

# Western Times

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## News Brief

### Heavy rains predicted in seven districts of Tamil Nadu today

Chennai, May 7 (IANS) The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has predicted heavy rains in seven districts of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday evening.

Rains are expected in the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Tiruppur districts of the state.

The weather department has also predicted rains, thunder and lightning at a few places in Puducherry, Kariakkal and some places in Tamil Nadu from May 7 to 12. The RMC also predicted rains in Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Tenkasi, Theni, Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts on Wednesday. The rains, according to the RMC, is due to the change in the direction of winds prevailing in the lower atmospheric layers.

### Unidentified gunmen open fires at west Delhi car showroom

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Unidentified individuals fired several gunshots at the glass wall of a car showroom in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area on Monday, police said.

Although no bullet injury was reported, some individuals sustained injuries due to broken glass, they added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said that an incident of firing has been reported in the area of Tilak Nagar police station and the establishment, on which shots have been fired is Fusion Cars, Ganesh Nagar, Tilak Nagar.

### Encounter breaks out between security forces & terrorists in J&K's Kulgam

Srinagar, May 7 (IANS) An encounter started early Tuesday between terrorists and the security forces in J&K's Kulgam district, said officials here.

Police said that following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Redwani area of Kulgam district, an operation was started to flush out them from the hideout.

"When the security forces closed on the hiding terrorists, they fired at the security forces triggering an encounter which is still going on," police said.

### Voting underway in four LS seats in Assam

Guwahati, May 7 (IANS) Voting was happening peacefully in four Lok Sabha seats in Assam -- Guwahati, Barpetta, Dhubri and Kokrajhar.

Out of the 47 candidates vying for the four Lok Sabha seats, 15 are 'crorepatis with AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal, who is contesting from the Dhubri seat, being the richest of them. Badruddin Ajmal is the richest candidate running for re-election from Dhubri, where he is seeking to win his seat for a fourth term. His assets total Rs 155 crore, of which Rs 28.89 crore are moveable and Rs 126.17 crore are immovable.



PM Narendra Modi cast his vote at a school in Ahmedabad during the third phase voting for the Lok Sabha polls. The Nishan Higher Secondary School in the Ahmedabad city's Ranip locality has been designated a polling booth. Union Minister Amit Shah with his wife, CM Bhupendra Patel with his son and C R Patil with his family casted their votes on Tuesday.

## Gujarat records 55.22 pc voter turnout

Ahmedabad, May 7 (IANS) Gujarat has recorded a voter turnout of 55.22 per cent in the third phase of the Lok Sabha election on Tuesday. Valsad district witnessed the highest voter turnout (68.12 per cent) followed by Banaskantha at 64.48 per cent, Chhotaudepur at 63.76 per cent, and Bharuch at 63.56 per cent.

However, the election officials are yet to release the final percentage of the voter turnout, which will be released by Wednesday.

Gujarat also witnessed lower turnouts in Amreli at 45.59 per cent and Porbandar at 46.51 per cent. Other constituencies also

reflected moderate participation: Ahmedabad East at 49.45 per cent, Ahmedabad West at 50.29 per cent, Jamnagar at 52.36 per cent, Bardoli at 61.01 per cent, Patan at 54.58 per cent, and Kheda at 53.83 per cent.

Active voter engagement was observed across various constituencies including Kachchh, Banaskantha, Patan, Mahesana, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad East, Ahmedabad West, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Anand, Kheda, Panchmahal, Dahod, Vadodara, Chhota



Udaipur, Bharuch, Bardoli, Navsari, and Valsad.

Gujarat also has key candidates including Union Home Minister Amit Shah contesting from Gandhinagar, Union Minister and former Gujarat Minister Parshottam Rupala from Rajkot, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya from Porbandar, and State BJP Chief CR Paatil from Navsari.

Gujarat has polling underway for Lok Sabha elections and Valsad district has taken the lead in voter participation with 58.05 per cent, closely followed by Banaskantha at 55.74 per cent and Bharuch at 54.90 per

cent and Chhotaudepur at 54.24 per cent. Polling started at 7 a.m. As of 3 p.m., voter turnout stood at 47.03 per cent. However, some constituencies are reporting lower numbers, with Porbandar at 37.96 per cent, Amreli at 37.96 per cent, and Surendranagar at 40.93 per cent. Others are Navsari 48.03 per cent, Bardoli at 51.97 per cent, Jamnagar at 42.54 per cent, Vadodara at 48.48 per cent, Ahmedabad East 43.55 per cent, Ahmedabad West 42.21 per cent, Rajkot 46.47 per cent and Mehsana at 48.15 per cent.

### Congress fields two-time MP Ghubaya from Ferozepur that saw PM Modi's security breach

Chandigarh, May 7 (IANS) The Congress on Tuesday cleared the nomination of two-time Member of Parliament, Sher Singh Ghubaya, as the party candidate from the Ferozepur parliamentary constituency.

The BJP is yet to announce its candidate for this seat that reported a security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ferozepur.

With Ghubaya's announcement, the party has announced its candidates in all 13 parliamentary constituencies in the state.

State ruling AAP has fielded its Muktsar legislator Jagdeep Singh Kaka Brar from the Ferozepur seat, while the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has given the ticket to Nardev Singh Bobby Mann, a son of former MP Zora Singh Mann.

Ghubaya won the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections on the Akali Dal ticket. He joined the Congress in 2019.

He had represented the Jalalabad assembly seat in the Vidhan Sabha as well when he was with the Akali Dal. In 2019, the Akali Dal contested 10 of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab in alliance with the BJP in 2019. Akali Dal's Sukhbir Badal won with 1,98,850 votes in 2019, defeating Ghubaya from the Ferozepur seat. The security breach in Punjab happened on January 5, 2022, just ahead of the assembly polls in the state, when PM Modi was on his way to Hussainiwala in Ferozepur and his cavalcade had to stop and later take a U-turn after protesters blocked his way.

### SP leader's remarks on Ram temple create huge controversy

Lucknow, May 7 (IANS) Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav, on Tuesday, created a major controversy when he commented on the newly-constructed Ram Temple in Ayodhya and said that "the temple is bekaar (useless)."

The Samajwadi Party leader said that temples in our country are not built like this, adding that the "Ram temple has not been built according to Vaastu." Yadav said: "I worship Lord Ram every day. Some people have done the patent on Ram Navami. But, that temple in Ayodhya is bekaar (useless). It is not how temples are built. The design and map of the temple is not according to vaastu." Reacting sharply to the statement, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said: "The INDIA members are playing with people's faith for vote bank politics. They have always opposed Ram temple in Ayodhya." The Bharatiya Janata Party said that the Samajwadi Party leader's comments are the most "shocking and insulting" remarks on Ram Mandir by the INDIA bloc. Slamming the leader, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala took to X and wrote: "Shocking & most insulting comment on Ram Mandir by INDIA bloc SP Leader Ram Gopal Yadav."

He further accused the Samajwadi Party of attacking the Ram Bhakts, stating that with such comments, it is clear that the INDIA bloc is working towards eradication of Sanatan dharma.

### Delhi Police launches WhatsApp channel for city residents

New Delhi May 7 (IANS) Delhi Police, on Tuesday, announced the launch of its WhatsApp channel for people to stay updated on safety alerts, community outreach initiatives, important news and instant updates from the force.

"We are proud to introduce this WhatsApp channel. We believe that this will enhance our engagement with the community and improve our ability to share important information in a timely and efficient manner," said Suman Nalwa, the spokesperson of Delhi Police.

She said that the WhatsApp channel will provide a direct line of

communication between the Police Department and public, allowing for real-time updates on incidents, advisories, and safety tips.

"People can subscribe to the official New Delhi Police WhatsApp channel by following the same on WhatsApp or by visiting the link. By joining the channel, people will receive regular instant updates from Delhi Police," she said. "We believe that this new WhatsApp channel will further strengthen our partnership with the community. We encourage all people to take advantage of this valuable communication tool and stay informed and connected," Nalwa added.



KHAGARIA, A voter shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, in Khagaria on Tuesday. UNI

### 20 killed in Israeli attacks on Rafah in Gaza

Gaza, May 7 (IANS) At least 20 people have been killed in Israel's continuous attacks on the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip since Tuesday, the media reported.

Israel targeted at least four residential buildings in Rafah, injuring dozens of people, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafan's report.

The Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said in a press statement on Tuesday that their militants "attacked Israeli soldiers stationed around the Rafah crossing" as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

Israel's military said on Tuesday that it had started "a precise counterterrorism operation" in Rafah city in the south of the Gaza Strip and assumed "operational control" over the Rafah crossing in Gaza.

The crossing, which has served as a passage for humanitarian aid from Egypt to war-torn Gaza, was out of service.

Since the beginning of the assault overnight on Monday, Israel said it had taken control of the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing, with the Israeli forces killing at least 20 militants.

Israeli forces attacked the Rafah city from the ground and air, the military said, as residents reported heavy and relentless bombardments.

### Sex videos: Court adjourns bail plea of JD(S) MLA Revanna in victim abduction case

Bengaluru, May 7 (IANS) The Special Court for People's Representatives, looking into the sex video victim's abduction case on Tuesday, adjourned the bail plea submitted by former minister and JD(S) MLA HD Revanna, to Wednesday.

HD Revanna was arrested in connection with the kidnapping case registered against him by the son of one of the victims who was seen being sexually abused by his son Prajwal Revanna in the

videos that were leaked.

The court questioned the counsel for former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda's son, HD Revanna and asked how it could take up the bail plea when the accused has been sent to police custody till May 8.

The judge also asked that in case bail is given, how the police custody could continue?

The court has directed the Public Prosecutor representing the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to

file objections on whether it can take up the bail petition while the accused is in police custody.

Senior counsel, CV Nagesh representing HD Revanna argued that his client had been dragged unnecessarily into the case and he should be given bail. On the judge raising objections, Counsel Nagesh submitted that bail could be granted while being in police custody and mentioned past judgments by the Supreme Court and provisions in

law. HD Revanna was arrested on charges of kidnapping a victim in the sex scandal video involving his son JD(S) MP and NDA candidate from Hassan.

Prajwal Revanna is absconding and is said to be in a foreign country.

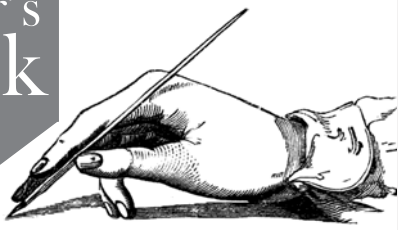
The Karnataka Government is trying to get a Blue Corner notice issued against him and coordinating with the CBI in this regard. At present, the SIT has issued a Lookout Notice for him.



Voters of Ahmedabad cast their votes, at a polling booth, during the 3rd Phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024, in Gujarat on Tuesday.



From Editor's Desk



## Why fast bowler talents such as Mayank Yadav should not be rushed back to action after an injury

**It's not Mayank who needs to get out of his head that he is injured, but the decision makers who need to get into their head that he is.**

For the first time, India unearthed a fast bowler in Mayank Yadav who could consistently bowl over 150kph, triggering raves from fast bowling legends around the world such as the Australian great Brett Lee. Inexplicably, Mayank, the 21-year-old Delhi cricketer who plays for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, is already facing a threat of repeated injury breakdown. He was sidelined first due to a "side strain", which according to Lee usually takes "3-4 weeks to recover" but was pushed into an IPL game this week and once again broke down in the middle of the game. He has been virtually ruled out for the rest of the tournament. Questions have to be asked about the mismanagement by the franchise, especially as at the toss before the start of the game, the captain KL Rahul would claim that he "pushed the medicos and trainers" to accelerate Mayank's recovery and that it's "important that he (Mayank) gets out of his head that he is injured". A stale whiff of old conservative thinking evaporated from the episode.

It brings into focus two competing factors: Short-term urges of IPL franchises which desperately seek those two points to move ahead in the competition vs the long-term vision of Indian national team which would usher Mayank gradually into the big league and get him ready for the all-important Test tour of Australia in December. It's not as simple as asserting that it was the franchise which groomed, selected, and unleashed him in the big league. Does that give it a license to push Mayank hastily through a vulnerable injury recovery stage?

Injuries can happen anytime, but mismanaging or wrongly diagnosing the recovery period can break down a talent irrevocably. Better scientific counsel and patience is needed to handle fragile talents who are just finding their way in competitive cricket. Perhaps it's not Mayank who needs to get out of his head that he is injured, but the decision makers who need to get into their head that he is injured.



Lucknow, May 7 (IANS) A syndrome called Internet Derived Information Obstructing Treatment (IDIOT) is emerging as a major hindrance in the treatment of asthma. Experts at respiratory critical care unit of King George's Medical University (KGMU), said that patients, especially the educated ones, were often misled by information gathered online, especially about steroids which could hinder them from getting the right treatment. Prof Rajendra Prasad, former head of respiratory medicine at KGMU, said that every week two to three patients,

## 'IDIOT' syndrome hampers asthma treatment: experts

influenced by incomplete internet knowledge, resist steroid prescriptions for asthma.

He stressed that steroids, when prescribed and monitored by doctors, are the most effective asthma treatment. Head of the respiratory critical care department of KGMU Prof Ved Prakash highlighted that around 1.9 lakh people die due to asthma complications in India annually, a concerning statistic, given that asthma can be managed well with proper medical guidance.

He pointed out that poor air quality worsens asthma and emphasised the importance of awareness and accurate diagnosis.

Prof Sumit Rungta of the medi-

cal gastroenterology and dermatology department added that asthma, being an allergy, cannot be cured but can be managed.

Meanwhile, experts at KGMU said that according to a survey by the Department of Respiratory Medicine, about 60 per cent of 500 asthma patients were found using the inhalers incorrectly.

This improper use impacts the inhaler's delivery to the lungs, compromising asthma management.

