**OPINION 6** 

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AS A

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

**WORLD 9** 

INDIAN STUDENTS TURNING AWAY

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY HIT

**ALL TIME PEAKS** 

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

### Late City Vol.160 Issue 139

SRH VS RR: BATTLE FOR IPL

FINAL SPOT 12 SPORTS

FROM UK UNIVERSITIES

## LUCKNOW, FRIDAY MAY 24, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the pione

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# All players set for penultimate battle

**RAJESH KUMAR** ■ NEW DELHI

Slogans ranging from sympathisers of Pakistan to changing the Constitution and appointing Amit Shah as a next Prime Minister to assault on Swati Maliwal to Adityanath vs Arvind Kejriwal dominated in the sixth phase of polling as campaigning ended on Thursday for May 25 polls for 58 Lok Sabha seats spread in six States and Union

Territories. (Gururgram).
What makes this phase So far, polling has been particularly interesting is completed in 428 particularly interesting is that all seven seats in Delhi Odisha are likely to be voting under the hottest conditions ever for a Lok Sabha polls as temperatures may touch 46 degrees Celsius on that day which means heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are possible.

A total of 889 candidates will be in the fray in the 58 Lok Sabha seats.

(BJP) from Sambalpur in this phase. He took a dig at the INDIA (Odisha), Manoj Tiwari On the last day of (BJP) and Kanhaiya Kumar campaigning, Prime (Congress) from North East Minister Narendra Modi ghee has started" as the

Delhi, Bansuri Swarai from New Delhi Maneka Gandhi (BIP) from Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Mehbooba Mufti (PDP) from Anantnag-Rajouri (Jammu & Kashmir), Abhijit Gangopadhyay (BJP) from Tamluk (West Bengal), and BIP's Manohar Lal Khattar (Karnal, Haryana), Naveen Jindal (Kurukshetra) Raj Babbar (Gurugram) Dinesh Lal Yadav alias Nirahua ( Azamgarh) and Rao Inderjit Singh

constituencies across 25 and all the 10 seats in States and Union Territories, With phase V witnessing a Notably, States and UTs including Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Iharkhand, West Bengal and Including Delhi, Haryana, Iharkhand, West Bengal and Including Delhi, Haryana, Iharkhand, West Bengal and Including Delhi, Haryana, Including Delhi, Ha a voter turnout of 64.16 per cent was recorded as 51 seats

across seven states went to

the polls.

The Congress did not win even one of these 58 seats in the 2019 elections. In contrast, the BJP won 40, securing a vote share of more than 40 per cent on 47 seats in the last elections. This Among the key contestants clearly shows, Congress are Dharmendra Pradhan doesn't have any strongholds

ELECT	TION DUACE VI CEATO
	<b>FION PHASE VI SEATS</b> or States marked in red on May 25
NO. OF	CONSTITUENCY
SEATS	
7	Chandni Chowk, North East Delhi, East Delhi, New Delhi, North West Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi
14	Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Phulpur, Allahabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Shrawasti, Domariyaganj, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Lalganj, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Machhlishahr, Bhadohi
1	Anantnag-Rajouri
10	Ambala, Kurukshetra, Sirsa, Hisar, Karnal, Sonipat, Rohtak, Bhiwani- Mahendragarh, Gurgaon, Faridabad
4	Dhanba <mark>d, Giridih, Jamshedpur,</mark> Ranchi
8	Valmiki Nagar, Paschim Champaran, Purvi Champaran, Sheohar, Vaishali, Gopalganj (Sc), Siwan, Maharajganj
6	Sambalpur, Keonjhar (ST), Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri, Bhubaneswar
	NO. OF SEATS 7 14 1 10 4 8

held a rally in Punjab and Harvana.

West Bengal

alliance is "talking about having five PMs in five Modi also asserted that till he is alive, no one can snatch

Bishnupur

and tribals. The day before, he referred to the Calcutta High Court's decision to strike down the OBC status granted to "77 classes" in West Bengal since 2010 to hit out at the INDIA Bloc, saying its "obsession with appeasement" has crossed every limit.

The contest in the national Capital has become interesting as it is a direct fight between the BJP and INDIA Bloc parties — the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) after the release of Arvind Kejriwal on an interim bail for electoral campaigning.
The Kejriwal-led AAP is

contesting four seats, while the Congress has fielded candidates in three seats as per the seat-sharing agreement. The BJP, which won all seven seats of Delhi in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, has dropped all except Manoj Tiwari.
The BJP's poll campaign in

Delhi saw Modi addressing rallies besides two canvassing by Ministers Amit Union Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani and Nitin Piyush Goyal and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States, including Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Singh Dhami Pushkar

(Uttarakhand) and Pramod and the DPAP. Mehbooba faces Sawant (Goa). The INDIA Bloc is clearly

counting on the sympathy wave following Kejriwal's arrest. The BJP's campaign, on the other hand, relies on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development agenda while questioning the credentials of Kejriwal, the once anti-corruption crusader who is now named as accused in a money laundering case.

At the peak of campaigning in Odisha, BJP's Puri candidate Sambit Patra kicked up a row with his comment that "Lord comment that "Lord Jagannath is a devotee of Modi". Patra later clarified that his remark was inadvertently made and expressed regret.

In Jammu and Kashmir, polling in four of the five parliamentary seats having ended peacefully, the focus has now shifted to the reshaped Anantnag-Rajouri constituency which witnessed four terror attacks in the last 30 days.

The constituency spread on either side of the mighty Pir Panjal was originally scheduled to go to polls on May 7 but it was deferred to May 25 due to adverse weather conditions on the request of several parties, including the BJP, Apni party

a tough challenge from National Conference candidate and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf and the Apni Party's Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, who has the BJP's backing. Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leader Mohamad

Saleem Parray

DREAMI

In UP, Sultanpur which is a seat to watch, next door to Amethi, another Gandhi, Maneka Gandhi of the BJP, is locked in a keen contest with her Samajwadi Party rival. Mayawati-led BSP's party nominee Udraj Verma, who hails from OBC Kurmi caste, is causing trouble to the BJP as well as the SP candidates but Akhilesh Yadav-headed SP candidate Ram Bhual Nishad is at a greater loss.

Verma threatens to divide the OBC votes of the SP. Sultanpur bifurcated from Amethi in 2010. Varun Gandhi was its first MP while Maneka swapped seats with him in 2019 and is contesting for the second consecutive time.

Varun joined the campaigning for her mother on Thursday. The Lok Sabha seat of Azamgarh, a stronghold of the SP with a sizeable Muslim-Yadav electorate, is witnessing Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua'

of the BJP taking on former Lok Sabha MP Dharmendra Yadav for the SP.

In Haryana, the BJP is contesting all 10 seats on its own. While the Congress is fighting on nine seats, the AAP is fighting on the lone seat of Kurukshetra. The high-pitched campaigning, which saw the presence of top leaders including Modi, BJP chief J P Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States, Congress leaders Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Kejriwal and Mayawati. BSP leader Harvana is witnessing a direct fight between the ruling BJP and opposition Congress on most seats. The key candidates are Manohar Lal Khattar from the Karnal seat whereas it has gone for industrialist Naveen Jindal to battle it out in Kurukshetra. The Congress, on the other hand, has hedged its bets on Raj Babbar against Union Minister and sitting MP Rao Inderjit Singh in Gurugram. From Hisar, Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala, an Independent MLA who joined the BJP ahead of polls, is contesting against two members of the Chautala clan -- JJP's Naina Chautala and

## Nehru's aura bubble burst in 1962: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

**D**rime Minister Narendra launched a scathing attack on Congress and said China thrashed India when the bubble of Pandit Nehru's aura burst in 1962. He also claimed that the INDIA Bloc is talking about having five PMs over the next five years and said the fight over 'ghee' has broken out in the alliance, even before the cow has given milk.

Addressing an election rally in Bhiwani, Haryana, Modi said, "1962 mein, pandit Nehru ke aura ka gubbara jo phoot gya, China ke haathon jo hamari pitaayi huyi', they (Congress) held our military responsible for that defeat. That family even today keeps looking for opportunities to demean our military. And in a sense of revenge, they have thrown Rs 500 and said OROP (One Rank One Pension) will be done. Modi has said what it means to implement OROP..."

Modi also said the INDIA Bloc is talking about having five PMs over the next five years and said the fight over ghee' has broken out in the alliance, even before the cow has given milk.

Hours campaigning for the sixth round of the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls came to an end, Modi asserted that till he is

alive, no one can snatch the reservation for Dalits and tribals. All ten Lok Sabha seats in Haryana will go to polls on May 25. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP had secured all 10 seats. In this election, "you will not only choose the country's PM but also decide the country's future", the PM told the gathering. "On one hand is your tried and tested 'sevak' Modi. Who is on the other side, one does not know," he said, targeting the INDIA Bloc that has as its constituents Opposition parties, including the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamool Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.



communal, "extremely casteist and nepotist", he said while alleging that when the Congress was in power, it did not allow construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Recalling his days working for the BJP in the State in the mid-1990s, Modi said, "Haryana has showered a lot of love on me, I have deep relations with you."

"It is my guarantee that we will not let Haryana's development stop," he said while canvassing for BJP's Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok seat candidate Sabha Dharambir Singh. Modi also said in the last 10

years, "we have worked hard to wash off the sins of the Congress". The Prime Minister

also targeted the INDIA Bloc, saying it has already started making grounds for whom to blame for their defeat.

Campaigning ended on Thursday in the State for Lok Sabha polls and Karnal Assembly bypoll, in which political prestige of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, his predecessor M L Khattar, two Union Ministers and two Congress stalwarts including Kumari Selja is at

The high-pitched campaigning, which saw the presence of top leaders including Modi, BJP chief J P Union Ministers Nadda, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, chief ministers of BJP-ruled States,

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BSP leader Mayawati, came to an end at 6 pm.

As many as 223 candidates, including 16 women, are left in the contest for 10 parliamentary seats in the State. Two Union Ministers Rao Inderjit Singh and Krishan Pal Gurjar -- and Congress heavyweight heavyweight Deepender Singh Hooda are among the contestants. There are nine candidates in the fray for Karnal assembly bypoll necessitated after Khattar's resignation as

MLA. There are a total 2,00,76,768 registered voters in the state, which include 94,23,956 women and 467 transgender voters, officials said. Meanwhile, Modi

Thursday launched a fierce attack on ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, saying that drug trade is flourishing in the state and the government is in debt.

Addressing his first election rally in the State for the seventh phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Modi said Punjab has given leadership to the country in various sectors - from agriculture to industry. He then attacked the AAP,

saying industries are now leaving Punjab while drug trade is growing. "The entire Government is running on debt." The Government writ does not run here while sand and drug mafia, and shooter gangs' rule, Modi said.

## Cong, SP vote bank made up of intruders: Shah

PNS | Lucknow

Tamluk, Kanthi, Ghatal, Jhargram,

Medinapore, Purulia, Bankura,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during a poll meet-ing in Siddharthnagar, made bold predictions about the Bharatiya Janata Party's performance in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, claiming that the party has already won 310

the reservation for Dalits

Speaking in support of Jagdambika Pal, the BJP candidate from Domariyaganj, Shah asserted that the BJP had secured over 310 seats in the first five rounds of polling, while the Congress would struggle to win even 40 seats. "The INDI Alliance has been wiped out in the first five phases. I am telling you, this time Congress is not even get-ting 40 seats, and Akhilesh Yadav will not even get four seats," Shah declared.

Addressing the issue of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Shah reaffirmed BJP's stance on the territory. "Leaders of Pakistan say that PoK is theirs. Congress leaders also say that they (Pakistan) have an atom bomb. The BJP people are not scared of atom bombs. PoK is and will remain part of India, and we will take it back,"

Shah accused the opposition of trying to end reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes and Other Backward Classes. "Rahul Baba and Akhilesh Yadav, you have been blinded by vote bank politics. We will end reservation on the basis of religion and give it back to the SC, ST and OBCs," he asserted.

He also criticised the INDIA bloc for lacking a clear prime ministerial candidate, claiming the alliance would have five potential prime ministers if they come to power. "Can the country run like this?" he questioned.

Shah further alleged that Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav have planned vacations abroad after the election results. "On the one hand, there is Rahul Gandhi who leaves for Italy, Thailand and Bangkok, and on the other hand, there is Narendra Modi who has not taken any leave for 23 years and even spends his Diwali with soldiers on the border," he

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP, Shah pointed out the implementation of the One Rank-One Pension (OROP) scheme for retired army personnel and expressed confi-dence that India would become the third-largest economy during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term.

Addressing a rally in Ambedkar Nagar, where he sought votes for party candi-



date Ritesh Pandey, Shah said, Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi did not attend the consecration ceremony of Ram temple because they were scared of losing their vote bank. "You know who their vote bank is? I'll tell you. Their vote bank is made up of intruders. They did not go for the fear of losing them. They jeopardised the safety of the country." In another rally in Sant Kabir Nagar, Shah named several leaders from the opposition parties and accused them of

nepotism. "Lalu Prasad Yadav wants to make his son the chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray wants to make his son the chief minister, Sharad Pawar wants to make his daughter the chief minister, Stalin wants to make his son the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee wants to make her nephew the chief minister, and Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son Rahul Gandhi the prime minister," he

said, adding, someone who works for his family is not going to work for a constituency. In Khalilabad of Sant Kabir

Nagar, where Shah addressed a gathering campaigning for the party's Praveen Kumar Nishad, who is contesting on a NISHAD Party ticket, a partner of NDA. Shah accused the opposition of stalling the construction of Ram temple for over 70 years and said the temple could only be built because

of Modi. "This election is between the one who constructed Ram temple and those who opened fire on Ram bhakts," he said. On the abolition of Article 370 in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "Article 370 which was protected by the Congress and Samajwadi Party was removed by Narendra Modi in 2019 and Kashmir was made a part of India forever. No one dares to explode bombs there."

Shah alleged that in the erst while SP government "goonda raj" was rampant in Uttar Pradesh, and it was Yogi Adityanath, the current chief minister, who set all goons

Polling in Domariyaganj, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Ambedkar Nagar will be held in the sixth phase of ongoing Lok Sabha polls on Saturday.

## A typical repairman as renovation Ambassador

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

When N Rangaswamy, the 73-year-old Chief Minister of Puducherry was handed over a pearl white Ambassador car on Tuesday, he was left speechless.

The soft-spoken Chief Minister could not believe that it was the same 1995 model Ambassador which he had entrusted to Thanjaneyan, a car mechanic at Thoothukkudi for restoration. This car had seen many summers and winters and was as good as scrap when Thanjaneyan asked him permission to restore the vehicle to its original form.

Rangaswamy, who had a sentimental attachment to the car, did not think twice and asked Thanjaneyan to go ahead. The Chief Minister always preferred the battered always preferred the battered and bruised old Amby for his personal use. Though Hindustan Motors, the

company that manufactured the car had stopped production in 2014 because of mounting losses and other factors, the passion for Ambassador remained intact. For two years, Thanjaneyan worked on the car in his small workshop and once it was completed, the restored Ambassador resembled a showroom model in all respects. It is living up to the catchword 'the Car with Plenty of Drive', coined by the manufacturer," said Dr Anjan Chatterjee, a lawyer-turnedcar lover. Dr Chatterjee is an authority on the 'horoscope' of the Ámbassador, which extends from the genesis till the car took the last bow. "It was exciting work because it

is an Ambassador car. Restoring and maintaining the Amby is an intoxicating experience," said Thanjaneyan, an expert in restoring even the previous models of Ambassador like the Morris, Vauxhall, Land Master and Baby Hindustan. The white

Amby that was lying in the backyard of N Rangaswamy's residence has been brought to the portico of the house.

One of the slogans used to promote the Ambassador and caught the national attention was "ideal at 200 potholes per hour". There were no national corridors or expressways in the country till former Prime

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched the six-lane highway mission in 1998 and which was pursued by the Narendra Modi government since 2014. Dr Chatterjee lists many

reasons for the shut down of the Ambassador plant in Hooghly district of West Bengal. "Militant trade unions and a management without any clue of what is happening around were the factors that led to the untimely demise of

the car manufacturer," he said Doraiswamy Naveen, an avid car collector said he could not find any owners who made complaints about the Ambassadors. "There was a time when the choice of cars were restricted to Ambassador and Premier Padmini (owned by Walchand family). The liberalisation saw the gradual opening of the car sector to foreign investors and technology and this resulted in Ambassador making way for the newcomers," said Naveen who himself is busy restoring a Mark II Ambassador owned by his grandfather. Dr Chatterjee said it was nice

to see car enthusiasts reviving their passion for older cars like Ambys. "Ambassador tops the list as the most desired classic for their garage. It is beautiful to see owners spending much more than the market value of an Ambassador just to restore the carto its glory," he said.

## Aliganj Hanuman temple gears up for Bada Mangal

The Hanuman temple in Aliganj is gearing up for the Bada Mangal celebrations to be held from May 28. There will be four Bada Mangals this year - May 28, June 4. June 11 and June 18.

Rajesh Pandey from the Aliganj Hanuman temple trust, while giving details of the preparations, said that the construction work going on in the temple would be completed by May 26.
"We have constructed a new main

gate which is 85 feet in width and 35 feet in height. This was constructed under the CM Participatory Project wherein we also contributed funds for the construction of the gate. We have shifted the shops located at the temple on the backside as they were causing traffic congestion, This has left 85 feet of vacant space where we are getting red stone fixed," he said.

He said that they had also discovered a 1783 entry gate of the temple belonging to olden times which had been encroached upon by the tenants. "When we removed the encroachments, we found a wall of Mughal architecture and a gate which we are getting privately restored. We are also getting the encroachments removed from the road in front of the gate," he added. Pandey further said that the pond inside the temple was also taken up for restoration. "It was in a very bad condition and was excavated. About 300 truck-load construction material was extracted from the pond, which has been filled with water and a fountain has also been fixed there," he said.

He stated that there is a Parijat tree in the temple for which they have made a parikrama path. "What is strange is that the flowering season of the tree takes place in November but this year the flowering has

already started in the trees in the summers," he said.

Pandey said that earlier bhandara was organised by the temple in the Baradari as there was no space in the temple. "We have now constructed a huge hall where 500-700 people can be served lunch and dinner. There was a space marked out in the temple where there were segregated areas for men and women for tying silver bells if their wish had been fulfilled by Lord Hanuman. We have got the partition removed and installed bars on the sides on which the bells can be fixed."

Pandey said that in the sanctum sanctorum there was a wall. "Now with the wall removed, the devotees standing outside can get the darshan of Lord Hanuman. We have made arrangements for the smooth movement of the devotees through the temple so that the queues are manageable and they do not get any longer. We have also created shades so that the people do not stand in the sun," he added. A member from the temple said that

there were many tales associated with the Hanuman Mandir. "The Hanuman temple in Aliganj was built by Aliya Begum, the grandmother of Nawab Wajid Ali

Shah, wife of Nawab Shujauddaula and daughter of Delhi's Mughal family," he said. He stated that people are surprised by the popularity of the temple especially because it is a new temple and also because liberal Muslims of Awadh have been instrumental in its construction and maintenance.

Amongst the various folklores associated with the temple, one states that "after returning to Ayodhya, Lord Ram decided to leave Sita and Laxman along with Hanuman took Sita and to leave her in the forest of Bithoor in Kanpur district where Valmiki ashram was located. When they were coming near the present Aliganj, it became very dark and there was a need to rest overnight, so all three of them stopped here. Sita rested while Lord Hanuman was on guard. Thereafter, a temple was established here with a statue of Hanuman and the area was called Hanuman Bari. However a Muslim ruler in the 14th century named it Islambadi." Many days after this (between 1792 and 1802), the then Nawab of Awadh, Muhammad Ali Shah's Begum Rabia, did not have any child for many years and the medicines of many doctors did not work. Then some people advised her to go to Baba of Islambadi and seek blessings. It is said that she went to Islambadi and wished for a child. Her wish was fulfilled.

Legend has it that when she was pregnant, she again had a dream, in which her son (in foetus) told her that "an idol of Hanuman is buried at the same place in Islambadi" and it should be installed in a temple. As a result, after the birth of the child, Rabia Begum went to the site and Nawad's workers dug the mound and the idol was taken out," the temple trust member stated.

He said that the statue was cleaned and kept on an elephant by order of the Nawab so that a temple could be built by installing it near the big Imambara of Asafuddowla.

When everyone was going with this elephant along the road of present Aliganj (which was a corridor at that time), after reaching the end of the road, that elephant refused to move forward. The mahavat made several attempts, but the elephant remained adamant. Then Begum Sahiba got the statue installed at the same side of the road, near the Gomti bank (then Gomti flowed from its present position near Aliganj) and also built a temple on it. Most of the surrounding land for the temple belonged to the princely state of Mahmudabad," he said.

to death

A man along with his aides allegedly killed his neigh-

As per reports, the victim,

identified as Binda Prasad Soni of Kanhaiya Madhavpur,

got a call from one Akash

Soni of his locality and he left

the house without informing

anyone in the family around

1 pm. After waiting for him

for hours, Soni's wife Kiran

called him and was told by

him that he would return

soon but he did not return.

Kiran again called Soni but

his phone was unreachable. A little later, she got a call from a man who introduced

himself as a diver working at

a bank branch at Ghaila

bridge on river Gomti and he

asked her to reach there as the

man from whose phone he

made the call was seriously ill.

Kiran along with her son Mohit reached the spot and

PNS LUCKNOW

on Wednesday.

Another story associated with how the Bada Mangal Mela started here. A Marwari named Jatmal had come to the Saadatganj Mandi to sell kesar (saffron) which he had brought but was disappointed because he could not sell his product. Coincidentally, in those days Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was building Kaisar Bagh in the name of Kaisar Begum. Someone advised him that if the building of this Kaiserbagh is plastered with saf-fron-musk, then the whole area will become very fragrant. And all the musk of Jatmal was bought at an exorbitant price. Jatmal's joy knew no bounds, and he spent generously for the temple. Even today, the umbrella which is placed on the idol inside the temple, is made by this businessman.
"He got the entire temple built

anew. The present stupa (spire) also belongs to that time. Since then mela has also started here," he

Man looted, beaten

## Judge's pet goes missing in Bareilly, case registered against 14 persons

In a bizarre case, a judge's pet dog went missing and the police and the local authorities were making all out efforts



ANWAR HUSSAIN से बदलकर AINISH HUSSAIN कर लिया है। भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना जाये। AINISH HUSSAIN D/O ANWAR HUSSAIN निवासी- FLAT NO- 1, 1ST FLOOR, 125-C-1, CHANDRA NAGAR,LAL BANGLA, KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH

#### **NOTICE**

In my army record No.7779216 N (NKTS) My Son's name has wrongly been mentioned as ANSU KUMAR, His correct name is ANSHOO KUMAR, Ram Khelavan S/o Shiv Prasad, 817/2, Siddhartha Nagar bingawan, Naubasta Kanpur

I Shailendra Kumar Verma R/o Village-Tandawa Jalal, District-Ambedkar Nagar. In my service records (Army no-14832330K, Rank-Naik) my wife's name is recorded as Sonim Devi.which is wrong. In other dacuments of my wife The correct name is written Sonam Verma and DOB 10/08/1984. Which is correct. This should be considered correct.

#### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohd.Soaib Siddiqui to Mohd. Soeb Siddiqui S/o Abu Tahir R/o Chamroo, Mohammadpur Gaunti Khaga Dist. Fatehpur -60, UP . I Would be know by this name only

### **NOTICE**

In my army record No.7779216 N ( NKTS) My father's name has wrongly been mentioned as Sheo Prasad, His correct name and date of birth are Shiv Prasad and 1.1.1950, Ram Khelavan S/o Shiv Prasad, 817/2, Siddhartha Nagar, Bingawan, Naubasta Kanpur Nagar

#### **NOTICE**

In my high school marksheet (roll number 5219395), my name has been wrongly mentioned as M Anas Hashmi, whereas my correct name is Mohd. Anas Hashmi S/o - Mohd Imran Hashmi , R/o 99/170 Beconganj Kanpur. (9696461717)

#### **NOTICE**

I Srashti Daughter of Sri Santosh Kumar.l have passed High School examination in session 2023-24.From Surya Public School Makanpur Bhilwal Barabanki Affiliation by C.B.S.E.Board. My Roll Number is 23133504.In Our Marksheet Mother's name has erroneously become ARCHANA where as the correct name is ARCHANA

to trace it out after registering case on the written complaint against 14 people, including the judge's neigh-

The judge alleged in his complaint that the accused threatened his wife and abused his two daughters and also manhandled them.

The cops registered the complaint on the grounds of mis-behaviour, intimidation and bullying. A search operation is being

carried out to trace out the

The judge's family lives in the Sun City area of Izzatnagar in Bareilly district. They suspect that thier neighbour had kidnapped' and 'murdered' their pet. On May 16, the neighbour confronted the judge's daughter in a loud voice and claimed that their dog had bitten his spouse. He further threatened to kill the dog and its owner. He even reached the judge's house and tried to catch the dog.
The commotion caused the

iudge's daughters to step out and protest but the accused pushed them and warned the family that they would face repercussions. The judge's wife said that she left the dog outside on the night of May 18 and their neighbour alleged-lutely him away. The judge's lv took him away. The judge's wife was in bed due to poor health when a woman called her outside and misbehaved with her, according to some reports. The judge charged the female as well as her associates for the disappearance of the dog. The accused has also filed a counter-complaint

alleging harassment. Izzatnagar police station incharge Inspector Jaishankar Singh conveyed that a case under various provisions of the Cruelty to Animals Act was registered against 14 unidentified persons, including the neighbour, based on this suspicion and strict action would be taken if the animal

was not located. The cops examined the footage of CCTV cameras installed in the area and searched everywhere for the dog but could not find it. The judge has also complained about the matter to the circle officer and senior superintendent of police.

All the accused are currently on the run.



