

# Western Times

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## News Brief

### TV Journalist trampled to death while shooting elephants

Palakkad (Kerala), May 8 (IANS) In a tragic incident, a video journalist filming a pack of wild elephants crossing a water body on Wednesday morning was attacked by them and passed away later as a result of the injuries.

AV Mukesh (34) who was working with Mathrubhumi TV news channel, on Wednesday went to shoot a pack of elephants spotted in the forest area of Kottekkad in Palakkad.

While shooting the elephants, AV Mukesh is reported to have tripped and fallen. On seeing this, an agitated elephant attacked him. Even though he was later shifted to a nearby hospital, his life could not be saved. Minister for Forests and Wildlife Protection, AK Saseendran expressed shock at the demise of the young video journalist.

### Sex videos: Court to decide on HD Revanna's bail plea

Bengaluru, May 8 (IANS) Even as a special court is expected to give its verdict on the bail plea of JD(S) MLA HD Revanna on Wednesday, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sex videos case is expecting the arrival of prime accused, JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna.

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna had sought seven days' time to appear before the SIT through his advocate and had also uploaded a post on social media in this regard on May 1 after disappearing from Karnataka.

### Nizamabad LS seat in Telangana set for three-cornered contest

Hyderabad, May 8 (IANS) A triangular fight is on the cards in the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency, a key constituency in the politically significant north Telangana region.

The main contestants are battling it out after suffering defeat in Assembly elections.

Sitting MP Dharampuri Arvind of BJP, senior Congress leader and former minister T. Jeevan Reddy and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) candidate Bajireddy Govardhan all had to taste defeat in Assembly elections held in November 2023.

### Megh. board's class 12 results announced

Shillong, May 8 (IANS) The Meghalaya Board of School Education (MBoSE) on Wednesday declared results for Class 12.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma lauded the students for their good results and said that the pass percentage has significantly increased.

Taking to his X handle, Sangma wrote, "Heartiest congratulations to the students for clearing the MBoSE HSSLC (Science and Commerce) Stream. Pass percentage has significantly increased science is 85.24 per cent and commerce is 80.26 per cent. Wishing all the very best in their future endeavours."

The board declared the results for Science and Commerce streams, along with vocational courses.

--IANS

# Congress wants to snatch reservation from back-ward classes and give it to Muslims: PM

Warangal (Telangana), May 8 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday alleged that the Congress wants to bring a legislation to snatch reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Backward Classes (BCs) and give them to Muslims.

Addressing a public meeting in support of BJP's Lok Sabha candidates in Warangal, the Prime Minister also alleged that the Constitution has no meaning for the Congress.

"Ambedkar had said that there should be no reservation based on religion, but in Karnataka, Congress cut into reservations for backward classes and gave them to Mus-

lims. They made a similar attempt in united Andhra Pradesh, but the high court had stayed it," PM Modi said.

He also alleged that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) betrayed SCs, STs, and backward classes for appeasement politics, recalling that the party had promised a Dalit CM in 2014 which it failed to fulfil.

"In the name of Dalit Bandhu, the BRS broke your trust. The same BRS had talked of setting up a Muslim IT park to carry forward its appeasement politics," he said.

According to the Prime Minister, after the third phase of Lok Sabha elections, it has become clear that people are taking forward the 'Vijay Rath' of the

NDA at a brisk pace, while the INDI Alliance is searching for seats with a magnifying glass.

In the fourth phase, they will need a microscope to search their seats, PM Modi said.

Stating that there is instability, unrest, and crisis everywhere in the world, he asked if, in such a situation, the reins of this country could be given into the wrong hands.

"Nobody can forget the sins of the Congress which was in power 10 years ago. There used to be a new scam of thousands of crores every few days and serial bomb blasts used to occur in big cities," he said.

The Prime Minister also claimed that this time the INDI Alliance has

come up with a formula of 'five years, five PMs'.

"Imagine what they will do to this country if they come to power. Every year, there will be a new PM. Can they do any good to this country," he asked the gathering.

"The Congress had promised pensions for the martyrs' families in Telangana, 250 square yards of land, and Rs 2,500 per month for every woman, but none of these promises have been fulfilled," he said. Alleging that power cuts have made people's lives miserable in Telangana, the Prime Minister said, "Ever since the Congress came to power, development of Telangana has come to a standstill while the public treasury has emptied.



KARIMNAGAR, PM Narendra Modi with Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other BJP leaders at a public meeting for Lok Sabha polls, in Karimnagar, Telangana on Wednesday. UNI

## Gold medalist wrestler arrested in Delhi in attempt to murder case

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) A state-level two-time gold medalist wrestler, who was wanted in an attempt to murder case, was arrested from the city's Mukarba Chowk bus stand, police said on Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Sumeet, a resident of the national capital.

His arrest comes after Sumeet along with his four associates Sagar, Nikhil,

Dev and Aniket tried to murder one Vishnu on April 21.

In this incident, Sagar had opened fire on Vishnu but the bullet missed the target. After this, they all fled from the spot.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Satish Kaushik said that based on manual inputs, it was established that Sumeet was trying to abscond from Delhi to Haryana by bus

from Mukarba Chowk bus stand.

"A raid was conducted at Mukarba Chowk bus stand and Sumeet was apprehended," said the DCP.

The DCP said that Sumeet won two gold medals in a wrestling event at the state level.

"He was a friend of one Sagar. Sagar has an enmity with Vishnu (the victim) on the issue of girlfriend," the DCP added.

--IANS

## Embarrassed Congress distances itself from Sam Pitroda's remarks, calls it 'unacceptable'

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Hours after Congress leader Sam Pitroda's remark on the 'colour of citizens' stirred a major controversy and left the party red-faced, the latter got into a damage control mode and issued a clarification.

Congress General Secretary and Communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh took to his X account and said that the

party does not support his views and described it as "unfortunate and unacceptable." Taking to his X account, Jairam Ramesh wrote, "The analogies drawn by Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable."

"The Indian National Congress completely dissociates itself from such analogies," he added.

Pitroda speaking exclusively to The Statesman made the 'racist' remarks while attempting to describe the diversity of the

country.

"A diverse country, where people on the East look like Chinese, people on the West look like Arab, people on the North look like maybe White, and people in the South look like Africa," Pitroda said.

The remarks by Sam Pitroda are drawing him flak from all political quarters, particularly from the BJP, which has accused him of showing the country in poor light.

Many BJP leaders took potshots at Sam Pitroda while some poked fun at him for bringing embar-

assment to his party with a string of controversial statements.

Notably, this is not the first incident of the Congress leader sparking a row with his controversial statements.

His recent assertions on the Inheritance Tax also had drawn him severe flak from the BJP leadership.

Taking a cue from his Inheritance tax theory, the BJP brass had accused Congress of planning to impose high taxes on the common man and thereby usurping a major chunk of their wealth, after death.



HARIDWAR, Devotees taking holy dip in the Ganga at Har Ki Pauri on the occasion of Amavasya, in Haridwar on Wednesday. UNI

## Pav bhaji seller gets ready to contest 4th general election

Gurugram, May 8 (IANS) A 54-year-old pav bhaji seller, who is contesting as an Independent candidate from the Gurugram Lok Sabha constituency, is set to fight the general elections for the fourth time.

Kusheshwar Bhagat, who hails from Bihar's Madhubani, has contested Lok Sabha elections thrice, and Assembly elections and Presidential polls twice each in his political career.

Bhagat has entered the electoral fray to defeat veteran leaders from other major parties and fix the poor education and health system in Gurugram.

Campaigning for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections has intensified in Haryana with 26 candidates in the fray from Gurugram this year.

Bhagat has been running a pav bhaji vendor in Gurugram's Sector-15 for 40 years.

He left Bihar to learn the art of making pav bhaji in Mumbai. Within five years, he came to Gurugram with his wife and three children and set up a food stall.

"The people of Gurugram Lok Sabha constituency now want change.

This Lok Sabha election in the state has nine constituencies and there are 900 problems in each constituency, but there is no one to solve them," he said.

"People have lost their confidence in the leader, who has been ruling for 20 years.

## Why wasn't victim produced before judge, asks Kumaraswamy

Bengaluru, May 8 (IANS) Former Chief Minister and JD(S) state chief H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday questioned the Congress government over its failure to produce the victim, who was kidnapped and later rescued, in the obscene video case before a judge.

Speaking to reporters here, Kumaraswamy said, "The rescued victim, who was allegedly kidnapped, has been with the SIT for four days. Her 12 family members have been kept at the Kumara Krupa Guest House which is run by the government and are being given royal treatment there."

"The kidnapped woman was not rescued but she was picked up from her relative's house," Ku-

## HC posts PIL against appointment of Delhi Govt's Director of Prosecution for May 10

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) The Delhi High Court on Wednesday posted for May 10 a PIL challenging the appointment of Rama Kant Pandey, the Director of Delhi Government's Directorate of Prosecution, as illegal and invalid.

The High Court has also listed it with a similar Public Interest Litigation

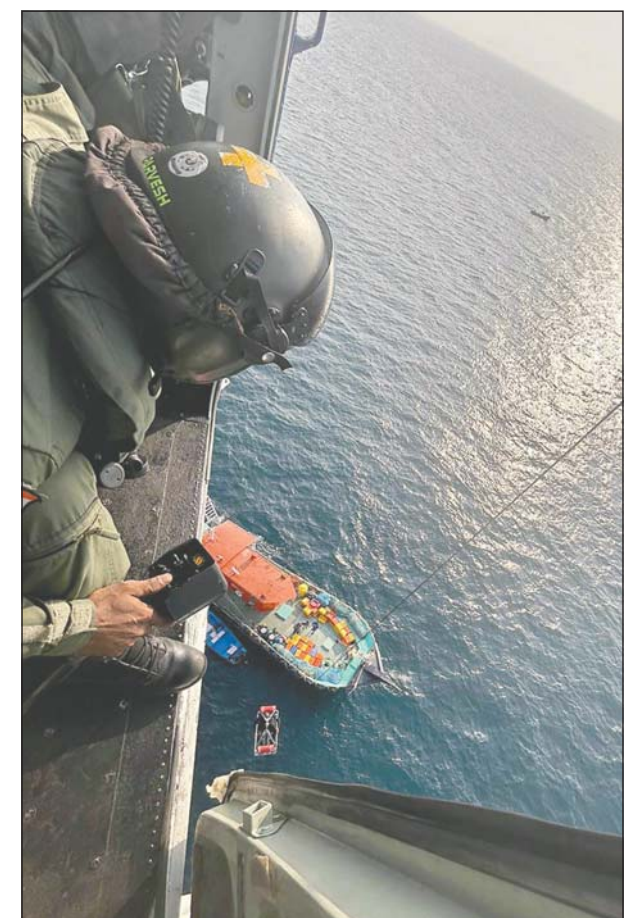
(PIL) wherein appointment of former Director (Prosecution), Alka Goel, has been challenged as illegal.

The PIL, which is filed against Rama Kant Pandey, Delhi Government through Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Home), and Union Public Service Commission, has been moved by Andy Sehgal and Chiranjit Singh

Bisht - Public Prosecutor, Delhi Police Academy and Public Prosecutor, Directorate of Prosecution, respectively.

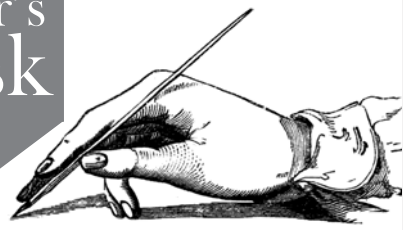
Sehgal and Bisht have alleged that Pandey's appointment as Director is not in consonance with the statutory provision as provided under Section 25A of the CrPC. The section states that a Director of Prosecution shall be in practice as an advocate for not less than 10 years and that such an appointment shall be made with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court. The PIL has been filed through Advocate Sarvesh Singh. Sehgal has also challenged the Director (Prosecution) Recruitment Rules, 2021, as being illegal and ultra vires to the statutory mandate of Section 25A of the Code.

He has sought the court's direction to appoint a suitable person to the post of Director (Prosecution) as per the law and for the prestigious Directorate of Prosecution to be run by a duly-appointed competent, unbiased and good administrator. In his plea, Sehgal has said that there is no transparency and there was no open call for applications or advertisement for appointment to the post of Director of Prosecution.



BEYPORE, Indian Coast Guard rescued a critically-ill fisherman from Indian Fishing Boat Jazeera, about 40 nautical miles, off Beypore, Kerala. The fisherman experienced a near-drowning incident after he fell into the sea. He was rescued by the IFB but his health condition deteriorated due to the excess water in the lungs. UNI

From Editor's Desk



According to SC, it is 'pregnant persons'

In a country where gender rights, including, especially, LGBTQIA+ rights, have had a chequered trajectory, this is a welcome acknowledgement of the need for gender justice.

In a sign of progressive intent, a three-judge Supreme Court (SC) bench, comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra extended the ambit of pregnancy to include non-binary people and transgender men, among other gender identities, in addition to cisgender women.

The SC's nod comes as an expansion of its ongoing efforts to sensitise the legal fraternity — and by extension, the people of the land — to the nuances of neutral language.

In broadening categories of identity, this shift in language goes beyond semantics. It urges a reimagining of gender and intersectionality that is not limited to binaries and that recognises the agency of individuals.

Pressure to be perfect raising burnout in parents, anxiety in children: Study



New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Societal pressure to be perfect is increasing parental burnout and raising the risk of children suffering from stress, anxiety, and depression, a study revealed on Wednesday.

associated with internal and external expectations, including whether one feels they are a good parent, perceived judgement from others, time to play with their children, the relationship with their spouse and keeping a clean house.

"The illusion and expectations of 'perfect parenting' can be deflating," said Kate Gawlik, one of the lead researchers on the study and an associate clinical professor at the Ohio State College of Nursing.