Consequently, patients are often prescribed higher medication dosages (two to three times a day) due to perceived ineffectiveness, when once or twice daily usage might suffice with the correct

technique. Experts noted that "incorrect inhalation may necessitate a separate inhaler for 10 per cent of patients". Experts also underscored the importance of thorough mouth cleaning after inhaler use to manage respiratory diseases and prevent dental complications. He outlined key steps for effective inhaler usage, including -shaking the inhaler before use; exhaling fully before medication administration; holding the inhaler in the correct position; inhaling deeply while dispensing the medicine; holding the breath for at least five seconds; and shaking the inhaler between puffs (if applicable).--IANS

## Constituency Watch: Amid Maratha quota stir, election in Beed is more about caste politics than national issues

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) BJP nominee Pankaja Munde and NCP(SP) candidate Bajrang Sonawane are locked in a direct fight in Beed constituency from Marathwada region.

Against the backdrop of the agitation demanding Maratha reservation spearheaded by Manoj Jarange-Patil, this time the election has become less about national issues and more about caste politics.

There are a total of 41 candidates in the fray but the contest is mainly between Pankaja and Bajrang Sonawane.

The BJP dropped the sitting MP Pritam Munde and replaced her with her elder sister and former state minister Pankaja who has a following in the Vanjani community and the OBCs in general.

This was the BJP's attempt to make up for a possible loss of Maratha votes.

Further, the BJP also counted on the active association of Pankaja's formerly estranged cousin and NCP minister Dhananjay Munde for increasing the vote share.

This is crucial as Pankaja was defeated by Dhananjay in the 2019 Assembly elections and the rivalry between the two reached the point of no return till the Mahayuti Government came into existence. The BJP hopes to weather all odds and consolidate its strength in Beed banking on 'Modi's guarantee' and the Mahayuti Government's move to provide 10 per cent reservation to the Maratha community and aid the OBCs and minorities.

Further, Pankaja, who was sulking over being neglected by the party after her defeat in the 2019 Assembly elections, is cashing in on the strength of six Legislators and her sister and

sitting MP Pritam Munde.

However, there are two negative factors against her. First, Pankaja became inactive after her defeat in the Assembly elections and second she was critical of the party leadership till she was rehabilitated through her nomination.

On the other hand, the NCP(SP)



has brought a big gun to the fight by fielding cooperative baron Bajrang Sonawane from the Maratha community.

This is because Jyoti Mete, widow of late pro-Maratha quota leader and the founder of Shiv Sangram, Vinay Mete, decided to extend support to Bajrang Sonawane.

In addition, several pro-Maratha reservation outfits have been at the forefront to work for Bajrang Sonawane who has posed a serious challenge to Pankaja and is making it a Maratha vs OBC fight.

Interestingly, former minister Jaidutt Kshirsagar, who comes from the Teli community, has come out in the open to support Bajrang Sonawane.

On its part, the NCP(SP) is confident of making further inroads in Beed ahead of the next Assembly elections slated for September-October this year.

Beed, which was traditionally a Congress bastion, later became the BJP's stronghold after former Union Minister Gopinath Munde took the party to the grass roots by reaching out to communities other than Brahmins and Marathas.

In the constituency there are about 7.25 lakh Marathas; of the OBCs 3 lakh are Vanjaris and 2 lakh are Malis, 2.50 lakh belong to the Backward Classes, 1.10 lakh are Banjars and there are 3.25 lakh Muslims.

The Muslims are supporting Bajrang Sonawane mainly to oppose the BJP in the state and at the national level. After the Maratha quota protests, there has been a polarisation of the Maratha votes, resulting in strong resentment against the ruling Mahayuti mainly in Gevrai, Beed and Majalgaon Assembly constituencies.

As a reaction to this, the OBCs have put up a show of unity in the rest of the constituencies. Both Pankaja and Bajrang Sonawane are

reaching out to these communities amid the present division. As the campaigning gathered momentum, Pankaja had to face protests from the Maratha community in various parts of the constituency as a section of the community's leaders claim that she appears Maratha community-friendly till elections but later takes pride in asserting herself as the leader of the Vanjani community.

It is not just Pankaja alone but the Mahayuti leaders are also facing the anger of the Maratha community.

On the other hand, Bajrang Sonawane, who joined the NCP(SP) after parting ways with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, is getting a red carpet treatment from the Maratha community from Gevrai and Majalgaon.

Interestingly, Bajrang Sonawane received a boost after Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader, Suresh Navle, left the party and is now actively working for him.

The NCP(SP) Legislator from Beed, Sandeep Kshirsagar, whose home was burnt during the Maratha quota stir, has activated his poll machinery in support of Bajrang Sonawane.

## Your one vote will make India third largest economy, says PM Modi in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal, May 7 (IANS) A few hours after he cast his vote in Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday, urged people of Madhya Pradesh to exercise their franchise in large numbers as that could "shape the future of India."

Addressing a public rally in Khargone, PM Modi emphasised the significance of the ongoing elections as voting in the third phase is underway in 12 states and Union Territories in the country, including nine parliamentary constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

"Your one vote in this election will

make India the third largest economy, increase your earnings, enhance job opportunities for youth, and make a strong India," said Prime Minister Modi.

He continued: "Your one vote enhanced India's influence in the world, removed Article 370 after 70 years, helped in building the Ram temple in Ayodhya, made a tribal daughter the President, ensured reservation rights for women, and sent corrupt individuals to jail. Your one vote secured the future of youth, created immense opportunities, and lifted 25 crore people out of poverty." All these decisions, said

PM Modi, were made possible because of the support that he and his party received in 2014 and 2019 to take the country forward.

"I understand that it is quite hot but I also came here after doing my duty as a citizen of the country. I appeal to everyone to exercise their franchise to strengthen democracy," he said.

After Khargone, PM Modi will be addressing another rally in Dhar. Voting in Dhar and Khargone, along with six other seats that also include Indore and Ujjain, is scheduled to take place during the fourth round of elections on May 13.--IANS

## Post Salem violence, VCK calls for protest march on May 8 over atrocities on Dalits

Chennai, May 7 (IANS) The Dalit political party Viduthala Chiruthagai Katchi (VCK) has announced a protest march in Deevattipatti in Salem District on May 8 in connection with the recent clashes between Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and Dalits.

Deevattipatti is tense following clashes after the MBCs denied permission to the Dalits to enter a temple during a festival.

A huge police contingent is camping in the area that has been witnessing sporadic bouts of violence between the two communities.

The Adi Dravidar community which is a Scheduled Caste community was denied permission by the Vanniyan community in the Mariaman temple at Deevattipatti and this led to a violent confrontation and pelting of stones between the two communities on Thursday.

Police had to resort to lathi charge to bring the situation under control.

While there have been no major incidents of violence in the last few days, there have been occasional instances of stone pelting between the two communities and a heavy police contingent is now camping in the region to prevent further escalation of violence.

A senior police officer told IANS that instructions have been given to the local police stations to keep track of those buying knives and sickles even for domestic purposes.

The officer said that police in

Salem District have directed shops that sell knives and sickles to take down the phone numbers and identity card details of those purchasing the objects from them.

Meanwhile, police are on alert after the VCK's call for a march on May 8 and the Tamil Nadu special branch police have, according to sources, given inputs to the Salem District police of the possibility of violence during the event.

VCK General Secretary and MP from Villupuram Lok Sabha constituency, D Ravikumaran will be leading the protest march under heavy police bandobast.

MP and founder leader of VCK, Thol Thirumavalavan told IANS that there won't be any violence during the protest march and it will only be used to highlight the atrocities faced by Dalits and denial of entry to temples. He said that VCK was a political party that does not believe in violence.

## Polling begins in UP's 10 Lok Sabha constituencies

Lucknow, May 7 (IANS) Polling for 10 Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttar Pradesh began on Tuesday morning in the third phase of the parliamentary elections.

The constituencies where polling is being held include Sambhal, Hathras, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Badaun, Aonla, and Bareilly, spanning across 12 districts of the state.

Of the 10 seats that are voting on Tuesday, the BJP had won eight in 2019 -- Hathras, Agra, Firozabad, Fatehpur Sikri, Etah, Badaun, Bareilly and Aonla -- while Mainpuri and Sambhal went to the Samajwadi Party (SP).

This phase will be a test for the SP's first family as well, with Dimple Yadav, Akshay Yadav and Aditya Yadav contesting Mainpuri, Firozabad and Badaun respectively.

In Mainpuri, an SP bastion that the party has never lost, sitting MP Dimple Yadav will take on Jaiveer Singh of the BJP.

In Firozabad, the BJP candidate Chandra Sen Jadon is contesting against Akshay Yadav and in Badaun, Aditya Yadav -- son of Shivpal Yadav -- is making his electoral debut against Durvijay Shakya of BJP. The third phase unfolds with the emergence of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), prominently including Yadavs, Lodhs, and Kachhi/Shakya/Muraos communities, exerting influence as decisive factors across various constituencies. Alongside, the enduring impact of Muslim and Jat demographics remains significant in select areas.

The third phase has seen some high-pitched campaigns by leaders of all parties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led the BJP's campaign against, what they called, dynasty and appeasement politics of the Congress and

the SP, and slammed the Opposition for "declining" the Ram temple invitation.

The SP, which has much at stake in phase three, pushed its



caste census pitch and alleged that the BJP will end reservation and hence is seeking 400-plus seats in the Lok Sabha.

Several constituencies, including Sambhal, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Mainpuri, and Aonla, are witnessing a three-way battle between the NDA and INDIA alliances and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) while others like Hathras, Firozabad, Etah, and Badaun will see a two-way contest between the BJP and the SP.

Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said that Agra has the highest number of voters at 20,72,685, while Etah has the lowest with 17,524 registered voters in their respective Lok Sabha constituencies.

Bareilly tops the list with 13 candidates, whereas Firozabad has the fewest contenders with 7.

A total of 100 candidates are in the fray in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies, including eight women.

An adequate strength of paramilitary forces has been deployed to conduct the elections peacefully. The responsibility of security of the strong room has also been entrusted to paramilitary forces.

In addition to paramilitary forces/police forces, arrangements have also been made for air ambulances and helicopters for medical assistance in case of emergency.

Rinwa said, "Arrangements have been made for live webcasting at 50 per cent polling places (10208 polling places), which will be supervised at all three levels by the District Election Officer, Chief Electoral Officer, and Election Commission of India. Apart from this, there will also be arrangements for videography at 3503 polling places."

In the third phase, a total of 370 model polling places, 79 all-women managed polling places, 39 all youth worker polling places, and 47 all disabled managed polling places have been created."

## India set to vote in third phase of 2024 LS polls; Amit Shah, Scindia, Adhir Ranjan, Dimple Yadav in fray

New Delhi, May 6 (IANS) India's democratic journey continues as voters will head out on Tuesday to exercise their franchise in 93 constituencies, spread across 11 states and Union Territories spanning the beaches of Goa to the jungles of Assam, and a large swathe of UP to north Karnataka, and seal the electoral fate of several heavyweights. The voting will start at 7 a.m. and go on till 5 p.m.

There are over 1,300 candidates, including 120 women, in the fray.

Notable contenders include Union Home Minister Amit Shah contesting from Gujrat's Gandhinagar, former Madhya Pradesh Chief

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan from the state's Vidisha, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia from Guna (Madhya Pradesh) (all BJP), Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury from West Bengal's Baharampur, where his Trinamool Congress rival is former cricketer Yusuf Pathan, Congress heavy-weight and former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh from Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh, Samajwadi Party's Dimple Yadav from Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri and Aditya Yadav (Badaun), former BJP Karnataka Chief Ministers Jagdish Shettar (Belgaum), Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri), Congress' Geeta Shivarajkumar (Shimoga), industrialist Pal-

lavi Dempo, contesting from South Goa on a BJP ticket, NCP-SP's Supriya Sule who faces her sister-in-law and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar in family borough Baramati, among others. The Election Commission said that around 18.5 lakh polling officials have been deployed to welcome over 17.24 crore voters - 8.85 crore males and 8.39 crore females - across 1.85 lakh polling stations. It said that there are over 14.04 lakh registered 85 plus years old, 39,599 voters above 100 years and 15.66 lakh PwD voters for phase 3, and they had been provided with the option to vote from the comfort of their homes.



## Allu Arjun celebrates 20 years of cult classic 'Arya', says it changed his life

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Superstar Allu Arjun on Tuesday celebrated the 20th anniversary of his cult classic film 'Arya', and said that it changed the "course of my life."

comedy 'Arya', which also stars Anuradha Mehta, is touted to be one of the best films by Allu. It helped

had a spiritual sequel titled 'Arya 2', which was released in 2009. 'Arya' narrates the story of Arya, an outgoing and free-spirited boy named Arya, who falls in love with Geetha, an introverted girl, who is on the shield of another man named Ajay.

Allu took to X and shared the poster of filmmaker Sukumar's 2004 cult classic.

"20 years of Arya. It's not just a movie... it's a moment in time that changed the course of my life. Gratitude forever," he wrote.

the actor gain the spotlight in his career and brought recognition for Sukumar in Telugu cinema. The film

blockbuster 'Pushpa: The Rise', which was released in 2021. Both films are directed by Sukumar.--IANS



## Ananya Panday is back on 'Call Me Bae' set: 'Can't wait to show you guys'



Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Ananya Panday on Tuesday shared a sneak peek into her next project, 'Call Me Bae', as she is back for the shoot of the upcoming streaming series.

Taking to Instagram stories, Ananya shared a glimpse of her vanity van with "BAE" written on it.

The actress shared the picture with the caption: "Look who's back... Can't wait to show you guys," followed by a red heart emoji.

The show follows the story of a billionaire fashionista, Bae (portrayed by Ananya), who is disowned by her ultra-rich family due to a salacious scandal. Left to fend for herself for the first time, she overcomes stereotypes, confronts prejudices, and explores her true self on this

journey. A Dharmatic Entertainment production with Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra serving as executive producers, 'Call Me Bae' is directed by Collin D'Cunha.

The series will soon be streaming on Prime Video.