Devotees lighting candles at Buddha Vihar temple on Latouche Road in Lucknow on Thursday

## Minor online gamers sent bomb threat to school

PNS LUCKNOW

Two minor online gamers were behind the bomb threat which a private school located in Sushant Golf City police station area had received

DCP (South) Tej Swaroop Singh said a message being exchanged between the minor gamers was ham-handedly forwarded to a private school's email ID in Lucknow. "A group of some children

aged 10-11 years were in an online gaming session and the message on attacking with a bomb was wrongly forwarded to the school," he said. He said both the students were

found innocent and were let off after the parents were given a warning and were asked to remain alert about the activities of their wards in future. He said the case was investigat-

ed by the Anti-Terror Squad (ATŚ) wing of UP Police along with the surveillance team and Lucknow police.

Lucknow police and ATS of UP Police worked out the case of a recent hoax bomb threat received by a private school on Shaheed Path on May 15. "Interestingly, the children are from different states and are

not interlinked to each other," said DCP (South zone) Tej Swaroop Singh, adding that the children are innocent and their identities are being kept secret. Police also said that the children were not related to the similar hoax being received at Kanpur and Delhi schools.

"On May 15 Birla Open Mind School in Sushant Golf city police station area had received a bomb threat email, creating a panic like situation. Seeing the seriousness of the matter, an FIR under relevant sections was registered after a complaint was filed by the school's prin-

cipal," the DCP informed. The DCP further said that in order to work out the case, a team of surveillance cell and Sushant Golf City police was formed. The ATS team also played a major role and with the collective effort the case was solved.

"During the probe it was found that the children were chatting on a gaming chatting platform 'Discord' where they wrongly sent the bomb attack mail to the Lucknow school," the DCP said, pointing out that the children had a school's ID with them as it was the season of admission. "Additionally, we have sternly He further informed that the case has not been closed vet, as the police are still investigating it from the other angles and

advised their guardians not to

provide their children with

mobile phones and to keep

them away from such gaming

platforms at such a young age,"

the DCP said.

trying to reach the last leg of it.

#### FOUR BOOKED FOR THEFT IN CHINHAT

Four tenants living in a house in Chinhat area of Lucknow allegedly stole several household articles, including the DVR of CCTV camera, from a

Chinhat police on Wednesday registered an FIR under Section 380 (theft) of the Indian Penal Code and booked four people. They were identified as Aadis, Devasnh Verma, Abhay Singh, and Himanshu Singh.

The complainant, Prakash Singh, a resident of Bharwara. Vigyan Khand, in his complaint told police that on May 12 several household articles were stolen from his house, including four computers, two laptops, house registry paper and cash.

#### Buddha's teachings offer path to peace, positivity: Meshram

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Tourism department and the International Buddhist Research Centre hosted the Buddha Purnima Conclave on Thursday at the International Buddhist Research Centre Auditorium in Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.

The event, themed 'Yuddha Nahi Buddh, A path away from war', highlighted Lord Buddha's wisdom. Experts from Bihar, Tripura and Sri Lanka provided detailed insights into the life and teachings of Lord Buddha.

The programme began with Buddha Vandana and Paritrana Path, followed by a cultural performance on Buddha Stuti by visually impaired artistes. Chief guest Mukesh Kumar Meshram, Principal Secretary (Tourism and Culture) emphasised the significance of Trividh Pavan Purnima, marking Buddha's birth, enlightenment and Parinirvana on full moon

He highlighted that Buddha shared his teachings in Pali, the spoken language of his era. Speaking on the topic "Yuddha nahi Budhha, Mukesh eshram highlighted the relevance of Buddha's teachings in contemporary times. He stated, "Amidst unrest and anxiety, the teachings of Tathagata offer solace and combat global negativity. Buddhism promotes peace, compassion and positivity, essential for mental wellbeing across all classes and castes.

Highlighting the importance of contentment, Meshram released the book 'Siddhartha se Buddha', featuring a pictorial depiction of Gautam Buddha's life journey.

Quoting Tathagata's principle of 'whatever received is enough', he urged children to develop their personality through meditation and Vipassana.

The participants were encouraged to visit UP's Buddhist sites like Kapilvastu, Sankisa, Sarnath and Kushinagar to gain spiritual knowledge alongside studying Buddha and Dhamma.

Dr Julampitiye Punyasara Mahasthavira from Vidhya Ratna University, Sri Lanka, spoke on the topic and shed light on how Tathagata witnessed the struggles of those around him and was deeply affected by the 'war' within and

found Binda Prasad Soni lying on the ground and injured. He murmured that Akash Soni and his aides had attacked him and looted his cash and gold chain. bour with whom he had enmity after looting his gold chain and cash in Thakurganj Mohit, with the help of the divers and others present there, rushed his father to the Trauma

Centre of KGMU where he died

a little later during the treatment.

NOTICE

am Mukul Kashyap, son of Late Bachchraj, resident of C-511, Lavkush Nagar, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. My home loan was running from Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited. My mother Meera Devi died on 07-08-2017 and father Bachchraj died on 21-07-2021. Late Bachchhraj has three sons Kuldeep, Mukul Kashyap, Suraj Kashyap and a married daughter Preeti. The house loan has been repaid by the sons, hence I request he company to give us the papers of this property. If any person has any objection. Contact Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited (DHFL)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice is hereby given that our client intends to enter into aleasein respect of the lands admeasuring 20.00 Hectares (50.00Acres)situated in Village Hanna Vinayaka, Shikron, Tehsil Mau, District Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh, detailed in the table below ("Subject Land"), from its present owners, mentioned against each respective land parcel in the table below ("Owners"):

Sr No.	Owners	Knasra No.	Area (Hectare
1	Ramji S/o Kedarnath	1740	0.649
2	Gandhiji S/o Kedarnath	1739	0.648
3	Anurag, Kamal, Alok S/o Ramganesh		
	Sudha W/o Ramganesh	1738	1.04
4	Sudha devi W/o Ramganesh	1737,1733	0.869
3,50		UNIVERSITY OF THE PROPERTY OF	0.544
5	Shiv Bhushan Tiwari S/o Heeraman	min (ANT)	1000000
	Ramkali Tiwari W/o Heeraman	1726	0.789
6	Dilip Kumar, Manoj Kumar S/o Late Lalan		2000 0000
	Sawariya W/o Late Lalan	1727	0.672
7	Chandramani S/o Jagdhari	1729	0.672
		1734	0.465
8	Ramji S/o Kedarnath	1732	0.568
9	Lalit S/o Devdhari	1731	1.061
10	Pratik, Anand Swarup, Yog Swarup		
	Srivastava S/o Lallu Prasad		
	Radha W/o Lallu Prasad	2188	0.59
11	Anil Kumar, Avinesh, Arunesh S/o	2186	0.164
	Dayaram Phulkali W/o Dayaram	2183	1.130
12	Vipin Kumar, Diwakar, Santkumarurf		
	Santada, Indrapal, Chandrapal S/o	-50,60	10000
	Nandkumar	2197	1.285
13	SantkumarurfSantdas S/o Nandkumar	2196	0.248
14	Vivekanand S/o Ramlakhan	2198	0.23
15	Kashiprasad, Ashok Kumar S/o Kathan	10.0000000	560550
	Satyajit S/o Rajkumar	282	0.57
	Mamta devi W/o Rajkumar		
16	Vipin kumar, Diwakar, Santkumarurf Santda	Carworks	No. mail State
	Indrapal, Chandrapal S/o Nandkumar	330	2.596
17	Bhimsen, Arjun Prasad S/o Matabadal	0.0000000	
	Birsen Tripathi, Budhsen Tripathi,	281	0.812
	Ugrasen Tripathi, Yagyasen Tripathi	280	1.387
	S/o Bhimasen Nanki W/o Bhimasen		
18	Mamta Devi W/o Harishankar	2174	0.5
19	Anil Kumar Sanseswardat, Rameswardat		
	Tiwari, Nageswardat S/o Ganeshdat	2192	0.411
20	Salikram, Keshkumar, Ishchandra S/o		
	Ramnithur	2199	1.403
21	Ramayanprasad s/o Mohanlal	2195	0.422
22	Laxmiprasad S/o Balwantrai	2194	1.008
23	Rupkishore, Manish Kumar S/o Balkumar	5V	
-	Savitri devi W/o Balkumar	1723	0.19
24	Nanku S/o Ramkhelawan	1722	0.293
25	Ishwardin, Ramkanhai, Baijnath,	9524640	72.5086
	Durgaprasad, Rammurat S/o Jiyalal Kopa	329Mi	0.343
26	Nanka S/o ShivratanHannavinayaka	339	0.24
27	Chintamani S/o Ramdhari	271	0.058
28	Heeramani S/o Ramdhari	273	0.057
29	Amritlal S/o Ramdhari	274	0.058
12928	Dilkhush S/o Baijnath	17516967	12772222
30	Srimati Papi Devi W/o Jaghdev Prasad	328	0.576
	Atulkumar, Rajnath S/o Radhemohan		
	Shiladevi W/o Radhemohan		
0.4	Rameshchandra S/o Shitalprasad	007	4.004
31	Mannulal Singh S/o Ramkumar	327	1.091
	Surekhadevi W/o Rajesh kumar		
	Srimati Laxmi Devi W/o Sureshchandra		
	Sadhna W/o Ajay Pandey		

In view of the above facts, this public notice is issued in the interest of all concerned and the general public so that if any entity/person, including an bank, financial institution, credit society or third party has any right, title, clain or interest over Subject Land or, has any objections to above-referred intended transaction by our client, or, if any entity/person including any bank, financial institution, credit society or third party has any knowledge or is party to any sale, exchange, assignment, gift, license, tenancy, inheritance, pending litigation, possession, contract/agreement, development rights, partnership family arrangement/ settlement, decree or order of any Court of law, hypothecation, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, acquisition by the Government or any entity, prohibition or any other impediment in respect of Subject Land, such entity/person may inform the undersigned, with documentary proof, within 10 (Ten) days of the publication of this public notice failing which, it shall be presumed that no adverse right, title, interest, share claim, easement or demand of any nature whatsoever exists in or, upon or, ir respect of the Subject Land, and the Ownersare vested with absolute, clear marketable and transferrable right, title and interest to the Subject Land. It shall also be deemed that there are no impediments in respect of any future agreement/transaction in respect of the Subject Land.

## Ayurveda College successfully treats hypotonic bladder case

PNS LUCKNOW

The State Ayurveda College has successfully treated a case of hypotonic bladder which has no cure in the Allopathic medicine system. Hypotonic bladder is known as a condition in which the bladder is not able to contract naturally to evacuate the contents whenever a person feels the urge to relieve himself. Sanjeev Rastogi, head of rheumatology department at Ayurveda College, said that the case pertains to a 28-

chronic urine retention. "Chronic urine retention due to functional reasons is a difficult to treat condition. Lowpressure, low-flow urine also called a neurogenic bladder is a common functional reason for chronic urinary retention.

year-old married woman who

was facing the problem of

Conventional pharmacotherapy has not been promising in such conditions and the symptomatic management is done through regular catheterisation. Catheterisation due to its social and medical limitations has a high discontinuation rate even though it is recommended. In this scenario, any possibility of alternative interventions leading to clinical improvements without catheterisation comes with hope as a lead to the future," he said. He said the woman was suffer-

ing from this condition for the last two years. "She was following regular catheterisation. Modern medicine has no treatment or remedy for such conditions. She had taken the consultation from AIIMS New Delhi also and she had gone for investigations which confirmed that she had this neu-

rogenic bladder," he said. He stated that one can imagine the state of mind of a 28 vear old lady because catheterisation is itself a limiting process and requires a lot of technique and it has to be done very safely. "Because if something has to be put inside the body and it

is not clean then you are inviting infection. It creates a lot of trouble and the people who are facing this problem are inviting urinary tract infection. The urinary tract infection is itself a cumbersome kind of problem," he

Rastogi said that fortunately he had treated one such case five to six years back. "It was the case of a 75 years old male who had been receiving treatment from a urologist. We treated him and in three months his catheter was

removed and he was able to pass the urine and this man survived for around 5-6 years. And during this period he faced no trouble," he said. He said that the case was published in a paper which was read by the relatives of the woman patient who then contacted him.

"We started giving the treat-ment to the lady and told her to take a trial after one month. The response started coming after ten weeks of therapy. She was able to pass some urine which was associated with severe burning which was natural since it was being done in the absence of a catheter," he said.

She later developed a better stream of the urine and then after two months she was able to pass the urine normally without the need of a catheter,

## Campaigning ends for sixth phase polls in UP

Campaigning in 14 Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh that go to polls in the sixth phase ended on Thursday. The polling in these constituencies will be held on

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has meticulously planned the polling schedule to ensure a smooth and efficient electoral process. This phase holds immense significance, as it not only marks another step in the democratic process but also shapes the political landscape of the most populous state of the country.

Voting on May 25 will take place in Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Phulpur, Allahabad, Ambedkar Shravasti, Nagar, Domariyaganj, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Lalganj (SC), Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Machhlishahr (SC) and Bhadohi. These constituencies serve as battlegrounds where candidates from different political parties vie for victory, aiming to secure their foothold in the state's political landscape Polling for the by-election to

held on May 25 along with the Lok Sabha election. The Bharatiya Janata Party, in

Gaisri assembly seat in Balrampur district will also be

the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, had won 10 out of these 14 constituencies. The Bahujan Samaj Party had won three while the Samaiwadi Party had won the Azamgarh seat, from where the Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav was the candidate. He had resigned this seat after his election to state assembly in March 2022 and in the ensuing by-election to Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat, the BJP had wrested this seat from SP in June 2022. The ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and the INDIA Block of the opposition have deployed their might in the sixth phase of elections where the prominent

leaders from both the alliances are in the fray. In Sultanpur, the electoral contest features eightterm MP Maneka Gandhi from the BJP, Bhim Nishad representing the SP, and Udraj Verma. Pratapgarh witnesses a clash between Sangam Lal Gupta of the BJP and SP Singh Patel of the SP.

Allahabad witnesses a battle between Neeraj Tripathi of the BJP and Ujjwal Rewati Raman Singh of the Congress. Ambedkar Nagar presents a contest between Ritesh Pandey of the BJP and Lalji Verma from the SP. Domariyaganj sees a fierce contest between Jagdambika Pal representing

seat has been increasing continuously since the 2009 elec-

tion. BJP got 30.52 per cent votes in 2009, 56.37 per cent

in 2014 and 63.62 per cent in

2019, while Congress got 9.98 per cent votes in 2009, 7.34 per

cent in 2014 and 14.38 per cent

in 2019. There is a fight

between Congress and BJP to

increase the vote percentage

on this seat. Former MLA

Shamsuddin of the BSP. Basti is the arena for Harish

Dwivedi of the BIP and Ram Prasad Chaudhary of the SP. In Lalganj, Neelam Sonkar from the BJP is pitted against Daroga Saroj of the SP. Azamgarh sets the stage for a fight between Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' of the BJP and Dharmendra Yadav from the SP.

In Jaunpur Lok Sabha constituency, Kripashankar Singh of the BJP is pitted against Babu Singh Kushwaha of SP and Shyam Singh Yadav of BSP. In the Bhadohi Lok Sabha constituency, Vinod Kumar Bind from the BJP is facing Lalitesh Pati Tripathi of the All India Trinamool Congress, supported by the INDIA Block.

These electoral matchups showcase the diverse political landscape and the fervour of democracy in Uttar Pradesh. According to Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa, a total 162 candidates including 146 men and 16 women are in fray in the Lok Sabha polls while seven candidates are contesting in the Gaisari assembly seat. After the end of campaign, all outside district workers of the political parties will not be allowed in the respective districts where polling is to be held, he said.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offers prayers at Maa Pateshwari

## Cong pins hope on Allahabad, Bansgaon

In the remaining sixth and seventh phases of Lok Sabha elections, Congress hopes are pinned on Allahabad and Bansgaon parliamentary constituencies.

In both the phases, there is a direct contest between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party in Allahabad, Bansgaon, Deoria and

Maharajganj. In the fight between two political families in Allahabad, Congress is trying to make a comeback after 40 years. Film star Amitabh Bachchan won the last election for Congress in 1984 from this Lok Sabha seat. Since then Congress has not been able to win the Lok Sabha election from Allahabad. At the same time, Congress has high hopes from former minister Sadal Prasad who left the Bahujan Samaj Party and joined Congress to contest from Bansgaon Lok

Sabah constituency. In Uttar Pradesh, Congress is contesting Lok Sabha elec- battle to be held this time in

tions on 17 seats in alliance with Samajwadi Party. Elections have been held in Amroha, Saharanpur, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Bulandshahr, Fatehpur Sikri, Sitapur, Kanpur, Rae Bareli, Amethi, Barabanki and Jhansi in five phases. In the sixth phase, Congress is contesting only the Allahabad seat.

In the seventh phase, elections will be held in Bansgaon, Deoria, Maharajganj and Varanasi.

This time, there is a direct fight between two political families in Allahabad. Congress has fielded Ujjwal Raman Singh, son of former minister and MP and one of the founding members of SP, Reoti Raman Singh. BJP has fielded Neeraj Tripathi, son of former governor and veteran BJP leader Keshari Nath Tripathi. Congress has not been able to win the Allahabad seat since 1984. With the help of SP, Congress is hoping to wrest this seat after 40 years. All eves are on the electoral

Allahabad, which has been the seat of veterans like former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Chief Minister Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna, Janeshwar Mishra, former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Murli Manohar Joshi. In the seventh phase, Congress eyes are fixed on the direct fight with BJP in Bansgaon. However, BJP holds all the five assembly segments of this parliamentary constituency, Chauri-Chaura, Chillupar, Bansgaon,

Rudrapur and Barhaj. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has a good influence on this seat connected to Gorakhpur and Deoria. This time, former minister Sadal Prasad, who left BSP, is contesting on the ticket of Congress, while Kamlesh Paswan, who won the Lok Sabha elections thrice from here, has once again become the BJP candidate.

Along with Sadal Prasad, Kamlesh Paswan's vote percentage is also increasing in this seat. In 2014, Sadal Prasad,

known as a big face of Congress in Deoria, is pitted who contested on BSP ticket. got 26.02 per cent votes while Kamlesh Paswan got 47.61 per cent votes. In 2019, Sadal against BJP's Shashank Mani Tripathi. Shashank Mani, who pel cent votes. In 2019, Sadan Familiesh Paswan got 56.41 per cent votes. In this seat also, Congress is trying to sail its electoral boat with the help of studied from IIT-Delhi and is famous as a social entrepreneur and writer as well as a politician. BJP's continuously increasing vote percentage in Deoria is a big challenge for Akhilesh. BJP got 51.07 per cent votes in 2014 and 57.19 SP. That is why Akhilesh SP. That is why Akhilesh Yadav's election campaigning programmes are being decided along with Rahul Gandhi. UP Congress president and former minister Ajay Rai is contesting against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varangei, the most high preper cent in 2014 and 57.19 Congress got only 3.88 per cent votes in 2014 and 5.03 per cent in 2019. BSP got 23.77 per cent votes in 2014 and 32.57 Varanasi, the most high-proper cent in 2019. file constituency of the state. BJP's vote percentage on this

In Maharajganj, Congress' Virendra Chaudhary is pitted against six-time MP and Union minister of state Pankaj Chaudhary from BJP. Pankaj Chaudhary got 44.65 per cent votes and 59.20 per cent votes in 2014 and 2019 respectivelv. Congress won this seat in 2009. Pankaj Chaudhary had won the election from this seat even during the Congress wave. Therefore, the contest here will not be easy for the

## BJP will lose all 80 LS seats in UP: Akhilesh

PNS PRATAPGARH

Samajwadi Party president and former chief minister of UP, Akhilesh Yadav, claimed on Thursday that the National Democratic Alliance would lose all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state,

including Varanasi. "The BJP government has sold railways, stations, airplanes, platforms, ended all the jobs and started contractual recruitment. People were ruined by demonetisation. Now the public will give a befitting reply to the BJP," he said

The BJP government is ruining the future of the youth. Treatment is not being done in hospitals. There is no such district hospital in the state where the poor can get free treatment. Earlier the ambulance was bad, BJP has ruined the hospital itself," he said. He said the over 140 crore pop ulation of the country would see that the Bharatiya Janata

Party-led NDA loses 400 seats to the INDIA Bloc and would ensure that the remaining 143 seats also become difficult for

The people's anger against the

ruling party has been increasing and by the seventh phase of polling in UP, it will be at its peak (saatwen aasman par), Yadav said, while addressing a rally in Pratapgarh in favour of SP candidate SP Patel. "Earlier, I had said the BJP is

heading to lose all seats except for the one of "Kyoto wale" (Modi" Varanasi seat). But with time it seems that this seat is also slipping out of their hands and the saffron party will taste defeat in all the 80 seats in UP," Akhilesh Ydav said.

His "Kyoto wale" remark was in reference to a memorandum of understanding signed between India and Japan in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and his then Japanese counterpart late Shinzo Abe at Osaka in 2014 to turn Varanasi into a'smart city'

with the help from Kyoto. Yadav said the SP and the Congress had become 11 from one and one, causing tension for the "Delhi wale" (Modi government at the Centre).

Apparently replying to Prime Minister Modi who referred to Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi as 'shehzade' (princes), the SP president said, "We will give them 'sheh' and 'maat' (check and mate, vocabulary used in chess for defeat)."

A huge crowd had gathered for the rally in the GIC grounds and many youths were seen hanging from the bamboo of the tent.

Yadav jokingly said these youths had all the capability to clear the physical test and qualify for jobs in the armed forces. He reiterated the future INDIA Bloc government's commitment to scrap the four-year Agniveer job scheme and instead give a permanent job in the Army with the provision of

## Varun seeks vote for Maneka Gandhi

PNS LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Varun Gandhi held an election rally on Thursday to support his mother, Maneka Gandhi, the BIP candidate from the Sultanpur constituency. The constituency is set to vote on May 25 during the sixth phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

In his speech, Varun Gandhi emphasised the special bond between Maneka Gandhi and the people of Sultanpur, stating, There is only one constituency in the country where its people do not call their MP 'Sansad' but 'Maa'... I am here not just to gather support for my mother but the mother of Súltanpur."

While highlighting Maneka Gandhi's achievements, Varun Gandhi notably avoided mentioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He refrained from discussing the BJP's accomplishments or explicitly asking for votes for the party. Instead he urged, "Please vote for Maa". Varun Gandhi's speeches underscored the unparalleled power of a mother. "A mother holds the power equal to that said, "In many places, charis-



of the divine. Everyone may leave your side, but a mother never does. Today, I am here to seek support for my mother," he stated.

He also highlighted the unique respect the people of Sultanpur have for Maneka Gandhi, noting, "In Sultanpur, people refer to my mother as 'Mataji'.

Commenting on the high-pro-

matic figures are contesting the elections?

Varun Gandhi's campaign aimed to garner local support by emphasising the personal bond between Maneka Gandhi and the constituents of Sultanpur.

Maneka Gandhi expressed confidence in her son's efforts, stating that Varun's campaign would bolster her chances of increasing her winning margin.

The Sultanpur Lok Sabha seat holds significant importance, being situated next to Amethi, with the BJP's Gandhi candidate facing a tough battle against the Samajwadi Party's Ram Bhual Nishad and the Bahujan Samaj Party's Udraj Verma, who could split the Other Backward Classes vote traditionally aligned with the

Maneka Gandhi is contesting

from Sultanpur for the second consecutive time, having previously won with a margin of approximately 14,000 votes. This election, she aims for a more decisive victory. Despite limited campaign support from top BJP leaders, with only Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath campaigning for her, the BJP is hopeful of strong backing from the local fishermen community, which has around two lakh voters. This optimism is bolstered by their leader. Saniay Nishad, head of the NISHAD Party, who is a minister in the Party, who is a minister in the Yogi Adityanath government. The electoral history of Sultanpur is varied, with no single party maintaining consistent dominance. Since independence, the Congress has won this Lok Sabha seat eight times, the BSP twice, and the BJP four times.

Nearby constituencies also feature significant electoral battles. Rahul Gandhi is contesting from Rae Bareli, while in Amethi, Nehru-Gandhi family loyalist KL Sharma is challenging Smriti Irani.

As the campaign ended on Thursday, the results in Sultanpur would be closely watched, given the high stakes and the competitive nature of

## Brahmins harassed under BJP govt in UP: Mayawati

**PTI** MIRZAPUR

 $B^{\text{ahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on}}_{\text{Thursday claimed that the condition of poor}}$ people belonging to the upper castes was not good and Brahmins in particular were being harassed under the BJP government in Uttar

Addressing an election rally in Mirzapur in supcandidate Manish Tiwari said atrocities being committed against minorities under the guise of Hindutva have peaked in the state.

Mayawati said the BJP was following wrong policies just like the Congress and expressed confidence that due to the casteist, capitalist, and communal policies of the BJP and its allies, the NDA won't be able to retain power at the Centre, provided the election is fair and the voting machines are not tampered with.

"Atrocities against minorities under the guise of Hindutva have reached their peak. Along with this, the condition of poor people belonging to upper castes is also not very good. Especially, the Brahmin community is being harassed on a large scale in the entire state," Mayawati said. "Due to the wrong policies of the BJP govern-ment, the country's economy is being adversely affected. Poverty, unemployment and inflation are continuously increasing while corruption has not ended yet," she added.

She urged the people to not let the BJP or the Congress win the Lok Sabha elections, asserting that if the BSP is voted to power, it would



ensure welfare for all.

"If the BSP comes to power at the Centre, it will work on the policy of 'Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhay' (welfare for all). By doing this, the unfulfilled dream of BSP founder Kanshi Ram ji can be fulfilled," she said.

Referring to the central government's free ration scheme, Mayawati said, "The little free ration being given to you will not benefit you permanently. I want to tell you that the ration given to you for free does not come from the pockets of the BJP and the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) people but from your tax

Polling in Mirzapur will be held in phase seven

## Caste-based alliances clash in high-stake polls in Purvanchal

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

As the election momentum moves to eastern Uttar Pradesh, also known as Purvanchal, the strength of alliances is set to be tested. Both the INDI Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance are going all out to secure a win in this critical

region. Key regional allies such as the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, NISHAD Party and Apna Dal (Sonelal), crucial components of the NDA, are under pressure to deliver. These parties, representing various communities, assert their influence across the state.

