'absconding' YSRCP MLA P Ramakrishna Reddy who vandalised an electronic voting machine (EVM) at a polling centre in Macharla constituency of Palnadu district district.

The CEO said police raided Reddy's residence this morning, but he was not found there.

"His (Reddy) house was raided in the morning. He was not found, so several teams are now moving around to arrest him," Meena told

Mamata compromising national security for sake of vote bank politics, says Shah

PTI ■ KANTHI/GHATAL/PURULIA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of compromising national security for the sake of vote security for the sake of vote bank politics and "committing a sin" by allowing infiltrators to change the demography of the state. Addressing back-to-back rallies in Kanthi, Ghatal, and Purulia Lok Sabha constituencies, Shah said the TMC will "disintegrate" and there will be a "farewell of Mamata Banerjee's Baneriee's Mamata government" after the BJP wins 30 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

"Bengal has become a safe haven for infiltrators. Due to infiltration, the state's demography is changing, impacting not only this state,



but the entire country. Baneriee is committing a sin by helping to change the demography of Bengal. She is compromising national security for sake of vote bank politics," he said. Alleging that "infiltrators are the vote bank of the TMC," Shah said Banerjee is opposing the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to appease her vote

"'TMC ko ghuspetiyo se pyar

aur CAA pe vaar' (TMC has a love for infiltrators and attacks the CAA). The infiltrators are the vote bank of the TMC," he said.Shah criticised Banerjee's recent comments against certain monks of Ramakrishna and Bharat Mission Mission and Dharat Sevashram Sangha, asserting that these socio-religious organisations are being threatened to appease the TMC's vote bank.

"Banerjee is attacking the

Sangha, but she is not aware sangna, but she is not aware that had it not been there, Bengal would have been a part of Bangladesh," he said. Addressing an election rally in Goghat under Arambagh LS constituency on Saturday, Banerjee had claimed, "Some monks of Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha are working under the influence of BJP leaders in Delhi.

JD(S) complains to police against Rahul for claiming MP Prajwal raped 400 women

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The JD(S) on Wednesday complained to Karnataka DGP Alok Mohan against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly claiming that Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of sexual abuse, has "raped 400 women" "raped 400 women".

In a complaint, H M Ramesh Gowda, a former MLC and party's Bengaluru City president has sought registration of a criminal case against Gandhi under section 202 (Intentional omission to give information of an offence by a person legally bound to inform) of the Indian Penal Code for his alleged statement while addressing election rallies in the district headquarters of Shivamogga and Raichur on people of Karnataka, was



May 2. The JD(S) leader also cited the alleged statement by Gandhi in his complaint, "Prajwal Revanna has raped 400 women and made videos. This is not a sex scandal but mass rape. And the Prime supporting and seeking vote for this mass rapist. He is saying that if you vote for this mass rapist, it would help him."

The complainant said in the interest of justice for the alleged victims, Gandhi being a public servant is duty bound to give information of offence.

"In view of the fact that Gandhi has made a specific statement that Prajwal has raped 400 women, he is aware of the information and details of the 400 women raped and has intentionally failed to disclose the details," he stated in the complaint.

The 33-year-old Prajwal, who is the grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former PM H D Deve Gowda and is the NDA's candidate from Hassan Lok Sabha segment, is facing

charges of multiple instances of sexually abusing women. The cases came to light after a number of explicit videos of sexual assault allegedly by Prajwal became public. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is currently probing these cases.

"Till date, the SIT has also not issued any notice to Rahul Gandhi calling for such information for the statement made by Rahul Gandhi," the complaint stated. However, no FIR has been

registered yet in this regard, police said. Prajwal reportedly left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to polls, and is still at large. Interpol has also issued a Blue Corner Notice seeking information on his whereabouts.

BJP gains ground as TMC battles to retain foothold in Suvendu Adhikari's backyard

PTI ■ KANTHI (WB)

The future of the Kanthi Lok Sabha constituency in West Bengal appears to be volatile on account of the dual and opposing factors of the BJP sharply gaining political ground and the TMC desperate to retain its sway

over voters.

While the BJP looks emboldened by its recent rural poll successes and the Adhikari family's defection to Adhikari family's defection to the saffron camp, the TMC seems to be counting on its grassroots connections and the state's welfare schemes which the party believes have attained connectivity with the electorate.

exemplifies dynasty politics has followed them across through the influence of the party lines. state's Leader of Opposition
Suvendu Adhikari, whose family members have held dynamic, as compared to sperse are lateral of the BJF.

The initial transformation from the Left to the TMC was spurred by the 2007



key political positions in the past and continue to wield past and continue to wield substantial power in the region, poll watchers believe.

The poll results would, hence, serve as a litmus test for the endurance of political dynasty and durability of the Adhikari Located in Purba Medinipur family legacy, revealing district, the Kanthi seat whether their support base

other constituencies of the state, featuring a distinctly bipolar electoral landscape where voters face a clear choice between supporting the BJP and its national agenda or favouring the TMC government in Bengal and its welfare schemes.

Nandigram anti-land acquisition movement. The significant shift was driven by a grassroots uprising that followed strong disillusionment with CPI(M)'s land acquisition policies. welfare schemes.

"In Kanthi, the binary nature of the contest underscores the significance of the political stakes involved, as voters will weigh their preferences between national and regional priorities. It will be a vote of 'Yes-BJP or No BJP and Yes-TMC or No-TMC," political analyst Biswanath

Chakraborty said.
Known for its fluctuating political affiliations, Kanthi has moved on from being an erstwhile CPI(M) stronghold to a TMC bastion and, more recently, to a key political arena of the BJP.

policies.
Since then the Adhikaris, led by the family patriarch Sisir Adhikari and his sons Suvendu, Dibyendu, and Soumendu, have held key political positions within the TMC in the region.
A dramatic shift occurred in December 2020, barely months ahead of the state assembly polls, when Suvendu defected from the TMC to the BJP.
This move significantly altered the political balance of Kanthi and Purba Medinipur.

Kanthi and Purba Medinipur. Suvendu's departure from the TMC meant not just the loss of a key leader of Mamata Banerjee's party but also the transfer of a considerable support base to the BJP.

Latur admin urges LS poll candidates to adhere to EC guidelines during vote counting on June 4

PTI ■ LATUR

The Latur district administration has sought cooperation from candidates who contested the Lok Sabha polls from here and representatives of various political parties during the counting of votes on June 4. Latur Collector Varsha Thakur-Ghuge held a meeting at her office on Tuesday and appealed to all the candidates and representatives of the political parties to adhere to guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India regarding the counting

process. Guideline handbooks for the election representatives were distributed on the occasion. The collector said the district administration here in Maharashtra has completed preparations for the counting of votes.

All candidates are requested to inform the collector's office



about names of their representatives for counting. The representatives should be imparted training on the counting process and mobile phone is not allowed at the counting venue, the collector The Election Commission of

India has appointed two observers for the counting

Twenty eight candidates contested the election to the Latur Lok Sabha seat May 7. Among the major political parties, the BJP fielded sitting

MP Sudhakar Shrangare, the Congress nominated Shivaji Kalge, and the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit

Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) gave ticket to Narsingrao Nivritti

Modi, Shah to undertake another round of campaigning in Odisha

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha on May 29, aiming to provide a final boost to BJP's electioneering efforts in the state, party sources said.

