

News Brief

Three killed, 17 injured in tractor-truck collision in UP

Sambhal, May 13 (IANS) Three people were killed and 17 others injured after their tractor-trolley collided with a container truck on the Sambhal-Hasanpur road in Uttar Pradesh, police said. The accident occurred near Deep Pur Tanda, which falls under the area of the Rajpura police station.

The deceased have been identified as Ghazi Ram, 60, Mahipal, 55 and Gurnani, 40.

The injured persons have been admitted to the hospital.

The truck driver fled from the spot after the accident, police said.

District Magistrate Manish Bansal said that the victims were residents of Lakhapur village and were returning from Anupshahr in Bulandshahr district after attending a funeral.

LG may take action: SC dismisses plea seeking removal of Kejriwal from CM's post

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea seeking the removal of Arvind Kejriwal from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi.

"What is the legal right? Why should we go into all this? LG may take action if he wants to," observed a bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

Dismissing the special leave petition, the Bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, refused to interfere with the decision of the Delhi High Court rejecting similar pleas.

On May 10, the apex court ordered CM Kejriwal to be released on interim bail in the excise policy case till June 1.

Journalist shot dead in UP's Jaunpur

Jaunpur (UP), May 13 (IANS) Unidentified bike-borne assailants, on Monday morning, shot dead BJP leader and Sudarshan News correspondent Ashutosh Srivastava in Sabharhad market of Kotwali area of Jaunpur district.

According to reports, Ashutosh Srivastava (45) is also a BJP worker. He had gone out on a bike in the morning for campaigning. Around 9 a.m., an unknown bike rider stopped him and four others came and shot him.

Ashutosh was taken to Shahganj Community Health Centre for treatment where the doctors declared him dead.

Five killed in road accident in MP

Bhopal, May 13 (IANS) At least five persons, including two Army jawans, were killed in an accident in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district on Monday.

Several others were injured and have been rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The incident occurred when the tyre of an Army truck burst, after which the vehicle hit a passenger bus on the National Highway (NH-46) in Rajgarh district. Heavy police personnel were deployed and traffic on NH-46 was halted for several hours. Details are awaited.

India does not want 'weak, cowardly, and unstable' Congress govt: PM Modi

Patna, May 13 (IANS) Targeting Congress leaders for making 'pro-Pakistan' statements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the party and its INDIA bloc partners cannot make 'tough decisions' to protect national security.

"This is a country's election, a choice to elect the country's leadership. The country does not want a weak, cowardly, and unstable government like the Congress. You can imagine... These are such frightened people, even in their dreams, they see Pakistan's nuclear bombs coming," PM Modi said while addressing a public meeting in Bihar's Muzaffarpur.

"Congress and leaders of the INDI Alliance, what kind of statements are they making? Saying that Pakistan hasn't worn bangles... Someone is giving Pakistan a clean chit in the Mumbai attacks. Some-

one is questioning surgical and air strikes... Leftists even want to eliminate India's nuclear weapons altogether. Can such selfish people make tough decisions for national security? Can such parties build a strong India?" the Prime Minister questioned.

Taking a dig at the opposition alliance, PM Modi ridiculed the grouping's 'one year, one PM' formula.

"These INDI Alliance members are now daydreaming like 'Mungeri-ila'... They dream that their government will come to power at the Centre. They want to run the country on a 'one-year-one-Prime Minister formula'. You also know, the country cannot function with a new Prime Minister every year... it will come to a standstill," he stated.

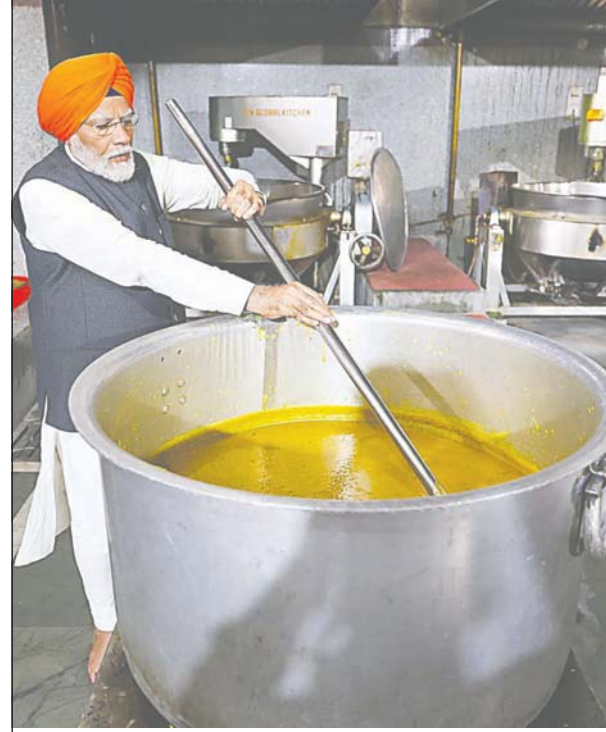
Insisting that he has the commitment to fulfil the dreams of Bihar's youth, the Prime Minister men-

tioned that, under the leadership of CM Nitish Kumar, the NDA government has created several job opportunities for the youth of the state.

"The Central government has also given lakhs of jobs through job fairs. We have also brought reforms in the recruitment of jobs. We have also approved eight new medical colleges, built more than 10,000 Ayushman Arogya centres, and 300 public clinics and opened more than 60,000 common service centres in Bihar. I want to ask you who are the people working on it. Is all this going on without the youth getting employment? Lakhs of common service centres in the country are being run by the youth of the country," he said.

PM Modi also targeted the Congress government on inflation and taxes during its tenure.

--IANS



PM Narendra Modi serving 'Langer' at Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib Gurudwara, in Patna on Monday.



Brisk polling in WB amid sporadic incidents of violence

Kolkata, May 13 (IANS) Polling has picked up pace in the eight Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal where polling is being held on Monday, amid reports of tension and violence coming in for different pockets of the state.

Till 1 p.m., 51.87 per cent polling was recorded in Bengal, which was comparatively higher than the

national average of 40.30 per cent, said sources in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

The highest turnout was seen in Bardhaman Purba at 55.87 per cent, followed by Bolpur (54.81 per cent), Ranaghat (52.70 per cent), Baharampur (52.27 per cent), Bardhaman-Durgapur (50.30 per cent), Krish-

nanagar (49.72 per cent), Birbhum (49.63 per cent), and Asansol (49.55 per cent).

At Manteswar in East Burdwan district, the convoy of BJP nominee from Bardhaman-Durgapur constituency, Dilip Ghosh, was allegedly attacked by a group of Trinamool Congress workers, in which a window of Ghosh's car was smashed.

Ghosh's supporters also retaliated, leading to a clash between both sides in which a ruling party supporter was reportedly injured. "Trinamool Congress is trying to control the polling process here by unleashing anti-social elements. The state police are standing as mute spectators," Ghosh alleged after the incident.

The Election Commission has sought a detailed report on the matter.

Earlier, there was tension in front of a booth at

Nanur in Birbhum district with the BJP alleging forceful eviction of its polling agent from the booth by Trinamool workers.

The BJP also alleged that armed ruling party workers were threatening the voters since Monday morning.

At Suri, a temporary camp office of the BJP was allegedly demolished by Trinamool supporters.

At Barwan under the Baharampur Lok Sabha constituency, clashes were reported between Trinamool Congress and Congress workers.

State Congress President and five-time sitting MP from Baharampur, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said that although the ruling party workers tried to create tension in the area, timely intervention by the CEO's office led to prompt action by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel.

Trust, blessings of people always been with BJP: Anurag Thakur

Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), May 13 (IANS) Saying that the trust and blessings of the people have always been with the BJP, the party's outgoing MP Anurag Thakur, who has returned to the Lok Sabha from the Hamirpur seat in Himachal Pradesh four-consecutive times since 2008, on Monday filed his nomination from this seat.

"The trust and blessings of the people of Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency have always been with the BJP. I am thankful to respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Thakur, who got a warm welcome from a crowd of party functionaries and locals who greeted him with garlands.

He thanked the BJP's national President, JP Nadda and senior leader, Home Minister Amit Shah



and the party for giving him the opportunity to serve the people again.

Accompanying his father and two-time Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, Thakur said, "Every time the people of Hamirpur have increased the margin of victory. I have full faith that the mandate to make Modi ji the Prime Minister again and to make the lotus bloom here again will be historic."

Former CM Dhumal,

who always plays a crucial role in his son's campaigns, was thrice elected as an MP from Hamirpur.

For Thakur, the key issue is development. "We will go to the public with the Modi government's achievements, and the area's development and seek their blessings once again," he said.

Besides senior BJP leaders, Thakur was accompanied by his brother Arun Dhumal, Indian Premier League Chairman.

40.26 pc polling in AP in six hours

Amaravati, May 13 (IANS) Amid sporadic incidents of violence, Andhra Pradesh registered 40.26 per cent polling till 1 p.m. on Monday, for simultaneous elections to the 175-member state Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats.

Among Parliamentary constituencies, Bapatla (SC) and Chittoor (SC) constituencies recorded the highest polling of 44.65 per cent, while the lowest was 33.86 per cent in Araku.

Among Assembly seg-

ments, Udayagiri recorded the highest polling at 52.16 per cent. Pulivendula, from where Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is seeking re-election, saw 49.95 per cent polling. Parthur registered 48.81 per cent followed by Jammalamadugu 48.32 per cent and Pamarru (SC) 48.29 per cent. The lowest was in Puttaparthi at 29.29 per cent.

More than 4.14 crore voters are eligible to cast their votes at 46,389 centres. They will decide the political fortunes of 2,841 candidates.

However, polling was marred by sporadic incidents of violence in the state. There were clashes between supporters of YSRCP and TDP at a few places. Both the parties accused each other of malpractice.

Polling in 169 Assembly segments will be held till 6 p.m. In the Left-Wing

Extremist (LWE)-affected segments of Araku, Paduru and Rampachodavaram, the polling will conclude at 4 p.m., while in three other LWE-affected segments of Palakonda, Kurupam and Salur, it will conclude at 5 p.m.

In the 2019 elections, the state had recorded 79.84 per cent polling. Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena leader and actor Pawan Kalyan are among 2,387 candidates for 175 Assembly seats.

For the 25 Lok Sabha seats, 454 contestants are in the fray and the prominent among them are former Union Minister and state BJP chief D. Purandeswari, state Congress President Y. S. Sharmila Reddy and former Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy.

Kerala LoP Satheesan accuses CPI-M district secretary for attack on RMP leader's house

Thiruvananthapuram, May 13 (IANS) A day after the house of top Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) leader K.S. Hariharan was attacked with explosives at Vadakara in Kozhikode district, the leader of opposition in Kerala Assembly, V.D. Satheesan, on Monday accused CPI-M district secretary P. Mohanan as the prime suspect in the case.

On Sunday night, an unidentified gang allegedly attacked the house of Hariharan after the RMP leader courted controversy by making a sexist remark against senior CPI-M leader K. K. Shailaja and leading film actress Manju Warrior. The RMP leader had apologised for the remarks hours after his speech triggered a row on Saturday night. The police have registered two different cases over the attack and implicated six (all unnamed) activists of the CPI-M and its youth wing. Satheesan said on

Monday that after Hariharan expressed deep regret and apologised for his remarks, what happened on Sunday night at his house was a grave issue. "The statement of CPI-M Kozhikode secretary (Mohanan) that 'even if Hariharan apologised, he will not be forgiven' is a clear call to unleash an attack on Hariharan. Hence the first accused in this attack case should be the CPI-M district secretary," said Satheesan.

"We all know how after issuing a threat, RMP leader T.P. Chandrasekharan was brutally eliminated by the CPI-M. It needn't try to finish their political adversaries in the same manner," said Satheesan, adding that the UDF will go to any extent to prevent the CPI-M from putting the RMP leaders under any sort of duress. The attack on Hariharan's house on Sunday night is believed to be a fallout of his alleged sexist remarks against K.K. Shailaja and Malay-

alam actress Manju Warrior, which he made during a public speech at his hometown Vadakara.