'The Bharatiya Janata Party has skillfully crafted a social engineering umbrella, giving representation to leaders of these caste groups in both Central and state governments. Its alliance with Rajbhar, Kurmi and Nishad communities, as well as their sub-castes, is stronger compared to 2019," says Nomita P Kumar of the Giri Institute of

Development Studies.
NISHAD Party's president
Sanjay Nishad claims to represent about 54 per cent of the
marginalised population,
spanning from Kanpur and Kannauj to Gorakhpur and Ghazipur. Communities such as Sachan, Verma, Katiyar and Kurmi hold significant sway

within this demographic.
To manage coalition dynamics, the BJP recently allocated a legislative council seat to Om Prakash Rajbhar and fielded him from the Ghosi Lok Sabha constituency, also nominating his son Arvind Rajbhar. Sanjay Nishad, a cabinet min-ister, has his son contesting from Sant Kabir Nagar constituency, with another son holding a legislative assembly position. Apna Dal (S) leader Anupriya Patel secured a Central ministry while her husband, Ashish Patel became a cabinet minister in UP.

The BJP has allocated a larger share of seats to Apna Dal (S) compared to other allies, including Mirzapur and Robertsganj. Anupriya Patel's previous victories in these

constituencies have signifi-cantly bolstered the BJP's position in Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Rohilkhand regions.

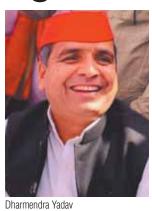
The INDIA Bloc, comprising Samajwadi Party, Congress, and Trinamool Congress, faces significant challenges. The Mahan Dal, previously aligned with the INDIA Bloc, parted ways after SP gave a ticket to tainted Babu Ram Kushwaha from Jaunpur.

NDA'S TARGETED CAM-PAIGNS: The NDA has launched targeted campaigns across Purvanchal. The BJP has initiated efforts such as the women's conference in Varanasi and a new voter outreach model. The party has compiled block-wise lists of beneficiaries of government schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, housing, and sanitation projects to engage with voters and highlight the ben-efits delivered by the NDA government.

Each assembly constituency has been divided into three to four segments, with senior Laliteshpati Tripathi









Ujjwal Raman Singh

leaders conducting meetings in each segment. Specialised group meetings are also being held with professionals such as doctors, engineers, textile traders and pharmacists. Leaders in these sectors are tasked with engaging their peers to garner support.

A significant focus has been

placed on backward classes. BJP's Backward Class Kashi region general secretary Subhash Kushwaha stated that Yadav leaders from Etawah, Etah, Farrukhabad and Mainpuri have been deployed in Varanasi and surrounding areas. Similarly, in regions dominated by the Nishad community, leaders from this community are spearheading the campaign.

INDIA BLOC'S COUNTER STRATEGY: The INDIA Bloc is adopting a meticulous approach on the 27 seats. Congress and SP have strategically placed office-bearers of their frontal organisations in these constituencies. A dedicated team monitors BJP's public meetings and prepares

responses for their leaders. Congress has applied the Rae Bareli-Amethi model, dividing assembly constituencies into sectors and assigning leaders of the predominant community to manage each booth. Both Congress and SP are emphasising leadership from castes beyond Yadav and Muslims to

diversify their appeal.
Congress state in-charge Avinash Pandey is overseeing the Brahmin-dominated areas, coordinating meetings between SP and Congress leaders during the day and hosting night chaupals. Dr Rajpal Kashyap, state president of SP Backward Class Cell, is engaged with the Nishad, Kashyap, and Bind communi-ties, highlighting SP's strategic placement of five candidates from the Nishad community.

#### HIGH-PROFILE CON-**TENDERS:**

This electoral phase sees many prominent figures contesting from 14 constituencies in the sixth phase and 13 in the seventh. Among them are Maneka Gandhi from Sultanpur, Dharmendra Yadav from Azamgarh, Laliteshpati Tripathi of Trinamool Congress from Bhadohi, Ujjwal Raman Singh from Allahabad, and former Maharashtra home minister Kripashankar Singh from Jaunpur.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Congress president Ajay Rai are vying for Varanasi, while Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel is contesting from Mirzapur, and SBSP's Arvind Rajbhar from Ghosi. The NISHÁD Party also holds significant influence in this region.
"As Purvanchal heads into the

crucial sixth phase of elections, the political stakes are higher than ever. With alliances being tested and every party deploying its top strategies and can-didates, the outcome here will play a decisive role in the overall electoral results. Both the NDA and INDIA Bloc are leaving no stone unturned to secure a win in this politically vital region," said Ramesh Kumar Singh, a local journal-

## Maurya targets SP, Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya while talking to journalists at the party office in Civil Lines on Thursday targeted the SP and Rahul Gandhi. He said the country is moving towards Congress-free India. The Congress has cheated OBCs, the public will never forgive it,

he alleged. He said that the SP has worked to promote one caste. He said that BJP is going to win 80 seats in UP, including Allahabad and Phulpur. Maurya welcomed the decision of the Calcutta High Court to stay the decision of Mamata Banerjee government of West Bengal to give reservation to Muslims through OBC. The Deputy CM said the decision of

the Calcutta High Court should be implemented immediately. The BJP is going to form the government with a huge majority on June 4, he claimed. After five phases of voting, the BJP has crossed 300 seats. Maurya claimed that BIP will cross 400 seats by the seventh phase. He said the public is impressed with the develop-ment work of the BJP.

Meanwhile SP state president Shyamlal Pal on Thursday claimed that the INDI Alliance is winning the maximum number of seats in the state

INSTALLED: The Prayagraj Commissionerate Police has installed the Advanced Application for Social Media Analytics (AASMA) tool and a unit of 40 policemen has been prepared.

This public notice is hereby given that our client intends to enter into aleasein respect of the lands admeasuring 148.895 Hectares (367.9270 Acres) situated in Village Eskil Buzurg, Tehsil Garautha, District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, detailed in the table below ("Subject Land"), from its present mentioned against each respective land parcel in the table below ("Owners"):

<b>S.No</b> 1	Owners Rajendar Kumar/SurajKumar	Khasra No.	Area (Hectare 3.755	S.No	Owners NeelamNiranjan/Ramkesl
2	Anantram/Dayaram	305/1	1	65	Keshavdas/Malkhan
3 4	Prabhudayal/Umrao Rajaram/Punne	305/2 306	0.999 2.197	66	Virendra Kumar/Malkhan Akhilesh/Raghuvar
	Ramprakash/Punne				Kailash/Raghuvar
_	Ramsaran/Punne Jayanarayan/Chandan Singh	307	0.971		Gulavsingh/Raghuveer Mrs. Rajku Mari/Ramdin
	Udaysingh/Prahladsingh Awadhnarayan/Jayanarayan	308 309	2.012 1.927	67	Deepak Kumar Patel &Vivek K Patel / Anil Kumar Patel
	Ankit/Udaysingh	000	1.027	68	Smt. Ramasia/Jayaprakas
	Rajnarayan/Manoharsingh Rohit/Udaysingh			69	Angadsingh/Ghanaram Dinesh Kumar/Ghanaram
	Manoj Kumar/Vasdev	313	1.259	1	Puranlal alias Purushottam/Ghar
	Rajveer Singh/Vasdev Satyaveer Singh/Vasdev			70	Rajesh Kumar/Ghanaram Baikunth Narayan/Chann
)	Mahesh/Raghunanda Shobharam/Chhotelal	314 315	1.493 0.462	]	Mahendrasingh/channe Mansingh/Channe
		323	0.283	] [	Surajsingh/Channe
1	Premdevi Wife/Lalaram Premnarayan/Chetram	317Aa 317Ba	2.112 0.101	71 72	Pratap Narayan/Parashura Ashok/Udaysingh
	Mahendpratapsingh/Shivprasad				Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh
2	Smt. Rupadevi/Shivprasad Rahulkumar/Ramkishun	318	0.749		RameshwarDayal/Udaysing Smt. Umadevi/Udaysingh
	Smt. PushpadeviVeva/Ramkishun Smt. Munnidevi/Balkishun	319 321	0.709 1.631	73	Ashok/Udaysingh Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh
	Sanjivkumar/Balkishun	321	1.031		RameshwarDayal/Udaysing
3	Harkishun/Rambharose Hardayal/Chhotelal	322	1.546	74	Ashok/Udaysingh Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh
14	Keshbhan/Prahlad	326	1.449	ļ <u> </u>	RameshwarDayal/Udaysin
15 16	Kamlesh Kumar/Prahlad Bharatlal/Prahlad	327 329	1.428 1.85	75	Ashok/Udaysingh Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh
7	Rakeshkumar/Sevaram Santoshkumar/Sevaram	332 &341	2.918		Pratapnarayan/Parashurar RameshwarDayal/Udaysing
8	Amitkumar/Rameshwardayal	333	3.97	1 L	Smt. Umadevi/Udaysingh
	Arvindkumar/Harishankar Kuverkumar/Harishankar			76	Dhan Singh/Kashiram
	Rakeshkumar/Rameshwardayal	001	4.000		
9	RameshwarDayal/Tulsiram RameshwarDayal/Tulsiram	334 337	1.169 3.116	77	Mathuraprasad/Baburam
0	Rajnarayan/Manohar Singh	338	1.076 0.308	]	Ma Manusiana a co
2	Smt. PrakashraniVeva/Kashiprasad Narayandas/Parvat	339 340	1.566	78	Mr. Vavu/Shivdutt Shashikatta/Shivdutt
3	Anilkumar/Asharam Kaushalkishore/Asharam	342	0.579	]	Mr. Vavu/Shivdutt Shashikatta/Shivdutt
	Geetadevi Wife/KaushalKishore			79	Ashish Kumar/Ramkishur
4	Navnitkumar/Asharam Mansingh/Deendayal	343	0.643		Ushadevi/wife Ramkishur Jagdishasaran/Ghasiram
	Raghavendra/Deendayal Ram Sevak/Chhotelal	345	1.797		Radheshyam/Ghasiram
5	Smt. Upma Devi/Sripat Singh	345	1.797		Smt. Sushila Devi/Late Ramg Surendra/Ramgopal
6	Tej Singh/Puran Singh Manoj Kumar/Vasudev Singh	346 347	3.209 2.219	80	Harishankar/Tulsiram Parmeshwaridas/BhangiurfBha
'	Rajveer Singh/Vasudev Singh	347	2.219	81 82	Krishangopal/Shivdin
	Vasudev Singh/Man Singh Satyaveer Singh/Vasudev Singh				KrishangopalSahu/ShivdinS Siyarani/Shivdin
3	Ramwati/Prabhudayal	349	0.886	83	Puroshtamdas/Ramkisha
9	Vijay/Anindra	350 352	0.462 0.477	84	Santosh kumar/Ramkrisha Jakumari/S/DaughterHarcha
0	Pramod Kumar/Ramgopal	276	1.052	1	HarcharanaUrfbuddhu
1	Smt. Parvati/Late Ramgopal Vijay Singh/Kalka	277	3.315	85 86	Rameshwarprasad/Ajuddl Dinnanath/Parsadi
2	Harvansh/Kalka Mahendra Singh/Badri	278	0.777	87	Krishangopal/Shivdin KrishangopalSahu/ShivdinS
-	Kusmadevi wife/Rajbahadur Singh	280	0.858	1 L	Siyarani/Shivdin
_	Kusmadevi wife/Rajbahadur Singh Pratapsingh/Imrat	280/1093 282	0.349 0.368	88 89	Jagnnath/Parsadi Parwat/Parsadi
_	Surendsingh/Imrat	000		90	Jagdishshran/Chhakkilal
5 6	Shobharam/Chhotelal Tirathraj/Ramgoolam	283 284Mi.	0.821 0.105		Jaygopal/Chhakkilal Hardayal/Chhakkilal
	Kailashanrayana/Ramagoolam Chandraprakash/Shaligram	284Mi. 284Mi.	0.105 0.109	91	Uttam Singh/Suraj Singh
3 9	Deveshku Mar/Jagadeesasaran	284Mi.	0.106	92	Virendra Singh/Suraj Sing Narayansinh/Bhagwatnaray
	Rake Shaku Mar/Jagdishsaran Rajivku Mar/Jagadeesharaan				Rajkumar/Bhagavatanaraya Rajaram/Lakshmiprasad
	Smt. Shanti Devi/Late				Rampratap/Lakshmiprasa
0	Jagadishasaran/R. Gram Ramswaroop/Ramgoolam/Ni0gram	284MI.	0.105		Ramswaroop/Bhagavatanara Hukum Singh/Laxmiprasa
1	Tirathraj/Ramgoolam/Ni0gram	286 287	0.413 0.413	93	Jagadeesasaran/Chakkila
3	Ramswaroop/Ramgoolam/Ni0gram Pratap Singh/Building/Ni0gram	288	1.509	1 L	Jayagopal/Chhakkilal Hardayal/Chakkilal
4	Surendra/Building/Ni0gram Rajeshku Mar Adopted S/o			94	Krishnagopal/Gulabsingh Devendrakumar/Gulabsing
•	Smt/Gedrani alias Sarjuwai				Rajeshkumar/Gulabsingh
5	Veva/ThakuRadas Manoj Kumar/Vasudev Singh	289 290	1.473 2.031	95 96	Bhagwandas/Ghanaram Amarsingh/Sundarlal
	Rajveer Singh/Vasudev Singh			"	Amarat Singh/Sundarlal
	Vasudev Singh/Man Singh Satyaveer Singh/Vasudev Singh			]	Swami Prasad/Sundarlal Hammir Singh/Sundarlal
6	Anilkumar/Asharam Navnitkumar/Asharam	291	0.728	97 98	Mansingh/Chhane Suraj Singh/Channe
7	Atmaram/Ghasiram	292	0.024	99	Swamiprasad/Sundar
	Krishnagopal/Ghasiram Rajbahadur/Ghasiram	292/1080	0.012	100 101	Mahendra Singh/Channe Baikunth Narayan/Channe
	Smt. Pyaridulaiah alias Rajkura			'''	Mahendra Singh/Channe
8	Wife/Ghasiram Rajendra Prasad/Raghuvanshi	293	0.17		Mansingh/Chhane Suraj Singh/Channe
9	Úmashankar/Shyamsaran	294	0.17	102	Rajkumar/Bhagwatnaraya
	Girjashankar/Shyamsharana Gaurishankar/Shyamsharan			103 104	Phulu/Fhusai Baikunth Narayan/Channe
	Ramashankar/Shyamsaran			105	Mahendra Singh/Channe
	Vishnushankar/Shyamasarana Harishankar/Shyamsharan			106 107	RamkaliKatiyar/ KishorilalKa Bhramhanand/ Chhidam
0	Buddha Singh/Balram Rajaram/Lakshmiprasad	295 210	2.347 0.475		Rameshchand. Dhuram Ravikant/Yashpal
	Rampratap/Lakshmiprasad	210	0.473		Rajeshkumari/Yashpal
2	Hukum Singh/Laxmiprasad Hukum Singh/Laxmiprasad	211	1.189		Ramanand/Chidami Lakshman/Chhidami
3	Narayan Singh/Bhagwatnarayan	213	1.291	1	Shrikant/Yashpal
54 55	Swami Prasad/Sundar/Ni0gram Deepnarayan/Ajaypal	214 215	0.615 1.987		Ramkali/ chhidami Sureshchandf/Dhuram
	Smt. Dropati/Ajaypal			108	Dhallu/Baldev
6	Saurabh Patel/Rakesh Kumar Mansingh/Channe	216	1.781	<u> </u>	Manoj Kumar/Rajendra Pras Rameshchand. Dhuram
7	Mahendra Singh/Channe RamkeSh/Jayaprakash	217	1.4	]	Ravikant/Yashpal
8	Smt. Ramsia/Late Jayaprakash	220	2.399	]	Rajeshkumari/Yashpal Ramkali/ chhidami
9	Umakanti Wife/Manoj Kumar PoojaPutri / Manoj Kumar	221	1.291		Ramanand/Chidami
	Pramodku Mar/Satishchandra				Lakshman/Chhidami Brijkishor/Prabhudyal
_	Smt. Mithaladevi/Late Satishchandra Radhelal/Pancham	222	0.846		Bhramhanand/ Chhidami Shalifram/Baldev
)	Shivnarayan/Pancham	224	1.019	1	Shrikant/Yashpal
3	Kirandevi Wife/Anilkumar Balakishun/Dinanath	225 226	0.405 0.247		Baini/Rajendraprasad Somwati/Prabhudayal
64	Dineshkumar/Balaram	227	0.781	]	Sureshchandr/Dhuram
	w of the above facts, this public notice				

65	NeelamNiranjan/Ramkesh Keshavdas/Malkhan	228	0.866
	Virendra Kumar/Malkhan		
66	Akhilesh/Raghuvar Kailash/Raghuvar	229	0.769
	Gulavsingh/Raghuveer		
67	Mrs. Rajku Mari/Ramdin Deepak Kumar Patel &Vivek Kumar		
	Patel / Anil Kumar Patel	232	1.428
68 69	Smt. Ramasia/Jayaprakash Angadsingh/Ghanaram	233 235Aa	0.551 2.129
69	Dinesh Kumar/Ghanaram	235Ba	0.101
	Puranlal alias Purushottam/Ghanaram Rajesh Kumar/Ghanaram		
70	Baikunth Narayan/Channe	237	1.016
	Mahendrasingh/channe Mansingh/Channe		
	Surajsingh/Channe		
71 72	Pratap Narayan/Parashuram Ashok/Udaysingh	1 2	3.254 3.448
12	Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh	2	3.446
	RameshwarDayal/Udaysingh Smt. Umadevi/Udaysingh		
73	Ashok/Udaysingh	3	1.271
	Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh RameshwarDayal/Udaysingh		
74	Ashok/Udaysingh	5	1.133
	Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh RameshwarDayal/Udaysingh		
75	Ashok/Udaysingh	7	1.287
	Umesh Kumar/Udaysingh		
	Pratapnarayan/Parashuram RameshwarDayal/Udaysingh		
70	Smt. Umadevi/Udaysingh	0	0.015
76	Dhan Singh/Kashiram	8 10B	0.915 0.049
7-	Mathemanas - 1/5 - 1	10A	0.486
77	Mathuraprasad/Baburam	11 12A/2	0.749 1.878
=-		12B/2	0.097
78	Mr. Vavu/Shivdutt Shashikatta/Shivdutt	12/A/1	1.974
	Mr. Vavu/Shivdutt	13	0.639
79	Shashikatta/Shivdutt Ashish Kumar/Ramkishun	15	0.615
. 5	Ushadevi/wife Ramkishun	.0	3.515
	Jagdishasaran/Ghasiram Radheshyam/Ghasiram		
	Smt. Sushila Devi/Late Ramgopal		
80	Surendra/Ramgopal Harishankar/Tulsiram	17	2.893
81	Parmeshwaridas/BhangiurfBhagirath	18	2.233
82	Krishangopal/Shivdin KrishangopalSahu/ShivdinSahu	19	1.052
	Siyarani/Shivdin		
83	Puroshtamdas/Ramkishan Santosh kumar/Ramkrishan	21	1.93
84	Jakumari/S/DaughterHarcharana	23	2.978
85	HarcharanaUrfbuddhu Rameshwarprasad/Ajuddhi	24	2.671
86	Dinnanath/Parsadi	25/1	0.578
87	Krishangopal/Shivdin	25/2	0.577
	KrishangopalSahu/ShivdinSahu Siyarani/Shivdin		
88 89	Jagnnath/Parsadi Parwat/Parsadi	25/3 25/4	0.578 0.578
90	Jagdishshran/Chhakkilal	27	2.225
	Jaygopal/Chhakkilal		
91	Hardayal/Chhakkilal Uttam Singh/Suraj Singh	31	1.032
92	Virendra Singh/Suraj Singh Narayansinh/Bhagwatnarayan	32	1.048
92	Rajkumar/Bhagavatanarayana	32	1.046
	Rajaram/Lakshmiprasad		
	Rampratap/Lakshmiprasad Ramswaroop/Bhagavatanarayan		
00	Hukum Singh/Laxmiprasad	04	1.222
93	Jagadeesasaran/Chakkilal Jayagopal/Chhakkilal	34	1.222
0.4	Hardayal/Chakkilal	05	1.05
94	Krishnagopal/Gulabsingh Devendrakumar/Gulabsingh	35	1.25
0.5	Rajeshkumar/Gulabsingh	0.0	
95 96	Bhagwandas/Ghanaram Amarsingh/Sundarlal	36 38	1.129 1.364
	Amarat Singh/Sundarlal		
	Swami Prasad/Sundarlal Hammir Singh/Sundarlal		
97	Mansingh/Chhane	39	1.182
98 99	Suraj Singh/Channe Swamiprasad/Sundar	40 41	1.396 1.887
100	Mahendra Singh/Channe	42	1.271
101	Baikunth Narayan/Channe Mahendra Singh/Channe	46	1.623
	Mansingh/Chhane		
102	Suraj Singh/Channe Rajkumar/Bhagwatnarayan	47	1.291
103	Phulu/Fhusai	48	0.535
104 105	Baikunth Narayan/Channe Mahendra Singh/Channe	50 51	1.708 0.749
106	RamkaliKatiyar/ KishorilalKatiyar	52	0.821
107	Bhramhanand/ Chhidami Rameshchand. Dhuram	53	0.393
	Ravikant/Yashpal		
	Rajeshkumari/Yashpal Ramanand/Chidami		
	Lakshman/Chhidami		
	Shrikant/Yashpal		
	Ramkali/ chhidami Sureshchandf/Dhuram		
108	Dhallu/Baldev	54	0.632
	Manoj Kumar/Rajendra Prasad Rameshchand. Dhuram		
	Ravikant/Yashpal		
	Rajeshkumari/Yashpal Ramkali/ chhidami		
	Ramanand/Chidami		
	Lakshman/Chhidami		
	Brijkishor/Prabhudyal Bhramhanand/ Chhidami		
	Shalifram/Baldev		
	Shrikant/Yashpal Baini/Rajendraprasad		
	Somwati/Prabhudaval	1	

In view of the above facts, this public notice is issued in the interest of all concerned and the general public so that if any entity/person, including any bank financial institution, credit society or third party has any right, title, claim or interest over Subject Land or, has any objections to above-referred intended transaction by our client, or, if any entity/person including any bank, financial institution, credit society or third partyhas any knowledge or is party to an sale, exchange, assignment, gift, license, tenancy, inheritance, pending litigation, possession, contract/agreement, development rights, partnership, familiarrangement/ settlement, decree or order of any Court of law, hypothecation, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, acquisition by the Government or any entity, prohibition or any other impediment in respect of Subject Land, such entity/person may inform the undersigned, with documentary proof, within 10 (Ten) days of the publication of this public notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no adverse right, title, interest, share, claim, easement or demand of any nature whatsoever exists in or, upon or, in respect of the Subject Land, and the Ownersare vested with absolute, clear, marketable and transferrable right, title and interest to the Subject Land. It shall also be deemed that there are no impediments in respect of any future agreement/transaction in respect

> Shrutikirti Kumar / Arnav Sahni(Advocate) Shardul Amarchand MangaldasAmarchand Towers, 216 Okhla Industrial Estate Phase III. New Delhi - 110 020, India Ph: +91-9650082850 / +91-7428295219

## Modi has preserved heritage: Dayalu

U<sup>P</sup> Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' said in Kashi Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to preserve the heritage along with ensuring development. The minister said this while visiting different religious places and temples on Thursday. He has targetted to visit about 500 maths, monastries and temples in the urban and rural areas of Varanasi Lok Sabha during poll campaigning and seek the support of mahants and other priests. Till now he has reached the doorstep of more than 100

monasteries and temples. During his interaction with the mahants, he said under the leadership of the PM, the central government has set new records of development every day and there has been a tremendous increase in the number of devotees and tourists coming to Kashi from across the country and the world. "As a result of which people have got employment and the income of local traders and others has increased. The BIP is confident that due to development works the party is going to come to power", he said, adding that the immense affection, love and affection received from the public has boosted the morale of the top leadership of BJP and its entire emphasis is on increasing the vote percentage. During the



UP minister Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' at Gopal Mandir in Varanasi on Thursday.

day, Dayalu reached Gopal Mandir Srishti Peeth located in Chowkhambha and met Goswami Shyam Manohar Ji Maharaj. After this he met Shri Goswami Kalyan Rai at Geeta Bhavan Madan Mohan Balkrishna Lal Ii's Haveli. Later, he met Mahant Balbinder Singh of Sangat Chetan Math and Mahant Pankaj Mishra and Mahant Shankar Puri of Maa Lakshmi Temple located in Laxmi Kund. Continuing his campaigning, the minister visited Aghor Peeth Baba Kinaram Ashram and met Mahant Siddharth Gautam Ram, honouring the latter with angavastram. He also gave him a leaflet of achievements of the BJP government. He was accompanied by Saniav Mishra, Gaurav Rathi, Santosh Saini, Arun Pandey, Saurabh Rai, Jai Vishwakarma, Rahul Pandey, Dilip Yadav, Sarvesh

Verma, Akash Seth, Pramod Rai, Sushil Seth etc.

Meanwhile, as per the BJP's plan, the Mahila Morcha

held a meeting with a group of booth numbers 166 to 170 of Shakti Kendras Paharia and Ramrepur in Sarnath Mandal under City North Assembly segment of Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. The women workers went door to door and met women voters. They were led by state president of Mahila Morcha and Rajya Sabha MP Geeta Shakya. While addressing the women present there, she said that under the leadership of the PM, the central government has done many works for the empowerment of women. "The BJP govern-ment gave both respect and security to women. Along with making women self-reliant, the PM also made one crore women Lakhpati Didi and passing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act in the Parliament, PM Modi gave 33 per cent reservation to women in the legislature", the MP said, adding that Modi should create a new history by winning the Lok Sabha elections by a record number of votes. Regional president of Mahila Morcha Namrata Chaurasia, regional secretary Pooja Dixit, programme coordinator secretary Pooja Singh, city general secretary Sadhna Singh, Usha Singh, Chandra Kala, Poonam Yadav, Radha Rajbhar etc were also present.