"I think social media has just really tipped the scales. We have high expectations for ourselves as parents; we have high expectations for

what our kids should be doing. Then, on the flip side, you're comparing yourself to other people and other families, and there is a lot of judgement that goes on. And whether it's intended or not, it's still there," said Gawlik, who pursued this research based on her experience as a working mother of four.

Notably, the parent's mental health and behaviours strongly impact their children's mental health. If children have a mental health disorder, parents report a higher level of burnout and a greater likelihood for them to insult, criticise, scream at, curse at, and/or physically harm

their children (that is, repeated spanking). On the other hand, quality time spent with parents reduced children's mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and bipolar disorder. The study suggested parents boost their connection with children and become active listeners, while also "catching, checking and changing negative thoughts into positive ones; adjusting expectations for the parent and the child; and reflecting and acting on priorities".

Why is India the thalassemia capital of the world?

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Lack of widespread awareness, genetic counselling, and traditional belief systems are some of the major reasons why India has the highest number of thalassemia major patients in the world, said experts here on World Thalassemia Day on Wednesday.

World Thalassemia Day is observed every year on May 8 to raise awareness about the disease. The theme this year is 'Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassemia Treatment for All'.

Every eighth thalassemia patient in the world lives in India. And yearly about 10,000-20,000 new thalassemia majors are born. "India has the largest number of children with thalassemia major in the world, with around 1-1.5 lakhs of children affected. India's status as the thalassemia capital stems from a complex interplay of factors. Genetic predisposition, consanguineous marriages, and lack of awareness contribute to its prevalence.



Thalassemia Minor in this community varies from 8-14 per cent," Vijay Ramanan, Sr. Consultant Clinical Haematologist, Bone Marrow Stem Cell Transplant, Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune, told IANS.

The large population and high birth rate in India also contribute to a greater number of individuals being affected by genetic disorders. "Lack of widespread awareness

and education about Thalassemia and genetic counselling among the general public leads to insufficient preventive measures. Prenatal and pre-marital screening for Thalassemia is not uniformly practised across the country," Vijay said. "Ignorance and desire to believe that astrology is more important than science has contributed to an increase in thalassemia minors marrying another thalassemia minor. Such marriages have a 25 per cent chance of getting a thalassemia major child," he added.

The doctor lamented that while prenatal diagnosis exists in the country to prevent the birth of such

K'taka DycM Shivakumar slams Kumaraswamy over obscene video scandal

Bengaluru, May 8 (IANS) Karnataka Congress chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday slammed former CM and JD(S) state chief H.D. Kumaraswamy over the alleged obscene video scandal.

Speaking to reporters in Chikkamagaluru, Shivakumar said, "If Kumaraswamy has any shame left, he should first meet the families of victims of the alleged sex scandal and pacify them and give courage to them... People say many victims are JD(S) leaders," he added.

Reacting to charges by Kumaraswamy that SIT has been turned into the 'Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah and Surjewala Investigating Team', the DycM called Kumaraswamy the king of blackmail and alleged that he is threatening the officers.

"Let him (Kumaraswamy) come to the session and discuss the matter in the Assembly. Before that, let him stand by his words. Kumaraswamy said that his name and his father, former PM H.D. Deve Gowda's name should not be taken as H.D. Revanna's family had no connection and they are separated. Kumaraswamy also stated that one who commits wrong will have to be punished," Shivakumar said.

"Kumaraswamy thinks he is the court, he is the judge. Is he an advocate, if so let him go to the court and place his arguments. It is a matter of happiness that Kumaraswamy is attacking me. He is the scriptwriter, director and actor in the whole episode," Shivakumar said.

Corruption, appeasement politics link Cong & BRS, says PM Modi

Karimnagar (Telangana), May 8 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday termed Congress and BRS as the two sides of the same coin, saying corruption, appeasement politics and zero governance model link the two parties.

Alleging that Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) are part of the same corruption syndicate, the Prime Minister said they are covering up each other's scams.

He was addressing a public meeting here in support of the BJP candidates for Karimnagar, Peddapalli and Adilabad Lok Sabha constituencies.

He said that corruption is a common characteristic of both parties. "They accused each other of corruption but from the backdoor, they are part of the same corruption syndicate," he said and mentioned that when BRS was in power it did not investigate cash for vote allegations and now the Congress government is silent on the corruption in Kaleshwaram project.

Claiming that BJP always follows the principle of nation first, he alleged that Congress and BRS work on the principle of family first. "By the family, for the family, of the fam-

ily is their gameplan," he said and called on people to save Telangana from this alliance.

PM Modi said when Telangana was formed, people reposed their faith in TRS (now BRS) but by working only for one family, it shattered the dreams of all families. He al-



leged that Congress has the same history as people had big hopes from the party after Independence.

He also alleged that the appeasement bond is strong between Congress and BRS. He remarked that the two parties had given Hyderabad on lease to MIM.

"For the first time, BJP has chal-

lenged MIM. MIM is worried over this but Congress and BRS look more worried than MIM. Both the parties are trying for MIM's win," he said.

PM Modi reiterated the allegation of 'RR tax' in Telangana. "One R loots Telangana and sends it to another R in Delhi. This RR game will destroy Telangana," he said.

He also remarked that the collection of 'RR' has surpassed the collection of the Telugu blockbuster 'RRR'.

Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said every day he used to talk of '5 businessmen' and later he converted it into Ambani and Adani. As soon as the elections came, he stopped naming them. The prince should publicly tell people how much money he has taken from both in this election, he said.

He also alleged that the Congress wants to snatch reservations of SCs, STs and BCs and give them to Muslims. He reiterated that there is no scope in the Constitution for

religion-based reservation.

He also reiterated the allegation that the Congress was conspiring to lock Ram temple and overturn the court verdict in the case.

PM Modi invoked former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in his home district of Karimnagar. He alleged that Congress insulted him even after his death by not allowing his body to be brought into Congress office.

Stating BJP and NDA conferred Bharat Ratna on Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister said he was happy to meet the entire family of the former Prime Minister in Hyderabad Tuesday night and felt proud to learn about his works. He remarked that in the third phase of the Lok Saha elections, the third fuse of the Congress and the INDI alliance was also burnt. He exuded confidence that the BJP and NDA will march ahead in the remaining four phases.

He claimed that in Karimnagar people have already declared victory of BJP MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar. He said that the Congress party was sure to lose as it could hardly convince somebody to contest from here. He remarked that BRS is nowhere to be seen.

Four arrested for trafficking Indians to Russia-Ukraine war zone

New Delhi May 8 (IANS) Four men, including a translator, were arrested on the charges of trafficking Indian nationals to Russia under the guise of better employment and then sending them to the Russia-Ukraine war zone, a CBI official said on Wednesday.

The officials said that Arun and Yesudas Junior a.k.a Priyan, both residents of Trivandrum, Kerala, were arrested on Tuesday.

Two other accused, Nijil Jobi Bensam, a resident of Kanyakumari and Anthony Michael Elangovan, a resident of Mumbai, were nabbed on April 24.

A senior Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) official said that on March 6, the agency had busted a major human trafficking network running across the country targeting gullible youths on the promise of offering lucrative jobs abroad.

These traffickers have been operating as an organised network and were luring Indian nationals through social media channels like YouTube etc. and also through their local contacts/agents for highly paid jobs in Russia.

"Thereafter, the trafficked Indian Nationals were trained in combat

roles and deployed at front bases in the Russia - Ukraine War Zone against their wishes, thus, putting their lives in grave danger," said a senior CBI official.

As per CBI, it has been ascertained that some of the victims also got grievously injured in the war zone.

"A case of human trafficking was registered against private Visa Consultancy Firms and agents who were involved in the trafficking of Indian Nationals to Russia under the guise of better employment and high-paying jobs. The human trafficking network of these agents is spread over several States across the country and beyond," said the official.

The official further said that Nijil Jobi Bensam was working in Russia on a contract basis as a Translator and was one of the key members of the network operating in Russia for facilitating the recruitment of Indian nationals in the Russian Army. "Michael Anthony was facilitating his co-accused Faisal Baba based in Dubai and others based in Russia in getting the Visa processing done in Chennai and booking the air tickets for victims to go to Russia," said the official.

LS polls: Over 13K polling stations to be set up in Delhi

New Delhi, May 7 (IANS) Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) P. Krishnamurthy on Tuesday said that 13,637 polling stations at 2,627 locations will be set up in the city on the day of polling in all seven Lok Sabha seats on May 25.

Addressing a press conference, the CEO said that 70 pink booths will also be set up, which will be handled by women officials only, and along with this, 70 model polling booths will be set up similarly.

Krishnamurthy said that comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the concerned District Election Officers to ensure a smooth and successful election process.

During the briefing, the CEO also highlighted a significant increase of 6.19 per cent (1,52,01,936) in the number of male (82,12,794) and female (69,87,914) voters in Delhi, alongside a notable surge in first-time voters, with 2,52,038 new voters added, marking the highest figure in the past five years.

"Moreover, there has been a commendable improvement in the gender ratio, witnessing 33-point increase from 818 to 851 within the last five years. Efforts to include transgender and third-gender voters have been fruitful, with the voter count rising from 669 to 1,228 since

the last general election," he said.

The CEO said that over one lakh polling personnel will be engaged for the Lok Sabha polls. Additionally, Central Armed Police Forces, 78,578 Delhi Police personnel, and 19,000 Home Guards will be deployed for extensive security arrangements across all polling stations in Delhi. He said that 6,833 polling stations will undergo direct monitoring by the CEO's office and District Election Officers through a webcast, ensuring transparency and accountability in the electoral process. In anticipation of possible heat waves on the day of voting, adequate arrangements have been made to ensure the comfort and safety of voters, so that no voter feels any kind of discomfort due to projected heatwave conditions on the day of voting. The Delhi CEO also directed the concerned stakeholders to equip every polling station with safe drinking water and properly shaded waiting areas with air coolers, essential medical kits, and supplies. He also directed the local bodies and health department to provide the requisite paramedical staff equipped with essential medicines, including ORS, at each polling location in Delhi on the day of polling.

Marengo CIMS Hospital Ahmedabad Creates awareness on World Thalassemia Day

Ahmedabad: Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad commemorated World Thalassemia Day which falls every year on 8th May. The theme this year is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassemia Treatment for All".

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder characterized by decreased hemoglobin production. It is a genetic blood condition that decreases the body's ability to produce hemoglobin, the protein essential for carrying oxygen in red blood cells throughout the body. Shortage of hemoglobin results in symptoms like fatigue, weakness, and various complications. Thalassemia manifests in two forms: Alpha and Beta, based on the DNA defect (mutation) present in the chromosome. This defect is passed on from parents to children. If the couple carries mutation in one (out of the two) of the DNA that's forms hemoglobin, they are asymptomatic, but during each pregnancy, there is a 25% risk that the foetus may inherit defective DNA from either parents and be born as a thalassemia patient.

This blood disorder significantly impacts the lives of patients. Patient needs regular blood transfusion for

survival. Patients also experience fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, bone deformities, and delayed growth, hormonal issues. Regular transfusion leads to iron overload which is the reason behind most of the complications. Patient are also at risk of transfusion related infections. The constant requirement for treatment affects the family psychologically, socially and financially. The only cure is bone marrow transplant which is available to a minority of the patients in our country.

Common symptoms of other blood disorders that require Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) include anemia patients presenting with weakness, tiredness, persistent fever, or bleeding spots on the body, and blood cancer patients experiencing weakness, tiredness, weight loss, lymph node swelling in neck, axilla, groin, back & body aches, kidney issues, increased infection risk, and bleeding.

Dr Ankit Jitani, Consultant - Hematology, Blood and Marrow Transplant, Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad said, "The importance of commemorating World Thalassemia Day plays a vital role in raising awareness about the prevention and treatment of thalassemia. This

day also marks the significance of advocating improved access to quality healthcare and the introduction of newer therapies available for the patients.

Mr. Gaurav Rekhi, Regional director - Marengo CIMS Hospital Ahmedabad said "In our endeavour revolving around our initiative of 'Patient First' we aim to amplify awareness regarding rising incidences of blood-related disorders and the advanced treatment modalities. Our goal is to aid the public with the right information regarding disorders and diseases that can impact lives. Through the advocacy of preventive measures/recognizing early symptoms and the dissemination of insights into advanced treatment modalities, our mission encompasses mitigating the prevalence of these ailments."

Dr. Ankit Jitani further added, "With advancements in hematology and stem cell transplantation life-saving solution is now available for many potentially fatal blood disorders as well as pediatric solid cancers and some autoimmune disorders. The bone marrow is responsible for producing blood cells, and BMT involves replacing damaged or destroyed bone marrow with healthy cells."

Ex-Tesla executives-led DG Innovate enters India in joint venture with EVage Motors

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) DG Innovate, a UK-based advanced research and development company led by former executives of Tesla, on Wednesday announced its entry in India through a joint venture (JV) with the electric truck firm EVage Motors. The JV will allow DG Innovate to tap into the strategic Asian market and significantly accelerate the commercialisation of its proprietary Pareta electric drive system. "Asia is a critical market for the EV industry, and India, in particular, benefits from a leading manufacturing platform that will allow us to deploy our products at top speed and competitive costs," DG Innovate CEO Peter Bardenfleth-Hansen said in a statement. DG Innovate will partner with EVage to manufacture its Pareta electric drive system in Punjab as part of the agreement. Moreover, the company said that together, the companies will target the Asian EV market, offering far more efficient electric trucks, resulting in longer life and a reduced cost of ownership for fleet owners, with an average range increase of 5-7 per cent on the same charge. The JV will be 60 per cent owned by DG Innovate and the remaining (40 per cent) by EVage, with both parties investing in the project in a show of confidence in the Indian market, it added.



Jodhpur man held with e-cigarettes

Ahmedabad: Special Operatin Group (SOG) of the city crime branch on Saturday caught a man from jodhpur for possessing 21 e-cigarettes worth Rs 42,000. Police said the 30-years-old wanted to sell them illegally at his perfume shop in anandnagar. According to an FIR filled with the Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) by an SOG constable, narendra Hathisinh, the cops got a tip-off that a man named Jaunil doshi was selling e-cigarettes illegally from his shop "The Perfume Show" on jodhpur village road.