After the Congress-led UDF and the RMP leadership disapproved of the remarks, Hariharan quickly expressed deep regret over his speech.

Death toll hits 143 from Brazil's 'worst-ever' weather catastrophe

Sao Paulo, May 13 (IANS) The death toll rose to 143 from the worst extreme weather to ever hit south Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul state, with 125 people missing and more than 600,000 evacuated, the Civil Defence agency said.

In two weeks of record rainfall that has unleashed flooding and mud-

slides across the state, 446 towns have witnessed dramatic scenes of survivors rescued from floodwaters, including in the state capital Porto Alegre, where the Guaiba river burst its banks, inundating more

than half of the city, Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday.

Downpours began on April 29 and continued on Sunday, erasing hopes of floodwaters receding, and raising the number of the displaced from about 441,000 on Saturday to 618,550 on Sunday.

The National Institute of Meteorology has forecast more heavy rains through Monday in Brazil's southernmost state, which borders on Argentina and Uruguay.

--IANS

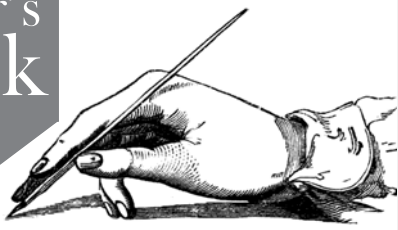


HYDERABAD, Tripura Governor Nallu Indrasena Reddy shows his inked finger after casting his vote at a polling station during the fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls, in Hyderabad on Monday. UNI



HYDERABAD, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose cast his vote with his family members at Venkateswara Fine Art College polling station number Madhapur in Hyderabad on Monday. UNI

From Editor's Desk



On Pakistan, Congress's Mani Shankar Aiyar's ill-considered remarks, PM Modi's unfortunate response

This comes at a time when Islamabad is sending important signals on improving ties with India, and Modi himself stands tall on the world stage. The heat of electoral battle cannot justify disdain towards a neighbour India can't just wish away

A general election offers an opportunity for a serious debate on Pakistan, India's most challenging neighbour, and on the broader orientation of the nation's foreign policy in a moment of profound change in the international system. Given the NDA's decade-long tenure in power, there is a sound basis for such a debate between the two main national parties — the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress. But evidently, it is not to be.

Congress veteran and maverick Mani Shankar Aiyar's ill-considered remarks on "respecting" Pakistan, because it has an atomic arsenal, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's counter-attack, generate more heat than light.

Aiyar has a view of Pakistan that has never been in sync with Congress policies or the foreign policy establishment that the party directed for most of the decades since Independence. Aiyar's remarks have always complicated Congress campaigns, but in this case he is also inaccurate in describing India's nuclear dilemmas and characterising the Modi government's record on Pakistan.

After it acquired nuclear weapons in the late 1980s, the Pakistan army began to support cross-border terrorism under the shadow of nuclear escalation, and mounted pressure on India to negotiate the Kashmir dispute on its terms. All governments in Delhi, irrespective of political hue, have struggled to find answers. The question here is not about "respecting" Pakistan, but "detering" Rawalpindi's threat of escalation, and countering its nuclear blackmail.

The PM has a good story to tell on Pakistan and he can claim credit for major gains in the policy towards the western neighbour. Aiyar's claim that the BJP government has not engaged Pakistan does not stand scrutiny. On his first day in office in May 2014, Modi spent time with the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, who had come to Delhi along with other South Asian leaders to attend the swearing-in of the BJP government. Unlike Manmohan Singh, who was not allowed by the Congress to visit Pakistan even once during his decade-long stint as India's PM, Modi traveled at short notice to Lahore on Christmas day of 2015 to call on Sharif at his family home. The Pakistan army was quick to quash the hopes generated by Modi's visit. It launched a major terror attack on Pathankot a week later. Modi broke from custom and invited Pakistan's ISI to conduct a joint investigation with Indian agencies but Rawalpindi had little interest.



HYDERABAD, Rajya Sabha Member and BJP National President of OBC Morcha, Dr. K Laxman cast his vote along with family members in Hyderabad on Monday. UNI

Joint military exercise 'Shakti-2024' kicks off in Meghalaya as India and France intensify defence ties

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) The seventh edition of the joint military exercise between the Indian and the French Armies, 'Shakti-2024' kicked off on Monday at the Eastern Command's Joint Training Node in Meghalaya's Umroi.

Held alternately in India and France, this year's exercise - which will last until May 26 - focuses on training for ground control operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate besides including for the first time Air Force assets as well as Navy and Air Force observers. It marks a new level of complexity compared to previous editions as it has fielded twice as many troops as before and began with a brigade-level command post-exercise.

The French contingent comprises 90 personnel from the Legion etrangere (Foreign Legion), an elite corps of the French Army. On January 26, another contingent from the Legion etrangere had taken part in India's Republic Day parade with France as the guest of honour.

This year's Shakti exercise is also taking place in the framework of an intensification of Indo-French defence ties following French President Emmanuel Macron's State Visit to India on January 25-26. Recently, CDS General Anil Chauhan paid an official visit to France, while the French Navy and Army Chiefs visited India. It marks a new level of complexity compared to previous editions as it has fielded twice as many troops as before and began with a brigade-level

command post-exercise. The French contingent comprises 90 personnel from the Legion etrangere (Foreign Legion), an elite corps of the French Army. On January 26, another contingent from the Legion etrangere had taken part in India's Republic Day parade with France as the guest of honour.

A French frigate, FNS Bretagne, adopted during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark 2023 visit to France on the occasion of Bastille Day.

Indo-French defence co-operation aims to strengthen both nations' sovereignty and strategic autonomy and to advance peace in the region.

"Together, we have built a unique strategic partnership, based on a level of mutual trust that is rarely seen between nations. A shining example of this was the unprecedented reciprocal invitation of our leaders to our respective National Days, Bastille Day last year in France, and Republic Day this year in India.

The pictures of our troops marching together on the Champs-Elysees in Paris and then on Kartavya Path in Delhi are a powerful and lasting symbol of our friendship," said Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, while speaking at the opening ceremony of the exercise. "The aim of this cooperation is to strengthen both our nation's sovereignty and strategic autonomy, and together advance peace and security in the Indo-Pacific," he added.

made a port call in Kerala last week as part of an Indo-Pacific deployment. The bilateral 'Varuna' naval exercise will take place later this year, and the French Air Force will take part in India's multi-nation Tarang-Shakti exercise scheduled in August. Defence and security cooperation is an essential component of the Indo-French strategic partnership. It was enshrined as the first pillar of the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, which charts the course of the partnership's next 25 years, and was



Delhi HC dismisses plea seeking action against PM over alleged hate speeches

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a petition that called for immediate action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other politicians for allegedly making communally divisive speeches during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The petition accused them of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Justice Sachin Datta ruled that the petition was without merit, stating, "This court finds no merit in the petition. The petition is accordingly dismissed."

The court cited previous observations that assumptions made by the petitioner were unjustified.

The plea had demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) respond with urgency, including the registration of FIRs against those accused of delivering hate speeches. It specifically referred to speeches by the Prime Minister in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, X posts by BJP Chief J.P. Nadda, and remarks made by Union Minister Anurag Thakur in Himachal Pradesh on April 27.

Representing the petitioners, Advocate Nizam Pasha argued that the ECI exhibited inconsistency in its actions against different politicians, suggesting it had previously barred leaders from other political parties but not the Prime Minister.

On behalf of the ECI, Advocate Suruchi Suri said that the Commission had issued an advisory to all political parties on March 1, prior to announcing the elections, and was awaiting a response from the concerned party by May 15 before proceeding further.

The ECI is expected to respond to the allegations by May 15.

Storm over Swati Maliwal's assault charge at Delhi CM residence, BJP lashes out at Kejriwal

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) A major political storm has broken out over the alleged assault of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Swati Maliwal at Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence.

Swati Maliwal, AAP RS MP and former Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Chairperson on Monday claimed that she was assaulted at the Delhi Chief Minister's residence by Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar.

She is yet to lodge a formal police complaint but this has already triggered verbal onslaught from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

A string of BJP spokespersons slammed the Delhi CM and called it a 'plot to abuse and harass the dissenters' at his residence.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa said: "Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal was thrashed by Kejriwal's PA Bibhav. She had to call up the police to report the incident."

"Why Swati Maliwal was manhandled and beaten at the Chief Minister's residence?" Sirsa asked

while claiming that many such incidents have taken place in the past. He cited earlier instances of the Chief Secretary and AAP MLA being beaten at the CM's residence.

Delhi BJP Chief Virendra Sachdeva also hit out at Delhi CM and



claimed that she was subjected to such treatment because of her habit of not mincing words.

"Swati Maliwal posed tough

questions and this is why she was beaten by Kejriwal's PA," Sachdeva told media persons and also added the BJP will protest strongly against such maltreatment of women in the city.

Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha President Richa Mishra condemned the incident and demanded action against Arvind Kejriwal, claiming that "he is now a threat to his own women representatives."

"Swati Maliwal is untraceable after informing police that she was beaten inside Delhi CM's house. I request Delhi LG and Delhi Police to act against Arvind Kejriwal for allowing such heinous crime inside his residence," Richa Mishra said.

Delhi BJP IT Cell Head Amit Malviya also slammed Kejriwal over

the assault incident and hinted at 'differences' between Kejriwal and Maliwal. "AAP RS MP and former DCW Chief Swati Maliwal alleges that Delhi CM's PA assaulted her. Call made from Delhi CM's House. Remember, Swati Maliwal had maintained radio silence on Kejriwal's arrest. She was in fact not even in India at that time and didn't return for a long time," Malviya wrote on X.

The row over the assault on Swati Maliwal inside Delhi CM's residence broke out after she made a PCR call around 10 AM on Monday and complained against Bibhav Kumar. Following the phone call, the police also reached CM's residence in Civil Lines.

Bibhav Kumar hogged the headlines recently after he was sacked as Delhi CM's Personal Secretary by the Delhi Vigilance Department over the 'illegal appointment'.

He was also summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in February, for questioning in the Delhi excise policy case.

SC issues notice to ED on ex-Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren's plea

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea filed by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren challenging his arrest in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

Agreeing to examine Soren's latest Special Leave Petition challenging the dismissal of his writ petition by the Jharkhand High Court, a Bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked the anti-money laundering agency to file its reply in the matter by May 17.

However, the Bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, refused to pass any directions on the prayer for interim relief. Last week, the top court disposed of a separate plea filed by

Soren seeking his release in view of the elections. It said that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader's prayer has become infertile in view of the May 3 order passed by the Jharkhand High Court dismissing his plea against arrest. Earlier, the Supreme Court had issued a notice to the ED on Soren's plea seeking interim bail on the grounds of delay in delivery of judgment by the Jharkhand High Court, despite reserving an order on his petition challenging the ED arrest in the last week of February. After the top court issued the notice, the Jharkhand High Court pronounced its decision and dis "there is an abundance of documents that lay a foundation for the arrest and remand of the petitioner to police and judicial custody."



5.07 pc voter turnout in Srinagar LS seat in first 2 hours

Srinagar, May 13 (IANS) As clouds split and the warm May sun peeped out, voters continued to come out and form queues outside most polling stations in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

During the first two hours since voting started at 7 a.m., 5.07 per cent overall voter turnout was recorded.

Chadoora voting segment has witnessed the highest voter turnout of 9.62 per cent while Char-e-Sharief witnessed 8.30 per cent, Chanapora 2.77 per cent, Eidgah 4.70 per cent, Ganderbal 8.83 per cent, Kangan (ST)

7.89 per cent, Khan Sahib 3.23 per cent, Habba Kadal 2.10 per cent, Hazratbal 3.55 per cent, Khanyar zero, Lal Chowk 3.23 per cent, Pampore 4.61 per cent, Pulwama 5.14 per cent, Rajpora 5.87 per cent, Shopian 7.03 per cent, Tral 3.70 per cent and Zadibal 3.25 per cent.

This is the first election in Kashmir after 1987 when the separatists did not call for a poll boycott.

This is also the first Lok Sabha

election after the abrogation of Article 370 and downgrading of J&K into a union territory.