### Campaigning in Pindra area ends

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The poll campaigning in Pindra assembly area of the district came to end as it is an assembly segment of Machhlishahr (SC) Lok Sabha seat which will go to the polls in the sixth phase on May 25 along with many other seats of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) including Bhadohi, Jaunpur, Lalganj and Azamgarh. Though Pindra is a general assembly seat it is a part of Machhalishahr reserved seat in which all other four assembly segments, including Mariyahu, Machhalishahr (SC), Zafrabad and Kerakat (SC) are in Jaunpur district. Pindra is, by and large, the same seat which was earlier part of Kolasla assembly seat before delimitation and which was won by comrade Udal nine times and Ajay Rai, now Congress candidate from Varanasi Lok Sabha seat, five times, thrice as BJP and once each as Independent and Congress candidate. In last election, the seat was won by Dr Awadhesh Singh of BJP. İt was the area close to Babatput Airport and Jaunpur district where Banas (Amul) Plant was set up. This time, in Machhalishahr (SC) parliamentary seat, the BJP has reposed its faith in its sitting MP Bholanath (BP Saroj) who is facing challenges from Priya Saroj, daughter of former MP Toofani Saroj and a Supreme

Court advocate. Meanwhile, DM S Rajalingam has informed that according to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881 (Act No. 26 of 1881), the government has fixed the date of voting in Varanasi for the sixth phase on May 25 and seventh phase on June 1 so these dates have been declared a public holiday in the district. He also informed that under the provisions of Section 135 (b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, all the workers working in the factories in Varanasi district are eligible to vote on the polling days of May

25 and June 1. Earlier, General Observer Amit Singh Negi made a suring done on various medi

### Athawale visits Sarnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale visited the holy township of Sarnath on the occasion of Buddha Purnima here on Thursday. He offered prayers at the holy Asthi (ashes) of Gautam Buddha preserved at Mahabodhi temple where monks R Sumitranandan Thero and Chandima Thero tied the band ('raksha sutra') at the hand of union minister. Then Athawale visited the site where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon, Mulgandha Kuty Vihara, Dhammek Stupa and site of archaeological ruins. He also met the beneficiaries of SVANidhi Yojana. On the occasion, the local handicraft traders welcomed the union minister and presented a memento to the latter.

Meanwhile, in Sarnath, there was also a festive mood as a good number of pilgrims from various countries offered prayers to the 'ashti' (mortal remains or ashes) of Lord Buddha at Mahabodhi temple. Since morning people queued up to have the 'darshan' of 'asthi' which is brought out only twice a year. In the evening, the entire Sarnath glittered with attractive lights and a procession was also taken out to mark the 2586th birth anniversary of Siddharth (Gautam Buddha) in Lumbini (now in Nepal) on this auspicious day.



Union minister Ramdas Athawale offering prayers at a Sarnath located temple in Varanasi on Thursday.

The day also commemorates the enlightenment (nirvana), and death (parinirvana) of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Meanwhile, religious fer-

vour gripped famous Ganga

ghats on the auspicious day of Vaishakh Purnima in the holy ancient city. At all the main ghats, the devotees took a holy dip in sacred water of Ganga river and then offered prayers and donated articles as per their tradition. The activists of Namami Gange reached Dashashwamedh Ghat on the occasion and offered 'shramdaan' to remove the 'puja' and other articles from the river apart from making the ghats clean. Regional convenor (Kashi) Rajesh Shukla conveyed the message of environmental protection given by Lord Buddha and appealed to the people to keep Ganga clean. "Our holy rivers give the message of universal brotherhood and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Similarly the message of Lord

### Buddha Purnima celebrated in Sangam city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Buddha Purnima was celebrated with devotion in Sangam city. A large number of devotees took bath in Sangam—the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati. Along with Sangam, the process of bathing and donation is going on since morning at other ghats. Along with this, Kurma Jayanti was also celebrated. Sarvarth Siddhi Yoga and Jayad Yoga started after 8:54 am on Purnima. On the occasion of Buddha Purnima devotees performed religious rituals and programmes were organised by social and cultural organisations.

Buddha inspires us to serve humanity by following the path of truth, non-violence, love, compassion and peace," he said. He also appealed to the people to protect turtles for keeping the river clean as it was also the World Turtle Day. During the cleanliness awareness campaign, city coordinator Shivdutt Dwivedi, city incharge Pushpalata Verma, Rashmi Jaiswsl, Akash Sahani and others were also present. | and others were slso present.

prise inspection of the control room set up in Vikas Bhawan and gave necessary directions to the officers and control room personnel present on the spot. He stressed on ensuring 100 per cent compliance of the orders of the ECI by keeping an eye on the publicity platforms, including print and electronic media etc apart from social media. He also stressed on quality disposal of com-plaints being received from political parties. He was informed that so far serious cases of violation of the model code of conduct have not come to light. The observer also took information about the action being taken through single window. CDO Himanshu Nagpal, SDM Rajatalab Sunita Gupta, Additional Municipal Commissioner Amit Shukla, Information Officer/Member Secretary MCMC Surendra Pal

### Youth's body recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Mystery shrouds the killing of a youth whose decomposed body was recovered from a car near Green Park Gate No1 under Kotwali police station area on Wednesday. A telecom company employee informed the police which rushed to the spot along with forensic team and carried out investigation. From the diary recovered from his possession, police informed the kin of the deceased. Retired defence employee Prem Prakash of Parmat used to park his car beside the Green Park boundary wall opposite Union Bank. Adjacent to it, telecom company's generator is installed. On Wednesday evening when telecom company workers went there to check the generator's battery, a youth was found lying dead in the car and they informed the Kotwali police which rushed to the spot and quizzed Prem Prakash's son Ŷash. Meanwhile on contacting the kin of the deceased, the body was identified as of Atul (32) son of Parashuram of Behta Bujurg, Asiwan, Unnao. Meanwhile the house of

SP Unnao's driver was burgled in Sen Pashchimpara police station area late on Wednesday night.

## Inflation has ruined everyone's household budget: Ajay Rai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

ongress candidate Ajay Rai Usaid inflation has ruined everyone's household budget today and the five justices of INDIA Bloc manifesto will provide relief to the common man and from the 'misrule' of Modi government. He was addressing a meeting at Shiv Temple premises in Basantapatti village under Rohania assembly constituency here on Thursday.

"Our manifesto will definitely improve the lives of crores of people of India in the coming times. The way people are suffering today from inflation, unemployment and corruption is not hidden from anyone. Today, it is becoming difficult for a middle class family to manage children's fees, medicine, social relations, taking care of the family and arranging food for two times a day", he said, adding that the people are fed up with the wrong' economic policies of the current Modi government.

Calling upon the participants to support him, he said the victory of INDIA Bloc will, once again, bring happiness in people's life and relief from the misrule of the last 10 years. On



the occasion Akhikesh Singh Chauhan, Fateh Bahadur Chauhan, Rishi Narayan Chauhan, Mukesh Chauhan, Kanhaiya Chauhan, Pappu Chauhan and many others

were present. Earlier in the morning, Aiav Rai did public relations in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus. Starting his campaigning from the BHU main gate, he met the morning walkers and others who had come for exercise in its various sports grounds. While walking through Lanka Gate, Medical Square, Madhuban, Bharat Kala Bhawan to the Shri Vishwanath Temple located in university premises, Rai also visited various sports grounds and met people, including shopkeepers, near the temple complex. The Congress candidate also offered the prayers at the temple. During his contact with the groups of morning walkers, Rai spoke about various problems of BHU, including continuous increase in tuition and hostel fees, incidents of violence against girl students of BHU etc and drew their attention towards various problems related to women's safety, continuous misuse of campus for political activities, cut in funds etc. He assured the people that in the coming days when the new government is formed, all these problems will be resolved as soon as possible. He also met senior Samaiwadi Party (SP) leaders, Bahadur Yadav, Subedar Singh and others. On the occasion the members of NSUI and BHU unit of Congress welcomed Rai with garlands and presenting angavastram and mementos. City Congress president Raghavendra Choubey, Prof Kshemendramani Tripathi, Dr Awadhesh Singh, Sanjeev Singh, Shardul Choubey, Rana Rohit Singh, Vikas Singh, Vaibhav Tripathi, Sushil Singh Bacha Babu, Ghanshyam Singh, Sunil Rai, Jitendra Singh, Dr Shailendra Singh, Vineet Choubey etc were prominently present.

## LS polls: Phase V turnout 62.2 per cent, says EC

The voter turnout in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls held on May 20 has now climbed to 62.2 per cent, the Election Commission (EC) said on Thursday with women outnumbering men.

According to an EC statement, 61.48 per cent of the registered male voters turned up at the polling stations as compared to 63 per cent of female electors. In phase 5, 49 seats across six states and two union territories went for polling where over 8.95 crore people, including 4.69 crore men, 4.26 crore women and 5409 third gender were eligible to vote.

The participation of women in voting was higher as compared to men in Bihar, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. The malefemale turnout gap was wide in Bihar and Jharkhand. While in Bihar, the male turnout was 52.42 per cent, the female turnout was 61.58 per cent.

Similarly, in Jharkhand, the male turnout was registered at 58.08 per cent, while the female turnout was 68.65 per cent. A maximum of 38.22 per cent of voters registered in the third

gender category turned out to

vote in West Bengal. The poll body noted that repolls at two polling stations in the Kandhamal parliamentary constituency in Odisha will be concluded on Thursday and the figures "may" change accordingly, once the data is

In the corresponding phase in the 2019 polls, the turnout was registered at 64.16 per cent when 51 seats across seven states went to polls.

updated for post-repoll.

According to the Election Commission, the voter turnout in the fourth phase stood at 69.16 per cent, 3.65 percentage points higher than the corresponding phase in the 2019 parliamentary elections.

The voter turnout figure for

the third phase of polling in the Lok Sabha elections was 65.68 per cent. In the third phase of the 2019 elections, the turnout was 68.4 per cent.

In the second phase of the 2024 elections, the turnout was recorded at 66.71 per cent as against 69.64 per cent in the second phase of the 2019 polls. In the first phase of the ongoing general elections, a 66.14 per cent turnout was recorded. In the 2019 polls, the turnout in the first phase was 69.43 per

The poll panel has said the final turnout will only be available after the results, with the counting of postal ballots and its addition to the total voting per-

## BJP again hits at INDIA Bloc over quota, appeasement politics

हार्दिद रेड्रूगता वंदन अभिनंदन

The BJP on Thursday here launched a fresh attack on the INDIA Bloc on the issue of reservation, accusing the Opposition grouping of indulging in appeasement politics, and said the people of the country will give them a fitting reply in the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP's charge came a day after West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said she will not accept a Calcutta High Court order that scrapped the OBC status of several classes granted in the state since 2010, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed leader Rahul Gandhi claimed the system is heavily aligned against lower castes and his party aims to fix this.

Latching on to their comments, senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "Appeasement is the dose and diet of parties like the Congress and the TMC. Without this, they cannot survive even a day."

The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister alleged after coming at the helm in West Bengal, Banerjee pursued vote bank politics and gave OBC certificates to a number of castes and the beneficiaries Muslims, included Bangladeshis and Rohingyas. "The Calcutta High Court's

decision in the matter that Constitution. came on Wednesday was a

tight slap on Banerjee's vote bank politics," he told a press conference at the party headquarters here. The Calcutta High Court on

Wednesday struck down as illegal the OBC status of several classes in West Bengal granted since 2010. The court observed that the inclusion of 77 classes of Muslims in the list was to "treat them as vote Reacting sharply, Banerjee asserted she "will not accept" the order and challenge it in a higher court. Chouhan slammed the West Bengal chief minister for her refusal to accept the High Court's order and termed her

remarks an insult to the What does Mamata Banerjee think of herself? Is she above the Constitution? This is the height of arrogance and anarchy," he charged and said the TMC chief has no right to continue holding the post of chief minister who provided reservation on the basis of religion in violation of the Constitution.

On Rahul Gandhi's statement, Chouhan asserted the BJP has been saying for several years that the Congress is anti-poor, anti-Dalit, antitribal and anti-backward classes. "Rahul Gandhi accepted this truth yester-

Áddressing an event in Panchkula on Wednesday, Rahul Gandhi had said the system is heavily aligned against lower castes and that he knows the system from inside as his grandmother and father were prime ministers and later he used to visit the PM's house when Manmohan Singh lived there. The Congress leader claimed that the country's 90 per cent population including the Dalits, OBCs, tribal communities and the minorities does not have representation in

the country's narrative and

power structure, and said his

party aims to ensure their

participation in the country's

progress. The Congress has always snatched away the rights of the Dalits, OBCs and tribals. The Congress-ruled states including Andhra Pradesh

ted the crime and sin of robbing the rights of OBC by providing reservation to minorities from their shares," Chouhan charged.

He alleged that while the Congress did not give Constitutional status to the OBC Commission for about 40 years, its government committed the "sin" of ending the reservation for Dalits, OBCs and tribals in the educational institutions like the Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh and Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi.

'Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar once said at Rally in Punjab that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did not do anything for Dalits and backwards. Such has been the mindset of the Congress since the beginning," Chouhan charged

The BJP leader alleged that the Congress and other constituents of the INDIA bloc have been engaged in taking away the rights of Dalits, backwards and tribals while pursuing politics of appeasement. "The BJP will not allow this conspiracy to go on. People are seeing the truth as the INDI alliance's policy of appeasement stands exposed. Now people will reply to it. The BJP will form its government by winning 370 seats on its won and with the NDA getting more than 400 seats (in the Lok Sabha polls)," he

## Return immediately or face my wrath, Deve Gowda issues warning to Revanna

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

anata Dal Secular (JDS) supremo H D Deve Gowda on Thursday issued a stern warning to his grandson Prajwal Revanna, asking him to return to India, surrender to the police or face his wrath. He also said he should be given the harshest punishment if the accusations against him turn out to be true.

The former Prime Minister took to X (formerly Twitter) and posted a letter to Prajwal and captioned it saying "I have issued a warning to @iPrajwalRevanna to return immediately from wherever he is and subject himself to the Praiwal Revanna should be legal process. He should not test my patience any further." Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is processing a request of the Karnataka government seeking cancellation of the diplomatic passport of sus-pended Janata Dal (Secular) MP Revanna, who is accused of sexually harassing several

Karnataka government seeking revocation of Revanna's diplomatic passport.

As regards, Deve Gowda's warning, in a two-page letter dated May 23 with the title 'My Warning To Prajwal Revanna', he said "I spoke to the media about Prajwal Revanna on May 18, when I was headed to the temple to offer pooja (prayers). It took me some time to recover from the shock and pain he (Revanna) has inflicted on me, my entire family, my colleagues, friends and party workers".

Deve Gowda further went on to say he was of the view that subject to the 'harshest of former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy also advocated his stance on the matter.

He said people (reacting to the Prajwal Revanna sex scandal) have used the 'harshest of words' against him and his family in the last few weeks. In the open letter, the 91-year-Official sources said the MEA old politician said he asserted

alleged activities of his grandson, who is also the sitting MP

of Hassan. Deve Gowda further warned Prajwal to return if the latter has any respect towards his grandfather. He further wrote, can do only one thing. I can issue a stern warning to Prajwal and ask him to return from wherever he is and surrender before the police. He should subject himself to the legal process. This is not an appeal that I am making, it is a warning that I am issuing." Deve Gowda also told Prajwal that not listening to family members will lead to total isolation. "If he does not heed to this warning, he will have to face my anger and anger of all punishments', and that his his family members. The law tions against him, but not listening to the family will ensure his total isolation. If he has any respect left for me, he has to return immediately," he

> Revanna is at the centre of a sexual abuse case and the Hassan MP is said to have left India late last month, a day

after voting for the Lok Sabha elections took place in his constituency.

Γhe MEA has received a letter from the Karnataka government for cancellation of diplomatic passport in respect of MP Prajwal Revanna. This is being processed," a source

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said the Centre has not responded to the request for cancellation of Revanna's diplomatic passport on the basis of an arrest warrant issued against the JD(S) leader. A Special Court for Elected

Representatives issued an arrest warrant on Saturday against Prajwal following an application moved by the SIT. Earlier this month, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Revanna travelled to Germany on a diplomatic passport and did not seek political clearance for the trip. "No political clearance was either sought from or issued by MEA in respect of the travel of the said MP to Germany," Jaiswal had said.

## Madhya Pradesh sees record surge in spiritual tourism

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The inauguration of the Ram ■ Mandir in Ayodhya earlier this year is being hailed as a pivotal moment in religious tourism, yet Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India, is already experiencing a significant surge in the sector with five out of the top ten most visited tourist destinations being spiritual sites. These include Ujjain, Maihar, Chitrakoot, Omkareshwar, and Salkanpur, reflecting the state's rising popularity of spiritual

This trend has contributed to a record-breaking tourist footfall of 11.21 crore, showcasing substantial growth compared to 2022's 3.41 crore visitors.

Ujjain, renowned as one of the most popular tourist destination in the State, attracting over 5.28 crore spiritual seekers and tourists. It is revered as the abode of Lord Shiva and is home to the famous Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga temple, a major pilgrimage site for Shaivites. Ujjain also hosts the Kumbh Mela, one of the largest



attracting millions of devotees and tourists every few years. The city's spiritual ambiance, ancient temples, and religious festivals make it a significant destination for spiritual tourism in Madhya Pradesh, contributing to the state's cultural heritage and tourism sector.

Jumber of foo surpassed pre-Covid levels but also positioned Madhya Pradesh as a leading tourist destination in India. Given that Ujjain among five religious sites have emerged as the top attraction, drawing over 5.28 crore pilgrims and tourists. "This showcases the state's growing prominence in reli-

Shukla, Principal Secretary of State Tourism and Culture on the occasion of Madhya Pradesh's Tourism Day said here. Ujjain was followed closely by Maihar, with 16,849,000 tourists, as per the State Government data. Likewise, Indore, known for its historical delights, welcomed over 10 million tourists, making it a prominent destination in the state. Chitrakoot attracted 9,001,126 tourists seeking solace and spiritual enlighten-

Omkareshwar witnessed a considerable footfall of 3,475,000 tourists whereas Jabalpur saw

2,669,869 tourists exploring its myriad attractions. Salkanpur recorded 2,565,000

tourists, Narmadapuram,

encompassing Pachmarhi, Madhai, Narmadapuram, and Adamgarh, 2,283,837 tourists and Raisen, boasting attractions like Bhimbetka, Sanchi, and Bhojpur, welcomed 2,137,058 tourists.Bhopal, the capital city known for its string of lakes, attracted 1,950,965 footfalls. According to the State Government, while 2022 recorded 34,138,757 tourists,

2021 saw 25,595,668 tourists, and 2020 welcomed 21,400,693 tourists. According to reports, religious

tourism in India is moving North, projecting a CAGR of 2030. Post COVID, religious inclination of Indians has become stronger. Industry reports also indicate a significant rise in overnight journeys for pilgrimage & 14% rise in donations in the year 2021-2022, according to Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services as per

**Indian Naval ships** 

## Kaamya becomes youngest Indian to scale Mount Everest BJP for not fulfiling



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan successfully climbed Mount Everest, becoming the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the world's highest peak from the Nepal side, the Indian Navy said on Thursday. The daughter of a naval officer, Kaamya is a class 12 student at Navy Children School,

Mumbai. Kaamya and her father Commander S Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest (8,849 m) on May 20, according to a statement issued by a Navy spokesperson. "After this feat, she has become the second youngest girl in the world, and the youngest Indian mountaineer to summit the world's highest peak from the Nepal side," the Kaamya the very best in her

statement said.

With this, Kaamya has completed six milestones in her mission to summit the highest peak of all seven continents and aims to climb Mount Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the '7summits challenge', the Navy said. The Indian Navy also shared her pictures in a post on X.

#IndianNavy congratulates Ms Kaamya Karthikeyan d/o Cdr S Karthikeyan on becoming the youngest #Indian & the second youngest girl in the world to summit Mt Everest from the Nepal side. "Kaamya has exhibited immense courage & fortitude in summiting the highest peaks in six of the seven continents," it said.

"#IndianNavy wishes young

aspiration to summit the highest peaks of all seven continents, becoming the youngest girl to do so. #7SummitsChallenge," it added. Over the decades, Everest has drawn mountaineers, young and old, from across the world.

Lauding her feat, Tata Steel A d v e n t u r e Foundation(TSAF)chairman Chanakya Chaudhary said in a statement "we are incredibly proud of Kaamya Karthikeyan's extraordinary achievement of summiting Mt. Everest at such a young age. Her journey is a testament to the spirit of perseverance, meticulous preparation, and unwavering determination." The TSAF supported her endeavour.

Kaamya was a recipient of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar.

## Congress attacks farmers' promises



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The Congress on Thursday hit out at the BJP for not fulfilling the promises made to farmers' organisations and asserted that an INDIA bloc government will implement all its guarantees to the tillers, including the legal guarantee of

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh noted that elections have been held in 428 constituencies and now polling on 115 seats, including those in Punjab and Haryana, are left. In a video statement on X, he said the farmers' movement has been going on in Haryana and Punjab since five years and though the government took back the "three black farm laws", it has "not fulfilled the promises" it made to farmer organisations

"For the last five years, the Modi government has continuously ignored the farmers' movement of Haryana, Punjab

and Uttar Pradesh. Atrocities were committed against the farmers. Now they are talking about snatching the MSP from the farmers of Punjab and Haryana for burning stubble," Ramesh said and asserted that the Congress strongly opposes this policy.

"Farmer justice will be the top priority for the incoming INDIA Janbandhan government," he said in a post in Hindi along with the video statement.Ramesh said the Congress has given five concrete guarantees for the farmers in its Nyay Patra, including legal guarantee of MSP, based on the Swaminathan formula, and a permanent commission to effectively implement loan waiver plans.

The party has also given the guarantee for direct transfer of insurance payment within 30 days of crop loss, a proper import-export policy and removal of GST from everything necessary for farming, he

## ICG organises pollution response seminar, mock drill



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organised a 'Pollution Response Seminar and Mock Drill' at the Headquarters Coast Guard District No. 8 (West Bengal) in Haldia on May 22-23, defence ministry said here on

Thursday.
Giving details, officials said the event gathered key stakeholders from various agencies, along with oil handling agencies, to address the critical challenges of combating oil spills at sea.Participants engaged in a table-top exercise, collaborating on simulated scenarios

gy among all involved parties. tate-of-the-art pollution response equipment was demonstrated, providing participants with practical experience to further improve their readiness for environmental crises. Commander of

capabilities and foster syner-

Headquarters Coast Guard District No. 8 (West Bengal) emphasised the importance of synergy and effective implementation of the National
Oil Spill Disaster
Contingency Plan. He highlighted the collective responsibility to protect marine resources and reaffirmed the ICG's commitment to ensuring safer seas and cleaner to enhance their response

### arrive in Manila for deployment in **South China Sea** PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

**NEW DELHI** 

Indian naval ships Delhi, Shakti and Kiltan visited Manila, Philippines as part of operational deployment of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to South China Sea. The visit demonstrated India's strong ties with Philippines and its commitment to further deepen the partnership, navy said

here on Thursday.
The port call included Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) between the Indian Navy and personnel of Philippines Navy, sports fixtures, cross deck visits, cultural exchanges and collaborative community outreach pro-

grammes. Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and Commanding Officers of ships had an interaction with Rear Admiral Renato David, Commander Philippine Fleet (CPF), and Vice Admiral Rolando Lizor Punzalan Jr, Deputy Commandant for Operations, Philippine Coast Guard.

Dhankhar also held wide ranging discussions with the Flag Officer in Command (FOIC), Vice Admiral Toribio Dulinayan Adaci JT, on the avenues for collaboration, matters of mutual interest and the current security situation in the region and beyond.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **EC** stirs a bit

The poll panel's latest directive to parties for a honest fight is a classic case of too little, too late

ith the Lok Sabha elections approaching the final phases, the Election Commission (EC) has issued a stern directive to the Congress and the BJP against creating false narratives and making communal utterances. Interestingly, this directive comes after five of the seven poll phases are over. Also, the timing and impact of this intervention raise critical questions: Is the EC's directive aimed more at ensuring a free and fair election or at salvaging its image which has taken a dip? Though it is an independent, autonomous constitutional body, several events have raised doubts about its impartiality and functioning. There have been accusations of Government interference, from influencing the timing of elections to being lenient towards the BJP while being overly strict with the Opposition. Savour this: Since 2019, three Opposition parties registered 27 complaints against PM Modi but the EC took no action. A scrutiny of these complaints and the EC's response shows the poll body's 'reluctance' to act against



the Prime Minister. The Congress has accused the panel of being "super, super cautious" regarding plaints against Modi, following the EC's request to the BJP to respond to the allegations of Modi's divisive speech in Rajasthan. The EC also asked the Congress to address the BJP's complaints against Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. The EC's letters mark the first such action against a Prime Minister. But will any real action ever be taken?