A team of SOG raided the shop and found Doshi at the shop and also found 21 e-cigarettes. Doshi did not show any permit for selling those e-cigarettes which were imported from China. Doshi told cops that he had gone to Mumbai in Dec last year from where he had bought those e-cigarettes.

Man attacked over TV exchange deal

Ahmedabad : A 46-year-old man from. Thaltrej was allegedly attacked with a stick over a yrar-old financial dispute pretaining to the sale of a TV in an exchange deal. The incident took place in Thaltrej on Wednesday and a complaint as files with Vstrapur police on Saturday.

Keyur Raval, a resident of Shanti sadan Apartments near Goverdhanparly plot in Thaltrej, said in his FIR that he drives an auto rikshaw and works s an electrician for a livelihood.

around a year ago, he bought a television as part of an exchange offer from man named Amit Rajput. Ravel said that he and Rajput had a fight over an amount of Rs 9,000 on March 22 last year. However, day later Rajutsoughtt an apology and Raval refrained from filling a police-complaint.

On May 1, arounf 9.30am, Rval was on his way to drop his wife to her office when she told him hat Rajput had been vstantly calling her up and inquiring about him. So Raval called up Rajput and objected to his wife being called up. To this, rajput asked Raval where he was and said he wanted to come over to meet him. After that conversation, he met Raval near Thaltrej Coddroads at around 3.30pm that day.

On meeting Raval, Rajput began asking for his money and when Raval asked him why je was clig up his wife, he hir Raaval on his head woith a stick. Raval was admitted to Zola Civil hospital Vasstrup police and filled a complaint against Rajput.

Zydus acquired rights for progeria retment

Ahmedabad: Senryal Thera peutics Inc (senryal), a US based ophthalmaceutical company which is also wholly owned by Ahmedabad-headquartered Zydus Lifesciences, recently closed its acquisitionn of global proprietary rights for Zydus Lifesciences, reently closed its acquisiting of global priority rights for Zokinvy. Zokinvy is the first and only USFDA approved treatment to target the cause and smptoms of progeria in people older than 12 months. Progeria is an untra-rare, fatal, genetic premature again disease which accerates mortality in young patients. After its USFDA pproval in 2020, Zokinvy secured pproval in the European Union and Great Britain (2022)and Japan (Jn 2024). Zydus has thus expended its porfolio marks an important milestone in growing our porfolio of medicines for rare and orphan disease, which can have devesting consequences if left untreated. We are forced on spotting patients to live healthir and more fulfilled lives," said matt Heck, president & CEO, Sentyal.

FDCA to act against reuse of packaging tins

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat food and drug control administration (FDCA) recently issued a directive to all directive officer to wath for manufacturers employing the unlawful practice of reusing tinfor food packing, particularly edvile oil. Reuses tins re those that have already been used once and after consumption of the food item are discarded by the consumer and reused by some packers. FDCA has ordered officially to identify such entities in their jurisdiction and take legal action. The FDCA's directive is considered important because there is widespresdeuse of ins for packing food items, especially edible oil. H.G Koshia, commissioner of the Gujarat state FDCA, sid, "Our actions is imed at ensuring the safty if c=consumer health by curbing the illegaleuses of tins for packaged food items. According to rules of the food sefty and Standards Authority of India, rreuse of container tins for pakaing food is prohibited." According to rules of the food sefty and Standards Authority of India, reuse of container tins for pakaing food is prohibited."According to industry sources despite widespread reuse of tins, many consumers are unaware of the ridsk associated with thrie use, "when reused without proper cleaning or repurposing, such tins can pose significant health hazards.

Ritisha Parikh wins two golds in junior category in fin-swimming tournament

Ahmedabad: Ahmedabad's Ritisha Parikh won in the 50 metres and 100 metres in the junior group B category in Bi-Fin Swimming at the recently held 2nd Ahmedabad District Fin Swimming Tournament.



The tournament was organised by the Underwater Sports Association, Gujarat, at the Gujarat Vidyapith Swimming Pool. Around 80 swimmers across different age groups participated in the competition, of which 10 swimmers won the medals. Ritisha Parikh won two gold medals at the competition. The winners at the upcoming state-level fin swimming competition will represent the state at the national level. Underwater swimming is different from normal swimming and involves the use of snorkels and mono and bi-fins.

Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo pairs Palak Tiwaris Vibrance with the Radiance of Shilpa Shetty in its new brand communication

Ahmedabad, Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo brings together the youthful energy of Palak Tiwari, a rising star in tinsel town, with the timeless beauty of Shilpa Shetty. Shilpa has been the face of the brand since 2019 and also endorses Kesh King Ayurveda Oil - India's No.1 Hairfall Expert. Made by Raju Hirani Films, the new Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo commercial features a captivating exchange between the two celebrities, blended with the nostalgic Bollywood number from yesteryears "Ude Jab Jab Zulfie Teri". The commercial will be air on in the month of May. Speaking about this new development, Ms. Priti Sureka, Director, Emami limited, said, "Kesh King is a hair and scalp care solution brand with strong ayurvedic credentials. Over the years, the brand has effectively catered to its core TG with Shilpa Shetty as the brand ambassador.

CEO on 'removal' of 700 Muslims from voting list: Electors could have raised objection any time

In response to the alleged deletion of names of 700 Muslim voters after their homes were razed in fishing harbours of Gandhvi and Navadra in Devbhumi Dwarka last year in March, Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer P Bharathi on Tuesday said the electors could have raised an objection."They could

have raised an objection at any point of time. If their name is not on the list, they should have enrolled themselves at the new place where they relocated."

said Bharathi. He added the electors' list was published twice — a draft once and the final list a second time.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer Kuldeep Arya said they have not received any official complaint in this regard and neither have the poll officials taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged issue."If they were proven as encroachers and they were removed with due process, it will not be possible for us to track them down. They were free to register themselves. Moreover, it is possible that few of them may have registered themselves at their new location," he said.

Arya added that the deletions were made well before the polls owing to the demolitions.

Lok Sabha elections: At 59.51%, voter turnout dips in Gujarat; Banaskantha bucks the trend

Gujarat reported a voter turnout of approximately 59.51 per cent on Tuesday, nearly 4.6 per cent lower than the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, with Banaskantha being the only constituency that saw a higher turnout, as per Election Commission of India (ECI) data.

Of the over 4.9 crore voters in Gujarat, approximately 59.51 per cent turned out to vote on Tuesday as 25 of the state's 26 constituencies went to polls in the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections 2024 as against 64.11 per cent in 2019, approximate trends put out on the voter turnout app by the ECI revealed.

In 2019, Banaskantha had reported a turnout of 64.68 per cent, which rose to 68.44 per cent on Tuesday. This was the only seat in Gujarat where both BJP

and Congress had women candidates, Rekha Chaudhary and Geniben Thakor, respectively. While Amreli and Valsad saw the lowest and the highest turnout respectively, the votes polled in these constituencies also dropped. The Amreli Lok Sabha seat saw a turnout of 49.44 per cent which was lower than the 2019 turnout of 55.75 per cent while the Valsad seat saw a turnout of 72.24 per cent, a dip from the 75.25 per cent voter turnout in 2019.

Unlike 2019, when four tribal constituencies crossed the 70 per cent polling mark, except Valsad, no constituency crossed this mark on Tuesday. The third phase of the Lok Sabha elections on Tuesday covered 93 constituencies across 11 states and Union Territories.

Three held from Jodhpur over Rs 4.47 crore Mastercard fraud

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, The cyber crime police have busted a gang of fraudsters and arrested its three members from Rajasthan for duping a private bank of Rs 4.47 crore using a credit card fraud method. The accused, using a unique fraudulent method, managed to use Mastercards way beyond their credit limits and later did not pay the bank.

The three suspects—Mukesh Hiralal, Vishal Chauhan and Mayank Putra Dedia—were all nabbed from Jodhpur. The three have been arrested in the case registered by the cyber police on the complaint of a vice president of a private sector bank, which has a corporate office in Andhri.

The bank in July 2023, observed that in the past few years, mastercards issued to certain account holders were being used for making high volume transactions which were beyond credit limits issued on the cards and payment on these cards are still outstanding.

Bombay HC directs BMC to provide 10 water tankers daily for 2,000 families in Gorai, says no municipality can shirk off its duty

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, While directing the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to provide 10 water tankers of 10,000 litres each for over 2,000 families in Gorai, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday observed that no municipal body can shirk off its duty to ensure adequate potable water for residents.

A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Arif S Doctor passed the order on a PIL petition filed by the Gorai Villagers Welfare Association stating that over 2,000 families consisting of 7,000 residents in the area lacked adequate clean drinking water.

The court also asked the BMC to ensure that the construction of an underground suction pump and tanks, because of which residents in the north-western part of the city were facing water scarcity, will be completed expeditiously. Senior advocate Anil Singh, appearing for the BMC, informed the court that to overcome

Teacher dies while on poll duty in Amreli

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Kaushika Babariya, a government school teacher, died while on poll duty in Jafrabad town of Amreli district on Tuesday after she complained of uneasiness.

The 49-year-old teacher was deployed as a female polling officer at a booth in Sagar school for the polling of Amreli Lok Sabha seat. "While she was on poll duty, she experienced a bout of seizures. She was rushed to a local hospital first and then was referred to a hospital in nearby Rajula town, where she was pronounced dead," Jinesh Mehta, mamlatdar of Jafrabad said. "We are awaiting her postmortem examination report to ascertain cause of her death," he added.

Ajay Dahiya, Amreli collector and district election officer, told PTI that according to doctors, "the probable cause of her

death was a heart attack". Meanwhile, amid rising temperatures, GVK-run Emergency Management and Research Institute recorded incidents of polling booth emergencies, including three related to poll workers, across Gujarat. A 30-year-old official posted at a Vadodra polling booth was hospitalised after he complained of breathlessness. Another 26-year-old man, on duty in Anand, complained of low blood pressure.

A 52-year-old man in Ahmedabad, also on poll duty, complained of dizziness and hypotension, and was hospitalised. Additionally, a 54-year-old man fainted at Pankaj High School in Gulbai Tekra and a 25-year-old man fell at a booth in Shakti High School of Ahmedabad. A 30-year-old woman at Jashodanagar complained of blood pressure issues.

Bombay HC seeks state govt reply to PIL alleging illegalities in 'Dial 108' ambulance project contract

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Observing the need to take cognisance of the issues raised in the PIL claiming 'illegal activities' in award of contract for emergency medical services earlier this year to acquire and oversee a fleet of 1,756 ambulances, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday sought state government's reply within a month.

The impugned 'build, finance, operate and transfer' contract is related to 'Dial 108' ambulance project under Maharashtra Emergency Medical Services (MEMS).

However, after Advocate General Brendra Sarraf doubted credentials of the petitioner and termed

it as a 'politically motivated' plea, the bench removed the name of Vikas Sadashiv Lawande, a social and political worker belonging to Nationalist Congress Party- Sharad Pawar (NCP). The recast title of the plea in its records is "In Re: Contract for Emergency Medical Services."

After Congress office in Amethi attacked and cars vandalised, police file FIR

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, A day after Congress workers staged a protest in Amethi alleging that a group of unidentified persons damaged vehicles parked outside the Gauriganj party office, the police lodged an FIR on Monday. Congress workers had claimed that the miscreants carried iron rods and fled when attempts were made to apprehend them.

The FIR was filed on a complaint by Gauriganj resident Saddam Hussain, the driver of Congress

leader Fateh Bahadur. According to the complaint, Hussain was escorting Bahadur to a meeting at the Congress party office when the incident happened. At around 11.00 pm, a few unidentified persons came and started damaging vehicles parked on the road without provocation. The complainant also alleged that the miscreants resorted to pelting stones, following which he got injuries on his head.

The case has been registered under Sections 336 (endangering life or personal safety of others) and 427 (mischievous causing damage to property) of the Indian Penal Code. Amethi Circle Officer Mayank Dwivedi said that an investigation into the case has started following the filing of the FIR.

Former Congress MLC Deepak Singh had on Sunday night claimed while some party workers were present at the office, a group of people, purportedly affiliated with the BJP, vandalised vehicles parked outside the party office.

58.98% voter turnout in Gujarat, some villages boycott poll

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Gujarat's 25 constituencies saw an approximate voter turnout of 58.98 per cent on Tuesday, when the third phase of Lok Sabha elections was conducted. In 2019, the overall voter turnout was 64.51 per cent.

At least three villages — Kesar in Bharuch, Sandhara in Surat and Bhakhari in Banaskantha — boycotted the elections completely as per a statement from the Election Commission (EC). Partial boycotts were reported from Bhatgan of Junagadh district, Rabarika in Bhavnagar, and Bodoli and Punjara in Mahisagar district, for reasons ranging from lack of drinking water to pucca roads and so on.

In all, six FIRs were registered and there were reports of several faulty EVMs, including one in Gandhinagar constituency where a button was disabled using instant glue. As per the data shared by the EC till 11.40 pm, the state recorded a voter turnout of 58.98 per cent in 25 seats.

Till 5 pm, the highest turnout was recorded in Valsad (68.12 per cent) and the lowest was witnessed in Amreli (45.59 per cent) — the trend matching 2019, when Valsad reported the highest turnout at 74.28 per cent and Amreli the lowest at 54.47 per cent. This year, to ensure maximum voter turnout, two extra hours of polling were allowed given the heatwave conditions prevailing in the state. While the 2022 Assembly elections in December saw polling from 8 am to 5 pm, polling began on Tuesday at 7 am and ended at 6 pm. Gujarat CEO P Bharathi, however, admitted that the extended polling hours did not result in an increase in turnout. In fact, the first hour of voting — from 7 am to 9 am — saw a turnout ranging between 9-10 per cent.