The eagerness of the people to cast their vote was witnessed everywhere except the Khanyar voting segment in Srinagar city where no vote had been cast till 9 a.m.

Even in the once perceived hotbed of separatist sentiment in the Valley, the old city areas of Srinagar, voters came out without any fear to cast their vote.

Authorities have made elaborate security arrangements to provide a fearless voting environment to the people.

Despite a large number of security forces deployed in the entire constituency, there is no tension or fear anywhere in the constituency.

At many places, smiling voters exchanged greetings with the deployed troopers with some even displaying their fingers to show the indelible ink mark.

ECI has set up 2135 polling stations including 1004 urban and 1131 rural polling stations in the constituency.

BJP candidate Abhijit challenges FIR in Calcutta HC

Kolkata, May 13 (IANS) BJP candidate from Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency in West Bengal's East Midnapore district and former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, on Monday, approached a single-judge bench of the same court challenging an FIR filed against him earlier this month.

The single-judge bench of Justice Jay Sengupta has admitted the petition and the matter will come up for hearing on Tuesday. In his petition, Gangopadhyay has made a plea for cancelling the FIR as it might create obstacles for his campaign process. The FIR was filed at Tamluk Police station on May 5 under various non-bailable sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, on a complaint filed by a section of the 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff, who lost their jobs following a high court order and are reportedly close to the ruling Trinamool Congress.

NSDC, and IIT Guwahati launches Daksh Gurukul Skill Academy to train youth in new-age skills

New Delhi, May 10, 2024: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, launched the Daksh Gurukul Skill Academy to provide credit linked programs in new-age skills to the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. B Kalyan Chaudhary, Principal Secretary, Skill Development, Government of Assam said "Transformative programs offered under Daksh Gurukul-IITG holds immense potential in democratizing the excellence of IIT education for masses and equipping them with the necessary skills in today's evolving job market. The credit linkage flexibility of these programs ensures that every student's learning is duly recognized, without imposing any extra burden. I am certain that the partnership will benefit the students of Assam immensely setting a precedence for smooth nationwide adoption of National Education Policy (NEP)".

The event was graced by Dr. B

Kalyan Chaudhary, Principal Secretary, Skill Development, Government of Assam; Prof. Rajeev Ahuja (Director, IITG) and Prof. Gaurav Trivedi (Associate Dean- Faculty Affairs, Coordinator- Daksh Gurukul-IITG). Mr. Abhinav Mishra from NCVET, Mr. Pravesh Dudani, Academic Advisor-NSDC and Chancellor Medhavi Skills University, Dr. Mohan V Aware, Director, NIT Arunachal Pradesh, Prof. Eshankur Saikia from Guwahati University.

The academy was launched formally during a roundtable discussion on "Capacity building for adoption of the New Education Policy and National Credit Framework" organized at IIT Guwahati and moderated by NSDC.

The discussion centered on the comprehensive approach of empowering students with new-age employability skills by seamlessly integrating credits into mainstream degrees through credit transfer facilitated by the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) under the National Credit Framework (NCF).

India's education and skilling

ecosystem is witnessing one of the biggest ever progressive transformation in the form of vision paved by the new education policy and Daksh-Gurukul IITG is a pioneering initiative in this regard. The discussion also highlighted the flexibility of credit transfer paved by the New Education Policy, which allows students to smoothly transfer the credits to degree programs to meet the demand for skilled professionals in new-age technologies subject to the external credits being recognized by the parent university.

In March, NSDC signed a tripartite MoU with leading edtech partners— Rooman Technologies, Yuvaan Educative LLP, Acciojob, Masai School and MentorKart in March who have presented about their offerings on avenues for holistic growth and development. NSDC Partner Masai School has already launched the first batch of its micro-credited program in Computer Science with Daksh-Gurukul-IITG on 15th April, which is course-wise equivalent to 24 credits.

"White Lily & Night Rider" is a witty comment on the clash between virtual illusions and reality," says Sonali Kulkarni

Mumbai, Well-known actor Sonali Kulkarni has had an enduring relationship with theatre. "White Lily and Night Rider" has been one of her biggest successes on stage as an actor and a producer. The story about two individuals who fall in love with each other's virtual identities continues to strike a chord even as a popular Zee Theatre teleplay. Sonali believes the story penned by the late Rasika Joshi and Milind Phatak is a witty and relatable summation of how virtual illusions clash with reality more often than not.

Talking about what makes this theme so resonant, she says, "The success of the play lies in the playwrights' brilliance. They were so much in touch with the times and incorporated so many aspects of technology and how it impacts us. They communicated the primacy of human connection and that is why this story works so well even today



regardless of region or country. Whether a person is well-informed, uneducated, wealthy or from the middle class, they can all relate to 'White Lily and Night Rider' because it is about the search for love and a soul-mate."

Sonali stepped in as the leading lady of the play when actor and writer Rasika Joshi passed away in 2011 and she recalls, "I remember meeting Rasika and Milind when they were staging the 100th show of the Marathi version of the

play. I met them with a small gift, and told Rasika, 'Why don't you do a Hindi and English adaptation? It is such a lovely play!' I also promised her that I would fund the play. But tragically, we lost her to cancer that very year. And then after a year, Milind Phatak called me and said, 'I want you as White Lily.' Thousands of emotions ran through my mind and heart. And I just felt that for me to honour the promise of funding the play, we had to lose Rasika.

Sonali eventually turned into the producer of the play and says, "I am happy that White Lily's journey is still on. We have performed in the UK, Singapore, Thailand, Canada, the US, Scotland and a variety of places around the world. Filmed by Swapna Waghmare Joshi and directed for stage by Milind Phatak, the play features Milind Phatak with Sonali Kulkarni. It can be watched at the Tata Play Theatre.

Sonam Kapoor brings her fashion game forward, dons gender-neutral outfit

Mumbai, May 13 (IANS) Bollywood actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor flaunted her "killer" style as she shared pictures looking classy in a gender-neutral outfit.

Sonam took to her Instagram and shared a string of pictures.



In the image, the actress is seen wearing a Ralph Lauren jacket, black pants, and formal shoes.

She was styled by her sister, Rhea Kapoor, and celebrity fashion stylist, Abhilasha Devnani.

Sonam opted for nude makeup, completed her look with chunky gold earrings, and chose to keep her hair open.

For the caption, she wrote: "If looks could (knife emoji)"

Sonam was last seen in the 2023 film 'Blind', directed by Shome Makhija, alongside Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak, and Lillete Dubey. The film was a remake of the popular 2011 Korean film of the same name and traced the story of a blind police officer in search of a serial killer.

The actress will next be seen in 'Battle for Bittora'.

Musical extravaganza "IMMORTAL MELODIES" leaves Audiences Spellbound

Ahmedabad, The echoes of enchanting melodies linger as the curtains draw on an unforgettable evening of music the "IMMORTAL MELODIES" musical extravaganza presented by Rifle Club and Ark Events. On the beautiful occasion of Mother's day, The event was organised by Mr. Manish bhai Patel, General Secretary, Rifle Club & Dr. Mitali Nag, Ark events. Held on May 12th, 2024, at the prestigious Rifle Club, Khanpur, Ahmedabad, the event surpassed all expectations, leaving audiences spellbound and craving for more.

The event featured a lineup of exceptionally talented artists who delivered performances that resonated with emotion and captivated hearts, rendering classics such as "Dil Hoom Hoom Kare," "Solah Baras Ki," "Ye Dil Tum Bin," and "Aake Teri Bahoon Mein." The internationally acclaimed versatile singer Dr. Mitali Nag, brought an aura of elegance and finesse to the stage. Along with her, talented versatile singer Shivang Dave, Mandeep Devashryee, Vishranti Vaishnav's versatility and



magnetic stage presence left the audience in awe. Their dynamic vocal range and versatility showcased the true essence of musical artistry.

Accompanied by the melodious orchestrations of Mitesh Desai and guided by the charismatic hosting of ZISHAAN ABBASI, the evening unfolded into a symphony of pure bliss.

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Dev Anand taught Deepak Tijori to 'never look back': 'Jo gaya wo kal tha, jo aaj hai I live in that'

Mumbai, May 13 (IANS) Actor Deepak Tijori recalled one life lesson he learned from legendary actor and filmmaker Dev Anand, which was never to look back.

Asked Deepak about how he looks back on his journey in Hindi cinema, he told IANS: "I don't look back. This is what I learnt from the legendary Dev Saab. He was an adorable man who taught me this."

The actor added: "I used to often stop by for chai, with him, and just chat. I had some great times with him, that's why you might see me in his last couple of films, doing anything and everything for him, even if it was just a song, which I did in 'Gangster', you may see me in

other films too, that was my love for him, and respect for his craft, and being our legend."

Recalling an anecdote from their meeting, he said: "I remember asking him, 'Dev saab aapne itni saari super hit films banaayi hai (you have made so many super hit films), back in the 1960's, so why do you want to, 'Guide', or 'Hum Dono', which were my favourites too."

"That's what I learnt which I still apply, and I am also thankful to God for having given me the opportunity back then for doing such work in the past, but looking forward to doing even more better work in my coming days, if given the opportunity, and chance," said the actor.

Celebrates motherhood with an inspiring theme song by noted folk singer Geeta Rabari.

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) A global leader in consumer health and hygiene, has partnered with Plan India to launch the "Self Care for New Moms and Kids Under 5" initiative. This initiative focuses on improving maternal and child health in Bhavnagar and Gir Somnath in Gujarat, Dhule and Washim in Maharashtra, and Rajsamand in Rajasthan. Based on the World Health Organization's definition of self-care, the project recognizes the role of individuals, families, and communities in promoting health, preventing disease, and managing well-being. It aims to enhance the overall well-being of new mothers and integrates self-care into childhood development, affirming that health is a fundamental right. The program includes traditional street plays, a variety of educational activities, and door-to-door engagements that bring vital health information and services right to their doorsteps. This direct approach ensures that the benefits of self-care and health education reach every household, aligning with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to 'Health For All'. The program's extensive reach in these regions helps to empower mothers and caregivers, enabling them to take charge of their own and their children's health effectively.

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initiative engages young mothers in rural communities through innovative out-

reach programs, including traditional street plays, a variety of educational activities, and door-to-door engagements that bring vital health information and services right to their doorsteps. This direct approach ensures that the benefits of self-care and health education reach every household, aligning with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to 'Health For All'. The program's extensive reach in these regions helps to empower mothers and caregivers, enabling them to take charge of their own and their children's health effectively.

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Delhi HC orders halt on tree felling in Central Ridge

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) The Delhi High Court has issued a stern directive against the felling of trees and removal of vegetation in the Central Ridge area of the national Capital, without explicit court permission.

The order, delivered by Justice Mini Pushkarna, also mandates that the Forest Department and local authorities prevent any dumping of garbage or waste material in this ecologically-sensitive zone.

The court's decision comes amid reports of extensive tree cutting and land clearing, as well as significant garbage dumping within the region, which houses the historical Malcha Mahal from the Tughlaq era.

Photographic evidence presented in court showed not only unauthorised deforestation but also the burning of large areas, leading to the destruction of both trees and undergrowth. This activity has left behind vast tracts of vacant land, significantly impacting the local ecosystem. Expressing grave concern over these developments, Justice Pushkarna remarked on the critical role of the Central Ridge as a green heritage site for Delhi, particularly as the city faces severe pollution challenges. The preservation of this green cover is essential for maintaining environmental balance, she noted. The court orders regarding tree planting in Delhi. The next hearing on this matter is scheduled for May 24.

Bengal records 32.78 pc polling, over 1,000 complaints received by CEO office

Kolkata, May 13 (IANS) Even as the polling percentage in West Bengal's eight Lok Sabha was increasing, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) was flooded with complaints related to violence and tension, said officials here on Monday.

The polling percentage in the constituencies in the first four hours on Monday was 32.78, and the number of complaints received by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) during the same period was 1,088.

Party-wise CPI(M) has filed the maximum number of complaints at 72, followed by Congress at 70, six by BJP and one by Trinamool Congress.