Modi's upcoming visit will include addresses at two election rallies in Balasore and Kendrapada Parliamentary constituencies, BJP's election in-charge for Odisha, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar said.

This will mark Modi's fourth visit to Odisha within a month, highlighting BJP's concerted efforts strengthen its electoral prospects in the state. Previously, the PM visited Odisha on May 6, 10, and 19,

during which he addressed seven election rallies and held two road shows Bhubaneswar and Puri.

Vikramaditya, Kangana trade charges over black flag protest against her

PTI MANDI/SHIMLA

Trading barbs over black flags shown to the BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Mandi Kangana Ranaut in Lahaul and Spiti's Kaza two days back, the Congress' Vikramaditya Singh targeted the actor Wednesday over her remark against the Dalai Lama from April last year.

"People of the tribal area worship Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as their God and if someone passes any remarks against their God, they will surely not like it and protest," Singh, who contesting the election against Ranaut, said in Mandi in response to a question.

Hitting back at Singh, Ranaut alleged that the Congress was behind the protest against her. The Congress has stooped to

hooliganism and the Kaza incident would prove to be the last nail in its coffin and contribute to her winning margin, the BJP candidate added.

"I feel sad to see such hooliganism reflects the Congress' character... People have seen the true face of the Congress, which is indulging in violence and hooliganism," she told media persons in Lahaul

and Spiti's Udaipur.
Singh, however, said his party had nothing to do with the incident and accused the BJP of blaming the Congress as it was losing the elections. They were referring to



black flags being shown to Ranaut by local people and Congress workers in Kaza on Congress workers in Kaza on Monday. The Congress workers raised anti-Kangana slogans — "Kangana, go back, Kangana Vangana nahi chalegi", apparently enraged over her remarks on the Tibetan spiritual leader.

Ranaut had in April last year tweeted a meme featuring the Dalai Lama that said, "The Dalai Lama receives a warm welcome at the White House". The photoshopped picture in the tweet showed the Dalai the tweet showed the Dalai Lama sticking his tongue out with US President Joe Biden with a comment — Both of them have the same illness, definitely, they could be friends. Following this, a group of

Buddhists staged a dharna outside her office in Mumbai. Ranaut later apologised, saying she did not person was injured. However, one mean to hurt anyone and that it was a harmless joke about Biden being friends with the Dalai Lama. After Ranaut faced the protest in Kaza on Monday, the Himachal Pradesh BJP filed a complaint with the state

electoral officer. The party alleged that stones were pelted at Ranaut's carcade and party worker was injured.

It also demanded the transfer of election officials and an investigation into the incident as both the BJP and the Congress were given permission to hold rallies adjacent to each other.

However, Lahaul and Spiti SP Mayank Chowdhary told PTI that workers of both the BJP and the

worker sprained his leg, he added. Bhishan Shashni, the Congress' election coordinator for Lahaul and Spiti, claimed that his party workers were peacefully protesting but a large number of local people joined the protest as they were hurt by Ranaut's remark.

Listing his priorities for the Mandi parliamentary constituency, Vikramaditya Singh, the son of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and Himachal Congress chief Pratibha Singh, said his focus would be on bringing the municipal corporation of Mandi under the Smart City project and the construction of the Bhubhu Jot and Jalori Jot tunnels and the Kullu Medical College.

Norway, Ireland and Spain give recognition to Palestinian state

AP TEL AVIV

Norway, Ireland and Spain said on Wednesday they are recognizing a Palestinian state, in a historic but largely symbolic move that deepens Israel's isolation more than seven months into its grinding war against Hamas in Gaza. The announcements came as the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is considering allegations of genocide that Israel has strenuously denied.

Palestinians welcomed the announcements as an affirmation of their decades-long quest for statehood in east Jerusalem. the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war and still controls.

Israel recalled its ambassadors to the three countries and summoned their envoys, accusing the Europeans of rewarding the militant Hamas group for its October 7 attack that triggered the war. Netanyahu's government, which is opposed to Palestinian statehood, says the conflict can only be resolved through direct negotiations, which last collapsed over 15

As if to underline the point, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir paid a provocative visit Wednesday to a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem sacred to Jews and Muslims in a move that could escalate tensions across the region.

Ben-Gvir said the visit was a response to the move by the three European countries. "We will not even allow a statement about a Palestinian state," he

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound is the third holiest site in Islam, and the hilltop on which it stands is the holiest site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount.

With their formal recognition, planned for May 28, the three countries will join some 140 more than two-thirds of the United Nations — that have rec-



Demonstrators display Palestinian flags and chant slogans while marching Tuesday

Israeli min visits Jerusalem holy site, raising tensions

Tel Aviv: Israel's far right "We will not even allow a national security minister, Itamar Ben Gvir, visited Ierusalem's Al Agsa Mosque compound on Wednesday, declaring the contested holy site belongs "only to the state of

Ben-Gvir said Wednesday's visit was a response to a move by three European countries to unilaterally recognise an independent Palestinian state.

ognized the state of Palestine over the years. The United States and Britain, among others, have backed the idea of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel but say it should come as part of a negotiated settlement. The announcements from Europe came in a swift cascade. Norway, which helped broker the Oslo accords that kicked off the peace process in the 1990s, was the first to announce its decision, with Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store saying "there cannot be peace in the Middle East if there is no recognition."

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris called it an "historic and important day for Ireland and for Palestine," saying the

statement about a Palestinian

state," he said. The hilltop compound is revered by Jews and Muslims, and the conflicting claims have led to numerous rounds of violence in the past.

Israel allows Jews to visit the compound, but not to pray there. But the visit is likely to be seen around the world as a provocation.

announcements had been coordinated and that other countries might join "in the weeks ahead." The international community has long viewed the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel as the only realistic way to resolve the conflict, and in past weeks several European Union countries have indicated they plan to recognize a Palestinian state to further those efforts. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who announced his country's decision before parliament, has spent months touring European and Middle Eastern countries to garner support for recognition, as well as for a possible cease-fire in Gaza. "This recognition is not against anyone, it is not against the Israeli

Israel says it recalls envoys from Ireland

and Norway Copenhagen (Denmark) (AP): Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz has ordered Israel's ambassadors from Ireland and Norway to immediately return to Israel, as Norway said it would recognise a Palestinian state and Ireland was expected to do the same. "Ireland and Norway intend to send a message today to the Palestinians and the whole world: terrorism pays," Katz said. He said that the recognition could impede efforts to return Israel's hostages being held in Gaza and makes a cease-fire less likely by "rewarding the jihadists of Hamas and Iran." He also threatened to recall Israel's ambassador to Spain if the country takes a similar position. Earlier Wednesday, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said "there cannot be peace in the Middle East if there is no recognition." Gahr Støre said the Scandinavian country will officially recognize a Palestinian state as of May 28. Several European Union countries have in the past weeks indicated that they plan to make the recognition, arguing a two-state solution is essential for lasting peace in the region.

people," Sanchez said. "It is an act in favor of peace, justice and moral consistency." He said it was clear that Netanyahu "does not have a project for peace," while acknowledging that "the fight against the terrorist group

Hamas is legitimate." Israel's government harshly condemned the decision taken by the three countries. Foreign Minister Israel Katz recalled Israel's ambassadors and summoned the three countries' envoys in Israel. He said they would watch grisly video footage of the October 7 attack. "History will remember that Spain, Norway, and Ireland decided to award a gold medal to Hamas murderers and rapists," he said.