Excise policy case: Delhi court extends CM Kejriwal's judicial custody till May 20

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) A Delhi court on Tuesday extended Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's judicial custody till May 20, in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

It was a big day for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo, whose plea challenging his arrest by the agency was heard by the Supreme Court on Tuesday. However, the two-judge bench of the

top court decided to pronounce their verdict on his interim bail plea on May 9 or in the next week when it will hear his plea again.

Meanwhile, Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court extended his judicial custody on the expiry of his previously granted 14-day judicial custody.

Earlier, while seeking Kejriwal's judicial custody, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S. V. Raju, for ED, had stated that it reserves the right to request the AAP supremo's further custody in the future.

"... in view of the ruling of the Hon'ble Apex Court in case V. Senthil Balaji Vs. State...., the ED reserves its right to seek further custody remand of the accused," the court had noted. tional proceeds of crime and identify other individuals involved.

The ED has termed CM Kejriwal the "kingpin and the key conspirator" of the alleged excise scam in collusion with other ministers of the Delhi government, AAP leaders, and other persons.

Fujifilm's Multi Light Technology Arrives at Sattva Gastroliiv Hospital in Bhavnagar

Bhavnagar, : Gujarat, marks a significant leap in healthcare innovation with the introduction of Fujifilm's cutting-edge multi-light technology endoscopy system. Installed at Sattva Gastroliiv Hospital in Bhavnagar, this groundbreaking system promises to revolutionize gastrointestinal diagnostics and elevate the standard of patient care in the region. Developed by Fujifilm, a global leader in medical imaging technology, this state-of-the-art system integrates advanced imaging capabilities to offer unparalleled clarity and precision in gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures.

Mr Dheeraj Chaudhri, Head of Endoscopy Systems Division, FUJIFILM India, "We are thrilled to introduce Fujifilm's cutting-edge multi-light technology endoscopy system to the Gujarat region, marking a significant milestone in healthcare innovation. At Fujifilm, we are committed to revolutionizing medical imaging and providing healthcare professionals with advanced tools to improve patient care. The installation of our state-of-the-art system at Sattva Gastroliiv Hospital reflects our dedication to expanding access to innovative medical technologies across India. By harnessing the power of advanced imaging technology, we aim to enhance diagnostic capabilities, streamline procedures, and ultimately improve patient outcomes. We extend our gratitude to Sattva Gastroliiv Hospital for their collaboration and commitment to advancing healthcare delivery in the region."

Dr. Bhavesh Bhut - Director and chief gastroenterologist at Sattva gastroliiv hospital and advance Endoscopy Center, "As we embrace Fujifilm's cutting-edge multi-light technology in Bhavnagar's Sattva Gastroliiv Hospital, we mark a significant stride towards advanced healthcare delivery in Gujarat region. This innovative endoscopy system heralds a new era of precision diagnostics and patient care, empowering our medical professionals to detect and treat gastrointestinal conditions with unprecedented accuracy and efficiency. At Sattva Gastroliiv, we remain committed to leveraging state-of-the-art technology to enhance medical outcomes and ensure the well-being of our patients, setting a benchmark for excellence in healthcare provision across the region."

Multilight technology consists of 3 image modes - WLI (white light image), LCI (Linked color image) and BLI (Blue light image). The technology combines White Light with LCI and BLI modes for enhanced early detection of cancer, lesions, and adenomas. LCI improves color contrast, aiding in lesion and inflammation detection, while BLI intensifies specific wavelengths, enhancing visualization of micro-vessels and mucosal structures for cancer differentiation. The combination of an optimal light spectrum and advanced image processing allows LCI to differentiate red colour tones more effectively than White Light imaging.

90 pc students clear Class 12 Board exam in Bengal

Kolkata, May 8 (IANS) West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Examination (WBCHSE) on Wednesday announced the results for the Class 12 Board examination and claimed that 90 per cent students passed the examination this year.

Announcing the results here in the morning, WBCHSE president Chiranbij Bhattacharya said that while the pass percentage among boys is 92.32, the same in the case of girls is 88.18.

East Midnapore district recorded the maximum pass percentage at 95.77 per cent. "A total of 58 examinees have figured among the top 10 rankers, out of which 35 are boys and 23 are girls. The maximum number of candidates among the top 10 rankers is from Hooghly district at 13," the WBCHSE president said.

According to Bhattacharya, this year 1,87,924 students from the minority community appeared for the Class 12 examinations and their pass percentage was 86.90.

Andhra Assembly polls: Tough battle for Pawan Kalyan in Pithapuram

Amaravati, May 8 (IANS) In search of his maiden electoral victory, Jana Sena Party leader and actor Pawan Kalyan faces a tough fight against seasoned politician Vanga Geetha of the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Pithapuram Assembly constituency in Andhra Pradesh.

The constituency in Kakinada district is expected to see a fierce battle for supremacy as YSRCP is going all out to stop Pawan Kalyan from entering the Assembly.

The actor-politician, whose party has an electoral alliance with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is confident of finally making it to the Assembly.

The YSRCP has fielded Vanga Geetha, the sitting MP from the Kakinada Lok Sabha constituency. Pithapuram is one of the Assembly segments under the Kakinada constituency.

Power star, as Pawan Kalyan is popularly known, has been campaigning in Pithapuram for more than one-and-a-half months, conducting road shows. His nephew and actor Varun Tej also joined the high-octane campaign late last month by holding a road show. In an apparent move to counter his political rivals, who brand him an outsider for the constituency, Pawan Kalyan has bought a home in the town and announced that he would actually reside in the town to be close to the people and work for their development. The Jana Sena leader has also promised to promote temple tourism in the constituency at a cost of Rs 300 crore with the development of the ancient Kukkuteswara temple as "Mini Kashi" along with the Purohitika temple, one of the 18 Shakti Pithas of the country. He has also assured the fishermen community that he would work to solve their problems. Vanga Geetha, a seasoned leader of the region, is banking on the popularity of Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the welfare schemes implemented by the YSRCP government during the last five years.

## Trump's classified documents trial postponed indefinitely

Washington, May 8 (IANS/DPA) The official start of the trial against former US President Donald Trump in the affair surrounding the retention of secret government documents has been postponed indefinitely.

The previously planned start of the trial on May 20 has been cancelled, the judge in charge, Aileen Cannon, announced in a letter on Tuesday. She said unresolved legal issues were behind the postponement.

It is therefore unlikely that the trial will begin before the US presidential election in November.

The decision is a success for the Republican candidate, as he is trying to delay the start of a possible trial as much as possible. The 77-year-old hopes to move back into the White House after the presidential election.

Trump is currently also on trial in a court in New York in connection with hush money payments to a porn actress. But this tri-

al is not Trump's only legal problem.

Trump was hit with federal charges in the document affair last year. He is accused of unlawfully retaining highly-sensitive information from his time as president between 2017 and 2021.

In August 2022, the FBI raided Trump's mansion in Florida and seized several sets of documents classified as top secret. Trump is also accused of conspiring to obstruct the investigation.

He is alleged to have tried to use associates to make footage from surveillance cameras disappear and to have boxes of documents taken away.

Trump pleaded not guilty when the charges were presented in Miami last year.

His lawyers are still trying to avert the trial, invoking Trump's immunity as president. They argue that keeping the documents as personal records was an official act of the president.--IANS



## WHAT AN E-SHAMBLE!

Exhausted children were 'left without food or water for hours' at UK airports this morning after the passport IT system collapsed nationwide forcing border staff to process thousands of passengers manually. The fallout from the disruption continues with many passengers expressing their disbelief at the lack of an adequate back up plan in place that resulted in some queuing for longer at the border than they spent on their flight from Lisbon.

## London plans future flood defence as Thames Barrier turns 40

London, May 8 (IANS/DPA) Flood defence walls along the Thames will need to be half a metre higher in the future to protect against climate change, officials said as they marked the 40th anniversary of the Thames Barrier.

The barrier, officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II, on May 8, 1984, and operated by the Environment Agency, was designed to protect London from flooding until 2030, but the "sleeping giant" is now expected to function until 2070.

The structure took eight years to construct, at 535 million pounds (\$668 million) -- 2.4 billion pounds in today's money -- and consists of 10 steel gates, with the main gates each as wide as the opening of Tower Bridge, weighing 3,300 tons, and as high as a five-storey building when raised.

Since its construction, it has been closed 221 times to prevent flooding

of the capital, working with other flood defences along the Thames to protect 1.42 million people, residential property worth 321 billion pounds, hundreds of schools, hospitals, railway and train stations, and four World Heritage sites.

Without the barrier, officials said storm surges and frequent tidal flooding of the Thames would submerge buildings along the river -- with only the city of London itself standing on high ground -- risking lives and livelihoods and causing huge amounts of damage. In the absence of the barrier, which is down stream from Greenwich and close to the city airport, the flood defence walls that line the Thames through central London would have to have been built up by another three metres, cutting off the city from its river.

However, with sea levels expected to rise by a metre by 2,100, along with increasingly intense storms driven by climate

change, officials say that greater defences against flooding will be needed in the coming decades.

These include raising the flood walls and defences that line the Thames downriver of the barrier by half a metre by 2040 and then by the same amount by 2050, to

the west, through central London.

A decision will need to be made by 2040 on what to do with the barrier itself, with options, including upgrading the existing barrier by 2070, so that the gates are not overtopped by rising seas and storm surges or installing

## Australian PM unveils \$372 mn mapping plan to boost mineral, energy exploration

Sydney, May 8 (IANS) Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Wednesday that the federal government would deliver an investment of 566.1 million Australian dollars (about \$372 million) to fully map the country's resources. "Next week's Budget will invest in a new era of mineral exploration," Albanese added while delivering a speech in Perth. We will fund the first comprehensive map of what's under Australia's soil and our seabed, meaning we can pinpoint the new deposits of critical minerals and strategic materials we need for clean energy and its technology, as well as traditional minerals like iron ore and gold and potential storage sites for hydrogen," the Prime Minis-

ter said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

As part of a big focus on resources in next week's federal budget, the funding package will be provided over the 10-year medium term from 2024-25 to deliver data, maps, and other tools for use by the resources industry.

Led by Geoscience Australia, the long-term investment stressed the federal government's plan to put the resources industry at the heart of its "Future Made in Australia" policy.

Through this investment, the Resourcing Australia's Prosperity (RAP) programme will be fully funded for 35 years, setting Australia's resources industry up for decades of exploration and future economy-making discoveries.



Last night, Buckingham Palace announced that Prince William and his father would be attending a joint engagement next week, where the heir will be made the Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Air Corps. Prior to Prince Harry's decision to step back from royal life, it was always thought he would take on the role that would see him take charge of the regiment he was toured Afghanistan with until 2014.

## Baltimore bridge collapse: Body of last missing worker recovered

Washington, May 8 (IANS) The body of the sixth and final worker who was missing after a bridge collapse in the US city of Baltimore more than one month ago has been recovered, officials have said.

Unified Command salvage teams located the victim and promptly notified the Maryland Department of State Police. State police investigators along with officers from the Maryland Transportation

Authority Police and the FBI responded to the scene and recovered the body of a sixth construction worker, Xinhua news agency reported, citing an official statement posted online.

The victim is identified as Jose Mynor Lopez, 37, of Baltimore, Maryland, said the statement.

"With heavy hearts, today marks a significant milestone in our recovery efforts and providing closure to the loved ones of

the six workers who lost their lives in this tragic event," said Colonel Roland L. Butler, Jr., Superintendent of the Maryland Department of State Police, in the statement.

The 2.6-km-long Francis Scott Key Bridge, a major bridge that held Interstate 695, collapsed on March 26 after being hit by a large container ship, which experienced a power failure before the collision.

## Death toll rises to 90 in Brazil floods

Sao Paulo, May 8 (IANS) Five more people were killed by storms ravaging south Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul state in the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 90, the state's civil defence agency has said.

In the state bordering Uruguay and Argentina, record rainfall,

flooding and mudslides have left 132 people missing and 361 injured and forced over 200,000 residents to evacuate their homes over the past eight days, Xinhua news agency

reported. According to the state's civil defence agency, over 1.4 million people in 388 of the state's 497 towns, including the capital city Porto Alegre, have been affected by the disaster.

More than 85 per cent of the city's population has lost access to potable water, leading authorities to ration the supply.

Classes have been suspended statewide, as 790 schools were affected by flooding, 388 sustained damage and another 52 are serving to shelter those evacuated.

## US soldier in Russian detention didn't request approval for trip to Russia: Army spokesperson

Washington, May 8 (IANS) A US soldier, held in Russia for alleged theft, did not request official clearance for his trip to Russia, an Army spokesperson said, noting he is currently in a pretrial detention facility.

Cynthia Smith, the spokesperson, made the remarks as Staff Sgt. Gordon Black was arrested on charges of stealing personal property in the Russian Far Eastern city of Vladivostok on Thursday, Yonhap news agency reported.

Black was most recently assigned to the Eighth

## Ukrainian secret service uncovers 'Russian plots' against Zelensky

Kiev, May 8 (IANS/DPA) Ukrainian security authorities have claimed that they had uncovered Russian attack plans against President Volodymyr Zelensky and other politicians.

The Ukrainian secret service SBU on Tuesday said that two officers from the Ukrainian State Security Department responsible for the president's personal protection had been detained in connection with possible attacks.

They are said to have provided the Russian domestic intelligence service FSB with information in return for money and were supposed to have taken

part in the attack themselves.

"One of the tasks of the FSB network was to find assassins among the military who were close to the president's personal security so that they could take the head of state hostage and then kill him," the SBU statement in Kiev said. According to the information, the officers held the rank of colonels.

The Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office confirmed the investigation and the arrests.

However, there was no independent confirmation of the incident outside the Ukrainian security authorities.

## Hamas, Israeli negotiators arrive in Cairo for Gaza ceasefire talks

Cairo, May 8 (IANS) Egypt is hosting delegations from Hamas, Israel, Qatar and the US in Cairo with the aim of reaching a "comprehensive truce" in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli delegation, which arrived in Cairo on Tuesday afternoon, included members of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and Shin Bet security agency, an Egyptian source who asked to remain anonymous told Xinhua news agency.