As per the records from the CEO Ariz Aftab's office, the highest polling percentage till 11 a.m. was reported from Baharampur at 35.53 followed by Bolpur at 35.22, Baradhaman-Purba at 33.82, Ranaghat at 33.23, Krishnanagar at 32.59, Bardhaman-Durgapur at 31.41, Birbhum at 30.45 and Asansol at 29.99 per cent.

Tension mounted in Pandaveswar in the Asansol Lok Sabha constituency after police stopped senior BJP leader Jitendra Tiwari from entering a particular area. Tiwari complained that the personnel of the state police stopped him despite his having the requisite papers from the Election Commission for visiting the place.

Regional parties will come to power at Centre: BRS chief

Hyderabad, May 13 (IANS) Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrasekhar Rao said on Monday that regional parties will come to power at the Centre. The former Telangana chief minister was talking to media persons after casting his vote in his native Chintamadaka village in Siddipet district. When asked if he would join hands with INDIA bloc in days to come, he said there is nothing like a bloc. "There is nothing like a bloc. Now, regional parties will come to power in India," he said. "There is no doubt in it. This is the situation emerging in the country," he said when asked about his earlier statement that regional parties will play a key role in the formation of the next government at the Centre. KCR said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to step down as per the rule set by the BJP that nobody should take up any position after reaching the age of 75. The BRS chief hoped that Telangana will record 65-70 per cent polling. The BRS, which lost power to Congress in Telangana five months ago, is contesting all 17 Lok Sabha seats in the state on its own. KCR and his wife cast their votes in Siddipet Assembly segment, a part of Medak Lok Sabha constituency.

LS polls: PM Modi to campaign in Bihar, UP today

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address public meetings in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on Monday. Prime Minister Modi will first visit a gurudwara in Patna at 8:45 a.m. after which he will address three public meetings in Bihar -- Hajipur at 10:30 a.m., Muzaffarpur at 12 p.m. and Saran at 1:30 p.m. From Bihar, the Prime Minister will visit Uttar Pradesh and garland the statue of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya at 4:50 p.m. in Varanasi. Later he will also hold a roadshow and visit the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir at 5 p.m. Major political developments that will unfold across the country today: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address two public meetings in Maharashtra -- one in Dhule at 1 p.m. and another in Palghar at 4 p.m. Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge will visit Jharkhand where he will address two public meetings -- one at Barahi in Hazaribagh at 10 a.m. to campaign for party candidate J.P. Patel and another at Kundari Maidan in Latehar at 12 p.m. to campaign for party candidate K.N. Tripathi from the Chitra parliamentary constituency.

Cricket Premier League to commence from May 19 th - 2 nd June 24 at SGVP Grounds, Ahmedabad



Ahmedabad...Chiripal Foundation unveiled its maiden Cricket Premier League 2024 that is set to promote the local cricketing talent in Gujarat. Consisting of elite Ranji players from the state, the tournament will have the best talent from Gujarat. 6 teams which will participate in this tournament are Sabarmati Strikers, Ahmedabad Arrows, Karnavati Kings, Heritage City Titans, Narmada Navigators, and Gandhinagar Lions. The teams Heritage City Titan is owned by Crest Data, Narmada Navigators is owned by Shanti Spintex, Sabarmati Strikers is owned by Hiramani, Ahmedabad Arrows is owned by Trivikrama Productions, Karnavati Kings is owned by The Address, Gandhinagar Lions is owned by Landmark.



Bhumi Poojan of Vidyabharati School of Excellence has been done by CM Bhupendra Patel in Ahmedabad. In the Bhoomi Poojan program of Vidyabharati School of Excellence, Mayor of Ahmedabad Ms. Pratibha Jain, Vice President of Vidyabharati Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan, Ms. Sadhaban Bhandari as Special Guest, Western Region Cooperative of RSS Mr. Yashwantbhai Chaudhary, Founder, CEO and MD of Hester Biosciences Rajivbhai Gandhi, Vidya Recruitment Gujarat Region Chairman Mr. Dr. Nitinbhai Pethani, Vidya Bharathi Chairman Shri Bharatbhai Zaveri, Vidya Bharathi Vice Chairman Shri Chiranjeevibhai Patel, Vidya Bharathi Minister Shri Vijaybhai Dholakia were present.

6 teams to compete in Cricket Premier League 2024 from May 19

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, Chiripal Foundation Sunday announced the launch of Cricket Premier League 2024 with six teams to promote local cricketing talent in Gujarat. The maiden tournament will take place between May 19 and June

2 at SGVP Grounds in Ahmedabad, an official release stated.

Consisting of elite Ranji players from Gujarat, teams —

Heritage City Titan, Narmada Navigators, Sabarmati Strikers, Ahmedabad Arrows, Karnavati Kings and Gandhinagar

Lions — are owned by various private groups.

While Heritage City Titan is owned by Crest Data System, Narmada Navigators belongs to Shanti Spintex and Sabarmati Strikers by Hiramani. Trivedi Marbles Private Ltd, Spaces, and Landmark are the owners of

Ahmedabad Arrows, Karnavati Kings and Gandhinagar Lions respectively, the release stated.

The tournament is supported by the Gujarat Cricket Association and its former president Narhari Amin, currently a Rajya Sabha MP. Amin also owns Sabarmati Strikers.

Dr. J.M. Vyas, VC-NFSU released the book Mentoring Beyond Alco- authored by 2 Professors of NFSU

Gandhinagar, Dr. J.M. Vyas, VC-NFSU released the book "Mentoring Beyond AI", co-authored by Prof. S.S. Iyengar, FIU Emeritus Professor of NFSU and Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, NFSU. Dr. Vyas also unveiled the virtualization videos of CoE in Cyber Security at NFSU, Gandhinagar on 13th May, 2024. Prof. S.S. Iyengar, Emeritus Professor of NFSU and one of the Authors of the book titled "Mentoring Beyond AI" said in his speech that the book not only explores the symbiotic relationship between human mentors and AI systems but also delves into the ethical considerations, challenges, and best practices that accompany this dynamic interaction. The book



Symbiotic relationship between Human Mentors and AI Systems is an ethical challenge: Prof. S.S. Iyengar

serves as a beacon for educators and mentors alike, guiding towards a future where technology augments rather than replaces the invaluable human touch in education and mentorship.

Dr. J.M. Vyas (Padma Shri Awardee), Vice Chancellor of NFSU said

on the occasion that the book will empower the next generation of scholars and leaders. It is a matter of pride and pleasure for NFSU that two out of five authors of the book titled Mentoring Beyond AI, are from NFSU. This publication marks a significant milestone in

the collective journey towards understanding and harnessing the power of mentorship in the age of artificial intelligence. As we know, mentoring plays a pivotal role in shaping the lives and careers of our students, particularly in the context of emerging technologies like AI. During the release of the Book, Shri C.D. Jadeja, Executive Registrar-NFSU; Prof. S.S. Iyengar, Emeritus Professor of NFSU; Prof. H.B. Prasad, PES University, Bengaluru and Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Kumar, Dean, SCSDF-NFSU were present on the Dias. Deans and Associate Deans of various schools of NFSU, Faculty, staff members and students of NFSU were present during the event.

English only a subject, not means to success: Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, English should only be considered a subject and not the means to success, said Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Ahmedabad Sunday. He also added that India is developing fast under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"English is a subject and it is not that you cannot progress without it. But there are many subjects with which you are on the path of progress," the CM said while speaking at a ground-breaking ceremony of Vidya Bharati School of Excellence in the Gota area. Vidya Bharati, the educational wing of the RSS, runs a network of

private schools in the country and is coming up with its first school of excellence in the state in the Gota area.

While he clarified that he did not have any issue with people learning English, he said that there was no reason to believe that one can progress only by sticking to a particular thing. There are many people who could speak fluent English, but cannot do simple math without a calculator, he noted.

The CM added that he never used any other language but Gujarati to interact when he travelled to various countries in the run-up to the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. "There are many (leaders of) countries who interact in their languages," he

said. Patel also credited Modi for making provisions for anyone to do a doctorate in the prevalent language in any state of the country. Noting that India is on the fast lane of development under PM Modi, CM Patel said, "The world is watching that India is fast developing under the leadership of Narendrabhai (Modi). There will not be any sector in which India will have to wait. Many times, (people) think that this mobile phone has arrived in America; 'when will it come to us (in India)'. In the near future, perhaps, the phone may arrive in India and those people (from America) will wait for it to arrive in their country."

Mumbai: BMC to launch second girder for 'Bow-String' bridge on May 15

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials on Monday announced that the second girder of the 'bow-string' bridge, which will link the Coastal Road with the Bandra Worli Sea Link will be launched in the early hours of May 15.

While the first girder was launched on April 26, the officials said that the process of concreting the layers of the recently launched girder is currently underway.

"The girder that was launched last month is for southbound traffic. This will take another one month to get completed and once it's ready, vehicles will be able to take the coastal road directly from BWSL, which now is operational between Worli and Marine Drive," said an official. Weighing approximately 2,000 metric tons and spanning 136 meters, the arch-shaped girder

was prefabricated in Haryana before being transported to the Nhava Sheva port in Raigad, 65 kilometres away from Worli.

From there, it was assembled and transported to the Worli worksite via barge, arriving on Sunday evening. According to civic officials, the launch will take place only when tidal patterns appear feasible for the operation. "The second girder will be erected and launched in the same manner as the first girder, which he had launched from the sea and the process of launching will take around 2 hours. This girder will cater towards the northbound side, which is yet to become operational and the finishing work is expected to be completed by the end of next month," the official said.

Once the girder is launched, authorities will concrete it before laying asphalt roads, followed by a waterproofing process. At present the coastal road is operation-

al only between 8 am and 8 pm on weekdays for south-bound traffic. The second (southbound) arm is slated to open after the expiration of the ongoing elections' imposed code of conduct.

The construction of the bridge faced many challenges, one of them being from the fishing community. They demanded that the gap between the pillars be kept at 200 meters for safer passage, but the BMC suggested 60 meters.

Nagapattinam MP & senior CPI leader M Selvaraj passes away

Chennai, May 13 (IANS) Senior leader of Communist Party of India (CPI) and Member of Parliament (MP) from Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency, M. Selvaraj passed away today morning in a private hospital in Chennai. He was 67.

Selvaraj was an MP for four terms from Tamil

Nadu. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1989, 1996, 1998 and 2019 from Nagapattinam constituency.

He had undergone a kidney transplant and was under treatment for past few months. He did not contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections citing health conditions.

'No Plan to join BJP, will carry on social work'

Surat: A day after claiming that Congress betrayed him in the 2017 assembly elections, the sidqualified Congress candidate for he Surat parliamentary constituency said he would not join the BJP he was at his home, but rumours are being shred that he was on the run.

"I have no plans to join the BJP but I will continue doing social work," Kumbhani told TOI. "My supporters were upate as they were being the leders were inactive. They planned to take revenge for what Congress did with me. I was not aware of their plan," he claimed. "I was going to meet he senior leadership of Vongress for lrgal a protest aat my house afer which I chanded my minf," he daded. He reguted the allegations og accepting money from any political party for his form

cancellation. Menwhile, Congress workers have uploaded messages on social medea announcing cash ewards to anuone who provide the location of Kumbhani. Indian Youth Congress secretary Pradip Sindhav posted a Rs 5,000reward with call tp "sea arvh for the reaitor and teach hin a lesson." "All Congress members want to understand from Kumbhani whu he did this. He has partially confessed his act but we want more clarity," said Sindhav. Police have provided security to Kumbhani to maintain law and order situation.

"Thoe who warned money using weopng practices furing caampng are upser due to all this. They could not earn money due to my form cncelation nd hence onslting and oppsing me," he alleged.

Man, teen son shot dead in village farm

Rajkot: A 45-years-old man and his teenage son werre shot dead by six people on an agriculture farm in Ravani village of Junagadh's Vantthali taluka late on Friday night.

Police said it was a case of revenge killing that stems from a decade-old animosity between the families of history-sheeter Jusab Allahrakha Sandh and he deceased's family. In fact, this is the fourth murder due to the family feud in the last 10 years.