According to the poll panel, approximately 425 major complaints, excluding those related to canvassing or requiring clarification, have been filed by various parties and candidates. Action has been taken or the mat-

ter resolved in 400 of these cases. Interestingly, in most cases, the punishment was so mild that it did not matter much; like abstaining from campaigning for two days, and so on. Now, with only two phases of polling left, the directive is not likely to achieve much since the electoral narrative has already been set, with party rhetoric having saturated media channels and influenced public opinion. The late issuance of this warning suggests only an attempt to curb last-minute escalations in divisive rhetoric. By waiting until the tail end of the election cycle, the EC has allowed political parties ample time to embed their narratives into the electorate's psyche, with an extra long rope for the ruling party. Besides, for such a warning to be effective, it needs to be backed by the possibility of tangible consequences. While the directive emphasises the need for a respectful and fact-based campaign, it lacks clear punitive measures for violations. Political parties might calculate that the benefits of inflammatory and polarising rhetoric outweigh the potential repercussions. To ensure future elections are fairer and more respectful of democratic principles, the EC should adopt a more proactive stance involving faster interventions and stricter penalties for violations. It can draw inspiration from its own history when TN Seshan first empowered the institution.



evotees at *Har Ki Pauri* on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, in Haridwar

# Child development as a fundamental right



In the pursuit of a more equitable society, the universalisation of early childhood development should be recognised as a fundamental right, not a gratuitous freebie

hat early childhood development (ECD) should be treated as a fundamental right rather than a gratuitous freebie is paramount for fostering an equitable society. The 2024 general elections offer a significant opportunity to advocate for the universalisation of ECD from birth to 18 years. Ensuring access to quality early education and care is crucial for the holistic development of children and the broader advancement of soci-

ECD as a Fundamental Right India's commitment to social welfare is enshrined in its Constitution. The Directive Principles of State Policy mandate the Government to secure adequate means of livelihood, equitable distribution of resources and special protection for children and vulnerable sections. Early childhood is a critical period for cognitive, emotional and social development. The National ECCE Policy 2013 underscores the importance of providing quality health, nutrition, early learning and protection for children under six. Recognising ECCE as a justiciable entitlement under the RTE Act would ensure that all children receive the foundational support necessary for their development. Challenges in Providing ECD

After 13 years of implementation of the RTE Act 2009, only 25.5 per cent of schools across the countrv are RTE compliant. 8.4 lakh teacher positions are vacant and there is a constant shift towards contractual teachers. 19 per cent of schools in India are estimated to have teacher vacancies and one school in seven is run by a single teacher. While the quality of education cannot be ensured without professionally qualified and motivated teachers, 44 per cent of all teachers across the country work without job contracts, many fail to receive social security benefits and all are pressured with non-academic work which is estimated to account for 20-25per cent of teachers' working hours. The average expenditure is 8,997 per annum for preprimary, 9,913 for secondary and 13,845 for higher secondary. Costs are significantly higher in



Additionally, the issues regarding 0-3-year-old children remain at the bottom of the pyramid of rights and entitlements in the country. Issues such as being underweight, stunting and anaemia among children highlight the need for comprehensive early childhood programs that address both educational and nutritional needs.

As of 2018-19, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) had 30.1 per cent of Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) positions and 27.7 per cent of Supervisor positions vacant across the country. About 6.9 per cent of sanctioned positions for Anganwadi workers (AWWs) and 7.6 per cent of sanctioned positions for Anganwadi helpers (AWHs) were also vacant. This is a grave concern for achieving universalisation of childcare services in the country as well as improved governance at the project level. Despite the mention of establishing creches for promoting women workers and childcare services for their children vide several legislations,[6] the



THE DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY MANDATE THE GOVERNMENT TO SECURE ADEQUATE MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD, **EQUITABLE** DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AND SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR

CHILDREN AND **VULNERABLE** 

number of crèches came down to a drastic 3400 creches with only 84000 beneficiaries by 2023. The promise of crèche for promoting women workers is a welcome in political parties' agendas, however without universalisation and adequate public provisioning of childcare services they may again leave behind the most marginalised children and serve only a selected few. A public manifesto collated by

four national-level networks working for children's rights spotlights the need for reiterating the constitutional provision to ensure rights, entitlements and the overall wellbeing of children. The manifesto calls for extending the Right to Education (RTE) Act to cover children from birth to 18 years, aligning with the internationally recognised definition of childhood. The manifesto further calls for drafting, implementing and

enforcing a national regulatory framework for private schools and ECCE centres to combat the increasing commercialisation and privatisation of education. This framework should regulate fees, ensure compliance with quality norms and address social segregation. The Government must take immediate steps to ensure that all private schools adhere to the conditions under which recognition is granted and that no unrecognised schools are allowed to operate.

The State must be held accountable for its enforcement to guarantee that all children receive quality education. Strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs) and community participation in education is vital for the successful execution of policies. educational Additionally, it is critical to strengthen the Anganwadi system. Critical positions such as AWWs and AWHs must never be left vacant. The capacities of Anganwadi cen-

enhanced. Way Ahead

Investing in ECD has significant long-term benefits. Studies indicate that quality early childhood programs yield a high return on investment, contributing to better health, education and economic outcomes. Children who receive adequate early care and education are more likely to succeed in school, secure better jobs and contribute positively to society. Therefore, ECD should be

tres and workers should also be

recognised as a fundamental right, not a discretionary freebie. Its universalisation must be backed by adequate funding and robust policies, to ensure equitable access to marginalised children. There is a clear roadmap for achieving this goal.

(The writer is a member of Alliance for Right to ECD; views are personal)

## Summer can be fun and learning for students



By engaging in innovative and educational activities, children can make the most of their summer break, ensuring both physical and intellectual growth

chool students look forward to the arrival of Summer vacations with a great deal of excitement. That period is also one of the happiest phases of a student's life. It also becomes imperative that parents recognise the worth of their children's time at this point. They start to worry about how they will ever let their child utilise his time wisely during those days. On the contrary, children are full of energy and anticipation in those months. However, it becomes troublesome for working parents if their kids are younger and highly energetic. Their daily scheduled activities go wild, making it harder for parents to engage their children in meaningful

Though summer vacation means different to everyone, the significance of summer learning should not be ignored. It is a vital component of children's physical as well as academic health. With just 60 days of summer vacation, every day a child does not participate in summer training represents a setback. Nevertheless, parents can engage their children in a variety of new and entertain-

Summer Vacation Courses The hot Indian summer can be the toughest time to endure for some people, especially kids. They can suffer severely if they stay unprepared to beat the heat. Parents should be cautious about the meals their children eat during these hot days so that no additional stress is placed on their digestive systems. In order to avoid digestive and dehydration issues, parents can add watermelon, curd, cucumber, coconut water and seasonal vegetables to their children's meal plans.

Children must begin learning about the contemporary technological environment in which they live. Therefore, parents can engage their kids with engaging and innovative learning products. Trends are

AI and ML course for kids: There are various courses online to introduce children

Machine Learning. Any career option kids would choose, this skillsets will be must. Students should opt for courses which consist of Python Coding, Generative-AI prompt writing and Industry Projects like Website & App Building. Kids and parents should not get afraid of new technologies rather take these as an opportunity to outsmart in the future job market. Learning AI tools will upgrade the performance quality of culturally active students also. Learning AI-ML will prepare the students for upcoming innovation and robotics related competitions too. The best outcome will be grabbing an online internship. It will help the kids become more confident for the future. technology, Autonomous Car Summer specialised Innovation Based Online Experiments: Students and Parents should look for online innovation based experiments

or projects which will not

only provide a project kit but

also consist of live sessions to

understand the science and

technology of the project.

Students should be able to

represent the projects in

Artificial Intelligence and

with futuristic skillset like schools too. Some attractive projects could be Laser Home Security System, Rain Water Detection and automatic cloth retrieval machine, Automatic Smart Roof, Parking Occupancy Indicator, Smart Blind Stick etc.

Apart from the ones mentioned above, there are many other innovative activities which can be explored by the parents to increase their children's confidence and interest during summer holidays. Moreover, learning is an endless process. School kids need to gain knowledge about new things every day that are useful for their career and educational growth. Some of the most important knowledge for kids during the vacation will be sustainability, space technology, Electric Vehicle technology, Flying Taxi system and drone technology etc. Thus, during the next summer vacation, students may simply PLAY. LEARN. EAT. REPEAT by contemplating these mentioned methods of utilising perfect and productive holidays.

(The writer is advisor innovatos and director at YuviPep; views are personal)

### **BUDGET CLIMBDOWN CONCERN**

Madam — Apropos the news story "Do not withdraw capital support for oil PSUs," published on 23 May, this is my response. As a regular newspaper reader, the Government's recent decision to halve the equity infusion for three major public sector oil companies—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)—is concerning. Initially, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a substantial Rs 30,000 crore for these companies to aid their transition to green energy and achieve net-zero emissions. However, this amount was slashed to Rs 15,000 crore, with no clear explanation pro-

Despite impressive profit margins, companies in the capital-intensive energy sector require substantial investments to transition to green energy. Past Government directives led to financial losses and predictable policy support is crucial to offset these losses and ensure their contribution to India's green energy transition and economic stability.

Khirabdi Tanya | Noida

#### **ELECTION BATTLE IN THE LAST LAP**

Madam — Apropos the news story "Epic election battle enters decisive phase," published on 23 May, this is my response. With only ten days left in India's intense twomonth election season, the focus sharpens on Uttar Pradesh, a critical battleground for the ruling BJP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have been tirelessly campaigning, emphasising law and order and cultural nationalism. Meanwhile, opposition leaders, notably Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, strive to break the BJP's domi-

Despite Modi's polarising campaign, Yogi's steadfast leadership and achievements, including the Ram temple at Ayodhya, galvanise the BJP's base. The outcome in Uttar Pradesh, with its pivotal 80 seats, will significantly influence the national result. Both

### **Israel honours Indian caregivers**

THE EDITO



propos the news story "Israel honours Kerala caregivers," published on 22 May, this is my response. The celebration of Israel's National Day in India underscored the deep bonds between the two nations, especially in light of recent tragic events. Naor Gilon, Israel's Ambassador to India, expressed profound gratitude for India's unwavering support since the Hamas attacks on October 7. This solidarity reflects

Modi and Yogi's efforts will be crucial in determining the BJP's success, potentially solidifying their path to victory on June

Preeti Bajaj | Chandigarh

#### **RAISI'S OPPRESSIVE REGIME**

Madam — Apropos the editorial "Iran at Crossroads," published on May 22, this is my response. The late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner, has long been regarded as a prospective successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He frequently criticised America and Israel and was on Washington's tight blacklist for serious human rights breaches. He was very vocal about growing Iran's nuclear power, despite US sanctions. Raisi held various key posts before becoming President of Iran in 2021 and many scandals have surrounded him. Specifically, he was accused of forcefully suppressing movements and opponents. Raisi was one of the Iranian politicians at whose behest two of the harshest acts of repression took place. Iran enacted regulations regulating women's dress and behaviour after Raisi

the extraordinary relationship between Indians and Jews. Gilon honoured two brave Keralites, Meera and Sabitha, who risked their lives to save an elderly couple during the attack and paid tribute to Romi, a young Israeli child of Indian descent, for her bravery amidst the tragedy.

The event, graced by Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, highlighted the resilience and resolve of the Israeli people despite the pain inflicted by terrorism. Kwatra emphasised India's zero-tolerance stance on terrorism, aligning with Israel's fight against such threats. The national anthems of both countries played, symbolising unity, while a special message from President Isaac Herzog of Israel reinforced the call for the release of the 128 hostages. The Christian Alliance and Action for Social Action in Kerala also voiced strong support for Israel, praying for the hostages' safe return.

Jitu Majumdar | Kolkata

was elected president. Iran's hijab law has tightened.

In September 2022, Iran witnessed significant protests after Mahsa Amini's death in custody for violating dress laws, marking the largest unrest since the 1979 Revolution. The demonstrations resulted in numerous casualties. Ebrahim Raisi, known for his harsh stance on exiled opposition and human rights groups, was linked to the mass killings of Marxists and leftists in 1988 while serving as Tehran's Revolutionary Court deputy prosecutor. Amnesty International reported the existence of 'Death Committees' in Iran, comprising religious judges, prosecutors and intelligence officers. These committees arbitrarily sentenced thousands of inmates to death. Amnesty reports that these committees have sentenced over 5,000 people to death. It was only after the mass hanging of 1988 that Raisi was called 'The Butcher of Tehran?

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

### **NEW CHALLENGES FOR INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

The global geopolitical landscape grows more complex with Russia-China ties



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

•he gruelling Indian elections, one of the largest democratic exercises in the world will be over in a week or so. A hectic flurry of pending policy decisions is likely to start immediately. If the current party comes back, a hundred days action-packed agenda would be rolled out by most major Government departments, going by PM Modi's Stated objective of not wasting a minute after polls are over. However, the geo-political space, which existed when the elections were declared, has become far more complex refusing to wind down any time

To be fair some of the changes are driven by elections happening all across the globe during 2024, including in key European Union and US. This will ensure that almost all multilateral forums, where these key constituents and India are major contributors, would be subject to pressures of domestic politics and issues. Meanwhile, India's long-standing partner Russia, finished their election nearly a month back and upon reelection President Putin undertook his first State visit to China last week. Russia and China have emerged as the key UN Security Council permanent members, whose interests and policies are not likely to align with the US-led block any time soon.

The joint Statement released after President Putin's visit to China highlighted the importance of his visit to China. It was a message to the wider Western block of countries opposed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, coming at a time when the Chinese president had just come back after meeting every senior leader from the European Union, the French President and reaffirmed firm support from a couple of East European countries. The European Union and recently the US have expressed grave concerns



and taken some tariff measures regarding China's non-competitive trade practices, especially regarding State-subsidised cheap Electric vehicles flooding their markets. Apprehensions have been raised by Indian trade associations that the loss of the lucrative US market for Chinese Electric vehicles could lead to, these automotive products being dumped in India leading to a situation similar to Europe and the US. In this context Russia seems to have come out in full support of the Chinese automotive sector, perhaps also sending a strong message to Europe and the US. In the media Statement released during Mr Putin's State visit to China, he mentioned "Regarding bilateral industrial cooperation, we are pleased to witness the proactive expansion of Chinese automakers and household appliance manufacturers in the Russian market. As discussed during our talks and as the President said, we acknowledge the detrimental effect of any unlawful actions, sanctions, or restrictions. We wholeheartedly embrace collaboration with our Chinese counterparts.."

China has refrained from overtly criticising Russia over its war in Ukraine and has in the past been accused of supplying military equipment stealthily. Even though Ukraine found mention in both Statements by President Putin and President Xi Jinping, it was velvet-gloved, under larger international foreign policy issues and overall commentary on geo-political matters. On foreign policy matters Russian president's Statement read "We are working together to create a fairer and more democratic multipolar world order based on the central role of the UN and its Security Council, international law, cultural and civilizational diversity, as well as a calibrated balance of interests of all members of the international community. We believe that the creation of such alliances is extremely harmful and counterproductive." Reforming multilateral institutions, especially the UN and a permanent membership has been a long-term foreign policy goal for PM Modi. In the wake of geopolitics, the new Government will have its task cut out on foreign policy.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

# Elder abuse is far more rampant than assumed



Despite respect for the elderly, many seniors face abuse from family members. This hidden crisis demands urgent action to protect their dignity and wellbeing



he culture in India over the past few decades has significantly transformed. As the 21st century unfolded with developments and advancements in science, technology, communication etc. the values upon which cohesion and amicable envi-ronment at family to global level can be built have been hit hard. The world has never been wealthier or possessed greater knowledge and technological prowess than it does today but sadly, inequality, poverty, food insecurity, violence, exploitation and discrimination continue to escalate unchecked. Among the victims of exploitation are the elderly population across the globe. And this issue becomes more worrisome for India where the culture of respect and care for the elderly has always existed and was deeply rooted. Given the cultural norms, the value system of filial piety and residence with the children, more often than not the elders in the family seem protected but on closer and deeper investigation, it is not so. The prevalence of elder abuse and neglect is evolving as a pressing and distressing hidden reality. As the person ages, his or her ability to engage in productive/ remunerative work gradually decreases, further their physical ailments, diseases etc demand care and specific needs to be looked after, this worsens and complicates the problem. As dependency grows and contribution declines, the elders in the family become subject to abuse, isolation, neglect, humiliation and harassment. The increased rate of urbanisation, transborder migration, inflation, technological advancement and the scale and extent of dependency add to the vulnerability of the elderly being exploited and neglected. In most cases, the perpetrators of abuse-physical, psychological, financial and verbal are their children whom they have raised by sacrificing their comforts and basic needs. According to the United Nations policy brief titled The Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Older-Persons (2020), the cases of elder abuse have grown worldwide during and after the pandemic, making it a worrisome issue. Life expectancy and life longevity have enor-

mously improved, given the advancements in diagnostic, medical and therapeutic science but for the ageing population support



THE PREVALENCE OF ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT IS EVOLVING AS A DISTRESSING HIDDEN REALITY IN INDIA. DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S CULTURAL NORMS OF RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE **ELDERLY** 

services from family, community and the Government are also cru-cially needed for dignified life and death. In the present-day neo-liberal world order, access to State-ofthe-art health and care facilities burns a big hole in the pocket of those wanting to access them. In addition, inflation, job crunch, financial crisis and the burgeoning household budget for education, basic needs, recreational, health care services etc are largely responsible for the elders and their needs being pushed to the periphery. Lack of timely care and preventive measures compounds their problem and vulnerability to the extent of extreme dependency. The State of complete/ partial dependency makes them subject to neglect, harassment and humiliation, abrogating their human rights. With intra and transborder migration of PRESSING AND young and productive age groups, he threat to survival, safety and well-being of the ageing population is rising across the globe including India. In the past few decades, the migration from rural to urban areas and from urban to distant lands has been considerably growing, the dearth of resources, harsh iving conditions and tough competition faced by the young population a reason although indirect, for elder abuse and in absence of dear ones (son/grandchildren), adjustment to new settings also drains the elder population mentally, financial-

> wellbeing and safety. Further, as senior citizens are seen as a liability, apart from the conflict over their care and responsibility, the conflict over inheritance and property share also traumatises them. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of elder abuse cases emerge from property-related matters. Thus physical, verbal, sexual, mental and emotional abuse can occur within these dynamics, causing immense

> ly and emotionally and risks their

perpetrators of violence and hard-ship against them are their family members, it could be their son/ daughter-in-law/ daughter/ son-in-law/niece/nephew/ grandchil-dren among other close relatives as a result of the instances of violence either don't come in the public domain or if at all it comes, it isn't given attention stating that it is a personal/family matter. Due to a lack of intervention, the concerns of the elderly being abused and harassed most often go unattended and cared for.

In most cases the abuse is subtle and persistent, so is perceived as normalised by victims and is difficult to label as abuse, however, badly harms the victims and their wellbeing. In some cases, senior citizens suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairments are unable to understand that they are being illtreated and abused or at times may find it difficult to effectively communicate the reality and seek intervention. The absence of timely and appropriate intervention discourages the victims from reporting their abuse. It is also out of fear of offending the family members/ agonising them that the victims are reluctant to report or discuss the instances of violence and humiliation meted out by them. There is also a stigma around abuse and the concern that society may perceive them to be weak/incapable and also that it might bring the family in a bad light is a reason that discourages senior citizens from speaking about their vulnerability and abuse. Moreover, the elderly either don't have awareness about the legal mechanism that they can take recourse to or do not have trust in the system and the law designed to protect them.

As most cases remain unreported, the exact figures associated with violence against elder persons cansuffering to the elderly. The saddennot be provided. This however can-

ing part about elder abuse is that the not be taken as a reason to escape and deny the grim reality. The issue indeed is important and the laws enacted in the recent past to save the elders from abuse and violence, the growing number of old age homes and the increase in property-related disputes where the elders in the family are either as plaintiff or the defendant are a testimony. Globally, a very good proportion of the population is growing older, India mirrors this trend too. According to the United Nations Population Fund's India Ageing Report 2023, the population above 60 years will double from 10.5 per cent or 14.9 crore (as of July 2022) to 20.8 per cent or 34.7 crore by 2050. There is a dire need to understand that this population is neither small nor are their issues insignificant that can be ignored. It is important to understand that the elderly population which isn't engaged in productive work were once the ones who shouldered responsibilities and looked after the needs of the children. They had been once a very potential workforce in nation-building. They are a reservoir of knowledge and experience and should be valued for their sacrifices, pains and contributions made during their lifetime. As reasons are multiple behind elder abuse so are the ramifications, it is therefore important to have solutions at different levels ranging from sensitising the society at large to spreading awareness among elders, formulating policies, emboldening social security measures to robust monitoring and judicial mechanism to deal with the perpetrators of violence. Concrete measures need to be taken so that elder abuse, albeit hidden, is not perceived as normalised. (The writer is Assistant Professor,

Political Science ,Sri Guru Ğobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi; views are personal)

## Political turncoats being turned down by voters

There is a concerning pattern of political leaders forsaking their party affiliations in pursuit of personal gain, but voters are giving them a run for their money

ndia, once a beacon of guidance in global affairs Lencompassing Statecraft, religion and politics, now confronts a disheartening reality. Presently, its political landscape appears adrift and devoid of purpose. Those in positions of authority seem driven solely by personal gratification. The completion of the fifth phase of the 2024 general elections has stirred heightened activity among political factions. Both ruling and opposition parties fervently urge the public to cast their votes in their favour. As the electoral process unfolds, leaders assess their prospects of triumph or defeat, often shiftties. Moreover, other politi-



**VINOD TAKIAWALA** 

defectors into their ranks but also offer them electoral tickets, even at the expense of their loyalists.

The phenomenon of leaders defecting from one party to another is not new. Reflecting on historical trends, in the 1960s, approximately 30 per cent of parties witnessed leadership ing allegiances between par- changes. However, public sentiment, termed Janata

thwarting 31 per cent of defectors in 1977 and 85 per cent in 2019. Examining the success rates of partyswitching leaders, in the 1960s, around 30 per cent of parties with new leadership secured victories. Contrastingly, in the 2019 elections, the success rate plummeted to less than 15 per cent. A recent example is Soren from Seema Jharkhand, a three-time MLA and sister-in-law of former Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who departed from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on March 19. Similarly, Congress MP Geeta Koda from Jharkhand also crossed over to the BJP cal entities not only welcome Janardan,' proved decisive, and secured a ticket for the

Singhbhum constituency. The trend continues with leaders like Brijendra Singh and Rahul Kaswa, former BJP MPs now contesting under the Congress banner and Ritesh Pandey, previously a BSP MP, a BJP candidate. Afzal Ansari, once aligned with the BSP, is now a candidate for the Samajwadi Party, while Bibi Patil and Sangita Azad, both former BSP MPs, are now BJP candidates. Analysts attribute these defections to various factors such as the denial of tickets or perceived better prospects in another party. However, the prognosis for such defectors appears bleak as data analysis from the Trivedi Center for Political Data at Ashoka University indicates a dwin-



below 15 per cent in the 2019 elections from around 30 per cent in the 1960s.

switchers, constituting 2.4 per cent of the total candidates. However, only 29 In the 2019 Lok Sabha elec- emerged victorious, marking tions, out of over 8,000 can- a success rate of 14.9 per

cent, significantly lower than previous years. The peak year for party-switching was 1977, post-Emergency, when disparate political forces united against Indira Gandhi, resulting in a success rate of 68.9 per cent for defectors. Conversely, the subsequent election saw this rate decline sharply. The question of which party, BJP or Congress, better accommodates defectors remains a subject of debate.

In 1984, following Indira Gandhi's assassination, sympathy propelled the Congress, leading to a remarkable success rate of 81.3 per cent for defectors. Conversely, the BJP, contesting its inaugural Lok Sabha elections in 1984, saw no success among its 62

However, subsequent years witnessed shifts in these figures. In 2019, 5.3 per cent of BJP candidates were defectors, with a success rate of 56.5 per cent, whereas the Congress, with 9.5 per cent defectors, saw only 5 per cent success.

The future of defector leaders in the ongoing 2024 Lok Sabha elections remains uncertain until June 4th, when the Indian electorate bestows its verdict, symbolised by the "Vijayshree" crown. Until then, further speculation would be premature, necessitating patience from all stakehold-

(The writer is a columnist and a freelance journalist, views are personal)

## **Choose INDIA MPs in Delhi, says Cong**

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Tust days before the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rode the Delhi Metro on Thursday to connect with voters. Congress candidate from North East Delhi, Kanhaiya Kumar, shared photos of Rahul interacting and posing with passengers. En route to a rally in Mangolpuri with Kumar on the last day of campaigning, Rahul engaged with commuters. Delhi will vote on

May 25 under Phase VI.
Speaking at an election meeting at the DDA ground, GTB Nagar, Dilshad Garden in northeast Delhi, Rahul said the BJP always wanted to "tear and throw away" the Constitution, and asserted that the Lok Sabha elections this time is a

fight to safeguard it. Thursday was the last day of campaigning for the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. This is Rahul's second rally in Delhi where he notably avoided mentioning Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, despite their alliance with

Congress in the region.
The Congress has fielded former JNU Student Union president Kanhaiya Kumar, who is locked in a fierce contest against BJP's Manoj Tiwari for the Northeast Delhi Lok Sabha seat.

Earlier in the day, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday said these elections are very important to save democracy and the Constitution, as she urged the people in the national Capital to help INDIA Bloc candidates

win on all seven seats. In a video statement shared by the Congress on X, Sonia asserted, "This is a very important election. This election is an election to save

democracy Constitution of the country. This election is being fought on issues like unemployment, inflation and attack on constitutional institutions. You have to play your part in this fight."

Speaking at the election meeting, Rahul said these people have always wanted to tear and throw it (Constitution) away. "They never accepted neither the Indian Constitution nor the Indian flag. In this election finally they have accepted that they want to change it," he

charged.
"In this election, the fight is for safeguarding the Indian Constitution. It is not simply a

book, our Constitution carries thousands of years of ideological heritage of Gandhi, Ambedkar and Nehru," the Congress leader said.