Singapore Airlines cooperating in severe turbulence probe

Singapore Airlines on Wednesday said it is fully cooperating with relevant authorities in the investiga-tion into the London to Singapore flight which encountered severe turbulence, leading to the death of one passenger and injuring nearly 60 others. Geoffrey Kitchen, a 73year-old British passenger, died likely due to a heart attack on the Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight SQ321, operating from London (Heathrow) to Singapore on Tuesday, said Kittipong Kittikachorn, General Manager of Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, to where the flight was diverted under emergency. Nearly 60 passengers were injured after the flight on May 21 encountered "sudden extreme turbulence over the

Irrawaddy Basin at 37,000 feet

about 10 hours after departure".

The carrier said the remaining

passengers aboard the Boeing 777-300ER aircraft carrying 229 people were examined and treated at the airport.

The SIA is fully cooperating with the relevant authorities in probing this incident, the flag carrier's Chief Executive Officer, Goh Choon Phong,

As many as 58 people are still receiving medical treatment in three hospitals in Bangkok, Channel News Asia reported, citing officials at the Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital.

At least 20 injured passengers are being treated in intensive care units, while 38 passengers are receiving in-patient care, the report said.

The Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital has 41 patients, while 15 patients are in the Samitivej Sukhumvit Hospital, and two are in Bangkok Hospital, it said. Of the patients in Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital, nine successfully underwent surgery on Tuesday and five more are Wednesday, it added. As many as 131 passengers and

12 crew members, who earlier arrived in Singapore via a relief flight on May 22, were received at Changi Airport by Goh. The SIA, in its latest update, confirmed an additional five

passengers and one crew member on board the SQ321 flight will return to Singapore on Wednesday.

Another 74 passengers and six crew members, including those receiving medical care and their family members and loved ones who were on the flight, were still in Bangkok. "For passengers with onward connections, we have rebooked them on alternative flights. We have also arranged hotel accommodation or lounge access for them to rest until their next flight," Singapore's flag carrier said. "On behalf of the Singapore Airlines Board, I extend my deepest condo-lences to the family and loved

ones of our passenger who passed away on May 21, 2024, in the SQ321 incident. I assure all passengers and crew members who were on board the aircraft that we are committed to supporting them during this difficult time," said Peter Seah, Chairman of Singapore Airlines.

"I also wish to express my gratitude to everyone in Singapore, Thailand, and around the world who are assisting those affected by this incident," Seah said. The nationalities of the passengers are as follows: 56 from Australia, three Indians, two from Canada, one from Germany, two Indonesians, one from Iceland, four from Ireland, one from Israel, 16 from Malaysia, two from Myanmar, 23 from New Zealand, five from the Philippines, 41 Singaporeans, one South Korean, two from Spain, 47 from the United Kingdom, and four from the

UK hails drop in visas as stranded Indian workers appeal for help

he UK government on Wednesday hailed a significant drop in healthcare visa applications following its restrictions on family dependants, even as hundreds of Indian care workers who find themselves unfairly stranded in themselves unfairly stranded in the country appeal for help. Latest Home Office statistics reveal a 76 per cent drop in overseas workers applying for jobs in the UK's care sector and a 58 per cent fall in family dependents in the Health and Care visa category in the first full month since restrictions

were in place, compared with April 2023. Indian nationals topped the Health and Care visa grants last year. The number of dependents, or spouses and children, in the student visa category, also registered a significant drop of 79 per cent over the same period since those new rules came into force earlier this year. 'This monthly data is the most

els, showing that on current trajectories legal migration continues to fall across key routes," said UK Home

Secretary James Cleverly. "The British people deserve an immigration system that puts their interests first. Our approach is about control and approach is about control and fairness; to the highly skilled coming here who deserve a decent wage, to taxpayers who shouldn't be relied on to support them, and to British workers who shouldn't be undercut,"

The monthly data was released to reflect the impact of changes by the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak-led government, which is keen to show falling immi-gration numbers ahead of a general election later this year. Since March, previously unmonitored care providers in England acting as sponsors for migrants are required to register with industry regulator Care Quality Commission (CQC) - a move the governexploitation and abuse within the sector.

Indian nationals have topped the Health and Care visa grants, with 38,866 given out last year, and are now facing the brunt of these previously lax rules governing dubious recruitment agencies. "Some of these victims had borrowed thousands of pounds to get the visas and now face deportation for no fault of theirs," said the National Council of Gujarati Organisations (NCGO) UK, which is lobbying on behalf of these workers, many of whom

are from Guiarat. "Some of these agencies are bogus and operate from a hired desk at serviced offices. The majority of them were not checked for their genuineness by the Home Office and were issued with quotas like confetti," said Kanti Nagda of the NCGO UK, which is now seeking a meeting with the Home Secretary to appeal on behalf of

Four accused of killing Nijjar appear before Canada court

Ottawa(PTI): Four Indian nationals accused of killing Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year in Surrey were ordered by a Canadian court to have no contact with several people in the community, as they made their first joint appearance before it in the case that has severely strained ties between India and Canada.

Three of the four suspects — Karan Brar (22), Kamalpreet Singh (22) and 28-year-old Karanpreet Singh — appeared in person for the first time in B.C. Provincial Court in Surrey. The fourth suspect — Amandeep Singh, 22, — appeared by video link. Amandeep Singh remains in custody in Ontario where he was facing unrelated weapons offences before being arrested on May 10 for Nijjar's killing. Judge Mark Jette spoke to the men through an interpreter as he placed them under a nocontact order, before adjourning until the suspects' next appearance on June 25, CBC News reported.

Prosecutor Marcel Daigle said the time until the next hearing will allow the Crown to ful its evidentiary disclosure obligations to the suspects' lawyers. Those appearing in person wore red prison sweatsuits as they entered the courtroom. Richard Fowler, the lawyer representing Karan Brar, told the Vancouver Sun," it's completely understandable given the context why there is an enormous amount of community interest in this case. That level of community interest makes me...to ensure that those charged with these offences have a fair trial."