Meanwhile, Ananya was last seen in the movie 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', directed by Arjun Varain Singh and written by Arjun, Zoya Akhtar, and Reema Kagti. The film was produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Zoya Akhtar, Reema Kagti, and Farhan Akhtar under the banners of Excel Entertainment and Tiger Baby Films.

She also has 'Control' and 'The Untold Story of C Sankaran Nair' in the pipeline.

## Riteish, Genelia cast their votes in Latur, urge people to 'vote for your future'

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Actor Riteish Deshmukh and his wife Genelia took to Instagram after they cast their vote in Latur, Maharashtra, to urge fellow citizens to come out and exercise their democratic right.

Riteish, dressed in a white churidar and sky blue kurta, had a simple message: "We have voted. Have you?" Genelia, who wore a light yellow chiffon sari with a silver border, wrote: "Vote for you. Vote for your future. Vote for your country."

Latur is the Assembly constituency that Riteish's late father, Vilasrao Deshmukh, who was Maharashtra's chief minister and a Union minister as well, represented in the years he was active in



state politics. In Genelia's post, Riteish and she are seen sitting along with his mother, Vaishali Deshmukh, under a picture of a beaming Vilasrao Deshmukh. The contest for the Latur parliamentary seat, for which the Deshmukhs cast their vote, is between

the sitting MP Sudhakar Tukaram Shrangare from the NDA and the INDIA bloc's nominee, Kalge Shivaji Bandappa.

Riteish, who was last seen in the successful Marathi movie, 'Ved', will appear next in 'Housefull 5' with Akshay Kumar and Abhishek Bachchan.

## Pushpa confronts Swara's school teacher after she's mistreated in 'Pushpa Impossible'

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) In the upcoming episodes of 'Pushpa Impossible', the audience will witness that Swara (played by Vrihi Kodvara) will get enrolled in a school where she will get punished for not completing her homework because no one in the family -- Ashwin (Naveen Pandita), Chirag (Darshan Gurjar), and Prarthana (Indraksi Kanjilal) -- is available to assist her.



The school teacher punishes Swara by making her stand on the table for the entire day, leaving her traumatised. Witnessing Swara's distress, Pushpa (played by Karuna Pandey) decides to visit the school and confront the teacher, who eventually refuses to accept the blame. Determined to address the injustice, Pushpa resolves to take a stand against the teacher, leaving the audience curious about her next course of action. Speaking about the sequence, Karuna said: "Pushpa is someone who always takes a stand for justice. Seeing Swara in this condition gave Push-

pa a motive to take a stand against such practices. Children are like clay, and good and bad experiences can mold them in certain ways. It is very impor-

tant to stand by children at this young age and help them navigate the world without feeling isolated." The show airs on Sony SAB.--IANS

## Fatima Sana Shaikh is in her 'nazakat' era, drops pic in mustard saree

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh on Tuesday shared a mesmerising picture of herself in a saree, looking like a vision, and said she is in her 'nazakat' era.

The actress, who last featured as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in the Vicky Kaushal-starrer biographical war drama 'Sam Bahadur', took to Instagram and shared a beautiful photo of herself in a mustard-coloured saree, paired it with a matching sleeveless blouse. The 'Dangal' fame actress opted for a minimal makeup look, her hair tied in a loose bun, and accessorised with golden earrings.

## Nargis Fakhri wants to live in the woods, says nature heals us

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Actress Nargis Fakhri desires to live in the woods, as she says there is nothing better than spending days in nature.

Nargis, who made her Bollywood debut in 2011 with the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Rockstar', was last seen in the Hindi comedy film 'Shiv Shastri Balboa' starring Anupam Kher and Neena Gupta. The actress will next be seen in the Telugu period action adventure film 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part 1 - Sword vs Spirit' starring Pawan Kalyan and Bobby Deol.



I feel so grateful and blessed, nature heals us." Talking about her work,

Nargis, who made her Bollywood debut in 2011 with the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Rockstar', was last seen in the Hindi comedy film 'Shiv Shastri Balboa' starring Anupam Kher and Neena Gupta. The actress will next be seen in the Telugu period action adventure film 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part 1 - Sword vs Spirit' starring Pawan Kalyan and Bobby Deol.

## Arjun Bijlani turns singer on the sets of Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Bhojpuri star Akshara Singh shared that she shot for a project for 24 hours and then took a selfie. Akshara took to her Instagram stories and posted a mirror selfie video of herself dressed in bright pink Indian attire.

Zee TV's Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti has always kept its audience glued to their screens with its interesting storyline. This love story between Shiv (Arjun Bijlani) and Shakti (Nikki Sharma) has captured the hearts of the audience with their great on-screen chemistry. In the recent episodes, the viewers saw how Mandira (Parineeta Borthakur) got Shiv kidnapped but Shakti rescued him with the help of other family members. While the team was shooting for some intense on-screen drama, Arjun took it upon himself to entertain the team with his melodious voice in between the shots. Arjun Bijlani has proven to be an excellent actor and host for all these years, but now we have discovered one of his hidden talents, which is his interest in singing. Arjun recently took to his social media to share an adorable video of him entertaining his team with a lovely song. Arjun said, "Honestly, I am no professional singer as such but there are days when I like to sing to lighten up the mood. I believe that music is like a stressbuster for most of us, it helps in relaxing and rejuvenating. I have been fond of singing but never did it professionally. Whenever we are shooting on the sets of Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya Shiv Shakti, we end up spending a lot of time together in between shots rather than going to our rooms so while we were waiting for our next shot one day, I decided to lighten up the mood with a song."



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**Gautam Adani, Founder and Chairman of Adani Group, cast his vote in Gujarat, along with his family members, during the third phase of the 18th Lok Sabha elections.** "Proud to have voted with my family. Voting is a right, a privilege, and a responsibility we all share as citizens of this great nation," Gautam Adani posted on X. "Every vote is a powerful voice in our democracy. Cast your vote for shaping the future of India. Jai Hind," Gautam Adani added. Voting across 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in Gujarat began on Tuesday.

### Gujarat voter turnout: Banaskantha leads with 30.27 pc, Porbandar lowest at 19.83 pc

Ahmedabad, May 7 (IANS) Amid the rising temperatures, voters were queuing up at the booths taking the voting percentage to 24.35 in the first four hours of polling, said the election officials here on Tuesday.

Banaskantha district led the voter participation with 30.27 per cent, followed closely by Valsad at 28.71 per cent. Sabarkantha and Chhotaudepur are not far behind, recording 27.50 and 26.58 per cent turnout rates, respectively.

However, some constituencies have witnessed comparatively lower numbers, with Porbandar at 19.83 per cent, Vadodara at 20.77 per cent, and Jamnagar at 20.85 per cent. The voting scenario showed Amreli registering 21.89 per cent, Dahod at 26.35 per cent, Navsari at 23.35 per cent, Bardoli at 27.77 per cent, Bharuch at 27.52 per cent, Junagadh at 23.32 per cent, Ahmedabad East at 21.64 per cent, and Ahmedabad West at 21.15 per cent. Despite the challenging weather conditions, voters across the state are exercising their democratic rights. The mercury in Ahmedabad has soared to 44 degrees Celsius. According to official figures from the Election Commission, Gujarat has an electorate of 4.97 crore eligible voters. This includes 2.56 crore males, 2.41 crore females, and 1,534 individuals from the third gender. The voting process spans over 50,788 polling booths, strategically distributed with 17,275 in urban areas and 33,513 in rural regions.

The constituencies are Kachchh, Banaskantha, Patan, Mahesana, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad East, Ahmedabad West, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Anand, Kheda, Panchmahal, Dahod, Vadodara, Chhota Udaipur, Bharuch, Bardoli, Navsari, and Valsad.



### Shah casts vote, urges people to 'accept voting as duty'

Ahmedabad, May 7 (IANS) Union Home Minister and BJP candidate from Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat, Amit Shah cast his vote on Tuesday and appealed to voters to "accept voting as a duty towards contributing to nation-building".

He was accompanied by his son, Jay Shah, who is the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and other family members.

Before casting his vote, Home Minister Amit Shah paid a visit to the Kameshwar Mahadev temple in Ahmedabad.

Earlier, in the morning, the Home Minister posted in several languages, urging people to vote. He said, "In the third phase of the Lok Sabha Election, I appeal to all

the voters who are going to cast their votes today to accept voting as a duty towards contributing to nation-building. Once again,

government that has experience in public welfare and a blueprint for a developed India. Your vote will lay the foundation of

come." Several prominent figures have already exercised their voting rights, including Uttar Pradesh

AAP candidate and tribal leader Chaitar Vasava, Congress candidate Geniben Thakor from Banaskantha, AAP candidate Anant Patel from Valsad, BJP leader Arjun Modhwadia, and BJP MLA Rivaba Jadeja from Jamnagar. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said, "I hope there is a huge voter turnout for our Home Minister Amit Shah's constituency in Gandhinagar." CM Patel voted at booth 99 in Shilaj Primary School, Ahmedabad, representing the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat. BJP Porbandar candidate Arjun Modhwadia, who recently switched from Congress to BJP said, "This is the first time I see huge queues in the morning, as early as 7 a.m. I see a lot of hope in this election. We are building a bright future."

Gujarat cabinet minister Kanu Desai said, "Today I see a lot of women at the booth. This is a win for women's power in the State. Women using their right to vote indicates a developed society."

In Gujarat, a substantial electorate of 4.97 crore voters, comprising 2.56 crore males, 2.41 crore females, and 1,534 individuals from the third gender, are engaging in the democratic exercise across 50,788 polling booths.

The constituencies include Kachchh, Banaskantha, Patan, Mahesana, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad East, Ahmedabad West, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Anand, Kheda, Panchmahal, Dahod, Vadodara, Chhota Udaipur, Bharuch, Bardoli, Navsari, and Valsad.

### Woman ties rakhi to PM Modi as huge crowd gathers outside polling both in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, May 7 (IANS) Enthusiastic crowds greeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he cast his vote at Nishan Vidhyala in Ahmedabad's Ranip on Tuesday.

The atmosphere at the polling booth was charged with anticipation and enthusiasm. Residents, echoing the sentiments of millions across the state, greeted the Prime Minister with chants of 'Jai Shri Ram'. Home Minister Amit Shah welcomed PM Modi outside the polling station and presented saffron khes to him.

Amidst the throngs of supporters and well-wishers, an old woman tied a rakhi to PM Modi, symbolizing the deep-rooted bonds of respect and affection between Gujaratis and their 'mota bhai' Narendra Modi. The PM in return folded his hands and sought blessings.

PM Modi reciprocated this warmth by engaging with the locals and signing autographs. A local presented a painting to the PM, which he accepted readily. The PM urged everyone to exercise their right to vote. In the earlier elections, PM Modi usually met his family members who lived in the Ranip area, but this time, it was unlikely. In his address, PM Modi lauded the Election Commission for orchestrating a smooth and violence-free electoral process. He emphasized the importance of peaceful elections as a beacon for democracies worldwide, positioning India as a case study in election-friendly practices.

As the Prime Minister concluded his voting duties, he set his sights on Indore for the next leg of his election campaign, reflecting the pace of democratic engagement. The voting hours, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., ensure ample time for citizens to participate in shaping the nation's future.

### India's elections a remarkable showcase of diversity & unity: Pranav Adani

Ahmedabad, May 7 (IANS) Pranav Adani, Managing Director (Agro, Oil & Gas) and Director of Adani Enterprises, on Tuesday cast his vote along with his family members, saying that India's elections are a remarkable showcase of diversity and unity, where "every vote counts".

In a post on X (social media platform), Pranav Adani said that he has fulfilled his constitutional duty and now, "it is your turn".

"India's elections aren't just the world's largest. They are a remarkable showcase of diversity and unity, where every vote counts," he wrote.

"I just voted, fulfilling my constitutional duty. Now it's your turn! Make your voice heard. Cast your vote," Pranav Adani added. "Every vote is a powerful voice in our democracy. Cast your vote for shaping the future of India. Jai Hind," Adani added.

### The Convergence Foundation and India Impact Sherpas Release a first-of-its-kind report on Systems Change in the Indian context

New Delhi, The Convergence Foundation, in collaboration with India Impact Sherpas, released their seminal report titled, 'Systemic Impact Exemplars: Unique Approaches Towards Solving India's Development Challenges.' This report aims to identify and learn from organizations that have achieved significant impact by adopting the systems change approach. These organizations—System Support Organisations (SSOs)—work in close collaboration with governments at the Centre as well as State levels, to create impact at a large-scale. In addition to working with the governments and aiming for impact at population scale, systems change involves solving the problem at the root cause; no quick fixes or band-aid solutions.

Ashish Dhawan, Founder and CEO of The Convergence Foundation, emphasized the importance of systems change in addressing the country's complex challenges.

He said, "The systems change approach is a pivotal idea that has the highest potential for transformation. We conceptualized this report to identify and learn from leading Indian organizations that have adopted systems change to inspire and inform other social purpose organizations by building evidence on what works in the Indian context."

### After their houses were razed, names of 700 fishermen deleted from voters' lists

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, Around 700 fishermen whose homes in fishing harbours of Gandhvi and Navadra in Devbhumi Dwarka were demolished in March last year have found out that they will not be able to vote in this Lok Sabha election. The Election Commission (EC) has deleted their names from the latest electoral rolls.

"Around 10 days ago, I went to a religious place in Miyani to pay my obeisance. From there, I went

to Gandhvi, and inquired with people if they had distributed voters' slips in the village and if anyone had accepted mine on my behalf. I was told no. Then I inquired over a call on Saturday and I was told the same thing and was informed that mine and the names of my three other family members had been deleted from voters' list and that we shall not be able to vote this time," Ayyub Pateliya, a fisherman from Gandhvi whose wife Sakina was elected to

Gandhvi village panchayat around 10 years ago, told The Indian Express on Monday.

Gafoor Pateliya, a leader of fishermen said that out of around 350 fishermen who were registered voters in Gandhvi, names of around 347 have been deleted from electoral rolls.

"Only three names have been retained while the rest have been deleted. Similarly, out of 225 voters in Navadra, names of 224 have been deleted.