The former Congress president said the BJP has finally "accepted" in this election that it wanted to change the Constitution. However, the BJP will have to face the Opposition and crores of people of the country if it tries to change the Constitution, he said. "I want to tell them (BJP) you don't have the dare to do it (change Constitution). You will have to face us and the crores of people of India if you attempt it," Rahul added.

poll meeting in Mangolpuri in support of the Congress' North West Delhi Lok Sabha seat candidate Udit Raj, Rahul said though the BJP passed the women's reservation bill in Parliament with much pomp and show, later it said that it will be implemented after 10

"Met fellow passengers and enquired about their wellbeing -- I am happy to see that our initiative of building metro in Delhi has proved so convenient for public transportation," the former Congress president said in a post on X in Hindi. He also shared pictures of him interacting and clicking pictures with passengers in the



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party leader and INDIA Bloc Lok Sabha candidate from North East Delhi constituency Kanhaiya Kumar during a public meeting at Dilshad Garden in New Delhi on Thursday Photo by: Ranian Dimri/Pioneer

Speaking at the poll meeting, Rahul said there is an ideology behind this. Do you know... The RSS does not enroll women? Women cannot enter

Arunachal human rights body takes cognisance of complaint over fake voter ID

deeply ingrained in their minds that women should be as second-class treated citizens," he alleged.

there (shakhas). This belief is The Congress leader also promised to increase the reservation of women in all government jobs if his party is voted to power.

## Odisha MLAs, MPs cannot meet CM, Government is outsourced: Nadda

PTI KARANJIA/ DHAMNAGAR

Alleging that the Odisha government has been "outsourced", BJP president JP Nadda on Thursday claimed the people's representatives like MLAs and MPs are unable to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The government in the state needs to be changed to get rid of this practice, Nadda said while addressing election rallies at Karanjia and Dhamra.

The Odisha administration has been outsourced. There is no son or daughter of Odisha left who can run the administration here. Who is stopping the MPs and MLAs of Odisha from reaching the seat of Chief Minister?" he said at a public meeting in Karanjia.

Though Nadda did not name anyone, he was apparently referring to bureaucratturned-BJD leader VK Pandian, a close associate of the chief minister.

The BJP has been calling him an "outsider" in Odisha's politics. Pandian was born in Tamil Nadu, studied in Delhi and started his career as a Punjab cadre IAS officer, but shifted to Odisha cadre after marrying an Odiya.

the gathering that only a son or daughter of Odisha will

rule the state. Nadda also claimed government contracts are

supply of school dress, cycle

given to outsiders Even the contract for the

for children and food in school are given to outside contractors," he said in another rally at Dhamnagar. The BJP president also came down heavily on the BJD government over the missing keys of Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar (treasure chest) in Puri and said the new administration formed by the saffron party after the elections will find them out.

People have decided to give rest to Naveen Babu and engage BJP to work for them,"

daily, while many pieces of jewellery are kept in the inner chamber of the treasury.

We will inquire into irregularities over the Ratna Bhandar and properly manage the Lord's treasury...

The Ratna Bhandar, located Urging the people to vote for the BJP, Nadda said he assures in the basement of the 12th-century shrine, has two parts. The outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar stores ornaments used by the deities

While the keys to the outer chamber are available, the

missing.
While addressing the people in the tribal hinterland of the eastern region, Nadda said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has enhanced the status of the "adivasis" by making a daughter of Odisha's soil and a tribal woman the President of India. He also mentioned several

keys to the inner chamber are

schemes of the central government for the welfare of Nadda said how the Modi government brought about 25

crore of people out of the below poverty line (BPL). Attacking the Congress and the INDIA bloc, the BJP president termed them as a group of parties which have come together to promote

their ideas of dynastic politics and appeasement. "Modi ji will protect your reservation rights. INDI Alliance wants to snatch your reservation and give it to their vote bank. BJP will save you from this," he said.

#### **PTI** ■ ITANAGAR (DEO) and the electoral

The Arunachal Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (APSHRC) has taken cognizance of a complaint filed by a woman against election officers in Changlang district for their alleged inaction over "forged" voter ID of a person. The woman had lodged the complaint to the Election Commission in June last year, alleging that the Changlang district electoral officer

registration officer (ERO) did not take action against the person who was accused of fraudulently obtaining a fake voter identity card". The accused had filed his

nomination for the B o r d u m s a - D i y u n constituency in the assembly elections in March this year but his bid was rejected. "The Arunachal Pradesh State

Human Rights Commission deems it very serious that the ERO of

Bordumsa-Diyun Changlang district did not make a decision on the complaint despite the hearing on August 23, 2023, and the DEO, Changlang district, did not take any decision in the appeal case "This allowed a person against whom complaints of cheating and forgery regarding his voter ID are pending to continue as a

and

nomination," said an order

voter

submit a

issued by APSHRC member Bamang Tago on Wednesday. The APSHRC has directed the ERO of Bordumsa-Diyun and the DEO to submit a "detailed reply to the complaint and the entire proceedings of the hearings held on August 23, 2023, by the ERO and the appeal heard by the DEO on February 15 this year". They must also explain why

the commission should not recommend an appropriate inquiry against them within

15 days, it said. The complainant claimed that the accused was residing in Arunachal Pradesh without obtaining the required Inner Line Permit

(ILP), violating the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873. According to her, the person fraudulently obtained the voter ID in 2022 after

moving to the Diyun — Bordumsa constituency, without providing proof of

## Will industrialise Jaunpur so that youth do not have to migrate: BJP candidate

 $B^{JP\; candidate\; Kripashankar\; Singh\; says}_{his\; priority\; on\; winning\; the\; election}_{would\; be\; to\; set\; up\; industries\; in\; this}$ parliamentary constituency so that people don't have to leave home to find jobs like he once did.

For this, I will use my "Mumbai contacts", said Singh, who moved to the city in 1971 and was once considered a strong leader of the Maharashtra Congress and also served as a former Minister of State for Home in the state. "Jaunpur, with a population of about 46 lakh, is a district where most of the youth migrate to Mumbai and other cities every year in search of employment, Singh told PTI.

"Every sixth North Indian in Mumbai is from Jaunpur district who has gone there for employment," Singh said.

Singh started his political career with the Maharashtra Congress in the 1970s. About four years ago, he resigned from the Congress party and joined the BIP.

hardworking, yet there are no sugar and potato processing units here.



It is also very important to have a sugar mill in Jaunpur. About 900 acres of government land are available on the highway in the Shahganj assembly segment of the district where industries can be set up, yet so far it hasn't happened. But now it will be used, Singh asserted. Singh said he would use his "five-decadecontacts" in Maharashtra, which has a He said Jaunpur produces potatoes in thriving sugar industry, to set up potato huge quantities and its people are and sugar processing units along with a sugar mill in Jaunpur.

had to leave my home and go to Mumbai to earn a livelihood... Who would know better than me the pain of leaving home for a job or business? My wish is that in the coming three to four years, no youth of Jaunpur should have to go outside for work," Singh said. Within a month of winning the election,

work will start on the issue of generating employment for the youth of Jaunpur, he said, adding "An action plan for this is being prepared by a team of experts."
Asked about his chances of victory in the elections, Singh said, "I was born in Jaunpur and I grew up here. This is my home and my family members live here.

The debt I owe to the people and my family members here will be repaid with the help of Prime Minister Narendra

He also said that the people of Jaunpur are very happy with the work done by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. This is why the people of Jaunpur have made up their minds to make Narendra Modi the prime minister for the third time and ensure that the BJP-led NDA gets "On December 1, 1971, at the age of 21, I more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha.

### INDIA Bloc talking about having 5 PMs in 5 years: Modi

**PTI** ■ MAHENDRAGARH (HARYANA)

 $P_{\text{Modi}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}} \\ \text{Claimed that the INDIA bloc}$ is talking about having five PMs over the next five years and said the fight over 'ghee' has broken out in the alliance, even before the cow has given milk.

Hours before campaigning for the sixth round of the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls came to an end, Modi at a rally in Haryana's Mahendragarh asserted that till he is alive, no one can snatch the reservation for Dalits and tribals.

In this election, "you only choose the country's PM but also decide the country's future", the prime minister told the gathering. "On one hand is your tried and tested 'sewak' Modi. Who is on the other side, one does not know," he said, targeting the INDIA bloc that has as its constituents opposition parties, including the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamool Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

The INDIA bloc is "extremely communal, casteist and nepotist", he said

## Saran violence: Lalu's daughter Rohini Acharya named in FIR

PTI ■ SARAN/PATNA

RJD president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya has been named in one of the FIRs registered in connection with "irregularities" during polling in Bihar's Saran Lok Sabha constituency and postpoll clashes leading to the One person was killed and two death of one person there earlier this week, officials said on Thursday.

Acharva was Mahagathbandhan candidate in Saran against BJP MP Rajiv

Pratap Rudy. The state

government state extended the suspension on internet services in the district by two more days till May 25, while the process to attach properties of the absconding accused was initiated, officials said.

others were injured in postpoll violence at Bada Telpa area in Saran on Tuesday morning. The police registered a total of four FIRs to probe into the alleged irregularities on May

20, the day of polling, and also the violence on Tuesday. Two persons have been so far arrested in this connection.

The police registered an FIR naming Acharya under various sections of the Representation of People Act, 1951, based on a complaint filed by Manoj Kumar, a representative of the BJP's Lok Sabha nominee from Saran.

In his complaint, Kumar alleged "Rohni Acharya, along with her seven supporters and 50 unidentified people



indulged in illegal/irregular practices in polling booth number 318 and 319 in Chapra assembly seat on May 20," said the statement.

official said.

accused. "The process to attach properties of absconding

The complaint has been Aman Samir said, "The converted into an FIR, an situation in Saran is completely The police also constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to nab the absconding

persons, who have failed to appear before the police, has also been initiated by the authorities concerned," the Saran Police said in a statement on Thursday.

Saran District Magistrate

situation in Saran is completely control. Security under personnel are keeping a strict vigil in the Bada Telpa area near Bhikhari Thakur Chowk following Tuesday's incident." As a precautionary measure, the government has extended the ban on internet services in the district by two more days

till May 25, he said. "The process to attach properties of absconding persons, who have failed to appear before the police, has

been initiated." Saran district SP Gaurav Mangla told PTI. He, however, refused to reveal the exact number of persons whose properties are being attached. Meanwhile, senior RJD leaders

on Wednesday met family members of Chandan Rai, who was shot dead in the post-poll violence, and handed them over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh. The RJD leaders also gave a cheque of Rs 2 lakh each to the family members of the two

injured persons.

#### while alleging that when the Congress was in power, it did not allow construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Claiming that the INDIA bloc is talking about having five PMs in five years, Modi

## Big guns missing in Maneka Gandhi's low decibel campaign

In Sultanpur, near high-profile Amethi, BJP's Maneka Gandhi appears to be fighting a lone battle to retain her parliamentary seat with few top leaders of her party canvassing for her and no opposition biggies campaigning against

her either. Sultanpur goes to polls on May 25 and Thursday is the last day of campaigning. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed a public meeting in support of Maneka Gandhi in Qazipur on Wednesday. Her son Varun Gandhi, who has been benched by the BJP in this Lok Sabha election, is expected to join her for campaigning on Thursday.

Her nephew Rahul Gandhi and niece Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have visited Uttar Pradesh multiple times to canvass for INDIA bloc candidates but have not

campaigned against her. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati campaigned in Sultanpur in support of her party's candidate Udraj Verma, an OBC, on Wednesday and attacked both the BJP and the Congress. Despite little help from the BJP's big guns, Maneka Gandhi is confident of steering her party to victory in Sultanpur, which



was represented by Varun Gandhi before 2019. In an interview with PTI, the sitting Sultanpur MP asserted that her victory margin this time will be bigger than last

In the 2019 general elections, Maneka Gandhi had won the Sultanpur seat by a margin of 14,000 seats.

The BJP is confident of gaining around 2 lakh votes of the fishermen community in Sultanpur with their leader and Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad holding a ministerial berth in the Uttar Pradesh cabinet.

Maneka Gandhi said neither the Ram temple nor the denial of a ticket to her son people are more concerned about their problems and their MP's response to their concerns. She said the people of her constituency are

happy about the opening of the Ram temple in Ayodhya but "it is not an issue in the polls here". "I don't look at the people coming to me with their needs on the lines of caste or religion. Everybody in the constituency

belongs to me and I hold the responsibility of their better future," the eight-time Lok Sabha MP said. Asked about the BJP's call to wipe out the Nehru-Gandhi family from Rae Bareli, the 67-year-old Sultanpur MP said, "I have no comments to make... I am concerned

and the people here." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is in the frav from Rae Bareli. BJP district president R K Verma said the

about the problems of my constituency

people here have a positive response to the "Modi-Yogi" combination. Toilets have been built for people and they have received houses and free foodgrains under different government schemes, he said. "Maneka ji helps whosoever comes to her for assistance irrespective of one's caste

or religion," he said.

## Bengal: Pangs of deprivation among tribals of Bankura as political parties vie for their favour

 $\begin{array}{cccc} A & \text{n indomitable spirit of} \\ A & \text{struggle seems to be the} \\ \text{source of sustenance for} \end{array}$ residents of the Santhal villages of Ranibandh in Bankura, where pangs of deprivation of access to government welfare schemes like Awas, Lakshmir Bhandar or MGNREGA keep their lives on the edge.

Although infrastructure developments in the form of blacktop roads cutting across the lush green forests, solar street lights in some pockets and tap water connections to households were apparent, people claim that unequal distribution of government benefits affects them big time. The story remains uniform across the Santhal villages of Ghagra, Rautera, Sonardi, Haludkanali and several other forest-covered areas, forming parts of West Bengal's Jangalmahal, which were affected by Maoist activities a little over a decade ago.



"Some are getting these benefits twice over, while others are fully deprived," said advantage of us." Sukhlal Mandi, who works as Sudhir an occasional bus driver on a local route, while sitting outside his modest but tastefully decorated mud house in Ghagra village. Mandi said that he never received a house under the

government's 'Awas yojana'.

Lamenting that the political

leaders and candidates come

only before the elections,

Shyamlal Hembram of Sonardi village said, "All parties take

Tudu, septuagenarian, of Rautera village, said that his old age

pension has stopped getting deposited in the bank. "I made visits to the officials concerned, but nothing fruitful has happened yet to restart the pension," he said. Ghagra village youth Bijoy Murmu said although he works as an agricultural labour

in the farming season, but mostly sits idle during other parts of the year. "All the parties are the same, no one is there for people like

us," he said. Murmu said that there are problems of lack of jobs, water

not flowing out of taps, housing and distant schools. "What is the use of studying anyway, there are no jobs," he said. Mandi lamented that while the well-to-do get richer, the conditions of the poor

Two middle-aged women of Sonardi, unwilling to share their names, said they work as daily labourers and are vet to get funds under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme of the state government.

Shyamlal Hembram of Sonardi

hardly see much change.

claimed that water flows from taps in their village only on the days officials visit the area. He said that only one person has a government job in his village which houses a hundred-odd people.

## **UK PM Sunak, Opposition Labour** hit campaign trail for July 4 polls

Rishi Sunak, his Conservative Party col-leagues and Opposition Labour Leader Keir Starmer and his shadow cabinet hit the campaign trail with gusto on Thursday, a day after the British Prime Minister surprised many within his ranks by calling an election just six weeks away on July 4.

The 44-year-old British Indian leader's rain-soaked speech on the steps of 10 Downing Street on Wednesday evening sent the political corridors of the country into a flurry of activity, with Sunak hitting the ground running with a campaign event in east London right after with his three poll pitches of "Clear Plan, Bold Action, Secure Future".

"Over the next few weeks, I will fight for every vote," he pledged.

Asked by the BBC why he chose to fire the starting gun for the election race getting drenched in the pouring rain, Sunak replied that it showed that he is "not a fair-weather politician".

'I believe very strongly in the traditions of our country. And when prime ministers make important statements like that, they do it on the steps of Downing Street come rain or shine. And I believe in those traditions and that's why I did what I did," he explained. The Opposition Labour Party

Leader, Starmer, kicked his campaign off with a simpler one-word message - "Change". "On July 4 you have

the choice. And together, we can stop the chaos. We can turn the page. We can start to rebuild Britain, and change our country," he declared.

The reaction to a summer general election, which was not expected before October when Sunak would have completed three years in office as Prime Minister, has been mixed - with many Tory MPs fearful of losing their seats due to the anti-incumbency that has built up after 14 years of the party being in charge. Almost every pre-election survey shows the governing Conservatives trailing behind Labour, which is holding a firm 20-point lead after securing decisive wins in the local

month and seen as a sign of things to come.

"I am feeling quite emotional about all this. I was anticipating an autumn departure from Parliament and still had important issues to raise on behalf of my constituents between now and then. I am sad that I won't now get to do that," said Tracey Crouch, one of the backbench Tory MPs more vocal about the displeasure over the election timing. "A great amount has been achieved over those 14 years and during this campaign, I look forward to speaking to voters about my record of delivery both locally and nationally," said another back-bench MP Priti Patel, who chose to be more positive.

Poll watchers believe that Sunak decided to take the gamble of an earlier election as he was convinced that nothing much would improve by the October-November timeline being pitched earlier. With inflation hitting a 2.3 per cent mark this week, indicating an improvement in the cost-of-living crisis that has crippled the UK economy since the COVID pandemic, he decided to take the plunge into a trim six-week election campaign.

The economy will be the central plank of Sunak's pitch to the nation, saying the inflation figures are "proof that the plan and priorities I set out are working".

Immigration and investment in the defence sector will be some of his other key focus areas, claiming that the Opposition by contrast has no clear plan on these crucial issues.

The Labour Party, on the other hand, is on a slightly easier wicket with its focus being on how they plan to turn things around after the "chaos" of a Conservative Party-led government. The British Parliament is now into just days of so-called "washup" when the government finalises and concludes noncontentious pieces of legisla-tion before its dissolution next week. Under the timeline now set, a

new Parliament is likely to be in place in the week following the election results on July 5.



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, centre, watch beer being bottled at the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery, in Barry, south Wales, while on the General Election campaign

## Indian students turning away from UK universities

London (PTI): Indian students choosing the UK as their higher education destination have started registering a fall, with over 21,000 fewer Master's degree applicants than the previous year being registered in official statistics released in London on Thursdav.

According to UK Home Office data based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures, there was a 16 per cent drop in Indian student applicants over the year ending December 2023 in an overall 10 per cent fall in net migration compared to 2022. While the figures will come as a welcome sign for British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who has made curbing migration one of made curbing migration one of his key planks for a general election now set for July 4, the student visa figures will worry universities who rely on overseas

student fees. 'There were 116,455 sponsored study visa grants to main applicants that are Indian nationals in the year ending March 2024, (26 per cent of the total), 21,717 fewer than the previous year," the Home Office analysis reads. "The majority (94,149, or 81 per cent) of Indian students come to the UK to study at Master's level,

and the recent decrease in Indian

students was driven by 21,800

fewer Indian nationals coming to

study at Master's level," it notes.

The fall in numbers follows a visa clampdown on students being able to bring their family dependents, spouses or children, from earlier this year. It comes at a time when univer-

sity vice-chancellors and diaspora groups are lobbying the government not to safeguard the country's post-study work visa offer under the Graduate Route In the year to March 2024,

Indian nationals represented the largest group of students grant-ed visas on this route (64,372), representing almost half (46 per

cent) of the grants.
This reaffirms previous statistics around this scheme, which offers a chance to gain work experience at the end of a degree and is seen as crucial to Indians choosing their higher education destina-

Thursday's data also revealed data under the new India Young Professionals Scheme, which has a quota of 3,000 visas for young people annually and saw 2,105 grants to Indian nationals up to March this year. According to the ONS, almost half of those immigrating to the UK for workrelated reasons came from India or Nigeria, most commonly in the Health and Social Care sector, and Indians continued to top the tally of Skilled Worker visa

### Drexel Univ clears pro-Palestinian encampment

Protesters packed up their belongings and left a pro-Palestinian encampment at Drexel University on Thursday after the school announced a decision to have police clear the encampment.

University President John Fry said in a statement that he decided to have campus police and public safety officers join Philadelphia police in clearing the encampment as peacefully as possible. News outlets reported that

police gave protesters a warning to clear the encampment and protesters left. Protesters didn't immediately comment. Fry said the university is com-Fry said the university is committed to protecting the community members' right to assemble peacefully and express their views, but he has the responsibility and authority to regulate campus gatherings to ensure safety and fulfil the mission to educate students. the mission to educate students. "An unauthorised encampment that involves large numbers of people unaffiliated with Drexel trespassing on our campus is illegal," Fry said.



demonstrators in the West Bank city of Jenin, Wednesday,

"The language and chants coming from this demonstration, underscored by protestors' repugnant demands, must now come to an end." Protesters gathered their belongings as dozens of officers on bicycles arrived around 5:20 a.m., but in less than a half hour only a few items remained on the Korman Family Quad where the 35-tent encampment had been, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. "The campers picked up their

belongings for the most part and left by their own free will," Philadelphia Police Sgt. Eric Gripp said.

The encampment had persisted despite Fry's threat earlier this week to have the encampment cleared. Fry said on Tuesday that classes would be held virtually for a third day on Wednesday after administrators tried to open a line of communication to the protesters but were rebuffed. News outlets reported that the university announced Wednesday night that the campus would return to normal operations on Thursday.

In his statement early Thursday, Fry said previous requests for protesters to disperse had been ignored, but he was asking Drexel affiliates to leave the encampment so police could "escort any remaining

trespassers off our campus". A wave of pro-Palestinian tent encampments on campuses has led to over 3,000 arrests nationwide.

On Thursday, the leaders of Northwestern University and Rutgers University are expected to testify at a House Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing about concessions they gave to pro-Palestinian protesters to end demonstrations on their cam-

pus. The chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles, also was scheduled to appear at the latest in a series of hearings looking into how colleges have responded to the protests and allegations of anti-

### Leaders of South Korea, China and Japan to meet for their first trilateral talks since 2019

eaders of South Korea, Leaders of South Received next week in Seoul for their first trilateral talks in more than four years to discuss how to revive their cooperation, South Korea's presidential office said Thursdav.

After their inaugural standalone trilateral summit in 2008, the three countries' leaders were supposed to hold such a meeting every year. But the summit has been suspended since the last one in December 2019, in China, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and often complicated ties among

the Asian neighbors. The trilateral meeting between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will take place in Seoul on Monday, Kim Tae-hyo, Seoul's deputy national security director, told a news conference.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will not be attending.

Li and Kishida were scheduled to arrive in South Korea on Sunday. They will meet Yoon individually on Sunday after-noon before attending a wel-coming dinner banquet with the South Korean president, Kim said.

Japanese officials said a bilateral meeting between Kishida and Li remains undecided.

ing point for Korea, Japan and China to completely restore and normalize three-way cooperation systems," Kim said. Kim said the three leaders were expected to discuss cooperation on six South Koreaeration on six South Korea-proposed topics — personnel exchanges, climate change, trade, health and aging popu-lation, technology and disas-ters. He said these discussions will be included in a joint statement after their summit. Kim said the three leaders will also discuss unspecified regional and international political issues and how to respond together to a global poly-crisis and contribute to international peace. Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, Yoshimasa Hayashi, said the three leaders share responsibility for regional peace and prosperity so their meeting is important for the entire

Closely linked economically and culturally with one another, the three countries together account for about 25 per cent "This summit will be a turnof the global gross domestic product. But efforts to bolster

trilateral cooperation often become snagged because of a mix of issues, including historical disputes stemming from Japan's wartime aggression and the strategic competition between China and the United States. South Korea and Japan are both key US military allies, together hosting a total of 80,000 American troops on their territories. North Korea's advancing nuclear program and China's growing assertiveness in the region have prompted South Korea and Japan to reinforce their trilateral security partnership with the

United States. That has angered China and North Korea.

Observers say the trilateral meeting comes as the three Asian nations share a need to improve ties. They say South Korea and Japan want to maintain good ties with China, their biggest trading partner, while Beijing also doesn't want to see a further strengthening of a Seoul-Tokyo-Washington security cooperation.

If the current situation continues, South Korea, the US and Japan will stick together fur-ther, forming a tool to check and contain China. In that sense, China can't help thinking that advancing ties with South Korea and Japan will better serve its national interests," said Kim Yeol Soo, an analyst with South Korea's Korea Institute for Military Affairs. Paik Wooyeal, a professor at Seoul's Yonsei University, said South Korea and Japan would find it easier to deal with China in a trilateral structure rather than bilaterally.

## Biden and Kenyan leader call for global aid to reduce developing nations' debt

President Joe Biden and Kenyan President William Ruto are using the first state visit to the United States by an African leader in more than 15 years to call on economies around the globe to take action to reduce the enormous debt burden crushing Kenya and other developing nations.

The call to action, dubbed the Nairobi-Washington Vision, comes as Biden presses his appeal to African nations that the US can be a better partner than economic rival China. Beijing has been deepening its investment on the continent — often with high-interest loans and other difficult financing terms. Biden and Ruto want creditor nations to reduce financing barriers for developing nations that have been constrained by high debt burdens. They also call on international financial institutions to coordinate debt relief and



President Joe Biden answers a reporters question as he welcomes Kenya's President William Ruto to the White House in Washington, Wednesday.

support through multilateral banks and institutions providing better financing terms. "Together we will call to the international community to come together around these elements to support high-ambition countries with highambition financial support,"

the White House said in a fact sheet detailing the effort. The White House also announced USD 250 million in grants for the International Development Association, part of the World Bank, to assist poor countries facing crises. Separately, a USD 1.2 trillion government funding bill passed by Congress in March allows the US to lend up to USD 21 billion to an International Monetary Fund Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, which provides zero-interest loans to support low-income countries as they work to stabilise their economies, boost growth and improve debt sustainability. That funding is expected to be made available to the IMF in the coming weeks. Biden and Ruto are set to hold formal talks and a joint news conference on Thursday before a state dinner in a pavilion on the South Lawn of the White

An Associated Press analysis of a dozen countries most indebted to China — including Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia and Laos — found the debt is consuming an ever-greater amount of tax revenue needed to keep schools open, provide electricity and pay for food and fuel.

### Tunisia sentences iournalists to one year in prison for criticising govt

Tunis (AP): A Tunisian court on Wednesday sentenced two TV and radio journalists to one year in prison for criticising the government on their programmes and on social networks

networks.
Borhane Bsaïs and Mourad Zeghidi were each given six months' imprisonment for disseminating "fake news" and an additional six months for "making false statements with the aim of defaming others", in reference to Tunisian President Kaïs Saied, court spokesperson Mohamed Zitouna said.