The victims were identified as Rafiq Sandh (45) and his 19-years-old son Jihla.

The Junagadh police have formed several teams to arrest the assailants Rahhalias Khuri alias ablo sandh, Ismail Sandh, Pola Sandh ans Hussain Sandh.

Rafiq and his son were staying on their uncle Hussain Sandh's farm.

In the complaint, Hussain told the Vantthali olice that he rushed to the farm hearing gunshots. On reaching he saw the assailants armed with guns and sticks and two of them opening fire. Rafiq and Jihla were ling in a pool of blood. On March 8, 2023, m

Allahrakha's distant nephew Salim Sandh was shot dead by two Latif Sandh and his friend Mushtaq Dal. In this murder, Jihla had helped Latif by conducting Slim's reccee and sharing his location.

He had even spent nine months un jail in this case.

Salim's murder was the fallout of Latifs father's murder in 2012. Salim was just 10 then and Latif had pledged to walk barefoot until he avenged his father's murder that salim's gather allegedly executed.

Complaint Hussain also told the police that Salim's brother had threatened his family wirth serioys consequences sauing theu had dared to take on history-sheeter Jusab Allahrakha's kin and warned him that they won't spare Jihla. However, due to heir fera, no police complaint was lodged.

"all six assailants are relaves of history-sheeter Jusab Allahrakha. We have activated our hman sources and using technical suurvillance to nav them," said Bipinchandra Thacker, deputy supern-tendent of police, Keshod.

31 Dalits embrace Buddhism in Banaskantha

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, Thirty-one Dalits, including 12 women and 19 men, from various parts of Gujarat shunned Hinduism and embraced Buddhism at a function held in Palanpur of Banaskantha district Sunday. The converts belonged from the four districts of Banaskantha, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Mehsana.

"All of them belonged to the Scheduled Castes. Bhante Pragna Ratna Thero from Porbandar gave Dhamma dixta to the

31 people," said Ramesh Banker, secretary of Gujarat Buddhist Academy, which was organised the event in association with Budhha Dhamma Dixa Samiti Banaskantha.

This is the first such conversion event in the state after a recent circular from the Gujarat government clarified that Buddhism has to be considered a separate religion and any conversion from Hinduism to Buddhism requires prior approval of the district magistrate under the provisions of the Gu-

jarat Freedom of Religion Act. The circular, issued by the state Home department on April 8, had also clarified that similar prior approvals of the district magistrate are necessary for conversion from Hinduism to Jainism and Sikhism.

"Procedures according to the prevailing law for religious conversions were followed in toto," Banker added, saying that they have been following the procedure even before the government circular of April 8.

Fortune Hotels Launches 9th property in the Gujarat with Fortune Statue of Unity Ekta Nagar

Ekta Nagar, Fortune Hotels, a member of ITC's hotel group announced the launch of Fortune Statue of Unity Ekta Nagar, a shining new addition set to offer unmatched comfort and hospitality close to Gujarat's latest attraction, alongside the scenic views of river Narmada.

Just minutes away from the Ekta Nagar railway station, this 144-room all vegetarian hotel, promises an extraordinary journey into the world of fine hospitality. With comfortable interiors that open into tranquil river vistas from most rooms, Fortune Statue of Unity Ekta Nagar also has lush green lawns and ample open spaces to soak in the spirit of the

place. The hotel offers an array of features to enhance the guest experience be it the wide range of premium room amenities, 24-hour room service option to satiate your midnight food cravings or the high speed complimentary wi-fi that lets you stream your favourite web-series whilst you stay with us. Additionally, guests can indulge in a vegetarian food soiree at the Rainbow Restaurant, where vegetarian cuisines from seven inspired culinary mores await you such that every meal becomes a treasure trove of flavours and memories.

Fortune Statue of Unity Ekta Nagar will also become an address to reckon with for intimate gatherings to corporate events. The hotel will soon provide versatile banquet facilities ideal for hosting weddings, birthdays, meetings, presentations, and brainstorming sessions. Fortune's dedicated team will ensure that every event is executed seamlessly, leaving a lasting impression on guests and attendees alike.

Strategically located close to the many attractions in the SOU area, like the Narmada Maha Arti

ghat, the Valley of Flowers (Bharat Van), the Cactus Garden, the Butterfly Garden, the Glow Park and many more the hotel is a perfect pit stop for guests looking to experience the myriad activities on offer in Ekta Nagar.

Speaking about the launch, Samir MC, Managing Director, Fortune Hotels said, "As we venture into Ekta Nagar, we seize upon an exciting opportunity for growth in a region ripe with promise. With the support of the government and the city's burgeoning infrastructure, we are confident of the potential for expansion and business prospects this destination offers.

Formally known as Kevadia, Ekta Nagar has transformed into a bustling metropolis, drawing visitors with its vibrant energy. Travellers have an abundance of sights to explore, from the expansive bird aviaries, boasting the title of India's largest geodesic domes, to the tranquil Vishwa-Van, a botanical haven showcasing flora from every corner of the globe. Additionally, the enchanting Valley of Flowers, nestled alongside the riverbanks, captivates visitors with its natural allure.

Iran hails progress in cooperation with Saudi Arabia

Tehran, May 13 (IANS) Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has hailed the success in the expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh following their normalisation of bilateral ties.

He made the remarks on Sunday at the third Iranian-Arab Dialogue Conference in Iran's capital Tehran, which was attended by Iranian officials, foreign ambassadors, and guests from other states, Xinhua news agency reported.

Amir-Abdollahian said that Iran was determined to promote understanding and solidarity among regional countries, referring to the normalisation of Iran-Saudi Arabia relations as an example of Iran's focus on expanding ties with neighbours as well as Muslim and Arab states.

"Our assessment (of the progress) of relations

between Tehran and Riyadh over the past year indicates that success has been achieved in the area of the multilayered development of bilateral cooperation," said the Iranian Foreign Minister, stressing that there are numerous opportunities for the two countries to further enhance their cooperation.

Noting that Iran has initiated a new phase of cooperation with the UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait, Amir-Abdollahian mentioned that Tehran and Bahrain are also considering advancing towards normalising bilateral relations. Iran and Saudi Arabia formally declared in April of last year the resumption of diplomatic relations with immediate effect. Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Iran in early 2016 in response to attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran.



'SMITTEN' PETER'S NEW FLAME

The late Queen's 'favourite grandson' Peter Phillips has seemingly embarked on a new romance with a NHS nurse and freelance writer just weeks after the end of his previous three-year relationship. King Charles' nephew Peter, 46, was photographed this weekend with paediatric specialist nurse and freelance writer Harriet Sterling at the Badminton Horse Trials. The 'smitten' pair watched the cross-country horse riding before leaving in a vehicle with Peter's daughters Savannah, 13, and 12-year-old Isla on Saturday.

North Korea warns US allies over surveillance

Seoul, May 13 (IANS/DPA) North Korea has warned allies of the US, including Germany, France and Britain, to stop provoking tension in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Foreign Ministry in Pyongyang denounced the "military interference" in the region "under the pretext of monitoring violation of UN sanctions" in a statement carried by state-controlled news agency KCNA on Monday.

North Korea warned Germany, France, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada to "immediately stop the provocations of causing tension and instability," KCNA reported.

"Western countries should ponder over the fact that their unreasonable and blind policy of following the US is an act of harming their own interests." "Pyongyang would 'take necessary measures to firmly defend the sovereignty and security of the state,' the state-

ment said. In April, the US held a two-day training exercise involving the navies of South Korea and Japan.

Earlier this month, an Australian helicopter surveying North Korea was intercepted by a Chinese warplane in international airspace, while a Canadian plane was intercepted in similar circumstances in

October. Tensions on the peninsula are very high. Since the beginning of 2022, North Korea has significantly increased the scope of its weapons tests, including the testing of nuclear-capable missiles, and has stepped up its rhetoric against the US and South Korea, both of which Pyongyang considers to be enemy states.

Tehran open to talks with Washington: Iran Foreign Policy Adviser

Tehran, May 13 (IANS/DPA) Iran has shown itself to be open to direct talks with the US and appears to be ready for a change of course in its policy towards its arch-enemy.

"The Americans describe diplomacy as the best option... We are of the same view and are also ready to return to negotiations," Kamal Kharazi, foreign policy adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Sunday, according to state news agency ISNA.

According to Kharazi, Iran should also be prepared to resume the nu-

contact with the US, which it frequently refers to as the "Great Satan," since coming to power in Iran in 2021.

According to the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, diplomatic contact with the US only takes place via third countries such as Qatar and Oman and, in some cases, via the European Union. Kharazi's statements, therefore, indicate a change of course on the part of the Islamic Re-



clear negotiations broken off under then-US president Donald Trump.

"Then we could also talk about a nuclear-free region (in the Middle East)," said the country's high-ranking adviser and former foreign minister.

The arch-conservative government of President Ebrahim Raisi has until now vehemently and consistently rejected direct

public. However, official representatives of the government have not yet made a statement.

As recently as Thursday, Kharazi had threatened both the US and Israel with a revision of Iran's nuclear doctrine. Although he justified this again, he added that Iran still does not want to build or use nuclear weapons.

Blinken asks Israel to protect civilians, aid workers in Gaza

Tel Aviv, May 13 (IANS) The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken has called upon the Israeli government to urgently take steps to prevent the loss of lives of civilians and aid workers in Gaza during the ongoing war. Israel's Defence Minister's Office told IANS that Blinken sounded this to the Israel Defence Minister, Yoav Gal-

lant when the latter briefed him on the telephone about the situation in Gaza, including the Rafah operations. The US State Department spokesperson, Matthew Miller in a statement mentioned that Blinken had spoken to Gallant and underscored the urgent need to protect the lives of civilians and aid workers. Miller in the

statement also said that Blinken has affirmed the US commitment to Israel's security and the shared objective of the defeat of Hamas. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns had on Sunday offered Israel to help secure Hamas military leader, Yahya Sinwar if Israel put an end to Rafah's invasion.--IANS



Joe Lycett is a man of his word. The TV presenter arrived for the BAFTA Television Awards on Sunday in a full on Elizabethan getup after losing a bet. Stepping onto the red carpet, he wore a flowing silver cape, which resembled a gown, and high ruff around his neck.

Musk gets court reprieve in fight against Australian govt, says not trying to win anything

Sydney/New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Monday won over the Australian government after a court overturned a legal block by the country's regulator directing the removal of footage of a stabbing attack in Sydney on X social media platform.

The Australian court had earlier granted a two-day injunction, ordering the platform to hide videos of the April 15 church stabbing for its users globally. X, however, agreed to hide the footage from Aus-

tralian viewers but kept it accessible for global users.

The Federal Court on Monday overturned the legal block on videos of the Sydney church stabbing on X, reports The Australian.

Musk reacted, saying that he is not trying to win anything. "I just don't think we should be suppressing Australians' rights to free speech," the tech billionaire posted.

Last month, Musk hit out at Australia over the

attempts to ban footage of the Sydney church stabbing on X.

"Our concern is that if ANY country is allowed to censor content for ALL countries,

which is what the Australian 'eSafety Commissioner' is demanding, then what is to stop any country from controlling the entire Internet," Musk wrote on X.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese last month told the media that Musk was an "arrogant" billionaire.--IANS

Telangana records 9.51 pc polling in first two hours

Hyderabad, May 13 (IANS) About 9.51 per cent votes were polled in the first two hours in all 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in Telangana on Monday.

The process began at 7 a.m. in all polling stations across the state amid tight security.

According to the Election Commission, Adilabad recorded the highest turnout of 13.22 per cent followed by 12.88 per cent in Zahirabad and 2.80 per cent in Nalgonda by 9 a.m.

The lowest polling of 5.40 per cent was recorded in Secunderabad constituency in the state capital.

In the Secunderabad Assembly segment, where the by-election is being held, 6.28 per cent of voters cast their votes in the first two hours.

The vacancy arose fol-

lowing the death of sitting MLA Lasya Nanditha of BRS in a road accident in February 2024, just three months after she was elected in the Assembly elections.