In a video statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had instructed the delegation to "continue to stand

firm on the conditions necessary for the release of our hostages, continue to stand firm on the essential requirements to ensure Israel's security."

However, he noted that the ceasefire proposal, brokered by Egyptian and Qatari mediators and approved by Hamas on Monday, fell short of Israel's essential requirements.

Egypt is "making every effort to reach a comprehensive truce," state-affiliated Al-Qahera News quoted an unnamed high-ranking source as saying.

The source added that Egypt was engaged in communication with vari-

ous parties in order to contain the crisis.

The Israeli army on Tuesday launched a military operation in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where more than 1 million internally displaced Palestinians have sought refuge since Israel's offensive began on October 7 last year. At least 20 people have been killed in Israel's attacks on Rafah since Tuesday morning, Palestinian official news agency WAFA reported.

On Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on both Israel and Hamas to end the ongoing conflict.

## TikTok sues US govt to block potential ban Five-year-old student gets liquor shop shut in UP

Washington, May 8 (IANS) TikTok, an online video entertainment platform, and its Chinese parent company ByteDance have filed a legal challenge against the US government over a law forcing ByteDance to sell off the ultra-popular app or face a nationwide ban in the country.

US President Joe Biden signed a TikTok ban bill into law last month after it was passed by both houses of US Congress.

"Congress has taken the unprecedented step of expressly singling out and banning TikTok: a vibrant online forum for protected

speech and expression used by 170 million Americans to create, share, and view videos over the Internet," said TikTok in the petition filed on Tuesday in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, adding that "For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide."

TikTok pointed out in the petition that the law -- the Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act -- is "unconstitutional", Xinhua news agency reported.

"Banning TikTok is so obviously unconstitutional, in fact, that even the Act's sponsors recognized that reality, and therefore have tried mightily to depict the law not as a ban at all, but merely a regulation of TikTok's ownership," said TikTok.

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Prayagraj, May 8 (IANS) The Allahabad High Court has banned the renewal of the liquor vend that has been operating for 30 years near MR Jaipuria School in Azad Nagar in Kanpur.

Atharva, a five-year-old student from Kanpur, filed a petition in court in February, seeking the removal of the liquor shop.

The court of Chief Justice Arun Bhansali and Justice Vikas on Tuesday gave this order on the PIL of Atharva, studying in Lower KG.

Atharva, through advocate Ashutosh Sharma, had approached the High Court demanding the removal of the 30-year-old liquor shop near the school.



Stormy Daniels (left and right) become a runaway witness as she described their 2006 hotel encounter with Donald Trump (inset). Daniels, 45, took the court through her career as an erotic dancer, her first pornographic film and then her alleged affair with the former ex-president. 'I had my clothes and my shoes off. I believe my bra however was still on. We were in the missionary position,' Daniels said. Trump, 77, was already motioning in his defense. 'Objection,' said Susan Necheles, raising her umpteenth objection of the morning. The jury heard Daniels talk about 'condom mandatory' porn shoots and how she spanked Trump with a rolled-up magazine.



Stormy Daniels (left and right) become a runaway witness as she described their 2006 hotel encounter with Donald Trump (inset). Daniels, 45, took the court through her career as an erotic dancer, her first pornographic film and then her alleged affair with the former ex-president. 'I had my clothes and my shoes off. I believe my bra however was still on. We were in the missionary position,' Daniels said. Trump, 77, was already motioning in his defense. 'Objection,' said Susan Necheles, raising her umpteenth objection of the morning. The jury heard Daniels talk about 'condom mandatory' porn shoots and how she spanked Trump with a rolled-up magazine.

### IPL 2024: Samson penalised for arguing with umpires during DC v RR match

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Rajasthan Royals' (RR) captain Sanju Samson has been fined 30 per cent of his match fees for "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision" during a match against Delhi Capitals (DC) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, on Tuesday.

Samson's fine knock of 86 off 46 came to an end in dramatic circumstances when Shai Hope took a screamer of a catch at long-on, just millimetres away from the boundary rope off Mukesh.

It appeared that Hope had successfully caught the ball and several replays supported this claim, but a different angle cast some doubt on the legitimacy of the catch. Despite this uncertainty, the third umpire ultimately trusted the first two replays and declared Samson out.

The RR skipper looked unsatisfied with the quick decision-making but initially headed towards the dugout. However, he then reversed course and returned to argue with the umpires.

### IPL 2024: Porel's fifty against RR was a special innings, says DC assistant coach Amre

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) In a batting line-up full of aggressive stroke-play batters, Abishek Porel left a lasting impression on the minds of fans watching the Delhi Capitals-Rajasthan Royals match on Tuesday.

Granted that Jake Fraser-McGurk raced to a typically whirlwind 19-ball fifty and Tristan Stubbs sizzled with another exhibition of finishing matches to take DC past 200, but it was Porel's 36-ball 65 which was the glue of the hosts' innings in between to keep the scoreboard ticking.

It has been quite a ride for Porel, who began IPL 2024 as an impact player, coming out to bat at number nine in DC's opener against Punjab Kings at Mullanpur. At that time, none of DC's main batters got a big knock and they needed a moment of brilliance to set a par score. Porel was drafted in as an Impact Player in place of Ricky Bhui and the young wicketkeeper-batter smashed 32 not out off just 10 deliveries, including taking 25 runs off the final over from Harshal Patel, to take DC to 174/9.

### First Serve, AITA Partner to empower athletes through Wheelchair Tennis Championship

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) First Serve, an NGO founded by Reyaan Punj, recently organised the second edition of AITA Wheelchair Tennis Championship at the DLTA Stadium, here, signifying a significant step towards promoting the game of tennis in India.

Under the leadership of Reyaan Punj, First Serve has been at the forefront of advocating for accessible sports for people with disabilities. The organisation's mission to break down barriers and create opportunities for athletes has resonated across the country, with the AITA Wheelchair Tennis Championship emerging as a premier event in the Indian tennis landscape.

The championship featured a generous prize purse of Rs 3.5 lakh, attracting top-ranked wheelchair tennis players from across India.



Kylian Mbappe has been savaged by L'Equipe in their notorious ratings after his PSG side were dumped out of the Champions League by Borussia Dortmund in the semi-finals. Mbappe is regarded as one of the best players in world football but he was helpless as a brilliant Dortmund side built on their 1-0 first leg lead - producing the same scoreline in Paris in an impressive performance. Mats Hummels' second half goal was enough to secure a 2-0 win on aggregate to put the unfancied German side in the final at Wembley on June 1, where they will either face Real Madrid or Bundesliga rivals Bayern Munich.

### IPL 2024: Plan was to keep one over of Kuldeep for countering Ferreira and Rovman, reveals Pant

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) When Khaleel Ahmed bowled the 15th over in Delhi Capitals' defence of 221 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) and conceded four consecutive wickets, on-air commentators felt the hosts' had missed a trick by not handing the ball to Kuldeep Yadav, who still had an over left in his allotted quota of overs.

By the time Kuldeep was handed the ball at the start of the 18th over, RR needed 41 off 18 balls, with both Sanju Samson and Shubham Dubey back in the hut. Kuldeep conceded only four runs, including taking out Donovan Ferreira and Ravichandran Ashwin, to turn the game in DC's favour.

After Rasikh Salam conceded only eight runs in a clutch 19th over, including bowling four yorkers, Mukesh Kumar castled Powell in the final over, as DC won by 20 runs and jumped to fifth

place in points table, thus keeping their playoffs hopes alive.

At the end of the match, DC skipper Rishabh Pant revealed he had a plan to keep one



over of Kuldeep for countering RR's right-handed batters - Ferreira and Powell - a play which worked well in the side's favour.

"The thought was always there because for Rovman and Ferreira we wanted to keep that over. We wanted to take that chance because with Kuldeep, we knew that these players are going to have problems. And as always, Kuldeep delivered - great

to see that!" he said.

Kuldeep was named Player of the Match for his decisive spell of 2-25 and talked about how he out-classed Ferreira. "It's very important to bowl in good length.

That is the challenge when you bowl in the death overs, especially when you know they have got power-hitters coming up."

"I have seen Ferreira, having played against him in South Africa. I knew he is a back-foot player, so I just tried to push it further up. That was my plan to him, and I got him first ball. Then I was just varying the pace and the length." Mukesh also echoed in the same vein, saying Kuldeep's 18th over changed the game for DC. "I wanted to bowl two dots in the final over. I wanted to get him (Powell) out which I did. I feel good to back my strengths but had to use variations on this pitch.

### T20 WC: Assad Vala to lead 15-man Papua New Guinea squad

Port Moresby, May 8 (IANS) Assad Vala will lead Papua New Guinea's 15-member squad at the T20 World Cup, starting from June 1 in the West Indies and USA. Leg-spinning all-rounder CJ Amini will be the vice-captain.

This will be Papua New Guinea's second appearance at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup after they book the spot for this year's competition via the East Asia-Pacific regional final in July 2023.

Vala is one of 10 players from their 2021 campaign, with 2021 reserve member Jack Gardner this time picked in the 15-player group.

The PNG depart Port Moresby on May 13 and will undergo a preparation camp for 9 days before moving to Trinidad for the support period and two official warm-up matches.

"Our preparations have been going really

well for the last couple of weeks with our coach Tatenda leading the way. It's been tough over the last two weeks specifically with our strength and conditioning and skills training. But it's been really good preparing the boys for this important tournament coming up. Very minor injuries, nothing serious, we are feeling good and ready for the World Cup. Hopefully all the work we've been doing with Tatenda will pay off." The energy has also been great within the team! For some of the boys who went to the last T20 World Cup, it's a different feeling now with a lot of the training because the last time was during Covid, and the preparation wasn't as good as what we're going through now. I am looking forward to this event because I know we are going to do well," said skipper Vala.

### T20 World Cup: Paul Stirling named captain as Ireland announce 15-member squad

Dublin, May 8 (IANS) Cricket Ireland has named a 15-member men's squad to represent Ireland in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup with opener Paul Stirling leading the side in the mega event to be played in the Caribbean and the USA in June.

The European side are placed in Group A of the tournament, alongside India, Pakistan, USA and Canada. The squad includes experienced names such as Stirling, Andrew Balbirnie, and George Dockrell.

Besides the squad for the T20 World Cup, Cricket Ireland announced two more T20 International squads for the upcoming three-match series against Pakistan in Dublin, and the Tri-Series with Netherlands and Scotland in

Voorburg, the Netherlands next month.

The three squads feature the same 14 players, however, Josh Little (currently playing in the IPL) will be added as the 15th squad member at the T20 World Cup.



Talking about the selection, Heinrich Malan, Ireland Men's Head Coach, said: "We have an intensive block of T20 cricket coming up this month ahead of the T20 World Cup - we have seven games in 15 days as preparation for the tournament. We will not be treating those seven games as

warmups, though, we'll be aiming to win as many of those games as possible.

"The T20 format is a fast-paced, think-on-your-feet style of cricket. To find a way to win - given the often frenetic and evolving game going on around you - is a skill you can truly only ever learn and develop on the field of play," he added.

Malan said they tested the squad over the last 18 months. "The squad is one that we have gradually developed and tested out over the last 18 or so months - the skill sets we need to cover are there, albeit we have allowed Josh [Little] to continue in the IPL until his side end their campaign, so he will likely join us ahead of the big tournament," he said.

"We are now entering the final stretch before the T20 World Cup begins, it will be a challenging couple of weeks, but we're ready to tackle whatever is thrown at us.



# Business & Technology



## BigBloc Construction reports Net Profit of Rs. 8.65 crore in Q4 FY24

Surat, BigBloc Construction Limited, one of the largest manufacturers of Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (AAC) Blocks, Bricks, and Panels in India has reported consolidated net profit of Rs. 8.65 crore (PAT margin 12.05%) for Q4 ended March 2024, growth of 55.65% Y-o-Y as compared to the net profit of Rs. 5.56 crore (PAT margin 11.76%) in Q4 FY23. Revenue from Operations during Q4 FY24 was reported at Rs. 67.95 crore, a rise of 46% Y-o-Y as compared to revenue of Rs. 46.55 crore reported in Q4 FY23. EBITDA for Q4 FY24 stood at Rs. 12.55 crore (EBITDA Margin 18.47%), rise of 18.35% as compared to EBITDA of Rs. 10.60 crore (EBITDA Margin 22.78%) during Q4 FY23. EPS for Q4FY24 stood at Rs. 1.22 per share. The Company has recommended a final divi-

dend at the rate of 20% for the FY 23-24 subject to the approval in the Annual General Meeting.

Incorporated in 2015, BigBloc Construction Ltd is one of the largest and only listed company in the AAC Block Space with an installed capacity of 10.75 lakh cubic meters per annum. Company's manufacturing plants are located in Umargaon (Vapi) and Kapadvanj (Ahmedabad) in Gujarat and Wada (Paighar) in Maharashtra. It is among very few company in AAC industry to generate carbon credits.

Mr. Narayan Saboo, Chairman, BigBloc Construction Ltd said, "Q4 and FY24 results marked a milestone with the company achieving its highest-ever revenue, EBITDA, and net profit figures, reflecting robust operational and financial performance. This consistent performance underscores

the company's commitment to delivering growth while maintaining healthy margins and adhering to its long-term growth strategy. We expect the growth momentum to continue and expect to get further boost in coming years.

Company for FY24 reported consolidated net profit of Rs. 30.69 crore (PAT margin 12.4%) as compared to the net profit of Rs. 30.14 crore (PAT margin 15.00%) in FY23. Revenue from Operations during FY24 was reported at Rs. 243.22 crore, rise of 21.55% Y-o-Y as compared to operational revenue of Rs. 200.11 crore in FY23. EBITDA for FY24 stood at Rs. 56.15 crore (EBITDA Margin 23.09%), rise of 12.29% as against EBITDA of Rs. 50.01 crore (EBITDA Margin 24.99%) in FY23. EPS for FY24 stood at Rs. 4.36 per share.