### In a first, polling booths set up within residential societies of Ahmedabad

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, To overcome the challenge of urban apathy in Gujarat that goes to polls on Tuesday, the Election Commission has, in a first in the state, set up polling booths within residential societies in Ahmedabad.

Thirty polling stations have been set up in as many residential apartments in the Vejalpur, Naranpura and Ghatlodiya Assembly constituencies that fall under the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency in the western part

### PM Modi urges electorates to cast votes in record numbers

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged electorates to cast votes in record numbers in the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

"Urging all those who are voting in today's phase to vote in record numbers. Their active participation will certainly make the el the Prime Minister said in a post on X. Besides the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President J.P. Nadda also urged people to exercise their franchise in the third phase of the parliamentary elections. The Lok Sabha election's third phase kicked off at 7 a.m. on Tuesday in 93 constituencies spanning across 11 states and Union Territories.

### Temperature likely to fall as thundersquall, rains likely to continue in several West Bengal districts: IMD

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, A thundersquall is expected to occur in one or two locations over the Birbhum, Bankura, East & West Burdwan, East and West Medinipur, Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas, and Kolkata districts of West Bengal on Tuesday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD said the wind speed is likely to reach 50-60 kmph on Tuesday, and heavy rain of 7-11 cm is likely to occur over the East Medinipur, North, and South 24 Parganas districts. For the entire

week, light to moderate rain, including thundersqualls with lightning and gusty wind (40-50 kmph), is likely to continue over the rest of the districts of southern Bengal, as per the weather agency. "With red alert for thundersquall with wind speed reaching 60-70 kmph along with light to moderate rain with lightning very likely to occur over the parts of Nadia and an orange alert. Thunderstorms with lightning accompanied with gusty wind reaching 40-50 kmph and light to moderate rain very likely to affect over some parts of Howrah and East Mid-

napore districts," stated the IMD on Monday, adding that maximum temperature in West Bengal will likely decrease by 3-5 degrees Celsius over the next two days.

On Monday, Kolkata recorded 35.4 degrees Celsius during the daytime, with the maximum humidity at 81 per cent. The sky remained generally cloudy. An IMD statement on Sunday warned about the severe weather conditions expected to hit the West Bengal coast. According to the statement, there is a likelihood of squally weather with maximum wind speed

reaching 45-55 kmph from Monday to Tuesday. Therefore, fishermen have been advised to avoid venturing into the sea on Monday and Tuesday to avoid any danger.

The IMD advisory stated, "Fishermen and coastal population are alerted to be cautious on possible surging of waves (gushing of seawater) intermittently in the nearshore/beach region, particularly in the low lying areas and during high tide/spring tide phases. Small vessels may ply nearshore with due caution. Boats may be anchored at a fair distance

### Spree Hospitality Expands to Gujarat, Presents ZIP By Spree Hotels Surat

Surat, Spree Hospitality, a subsidiary of EaseMyTrip and a distinguished name in the hospitality industry announces the opening of its newest property, ZIP By Spree Hotels Surat, a contemporary oasis designed to redefine luxury and comfort in the heart of the city. Scheduled to open its doors today, ZIP By Spree Hotels Surat pledges an unmatched experience tailored to both business and leisure travelers. Conveniently situated on VIP Road, Surat, ZIP By Spree Hotels Surat boasts a strategic location that ensures easy accessibility from key landmarks. With a travel time of less than 15 minutes from Surat Airport, 10 minutes from Diamond Bourse, and a mere 5 minutes from Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre, guests will find themselves seamlessly connected to the pulse of the city. Accommodation at ZIP By Spree Hotels Surat comprises 47 meticulously designed rooms, each offering a harmonious blend of modern amenities and understated elegance. Whether it's a cozy retreat after a long day of business meetings or a tranquil haven for relaxation, the rooms are thoughtfully curated to cater to every need of our discerning guests. Adding to the allure of ZIP By Spree Hotels Surat is 'Treat,' their signature vegetarian restaurant. Nestled within the premises, Treat invites guests on a culinary journey where delectable flavors and impeccable service converge to create unforgettable dining experiences.

### Surge in Demat Accounts: India Records Fivefold Increase to 14 Crores Post-COVID - Sanjeev Bhasin

Valsad, In a recent seminar titled "Buy the Fear," hosted by Prime Investments in Valsad, insightful discussions were held regarding the burgeoning opportunities in India's market landscape. Sanjeev Bhasin, Director of IIFL Investments, emphasized India's unparalleled growth trajectory across manufacturing and service industries, marking it as the highest among global counterparts. Bhasin affirmed that this growth momentum is poised to endure for the next two decades, making the Indian market an optimal choice for investors worldwide. Highlighting the shifting investment landscape, Bhasin underscored the potential for savings and investment proliferation in small towns across India. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the middle class in metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Delhi, emphasizing the importance of providing investment guidance tai-



lored to smaller towns. Notably, Bhasin referenced the exponential rise in demat accounts post-COVID, soaring from 3 crores to 14 crores in just three years, indicating a substantial increase in local investor participation. The seminar shed light on investment strategies aimed at leveraging market uncertainties, urging investors to capitalize on opportunities arising from market volatility. Pragmesh Desai of Prime Investments facilitated discussions on prudent investment avenues, steering investors towards alternative options beyond

traditional bank fixed deposits. Detailed insights were provided on diversifying portfolios through investments in stocks, mutual funds, and various bonds, empowering investors to make informed decisions aligned with their financial goals. With the resilience of the Indian stock market evidenced by sustained local investor participation, the seminar emphasized the market's stability even amidst fluctuations in foreign investments. By equipping investors with comprehensive guidance and strategic insights, in-

itiatives like "Buy the Fear" are instrumental in fostering a culture of informed investment practices, driving economic growth and prosperity across the nation. (photo Ashok Joshi)

### Mumbai police arrest fifth accused in Salman Khan firing case from Rajasthan

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad The Mumbai police on Tuesday arrested another person from Rajasthan in connection with the firing outside the residence of actor Salman Khan on April 14. This brings the number of arrests in the case to five, including Anuj Thapan who died by suicide in the Mumbai police lockup on May 1, so far.

According to Mumbai police Crime Branch, the arrested man, identified as Mohammad Rafiq Chaudhary, was nabbed from a train in Rajasthan and was brought to the city on Tuesday afternoon.

A senior officer said Chaudhary had met the shooters Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta twice in Mumbai and was also involved in conducting a recce of the Bandra residence of Salman Khan. Chaudhary had been in touch with the Bishnoi gang for the past five to six years and was also instrumental in hiring people for the gang, added the officer. On April 14, two men, now identified as Sagar Pal, 21, and Vicky Gupta, 24, on a motorcycle fired five rounds outside the residence of Salman Khan. One of the bullets entered the actor's balcony. The police arrest-

ed Pal and Gupta, who are labourers from Bihar, along with two others who had allegedly provided them with the firearms.

The Mumbai police have said the accused carried out the firing at Khan's home on the instructions of the Bishnoi gang. Officers probing the case have told The Indian Express that Pal and Gupta were asked by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol to find a place for Anuj Thapan and Sonu — the two attackers. However, Thapan and Sonu went missing two days before the plan was supposed to be executed.



## Israeli army attacks targets in Rafah

Tel Aviv, May 7 (IANS/DPA) A few hours after Hamas announced that it would agree to the mediators' proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, the Israeli army attacked targets in the east of the city of Rafah late on Monday evening. According to an army spokesman, the targets were Hamas facilities. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war Cabinet had previously decided to continue the military operation in Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip in order to increase the military pressure on Hamas and achieve Israel's war aims. "While the Hamas proposal is far from meeting Israel's core demands, Israel will dispatch a ranking delegation to Egypt in an effort to maximize the possibility of

reaching an agreement on terms acceptable to Israel," a statement from Netanyahu's office said. Egypt and Qatar had brokered the proposal, the content of which is still officially unknown.

The Israeli military had previously called on the approximately 100,000 inhabitants of the eastern part of Rafah on the border with Egypt to move to the al-Mawasi camp a few kilometres to the north.

Demonstrations in favour of a negotiated solution for the release of the hostages held by Hamas took place in several Israeli cities on Monday evening. "Time to decide - life or death," read a large banner at a demonstration by relatives of the hostages abducted to the Gaza Strip on October 7.



## IT'S THIN KARDASHIAN!

Kim Kardashian sent shockwaves through the Met Gala as she flaunted her astonishingly small waist in a silver Maison Margiela gown on Monday in New York City. Kim, who rocked her newly dyed platinum blonde locks in a loose mermaid braid, added a gray shrug to her silvery corset gown. Her sister Kylie Jenner kept it simple and chic in a rose-water colored strapless gown by Oscar de la Renta, paired with a rose in her hair.

## Hamas accepts ceasefire terms amid pending Rafah offensive, Israel yet to respond

Cairo, May 6 (IANS) Hamas on Monday announced that it has accepted the terms of a ceasefire deal in Gaza amid a pending offensive by Israeli forces on Rafah, but the details were yet to be announced and Israel's response was also awaited amid misgivings voiced by its officials, reports said.

In a statement published on its official website, the Hamas said it has informed Qatari and Egyptian mediators of its decision, the BBC reported.

It said its leader, Ismail Haniyeh, conducted a telephone call with Qatar's Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and Egyptian Intelligence Minister Abbas Kamel, and informed them of Hamas's approval of their proposal regarding a ceasefire agreement.

Hamas said that now it was up to Israel to respond.

Details of the ceasefire deal, especially its dura-

tion and the fate of Israeli captives in Gaza are still to be known.

There were also reports that Israel was not fully on board with the ceasefire deal as hammered out, but no reaction had come from it yet.

Israel's Channel 12 quoted Israeli officials as



saying that their negotiating team has just received Hamas's response to the mediators, and is now carefully evaluating it and will issue comments later this evening.

It also quoted the officials as saying that "this is not the same proposal" for a deal that Israel and Egypt agreed upon 10 days ago, and that served as the basis for the indirect negotiations since

then, as "all kinds of clauses" have been inserted.

The developments came soon after US President Joe Biden reiterated "his clear position on Rafah" during a phone call with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that it will not support an invasion of Rafah without a plan to help the civilians sheltering there

On Sunday, Netanyahu, as negotiations resumed in Egypt to strike a deal for a pause in Israel's Gaza offensive in return for the release of hostages taken by Hamas, asserted that his country will not accept Hamas's demands to end the Gaza war. "We are not ready to accept a situation in which the Hamas battalions come out of their bunkers, take control of Gaza again, rebuild their military infrastructure, and return to threatening the citizens of Israel in the surrounding communities, in the cities of the south, in all parts of the country," he had said.

## Palestinian president hails efforts of Egypt, Qatar for Gaza ceasefire deal

Ramallah, May 7 (IANS) Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed on Monday the efforts of Egypt and Qatar to mediate a ceasefire agreement for the Gaza Strip.

In a statement published by the Palestinian news agency (WAFA), Abbas expressed hope for Israel's commitment to "ceasefire and complete withdrawal from the Strip". The President urged

the international community to pressure Israel to agree to a ceasefire and continue efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, Xinhua news agency reported.

Earlier on Tuesday, Hamas said that it had informed mediators in Egypt and Qatar that it approved the ceasefire proposal for the Gaza Strip.

Hamas said in a statement that Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's political bureau

chief, made phone calls with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egyptian Intelligence Chief Abbas Kamel separately to inform them of the decision. Hamas's announcement came hours after the Israeli army demanded around 100,000 residents in the eastern area of Rafah in southern Gaza evacuate to the Al-Mawasi area, southwest of the Strip.

## Sri Lanka renews visa-free entry for Indians

Colombo, May 7 (IANS) To promote tourist arrivals to the island nation, Sri Lanka renewed visa-free entry for visitors from India and several other select countries.

The Sri Lankan government's move will open exciting possibilities for seamless travel between the two nations.

The country's Cabinet on Monday decided to award free visa entry

to nationals from India, China,

Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia who are on a 30-day visit to the island nation.

The scheme was launched in October as a pilot project to rebuild the tourism industry in the country.

According to the Department of Immigration and Emigration which handles visa-free entry, foreigners from the above-

mentioned countries should apply visa via website www.srilankaevaiva.lk before arriving in Sri Lanka and the validity period of this free visa is 30 days.

Meanwhile, amid recent controversy over high charges under a private company, the cabinet has decided to maintain \$50 fee for visitors who enter the country on arrival visa for 30 days.



Mothin Ali (right), who was elected to Leeds city council last week, had called Leeds University's Jewish chaplain, Zecharia Deutsch (left), a 'creep', a 'low-life' and an 'animal'. The 42-year-old had been allowed to stand for the Greens despite branding Israelis 'white supremacists' after the Hamas Palestinian terror group killed 1,200 people on October 7 last year. He was filmed shouting 'We will raise the voice of Palestine - Allahu Akbar!' after winning his council seat. Yesterday the party faced a string of calls to take action against him, including from Jewish leaders who accused it of hypocrisy for not distancing itself from his 'extremist nonsense'.

## Rafah crossing from Egyptian side closed indefinitely for aid, individual passage: Source

Cairo, May 7 (IANS) The Rafah crossing, the only link between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, is closed for aid and individual passage indefinitely after an Israeli military operation close by from the Palestinian side early Tuesday, a top security source told the media.

Bombing and strikes have not stopped in the eastern area of the Palestinian city Rafah that accommodates the crossing, and all workers in the crossing have left amid direct targeting by the Israeli

forces, the source said on condition of anonymity as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

"The movement of passengers and delivery of aid completely stopped to the Gaza Strip since Monday evening," the source added. He said that the Israeli operation in search of Hamas tunnels and Israeli hostages might take a few days. However, another security source confirmed to Xinhua news agency that "Egypt has inquired about the Israeli incursion in the vicinity of

the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, and Israeli responded that the operation will end on Tuesday morning," he said, adding that Israel will not break into the crossing or control it. Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV channel reported that Israeli tanks stood at a close distance from the crossing in southern Gaza. "Three Israeli tanks are positioned 200 metres far from the crossing and bombarded the crossing wall. Meanwhile, sounds of firing and strikes were heard near the crossing."