A little over 3.17 crore voters will decide the political fortunes of 525 candidates in 17 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Polling will continue till 6 p.m. in 106 Assembly segments. However, in 13 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected segments under five Lok Sabha constituencies the polling will conclude at 4 p.m. Those standing in queue at the time of closure of polling will be allowed to cast their votes.

Telangana had recorded a turnout of 71.34 per cent during the Assembly elections held in November 2023.--IANS

Junior doctors will lose a year unless they return by this week: South Korea

Seoul, May 13 (IANS) South Korea's Second Vice Health Minister, Park Min-soo, on Monday, said that junior doctors may face a one-year delay in getting medical fellowships unless they return to work by the end of this week.

The prolonged walk-

outs by some 12,000 trainee doctors, who have left their work sites since February 20 in protest of the government's push to boost the number of medical students, have caused disruptions in public health services at major hospitals.

The walkouts are also expected to prompt disarray in their careers because junior doctors will not be eligible for next year's test to become fellow doctors unless they are trained at hospitals for more than three months, Yonhap news agency reported. "Unless medical residents return to work this week, the timing of obtaining medical fellowships may be delayed by one year in accordance with relevant regulations," Park told reporters. "We urge the junior doctors to return to their workplaces and fulfil their duties as doctors to avoid potential disadvantages in their future careers."

Park said. Officials at the health ministry and the medical community have predicted that trainee doctors must return to hospitals by around May 20 if they want to apply for the test to become fellow doctors.

Israeli military announces opening of new crossing for aid to reach Gaza

Jerusalem, May 13 (IANS) The Israeli military has said that it has opened a new crossing to bring humanitarian aid into the famine-stricken Gaza Strip.

In a press statement on Sunday, the military announced the opening of the "Western Erez crossing" between Israel and northern Gaza in coordination with the US, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the military, the new crossing is located west of the Erez crossing, closer to the sea-

It added that the cross-

ing was constructed by the Israeli military "as part of the effort to increase routes for aid to Gaza, particularly to the north of the strip".

On Sunday, the military said it launched a large-scale operation in the area of Jabaliya in northern Gaza while continuing its operations in eastern Rafah and the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing.

It stressed that it had called on the civilian population to evacuate from Jabaliya to shelters in western Gaza City.

The military noted that its Air Force attacked 150

sites throughout the enclave on Saturday.

In early April, the Israeli government approved the temporary reopening of the Erez crossing, also known as the Beit Hanoun crossing to Palestinians, to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza.

The over seven-month-long Israeli offensive in Gaza, which was launched in retaliation for a Hamas onslaught on southern Israeli sites, has led to at least 35,034 fatalities and 78,755 injuries in the besieged enclave, according to Gaza's health authorities on Sunday.

Russian forces make significant progress in Kharkiv: Defence Ministry

Moscow, May 13 (IANS) Russian armed forces made significant gains in the Kharkiv region after capturing four settlements, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

The units of its North group had made advancements deep into Ukrainian defences, seizing the settlements of Gatyshche, Krasnoye, Morokhovets, and Oleynikov in the Kharkiv region, the ministry said in a statement, reports Xinhua news agency.

Three Ukrainian brigades suffered heavy

losses in the settlements of Degtyarnoye, Volchan-sk, and Kazachya Lopan in the Kharkiv region, losing up to 100 servicemen, two tanks, an armoured vehicle Kozak and four vehicles, it added.

Russian armed forces have been actively advancing in the Kharkiv region for several days. More than 4,000 people have been evacuated from the region since Russia launched the latest round of missile attacks on Friday, regional governor Oleg Synegebov said.--IANS

German digital group reports rise in cyber attacks from Russia, China

Berlin, May 13 (IANS/DPA) The German digital association Bitkom says it has recorded an increasing number of cyber attacks from China and Russia over the past 12 months.

Within two years, a doubling of attacks from Russia has been measured, said managing director Bernhard Rohleder on Monday morning on German public broadcaster ZDF.

There was also a 50 per cent increase in the number of known incidents from China, he said. Of the companies affected, 80

per cent were targeted by attacks, such as data theft, espionage and sabotage, according to the Bitkom Director.

Germany's Interior



Minister Nancy Faeser and the president of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), Holger

Munch, plan to present the "National Situation Report on Cybercrime" for 2023 on Monday morning.

In particular, the number of offences committed from abroad or from an unknown location has been increasing for years, the BKA said in advance.

This also applies to the amount of damage caused by cybercrime to companies in Germany. "The damage is 148 billion euros (\$159 billion)

per year from cyber attacks alone, meaning digital attacks," said Bitkom's Rohleder. "That is a very significant amount."

Organised crime is often behind these attacks, as are foreign intelligence services, he added.

"Some are after money," Rohleder said, adding that other perpetrators want to cause as much damage as possible, such as to critical infrastructure like the energy supply or hospitals. "And there are still some, especially private individuals, who just want to have fun," he said.



Trump has said that the former First Lady has been his toughest critic over his raucous rallies. It appears that Trump's impression of election rival President Joe Biden as a doddering old man may have hit too close for Melania, as Trump explained at his rally on the Jersey Shore Saturday. Trump told the Trumpwood crowd that he no longer does his impression of Biden because Melania thought it was really him.

Premier League: Arsenal beat Man Utd to take title race to final day

Manchester, May 13 (IANS) Arsenal regained top spot from Manchester City heading into the final week of the Premier League season with a 1-0 win at Manchester United.

It's the first time in 25 years that Arsenal have been involved in the title race on the final day of the season. The Gunners completed the league double over Manchester United for the first time since 2006/07 and we're now back on top of the table, though Manchester City have a game in hand.

Leandro Trossard's close-range finish in the 20th minute proved to be the difference between the sides but the Gunners, who needed a win to regain the top spot after rivals Manchester City's emphatic 4-0 triumph at Fulham, were given plenty of anxious moments by the likes of Amad and Alejandro Garnacho. Arsenal move one point clear of City, who still have a game in hand against Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday, meaning the title remains in the hands of Pep Guardiola's side. City then host West Ham United on the final day, while Arsenal are at home to Everton.

Leverkusen extend unbeaten run, Bayern stay second in Bundesliga

Berlin, May 13 (IANS) Leverkusen extended their unbeaten streak to 50 games after a dominant 5-0 victory over 10-man Bochum, while Bayern Munich secured the second spot with a 2-0 win over Wolfsburg in the closing matches of Bundesliga's 33rd round.

Bochum, facing relegation, started strong but couldn't capitalize on their early opportunities. In the 11th minute, Philipp Hofmann narrowly missed a header from Kevin Stoger's corner. The game's momentum shifted dramatically in the 15th minute when Felix Passlack was sent off for a last-man foul on Nathan Tella.

Despite initial misses by Patrick Schick and Granit Xhaka, Leverkusen capitalized on their numerical advantage, opening the scoring in the 41st minute with a volley from Schick off Arthur's precise cross. They doubled their lead shortly before halftime through Viktor Boniface's penalty, reports Xinhua.

Juventus secure next season's Champions League spot

Rome, May 13 (IANS) Juventus secured a Champions League spot for next season despite being held to a 1-1 draw by already-relegated Salernitana. This outcome was aided by Atalanta's 2-1 victory over Roma.

Juventus, in a slump, had managed only one win in their last nine Serie A matches prior to Sunday, contrasting with Salernitana's early relegation from Europe's top five leagues.

Despite dominating possession, Juve fell behind in the 27th minute when Niccolò Pierozzi connected with Junior Sambisa's corner for a twisting header.

This draw left Juventus and Bologna both on 67 points. With two rounds remaining and five Italian teams set to participate in next season's Champions League, both clubs have secured their spots, sitting seven points clear of sixth-placed Roma.

IPL 2024: Chennai Super Kings romp to convincing 5-wicket win over RR in must-win game

Chennai, May 12 (IANS) Chennai Super Kings have beaten the Rajasthan Royals by five wickets in Match 61 of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, moving within inches of qualifying for the Playoffs with just one game remaining.

After a superb bowling performance that restricted Rajasthan Royals to 141/5 in 20 overs, Ruturaj Gaikwad played a true captain's innings scoring 42 runs not out as the young opener stood like a rock in front of the potent bowling attack scoring and powering his team to a comfortable victory.

Although Gaikwad played as the anchor, it was the explosiveness of Rachin Ravindra, Daryl Mitchell and Shivam Dube that got CSK over the line comfortably. Solid batting

combined with fine bowling efforts by pacers Simarjeet Singh and Tushar Deshpande helped Chennai Super Kings put and apply continuous pressure throughout the game and secure an important victory.



Chennai got off to a blistering start in their chase of 142 thanks to New Zealand prodigy, Rachin Ravindra. The Kiwi opening batter targeted the opening bowling pair of Trent Boult and Sandeep Sharma. He even sent the crowd into a frenzy when he hit his variation of the 'helicopter shot' as he

flicked Sandeep Sharma for a six over mid-wicket.

The early damage being done to the pacers saw Rajasthan introduce a man who is all too familiar with the track at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Ravichandran Ashwin. In an attempt to attack Ashwin, Ravindra hit the ball straight in the air and was caught and bowled. His innings of 27 runs came to an end. Daryl Mitchell followed the attacking intent of his fellow countrymate as he started on the front foot which included hitting twelve runs off Ashwin's overpowering Chennai's Powerplay score to 56/1. Chennai were looking to end the game as soon as possible considering the close run-rate predicament they might find themselves in with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.



Victor Boniface (front) of VfL Bochum shoots to score during the German first division Bundesliga football match between VfL Bochum and Bayer 04 Leverkusen in Bochum, Germany, May 12, 2024. UNI

2nd T20I: Fakhar, Rizwan fifties after strong bowling show help Pak beat Ireland

Dublin, May 13 (IANS) A 140-run partnership between Fakhar Zaman and Mohammad Rizwan, both of whom struck half-centuries, to defeat Ireland by seven wickets in the second T20I and tied the series 1-1 here on Sunday. Azam Khan hammered a 10-ball 30 to propel Pakistan to victory as they scored 70-odd runs in the last six overs.

Mohammad Rizwan scored an unbeaten 75 off 46 balls while Fakhar Zaman slammed a 40-ball 78 as Pakistan reached 195/3 in 16.5 overs as they

established their strength after they were stunned by Ireland in the first match a couple of days ago. Pakistan had restricted Ireland to 193/7 after electing to bat first on winning the toss.

Rizwan and Zaman came together after Pakistan had slumped to 2-13 after opener Saim Ayub was out for six runs while Babar Azam was sent packing for zero.

Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman raised a century partnership for the third wicket, reaching their half-centuries in the process.

Rizwan reached his half-century off 34 runs, hitting four boundaries and three sixes. Fakhar Zaman reached his fifty off 31 balls, studded with three boundaries and four maxims.

Fakhar Zaman was out for 78, caught by Delany off Ben White after hitting the bowler for four and six off success balls to bring down the run-rate to manageable levels. Azam Khan slammed four sixes and a four, hitting three sixes off Mark Adair in the 17th over, capitalising on a no-ball.

Golf: McIlroy turns 2-shot deficit into 5-shot win for 4th Wells Fargo title



Charlotte (US), May 13 (IANS) Rory McIlroy overturned a two-shot deficit as he played his final 11 holes in six-under to win the Wells Fargo Championships by a whopping five shots despite a closing double bogey.

The 35-year-old Northern Irishman produced a stunning burst of golf by landing two eagles and four birdies over an eight-hole stretch from Hole No. 8 to breeze to his second win of the season. He also won the Hero Dubai Desert Classic on the DP World Tour and was third at the Texas

Open. Korea's Byeong Hun An (66) was third at 9 under, and Jason Day (70) and Sungjae Im tied for fourth a 6-under.

Indian-Americans Sahith Theegala (72) at 8-over was T-52 and Akshay Bhatia (74) was 5-over and 42nd. Both will head to the PGA Championships at Valhalla next.

McIlroy won the Wells Fargo for a record fourth time even as no other player has won the event more than twice. It was his second straight PGA Tour event after partnering Shane Lowry to take the Zurich Classic two weeks ago in New Orleans. It was also his 26th PGA Tour win.