## MoC Secretary Bhutani releases 1st edition of Quarterly Journal 'CMAs Cooperative Digest'

Mumbai, Cooperation Secretary Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani released the First Edition of the Quarterly Journal of the Cooperative Development Board (CDB) of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI).

The Journal release was a brief event organized by the ICMAI in association with the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) as the first initiative after their MoU signing focused towards the development of the Cooperative Sector of the country.

The ICMAI and the NCCT apprised the Secretary about their intent to work on the four pillars architecture for supporting the Government of India in development of the Cooperative Sector.

The four pillars are: Good Quality Publications; Programmes and Courses (of varied durations for different stakeholder groups

of the cooperative sector) for capacity building; Active Research; and Valued Consultancy.

Dr. Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) appreciated the synergy and efforts of both the Institutions. The Secretary also congratulated the ICMAI for being an active think tank and knowledge resource while coming out with its various publications and specially the Quarterly Journal.

The MoC Secretary and NCCT Secretary Mohan Kumar Mishra signed the first copy of the journal and extended their compliments and assurance of continuous support to CMA Navneet Kumar Jain. The delegation from the ICMAI presented before Dr. Bhutani, a brief report of their previous work and informed about their future action plan.

They also handed over the Representation for in-

clusion of Cost Accountants in the category of Auditor under Section 72(1) and as Special Auditor under Section 77(1) of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.

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## SAFE West India 2024 - Securing Tomorrow's Cities with Intelligent, Innovative Tech Solutions

Mumbai, Informa Markets in India, the leading B2B exhibitions organiser announced the 2nd edition of SAFE West India, the region's largest and most influential security, and fire expo, scheduled to take place from May 9th to 11th, 2024, at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai.

SAFE West India is an annual security exhibition and conference dedicated to the Western Indian market, focusing on the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka. The event will showcase the latest security products and solutions specifically focused on industrial infrastructure, national highways, and safe cities. Bringing together renowned exhibitors, consultants, industry experts, and key government officials on a single platform, SAFE West India serves as a hub for both Indian and international industries. The exhibition will bring together over 75+ brands, showcasing their latest launches and technological solutions to more than 5000 visitors.

Highlighting on the importance of SAFE West, Mr. Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, said "In today's fast-evolving technological landscape, India's security sector is undergoing a significant transformation.

The integration of AI-driven security systems is revolutionizing India's surveillance capabilities, making public and office spaces safer and more secure than ever before. The security market in Western India is witnessing significant growth, which is being driven by increased government focus on surveillance and safety.

## Yamaha Unveils Vibrant Colours in FZ-S Fi Version 4.0 DLX

Chennai, India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt. Ltd., in alignment with 'The Call of the Blue' brand campaign, today introduced exciting new colour shades in its popular streetfighter model, FZS-S Fi Version 4.0 DLX for the young riders of today. IYM has launched the stunning new Ice Fluo-Vermillion and intriguing Cyber Green colour shades in the model at an attractive price of INR 1,29,700/- (Ex-Showroom, New Delhi). These two vibrant colour shades are meticulously crafted to resonate with the evolved taste of customers, especially the youth.

With the inclusion of these dynamic colour shades in the FZS-S Fi Version 4.0 DLX, India Yamaha Motor reiterates its commitment to remain relevant and appealing to the ever-changing demands of its youthful customer base in India. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Eishin Chihana, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India Group of Companies said, "We at Yamaha recognize that young riders of today are not just looking for transportation but are seeking a complete lifestyle. They are aspirational and are equipped with insights of global trends and style. Their tastes and preferences are diverse, and they seek differentiated experiences that are unique and sets them apart. In India as well as globally, we have witnessed that the youth is closely following new colour trends and are associating their personalities with it. This continuous shift is powering us to innovate, and we stay committed to meeting these expectations of our young customers.

## Coca-Cola India's first ever partnership with Hockey India for National Women's Hockey League

Mumbai, Anandana, The Coca-Cola India Foundation announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India for the National Women's Hockey League 2024. The 1st Phase of the tournament commenced on 30th April and it will conclude on 9th May 2024, in Ranchi, Jharkhand, the domestic league promises an exhilarating showcase of talent and skill.

The National Women's Hockey League features teams that secured top-eight positions in Pune's recently concluded 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024. The participating athletes represent various states including Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur, and Odisha. Commenting on the

partnership, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "We are thrilled to have Anandana, the Coca-Cola India Foundation on board for the inaugural edition of the tournament. I believe this association will not only elevate the stature of hockey as a sport but also of women hockey players, nationally and internationally. This collaboration will be a milestone in raising the bar of sports training and enhancing sports capabilities in India."

Echoing the President's enthusiasm, Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh welcomed the partnership with Anandana, the Coca-Cola India Foundation. "Our goals are perfectly aligned," he said. "Both Hockey India and Coca-Cola are committed to promoting and

developing sports at the grassroots level, particularly women's hockey. We envision the National Women's Hockey League as a strong feeder system for the National team. This partnership is a win-win, and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration in the years to come."

Announcing the association, Rajiv Gupta, Director, The Coca-Cola India Foundation said, "At Coca-Cola India, we believe in the transformative power of sports to inspire and unite communities. Partnering with Hockey India advances our shared vision of creating a supportive environment for the development of sports and athletes alike. With this, we are proud to sponsor women in sports and contribute to their success on the global stage."

## 'GITB 2024' concludes in Jaipur; Pitches India as wedding destination,

Jaipur, The 13th edition of India's largest B2B inbound tourism event 'The Great Indian Travel Bazaar' (GITB) concluded here with an ambitious pitch of India as a world's wedding destination under 'Wed in India' initiative.

Along with host state Rajasthan, India's premier tourism event saw as many as 9 state tourism boards, including Odisha (theme state), Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Punjab attracting around 250 FTOs from 52 countries and 16 international wedding planners enquiring about various wedding destinations and the offerings.

With over 300 booths in the exhibition, a large number of domestic tour operators and 60 wedding

planners engaged with their foreign counterparts resulting in over 11,000 B2B meetings, business deals and 'Coolcation' - Ministry of Tourism's fresh initiative striking a chord among both buyers and sellers. On the 3rd & final day of the expo, a master class by Chef Ajay Chopra saw a large gathering of both Indian and foreign culinary connoisseurs.

Post the event, FAM tours on 3 tourism routes have been organized for both foreign and domestic tour operators and wedding planners.

India's premier inbound tourism event was inaugurated by Ms. Manisha Saxena, IAS, Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Smt. Gayatri Rathore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Dr.

Rashmi Sharma, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, Mr. Dipak Deva, Chairperson, FICCI Tourism & Culture Committee & Managing Director, Travel Corporation of India, Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI & CMD, Lalit Suri Hospitality Group and Mr. S.K. Pathak, Secretary General, FICCI.

Other industry representatives present during inaugural of GITB2024 and 'Wed in India' were Mr. Chetan Vohra, Chair, FICCI Wedding Tourism Taskforce & Managing Director, Wedding Line, Mr. Kuldeep Singh Chandela, President, Hotel & Restaurant Association of Rajasthan (HRAR) and Mr. Sabbas Joesph, Past President, Event & Entertainment Management Association (EEMA).

## Godrej Security Solutions Unveils Next-Gen Innovations at Secure 4.0

Ahmedabad, Godrej Security Solutions, a division of Godrej & Boyce, announced the launch of its new and updated range of home security 'The NX Pro Plus', 'NX Advanced', 'Verge Series' and 'Dream Box', Smart Fog and Gold Testing Machine under the aegis of its flagship property - Secure 4.0. The latest line up has been designed to cater to the security needs of different age groups within the modern Indian households. This deliberate expansion seeks to deliver enhanced security and increased convenience to consumers, with the objective of boosting the home locker segment by an additional 30% this year.

Commenting on the announcement Mr Pushkar Gokhale, Business Head, Godrej Security Solutions, said, "Our journey at Godrej Security Solutions is marked by our commitment to innovation and the delivery of effective solutions that align

### Reinforcing Home and Institutional Security Standards in Gujarat

with our customers' changing security requirements. The launch of the new range of home lockers, 'Smart Fog' and 'Acugold' Gold purity testing machine, represents a significant leap forward in security solutions. We have invested significantly in research and development, allowing us to introduce state-of-the-art solutions that bolster the security of both institutions and homes. We are excited to present these breakthrough products as a part of our Secure 4.0 initiative, and confident that these shall empower all our customers including Jewellers, with unparalleled protection and peace of mind."

As consumers seek upgrades in fashion, travel, and technology, we

urge them to prioritize their home security as well which will help them to secure their happiness and peace of mind. Our latest innovations in the home locker category offer enhanced security, and complements the modern aesthetics and lifestyle choices of our discerning consumers. By persistently innovating and incorporating sophisticated designs with cutting-edge technologies, we aspire to redefine the landscape of home security and establish Godrej Security Solutions as the epitome of Security."

Recognising the distinct security needs of Gujarat residents and the increasing emphasis on home security, the brand sees a significant opportunity to strengthen its foothold in the home lockers market. With a robust presence in Gujarat boasting, Godrej Security Solutions commands an impressive 75% market share and aims to further increase it to 80%.

## Air India Express row: 'Concern genuine': Delhi Regional Labour Commissioner to Tata Sons Chairman

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Delhi Regional Labour Commissioner Ashok Perumalla has written an email to Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran stating that the concerns raised by the union and cabin crew members of Air India Express are genuine and a high-level committee should inquire about the grievances of the employees.

Around 300 crew members of Air India Express, which is owned by Tata, have called in sick, claiming that despite promises of job security, salary preservation, and recognition of seniority and expertise, there has been a noticeable deviation from these assurances. Over 100 international and national flights have been impacted since Tuesday.

The email sent by Perumalla on May 3, which was also marked to Air India

Express CEO Alok Singh and Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, stated that the concerns of the Union are genuine and the management of the airline has not sent any responsible decision-makers to any of the conciliation proceedings.



"Mismanagement and blatant violations of labour laws were apparent. The HR department tried to mislead the conciliation officer with the wrong information and an idiotic interpretation of legal provisions," read the email by Perumalla.

Perumalla further in the mail suggested to send a high-level committee to inquire into the grievanc-

es of the employees and the functioning of the HR department and take corrective measures at the earliest to maintain harmonious industrial relations. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has requested a detailed report from Air India Express regarding the cancellation of flights and urged them to address the issues promptly. Additionally, the airline has been instructed to ensure that passenger facilities adhere to the norms set by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The Air India Express Employees Union representing a segment of cabin crew members, had also earlier written to Chandrasekaran, addressing employee grievances and expressing concerns about the ongoing situation with-in Air India Express Limited, especially after its acquisition by Tata.

## Business Brief III

### Air India Express cabin crew goes on mass sick leave, 78 flights cancelled

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Air India Express faced major disruption in services as 78 flights were cancelled and many were delayed after cabin crew called in mass 'sick leave' to mark their protest against the ongoing transition in the airline. In 2023, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its go-ahead to the Tata Group's initiative to merge the budget airline AIX Connect (previously known as AirAsia India) with Air India Express. Sources said the senior employees, including the cabin crew, are unhappy with the changes. "A section of our cabin crew reported sick at the last minute, starting last night (Tuesday), resulting in flight delays and cancellations. While we are engaging with the crew to understand the reasons behind these occurrences, our teams are actively addressing this issue to minimise any inconvenience caused to our guests as a result," said the airline spokesperson. "We sincerely apologise to our guests for this unexpected disruption and emphasise that this situation does not reflect the standard of service we strive to provide.

Guests impacted by cancellations will be offered a full refund or complimentary rescheduling to another date.

### Samsung's affiliate acquires French AI medtech startup Sonio

Seoul, May 8 (IANS) Samsung Electronics said on Wednesday that its medical equipment unit Samsung Medison has acquired the French artificial intelligence (AI) medtech startup Sonio, as part of its effort to expand its AI-powered healthcare solution business.

Samsung Medison entered into a share purchase agreement to acquire Sonio, which specialises in AI development for diagnostic reporting in obstetrics and gynaecology ultrasound, reports Yonhap news agency.

Through the acquisition of Sonio, Samsung Medison will gain access to the AI development talent in Europe and will enhance its medical AI solutions with Sonio's AI diagnostic assistant and reporting technology.

Founded in 2020, the Paris-based startup has developed an AI-powered prenatal screening solution that automates ultrasound reporting. Sonio's key product, Sonio Detect, AI-powered software designed to identify prenatal syndromes and abnormalities through ultrasound, won approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2023.

### Four automakers to recall over 7,783 vehicles for faulty parts

Seoul, May 8 (IANS) Hyundai Motor, Kia and two other carmakers will recall over 7,700 vehicles due to faulty components, the transport ministry here said on Wednesday.

The four companies, including Jaguar Land-Rover Korea and Volkswagen Group Korea, are voluntarily recalling 7,783 units of 11 different models, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said in a statement.

The problems that prompted the recall included a manufacturing defect in the exhaust gas recirculation valve power unit, which may cause the engine to stall while driving, in 4,118 units of five different Hyundai models and 2,668 units of Kia models, reports Yonhap news agency.

Another problem was the poor fixation of the rear right illumination device in 329 units of two different Jaguar Land-Rover models, including the new Range Rover Sport P360. Also, 623 units of Volkswagen's Touareg 3.0 TDI model were subject to a corrective action due to a software error in the vehicles' mobile app, which could lead to a vehicle malfunction during remote automated parking.

### Sensex falls 300 points as equities selloff continues

Mumbai, May 8 (IANS) Sensex fell by 300 points on Wednesday as the selloff in equities continues. Indian equities continued to sell off for the fourth consecutive session on Wednesday. BSE Sensex was trading at 73,201 points, down by 309 points. Benchmark indices have closed in the red for three sessions in a row. Indian markets are in a downward spiral on account of massive FII selling and rising volatility. FIIs sold equities worth Rs 3668 crore on Tuesday. India's volatility index has spiked in the last few days. Consumer stocks are leading the Sensex fall, with Asian Paints and Hindustan Unilever down by more than 2 per cent.