Attendees at the latest hearing for the men were searched before entering the courthouse, while the supporters of Nijjar held a protest outside. Sheriffs at the hearing placed

peoples' phones in plastic zipper bags and kept them outside the courtroom in plastic bins, with the judge warning observers that recording audio and taking pictures was prohibited, the report added. Nijjar, 45, was killed outside Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in

Surrey, British Columbia on June 18, 2023.

box as Trump's former-lawyer-

turned-foe Michel Cohen placed

Trump in the middle of the

scheme to buy Daniels' story to

keep it from going public in the waning weeks before the 2016

presidential election. During

that time, Republicans were

wringing their hands in distress

over the potential political fall-

out from the infamous "Access

Iran's supreme leader prays for late president, others

ran's supreme leader prayed Wednesday over the coffins of the country's late president, foreign minister and other officials who were killed in a helicopter crash earlier this week. Later, hundreds of thousands of people followed a procession honouring the dead down Tehran's main boulevard. Iran's Shiite theocracy views

mass demonstrations as crucial evidence of its legitimacy and the people's support. Still, Wednesday's funeral service for President Ebrahim Raisi and others saw a turnout that onlookers described as noticeably lower than the 2020 procession honouring Revolutionary Guard general Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a US drone strike in Baghdad. Many of the participants said they came to Tehran for the ceremony from other cities and towns across the Islamic Republic, an indication of how those in Iran's capital viewed Raisi, who won the presidency in a record low turnout and later oversaw repeated crackidowns on all dissent — including in the



Iranians follow a truck carrying coffins of the late President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions who were killed in a helicopter crash on Sunday in a mountainous region of the country's northwest, during a funeral ceremony for them in Tehran, Iran,

wake of the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that sparked street protests over Iran's mandatory hijab, or headscarf. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who openly wept for Soleimani, also remained composed while reciting the stan-

dard prayer for the dead. "Oh Allah, we didn't see anything but good from him," Khamenei said in Arabic, the language of Islam's holy book, the Quran. He soon left and the crowd inside rushed to the front, reaching out to touch the coffins. Iran's acting president, out the war and provided nearby and openly cried. The death of Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and six others in the crash on Sunday comes at a politically sensitive moment for Iran, both at home and

abroad. Raisi, who was 63, had been discussed as a possible successor to Iran's supreme leader, the 85vear-old Khamenei. None of Iran's living past presidents — other than Khamenei, who was president from 1981 until 1989 could be seen in state television footage of Wednesday's prayers. The authorities gave no explanation for their apparent

absence.

Following the deadly helicopter crash, Iran set June 28 as the next presidential election. For now, there's no clear favourite for the position among Iran's political elite — particularly no one who is a Shiite cleric, like Raisi. During Raisi's term in office, Iran launched an unprecedented attack on Israel last month as its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip rages on. Iran has supported Hamas through-

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh attended the prayers Wednesday morning, just two days after the International Criminal Court's prosecutor said he'd seek an arrest warrant for him and others over the October 7 attack that sparked the latest Israel-Hamas war. In the unprecedented assault on southern Israel, Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people and seized 250 hostage. The ICC prosecutor is also seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for their conduct in the war, which has seen more than 35,000 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip and also hundreds in the West Bank.

Haniyeh recounted meeting Raisi earlier this year in Tehran during Ramadan, the holy Muslim fasting month, and heard the president say the Palestinian issue remains the key one for the Muslim world. He also described Raisi calling the October 7 attack an "earthquake in the heart of the Zionist

Nepalese climber Kami Rita climbs Everest for 30th time

Buddhist devotees gather to pour water at the foot of a banyan tree during the Full

Moon day of "Kasone," known as Buddha's Birthday, at Botataung pagoda

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's veteran summiteer Kami Rita Sherpa made history on Wednesday by scaling Mt Everest for the 30th time, breaking his own record that he made 10 days ago for the highest number of ascents on the world's highest peak.

The 54-year-old legendary mountaineer reached the 8,849-metre peak at 7:49 am local time, according to Tashi Lakpa Sherpa, Chief Executive Officer at the 14 Peaks Expedition high-altitude sports

company. Kami summited the peak for the 29th time only 10 days ago. "He has scaled Everest on May 12 for the 29th time," The Himalayan Times newspaper quoted Tashi Lakpa as saying.



Kami, a senior mountain guide at the 14 Peaks Expedition and Seven Summit Treks, climbed Mt Everest for the first time in May 1994, the report said.

He was born on January 17, 1970, and his mountaineering journey began in 1992 when he oined an expedition to the highest peak as a supporting staff. Kami developed a deep passion for climbing from a young age and has been scaling mountains for over two decades, Tashi Lakpa said. Besides Mt Everest, he has also conquered Mt K2, Cho Oyu, Lhotse, and Manaslu.

Last year, he successfully scaled Mt Everest for the 27th and 28th times in the same sea-

His closest rival, 46-year-old Pasand Dawa Sherpa of Solukhumbu, also completed his 27th summit of Everest last year. Altogether, 414 climbers from 41 expeditions have acquired permission to scale Everest this season.

Official data from 2023 showed that since 1953's Hillary-Norgay summit, around 7,000 mountaineers have successfully scaled Mt Everest while over 300 have

AP ■ NEW YORK

 $D^{onald\,Trump's\,hush\,money}_{trial\ moved\ into\ a\ new}$ phase Tuesday, drawing closer to the moment when the jury will begin deciding his fate after testimony concluded without the former president taking the stand in his own defense.

"Your honor, the defense rests," Trump lawyer Todd Blanche told the judge. Trump's team ended with a former federal prosecutor who was called to attack the credibility of the prosecution's key witness, one of two people summoned to the stand by the defense. The Manhattan district attorney's office called 20 witnesses over 15 days of testimony before resting its case Monday.

The jury was sent home for a week, until May 28, when closing arguments are expected, but the attorneys returned to the

courtroom to debate how the judge will instruct jurors on deliberations, a sort of road map meant to help them apply the law to the evidence and testimony. The two sides haggled over word choices, legal phrases and how to describe various campaign-related issues.

Trump, the first former American president to be tried criminally, did not answer questions about why he did not tes-

Trump had previously said he wanted to take the witness stand in his own defense, but there was no requirement or even expectation that he do so. Defendants routinely decline to testify. His attorneys, instead of mounting an effort to demonstrate Trumps innocence to jurors, focused on attacking the credibility of the prosecution witnesses. That's a routine defense strategy; the burden of proof in a criminal

case lies with the prosecution. The defense doesn't have to prove a thing. Yet even as Trump denounces

Trump hush money trial concludes without his testimony

the trial as a politically motivated travesty of justice, he has been working to turn the proceedings into an offshoot of his presidential campaign. He's capitalized on the trial as a fundraising pitch, used his time in front of the cameras to criticize President Joe Biden and showcased a parade of his own political supporters. Prosecutors have accused the presumptive Republican presidential nominee of a scheme to scoop up and bury negative stories in an illegal effort to influence the 2016 presidential election. Trump has pleaded not guilty to falsifying business records to conceal the alleged scheme and denied any wrongdoing. It's the first of Trump's four criminal cases to go to trial, and quite possibly the only one before the 2024 presidential election. "They have no case," Trump said outside court. "There's no crime."He also again attacked the prosecutor, despite repeated warnings from Judge Juan M. Merchan not to violate a gag order that bars him from publicly commenting on witnesses, pros-ecutors, court staff or the judge's family. Jurors have been given a lesson on the underbelly of the tabloid business world, where Trump allies at the National Enquirer launched a plan to keep seamy, sometimes outrageous stories about Trump out of the public eye by paying tens of thousands of dollars to "catch and kill" them. They watched as a porn actress, Stormy Daniels, recounted in discomfiting detail an alleged sexual encounter with Trump in a hotel room. Trump says nothing sexual happened between them.

Hollywood" tape, where Trump bragged about grabbing women sexually without asking permission. But the crux of the prosecution's case centers not on the spectacle but on business transactions, including internal Trump Organization records in which payments to Cohen were labeled legal expenses. Prosecutors argued that those payments were really reimbursements to Cohen, doled out in chunks, for a \$130,000 payment he made on Trump's behalf to

keep Daniels quiet.