The two wins in two starts should give McIlroy ideal momentum heading to Kentucky for the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club, the site of his last major win 10 years ago.

"I really got some con-

fidence," McIlroy said. "My golf swing feels a lot more comfortable than it has. So going to a venue next week where I've won, it feels like the stars are lining a little bit. An is also a strong contender to qualify for the Paris Olympic Games in August and make the International Team for the Presidents Cup against the U.S in September.

LaLiga: Atletico close to top-four, Betis go sixth, Cadiz struggling

Madrid, May 13 (IANS) Atletico Madrid are one win away from assuring a place in next season's Champions League after beating Celta Vigo 1-0 at home.

Rodrigo de Paul scored a searing volley in the 84th minute to give Atletico three points and leave them eight above fifth-place Athletic Club Bilbao with just three games left in the season.

Atletico had better

chances against Celta, who still have work to do to ensure their top-flight survival after Cadiz kept their survival hopes intact with a 1-0 win at home to Getafe earlier in the day, reports Xinhua.

Ruben Alcaraz kept his nerve to score the only goal of the game, a 34th-minute penalty. This gave Cadiz three points, leaving them five behind Celta and six behind Rayo Vallecano, who drew 0-0 away

to Almeria.

Rayo deserved the win after outplaying their rivals but were denied a win by a series of outstanding saves from Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili on his return to the side after suspension.

Betis moved into sixth place on Sunday, ahead of Real Sociedad, who have to visit Barcelona on Monday night.

Pablo Fornals, Isco put Betis 2-0 ahead at home

to Almeria, but Leo Baptistao gave their already-relegated rivals hope before halftime. Ayoze Perez made it 3-1 with 27 minutes to go, but Almeria quickly pulled another goal back thanks to Luka Romero just two minutes later.

Real Madrid ended a perfect week on Saturday when they won 4-0 away to Granada, who are relegated to the Spanish second division.



Business & Technology



MSDE and M&M forge a partnership for the flagship Drone Didi Yojana

New Delhi, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading Farm Equipment company and the world's largest tractor manufacturer by volume, to conduct two Pilots under the Drone Didi Yojana. Launched earlier this year, the scheme aims to train 15,000 women to operate drones for agricultural purposes such as fertiliser sowing, crop monitoring and seed sowing, thereby creating new livelihood opportunities for women through imparting skills in new technology areas.

"We are excited to announce our partnership with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., leveraging their agricultural expertise for comprehensive training. Two NSTIs in Hyderabad and

Noida have been chosen for the pilot program, with the goal of empowering rural women in agriculture. This collaboration advances our mission of upskilling women for nation-building, particularly through the successful implementation of the Drone Didi program in empowering women in emerging trades. I firmly believe that this collaboration with Mahindra will advance our vision, equipping women with the skills needed to contribute to nation-building. Building on our past successful collaborations with leading technology industry partners, this initiative represents the beginning of many collaborative projects with Mahindra. Through rigorous training methodologies and hands-on learning experiences, we will equip our

students with the practical skills and competencies required to excel in their chosen fields and make meaningful contributions to the nation's socio-economic growth," says Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE.

Speaking about the initiative, Dr Anish Shah, Group CEO & MD, Mahindra Group said: "Aligned with our Rise philosophy, the Mahindra Group is committed to empowering the women with the skills necessary to join the workforce and achieve financial independence. The pilot under the Drone Didi Yojana represents a first-of-its-kind convergence of women, farming, and technology. We are absolutely delighted to provide technology training to grassroots women and ensure that agriculture is equipped for the future."

Khaitan & Co expands presence with new office in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, Khaitan & Co, a leading full-service law firm, has today announced the opening of its latest office in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This strategic expansion marks a significant milestone in the firm's growth trajectory and underscores a strong commitment to provide exceptional legal services to clients across India.

Ahmedabad has emerged as one of the fastest growing cities in the country. With a focus on delivering comprehensive legal solutions, Khaitan & Co's new office will cater to clients in the western region, with a view to further strengthening presence in significant markets. The firm further aims to enhance accessibility and responsiveness to client needs and reinforce its position as a trusted advisor and strategic legal partner. Commenting on the launch of the new office, Haigreve Khaitan, Senior Partner, Khaitan & Co, said, "We are thrilled to expand our footprint in Ahmedabad, a vibrant hub of economic activity in Gujarat. This expansion aligns with our vision of offering localised expertise and personalised service to clients, while empowering us to cater more effectively to their evolving legal requirements."

Our Partners, Atman Desai and Digant Popat will lead initiatives from the Ahmedabad office. The new office will initially focus on key practice areas, including energy, infrastructure and resources, corporate and commercial, dispute resolution, real estate, tax and private client, mergers and acquisitions, banking and insolvency, restructuring, private equity, venture capital, capital markets, and intellectual property. With time, it will scale to offer a full spectrum of advisory and litigation services, catering to a diverse range of sectors and industries.

Say 'I Do' in Style: Platinum Love Bands for Your Summer Wedding!

Mumbai, As we enter the summer wedding season, draw inspiration from your favourite celebrities when it comes to engagement ring choices. Celebrities worldwide have long favoured engagement rings set in platinum for their memorable "I Do" moments as this naturally white metal is renowned for its elegance, durability, and timeless appeal. From A-list actors to music sensations, these celebrities have embraced platinum as the ultimate symbol of commitment, sparking a trend that continues to captivate couples globally.

Speaking on the latest trends when it comes to engagement rings set in platinum, Pallavi Sharma, Business Director, Platinum Guild International (PGI)- India said, "Influenced by global trends, Platinum Love Bands have emerged as a popu-

lar option in the world of engagement rings. Some interesting trends include the 'Modern Vintage' aesthetic - that blends traditional styles with contemporary design elements, offering a fresh take on classic designs, the 'Three Stone or 'Trinity' rings, featuring diverse stone shapes set in platinum, symbolizing enduring love; and the 'Toi Et Moi' - a style that is favoured by celebrities, and pairs two gems to represent intimate connections, with platinum ensuring durability. Couples are also exploring gemstone options beyond diamonds and solitaires along with an array of cuts, colours and bespoke designs, all set in platinum. This includes coloured gemstones like sapphires, tourmalines and emeralds, fancy cuts such as ovals, Asscher's and cushions, a mix of unique elements

like enamel, ceramic and coloured rhodium accents, alongside personalized touches like vintage details and engravings."

Explore iconic celebrity engagement rings set in platinum and find inspiration for your own 'I Do' moment with Platinum Love Bands!

Priyanka Chopra's engagement ring features a cushion-cut center diamond of approximately 5 carats with tapered baguette diamonds on the side, set in platinum. Beyoncé has been wearing this emerald-cut design by Lorraine Schwartz for over a decade. This reportedly flawless center diamond is split shank band, all set in platinum. Anne Hathaway's ring features an emerald-cut center diamond on a thin diamond-studded band, set in platinum.

BAFTA Breakthrough India Returns for a Fourth Year

Mumbai, BAFTA, the leading UK charity for the screen arts, is back with its Breakthrough programme for a fourth year in India, in partnership with Netflix. BAFTA Breakthrough India identifies and celebrates the next generation of talented professionals in the films, games, and television industries across the country. This year also marks the second time the BAFTA Breakthrough programme opens applications simultaneously in India, the US and UK regions.

BAFTA, through its mentorship and talent programme, has guided several creative individuals in the pursuit of their craft by curating an all-encompassing programme that helps breakthroughs address the barriers in their respective fields of work, sharpening their skills, and assisting them to create international networks that will accelerate their ca-

reers. Tim Hunter, BAFTA Executive Director, Learning, Inclusion, Policy & Membership, said: "We're pleased to say that applications for BAFTA Breakthrough India are once again open. Thanks to the generous support of Netflix, this initiative will see us nurture a cohort of outstanding creative talent working in India's film, television and games industries, and showcase their talents to our global membership - to be unveiled later this year."

The recipients will be part of one-to-one meetings with industry stalwarts and group roundtables. They will receive professional coaching to develop their professional and creative skills. They will also get access to all of BAFTA's training, development and networking events for the duration of the programme, i.e., 12 months, along with oppor-

tunities to network with industry members across the world through BAFTA membership.

Monika Shergill, Vice President of Content, Netflix India said: "The BAFTA Breakthrough India programme perfectly aligns with Netflix's vision of empowering upcoming creative voices and bringing them to a global audience. The diversity of talent unearthed in the past four years is a testament to this programme's immense success. We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with BAFTA and discover and nurture the next generation of Indian creative voices."

Guneet Monga Kapoor, Founder & CEO of Sikhya Entertainment, Film Producer and Breakthrough India Ambassador said: "India boasts of abundant creative talent, as evidenced by the past three editions of Breakthrough. I grew up at a

time where access to such opportunities were unheard of. I highly encourage the next generation of creatives across film, television, and games in India to apply for this year's programme. BAFTA Breakthrough offers invaluable resources to young change makers in our industry, and I'm so excited to witness how this year's participants will leverage the opportunities to refine their skills, and elevate the Indian Screen Industries on an international platform."

Actress Tanya Maniktala was one of the breakthroughs during the first year of the programme in India. She starred in Mira Nair's Netflix adaptation of Vikram Seth's novel 'A Suitable Boy'. In her testimony, Tanya Maniktala said, "It has been an incredible experience being associated with the BAFTA Breakthrough Programme.

Nissan Motor India & Smile Train Transforms the Lives of 290 Children With Surgical Interventions

New Delhi, Nissan Motor India marked the successful completion of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership with Smile Train India with a celebratory event at Sant Parmanand Hospital in New Delhi with the children and their families. The event, which was attended by Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India along with representatives from Smile Train India, and renowned plastic surgeon Dr SC Sood, highlighted the impact of their joint efforts in supporting cleft surgeries for underprivileged individuals.

Over the course of the partnership, Nissan's support enabled 290 cleft surgeries in the fourth quarter of FY23, enabling individuals from economically weaker sections of society to receive the life-changing treatment. These sur-

geries were conducted at Smile Train India's partner hospitals, ensuring access to quality care for those in need.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "Our association with Smile Train India exemplifies Nissan's commitment to corporate citizenship, social responsibility and inclusion. Through this partnership, we aimed to address this critical healthcare need and make a meaningful and compassionate difference in the lives of those affected. We have witnessed firsthand the profound impact of access to quality healthcare, and we are immensely proud of the positive change we have collectively achieved."

Mamta Carroll, Smile Train's Senior Vice President & Regional Director

for Asia, expressed her gratitude towards Nissan Motor India and their support for the cause. She said, "Supporting free, safe, and quality cleft treatment is Smile Train India's number one priority. Our CSR partners hold a pivotal role in our ecosystem, and the collaboration with Nissan Motor India has not only enabled cleft affected children to lead healthier and fuller lives but has also significantly enhanced the quality of life of their parents and immediate families."

Cleft, a gap in the upper lip and/or the roof of the mouth (palate), is a facial birth difference which affects one in 700 babies and 35,000+ children are born with clefts in India annually. Without treatment, children have difficulty in eating, breathing, hearing, speaking and may face social isolation.

Picking China over India will rob Musk: Entrepreneur Vivek Wadhwa

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) Indian-American academic, entrepreneur and author Vivek Wadhwa on Monday said that he had warned the Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk not to pick China as they would "rob him blind" and instead asked him to consider moving manufacturing to India.

Quoting the Director of Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies, Theresa Fallon, in a post on X, who said that US and European automakers are failing in China because "they were looking only for short-term gain and transferring technology, management techniques and know-how to China," Wadhwa said that he had "exchanged emails with Musk about the risks in China a few years ago.

m.Stock trading app by Mirae Asset breaks into Top 16 broker list in just 2 years!