## Israeli security operation near Rafah crossing to end today

Cairo, May 7 (IANS) Egypt has told Palestine that Israel's security operation in the vicinity of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing will end on Tuesday, a top official told the media.

"Egypt has inquired about the Israeli incursion in the vicinity of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, the only link between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, and Israel responded that the operation will end on Tuesday morning," a source said on condition of anonymity.

He added that Israel will not break into the crossing or control it, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Al-Aqsa TV channel of Hamas reported that Israeli tanks stood at a close distance from the crossing in southern Gaza.

"Three Israeli tanks are positioned 200 metres far from the crossing and bombarded the crossing wall. Meanwhile, sounds of firing and strikes were heard near the crossing," the TV report added.

## Boeing again scrubs crewed launch of Starliner

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Boeing has yet again scrubbed the Starliner manned mission over an oxygen relief valve, two hours before launch, NASA announced.

The CST-100 Starliner spacecraft was expected to launch NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Indian-Origin Sunita Williams.

While the crew had entered the spacecraft, it faced an issue with a valve in the rocket's upper stage

leading to the scrub. "Today's #Starliner launch is scrubbed as teams evaluate an oxygen relief valve on the Centaur Stage on the Atlas V," NASA informed in a post on X.com

"Our astronauts have exited Starliner and will return to crew quarters," it added.

The Liftoff was targeted for 10:34 p.m. ET (0234 UTC May 7) aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket on May 7.

"ULA Launch Director Tom Heter III has made the decision to the launch team that launch operations will not continue tonight for #AtlasV and #Starliner," the rocket company said on X.

It is not immediately clear when Boeing and ULA might be able to make another attempt.

The setback is not the first for Boeing. After signing a contract with NASA's Commercial Crew Programme to fly operational missions to and from the space station with Starliner in 2014, it has faced several delays.

In 2019, its debut uncrewed orbital flight mission did not go as planned. The mission was completed in 2022.

Further, its crewed mission has been repeatedly delayed. On the other hand, SpaceX, which was also part of the NASA Contract in 2014, has ached about 12 flights to the International Space Station. Starliner is aimed at carrying astronauts and cargo for future NASA missions to low Earth orbit, and beyond. -IANS

## Australian PM boosts funding for drought resilience programmes

Canberra, May 7 (IANS) Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday announced half a billion Australian dollars in funding to help farmers and regional communities better prepare for future droughts.

Albanese and Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and for Emergency Management, have committed 519.1 million Australian dollars (\$344 million) for the Future Drought Fund (fdf), Xinhua news agency reported.

The fdf was established in 2019 amid a major drought that began in 2017 to provide secure,

continuous funding for drought resilience initiatives.

As part of the funding boost, Albanese and Watt said in a joint statement



that the fdf and its objectives have been restructured to acknowledge climate change as a driver of longer and more severe

droughts, severe weather impacts," Albanese said.

"By doing the work now our rural and regional communities are not just reacting to events as they unfold, but will have considered plans to make them more resilient to climate change."

It found that the fdf was a solid foundation for

drought resilience but said greater planning and more targeted programmes were needed to deliver transformational change and community benefits.

Watt said on Tuesday that the additional funding for the new and improved fdf would make farmers and rural communities more self-reliant when drought hits.

## Armed forces personnel bank data compromised in UK MoD hack

London, May 7 (IANS/DPA) The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been the target of a large-scale data breach, the Ministry said.

Sky News reported that China was behind the cyber attack.

A third-party payroll system has been hacked, potentially compromising the bank details of all serving armed forces personnel and some veterans. A very small number of addresses may also have been accessed.

The department took immediate action when it

discovered the breach, taking the external network -- operated by a contractor -- offline.

It is understood that initial investigations have found no evidence that data has been removed.

However, affected Armed personnel will be alerted as a precaution and provided with specialist advice.

They will be able to use a personal data protection service to check whether their information is being used or an attempt is being made to use it.

All salaries were paid

at the last payday, with no issues expected at the next one at the end of this month, although there may be a slight delay in the



payment of expenses in a small number of cases.

The UK government will inform lawmakers of the breach when Parliament returns on Tuesday,

with Defence Secretary Grant Shapps expected to make a statement on Tuesday noon in the House of Commons.

The Ministers will blame hostile and malign actors but will not name the country behind the hacking.

The MoD has been working at a speed to uncover the scale of the attack since it was discovered several days ago.

The revelation comes after the UK and the US in March accused China of a global campaign of "malicious" cyber attacks in an

unprecedented joint operation to reveal Beijing's espionage.

Britain blamed Beijing for targeting the Electoral Commission watchdog in 2021 and for being behind a campaign of online "reconnaissance" aimed at the email accounts of MPs and peers.

Labour Party's shadow Defence Secretary John Healey said:

"So many serious questions for the Defence Secretary on this, especially from Armed Forces personnel whose details were targeted."



Kris Hallenga, 38, has died after 15 years of living with secondary breast cancer, having been diagnosed in 2009 and given a life expectancy of two years. Kris used her charity to teach a generation of women how to make sure breast cancer is diagnosed early and accurately. Before her death, she revealed she had been motivated by being 'confused and baffled' when diagnosed with the disease. 'I kept thinking this is b\*\*\*\*\*. Why didn't anyone tell me to check my boobs? Why didn't I know I could get breast cancer at 23? I'm pretty sure my friends don't know either, and if none of us do then literally no young person in this country f\*\*\*\*\* knows this secret. This needs to change. And I got this wave of energy,' she told the Guardian in 2021.



IPL 2024: KKR chartered flight diverted to Guwahati and then Varanasi due to inclement weather

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Kolkata Knight Riders' charter flight from Lucknow to Kolkata on Monday night was diverted twice -- first to Guwahati and then to Varanasi -- due to inclement weather. Kolkata are due to play a match at home, at the Eden Gardens, against Mumbai Indians on May 11. "Due to inclement weather over Kolkata, the KKR charter flight has been diverted to Guwahati. We've just landed here," the franchise said in an official statement on Monday. However, shortly later, they got "clearance to fly back to Kolkata." But again KKR posted another Tweet: "Update at 1:20 AM: Flight diverted to Varanasi after another failed attempt at landing in Kolkata due to bad weather. Current status: At the Lal Bahadur Shastri International airport tarmac." And finally, "Update at 3:00 AM: KKR team would be checking into Varanasi hotel for overnight stay. Return flight to Kolkata TBD on Tuesday (7 May) afternoon.

Kyren Wilson wins maiden snooker world title

London, May 7 (IANS) World No. 12 Kyren Wilson clinched the world title for the first time after beating qualifier Jak Jones 18-14 in the final of the Snooker World Championship. Wilson became the 23rd player to lift the World Championship trophy at the Crucible. It's a sixth ranking title for Wilson and first since the 2022 European Masters, and his first Triple Crown success. Banking the top prize of £500,000, he jumps nine places up the rankings to a career high position of third. On the other hand, Jones missed out on becoming only the second qualifier, after Terry Griffiths and Shaun Murphy, to lift the trophy. But having appeared in his first ranking final, the £200,000 prize boosts him 30 places to number 14, as he joins the elite top 16 for the first time. Having won the first seven frames during the opening session on Sunday, Wilson was able to nurse his advantage to the winning post, and although tenacious Jones fought hard, he couldn't narrow the gap to less than three. By coming from 17-11 to 17-14 he created an exciting finish, but it proved too little, too late, world snooker reports.

Want to see Rohit Sharma with a World Cup trophy: Yuvraj Singh

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) The ICC men's T20 World Cup ambassador and former India star all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has backed skipper Rohit Sharma to end India's ICC trophy drought, that stretches back to the 2011 Men's Cricket World Cup, at the upcoming T20I showpiece in the USA and the West Indies, commencing from June 1. After multiple failures in the major ICC tournaments, such as heartbreaking losses in the semifinal of the ICC men's T20 World Cup in 2022, the finals of the World Test Championship in 2023 and the World Cup in 2023, the focus now shifts to the 2024 T20 World Cup to showcase the potential on the global stage.



BRING BACK THE BROLLY?

Manchester United must sack Erik ten Hag (centre left) and put former England manager Steve McLaren (left) in caretaker charge for the rest of the season, according to former players Michael Owen and Paul Scholes (bottom insets). The pair were speaking after Manchester United's dismal 4-0 defeat to Crystal Palace on Monday night. Ten Hag's future is under serious doubt after a poor season, with the Red Devils eighth in the table with three difficult games left to play, as well as an FA Cup final where they will be considerable underdogs against local rivals Manchester City.

IPL 2024: 'I needed to play till the end', says SKY after match-winning ton against SRH

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Naman Dhir cheaply. But Suryakumar Yadav has said it was the need of the hour for him to bat the way he did, playing traditional shots at the start before unleashing trademark 360-degree batting to help Mumbai Indians (MI) to a seven-wicket victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the IPL 2024 match at the Wankhede Stadium here. Suryakumar hammered a 51-ball unbeaten 102 and raised a 143-run partnership with Tilak Varma (37 off 32 balls) as MI reached 174/3 in 17.2 overs after skipper Hardik Pandya (3-31) and Piyush Chawla had combined well to restrict SRH to 173/8 in 20 overs. Mumbai were in trouble at 31/3, losing Ishan Kishan, Rohit Sharma and

ball was seaming and then brought out all the shots that I practiced. I feel the intent would've been the same. Though he was seen limping and grimacing during his knock, the top T20 batter in the world said it was only because of tiredness as he was on the field for a long time. Suryakumar had missed the first few matches of the IPL season because he had suffered an injury during the South Africa series in December 2023 and had later undergone surgery for a sports hernia in Germany.

'I can't see myself batting at five or six': Fraser-McGurk on his omission from Australia's T20 WC squad

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Following his omission from the T20 World Cup squad, young Australian opening batter Jake Fraser-McGurk has revealed the challenges of breaking into the formidable team, which includes veteran opener David Warner and Travis Head. The young opener said he couldn't see himself batting at number five or six since the lineup already has players like Tim David and Cameron Green. Fraser-McGurk

Belgian coach Tedesco hoping for De Bruyne return ahead of Euros

Brussels, May 7 (IANS) As the 2024 UEFA European Championships approaches, Belgian national coach Domenico Tedesco expressed hope for the return of Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne, who missed most of the qualification games due to injuries. "Kevin doesn't need long preparations. Having him around is undoubtedly increasing our quality," the 38-year-old Italian-rooted coach told Xinhua. After a disappointing performance at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, Belgium underwent significant generational changes. Tedesco, who previously coached Schalke and Leipzig, considers host Germany and England as the favorites for the upcoming Euros. Tedesco also spoke about Spain, France, and Italy as teams "we all will have to keep an eye on." Regarding his side, Tedesco spoke about "taking the role as their group's favorite" when crossing swords with Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. "We want to reach the knock-out stage; that is our first goal," the Italian-born German said, adding he has confidence about his team's quality. Belgium had an unbeaten qualification campaign, securing six victories and two draws against teams including Austria and Sweden. Tedesco praised Germany for their recent performance improvements, highlighted by victories over the Netherlands and France, under the leadership of coach Julian Nagelsmann and sporting director Rudi Voeller. Regarding England, Tedesco said: "They are a team relying on world-class quality. We played them and can say, the Three Lions are a serious force." "They have a range of experienced players such as Kane, Grealish, Stones, and Walker, not to speak of their gifted youngsters." Tedesco spoke about the Belgian national team as "a factor uniting the country." "While the countries' three language parts such as the French, Dutch, and German-speaking parts "might have their peculiarities in club football, the entire nation is gathering behind their national team."



Business & Technology

Embrace Prosperity and Elegance This Akshay Tritiya with ORRA's Exquisite Diamond Jewellery Collection

Mumbai, Akshaya Tritiya, revered as a day of eternal prosperity and good fortune in Hindu culture, holds a special place in the hearts of millions. It is believed that any venture initiated on this day is bound to succeed, making it an ideal time for significant investments, including the acquisition of precious jewellery. Recognizing the importance of this propitious day, ORRA Fine Jewellery - the Leading Diamond Destination invites you to celebrate the new dawn of abundance in opulence and style with its stunning offerings. The newly launched Akshaya Tritiya collection is a testament to the brand's commitment to craftsmanship and innova-

More digital, more luxurious, more efficient: Porsche revamps the Panamera

Mumbai, The Porsche Panamera is entering its third model generation. The sports car manufacturer's luxury sedan emphasises its sporting character with even more powerful drive systems. The profile is enhanced by a fundamentally modernised operating concept and plenty of innovative technology. The technical yet elegant, dynamic design of the new Panamera gives the model line's attractive proportions a fresh update. A fundamentally redesigned, driver-centred interior enhance the driving experience. Superior feel with state-of-the-art suspension system- The new

Panamera already comes with dual-chamber two-valve air suspension with Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) as standard. The two-valve technology separates the rebound and compression stages of the damper control and therefore offers an even wider range between comfort and sportiness: the system noticeably dampens impacts from transverse joints and road damage while at the same time ensuring more body stability in dynamic driving situations. Modifications to boost pressure, fuel injection flow rate and ignition timing optimise the performance of the 2.9-litre V6

turbo engine. It now generates 260 kW (353 PS) and 500 Nm of torque - an increase of 17 kW (23 PS) and 50 Nm compared to its predecessor. This shortens the Panamera's sprint to 100 km/h to 5.1 seconds and boosts its top speed to 272 km/h. Luxurious and sporting inside and out- The new Panamera retains the characteristic lines and proportions of the model line. Its fundamentally revamped appearance lends the sports sedan an even more expressive and sporting look. Up front, an additional air intake above the number plate compensates for the increased air requirement of the drive systems.