And they sat intently in the jury

LUCKNOW | THURSDAY | MAY 23, 2024

Sindhu sails to Malaysia Masters second round

Returning from a break, two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu progressed to the women's singles second round with a straight-game win over Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

here on Wednesday.
World No. 15 Sindhu, who had skipped the Uber Cup and Thailand Open, notched up a 21-17 21-16 win over Gilmour, who is ranked 22nd, in the opening-round match that lasted 46 minutes.
The fifth-seeded Indian, who last won a title in 2022 Singapore Open, will next face Korea's Sim Yu Jin.

Korea's Sim Yu Jin.
In mixed doubles, B Sumeeth
Reddy and N Sikki Reddy,
world No. 53, also advanced to
the second round after outlasting Hong Kong qualifiers Lui Chun Wai and Fu Chi Yan 21-15 12-21 21-17 in 47 minutes.

The husband-wife duo will have the task of taming the top

Concussion replacements

added for Copa America

under the pink substitution

AP ■ LUQUE (PARAGUAY)

Coaches at next month's Copa America will be able to make a 6th and extra

substitution in cases of

suspected head trauma or

South American soccer's

governing body CONMEBOL

announced the decision Tuesday, making it valid for all

its competitions once the Copa America starts in the United

statement saying coaches will need to notify the referee or

the 4th match official of the

concussion replacement through a pink substitution

pass. A similar method was

implemented in Major League

Soccer in 2021 as part of a

FIFA pilot program.
The player who leaves the

pitch under those conditions

will have to go to the locker rooms or a hospital for

concussion will take place

regardless of the number of substitutions until the moment it happens," CONMEBOL said. "When the

concussion substitution takes

place, the opposing team will automatically be allowed to

Team doctors who detect a

suspected concussion or head

trauma on the pitch will have

"The substitution

assessment.

make an

substitution."

CONMEBOL issued

pass system

concussion.

States on June 20.



seeds Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei of Malaysia next. For Sindhu, it was her third win over Gilmour, a two-time medallist Commonwealth Games.

The 28-year-old Sindhu was quick to open up a 7-1 lead but Gilmour managed to claw back at 14-14 and 15-15. The at 14-14 and 15-15. The Indian, however, dashed her hopes of a challenge as she grabbed six of the next eight points to take the first game. After the change of sides, Sindhu was more ruthless as she didn't allow her opponent to make any comeback after once again gaining an early 3-0 lead. Sindhu was 11-6 at the break and kept moving ahead to grab eight match points. To her credit, Gilmour saved four match points before Sindhu sealed the match comfortably. Sindhu, a former world champion, has endured a series of narrow losses ever since returning from a knee injury early this year. She is eyeing a good show here to boost her confidence ahead of the Paris



Archery World Cup Stage 2

Compound women team in final, men miss bronze medal

World number one Indian women's compound team stormed into the final of the archery World Cup Stage II but the men's team will return empty-handed from the tournament after losing the tournament after losing the bronze medal clash to Australia here Wednesday. The trio of Jyothi Surekha The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami, that had clinched gold medal in World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai leg last month, knocked out world number four USA 233-229 in the semi-final.

India will now clash with

It was an overall easy

The world number one men's team of Priyansh, Prathamesh Fuge and veteran Abhishek Verma, who had slipped to fourth in the qualifying round on Tuesday, lost to lowly-ranked Australia 133-133 $(10-10^*)$ in a shoot-off.

ranked 21st, took the Indian trio by surprise starting with a 59, dropping just one point.
The Aussies team of Bailey

Wildman, Brandon Hawes and Jonathon Milne continued its fine run and overcame a one-point deficit after the second round to make it 233-all after the regulation four

The two teams were 30-all in the ensuing shoot-off but the Aussies edged out the closer to centre) to secure the bronze medal.

Having started their campaign with an easy 235-212 win over lowly-ranked Vietnam, India overcame tough competition from Denmark and top seed USA, winning both the matches in shoot-off.

Meanwhile, the veteran duo of Tarundeep Rai and Deepika Kumari finished fourth and sixth in their respective qualifiers as recurve competition got underway.

The 2010 Asian Games silver medalist Rai shot 681 points for a sixth spot in rankings, while Dhiraj Bommadevara narrowly missed a top-10 finish on X (closer to centre) count after five archers shot 678 with the Indian finishing 11th.

The Army duo's solid finish ensured Indian recurve men's team No 2 seeding in their title defence. India and top-seeded South Korea will begin their campaign at the opposite ends of the draw.

Indian men's team shocked the world champions South Korea for the first time in a World Cup to take the gold in Stage 1 of the event in Shanghai last month.

Deepika missed the top-

three finish in the rankings by just one point, shooting 677 as the Korean duo of Lim Sihyeon (685), Jeon Hunyoung (680) and Li Jiaman (678) took the 1-2-3

seedings.
The other Indians however fell way short with Bhajan Kaur (653 points) and Ankita Bhakat (646) were the next best Indians at lowly 34th and 49th places respectively. As a result, the women's team seedings behind South Korea in the recurve mixed team

shooting two Xs (arrows

PTI ■ YECHEON (SOUTH

rurkey in the gold medal clash on Saturday. Turkey had stunned top-seed and local favourites South Korea 234-233 in the other semi-final.

sailing for the Indian women's team, which got a bye into the quarters after finishing second in the qualifying round. They eliminated Italy 236-234 in the last-eight.

inconsistent Indians by

Rai and Deepika combined to get a cumulative 1358

category.

could not be better than six. points for the second spot

AP PARIS

are lower."

Vanessa Peltier got up at dawn and traveled 500 kilometers (310 miles) to Paris from the Creuse region of central France just so she could watch Rafael Nadal

practice on Tuesday.
Along with thousands of other fans, she lined up outside the main up to 24 hours to send a medical report he's won a record 14 times.

medical report to CONMEBOL, the South American body said. "I woke up at 6 a.M. And drove from the middle of France to be here," said Peltier, 50. "Nadal has



Brazil's Vasco da Gama and

777 Partners in legal battle

for control of soccer club

department's

administration after a series

of complaints from the club.

Brazilian law allows foreign

entities to buy the rights to

soccer sections of multi-sport clubs, in an operation known

the fight in court and accused

the club of not making image

rights payments to its players on Monday, as scheduled.

wages or image rights payments have been delayed

since we took over 18 months

momentarily pushes us out of the command of Vasco's SAF

stopped us from making a bridge payment, as we did last

year in the same period of the

year, when soccer revenues

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Vasco executives have said the payment of wages is up to date for all players.

The tug of war in Brazil adds to the pressure on the Miami-based company, which has recently faced setbacks in court over its ownership of Belgium's Standard Liège plus other financial problems.

The preliminary ruling is yet to be confirmed, but the American group stepped up A court in Liege last week ruled in favor of Standard's former owner Bruno Venanzi and shareholders of the company holding the club's stadium. They claimed 777 "It was the first time that had defaulted on a payment. The legal woes for the 777 add to its period of financial turmoil. The Miami-based ago," 777 said in a statement Tuesday. "The injunction that investment company has also seen its airline in Australia grounded in recent weeks. It also faces a fraud lawsuit in New York.