The sentences come less than networks.

Mohamed Zitouna said. The sentences come less than two weeks after both were arrested. They are among a broader group of journalists, activists and lawyers charged under Decree 54, a law criminalising the dissemination of "foke page" simed at hearn of "fake news" aimed at harming public safety or national defence.

### Missile splashes into Red Sea, Yemen Houthi rebel attack suspected

**Dubai (AP):** A missile splashed down in the waters of the Red Sea on Thursday, but caused no damage to a passing commercial vessel in an attack likely carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said.

The Houthis did not immediately a likely that the said of the said.

ately claim the attack, though it can take hours or even days it can take hours or even days for them to acknowledge their assaults. The attack happened in the southern Red Sea near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The private security firm Ambrey similarly reported the attack

The Houthis have launched attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in recent months, demanding that Israel ends the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians there. The war began after Hamas-led



militants attacked Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 October 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage. The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the United States Maritime Administration. Shipping through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has declined because of the threat. In recent weeks of the threat. In recent weeks, the tempo of Houthi attacks has dropped, though the rebels have claimed shooting down US surveillance drones.

### Kenyan climber found dead on Mount Everest Kathmandu (AP): A climber

from Kenya attempting to scale the world's highest mountain has been found dead near the summit, officials said Thursday. The body of Cheruiyot Kirui was found on Mount Everest, said Khim Lal Gautam, a government official at the mountain's base camp. It was unclear when the body would be recovered because it would be difficult to carry at that altitude due to the low oxygen level.The climb by Kirui, a 40-year-old banker at Kenya Commercial Bank, had been closely followed in Kenya, and fellow climber James Muhia had posted frequent updates about the attempt online. "It is a sad day," Muhia wrote Thursday on X. "Our brother is now one with the mountain. It will be a difficult time. Go well my brother." Kenyan foreign ministry secretary, Korir Sing'oei, said he had met with Kirui before his trip to Nepal, and described him as fearless and audacious.

### Explosion at apartment in China kills one

**Beijing (AP):** An explosion at an apartment building in northeastern China killed one person and injured at least three others Thursday, state media reported.
Parts of the five-story apartment building in Harbin were damaged, with one apartment's balcony completely blown off, videos on social media showed. Officials told local media that the explosion was likely from a natural gas tank. One woman died of her injuries, according to Jimu News, a state-backed media out-

The three others were taken to the hospital for their injuries. Videos online also showed at least one person being carted away by first responders into an ambulance, and the streets were covered in debris.Xinhua news agency said the explosion occurred at roughly 7 am. Harbin is the capital of China's northeastern Heilongjiang province.



In this image taken from video, the aftermath of an explosion at an apartment building is seen in Harbin in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province on Thursday. State media say an explosion at an apartment building in Harbin, a city in northeastern China, has killed one person and injured at least three others.

## Iran buries late President at Shrine in Mashhad

Iran's late President, Ebrahim Raisi, is being buried in his home city of Mashhad, four days after he was killed in a helicopter crash. The 63-year-old hard-line cleric will be laid to rest in the holy shrine of Imam Reza, a holy shrine of Imam Reza, a revered figure in Shia Islam. TV pictures showed large crowds gathered in one of the northeastern city's main streets ahead of the ceremony. Seven other people died in Sunday's crash during bad weather in Iran's mountainous

weather in Iran's mountainous north-west.

They include Raisi's foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, who was buried on Thursday at the Shah Abdolazim shrine in Rey, a southern sub-urb of the capital Tehran. Ebrahim Raisi's burial at the

gold-domed Imam Reza Shrine

- a memorial to the eighth Shia imam, which is considered the



holiest in Iran - comes after days of ceremonies elsewhere.

On Wednesday, leaders and other dignitaries from the country's allies and neighbours attended a commemorative event in Tehran. They were welcomed by Raisi's former First

Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber, 68, who will serve as acting president until an election is held on 28 June. Also present were representatives of the so-called "Axis of Resistance", a loose network of armed groups which receive Iranian weapons,

training and funds. They included the political leader of the Iran-backed Palestinian armed group Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, the deputy secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, Naim Qassem, the spokesman of Yemen's Houthis,

Mohammed Abdulsalam, and Mohammed Abdulsalam, and the head Iraq's paramilitary Popular Mobilisation Forces, Faleh al-Fayad. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also led prayers for those killed. Raisi was close to the 85-yearold, who is the ultimate authority in the Islamic Republic, and was widely seen as a potential

successor. Senior Western officials were noticeably absent from Wednesday's ceremony, reflecting their countries' strained relations with Iran.

Tens of thousands of people have taken part in the funeral proces-sions in recent days, which the government and state media

have portrayed as demonstrations of national unity. However, many more people have stayed home, with some even celebrating the president's death despite prosecutors warn-ing that they could face prose-

Millions despised Raisi for over-seeing the deadly crackdown on the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests that erupted in 2022, a year after he took office. He also faced calls for an international investigation into his alleged role on the "death committee" which ordered the mass executions of political prisoners in the 1980s.His time as president will also be remembered for a deepening economic hardship and an unprecedented direct military confrontation with Israel last month, which raised fears of a regional war. Iranian authorities say they are still investigating what caused the helicopter crash in which he died.

# Sensex, Nifty hit all-time peaks

 $B^{\mathrm{enchmark}}_{\mathrm{rallied}}$  on Thursday, with the Sensex and Nifty hitting their lifetime peaks, after the RBI approved the highest-ever dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the government and supported by buying in blue chips Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

The 30-share BSE Sensex regained the 75,000 level. It climbed 951.22 points or 1.28 per cent to reach its all-time high of 75,172.28.

The NSE Nifty went up by 308.45 points or 1.36 per cent to 22,906.25 — its record peak. Among the Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finsery, State Bank of India and Reliance Industries

were the major gainers.
PowerGrid, Sun Pharma,
NTPC and JSW Steel were the

laggards. The Reserve Bank of India will pay a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal ended March 31, more than budgeted



government taking office. The RBI board, at its 608th on Wednesday, meeting approved the transfer of surplus, the central bank said in a statement.

"There are positives and negatives for the market today. The biggest positive is the record Rs 2.11 lakh crore expectation, helping shore up record Rs 2.11 lakh crore revenue ahead of a new dividend from the RBI to the crude declined 0.15 per cent to USD 81.79 a barrel. The negative for equity

markets is the US Fed meeting minutes, which indicate over concern stubbornness of inflation, he

noted. In Asian markets, Tokyo traded in the green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted lower. Wall Street ended in negative territory on Wednesday.

"The Nifty index has surged to a record high after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a substantial Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government.

development is a significant macroeconomic positive for the market, with direct implications for the fiscal deficit and bond yields," Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Investmart Ltd, said. Swastika

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 686.04 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 267.75 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 74,221.06 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty advanced 68.75 points or 0.31 per cent to finish at 22,597.80.

## India to get rating support if it uses RBI dividend to reduce fiscal deficit: S&P analyst

PTI NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$  can get 'rating support' over time if it utilises the highest-ever dividend of over Rs 2 lakh crore received from the Reserve Bank to reduce fiscal deficit, said an S&P Global Rating analyst on Thursday.

The RBI board has decided to pay a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal ended March 2024, more than double of what was budgeted expectation of Rs 1.02 lakh

"The additional dividends from the RBI are around 0.35 per cent of GDP. Whether it would support the narrowing of the fiscal deficit in fiscal 2024-25 would really depend on the final budget that would be passed after the June election results," S&P Global Ratings Analyst YeeFarn Phua

The interim budget presented in Parliament earlier in the year targets a fiscal deficit of 5.1 per cent of the GDP.

The additional dividend from the RBI may not necessarily lead to a full decrease in the deficit due to potential difference government expenditure and on borrowing costs.

revenue shortfalls in areas like revenue — would be brought divestment down to 4.5 per cent by 2025 receipts or additional allocation to In May last year, S&P Global expenditures in the final budget, Phua said in an email Ratings affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB' with a stable outlook on growth interview from Singapore.

However, "if it does lead to a full decrease of the deficit, we believe it will lead to a faster path of fiscal consolidation that, in turn, will provide rating support over time, Phua added.

The government expects to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.1 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal, down from 5.8 per cent in 2023-24. As per the fiscal consolidators roadmap, the deficit — the

All three

All three global rating agencies — Fitch, S&P and Moody's — have the lowest investment grade rating on India with a stable outlook. The ratings are looked at by investors as a barometer of country's between creditworthiness and impact

per capita as risks.

grade rating.

but flagged weak fiscal performance and low GDP

BBB is the lowest investment

**Godrej Properties** sells about 650 flats for over ₹2,000 crore





PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{ccc} R^{ealty} & {\rm firm} & {\rm Godrej} \\ Properties & {\rm has} & {\rm sold} \\ around & {\rm 650~flats~in~Noida~for} \end{array}$ more than Rs 2,000 crore, amid strong consumer demand for residential properties.

Properties Godrej Thursday said in a regulatory filing it has "sold around 650 homes worth over Rs 2,000 crore in its project, Godrej Jardinia, located in Sector 146, Noida."

The project was launched this month.

"This is Godrej Properties' most successful-ever launch in Noida in terms of the value of sales achieved," the company highlighted.

Gaurav Pandey, MD & CEO, Godrej Properties, said, "Noida is an extremely important market for Godrej Properties, and we will look to further strengthen our presence in the city in the

years ahead." Godrej Properties is one of the leading real estate developers in the country. It has a major presence in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Pune and Bengaluru property markets. It has recently entered the Hyderabad

market. Godrej Properties achieved its best-ever annual sales in the

2023-24 fiscal. In the last financial year, the company's sales bookings jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527 crore, from Rs 12,232 crore in the

listed entity.

bookings for the current

drought cycles led to shortages. | value of Rs 30,000 crore.

### Emcure, Gennova settle litigation with HDT, ink pact to develop mRNAvaccines

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Encure Pharmaceuticals Ltd and its arm Gennova Biopharmaceuticals have settled all legal disputes with HDT Bio Corp and have signed a long-term agreement to develop mRNA vaccines, the company said on Thursday.

Under the settlement, the litigation between them, the scope of our technical including before US courts collaboration on a long-term and the arbitral tribunal in London, has been settled and dismissed, Emcure said in a statement.

The parties have also entered into a long-term agreement to develop mRNA vaccines against a broad range of infectious diseases, in India and several other countries. As part of their agreement, HDT has granted a licence to Gennova to use its patented mRNA vaccine technology in multiple fields, it added.

Gennova and HDT. previously collaborated on established the successful development of Gennova's mRNA Covid-19 vaccines, will once again collaborate on development

commercialisation of mRNA vaccines," the statement said. HDT had filed lawsuit against Emcure alleging stealing of Covid-19 vaccine technology trade secrets.

Pharmaceuticals Emcure CEO & Managing Director Satish Mehta said,"...The misunderstanding between us and HDT not only stands resolved but we have widened basis."

He further said,"mRNA platform will be the launching pad for our foray into vaccines for tuberculosis, rabies, dengue and other infectious diseases and our collaboration with HDT will be mutually beneficial." Commenting

development, HDT CEO Steve Reed said,"HDT's technology, proprietary combined with Emcure's and Gennova's innovation and manufacturing excellence and distribution network will bring life-saving vaccines to countless people. We are committed to a successful relationship with Emcure and Gennova

### Leather exporters seek national policy to attract investments, create jobs, boost shipments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

government."

Financial Services.

spending, he added.

Vijayakumar,

said

infrastructure

Investment Strategist, Geojit

This means the government can reduce its fiscal deficit and

"Brent crude dipping below USD 82 is positive for India's macros," Vijayakumar said.

Chief

A pex body for leather and footwear exporters CLE has asked the government to formulate a national policy for the sector with a view to attract investments, boost India's shipments and create

In a letter to Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, Council for Leather Exports (CLE) said that though there are schemes and support measures at central and state levels, there is a need for holistic development of the entire sector through a national policy.

The elements of the proposed policy, it said, can include incentives for setting up of manufacturing units, training of workers, support measures for adoption of sustainable technologies and innovative

products. This policy should cover the entire supply chain of the sector, starting from raw materials to finished products, including processing, product development, marketing, supply chain management, and backward integration," the council said.



Explaining the importance of the policy, CLE Executive Director R Selvam said that the sector needs a national policy as it is a labourintensive sector, which employs about 4.4 million, with over 85 per cent women. "The sector has a huge socio-economic benefit. The policy would help the industry in boosting exports and creating huge number of jobs," Selvam

told PTI. The council asked the government to implement the production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the entire supply chain of the footwear ather industry and also

the machinery segment. It added that there is a need to fine-tune special economic zone (SEZ) policy with a focus on increasing productivity through flexible labour laws,

lowering the tax burden for the sale of goods in the domestic market.

Further, the CLE suggested that the policy should include a blueprint for infrastructure development in all leather and footwear clusters to make them smart clusters; measures for logistics management; and monetary policy; credit facilities; and insurance

"I would request to frame the policy to facilitate growth and development and provide auditional employment opportunities to at least two million youth in the next seven years," CLE Chairman R K Jalan said.

He also called for organising a meeting of global CEOs of major leather products and footward broad with industry. footwear brands with industry secretaries of states.

"Such a meeting will be helpful in attracting more investments from brands," he said adding that there is a demand for setting up plugand-paly models of factories wherein ready-to-use factory sheds with all required infrastructure and support services are provided by the government.

### Government plans big scale radiation processing of onions to prevent shortages

The government is planning to significantly ramp up the radiation processing of onions to create a buffer stock of 1,00,000 tonnes this year, as it aims to prevent shortages and price rises of the politically sensitive bulb, according to a top government official.
The world's biggest exporter of

onions is expected to see output fall by 16 per cent to 25.47 million tonnes in 2023-24 amid lower yields in key growing states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra according Pradesh, government estimates.

To discourage hoarding and curb price volatility often sparked by supply disruptions, the government plans to use radiation technology on a large scale to increase onions' shelf life, said Nidhi Khare, secretary at the consumer affairs ministry

"We are identifying 50 irradiation centres around the consuming areas. If we are successful, we will be able to store up to 1 lakh tonnes of radiation-processed onions



The ministry has asked the state agencies NAFED and NCCF, who are procuring 500,000 tonnes of onions to create a buffer stock this year, to explore irradiation facilities around key consumption centres such as Sonepat, Thane, Nasik and Mumbai. Radiation processing was tried on a small scale of 1,200 tonnes near the growing region of Maharashtra last year. quicker facilitate

transportation of the buffer stock, the ministry is also considering setting up controlled atmosphere storage facilities at major railway hubs,

In the past, the government has banned onion exports and stockpiled a substantial share

preceding year. For FY24, this is the highest sales reported so far by any

Godrej Properties has set a target of Rs 27,000 crore sales

To meet this target, Godrej Properties plans to launch a 21.9 million (219 lakh) square of the crop to safeguard supplies after hoarding and estimated sales bookings

## Working on Gen AI tool to make video learning content more accessible, affordable: Upsurge

**PTI** MUMBAI

Upsurge, an e-learning platform that focuses on stock market trading and investing, aspires to become the leading platform in the domain of finance and is working on a generative AI tool to churn out video-based content to make its offerings accessible more and affordable, say its cofounders.

The focus right now is on Indian markets but the company eventually plans to go global to tap into the growing financial markets overseas, according to Kunal

Shah and Mahip Gupta co-stock market and experienced more

founded Valuationary, which was acquired by Raise Financial Services in 2022 and rechristened Upsurge. With more people keen to dabble in stock market

learning stock market trading and investing is on a constant rise, said Gupta. "At Upsurge, we feel stock market participants shall learn about how to trade and invest in the markets

thoroughly so that they make

fewer mistakes while they are

investment, the demand for

trading or investing," Gupta told PTI. The wide range of courses on



traders and investors looking to enhance their skills, Shah added. The name Upsurge resonates better with the younger trading and investing audience, he said.

'Upsurge is working on a generative AI tool to produce offer today cater to both beginners stepping into the that will make its product accessible

affordable," Shah told PTI. "The idea behind creating Upsurge is to ensure that stock market participants trade and invest right, especially in the Futures and Options (F&O) segment, where 90 per cent of traders do not make money. Upsurge imparts education through well-produced courses, live

mentorship mes, and social initiatives," he programmes, explained.

With over 60 courses and more than five mentorship (revolving programmes around options trading, technical analysis, investing strategy and personal finance among others) in its arsenal, the platform has garnered more than 100,000 users who are constantly learning on their platform and becoming better traders and investors, Shah noted.

Upsurge has been using multiple services from AWS (Amazon Web Services) since its inception to ensure traffic management, as the platform

builds up and scales. Over 50 traders, investors and fund managers teach on

Upsurge's platform. The overall community size is over half a million learners across Upsurge platforms. "Life has changed quite drastically for the founders and the entire team post the acquisition," said Shah. The speed of lining up courses and product offerings is lightning fast.

"While maintaining the speed, we are also ensuring that the value we provide to our users is much higher than the price that we charge. This is also the reason why Upsurge is one of the most affordable platforms to learn trading and investing across India," he said.

The vision for Upsurge is to become the number one learning platform in the domain of finance.

"Going forward, we will be gamifying the entire learning process to make it more interactive and engaging. This shall help Upsurge to increase its completion rates (people enrolling & completing the course), which are currently at about 25 per cent," he says. Upsurge has leveraged AWS services — Amazon's cloud computing unit — extensively in scaling its business.

"We have been using multiple services from AWS since the inception of our business like EC2 for autoscaling our our traffic well. Along with that, we have been using Cloud Front, Elemental MediaConvert, and S3 to ensure that our content storage, video processing, and content streaming work seamlessly," Gupta said.

Service) has helped Upsurge to automate high-volume emails, leading to 10 percent of free users getting converted into paid users. "We are a big beneficiary of AWS services," Gupta said,

Amazon's SES (Simple Email

exuding confidence that the partnership with AWS will play an instrumental role in helping upsurge scale its

## JSW Group's paint business turns profitable

**T**SW Paints crossed Rs 2,000 crore in revenue from operation in FY24 and logged its first operating profit in five years of inception, a top company official said on

Thursday. The JSW Group firm, which aims for Rs 5,000 crore revenue in the next two years, is expanding its retail presence in the home decorative business and adding more products in the industrial coating business, company's Joint Managing Director & CEO Sundaresan

AS said. "We have been able to achieve operating breakeven this year (FY24)," Sundaresan told PTI. ISW Paints, which is among the new entrants in the fast-



Indian growing industry, is aiming "to grow much faster than the market". "We aim to keep growing anywhere from 5 to 10 times the market growth. In the current year (FY24), We have grown 10 times the rest of the industry," he said adding that JSW Paints is bringing new

expanding its reach and network and continuing to invest in building the brands. Asked about JSW Paints' target to have Rs 5,000 crore revenue within the next two years, Sundaresan said: "We believe it is possible."

"Of course, it has to be aided by a buoyant market and if you keep doing the right things which we have been doing. We have always believed in taking the aspirational goals and working towards them systematically. So we believe it

is possible," he added. Currently, JSW Paints has a network of 6,000 retailers across the country and will continue to expand it further. "So we keep adding anywhere from 2,000 to 2,500 retailers products into the market, annually, which we will

continue to do," he said. JSW Paints has so far invested Rs 900 crore for its decorative industrial coating and business. Regarding the paints market,

Sundaresan said, the industry has been growing at double-digit in the last few decades and is expected to do so going forward. It is a growing market and has a place for newcomers in the segment. In the Indian paints market, in the last 4-5 years, several new players including Aditya Birla Group, Pidilite and some others have entered into the segment.

"This is going to add more value to the industry, quality competition and new offerings," Sundaresan said. JSW Paints is trying to make a "significant difference" in

terms of its offerings and has achieved this milestone in a short span of time despite two years being lost in COVID, he added.

"We have already faced the existing competition actively over the last five years. We believe JSW Paints will be able to face both the existing as well as new competition which is coming into the industry well with our approach and difference we can make in industry," he said. Launched in May 2019, JSW Paints is a part of the USD 24 billion JSW Group, whose business interests span sectors such as steel, energy, maritime infrastructure, defence, B2B e-commerce, realty, cement, sports and venture capital.

### MG Motor India signs pact with Vertelo to deliver 3,000 EVs demonstrates a shared vision

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

 $M_{\mathrm{Thursday}}^{\mathrm{G}}$  Motor India on Thursday said it has signed an initial pact to deliver 3,000 EVs to integrated fleet electrification platform Vertelo in a phased

manner. Both the entities have signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect.

The partnership will focus on providing sustainable mobility solutions to riders and will also work towards establishing a robust EV charging infrastructure in the country, MG Motor India said in a statement.

"This partnership between MG India and Vertelo

for a green and sustainable future with decarbonisation in India. We also believe that collaboration will this augment our endeavours to offer advanced e-mobility solutions for passengers and boost faster adoption of EVs in the country," MG Motor India Chief Growth Officer,

Gaurav Gupta said. Vertelo is a fleet electrification platform that aims at providing end-to-end solutions to operators and corporates. It has been established by Macquarie Asset Management and has received anchor investment from the Green Climate Fund which has committed to

invest up to USD 200 million. "This partnership with MG Motor India to purchase around 3,000 electric cars, marks the beginning of an exciting journey for both organisations with a common goal of accelerating fleet electrification and achieving Net-zero emissions," Vertelo CEO, Sandeep Gambhir said. The range of electric vehicles that MG Motor plans to bring in India over the next few years coupled with Vertelo's integrated electrification solutions for fleet operators and corporates will go a long way in accelerating the shift towards a more sustainable

transportation ecosystem, he

#### LUCKNOW | FRIDAY | MAY 24, 2024

## Panghal in focus as Indian boxers fight in final qualifiers for Paris Olympics

Indian pugilists will be determined to overcome the recent setbacks both inside and outside the boxing ring when they aim for the last available tickets to the Olympic Games at the second World Qualification Tournament, starting here

Up until the last qualifying event, Indian boxers had four quotas but in an u n p r e c e d e n t e d changes with India's lone embarrassment, that number male world championship is now down to three after women's 57kg holder Parveen Hooda was handed a 22-month ban for win a quota in the first two whereabouts failure this month.

The boxers' performance at the least with only 2023 world championship bronze-medallist Nishant Dev moving past the opening

Performance Bernard Dunne handed his resignation during the first World qualifier itself.

"From the Thailand qualifiers, we definitely hope to clinch 4-5 quota places and we are hoping for the best. This time we have a definite chance," Indian boxing coach CA Kuttappa told SAI Media ahead of event here.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has made several changes with India's lone silver-medallist Panghal finally back the mix qualifying events in the 51kg category.

Panghal is coming off a goldthe previous world qualifiers winning run at the in March was dismal to say prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament earlier this year and the 2022 Commonwealth Games. He will have only one shot at making the Olympics and This also triggered a the former Asian Games coaching crisis. High champion will look to make



the most of it.

Abhinash Jamwal has been handed an opportunity to make the cut for his debut Olympics after the seasoned

Thapa's repeated failures in the 63.5kg weight class, which has five quotas

on offer. make it to the top three to young boxer Abhimanyu earn his maiden Olympic

appearance. Loura, who has replaced Lakshya Chahar, will try his luck in 80kg. He will have to

Nishant Dev missed sealing

his berth in Italy by a whisker. He would be brimming with confidence.

With five quotas on offer in and 71kg, he is expected to return with a ticket to Paris. In women's competition, Ankushita Boro, who competed in the 66kg event, has moved down to 60kg, pipping Jaismine Lamboriya in the assessment. Ankushita

will have to finish in the top three to make the cut. However, Jaismine who failed to book a berth during the earlier two qualifying events, has got a third shot albeit in the 57kg after Parveen was sanctioned.

National Champion Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) will be the third Indian female boxer in the

With 188 boxers having already earned Olympic berths via the continental qualifiers and the world qualifiers, Indian boxers are expected to add to the tally of three quotas.

"Our boxers are in a good mental position now. The confidence from the sparring sessions has risen

playing a key role to keep them away from pressure," Kuttappa said.

The tournament has 51 quota places on offer, including 23 for women and 28 for men, and a boxer will be assured of a Paris ticket after reaching the semifinals. India had an unprecedented nine boxers competing at the Tokyo Olympics, which yielded one medal -- a bronze by Lovlina Borgohain.

Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg) and Borgohain (75kg) secured their entry to Paris at the Asian Games last

SQUAD:

Women: Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Ankushita Boro (60kg), Arundhati

Choudhary (66kg).

Men: Amit Panghal (51kg), Sachin Siwach Jr. (57kg), Abhinash Jamwal (63.5kg), Nishant Dev (71kg), Abhimanyu Loura (80kg), Sanjeet (92kg), Narender Berwal (+92kg).

### Prathamesh Fuge makes semifinal; recurve archers disappoint in WC stage 2

(SOUTH KOREA)

Young compound Prathamesh Fuge advanced into the semifinals but men's and women's recurve teams endured shock opening round losses in the World Cup Stage 2, here on Thursday.

Reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who bagged a hattrick of gold medals at the Stage 1 Shanghai leg last month also fell by the wayside, going down to Sara Lopez 142-145 in the women's compound individual quarters.

The 21-year-old Fuge secured one of the top wins of his career when he shocked 2021 world champion and world No 6 Nico Wiener 146-145 to set up a semifinal clash against James Lutz of the USA.

mounted early pressure, shooting a finished top-two perfect round of 30 in the qualifying round.

first end, as the Austrian heavyweight struggled to come back.

Wiener managed to level 117-all in the fourth end, but Fuge held his nerves and dropped just one point in the final round to seal a thrilling one-point

Multiple World Cup gold medalist Abhishek Verma made a second round exit, while Priyansh lost out in the pre-quarters. Coming on the back of

shocking world champions South Korea to win the Shanghai gold, Indian men's team of Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Mrinal Chauhan failed to live up to the pre-tournament hype and were knocked out 3-5 by Canada in their opening match.