Private sector banks are also weak, with HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, and ICICI Bank down by more than 1 per cent. Among other stocks, HCL Tech, Ultratech Cement, and LT are down by more than 1 per cent. Large-cap stocks are facing the brunt of FII selling. Broader markets had underperformed the benchmark indices on Tuesday. PSU stocks are making gains, with REC up 5 per cent, NBCC, and PFC up 4 per cent.

### China's Chang'e-6 enters lunar orbit after near-moon braking

Beijing, May 8 (IANS) China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe has successfully entered its circumlunar orbit, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said on Wednesday.

According to the CNSA, at 10:12 a.m. (local time) on Wednesday, Chang'e-6 successfully performed a near-moon braking procedure before entering the circumlunar orbit, Xinhua news agency reported. The near-moon braking procedure is a key orbital control for Chang'e-6 during its flight. The braking makes its relative speed lower than the lunar escape velocity so that it can be captured by the Moon's gravity and fly around the Moon. Supported by the Queqiao-2 relay satellite, Chang'e-6 will later adjust the altitude and inclination of the orbit around the Moon and choose a proper time to carry out the separation of the orbiter-returner combination and the lander-ascenter combination.

Later, the lander-ascenter combination will conduct a soft landing on the South Pole-Aitken Basin to carry out the sampling and return mission on the far side of the Moon as planned, the report said. Chang'e-6 spacecraft lifted off to the Moon's far side on a Long March-5 rocket on May 3. The spacecraft, comprising an orbiter, a lander, an ascender, and a returner, aims to become the first to collect and bring back samples from the far side of the lunar surface.

## CarDekho Group introduces TractorsDekho for farming community

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Autotech company CarDekho on Wednesday launched a new online platform called TractorsDekho, that will serve the needs of the farming community by providing resources tailored specifically to tractors.

With this move, CarDekho Group has forayed into the commercial and agricultural vehicle division. The new platform will help farmers simplify the complex decision-making process regarding

equipment. "Recognising the critical role tractors play for farmers and their struggle with limited information, we are now intervening to simplify their research for a tractor by identifying the right choice for them," said Mayank Jain, CEO, New Auto, CarDekho Group. The platform's network connects buyers, sellers, dealers, and service centers, simplifying the tractor research. "As a comprehensive hub, TractorsDekho provides detailed information, expert advice,

and insights about the tractor industry," said the company. Founded in 2008, CarDekho Group has around 60 million monthly active users (MAUs). At a \$1.2 billion valuation, the company operates in insurtech (InsuranceDekho), fintech (Rspace (Revv) and others.

It is backed by investors like Peak XV (Sequoia), Hillhouse Capital, CapitalG, Ratan Tata Trust, Leapfrog (ESG-focused investment fund), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank, among others.

## Google launches its Wallet app in India

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Google on Wednesday launched its Wallet app in India, which will offer fast and secure access to everyday essentials, enabling people to conveniently store and retrieve important digital documents like boarding passes, loyalty cards, movie tickets, etc.

The app is now available for download from the Play Store for all Android users in the country.

"We are delighted to partner with many of India's top brands to offer a comprehensive solution that helps you securely

access and manage your everyday essentials. From boarding passes to loyalty cards, and event tickets to public transport passes - they're there when you need them," Ram Papatla, General Manager and India Engineering Lead, Android at Google, said in a statement.

According to the company, the Wallet app complements Google Pay, which will continue to serve the payment needs of users across the country.

The tech giant also partnered with 20 of the country's top brands to enable the Google Wallet experience, including PVR INOX, Air India, Indigo,

Flipkart, Pine Labs, Kochi Metro, Abhibus, and many others.

Additionally, the company mentioned that it will be adding more partners in the coming months.

"We are glad to be the first airline from India to make our boarding passes available directly on the Google Wallet," said Satya Ramaswamy, Chief Digital and Technology Officer, Air India.

Google Wallet will allow users to save movie or event tickets, access boarding passes, redeem loyalty or gift cards, ride public transit, digitise physical documents, among others.

## Will NPCI implement or extend the 30 pc cap on market share of UPI players?

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) As digital payment platforms, PhonePe and Google Pay, continue to have a duopoly in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) market, the deadline by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to implement a 30 per cent market share cap on UPI services providers inches closer. Will NPCI implement or extend the deadline?

For the month of April, PhonePe led the UPI market with close to 49 per

cent share across P2M (person to merchant) and P2P (person to person) transactions.

The company has maintained the top position in UPI transactions since November 2020.

On the other hand, Google Pay clocked 38 per cent UPI market share in April.

Meanwhile, Paytm's market share in the UPI ecosystem came down to 8.4 per cent in April, a third consecutive drop for the fintech major every month.

To control such dominance by a few players in the UPI ecosystem, the NPCI had, in 2022, proposed the 30 per cent market share cap for UPI payment apps.

Back then, existing players were asked to restrict their market share to the mentioned limit within two years.

However, the market cap deadline was never implemented and the deadline to introduce the limit is December this year.

According to experts,

the NPCI will review the UPI deadline by the end of this year and is most likely going to extend the deadline. It is also "highly unlikely" that either the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or the Ministry of Finance will advise the NPCI to issue a circular to enforce the market cap. "Such a circular would likely face legal challenges and may not hold up in court," they said.

When reached, NPCI did not immediately comment.

## India-Taiwan trade may reach \$25 billion via investments, tech sharing

Mumbai, May 8 (IANS) As India-Taiwan economic partnership grows significantly in recent years, the trade between the two countries may reach \$25 billion via investment and technology sharing, industry leaders here said. Peter Huang, specialist of South Asia section (Market Development Department), Taiwan External Trade Development Council, who led a high-level delegation here, said that India is a friendly and hospitable country for Taiwanese industry. "Our com-

mercial relation is growing from strength to strength and this is our 15th business delegation to India," Huang said. "Our commercial relation is growing from strength to strength and this is our 15th business delegation to India," Huang said. "India is still an untapped market for Taiwanese firms and there is huge trade and investment potential in India, especially in electronics, auto-components, machineries, food processing, medical devices and other sectors," he emphasised.

## Why has AstraZeneca recalled Covid-19 vaccine

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) In a significant move, pharma giant AstraZeneca has recalled its Covid-19 vaccine, made in collaboration with Oxford University, worldwide, months after admitting in the UK court about its potential rare blood clot side effect.

The company voluntarily withdrew its "marketing authorisation" of its Covid vaccine, sold as Covishield in India and Vaxzevria in Europe. It can now no longer be used in the Eu-

ropean Union, the Telegraph reported.

While the company made the application to withdraw the vaccine on March 5, it came into ef-

fect on Tuesday. Credited for saving more than six million lives, AstraZeneca "accepted, in a legal document submitted to the High Court in February, that its Covid vaccine 'can, in very rare cases, cause TTS'," the report said. Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Syndrome (TTS) is a rare side effect that can cause people to have blood clots and a low blood platelet count, linked to at least 81 deaths in the UK as well as hundreds of serious injuries.

Credited for saving

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **DAVE SHANTABAHEN VALLABHRAI** to new name **THAKAR ANNAPURNABEN PANKAJBHAI**  
Add. Mukhi Ni Sheri, Khara Kuva, Sarkhej Ahmedabad 438

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **PATEL RANCHOHLAL NARANDAS** to new name **PATEL RANCHOHBHAI NARANBHAI**  
Add. B-3, Keshav Apartment, Memnagar Ahmedabad-380052 433A

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **THAKAR PANKAJRAY BALDEVILAL** to new name **THAKAR PANKAJBHAI BALDEVBHAI**  
Add. Mukhi Ni Sheri, Khara Kuva, Sarkhej Ahmedabad 438A

**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION**  
**PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS MATERIALS**  
E-Tender Notice No. 03 of 2024-25 Date: 03/05/2024 (1) e-Tender No. DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-03, Name of Work: Rajkot Division: Procurement of various materials to meet monsoon requirement at Hapa. Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 31,12,136.40 Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 24/05/2024, 15:00 Hrs. Office Address: Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot-360 001. Website: www.treps.gov.in RJT-03

**WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION**  
**VARIOUS ELECTRICAL WORKS**  
Sr. No.1: E-Tender No. BVP-EL-P-02-2024-25. Name of Work: Bhavnagar Division - Allied electrical work related to SSE(EL) Veraval, Junagadh, Porbandar & Jetalsar. Justification for 24 months: Tender Value: (Rs.) ₹ 42,69,670 EMD: (Rs.) ₹ 85,400. Sr. No.2: E-Tender No. BVP-EL-P-03-2024-25. Name of Work: Bhavnagar Division - Comprehensive AMC of Standby DG sets & UPS for PRS & PRS Cum UTS centers at various stations for 03 year. Tender Value: (Rs.) ₹ 49,62,025. EMD (Rs.): ₹ 99,200. For Both Tenders: Date of Bidding Start Date: 10/05/2024. Date of Bidding Closing: 24/05/2024. The NIT uploaded on Railway Website www.treps.gov.in on 03/04/2024. BVP-05

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **MAIS RAGHUNATH SUKHALAL** to new name **MAISKAR RAGHUNATH SUKHALAL**  
Add. R/8, Parasnath Row House, Hatkeshwar, Khokhra, Ahmedabad 439

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **SHAIKH MO. IMRAN MO. RAFIQ** to new name **SHAIKH MOHAMMAD IMRAN MOHAMMAD RAFIQ**  
Add. 2400/GB Rajbhavan, B/ h Giriraj Society, Shahpur Mill Compound, Shahpur Ahmedabad-380001 435

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **BHAVANABAHEN RAUNIK BHAGAT** to new name **BHAVANA RAUNIK BHAGAT**  
Add. B-103, Sanskrutik Apartment, Narapura, Ahmedabad-380015 440

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **PATEL INDIRABEN RANCHOHLAL** to new name **PATEL INDIRA RANCHOHBHAI**  
Add. B-3, Keshav Apartment, Memnagar Ahmedabad-380052 433

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **NIKUM DURGABEN MADHAVBHAI** to new name **NIKUM DURGAVATIBEN MADHAVRAO**  
Add. B/3, Gokul Apratment, Nr. Chitrakunt Society, Uttamnagar Garden Maninagar 434

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from **MOHAMMED MULLA HUSENIBHAI BARWANI** to new name **MOHAMMAD MULLAHUSAINBHAI BADWANIWALA**  
Add. B-2036, Mottabai High School, Kot Parshiwad, Bharuch V033

**WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA**  
**WORK OF STRENGTHENING**  
For and behalf of The President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Repair Workshop, Western Railway, Pratnagar, invites E-tender as per the details given below: (1) Tender Notice No: M137\_MECH\_PRTN\_TEND\_24\_07 (2) Name of Work: Work of Strengthening of Under-Frame of BOST variant wagons at Pratnagar workshop. (3) Estimated Cost of work: ₹ 13,57,000.00/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Only) (4) Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 27,100.00/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Only) (5) Tender Document Cost: NIL (6) Completion Period: 12 Months (Twelve Months) (8) Validity of offer: 60 Days (9) Date and Time for submission of tender and Opening of tender: Bidding will be closed on 28-05-2024 at 15:00 Hrs. and will be opened on same day at 15:30 Hrs. BRC-031

**WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION**  
**GATI SHAKTI DEPARTMENT PROVIDING TWO LANE ROAD OVER BRIDGE**  
e-TENDER NOTICE NO. CPM-GSENGG-BRC-01-2024-25  
Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390004 for the following works. 1. E-Tender No. CPM-GS-ENGG-BRC-01-2024-2025. 2. Name of the work: Anand-Godhra Section: Elimination of Level X-ing No 95 between Vavdi Khurd-Godhra at Km 747.3 by providing two lane Road Over Bridge (ROB). 3. Approximate cost work ₹ 36,94,84,161.04 (Rupees Thirty Six Crores, Ninety Four Lakhs, Eighty Four thousand One Hundred Sixty One and Four Paise Only). 4. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 19,97,400/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs, Ninety Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Only). 5. Availability of online Tender for bidding: From 16.05.2024 at 11:00 Hrs. to 30.05.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. 6. Opening of Technical Bid Date & time: 30.05.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, Eligibility Criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.treps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. BRC-029

**WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA**  
**VARIOUS WORKS OF B.G. WAGONS AT WORKSHOP**  
For and behalf of The President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Repair Workshop, Western Railway, Pratnagar, invites E-tender as per the details given below: Tender Notice No: M137\_MECH\_PRTN\_TEND\_24\_05 (1) Name of Work: Dismounting, dismantling, Cleaning, overhauling and mounting of Air-brake components of B.G. wagons at Pratnagar workshop, Western Railway as per scope of work. (2) Estimated Cost of work: ₹ 2,62,50,275.20/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine and Twenty Paise Only) (3) Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 2,81,300/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty One Thousand and Three Hundred Only) (4) Tender Document Cost: NIL (5) Completion Period: 24 Months [Twenty Four Months] (6) Validity of offer: 90 Days (7) Date and Time for submission of tender and Opening of tender: Bidding will be closed on 31-05-2024 at 15:00 Hrs. and will be opened on same day at 15:30 Hrs. (8) Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen: Website : www.treps.gov.in Office of Chief Workshop Manager, Pratnagar, Western Railway-390004 BRC-029

**REQUIRED FOR PHARMACY**  
**SHREE H. N. SHUKLA INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH**  
(Approved by AICTE & PCI and Affiliated to GTU)  
B/h Marketing Yard, Nr. Lalpuri Lake, Rajkot-360003.  
Contact : 94294 16935 | E-mail : hnsipercareer@gmail.com  
Applications are invited from Qualified Interested Candidates. They have to Send Their Application With Updated Biodata And Scanned Passport Size Photograph Along With Certified Copies Of All Relevant Documents To The Above Mentioned Email Address or At Institute Address On Or Before 15-05-2024

NAME OF POST	VACANCY
• PROFESSOR	2
• ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	3
• ASST. PROFESSOR	8

Qualification, Experience, Pay Scale and Service Conditions are as per AICTE & GTU norms  
Place : Rajkot  
Date : 09-05-2024  
Dr. NEHAL SHUKLA - THE PRESIDENT OF TRUST

## News

## in a Nutshell

## 13-year-old girl, boyfriend held for murder of landlord in Lucknow

Lucknow, May 8 (IANS) The Lucknow police have solved a three-month-old murder mystery with the detention of a 13-year-old girl and her boyfriend.