777's other clubs include Genoa in Italy's top tier and Hertha Berlin in Germany's Image rights are part of the payment for footballers. second division.

Playing Carlsen in his home turf not a challenge for me: Praggnanandhaa

PTI ■ STAVANGER (NORWAY)

Having beaten Magnus Carlsen several times in the last couple of years, young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa feels he will be under no pressure when he takes on the multiple-time world champion in his home turf during the Norway Chess tournament, which gets underway here on May 27.

Praggnanandhaa last beat the 33-year-old Carlsen in the Superbet rapid and blitz tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour, in Warsaw earlier this month.

"I don't think playing Magnus in his home turf is a challenge for me. Usually, it matters to the player playing in his home but it won't matter so much me," said

Praggnanandhaa, who will also have his sister R. Vaishali playing the Norway Chess Women's Tournament for the first time. The 11-day tournament will

see a very strong field including the likes of world champion Ding Liren and Hikaru Nakamura besides home favourite Carlsen. Reflecting on his contest with

Carlsen at last year's FIDE World Cup where Praggnanandhaa gave the Norwegian a tough challenge, the Indian GM said the experience here would help him in future competitions.

"I always enjoy a good challenge. After the World Cup last year, this will be my first classical game with him. I am quite excited to play him and equally excited to play the others. No doubt the experience here will help me in future tournaments," said Praggnanandhaa in a Norway Chess release. "I am very happy and excited

to play in Norway Chess. The to play in Norway Chess. The field is extremely strong. This is perhaps the strongest field I have played and I see this as an opportunity and a challenge to give my best.

"I am also looking forward to play in this time control which play in this time control which I have not played anywhere else," added the 18-year-old.
The tournament will be played in a double round-robin format with a time control of 120 minutes.

The teenaged Indian GM also expressed happiness with the growth of chess worldwide.
"It is a busy schedule this year.

After the Norway Chess, we move to Budapest for the Chess Olympiad and I will also be playing the Global Chess League later this year. It is really good to have such an exciting league which I think will definitely help grow the game. "As a chess fan, I'm happy to see this league grow. For now, my focus is on Norway Chess and I am physically and mentally wellprepared to do my best there."
With sister competing in the women's category, Praggnanandhaa said he will also be tracking her progress in the tournament.

"I am happy to see an exclusive women's tournament being introduced in Norway Chess. It is a very good initiative because there are not many tournaments for women. This will encourage other organizations to come up with women's tournaments

for

additional

as SAF.

court to catch a glimpse of the Spanish champion at what's expected to be his final appearance at the French Open, a tournament

Thousands of fans come to see Nadal practice ahead of the French Open

always had my support, and the support of France." The line stretched for 200 meters

(yards) as fans queued up for Nadal's second day of practice at Roland Garros. Morgan Chevallier said he waited for 45 minutes to get inside the tennis stadium.
"I could not pass on this

opportunity. He is almost bigger than the tournament itself," he said.
The 37-year-old Nadal was last chance to see him at Rol sidelined with injuries for nearly all Garros. of last year and much of this season. His loss in the third round of the Italian Open two weeks ago left questions about his fitness. He hasn't yet said whether he's ready

The fans know this may be their last chance to see him at Roland

"I skipped work for Nadal," said

the day, Sebastian Korda of the United States. The crowd erupted in cheers and chants of "Rafa, Rafa" after the Spaniard hit a winning

Outside the court, fans took photos in front of the Nadal statue at the entry gate and lined up to pose with a life-size cardboard cutout of him, with a hole where they could put their own faces.

"This way I can imagine what it's like to have the same biceps as him," joked Philippe Charvet as his friend took his picture.

In the Roland Garros gift shop, an entire section is dedicated to Nadal merchandise. Frédéric Caubert and his son Gaspar elbowed their way to buy a hat with Nadal's signature for 28 euros (\$30).

"It's not cheap, but it will be a nice memory once Nadal leaves us," Caubert said. "It's like he is part of our family. When he's gone, family dinners won't feel the same," he said with a smile.

Emma Hayes' first roster as coach of the US women team includes two first time call ups

AP ■ NEW YORK

oach Emma Hayes has Selected her first roster for the United States ahead of a pair of friendlies as she prepares to lead the women's national team at the Paris Olympics.

Hayes, named U.S. Coach last November, finished her final season as coach of Chelsea on Saturday, winning the team's fifth straight Women's Super League Title with a 6-0 rout of Manchester

United. Her first U.S. Roster announced Tuesday includes two National Women's Soccer League players called up to the national team for the first time, Chicago Red Stars defender Sam Staab and Washington Spirit midfielder Hal Hershfelt. A notable omission from the roster is veteran goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, who injured her left thigh while playing in a match for the Chicago Red Stars on May 12.

The team will play South Korea on June 1 in Commerce City, Colorado, before a rematch on June 4 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The 23-player roster is Hayes' last chance to look at players before she names an 18-player roster for the Olympics. The United States will play a pair of sendoff matches

"I expect complete commitment from everyone to absorb very quickly the things that I value as the most important so that we can compete this summer. I know they are a highly coachable group and



I'm looking forward to challenging them," Hayes said in a statement.
"It's time to go to work. I can't wait to meet the fans and it's really time to get behind the team as we get closer to putting a roster together for the Olympics. Hayes is expected to announce her

Former coach Vlatko Andonovski

Olympic roster in late June.

resigned from the U.S. Team the latest roster. Grystal Dunn, finish in the Women's World Cup. the latest roster. Crystal Dunn, mostly at outsi Twila Kilgore led the team in the interim while Hayes finished the season with Chelsea. Kilgore, who went 10-1 with the team, will now serve as an assistant coach under

Captain Lindsey Horan, among five players from European teams on the roster, will join training camp after her club, Lyon, faces Barcelona for the Champions

League title on Saturday.

Alex Morgan and Jaedyn Shaw were included on the squad despite missing recent matches with the San Diego Wave because of injuries. Lynn Williams, who was left off the team that played in the SheBelieves Cup, was not on

Crystal Dunn, who has played mostly at outside back for the

national team in recent years, was listed by Hayes as a forward. Hayes also added three training players to the roster: Olivia Moultrie of the Portland Thorns

and Croix Bethune and Kate

Wiesner, who both play for the Washington Spirit. The players are due to report to camp in Colorado on Monday.
The U.S. Roster by position with

club affiliation: GOALKEEPERS: Jane Campbell (Houston Dash), Aubrey Kingsbury (Washington Spirit), Casey Murphy (North Carolina

Courage). **DEFENDERS:** Tierna Davidson (NJ/NY Gotham), Emily Fox (Arsenal), Naomi Girma (San Diego Wave), Casey Krueger (Washington Spirit), Jenna Nighswonger (NJ/NY Gotham), Emily Sonnett (NJ/NY Gotham), Sam Staab (Chicago Red Stars).