The loss also ended the hopes of another gold clash between medal home favourites South Korea and India, who had finished top-two in the

### Mbappé chases last trophy with PSG in French Cup final against Lyon

 $T^{
m his\ time,\ it's\ really\ the\ end.\ After\ missing\ Paris}$ Saint-Germain's last two league games, Kylian Mbappé should start in the French Cup final against Lyon on Saturday for his final match in a PSG shirt. The forward, widely expected to join Real Madrid, was given some free time by coach Luis Enrique

last weekend and was spotted enjoying himself at the Cannes film festival, while PSG wrapped up a 12th victorious league campaign in less glamorous settings. Mbappé told PSG in February he will leave at the end of the season - Saturday night - and confirmed it this

month. Over the last three months, Enrique has tried to make PSG less reliant on his star striker, arguing that he needed to start thinking needed to start thinking six Ligue 1 titles and three about the future knowing French Cups with PSG. that Mbappé would not be Although he didn't lead the around next season.

Although Enrique has yet to trophy in his seven seasons not ready (to precide on his starting XI for in Paris, he largely wants to, who do Saturday's final at Lille's contributed to helping PSG to," Enrique said. Although Enrique has yet to



Pierre-Mauroy, Stade snubbing Mbappé, or even leaving him on the bench, would equate to a slap in his

Mbappé is the club's all-time top scorer with 256, winning club to a Champions League

reach a respected status on the continent.

Leaving him on the sidelines on the night he could cap his PSG journey with yet another title seems highly unlikely, although Enrique from behind under Sage's has warned his players he will select only those who According to French league deserve it.

"We'll see who's ready, who's not ready (to play), who wants to, who doesn't want

Like Mbappé, Ousmane Dembélé did not play against Nice and Metz in the closing league rounds but should be back to face a resurgent Lyon side led by former Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette.

#### LYON MASTER OF COMEBACKS

Lyon has been in impressive form in recent months and Enrique can't afford to take the five-time Cup champion lightly.

Since Pierre Sage was appointed coach last November when Lyon was at the bottom of the league, the team has been transformed into a winning machine.

After sealing European soccer next season, Lyon can cap a remarkable second half of the season with its first silverware since 2012.

One of Lyon's main assets has been its capacity to come

According to French league statistics, Lyon has secured 27 points from a losing position, with only Liverpool and Girona doing better in the top five leagues.



European soccer history

There was an unlikely answer to the question of who would score the first hat trick in a men's European club final since 1975.

Ademola Lookman scored all three goals in Atalanta's 3-0 beating of Bayer Leverkusen to win the Europa League title and each had much to admire.

Stealth in the penalty area, balance on the ball, deft footwork, and precise shooting with both feet were factors in a standout performance.

And yet even Atalanta coach, Gian Piero Gasperini, acknowledged he was not buying a pure striker when Lookman arrived at the club

two years ago.
"He wasn't overly prolific in England," Gasperini said of a player who was bought from Leipzig, yet had spent the previous two years on loop at previous two years on loan at Fulham and Leicester in the

Fulham and Leicester in the Premier League.
Lookman also had been a winger at Everton, yet also slipped through the net there after being allowed out on loan to Leipzig and then sold. Joining Atalanta at almost 25, Lookman had never scored 10 goals in a season. He has now scored 15 times in each of his two seasons in Italy

of his two seasons in Italy. The London-born Nigeria international offered a hat trick of ideas after the game for why he has flourished.

Love and support from his family and African home.
The trust he felt from Gasperini's managing. The calmness of life in the picturesque city of Bergamo. "The unwavering support I get and the love back home get and the love back home from people is unbelievable," said Lookman, who won an Under-20 World Cup with England before changing eligibility to play for Nigeria in 2022. "It gives me the motivation to try to inspire motivation to try to inspire myself."

On Gasperini, a 20-year

veteran of coaching at Italian clubs, he said: "The first few conversations I had with him made me look at football a lot different. Made things simpler in my mind, play my game in a different light."

For a former resident of London and Liverpool, Lookman said his new home city "gives me a sense of calmness. It has helped me a lot in terms of my living style." Lookman's family was on the

field with him Wednesday, helping him show off the trophy he helped secure for Atalanta - the club's first senior title for 61 years. "I have a lot of love for the

people I call family. I owe them a lot," he said. captain Berat said he told Atalanta Diimsiti

Lookman before the game "we need the best version of Ademola."

"I see it for myself in every training it's hard to play against him," Djimsiti said, "and today was incredible."
Atalanta will be in the

Champions League next season and should have Lookman for a full season. He was away with Nigeria through January for the African Cup of Nations.
"He has had a great year, albeit it was interpreted by

albeit it was interrupted by Afcon," Gasperini said. "He was gone for a long while." Now Lookman enters European soccer history as

the first hat trick scorer in a club final since Jupp Heynckes for Borussia Mönchengladbach in the 1975 UEFA Cup. That came in a 5-1 win over Twente in the return game of what was then a two-leg final. Among the few men who have scored hat tricks in

European finals are Real Madrid greats Ferenc Puskás and Alfredo di Stefano, more than 60 years ago. Now on that storied list

Lookman, Gasperini said, "has established himself as a

### **Recruitment for 24** posts under sports quota notified by **Northeast Frontier Railway**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Northeast Frontier Railway has published recruitment notification to fill up 24 different posts for men and women under the Sports Quota. Online applications have been invited from eligible sports persons, who are citizens of India and recruitments will be for various postsin Level-1

to 5.
The last date to apply for the posts is 09.06.2024.Aspirant posts is 09.06.2024.Aspirant candidates can apply online through the link given in the w e b s i t e www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.ina fter going through all the details mentioned.

details mentioned. Sportsperson from the field of weightlifting, golf, boxing, cycling, cricket, badminton, football, table tennis can fill up the online application and submit. The age limit prescribedis between 18-25 years as on July 1, 2024 for the candidates applying in posts in level 4 and 5 and as on January 1, 2024 for posts in level 1 to 3. 1, 2024 for posts in level 1 to 3.
The candidates possessing minimum prescribed educational qualification and minimum sports achievement sas per norm can apply for the respective post. The sportsperson who are currently active player and having sports achievements in recognised championship/events held on or after 01.04.2021 shall only be

appointment.
Tentative dates for trials are likely to be held on 20th and 28th June, 2024 and candidates should keep themselves in readiness for the trials for his/her concerned sportsdiscipline.

for

considered

### Indian junior women and men hockey teams suffer losses

**PTI** ■ BREDA (NETHERLANDS)

 $T^{\text{he Indian men's and}}_{\text{women's junior hockey}}$  teams endured losses in their teams endured losses in their respective matches against Belgium here on a disappointing day in their ongoing tour of Europe.

Both the teams lost 2-3 to their Belgian counterparts. While Binima Dhan (49', 58') scored a brace for the women's team cantain Robit

women's team, captain Rohit (44', 57') scored a brace for the men's team. In the women's match, the

Indians looked eager to take the lead in the first quarter, winning two penalty corners early on. However, a resilient Belgian team ensured there was no

change in the scoreline. The Belgian unit responded fiercely in the second quarter, taking a 1-0 lead before the match broke for half-time. While India searched for the equaliser, Belgium increased their lead scoring in the third and fourth quarters to bring

the score to 3-0. The Indians rallied in the final





too late. They will next play against Belgium in Antwerp May 24.

May 24.
In the men's match, the Belgians took the lead early in the game with a goal in the first quarter. They doubled the lead in the second quarter. The Indians pulled one back with Rohit leading the charge to reduce the goal difference in the third quarter. in the third quarter.

Belgium, however, scored a third goal with a penalty corner conversion to regain their two-goal lead.

A quick retaliation came from Rohit who converted a penalty corner to keep his team in the hunt but the Belgians held onto their lead. The team will take on Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push in Breda later on Thursday.

### Sports Ministry approves foreign training for Lakshya and Sindhu ahead of Olympics

 $\mathbf{I}$ ndian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and P V Sindhu will train in France and Germany respectively as part of their Olympic preparations after the Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell approved financial assistance to cover the cost for both of them.

Sen had sought financial assistance for a 12-day training session in Marseille, France. Sen, who will compete in the men's singles event in Paris, will train at The Halle des Sports Parsemain with his coach and support staff from July 8 to 21 ahead of the Olympic Games. ahead of the Olympic Games. Sindhu's proposal was for Saarbrucken, Germany to train at the Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule. She will practice there for over a month along with her coach and support staff before heading to Paris.

"MOC approved their funding their airfare, hoarding/lodging cost local

tunding their airrare, boarding/lodging cost, local transportation charges, Visa Fees, shuttlecocks expenses under the Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) "the ministry said in (TOPS)," the ministry said in



a release. During the meeting, MOC also approved table tennis player Sreeja Akula and archer Tisha Punia's proposals for support to procure equipment and golfer Aditi Ashok and swimmer Aryan Nehra's request for assistance to travel to various competitions.
"TOPS will fund their airfare,

accommodation cost, local transportation cost Aryan's equipment

Aditi's caddy fee." MOC also approved inclusion of Table Tennis player Harmeet Desai and Women's 4x400 Relay Team in TOPS Core group and the promotion of wrestlers Nisha (68kg) and Reetika (76kg) to

Core group.

MOC also inducted upcoming golfer Kartik Singh in TOPS Development with focus towards 2028 and 2032 Olympics in Los Angeles and Brisbane respectively.

## 30-year-old triple amputee from Goa climbs Mt Everest Base Camp

PTI PANAJI

Tinkesh Kaushik, a 30-year-old man from Goa, has become the world's first triple amputee to reach the Mount Everest Base Camp located 17,598 feet above sea level, a private disability rights body has claimed.

Kaushik, who completed the challenging Everest Base Camp journey on May 11, said despite his physical disabilities he managed to disabilities, he managed to achieve the feat due to his

mental strength. The man lost his both limbs below knees and a hand following an electrocution accident in Haryana when he was 9 years old. The amputee, who uses prosthetic limbs, moved to Goa a few years back and has been working as a fitness coach.

Kaushik has made Goa proud with his achievements, Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG) chief Avelino D'Souza told reporters at a press conference here on



Wednesday. On the occasion, Kaushik said he initially thought the trek would be easy as he is a fitness coach but realised the challenges when he started

preparing for it.
"I did not have any prior experience

mountaineering. I prepared for that before going for the base camp. I am a fitness coach by profession and thought it will be an easy trek

work on the ground, it was very painful for him on the first day because of his level of amputation and prosthetic

"I found trekking to be challenging. On the second day, I said that I have to do it. It's a doable trek. In between, my health was bad, I suffered an acute mountain bout (sickness)," he said.

Kaushik said he could finish the trek because of his mental for me," he said. strength.

Kaushik said as he started Soon after accomplishing the

task, Kaushik posted on his Instagram handle: "Today, the 11th of May 2024, I completed the challenge of trekking to Everest Base Camp. As the first Triple Amputee with 90 per cent Locomotor disability to have achieved this feat, it was a very emotional moment for me. I did it for myself and I did it for a cause. I thank everyone who supported me, to make this a reality. Thank you from the bottom of my

## SRH big-hitters up against RR's spin stars in battle of nerves for place in IPL final

PL's best power-hitters Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma will face a very different challenge in wily spin twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin when Sunrisers Hyderabad take on Rajasthan Royals in a highoctane second Qualifier here

on Friday. 'Travishek' as the duo is affectionately called by the fans have taken power-hitting to a new level. Head (533 runs at 199.62) and Abhishek (470 at 207.04) have hit 72 sixes apart from 96 boundaries between them. If that's not enough, they have a swashbuckler in Heinrich Klaasen (413 runs at 180), who also has 34 maximums to his credit.

But playing on an Uppal shirtfront that resembled a

national highway or at the Kotla or Wankhede is completely from playing at the Chepauk where the strip will be sticky in nature.

The ball stops and stroke-makers do have a tough time when it comes to hitting through the line.

Ashwin, who has played all his cricket at this ground, knows the strip like the back of his hand and his form has improved towards the backend of the tournament.

With the country's best legspinner Chahal for company, Royals would be hoping that Head, Abhishek and Klaasen can be disposed off quickly to gain control of the gain proceedings.
As for their bowling, the onus

would once again be on T Natarajan, who has been SRH's top wicket-taker this season,

and playing on his home turf here, he would love to exploit the conditions.

Also, the experienced duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Cummins have a lot to deal with as the former has been wicket-less in his last two

SRH's problems lie in not having two quality spinners. Mayank Markande is mediocre at best and Shahbaz Ahmed's primary skill is willowwielding, not bowling slow left-arm orthodox tweakers.
As for RR, the side finally ended its five-game winless streak, thanks to its all-round

show against RCB. In batting, the top-order displayed some positive signs, especially Yashasvi Jaiswal, and he would love to continue the form ahead of the T20 World Cup in the Americas next



month. However, skipper Sanju Samson will have to do better, given that he hasn't crossed the 20-run mark in the last three contests.
In the middle order, Dhruv

Jurel will be under pressure, having failed to enter the double digits in his last two outings.
The side would also be relying

on its Caribbean game-changers Shimron Hetmyer and West Indies T20 skipper Rovman Powell for some power-hitting that displayed against RCB.

Riyan Parag, who has displayed some serious form this term, is also one of their bankable batters. **SQUADS:** 

SRH: Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Nitish Reddy, Shahbaz Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T Natarajan, Mayank Markande, Umran Malik, Anmolpreet Singh, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Upendra Yadav (wk), Jhathavedh Subramanyan, Sanvir Singh, Viyaskanth, Vijayakanth Fazalhaq Farooqi, Marco Jansen, Akash Maharaj Singh and Mayank Agarwal. RR: Sanju Samson (c & wk),

Ahmed, Pat Cummins (c)

Abid Mushtaq, Avesh Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Donovan Ferreira, Kuldeep Sen, Kunal Singh Rathore, Nandre Burger, Navdeep Saini, Ravichandran Ashwin, Riyan Parag, Sandeep Sharma, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Rovman Powell, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Trent Boult, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yuzvendra Chahal and Tanush



### We need bowlers with specific skill set of bowling at Chinnaswamy: RCB head coach Flower

**PTI** ■ AHMEDABAD

Raw pace alone will never be enough to win T20 games consistently at Chinnaswamy where bowlers with different skill-sets, executing a specific plan will be required in RCB set-up, head coach Andy Flower said after his team's exit from IPL Eliminator.

While RCB had a brilliant run at the back-end with six straight wins and qualified for the 'Eliminator', the team lost most of its games at the Chinnaswamy with none of the pacers — Mohammed Siraj (ER 9.18), Lockie Ferguson it absolutely. Now there's an (ER 10.62), Yash Dayal (ER extra Indian playing and that's 9.14), Recce Topley (ER 11.200, Karn Sharma (ER 10.58) haven't exactly set the stage on fire.

'You certainly need highly skilful bowlers at (M) Chinnaswamy (Stadium). Simply pace is not going to be the answer there. You need skilful, intelligent bowlers and people that can bowl to really

specific plans Chinnaswamy," Flower said. With the mega auction scheduled to take place before next IPL, Flower wants RCB to pick specific kind of players.

"I don't really want to talk about that stuff yet - I'm still digesting what's happened in this game. (But) I do think though as part answer to your question the Chinnaswamy has some particular qualities that we need to be able to exploit," Flower said when asked what the franchise's approach will be for the next

NEEDED: On batting front, Flower wants players with better power game, who can keep up the tempo.

"We have all seen how the power game has affected T20 cricket recently. On the batting front, you certainly need to recruit batsmen with that sort of power that can keep up that sort of tempo," he added. COACH **SUPPORTS** 

'IMPACT PLAYER' RULE: Flower batted for the 'Impact Player' rule saying that it allows two Indian players to participate in a game.

a good thing for Indian cricket. It has catalysed the batsmen," Flower said.

"It has given them a little bit of a safety net and they've taken off and attacked the game a little more this year."

The left-hander believes that even if the rule is done away with, batters won't back away from the ultra-aggressive approach seen this year.

Even if you took the impact player rule away, I believe batsmen will still retain that very aggressive game that they're playing at the moment because they've proved to themselves that they can play that aggressively and stay in," Flower said.

DON'T SEE REASON THAT MAXWELL CAN'T TURN THINGS AROUND: Flower backed the struggling Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell to turn things around after he was dismissed for a duck and finished with a mere POWER-HITTERS 52 runs in 10 matches.

#### PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dinesh Karthik's international career was a classic case of what could have been after the arrival of Mahendra Singh Dhoni but on Wednesday, when he said goodbye to the game at the end of his team's IPL campaign, it was from a stage he made his own over the past 17 years. The Eliminator between his Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Rajasthan Royals ended up being Karthik's swansong, bringing down curtains on a 20-year-old career marked by a series of comebacks across formats. Twenty six Tests, 94 ODIs and 60 T20s over two decades don't make for eye-popping numbers but the forever fidgety 38-year-old managed to stay relevant till the very end despite spending more time in the commentary box than on the field

over the past couple of years.

Ahead of the T20 World Cup squad announcement, Karthik forced himself into the selection debate for the wicket-keeper batter's role with head-turning performances for RCB but that one final comeback wasn't meant to be as selectors rightly went for younger talent.

While he was commentating on the India-England Test series in February-March, Karthik had made up his mind on retirement but the world only got to know when Michael Atherton let it slip in a podcast with the Tamil Nadu stumper.

Having played for as many as six

## Dinesh Karthik: Man of comebacks and Dhoni's understudy calls time on IPL and international career

teams in the IPL since the tournament's inception in 2008, Karthik can be proud of his record in the world's premier T20 league.

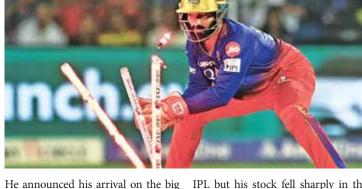
He finished as an IPL winner with close to 5000 runs over 17 seasons besides taking 145 catches and effecting 37 stumpings.

He batted at various positions all these years but his days at the RCB as a finisher over the past three seasons stood out.

In a format increasingly ruled by power-hitters, Karthik relied on his experience, game awareness and touch to find the boundaries at will. His 330 runs at a strike rate of 183 in 2022 earned him a recall to the Indian team for the T20 World Cup but that happened to be his last time in national colours.

He scored at an even higher clip this season but despite making himself available for the upcoming World Cup, he deep down knew his comeback saga with Indian cricket had come to an end.

KARTHIK HAD HIS MOMENTS IN STOP-START INDIA CAREER: The Chennai-born cricketer was only 19 when he made his India debut in an ODI against England at Lord's in September 2004.



stage with a spectacular stumping of opposition skipper Michael Vaughan. Three months later, he made his Test debut against Australia but his international career could never really take off due to middling performances and rise of Dhoni. With Dhoni a certainty in the playing eleven, Karthik was asked to open the batting on the tour of England in 2007 and he made a standout contribution in the team's rare Test series win away from home.

Between 2010 and 2017, Karthik remained sought after in the world of

IPL but his stock fell sharply in the national team. He got back in the scheme of things

following India's loss to Pakistan in the 2017 Champions Trophy final.
Between 2017 and 2019, Karthik regularly played for India in the white-ball formats. His memorable knocks included the iconic last ball six that helped India seal the 2018 Nidahas T20 Trophy in Colombo. Couple of months later, he made a Test comeback after eight years but

that was short-lived. Karthik was seen as a certainty for the 2019 ODI World Cup but by his own admission, he was shocked to know about his exclusion from the home series against Australia, ahead of the ICC event in England.

The selectors surprisingly brought him back for the World Cup where he only got three games, including the ill-fated semifinal against New Zealand.

The final chapter of his comeback story unfolded after a stellar IPL in 2022 but like on previous instances, Karthik could not seize the opportunity and could only manage only 14 runs in three innings at the T20 World Cup in Australia.

By his own admission, his India career could have been so much more but there was no shame in being overshadowed by someone like Dhoni.

The consistency that he lacked in international cricket was his friend in the IPL and his significant contribution was duly recognised by his RCB teammates on Wednesday night including the great Virat Kohli who was the first one to acknowledge his long career.

Karthik will be back in the commentary box soon and could be seen playing the T20 leagues outside

#### **PTI** ■ AHMEDABAD

navichandran Ashwin does Rnot want to single out impact player rule as the only contributing factor in high scores being recorded several times this IPL, as the premier India spinner attributes it to the evolution of batters.

Ashwin also has urged bowlers to start working on their batting skills in order to meet the demands of the game.

The season has witnessed some astonishing batting records -- teams crossed the 200-run mark for a staggering 41 times whereas the 250mark was breached on eight instances in the league round. IPL's record highest team total of 287 was also registered in the ongoing edition.

"Even if the impact player rule wasn't there, scores would be this high," Ashwin said on JioCinema Match Centre Live after their fourwicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the

## High scores in IPL due to batters skills, not impact player rule: Ravichandran Ashwin

IPL Eliminator, here on

Wednesday. "In my opinion, batters have more confidence and pitches everywhere have standardised."

"In the future, all bowlers will need to be hitters because we know that no matter how well we bowl, we also need to be able to bat. The game is headed in that direction," he

While Indian captain Rohit Sharma has criticised the rule, arguing that it hampers the development of all-rounders in the country, star batter Virat Kohli has opined that it disrupts the balance of the game.

The rule was formally adopted in the 2023 edition of the IPL after a trial in the Syed



Mushtaq Ali Trophy domestic

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah recently said the impact player rule was implemented on a 'test case' basis and is not

a permanent one. Shah has also said the board authorities

will talk to the stakeholders before taking a final call on the debatable rule.

Coming off a gruelling five-

match home Test series against England where he was the leading wicket-taker in India's 4-1 win, Ashwin said he had to overcome an abdominal injury and started bowling in his elements only in the business end of the competition.

"My tournament has gone in two halves. The first half was coming off the Test series, so my body didn't feel fresh. My arm speed wasn't there and I also had an injury, an abdomen tear. I played through the injury but didn't get much bowling time or repetitions.

Ashwin was adjudged manof-the-match for his miserly 2/19 that restricted Royal Challengers Bengaluru to

"I am someone who depends on bowling repetitions. Over my rhythm came back. I was able to bowl off spin. I changed my action slightly. My plan was simple. I came with a single-minded focus on changing the line and length of my deliveries and it was executed well," added Ashwin.

Ashwin has also hailed Riyan Parag's maturity and said the Assam batter has come a long way since making his debut as an 18-year-old in IPL 2019.

"It's important to give batters, especially junior batters, role clarity. Riyan came into the team as a 17-year-old child and he's matured over the years, getting role clarity for the first time this season.

"I never doubted his ability. The shot he hit over the covers tonight, not many batters can hit that. Based on his talent and how his season has gone, I think he can reach wherever he wants to," he

## Avesh Khan Way: Sleep well, eat well and bowl well

PTI AHMEDABAD

Eat, sleep. Bowl and repeat. Avesh Khan has simplified the mantra of success and it is paying dividends as one saw his performances during key games for Rajasthan Royals in this year's IPL.

With 16 wickets from 15 matches, mostly played on flat decks, an economy rate of 9.81 is praiseworthy and his control at the death has made him look a different bowler this time around.

"I have simplified my cricket - I have to sleep (well), I have to eat (well) and I have to bowl (well) and there is nothing else to it," said Ayesh, who took a three-for to help Rajasthan Royals reach Qualifier 2 in IPL here on Wednesday.

"The more you would think... cricket is like a circle, the smaller you keep it, the better it will be. You expand this circle more and you will find (more and more) gaps," he added.
"This has changed my life too

and also impacted my cricket,"he said. The 27-year-old, who is among

India's reserve players for next month's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and the USA, on Wednesday revealed that analysing his strengths and weaknesses after a heavy domestic season followed by IPL last year helped him find the better version of himself. "Last year when I played for

LSG, I had played 10 matches of Ranji Trophy wherein I bowled about 320 overs. The body was not responding to the efforts I was putting in," he

He also needed to be aware that playing too much can cause wear and tear.

"It happens, sometimes as a bowler you just end up playing so much. Even in the IPL, you may think that it's a four-over game or a 20-over game but still, there is a lot of effort that goes in. The body starts giving up and there are mental and physical fatigues too," he added.

"Your execution could go off the mark, but if you are mentally and physically fresh



better. I was not fresh last year so I did not have a successful IPL. I (also) realised later that there is no good in taking so much tension," he added. Avesh said going back to the drawing board and working with his coach in order to work on his bowling action and setting up right routines for training and recovery have helped him immensely. "I could not find the answers

back then, but after the IPL last year, I analysed that there were some technical changes in my bowling. I worked with my coach Anand Rajan and I did well with him," he said.

"I played in the Deodhar Trophy and Duleep Trophy which was followed by my comeback into the Indian team." Avesh said leaving LSG for Rajasthan Royals also had

specific benefits for him as a bowler. "I understood my body and when the trade was made this

vear, I was also happy because anything can happen to you at any time in IPL," said Avesh. 'The trade was not in my hands, but I took it positively,

is also quite big, the team is also good... as a bowler you need such margins," he said. While acknowledging that various methods help player develop mental toughness, Avesh said there is no better teacher than going through the grind regularly.

"I get up only at 2:00pm on match days so there is no time

and Rajasthan's (home) ground

to think that much," Avesh replied when asked what he does to develop mental toughness.

"You can do whatever you can to build mental toughness but until you are not in a position to have faced the challenges repeatedly, you cannot overcome them. I acknowledge you need 10-12 runs in an over, you forget everything and focus on execution," he added. The pacer acknowledged RR's dugout was tense during a close finish against RCB in the Eliminator here but he said the team perhaps remembered coach head Sangakkara's message before the game. "The talk was simple — either

all that, but when (as a batter)

we would win or go back home. We had to give it our all," he said.

"We were top two till the last game of the (league stage) and we finished third. (Kumar) Sangakkara said whether we win or lose, there should not be any regrets," Avesh added.

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