Tata Motors celebrates 9,00,000th vehicle rollout from Lucknow facility

Lucknow, Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, announced a significant milestone of its 9,00,000th vehicle rollout from its state-of-the-art Lucknow facility. The celebration included a flag-off ceremony in the presence of Mr. Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and senior delegates from Tata Motors, at the facility. Spread across 600 acres, the Lucknow facility stands as a testament to Tata Motors' commitment to sustainable manufacturing practices, with it being recognized as a water-positive plant by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Speaking at the 9,00,000th vehicle rollout from Tata Motors' Lucknow facility, Mr. Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh said, "I commend Tata Motors for reaching this significant milestone. This achievement underscores Tata Motors' pivotal role in providing advanced, safer, and greener mobility solutions to address both present and future requirements. Reflecting on this achievement, Mr. Vishal Badshah, Vice President and Head - Operations, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, remarked, "The rollout of our 9,00,000th vehicle from the Lucknow facility is a momentous occasion for Tata Motors. This facility has been pivotal in the manufacturing of our advanced electric buses, and has successfully delivered over 1200 units.

TOEFL iBT Test Score Valid for All Australian Visa Purposes from May 5, 2024

New Delhi, ETS, a global education and talent solutions organization, announced that effective May 5, 2024, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT will be recognized as valid for all Australian visa purposes. This significant development provides opportunities for individuals seeking to study, work, or migrate to Australia, enabling them to demonstrate their English proficiency through the TOEFL iBT test. TOEFL iBT, is the most widely accepted test of academic English proficiency, and continues to be accepted by 100% of Australian universities and over 12,500 institutions worldwide across 160 countries. This affirmation for TOEFL iBT follows a standard review process by the Australian Department of Home Affairs (DHA), following changes made to TOEFL iBT last year. Having successfully passed this comprehen-

sive review, the enhanced TOEFL iBT is set to continue its role as a trusted measure of English proficiency for diverse visa applicants. Applicants who have taken the TOEFL iBT test from May 5, 2024, onward, can submit their scores as part of their Australian visa application. Speaking on this development, Sachin Jain, Country Manager, ETS India & South Asia, said, "At ETS, we are committed to facilitating global higher education and mobility through our world-class assessments. Australia remains the preferred choice for Indian students and working professionals, with over 120,000 Indian students studying in Australia last year. Further, with 9 Australian universities amongst the top 100 global universities as per the latest QS World University Rankings, Australia offers world class higher education and post study work opportunities." He added "With the

Micron and the UWH Collaborate to Foster Excellence in Education

Hyderabad, The Micron Foundation has partnered with the United Way of Hyderabad (UWH) to provide scholarships to 60 of the brightest students from India's leading engineering institutions, offering them a pathway towards academic excellence and a brighter future. These scholarships, which will be awarded as part of the University Research Alliance Micron (URAM) initiative, help ensure that each student has an opportunity to unlock their potential, pursue their chosen fields of study, and embark on a fulfilling career journey. The scholarships are specifically tailored to support students in their B.Tech (Bachelor of Technology) third semester and M.Tech (Master of Technology) first year, in the fields of Computer Science Engineering, Electronics & Electrical Engineering, and Electronics & Computer Engineering. Among the 60 recipients, 16 are women, and 10 are part of the Persons with Disabilities

(PwD) category, reflecting Micron's dedication to inclusivity and the breadth of talent nurtured by the scholarship program. These students represent some of India's leading institutions including IIT Delhi, IIT Bangalore, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Hyderabad, BITS Pilani, National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, Indira Gandhi Technical University for Women (IGDWU), NIT Trichy, and the JNTUH College of Engineering. The selection process included an extensive on-campus activation and nationwide college campaigns with 2,677 applications from 494 institutes across the nation. Following a meticulous review process conducted by UWH, based on predefined selection criteria along with a comprehensive technical assessment, 60 exceptional candidates emerged as recipients of the scholarship, each demonstrating outstanding merit and promise in their respective fields of study. "The Micron Foundation is committed to supporting students in their pursuit of in-demand careers that provide the opportunity to enrich their lives," said April Arzen, Micron executive vice president, chief people officer and president of the Micron Foundation. "We believe that access to higher education, delivered through initiatives like the URAM Scholarship Program, and working with partners like UWH, will prepare them for future technology careers while creating a lasting impact on communities throughout India." "Our URAM scholarships underscore our focus on promoting diversity and fostering excellence in education," said Anand Ramamoorthy, vice president and managing director, Micron India. "With the wealth of talent within India, these students will be at the vanguard of India's rise as a semiconductor powerhouse in line with the dynamic evolution of the technology industry."

Snack on these foods and ensure good skin health during summers

Mumbai, Summers often impact skin health, making it crucial to take special measures to ensure optimal skin health. As a seasoned skin expert, I advocate for a holistic approach that balances internal and external skincare practices. One of my top recommendations to clients is adopting balanced eating habits, as beauty truly emanates from feeling good inside and out. Here are a few effective ways to maintain excellent skin health during changing weather: Incorporate handful of almonds: Almonds are a nutrient-dense nut. They are the source of around 15 nutrients such as magnesium, protein, riboflavin, zinc, etc. Almonds contain healthy fats and vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol) which have been shown to impart anti-aging properties that may benefit skin health. The best part is these nuts are versatile and can be incorporated in so many creative ways into your diet. Roast them, add sliced

almonds over your smoothies and oatmeal, and toss them in your salad there are just so many ways go creative and experiment! Sprouts: Sprouts can be your go-to snacking option. Have them as your evening snack or during office breaks. They are rich in phytonutrients along with vitamins and minerals. A general Google search will give you so many options. From salads to wraps include this nutritious option in your diet and elevate your culinary experience. Vitamin C-rich fruits: Add fruits like oranges, grapes, and strawberries - You could create a fruit bowl using your preferred fruits. To make it more interesting, you can add garnishes such as almonds. A blend of vitamins E and C can aid in the activation of vitamin E, which can safeguard the skin against chemical irritants and UV-induced irritation. By Dr Geetika Mittal, Skin Expert, and Cosmetologist



## Aztec Fluids & Machinery's IPO to Open On 10th May, 2024

Mumbai, Established in 2011, Aztec Fluids & Machinery Limited provides a quality-assured assortment of Printers, Printer consumables, and Printer Spares to a diverse range of industries. The company is poised for its initial public offering (IPO), with plans to raise INR 24.12 crores through the issuance of 36 lakh new shares.

For its SME Initial Public Offering (IPO), Aztec Fluids & Machinery Limited has established a price band of Rs 63 to Rs 67 per share. The company's shares will open for subscription on Friday, May 10, 2024 and closes on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. These will be listed on the BSE SME, with a projected listing date of Friday, May 17, 2024. Hem Securities Limited is the book running lead manager of the Aztec Fluids & Machinery IPO, while Bigshare Services Pvt Ltd is the registrar for the issue. The market mak-

er for Aztec Fluids & Machinery IPO is Hem Finance. The issue proceeds will be utilized in Funding of equity shares of Jet Inks Private Limited, repayment of a portion of certain borrowing availed by the Company and general corporate purposes.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the shares for the Aztec Fluids & Machinery IPO are anticipated to be allotted, and on Thursday, May 16, 2024, the shares will be credited to the demat account of the allottees. The IPO comprises 50% of the net issue for QIB, 35% for retail investors and 15% of the net issue for the NII segment.

Retail investors need to contribute a minimum of Rs 1.34 lakh considering the minimum lot size for an application is 2000 shares. For HNIs, the minimum bidding size is two lots, or 4000 shares, for a total investment of Rs 2.68 lakh at the upper price band.

Aztec Fluids & Machinery Limited's revenue increased by 17.46% and profit after tax (PAT) rose by 5.18% between the financial year ending with March 31, 2023 and March 31, 2022.

Aztec Fluids & Machinery Limited is in the business of providing coding & marking solutions through its wide range of Printers, Printer consumables, and Printer Spares to a diverse range of industries, including personal care, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, cables, wires, and pipes, metals, automotive and electronics, agrochemicals, and chemicals and petrochemicals.

The company exports its products to countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria. The company has its registered office in Ahmedabad and a warehouse in Kheda, Gujarat for storing imported printers.

## S. Korea raises concerns over US inquiry on connected vehicle supply chains

Washington, May 7 (IANS) South Korea has raised its automotive industry's concerns with the US over Washington's inquiry and envisioned rules to address potential security risks from "connected vehicles" that use technology from China and other countries of concern.

The South Korean government has submitted its comments to the US Department of Commerce as the department has requested public feedback on its rule-making process designed to tackle those risks stemming from supply chains for connected vehicles, reports Yonhap news agency.

Connected vehicles refer to smart cars linked to the internet and other wireless networks for navigational programs and other online services.

In February, the Biden administration said it would launch the inquiry into the risks posed by the vehicles, especially those

involving Chinese-manufactured technology.

"The Korean automotive industry expresses concerns about the broad scope of the investigation into connected vehicle supply chains, uncertainties surrounding the scope of potential regulatory targets and the timing of the implementation, all of which may lead to significant burdens on the industry," the Korean government said in the comments. The government expressed expectation that the US will provide a "precise" definition of the scope of connected vehicles, as it pointed out

that the current U.S. definition of the cars in question is "excessively broad."

It also requested that the US investigation and subsequent measures about the supply chains for connected vehicles focus on "components and services that pose significant risks to national security."

"The Korean automotive industry is concerned that the current scope of the investigation is highly likely to become subject to regulatory measures, which could significantly undermine the predictability and stability of its business operations," the government said.

## Musk calls for fully reusable rockets & spacecraft, as Boeing scrubs Starliner

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Tuesday called the need for fully reusable rockets & spacecraft, and not another capsule, even as rival Boeing's much-awaited Starliner yet again scrubbed its crewed mission.

"The world doesn't need another capsule," the tech billionaire said in a post on X.com.

"What matters is fully reusable rockets and spacecraft," he added.

His comments come as Boeing on Friday scrubbed the Starliner manned mission, which was expected to launch NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Indian-Origin Sunita Williams to the space station. But it was stalled just two hours before the launch after facing an issue with a valve in the rocket's upper stage.

Both Boeing and SpaceX signed a contract with NASA's Commercial Crew Programme to fly operational missions to and from the space station with Starliner in 2014.

While SpaceX's Drag-

on capsules have been launching astronauts to space on its Falcon 9 rockets since 2020, Boeing is yet to make a mark.

"Although Boeing got \$4.2 billion to develop an astronaut capsule and SpaceX only got \$2.6 billion, SpaceX finished 4 years sooner.

Musk also noted the difference between the designs of crew capsule Dragon 1 and 2.

"Too many non-technical managers at Boeing," he said.

Meanwhile, Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company is facing a controversy over the mysterious deaths of whistleblowers.

"How do they even get any work done with so many whistles being blown!" said Musk in reply to a user who cited that the company has "too many whistleblowers."



## Hospitality, oil & gas, FMCG sectors see surge in hiring in India

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Sectors like hospitality, oil and gas and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) witnessed a surge in hiring in India last month, a report showed on Tuesday.

The hospitality and travel sector witnessed a 16 per cent growth, driven by the strong momentum in travel and tourism, according to the 'Naukri JobSpeak Index'.

Positions like front office managers, housekeeping supervisors and F&B service professionals were in high demand across urban hubs like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. "While the overall Index is flat, the new financial year is off to a positive start with remarkable hiring

growth recorded in hospitality, oil and gas and FMCG," said Pawan Goyal, Chief Business Officer of Naukri.com.

The oil and gas industry recorded a 15 per cent (year-on-year) increase in new job creation in April.

Roles like petroleum engineers, drilling engineers and production operators were sought after, particularly in locations like Ahmedabad, Vadodra, and Jaipur, the report mentioned.

Hiring in the FMCG sector was an 11 per cent growth compared to April last year, fueled by rising demand in rural areas. The report said that non-metro cities continued their strong performance, outpacing metros while senior professionals remained in high demand.

## AWS to invest additional \$9 bn in Singapore to grow its cloud infrastructure

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Amazon Web Services (AWS) on Tuesday said it will invest an additional \$9 billion in Singapore over the next five



years to grow its cloud infrastructure and services in the country. As mentioned by Priscilla Chong, country manager of AWS Singapore, the investment will support the development and expansion of the DC capabilities in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) Singapore region, reports CNBC. Amazon's cloud computing arm launched its first APAC region in Singapore in 2010 -- its first foray outside of the US and Europe. Since then, AWS has invested

over \$8 billion into Singapore's cloud infrastructure and ecosystem. "Starting with our investment in Singapore in 2010, AWS has continued to strengthen their commitment to the ASEAN region, sharing the uplift (in) digital skills across the nations, providing secure and resilient infrastructure consistently across the region," Chong was quoted as saying. She further mentioned that the company has trained more than 400,000 people in Singapore in cloud skills since 2017 and will continue to invest in upskilling and improving productivity across the country, the report noted. In recent years, AWS has expanded its footprint outside of the US, with a large portion of that investment focused on Asian markets. This year, the co spend over \$35 billion outside of the US, including Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Mexico. In May last year, it announced plans to invest Rs 1,05,600 crore (\$12.7 billion) into cloud infrastructure in India by 2030 to meet growing customer demand for cloud services in the country.

## Truecaller's net sales up 8 pc in India with over 234 million daily active users

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Leading caller identification app Truecaller on Tuesday reported an 8 per cent increase in net sales in India in the first quarter (Q1) of the calendar year, saying that the country accounted for 74.2 per cent of the total net sales.

India continues to remain one of the biggest markets for Truecaller as the region accounted for growth across three revenue streams -- Truecaller for Business, Premium subscriptions and Ads, the company said in a statement.

Net sales in India reached 316.8 million Swedish Krona (SEK) in the first quarter (Q1 FY24), compared to SEK 292.2 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous

year. Globally, the average number of active users



(MAU) increased by 39 million to approximately 383.4 million, "out of which 272.6 million monthly active users are in India alone," the company informed.

The daily active users (DAU) reached 314 million, out of which 234.4 million daily active users are based in India.