MIDFIELDER: Korbin Albert (Paris Saint-Germain), Sam Coffey (Portland Thorns), Hal Hershfelt (Washington Spirit), Lindsey Horan (Lyon), Rose Layelle (NJ/NY Gotham), Lily Yohannes (Ajax).
FORWARDS: Crystal Dunn

(NJ/NY Gotham), Catarina Macario (Chelsea), Alex Morgan (San Diego Wave), Trinity Rodman (Washington Spirit), Jaedyn Shaw (San Diego Wave), Sophia Smith (Portland Thorns), Mallory Swanson (Chicago Red

RAJASTHAN ROYALS ELIMINATE RCB IN THRILI

ajasthan Royals ended Royal Challengers
Bengaluru's roller
coaster run in the Indian
Premier League with a
scrappy four-wicket win in
the Eliminator here on Wednesday.

After their bowlers had done their part well to keep RCB to 172/8, RR batters stuttered in the middle overs to allow RCB back into the contest which remained hung in balance for the majority of the second half, but the 2008 winners eventually got home

with an over to spare. Chasing 173, Rajasthan ended with 174/6 as Royman Powell (16 not out) provided the finishing touches in a tense finish.

As he has done several times before this season, Riyan Parag (36 off 26) showcased

situation to help Rajasthan stay alive in the tournament. It was Royals' first win after four losses and an abandoned

game. 2008 winners Royals face Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai on Friday for a

place in the IPL final.

The returning Shimron
Hetmyer also played his part
to perfection, scoring a crucial 26 off 14 balls.

In a contest wherein fortunes swung from one side to another, RR remained ahead with impactful performances throughout even though Mohammed Siraj (2/33) raised late hopes for RCB with wickets of Parag and Hetmyer in the 18th over,

With 13 needed off last two overs, Powell found two fours off Lockie Ferguson to seal the deal in favour of his side. Earlier, it was Yashasvi Jaiswal (45 off 30) who gave them the

impetus at the top.

Off to an unconvincing start with his initial runs coming off the outside edge, Jaiswal grew in confidence when Yash Dayal fed him a few deliveries to capitalise on and the RR opener cracked four fours in the third over to break the shackles.

At the other end, Tom Kohler-Cadmore (20) also hit a couple of fours against Siraj and while getting a lifeline from Glenn

Maxwell, who spilled a sitter at deep square leg off Dayal.
With RR's acceleration rapidly shaving runs off the target, RCB needed a breakthrough and Lockie Ferguson provided the first success when he foxed Kohler-Cadmore with a slow yorker which crashed into the stumps.

The gradual progression of Jaiswal's innings saw the batter finding his rhythm, but the



extreme heat sapped him out completely having faced a mere 29 balls.

In between the ninth and the 10th over, Jaiswal received onfield treatment and got back up only to play a loose shot — an attempted ramp off Cameron Green but only gloved it to the 'keeper.

Soon after, Karn Sharma dealt a body blow by having Sanju

a body blow by having Sanju Samson (17) stumped.
With their tails up, RCB continued making inroads with Dhruv Jurel (8) being run out after a brilliant effort from Virat Kohli and Cameron Green. Kohli fired a sharp throw from deep midwicket to throw from deep midwicket to the non-striker's end, where Jurel was found short of his crease. RR were firmly under pressure heading into the 15th over when they chose to go after Green, who had been all over them with three tidy overs and a wicket up until

then. Hetmyer smacked the Australian for a six and Parag followed his partner in hitting another, while also finding a four to collect 17 runs. Earlier, Rajasthan Royals put

forth a sharp bowling effort. Led by Trent Boult (4-0-16-1), who produced an opening spell of 3-0-6-1, RR bowlers kept taking wickets at crucial stages to control the game.

The venerable Ravichandran Ashwin (4-0-19-2), having previously gone wicketless for a significant stretch, left an indelible mark with wickets Cameron Green (27) and Glenn Maxwell (0) on consecutive deliveries while Avesh Khan (3/44) also chipped in. Rajasthan's bowling was adequately backed up by their fielders, particularly Royman Powell, who took two stunning catches that clipped RCB's

Till I play Tests, I will limit franchise appearances to only two events a year: Travis Head

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Travis Head might have taken this year's IPL by storm but Test cricket remains his top priority and till the time he is playing the format, the Australian big-hitter would like to limit his participation in T20 leagues to just two events

incredible last 10 months, has to make a big deal about been a nemesis for India with centuries in both the World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup finals. Currently, He has blazed to 533 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad, forging a fabulous opening partnership with uncapped Indian Abhishek Sharma.

Needless to say he is sought after and asked how he plans to manage the lucrative T20 offers with his commitment for the 'Baggy Green', Head said it's a no brainer.

'This has been the first year in IPL for me in quite a while (since 2017). I would put all my eggs in Test basket for the moment, I will continue to do that," Head told PTI during an exclusive interview organised by Prime Video ahead of their upcoming docu-series, 'The Test Season 3', featuring the Australian team's tour of England last year.

"After Tests, I will pick formats, and see in which different ways I am available for selection."

T20 events have mushroomed across the world with some like West Indies' Andre Russell and Sunil Narine appearing in multiple events, adding up to more than five a year.

Having had a great run for the 'Orange Army' this season, Head is keen on coming back to IPL next year too.

"At this stage, I would like to be back here in IPL next year. Like I will play Major League Cricket (MLC in USA) this year right after the World T20 but next year might just look a lot different.

"Each year, you prioritise what you can and can't do. Next year, Test cricket is around, we tour the West Indies and probably I will not feature in many other franchises," the 30-year-old

was categorical. "Look, in few years when I am finished with Test cricket, then probably there will be few more opportunities to play a bit more franchise cricket. But at this time, I would try to limit it to a couple of franchise may

be, and (focus on) Test cricket." The last 10 months have been very hectic for Head starting with the WTC final, followed by the Ashes and then the World Cup where he came in during the second half after recovering from a hand injury. Right now, more than two months of IPL will be followed per year. by World T20 in the Americas. Head, who has enjoyed an But the southpaw doesn't want by World T20 in the Americas. workload management.

"I will be home in a couple of days' time once we are with IPL. Be home for twothree days and make the trip to the West Indies with family and start all over again. "Look, we are very fortunate to

do what we do and I am not going to do it forever. So try and make the most of it as we can, we are lucky that we are well looked after."

He then tried to put things in perspective.
"I know in a few years, I can

retire and do nothing, I will have plenty of time to look back and wish I was back on tour, I would like to be in the moment, keep batting through and stay in the moment, enjoying the moment."

CRACKING THE 'INDIA **CODE**: The performance that Head has delivered over the past few months, he believes that the seeds of it were sown early in 2023 when he came with the Test team, a hardfought series that Australia lost

come from the Test tour last year, spending time here and working on things and also being a bit older, understanding my game and its blueprint and how you want to go about it and being content and my family being around, all those things," he

"I think a lot of of that has

explained. "In IPL, I have evolved continuously while getting better but I still have some work to do," he seemed confident.

His national team skipper Pat Cummins has been his SRH skipper and he says they have developed a chemistry where both know what to expect of each other.

"We are just close friends and just enjoy each other's company. Not too much game stuff and over time when you build relationships, he now knows how I will go about it (my job)...," he said.