The minor girl and her 19-year-old boyfriend are guilty of killing her landlord, who had been harassing her for a long time in the Wazirganj area.

"The accused were identified as Bunty Kashyap and his minor girlfriend. They will be presented before the court. A case of murder under Indian Penal Code (IPC) 302 was already registered in the matter," said ADCP West Zone, Vishwajeet Srivastava.

"Police have also seized a weapon which they used in the killing," said the DCP, and added that the case was worked out by a team of ACP Chowk, Raj Kumar, station house officer (SHO) Chowk, Dinesh Mishra, and the crime branch.

## Seven killed in wall collapse in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 8 (IANS) Seven migrant workers, including a four-year-old child, were killed in a wall collapse in Greater Hyderabad following heavy rain, police said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred Tuesday night at an under-construction apartment in Renuka Yellamma colony in Bachupally in Medchal Malkajgiri district.

The bodies were recovered from debris by rescue workers in an operation that lasted till early Wednesday morning.

The deceased were identified as Tirupati Rao (20), Shankar (22), Raju (25), Ram Yadav (34), Geeta (32), Himanshu (4) and Khushi.

The victims were construction workers from disha and Chhattisgarh. Police shifted the bodies to Osmania Hospital for autopsy and took up investigation.

## Repolling underway at a booth in Rajasthan's Barmer LS seat

Jaipur, May 8 (IANS) Repolling was underway at a booth in Rajasthan's Barmer Lok Sabha seat on Wednesday on the instructions of the Election Commission due to a breach of confidentiality reported during polling on April 26, said officials here.

Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said that re-polling was being held on Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the booth located at polling station number 50, Government Higher Secondary School, Dudhwa Khurd in Chohtan Assembly constituency. The Chief Electoral Officer said that four members of the polling team who conducted the voting on April 26 at this booth of Chohtan (Barmer) were suspended by the District Collector (District Election Officer) and necessary action was taken against the representative of the webcasting vendor.



RAE BAREILLY, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressing supporters at an election rally in support of Party candidate Rahul Gandhi for Parliamentary election-2024 in Rae Bareilly on Wednesday. UNI

## PM Modi to file nomination from Varanasi on May 14, hold mega roadshow on May 13

Varanasi, May 8 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will file his nomination from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh on May 14.

He will hold a roadshow in his parliamentary constituency on May 13.

According to district officials, before starting the roadshow, the Prime Minister will first pay tribute to

the Madan Mohan Malviya statue at the main gate of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Lanka. The roadshow will end at Kashi Vishwanath Corridor.

Lakhs of people are expected to participate in the roadshow.

BJP leader Dilip Patel said that PM Modi's five km long roadshow will go to the Vishwanath Corridor

via Assi, Sonarpura, Jangam Bari, Godaulia, and Bansphatak.

PM Modi will be given a grand welcome during this.

Responsibilities are being assigned to the workers to make the roadshow historic.

Meetings of all the Assembly constituencies in the Varanasi parliamenta-

ry constituency have been organised for Wednesday.

After this, meetings will be held with workers in all 21 divisions and the party organisation is busy preparing with the target of participation of lakhs of workers in this roadshow.

Varanasi is the stronghold of the Prime Minister. He won the seat twice in 2014 and 2019.--IANS

## Fearing ED-CBI, Shinde wanted to join BJP in 2022, claims Sanjay Raut

Thane (Maharashtra), May 8 (IANS) The Shiv Sena (UBT) has claimed that Shiv Sena leader and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was "scared of going to jail" and wanted to ally with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in June 2022, but the undivided party did not respond to his plea.

Launching a blistering attack on CM Shinde in his interview, Thane, SS(UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and candidate for Lok Sabha elections Rajan Vichare made the revelations at a major INDIA-MVA combined election rally late last night, here.

"On June 14, 2022, Shinde spoke with me, saying that 'it would be better to join the BJP and PM Narendra Modi'. He said he was not keen on going to jail," claimed Raut.

When Raut sought details from him, CM Shinde

said that he was being probed by the CBI-ED, and when asked to elaborate, he appeared perturbed and did not reveal more, but barely a fortnight later, he broke the Shiv Sena and subsequently became the CM.

"When I said that the ED-CBI will not just start probing unless they have something in hand, he did not specify...; and all the political developments followed," pointed out Raut, referring to the vertical split in the Shiv Sena in June 2022 which toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi's then CM, Uddhav Thackeray.

Vichare said that much earlier in 2013, CM Shinde along with four (undivided) Shiv Sena MLAs was planning to switch over to the Congress ahead of the 2014 Assembly elections.

"However, at the last minute, the four SS legislators reneged and the plan collapsed.

## Teenage boy places mobile in women's washroom in medical college in Karnataka, apprehended

Dakshina Kannada, May 8 (IANS) A 17-year-old boy has been apprehended after he allegedly placed his mobile in the women's washroom of a private medical college in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district, police said on Wednesday.

According to police, the boy posing as a patient gained entry into the med-

ical college and placed his mobile in the women's washroom located close to men's restroom. However, the watchman of the college heard the ringtone from the women's washroom. He got the mobile and informed the management. The watchman filed a complaint at the Bandar police station. The incident took place on May 6.

## LS polls: PM Modi to campaign in Telangana, Andhra today

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will offer prayers at Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple in Telangana's Karimnagar on Wednesday before kick-starting the Lok Sabha poll campaign in the state.

After offering prayers, the Prime Minister will address a public meeting in Karimnagar at 10 a.m. followed by another in

Warangal at 12 noon. From there, he will proceed to Andhra Pradesh to address a public meeting in Rajampet at 3:45 p.m. and hold a roadshow in Vijayawada at around 7 p.m. will address public meetings in Lakhimpur Kheri at 12 noon, Hardoi at 1:30 p.m. and Kannauj at 2:45 p.m. From there, the Home Minister will go to Maharashtra to hold a rally in Jalna at 6 p.m.

## Viksit Bharat Ambassador: DU students and teachers participate in Run event, laud the initiative

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) A one-of-its-kind Viksit Bharat Ambassador event was organised in Delhi University's North Campus on Wednesday morning, laced with the message that 'a developed nation calls for fit citizens' too. The unique programme titled 'Run For Viksit Bharat' saw the participation of hundreds of Delhi University students and teachers, besides the

special guests -- badminton player Saina Nehwal and Bollywood actor Rajkumar Rao.

Many teachers and students, who participated in the event, supported the Prime Minister's vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047 and lauded his endeavour to make every citizen, a part of this growth story.

Dr Nidhi Chowdhary, a participant in Run for Viksit Bharat said that this was

a moment to feel proud about our roots and identity and also the nation's progress. She added that a fit citizenry will make an essential component of Viksit Bharat.

She concurred with PM Modi's call for keeping oneself healthy and said this forms the very basis for one's existence and happiness.

An assistant professor at the Delhi School of

Journalism described the 'Run for Viksit Bharat' as a good initiative and called for the organisation of more such events in future.

Heaping praise on PM Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, he said that a long-sighted goal is essential for achieving such tasks and urged everyone including youth and fellow teachers to become 'ambassadors' of this change.



WARANGAL, Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a child at Lakshimpuram village on his way to a campaign rally for Lok Sabha polls, in Warangal, Telangana on Wednesday. UNI

## FM Sitharaman takes Rahul Gandhi to task over HAL

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday took senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to task over what she called his "malicious attack" on public sector giant Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The Finance Minister said that contrary to Rahul Gandhi's claims of HAL not performing well, its market valuation, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, has skyrocketed by 1,370 per cent in merely four years, rising from Rs 17,398 crore in 2020 to Rs 2.5 lakh crore as of May 7.

"HAL on March 31 an-

nounced its highest-ever revenue of more than Rs 29,810 crore for FY 2023-24 and has a robust order book of over Rs 94,000 crore. These figures hardly suggest a "weakening" of the institution but rather one experiencing significant fortification," she pointed out.

Contrary to Rahul Gandhi's claim, it was the Congress party that left India crippled, relying heavily on imports rather than empowering our institutions like HAL, the Finance Minister added.

"PSUs that were previously neglected under the UPA Government, such as HAL, have seen a resurgence under the Modi gov-

ernment," she added.

"Historically, Congress has shown a lack of faith in our nation's scientists and engineers, fostering a dependence on imports that branded India as the world's largest arms importer for many years. It is only under PM Modi that we see a significant shift - turning India from an import-dependent country to one that's now proudly stepping into the role of an arms exporter," she added.

The Finance Minister said the increased defence spending and aim of achieving 'Atmanirbharta' in Defence has fuelled the growth of PSUs like BEL, HAL, Mazagon Dock, etc.

## CBI, ED get 4 days to file reply on Manish Sisodia's bail pleas

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted four days to the ED and CBI to file a reply to pleas filed by former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia seeking bail after a trial court denied him regular bail in money laundering cases being probed by both the agencies related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma had, on May 3, issued a notice on Sisodia's pleas seeking replies from both the agencies -- the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). On Wednesday, the agencies sought time to

file their replies. The ED counsel sought a week's time saying that the Investigating Officer was busy in the investigation, with the prosecution complaint.

"We are also dealing with the case of another co-accused (Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal) before the Supreme Court. Give us one week." To this, Sisodia's counsel Vivek Jain objected arguing that the agencies have been probing the case for more than one and a half years.

"Before the Supreme Court they said, we would finish the trial within six months. The bail application was even adjourned many times before the Trial Court," Jain said.

## Delhi High Court imposes fine on petitioner seeking permission, facilities for Kejriwal to govern from jail

New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) Turning it down as not maintainable, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday imposed a Rs one lakh fine on a petitioner, who sought permission and facilities for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to govern from judicial custody.

Filed by advocate Shrikant Prasad, the PIL petition sought to facilitate virtual conferencing arrangements for CM Kejriwal to engage with cabinet ministers, ensuring uninterrupted governance. It also

sought to restrain media houses from sensationalising news about the CM's potential resignation and the imposition of President's Rule in the national capital.

On Wednesday, a division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan observed that since CM Kejriwal has already filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court challenging his arrest by ED and that the top court is considering the issue of interim release, no orders for allowing him to interact

with cabinet ministers through virtual conferencing is called for in the PIL.

The bench said that it can neither impose censorship by directing the media not to air views nor stop political opponents from making statements calling for Kejriwal's resignation.

The PIL had targeted Virendra Sachdeva, BJP Delhi president, alleging that his protests and statements create undue pressure for CM Kejriwal's resignation, disrupting peace and traffic flow with politi-

cally motivated intentions.

The bench rejected the PIL with a Rs 1 lakh fine to be deposited with AIMS.

The court criticised the PIL asking, "What do we do? Impose an emergency? Impose censorship or martial law?"

How do we pass gag orders against the press and political rivals? Prasad's petition stressed the commendable track record of Delhi's governance, particularly in the education and health-care sectors over the past

seven years. It contends that the present circumstances in the national capital violate fundamental rights under Articles 21, 14, and 19 of the Indian Constitution.

Asserting that neither the Constitution nor any law prohibits ministers, including chief ministers or prime ministers, from governing from jail,

Prasad's plea stressed the urgency of the matter, citing the need to ensure continuity in governance for the welfare of the people.

## Afraid of BJP, CM Vijayan left country amid hectic election activity, says Congress

Thiruvananthapuram, May 8 (IANS) Two days after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan left for a 19-day private tour of three countries, Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Wednesday said that the CM appeared to have left the hectic election scene in the country due to the fear of the BJP, and also sought an answer from the CPI(M) national leadership.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family are on a tour of three countries -- Indonesia, Singapore

and the UAE.

"We heard the statements during the campaigning for the April 26th Lok Sabha poll, that 'if the Left is not there, India will not be there, so vote for Left'.

With this being their hashtag, we wish to know even while Vijayan is the sole chief minister of the Left in India, why has he not gone for election campaign to other states, especially West Bengal and Tripura? It appears Vijayan is afraid of the BJP and hence ducked and ran

away," said Satheesan.

"Even more intriguing is the fact that Vijayan has not handed charge to any other leader. Moreover, the weekly cabinet meeting every Wednesday has been cancelled. Doesn't Vijayan trust any of his senior cabinet colleagues? He has gone on this long private trip when the state is passing through its worst time due to multiple reasons," said Satheesan, and asked the CPI(M) national leadership to come clean on his trip.

## TN govt's career guidance programme for 12th pass students commences

Chennai, May 8 (IANS) The Tamil Nadu government's 'College Dream' programme aimed at providing career guidance to students, who have passed the Class 12 board examination, commenced on Wednesday in various districts across the state, an official said.

Counselling began in Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Nagapattinam, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Salem districts from

Wednesday. The 'College Dream' programme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2022 under the 'Nan Mudhalavan' scheme.

The counselling will be held in Chengalpattu, Tiruppur, Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Theni, Kanniyakumari and Krishnagiri districts on May 10 while it will be held in Erode, Thanjavur, Villupuram, Virudhunagar, Tuticorin and Tirupattur on

May 11. The Tamil Nadu School Education Department officials said that counselling will be held in Vellore, Tenkasi, Karur, Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai, Kallakurichi, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Ranipet and Tenkasi districts on May 13. The School Education officials told IANS that the counsellors would be assigned to schools, and would guide students in pursuing higher education.



PATNA, Bihar Deputy CM and BJP state president Samrat Chaudhary being garlanded with former RJD leader Santosh Kushwaha as he joins the party, in Patna on Wednesday. UNI