Truecaller experienced

a significant 5 per cent surge in global ad revenue compared to the first quarter of 2023, largely driven by the increased demand for digital advertising coinciding with the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The company launched its call recording feature in the Indian market, which enables users to record and transcribe all calls, in English and Hindi.

The product is now available on Android as well as on iOS in India.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **SUMAN SAI MURTHY** to new name **SUMAN SAI Add. A-704, Gala Swing Near Sobo Center South Bopal, Ahmedabad** 423

## ICSE & ISC students can access results, mark sheets real-time via DigiLocker

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Students of the ICSE class X and ISC class XII can now access their results, mark sheets as well as certificates in real-time from the DigiLocker, the Ministry of Electronics & IT said on Tuesday. The students can access their authentic digital documents anytime, anywhere from the platform in digital format. "DigiLocker, the flagship platform under the Digital India initiative, has enabled this revolutionary step by providing a secure, trusted, and eco-friendly solution for issuing and accessing academic credentials in digital format by boards, universities, and other bodies," the ministry said. The ministry noted that 2,43,617 students appeared for ICSE of which 2,42,328 students passed. Of the 99,901 who took ISC exams this year, 98,088 cleared ISC across India and abroad. "Over 3.43 lakh students can now seamlessly access their academic awards such as marksheets and certificates issued by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on the DigiLocker instantly after results were announced," the ministry said.

## WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION

**APPOINTMENT OF "STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS (STBAs)"** Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Rajkot invites sealed tenders for appointment as "Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs)" at following stations of Rajkot Division for issue of unreserved tickets through computerized Unreserved Ticketing system (UTS).

Tender No.	Station where STBA to be appointed	Category of station	Tender No.	Station where STBA to be appointed	Category of station
C 49/MT/STBA/1	Mithapur	NSG-5	C 49/JALD/STBA/9	Jalyadevani	NSG-6
C 49/BHTA/STBA/2	Bhatiya	NSG-6	C 49/HM/STBA/10	Hadmitiya	NSG-6
C 49/BHTL/STBA/3	Bhatel	NSG-6	C 49/PDH/STBA/11	Padadhari	NSG-5
C 49/MDPR/STBA/4	Modpur	NSG-6	C 49/INZG/STBA/12	Nazarbarg	NSG-6
C 49/KNSL/STBA/5	Kanalsu	NSG-5	C 49/MVI/STBA/13	Morbi	NSG-5
C 49/LBLS/STBA/6	Lakhabawal	NSG-6	C 49/MU/STBA/14	Makansar	NSG-6
C 49/ALB/STBA/7	Aliyavada	NSG-6	C 49/BPKA/STBA/15	BPKA	NSG-6
C 49/WTJ/STBA/8	Jamwanthali	NSG-6			

Note: one applicant can be appointed as STBA at only one station. Appointment of STBAs will not confer any right on the person for employment in the Railways. The appointment is purely contractual and has no facilities, viz. absorption in Railway service, regularization of service, bonus, railway pass facilities, shall accrue to the STBS.

**Eligibility for appointment of Station ticket booking Agents:**  
(a) The applicant should be a resident of the local district where the station is located in which STBA is proposed to be engaged. Relaxation in this condition can however, be given by Sr.DCM / DCM if no suitable candidate from the local district is eligible to be engaged as STBA. (b) The applicant should not be under 18 years of age (c) The applicant should be at least a class X (10th) pass. However, educational qualifications can be relaxed by Sr.DCM / DCM if no qualified applicant is otherwise available. A certificate of relaxation in this regard may be recorded. (d) The applicant should produce a certificate from the police station serving his/her locality that he/she has no criminal record and no criminal case is pending against him/her.

**Other details of the tenders:**  
**Contract Period** (purely on contractual basis): 03 (Three) Years for NSG/5 & NSG/6 category station. **Earnest Money:** (Paid only in Demand Draft of Nationalized/scheduled bank in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager Western Railway Rajkot): ₹ 2,000/- Per tender for NSG-6, ₹ 5,000/- Per tender for NSG-5. **Tender document fee:** ₹ 1000/- per tender (Non refundable). **Last date of issuing tender form in person:** 10-06-2024 up to 12.00 hrs. **Closing date & time of tender:** 10-06-2024 at 15.00 hrs. **Opening date & time of tender:** 10-06-2024 at 15.30 hrs. All the above mentioned 15 tenders are separate from each other for all the purposes. The required information, tender terms & conditions may be obtained from the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kothi Compound, Rajkot, by paying the tender document fee mentioned above in person. The tender document with detailed terms and conditions is also available at Web site: www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in and the same can be downloaded and used as a tender document for submitting the tender. However, the cost of tender document fee as mentioned above either to be paid in the form of demand draft of nationalized/scheduled bank in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager Western Railway Rajkot or to be paid in MR (At Booking office at any railway station original money receipt/DD should be enclosed with the tender form otherwise, the tender will be summarily rejected. RJT-07

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**Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited**  
Transmission Circle Office, P.O. Dabhan, Nadiad,  
District: Kheda, Gujarat, Pin-387 320  
Email: nadiadtra@gegmail.com & setnadiad.getco@gegmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

GUJARAT ENERGY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (GETCO) is a state Transmission Utility U/S 39 of The Electricity Act, 2003 (Hereinafter referred as the Act), as declared by Government of Gujarat Vide Notification No. GHU-2004-31-GEeb-1104-2946-K, dated 29-05-2004. It being so declared, Government of Gujarat in exercise of the powers U/S 164 of The Act, is further pleased to issue Notification No-GU-2007-5-ELA-1106-4884-K dated-05-01-2007, conferring powers of Telegraphic Authority, under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, to GETCO and its Officers for laying Electricity Lines and erecting Towers for supply and transmission of electricity in the state of Gujarat as deemed necessary subject to the conditions prescribed under the said Notification.

Through this public notice, it is hereby informed to the public that, in the public interest GETCO has decided, to install / lay Electricity Lines / Towers etc, for transmission of Electricity as under:

Sr. No	Name & brief particulars of the Scheme	Area of Work	Estimate Capital Cost (Rs. Lacs)
01	Proposed LILO to 66 kv VINZOL Substation from 66kv Vatva-Barejadi Line 2 with 66kv 630 sq mm XLPE (6+1) UG Cable having Length: 4.5 RKM	Vinzol, Gamdi, Ropda, Geratpur and surrounding area under Ta: Daskroi Dist: Ahmedavad	1677.17
02	Proposed LILO to 66 kv Telav SS From 66kv Sanathal Sanand Line with 66kv UG Cable 630 SQ MM XLPE (6+1) having Length: 3.790 RKM	Telav, Kolat & Jivanpura and surrounding area under Ta: Sanand Dist: Ahmedabad	1412.55
03	66kv S/C Line from 66kv Jorapura S/S To Proposed Janod Substation on tower with ACSR Panther Conductor Length: 6.611 Rkm	Jorapura, Gunthi, Meghaliya, Bekana, Muvada (Kushmehra) Kadhaiya, Janod, Piodra, Dakkhar, Datedi, Pruthvirajpura and surrounding area Ta: Balasinor Dist: Mahisagar	251.35
04	66kv S/C Line from 220 kv Kapadwanj SS to 66kv Aral SS partly on D/C Tower with ACSR Panther Conductor 20.278 km & Partly with UGC (3+1) Length (0.250 km) Length: 20.278 RKM (OH) + 0.250 RKM (UG) = 20.528 RKM under KSY-II	Kapadwanj, Garod, Sorna, Rampura (Sorna), Mirapur, Ambaliyara, Faliyabad, Dasalveda, Bhatara, Torna, surrounding area Ta: Kapadwanj, Dist: Kheda Kalesar, Gangadrasni Muvadi, Kaniyel, Chhipadi, Arul, Mudel Ralampur and surrounding area Ta: Kathlal Dist: Kheda	822.90
05	66 kv U/G Cable (3+1) 630 Sq MM Aluminum Corrugated Sheathed Cable Line from GETCO 66 KV V.U. Nagar Sub Station to M/s.HLE Glass Coat.Length: 0.640 KM	V U Nagar GDCC and surrounding area under Ta: Anand, Dist.: Anand	89.81
06	66KV LILO Line to Proposed 220 KV Dadusar Sub Station on D/C & M/C Tower from Existing 66 kv S/C H Frame Palaiya-Alindra Line with AL-59 Conductor equivalent weight of ACSR Panther Conductor having Length: 15.964 KM	Dadusar, Mehmdabad Ni Muvadi, Nani Khadol, Ruppura, Moti Khadol, Mahudha, Toraniya, Gopi Talav Ni Muvadi, Undra, Undra Ni Muvadi, Sagvada, Itava Ni Muvadi, Kodi, Ta.Mahudha, Dist.Kheda Arjanpur Kot, Rupaji Leraji Ni Muvadi, Nana Vaga, Laxmipura, Navagam, Sanali, Jamul, Paldi, Mahorel, Palaiya, Kanjoda, Salun, Talpad, Alindra, Ta.Nadiad, Dist.Kheda	323.98
07	66KV (220 KV) S/C Kapadwanj-Bhalilakui Line on D/C Panther tower with ACSR panther conductor having length of 15.522 RKM and 630 sq mm ALXLPE UG cable (3+1) having route 0.170 KM (Total route 15.692 KM) under KSY-II	Kapadwanj, Garod, Sorna, Rampura (Sorna), Mirapur, Ambaliyara, Faliyabad, Mahamdupura, Antroli, Singali, Navagam, Jaloya, Hamirpura, Bhalilakui, Kevaldiya, Ta.Kapadwanj, Dist.Kheda	625.46

And whereas, the above referred proposed work is approved by the competent authority under the Act. And whereas, for such purpose towers will be installed and overhead lines will be passing through villages/areas as above.

Through this public notice, GETCO hereby intends to get co-operation during laying of transmission line, GETCO shall make provisions to give reasonable compensation towards loss or damage occurred to the standing crops/trees, as per the Act.

Superintending Engineer (TR)  
Nadiad

## Business Brief III

### Apple working on own AI chips for data centres: Report

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) As the race for artificial intelligence (AI) chips intensifies, Apple has joined the bandwagon and is now reportedly working on its own chips for data centres.

The aim of the iPhone maker is to run AI software in data centre servers to give the company an edge, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

The 'ProjectACDC' (Apple Chips in Data Centre) will first use the indigenous chips in the company's own servers, the report mentioned.

The tech giant is likely to unveil new AI products at its flagship Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in June.

Tech giants like Microsoft, Google, Meta and OpenAI are working on developing custom server hardware to power AI models.

According to the company's CEO Tim Cook, Apple is making "significant investments" in generative AI. Apple is likely to soon share "very exciting things" with customers. Cook said last week that "We have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software and services integration, groundbreaking Apple's silicon and with our industry-leading neural engines". Apple is also reportedly integrating OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini into its upcoming iPhones. "We believe that we have advantages that set us apart there. And we'll be talking more about it as we go through the weeks ahead," according to Cook.

### Cloud security firm F5 appoints Pratik Shah as MD for India, SAARC region

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) F5, a global leader in multi-cloud application security and delivery, on Tuesday appointed Pratik Shah as Managing Director for its operations in India and the SAARC region. Shah, who joined the company in 2019 and succeeds Dhananjay Ganjoo, will be responsible for driving F5's growth strategy in India and the SAARC region, bringing end-to-end solutions and competitive security offerings together.

"Having spent my career championing exceptional customer and employee experiences, I'm confident that F5's current suite of solutions offers immense value for the Indian customers," said Shah. F5 enables businesses to stay ahead of threats while delivering secure digital experiences for their customers.

"India is a crucial market for F5, and with the country's ambitious digital transformation plans, there's a strategic opportunity to leverage F5's multi-cloud application services," said Ganjoo.

According to Adam Judd, SVP of Sales, Asia Pacific, China and Japan, Shah's track record and deep understanding of the business "gives us full confidence in his ability to drive continued success for F5 in the region."

### Happiest Minds' net profit up 25 pc in Q4, on track to \$1 billion revenue by FY31

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) IT company Happiest Minds Technologies on Tuesday reported 25 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 72 crore for Q4, as revenue went up 10 per cent to Rs 417 crore. Ashok Soota, Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds, said that the company is on course towards accomplishing \$1 billion in revenues by FY31.

For the full fiscal year (FY24), the net profit increased 7.5 per cent to Rs 248.39 crore as sales grew 13.7 per cent to Rs 1,624 crore.

The board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 3.25 per equity share of face value of Rs 2 for the financial year 2023-24.

"The newly-created GenAI business unit, creation of six new Industry Groups and successful closure of two acquisitions has put us back on course towards accomplishing our long-term vision of \$1 billion in revenues by FY31," said Soota. Venkatraman Narayanan, MD and CFO, said that the acquisition of PureSoftware Technologies and Macmillan Learning "should help us in our growth story while delivering value to all our stakeholders".

### MediaTek unveils new flagship mobile chip in its Dimensity portfolio

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Chip-making giant MediaTek on Tuesday unveiled a new flagship mobile chip in its Dimensity portfolio called the 'Dimensity 9300+'. The new chip is designed to accelerate on-device generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) processing and will offer increased clock speeds.

"To enhance these AI experiences, the Dimensity 9300+ offers impressive performance and enhancements to speed up LLM inference, running tokens much faster for a better user experience," JC Hsu, Corporate senior vice president at MediaTek, said in a statement.

According to the company, the flagship mobile chip boasts AI processing over the previous generation due to MediaTek's new NeuroPilot Speculative Decode Acceleration technology in the company's latest generative AI engine. With NeuroPilot Speculative Decode Acceleration, the chip can run LLMs with seven billion parameters at 22 tokens per second, more than two times the rate of competitive mass market solutions. Dimensity 9300+ incorporates a second-generation hardware ray tracing engine with an Arm Immortalis-G720 GPU, giving gamers fast ray tracing experiences at a smooth 60 FPS, along with console-grade global illumination effects.