PTI NEW DELHI

Former Royal Challengers Bengaluru owner Vijay Mallya on Wednesday said he couldn't have Challengers made a better choice when he bid for Virat Kohli in the inaugural IPL auction as he lauded the superstar batter for his brilliant run in the ongoing season. RCB have made a tremendous

comeback after losing seven out of their first eight games to qualify for the playoffs with six straight victories, riding on Kohli's sublime form which

has so far fetched him 708 runs from 14 innings. RCB will face Rajasthan Royals in the

Eliminator on Wednesday night. "When I bid for the RCB franchise and I bid for Virat, my inner instinct told me that I could not have made

better choices," Mallya, who currently lives in the United Kingdom and is trying to avoid extradition to India, wrote on 'X'. "My inner instinct tells me that RCB have the best chance to go for the IPL Trophy. Onward and Upward. Best of luck. Kohli was bought by RCB for USD



30,000 ahead of the 2008 IPL following his title-winning run with India's U19 World Cup.
RCB, however, hasn't been able to lift

the trophy despite reaching the final thrice — in 2009, 2011 and 2016. Mallya is accused in a bank loan default matter of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher

Airlines. He has been living in the United Kingdom since March 2016. The same year he had to forego his ownership of RCB due to the legal proceedings against him.

It's hard to leave ailing mother in hospital but KKR is family too, says Gurbaz

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Afghanistan wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has revealed that he made the difficult choice of leaving his ailing mother in hospital when his IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders sought his services ahead of the playoff clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad here as the team is

also his "family". Gurbaz, in his maiden game of the season, played a vital role in KKR's win over SRH by taking two vital catches and giving his side a blazing start with a 14-ball 23 on Tuesday. He replaced Englishman Phil Salt at the top and hit the ground running to help the two-time champions enter the IPL final with their comfortable eight-wicket victory here on Tuesday.

"As a cricketer, you (should) know, what to do. (In) League

cricket, only a fewer players can play. If there is opportunity for you, you should do best. If there's no opportunity for you, you should be prepared, well prepared for the opportunity," Gurbaz told the media here after the match. after the match. "My mom is still sick. I went

(back) there and the call from here was (that) Phil Salt was leaving. They called and they messaged me that 'Gurbaz, we need you, and what is your feedback for us?", he revealed. "I said, 'yes, I will come'. My mom is still in hospital, and I'm always talking to her, but this is also my family. I should manage both of that, my mom and my KKR family. It's hard, it's tough, but still, I need to manage it," he added. SRH skipper Pat Cummins'

decision to bat first backfired. Gurbaz said KKR had planned to bowl first had they won the



"We all (had) decided that we should go and we should bowl first, because in this kind of moment, and team likes Sunrisers that have a strong batting side and you should know what (is) the total and

then you go for it," he said. "We bowled really well, actually. (To get a) team likes Sunrisers all out on 160, that was bowling effort. And then once we come to the batting end, we also not just try to, we

should win the circle (powerplay).

"(In) my mind was (the) only (thought) that I should win the circle, because sometime in low total like this, you need to have a good circle, otherwise, match can be difficult in the end."

Gurbaz said it was the best he had seen KKR pacer Mitchell Starc bowl after the left-arm pacer took three wickets in the powerplay to set up the game for his side.

"He was just unbelievable. The way he bowled today, he's one of the best, he has a lot of experience, he knows how to manage the big games. I saw him today totally different than other games," he said. Gurbaz said Afghanistan

players are preparing well for the T20 World Cup next month. He said franchise cricket is something that comes second and doing well for their country is always their priority.

"It's all about hard work. It doesn't mean that you come from Afghanistan, you come from India, you come from Australia, whatever. It's all about hard work, I think. If you work hard, if you know what to do, and it's help you in every situation.

"Afghanistan is not the same Afghanistan. We know what to do and how can we represent our country. Everything is good for cricket there, and we played really well, the last World Cup, and from the last doing great," he said.

"Our mindset (is) not (just) to play for league cricket, our mindset is always to do something better for our country, and then come the leagues. If you do good for your country, all leagues will pick you, and that's the point that we play all the leagues," he

OTHER SPORTS

Khilari defends gold at World Para Athletics, India surpasses best ever tally

PTI ■ KOBE (JAPAN)

Tndia's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari defended his gold medal in the men's shot put F46 category with an Asian record at the World Para Athletics Championship as the country surpassed its best-ever haul in the global competition here on Wednesday.

India, now have 11 medals, five of them gold. They bettered their previous best tally of 10 (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) in the 2023 edition in Paris.

Sachin heaved the iron ball to a distance of 16.30 metres, bettering his own Asian record of 16.21 metres set during the World Para Athletics Championship in Paris last year. The F46 category in para athletics events is for those with moderately affected movement in one or both arms or the absence of limbs. These athletes have to transmit power from hips and legs into the throw.

In the case of Sachin, who hails from Karagani village in Maharashtras Sangli district, he suffered a mishap during his school days leading to disability in his left hand. The stocky 34-year-old lost his taking the top podium spot.



muscles from the elbow due to gangrene and despite multiple surgeries, his arm never recovered.

On Tuesday, India had reaped a rich haul of five medals to swell its tally to 10 (4 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze). China is currently leading the medals tally followed by Brazil. The Hangzhou Asian Games gold-medallist thrower told PTI that he was confident of "I was expecting the gold here and I am happy. I have also qualified for Paris Olympics and hope to win gold there also," Sachin said from Kobe. With three more days still to go, India are in with a chance of winning a few more medals including gold and head coach Satyanarayan said he was quite optimistic. "We are expecting two more gold medals and hoping to touch the 17-medal mark," said Satyanarayan.

On Tuesday, Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil had defended his F64 javelin throw world title, while Thangavelu Mariyappan and Ekta Bhyan also grabbed gold medals in their respective events as India jumped to third place in the World Para Athletics Championships here. Antil, who had won gold medals in the Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 World Para Athletics Championships, sent his spear to a distance of 69.50m to stand on top of the podium.

The 25-year-old Haryana athlete thus continued his global domination in the F64 javelin event. He is the current world record holder also, courtesy his massive 73.29m throw while winning gold in the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, China last year. He also holds the World Para Athletics Championships record of 70.83m which he had produced while winning the gold in the last edition in Paris

in 2023. Compatriot Sandeep

won the bronze medal in the

same event with a throw of

60.41m. Sri Lanka's Dulan

Kodithuwakku took the silver

with a throw of 66.49m



Hina, Kanika strike as India juniors beat Dutch hockey club 2-0

PTI ■ BREDA (NETHERLANDS)

Hina Bano and Kanika Siwach scored a goal each as the Indian junior women's hockey team began their tour of Europe with a 2-0 win against Netherlands club Bredase Hockey Vereniging

Push here. After a goalless first half on Tuesday, which saw both sides testing each others' strengths, India broke the deadlock with Hina scoring off a penalty corner after three failed attempts with the set-pieces in the second quarter.

few minutes.

Bredase Hockey Vereniging pushed aggressively for the equaliser but success eluded them despite the hosts earning three PCs in the third quarter. Kanika Siwach found the back of the net to double India's lead in the fourth quarter following which the defenders did well to ward off several spirited attacks from the opponents in the last

The Indian junior team will play their next match against Belgium in Breda, Netherlands later on Wednesday

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Printed and Published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Corporate Office:- 201-205, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500.