### Fintech firm Lendingkart raises \$10 mn for onward lending activities for MSMEs

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Fintech company Lendingkart, on Tuesday, said that it raised \$10 million by way of external commercial borrowing from a fund managed by a leading global impact investment manager and member of the Schroders Group 'BlueOrchard'. "We see this investment as a testament to our unwavering dedication to supporting Indian MSMEs. It is a validation of our mission to democratise access to finance and champion entrepreneurship," Harshvardhan Lunia, Founder and CEO of Lendingkart Group, said in a statement. "As an MSME finance specialist, Lendingkart will continue to support small and micro businesses to flourish, create jobs, drive economic development, and foster entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to overall socio-economic progress," he added.



## News

## in a Nutshell

## MBBS student appears for NEET-2024 exam in place of younger brother, both arrested

Jaipur, May 7 (IANS) A NEET aspirant and his elder brother, a first-year MBBS student, who appeared in his place for the examination in Rajasthan's Barmer, have been arrested, police said on Monday. SP Narendra Singh Meena said that Anita Chaudhary, Principal of Antri Devi Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Barmer, informed the police that a dummy candidate was taking the exam on Sunday in place of Gopala Ram. SHO Lekhraj Siyag and DST in-charge Mahipal Singh ASI rushed to the spot and arrested the accused Bhagirath Ram Vishnoi, son of Kishna Ram, and his younger brother Gopala Ram from the examination centre. Vishnoi, a first-semester student at SN Medical College, Jodhpur, had edited his photo in his Aadhaar card and went to take the exam in place of his younger brother. Police have arrested both brothers and are interrogating them.

## EC orders repolling at one booth in Rajasthan's Barmer LS seat on May 8

Jaipur, May 7 (IANS) Repolling will be held at a voting booth in Rajasthan's Barmer Lok Sabha constituency on May 8 due to the breach of vote confidentiality.

The Election Commission on Monday issued instructions for repolling at a voting booth in Dudhwa Khurd village under the Barmer Lok Sabha constituency, where voting was held on April 26.

Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Praveen Gupta said that repolling will be held between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. at polling station number 50, Government Higher Secondary School, Dudhwa Khurd booth of Chohan Assembly constituency. The CEO further said that four members of the polling team, which conducted the voting at the booth on April 26, have been suspended by the District Collector (District Election Officer), Barmer. Action will be taken against them under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for violating the secrecy of voting, he added.

## LS polls: Voting for third phase begins in MP

Bhopal, May 7 (IANS) Polling across nine parliamentary constituencies in Madhya Pradesh began on Tuesday morning in the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections. Long queues of voters were seen at polling booths in the morning as many of them wanted to exercise their franchise before the temperature rises. Besides the state capital Bhopal, voting is underway in Gwalior, Morena, Bhind, Rajgarh, Guna, Sagar, Betul and Vidisha parliamentary constituencies. The Election Commission has set up 20,456 polling booths across the nine seats for over 1.77 crore eligible voters.



AGAR MALWA, Female voter showing their ink-marked finger after casting their vote at village Chhapria polling booth, during the 3rd Phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024, in Agar Malwa on Tuesday. UNI

## Union Minister Muraleedharan asks CPI(M) to explain CM Vijayan's private foreign trip

Thiruvananthapuram, May 7 (IANS) Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan on Tuesday asked the Kerala unit of the CPI(M) to explain the three-country 19-day private visit of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family.

"He (CM Vijayan) is duty-bound to explain whether his private visit is sponsored or from his pocket. If it is a sponsored visit, then it should tell who is the sponsor, if not then he should explain the source of his income," said Muraleedharan and added that the reply to the questions can be given by the CPI(M) state secretary also.

On Monday, CM Vijayan, his wife Kamala, and their grandson left for the UAE, and are also scheduled to visit Indonesia and Singapore before returning on May 21.

CM Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan and her husband state PWD and Tourism Minister P.A. Mo-

ammed Riyas reached the UAE early this month and are also going to join the CM.

"It's really strange that when people in Kerala are reeling under a never before seen heatwave, CM Vijayan and his family are enjoying at beach destinations," said Muraleedharan.

"We also wish to know if both Vijayan and Riyas, who will be out of the state for 19 days, have handed charges to anyone. If so, wish to know to whom they have handed over," asked Muraleedharan.

"We want to hear on this from CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, who is always critical of PM Modi. I also wish to say, that I have just returned from West Bengal and was hugely surprised to see the election meetings held by the CPI(M) there, which were attended by just a handful of people. No one should forget that it was a state ruled by the CPI(M) for a long time

and has now shrunk completely. If this is the way CM Vijayan and others in the party run Kerala, it won't be long when Kerala will go the Bengal way," said Muraleedharan.

The Vijayan family will be in Indonesia till May 12 before flying to Singapore. On May 18, they will return to the UAE before returning to India on May 21.

## Suffering from depression, student commits suicide at NIT Silchar: Police

Silchar (Assam), May 6 (IANS) An engineering student studying at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Assam's Silchar committed suicide on Monday, the police said.

According to the police, the student was suffering from acute depression which led to him taking the extreme step.

## Amid incidents of violence, 15.85 pc turnout in first two hrs in Bengal

Kolkata, May 7 (IANS) Around 15.85 per cent polling was recorded till 9 a.m. as voting is underway in four Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal.

The first two hours of polling were marred by the aggravating incidents of violence, especially in the two Lok Sabha constituencies in Murshidabad district namely Jangipur. Violence has been reported from Maldaha Dakshin Lok Sabha constituency as well. During the first two hours, the maximum voting percentage was recorded from the Jangipur constituency at 16.95 per cent, followed by Maldaha Dakshin at 16.30 per cent, Maldaha Uttar at

15.33 per cent and Murshidabad at 14.97 per cent.

In the first two hours, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal has received as many as 182 complaints, out of which 99 are officially recorded on behalf of different political parties. The maximum number of complaints have been received from CPI(M) at 73.

"This particular leader of the ruling party is notorious for arranging election practices. He did the same thing in the panchayat polls last year. He was trying to do the same thing today as well. But he failed as I reached in time," Ghosh said.

## Polling underway for four Bengal LS seats amid incidents of violence

Kolkata, May 7 (IANS) Voting was underway on Tuesday for four Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal with reports of violence surfacing from certain pockets in two constituencies in Murshidabad district.

Polling is also underway for the by-elections for the Bhagabangola Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district which was necessitated by the untimely demise of the erstwhile Trinamool Congress legislator Idris Ali.

Tension mounted at Domkal in Murshidabad district even before the beginning following the alleged hurling of bombs tar-

## Congress, BJP cry foul over CM Vijayan's three nation 'private' trip

Thiruvananthapuram, May 7 (IANS) Kerala's opposition Congress and BJP on Monday questioned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's "private trip" to three countries.

Early on Monday, Vijayan, his wife Kamala, and their grandson left for the UAE, and are also scheduled to visit Indonesia, and Singapore before returning on May 21.

Congress MP and Thiruvananthapuram seat K. Muraliedharan said it is a normal practice to reveal the purpose of a foreign visit of a Chief Minister. "Now that he, along with his family, is visiting three countries, he has to come clean on the purpose of his visit. There is no need for any secrecy as he is a public person," said Muraliedharan, son of four-time Chief Minister K. Karunakaran. State BJP President K. Surendran asked CPI-M state Secretary M.V. Govindan if he

knew why Vijayan embarked on a three-nation trip. If this is a private trip, then there should be no expenses to the state exchequer. The practice always is if it's a private trip, then the cost should be borne by those undertaking the trip. What we have seen before is Vijayan often takes a pleasure trip, accompanied by his family," he claimed.

Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan and her husband and state minister P.A. Mohammed Riyas are in the UAE and will travel with the Chief Minister to Indonesia till May 12 before flying to Singapore. On May 18, they will return to the UAE before coming back to India on May 21.

However, the timing of this trip has raised eyebrows as Vijayan's schedule for May had listed numerous programmes for him in the state during the days he is out of the country.

## Ajit Pawar, Sunetra Pawar, Praniti Shinde among early voters in Maha

Pune/Solapur (Maharashtra), May 7 (IANS) Voting started for 11 constituencies in the third phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections with prominent personalities like Chhatrapati Shrimant

Shahu Maharaj, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Ajit Pawar and Congress' Solapur candidate Praniti Shinde among the early voters in Baramati

seat, here on Tuesday.

Accompanied by members of the royal family, Chhatrapati Maharaj came to vote along with his family at the polling station in Kolhapur, where he is contesting as a united Maha

## EVM glitches delay voting in Gujarat BJP Chief's seat Navsari

Navsari, May 7 (IANS) Technical snag in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) caused a delay in the voting process at polling booths in Navsari, Gujarat on Tuesday.

Officials shared that the malfunction was first noticed in Ward No. 2 and Ward No. 13 polling booths, where voters had queued up early in the morning to cast their votes.

At the Tata High School polling booth in Ward No. 2, voting was stopped as officials worked to rectify the EVM issue. Similarly, in Ward No. 13, voting was inter-

rupted after just five votes were cast due to the malfunctioning EVM.

This delay has led to long queues and inconvenience for voters. Election officials and technicians are on-site to resolve the EVM glitches promptly and ensure that voting resumes without further interruptions. In Navsari Lok Sabha constituency of Gujarat, state BJP chief Chandrakant Raghunath Patil, known as CR Patil, is seeking re-election. He surpassed this record in 2019, winning by a margin of 689,668 votes - the second-highest ever recorded.

Accompanied by members of the royal family, Chhatrapati Maharaj came to vote along with his family at the polling station in Kolhapur, where he is contesting as a united Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidate. Ajit Pawar arrived and voted at a polling station in Kategaon, along with his wife Sunetra Pawar, who is the NCP candidate from Baramati, in the high-stakes fight with her 'nanad', Nationalist Congress Party (SP) Working President Supriya Sule. Daughter of former Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, Praniti Shinde along with her family turned up to vote at a polling station in Solapur and urged voters to come out and exercise their franchise. However, Ajit Pawar has said that there is no place for emotions and the present elections are for the agenda of development and the performance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



RANCHI, Jahangir Alam, Close aide of Jharkhand Cabinet Minister Alamgir Alam is being taken to Enforcement Directorate (ED) court by ED officials after huge amount of cash recovered from his residence in Ranchi on Tuesday. UNI

## Excise policy row: Manish Sisodia's judicial custody extended till May 15 in CBI case

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) A Delhi court on Tuesday extended, till May 15, the judicial custody of former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with a money laundering case related to the excise policy case being probed by the CBI.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court has also set the next date for further arguments regarding the framing of charges against the accused in the case.

On May 3, the Delhi High Court issued a notice on Sisodia's petitions seeking bail after a trial court denied him regular

bail in cases filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) pertaining to the alleged excise policy scam.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma sought replies from both the agencies -- the CBI and the ED.

While Sisodia remains under custody, Justice Kanta has allowed him to meet his wife once a week after noting that the ED has no objection to it.

Meanwhile, the matter will come up for the next hearing on May 8.

Judge Baweja had on April 30 refused to grant bail to Sisodia who was

seeking regular bail a second time.

Appearing before Judge Baweja, prosecutor Pankaj Gupta appearing for CBI had said that Sisodia does not satisfy the rigorous for the grant of bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Claiming the AAP leader has political clout, the prosecutor said that he is influential and not entitled to parity.

## Maha LS polls: Sharad Pawar, Chhatrapatis, Riteish-Genelia Deshmukh vote

Mumbai, May 7 (IANS) Voting started briskly for 11 Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra with members of royal families, top political leaders, Bollywood stars and other celebs trooping out for the 'festival of democracy', in different parts of the state, here on Tuesday.

The prominent personalities, who came out and voted, were Congress Kolhapur candidate Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj and the royal family, Bharatiya Janata Party's

Satara nominee Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhonsle and his royal clan, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar, his wife Pratibha, party working president Supriya Sule, who is the Baramati LS contender for the fourth time, and her daughter, Revati, a first-time voter.

Voting in Latur were the Deshmukh clan comprising Bollywood actor-couple Riteish and Genelia Deshmukh, legislators Amit Deshmukh and Dhiraj Deshmukh, their

mother Vaishali Vilasrao Deshmukh.

BJP's candidate in Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Union Minister Narayan Rane, his family comprising his wife and their children MLA Nilesh Rane and ex-MP Nilesh Rane trooped out to vote in Kankavali where he is trying to dislodge Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Vinayak Raut attempting a hat-trick here.

## Polling percentage in Bengal impressive at 32.82 pc in first four hours even as reports of irregularities surface

Kolkata, May 7 (IANS) With complaints of poll-related irregularities continuing to flood the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in West Bengal, the average poll percentage in four Lok Sabha constituencies in the third phase on Tuesday has been an impressive 32.82 per cent in the first four hours till 11 a.m. At 33.81 per cent, the maximum polling has been recorded at Jangipur, followed by 33.09 per cent at Maldaha-Dakshin, 32.72 per cent at Murshidabad and 31.73 per cent at Maldaha-Uttar.

In the first four hours, a total of 298 complaints

have been registered with the office of the CEO, out of which 194 are from different political parties.

The maximum complaints have been received from the CPI(M) at 134, while the Congress had filed 17 complaints and six have been registered by the Trinamool Congress and BJP each. One of the major complaints is relating to irregular appointments of Presiding Officers at different booths in Murshidabad District, where headmistresses of some schools have been appointed as Presiding Officers for election booths within the school premises.

These allegations have been raised by the BJP. Trinamool Congress has complained that at a particular election booth at Mothabari area in Maldaha-Dakshin constituency, the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were allegedly influencing the voters.

Since the beginning of polls on Tuesday morning the CPI(M) Politburo and the party's Secretary in West Bengal, Mohd Salim, who is the party candidate from Murshidabad Lok Sabha constituency, had been running from one booth to another trying to address the complaints of the booth agents there.



BARAMATI, Maharashtra Dy. CM Ajit Pawar shows his inked finger after casting vote at a polling station during the 3rd Phase of Lok Sabha polls, at Katewadi in Baramati, on Tuesday. UNI