Mumbai: Mirae Asset Capital Market's retail stock broking platform, m.Stock, which was launched in 2022, has been creating waves in the broking industry with its unique 'zero brokerage for life' proposition. Already attaining profitability in less than two years, the app has achieved significant milestones.

m.Stock has leveraged its superior technology to achieve all these KPIs and has managed to be rated as the top 16th stockbroker in just two years. It has garnered abundant support from market participants with over 10 lakh customers, and daily trade volumes of over 21 lakh. On this milestone moment, Jisang Yoo, CEO of m.Stock by Mirae Asset said, "Celebrating two year anniversary for m.Stock by Mirae Asset, I am confident that our team is dedicated and capable of continuous growth further."

Arun Chaudhry, Director and CBO of m.Stock by Mirae Asset, added, "Over the past two years, our commitment of providing customers with a fast, stable, and secure platform has stayed true. After the resounding success of our product MTF (eMargin), today, we're thrilled to introduce the Margin Pledge facility at a competitive rate of 11.99% p.a., with unique feature like unlimited holding period. This much-awaited addition to our suite of services will get our customers to trade seamlessly within a single app."

Care Health Insurance Leads the Charge on Early Detection to Combat Rising Breast Cancer Rates in India

Mumbai: This Mother's Day Care Health Insurance emphasizes importance of raising awareness about breast cancer, a pressing health issue for women globally. In the Southeast Asia region alone, breast cancer deaths are projected to rise to 61.7% by 2040, underscoring the imperative for proactive steps to tackle this illness.

Recognizing the need of early detection, Care Health Insurance endeavors to work towards safeguarding the health and well-being of Indian women. With breast cancer incidence on the rise, particularly among women aged 25 to 59 years and risk factors across generations, it has become a necessity to make quality healthcare

easily accessible.

Mr. Ajay Shah, Head - Distribution, Care Health Insurance, commented, "We understand the importance of early detection and timely intervention of right medical advice for the treatment of breast cancer. This makes it imperative for us to ensure that we provide products that are accessible and affordable to all."

He further commented, "With our value for money, comprehensive products and proactive health & wellness initiatives, we aim to empower women with the resources and support they need to effectively detect and combat breast cancer at early stages. We believe that purchasing health insurance for cancer is not only

going to financial assist you during your hour of need, but also will ensure you get quality healthcare at our extensive network of cashless healthcare providers. These can significantly impact the outcome of the disease."

Care Health Insurance's bouquet of comprehensive Health Insurance products are designed to support individuals with a wide array of requirements. Be it coverage for pre-existing medical conditions, critical illnesses or cashless treatment during an unforeseen health emergency, the available comprehensive coverage options extend to hospitalization, including 30 days of pre & 60 days of post-hospitalization coverage and domiciliary hospital-

ization. The company offers automatic recharge and no claim bonuses, and includes options for those opting for alternative treatments like AYUSH as well.

Additionally, there are products that include regular health check-ups and provide access to wellness programs, empowering policyholders to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Care Health Insurance urges individuals to prioritize their health, proactively manage risk factors, and consider a comprehensive health insurance as an essential tool for securing their finances. The company stands committed to safeguarding the well-being of individuals and families, contributing to a healthy nation.

Business Brief III

HERO MOTOCORP JOINS THE ONDC NETWORK

New Delhi, Aligned with its customer-first approach, Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of scooters and motorcycles, has joined the ONDC Network, thereby becoming the first auto company in the country to join the network. Niranjan Gupta, CEO, Hero MotoCorp, said, "At Hero MotoCorp, customer-centricity and digital innovation are at the core of everything we do. Now with ONDC Network, we have pioneered the automotive taxonomy for the auto industry, making it easier for customers to find vehicle parts and accessories to begin with. With this initiative, Hero MotoCorp is furthering the Government's Digital India mission and we will continue to bring in more innovation in this space." T Koshiy, MD & CEO of ONDC, said, "Hero MotoCorp joining the ONDC Network is a significant step forward for the two-wheeler industry. When brands like Hero MotoCorp embrace the Open Network, it reaffirms our vision of driving digital transformation in the country by creating a fair and efficient ecosystem for all kinds of businesses to thrive. We are confident that this will pave the way for others to follow". Hero MotoCorp already has the largest physical distribution and service network in Indian Auto Industry. Partnering with ONDC will further enhance the reach and convenience, providing an easily accessible digital mode to customers. The Open Network will initially offer two-wheeler parts, accessories and merchandise. Customers can easily discover Hero Genuine Parts by using any buyer apps on the Network, such as Paytm and Myntra, among others.

Paytm focuses on UPI Lite Wallet for low-value daily payments

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns leading payments and financial services company Paytm, on Monday, said that it is now focusing on UPI Lite wallet to move the users who prefer wallet for low-value everyday payments. Paytm UPI Lite will act as an on-device wallet, allowing users to store funds and make payments on the go. It is designed for fast, secure, and reliable payments, allowing users to make instant, fail-proof transactions of up to Rs 500 each. "We see the wallet as an essential payment tool that lets users keep money for everyday use and make quick payments on the go. Paytm UPI Lite improves this experience, allowing for faster transactions at local stores, street vendors, and regular

purchases while keeping bank statements clear," a Paytm spokesperson said. "We are committed to growing the UPI ecosystem in partnership with NPCI to every nook and corner of India," it added. To enable UPI Lite payments, go to the Paytm app, click on the 'UPI Lite Activate' icon on the homepage, and then choose the bank account that you want to use with UPI Lite. Now, enter the amount you wish to add to UPI Lite to start the payments, and then validate the MPIN to create your account. Following these steps, your UPI Lite account will be set up for easy, one-tap payments. To make payments using the UPI Lite wallet, simply scan any QR code, enter the mobile number or choose one from the contacts list. The company

partnered with leading Payment System Providers (PSPs), such as Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and YES Bank that will ensure a robust and reliable framework for your UPI transactions, facilitating seamless and uninterrupted payment experiences. This service is especially useful for those who frequently handle small payments like buying groceries, paying for parking, or settling daily commute fares. It also keeps the bank statement clutter-free with only a single entry, regardless of the number of payments made, which is a significant convenience for users who prefer a clean financial overview. Moreover, users will have the flexibility to add up to Rs 2,000 to their wallet twice a day, reaching a total daily capacity of Rs 4,000. This streamlined ap-

proach will help users manage their small daily expenses efficiently, without

the hassle of multiple entries in their bank pass-books, with no pin require-

ment, ensuring organised and simplified financial tracking.

Over 100 million Indians can get gigabit connectivity by 2030 with robust digital infrastructure

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) As India continues to build a robust and resilient core digital infrastructure, the country can achieve gigabit connectivity to all households or at least 100-110 million households by 2030, industry experts have said.

While India is the leader when it comes to data consumption on mobile broadband and is the fastest-growing mobile broadband market in the world, the country still lags in fixed or wired broadband as compared to developed nations. According to the independent think tank Broadband India Forum (BIF), data shows that there

is an average data consumption of 187 GB per month in India which is still lower than the US data consumption of 641 GB per month.

Furthermore, fixed broadband subscriptions in India are at a mere 2.85 per 100 people, and almost one-fourth of the global average. Speaking at a conference in the capital, the industry experts stressed the need for a much higher availability of optic fibre to cater to the exponentially increasing quantum of data.

WESTERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL WORK
Sr. DEE/TRD/BL invites e-Tender Notice: EL-TRD-W-118-24-25-2 dated 11.05.2024.
Name of Work: Improvement to reliability of OHE assets by up-gradation of contact and catenary wire in Virar-Dahanu Road section of Mumbai Division. Advertisised value : ₹ 13,88,97,555/- EMD: ₹ 8,44,500/- Date & time of submission: till 11.06.2024, 15:00 hrs. Date & time of opening: on 11.06.2024, at 15:30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. 0141
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CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from SARFRAJ MOHAMED SHAFI BARFWALA to new name BARAFWALA SARFARAJ MAHAMADSHAI Add. 738/1, Chamdiya Vas, Nr. Kadva Sheri, Jamalpur Ahmedabad-380001 508A

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from "KAPILABEN RAMANBHAI PATEL" to the new name "KAPILABEN RAMANLAL PATEL". So concerned please note. Address : Koliwad, Hanuman Temple, Hanuman Bhagda, Tal. & Dist. Valsad, Gujarat -396001 C010

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from BISORA MUNAF YOUSUFBHAI to new name MOHAMMED MUNAF YUSUFBHAI BISORA Add. 918, Bungli's Pole, Nr. Savakrams Khancha, Jamalpur, Ahmedabad-380001 508

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from HIRENKUMAR MUKUNDCHANDR SUKHADIYA to new name HIREN MUKUNDHCHANDRA SUKHADIYA Add. 66, Somnath Society, Pethapur, Gandhinagar-382610 506

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from SHAIKH REHANABANU MO. RAFIQ to new name SHAIKH REHANABANU MOHAMMAD RAFIQ Add. 2400/GB Rajbhavan, B/h Giriraj Society, Shahpur Mill Compound, Shahpur Ahmedabad-380001 507A

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from PATEL FARHANA MOHMED SOHEL to new name MENK FARHANA MOHMEDSOHEL Add. B-1, Plot No-84, New Shital Nagar, Vasila Society, Near Matliwala School, Bharuch V033

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from SOHIL MAHAMMAD RAFIK CHAUHAN to new name SOHILMAHAMMAD MAHAMAD RAFIK CHAUHAN Add. B-101, Al-Vaseelah Court Mirzapur Ahmedabad-380001 505

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from SHAIKH MO. RAFIQ RAJ MOHAMMAD to new name SHAIKH MOHAMMAD RAFIQ RAJMOHAMMAD Add. 2400/GB Rajbhavan, B/h Giriraj Society, Shahpur Mill Compound, Shahpur Ahmedabad-380001 507

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my old name from PATEL MOHMED SOHEL YUSUF AHMED to new name MENK MOHMEDSOHEL YUSUF Add. B-1, Plot No-84, New Shital Nagar, Vasila Society, Near Matliwala School, Bharuch V033A

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE NO-DYCE-BR-BRC-07-2024
e-Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Deputy Chief Engineer(Bridge-Line)Vadodara for the following works. Tender No. DYCE-BR-BRC-07-2024 Name of Work: Ratalm Division-Alignment of important bridge no 226 DN, rehabilitation of rail fly over Br no 460 and surface rehabilitation of 32 Nos major bridges under the jurisdiction of SSE BR RTM. Approximate cost of the work : ₹. 1,17,12,997.07 Bid Security to be deposited : ₹ 2,08,000.00 Date and time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender. On line tender is to be submitted on 14.06.2024 before 15.00 Hrs, and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Web site particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen etc. Web site: www.ireps.gov.in. Deputy Chief Engineer (Bridge Line) Vadodara Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-393004 BRC37
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Nippon Mutual Fund Mutual Fund Investor Awareness Program
To increase awareness about Mutual Funds, we conduct Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) across the country. Schedule of upcoming IAP is as mentioned below:
Date: 15th May, 2024 Time: 6.30 pm Location: Ahmedabad Venue: Rio Restaurant and Banquet, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006.
Name : Niserg Pandya | Mob. No.: 86559 82960
Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited | CIN : L65910MH1995PLC220793
Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully. Good gets better

M/S. Dhyani Industries
Plot No- 126, Gozaria GIDC, Tal: Vijapur District: Mehsana, Gujarat. Pin code-382825.
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
It is hereby informed that State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Gujarat has accorded the Environmental Clearance to our proposed project to be located at Plot No-126, Gozaria GIDC, Tal: Vijapur District: Mehsana, Gujarat. Pin code-382825 Vide Letter No.SEIAA/GUJ/EC/5(t)/645/2024 dated 03/05/2024 for manufacturing of dyes. Copy of the Environment Clearance letter is available with SEAC/SEIAA committee and also be seen on the website of SEIAA/SEAC, Gujarat <https://seiaa.gujarat.gov.in/>.

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION CORRIGENDUM NO.1
Name of Work: Work of Cleaning, Painting & Lettering of BG Wagons at Pratapnagar Workshop. Ref: This office Tender Notice No. M137_MECH_PRTN_24_03 dt. 17-04-2024. Amount : ₹ 43,86,000/- (1) Date & Time For submission of Tender & Opening of tender is revised as below. Existing Particular: Bidding will be closed on 14-05-24 at 15:00 hrs. and will be opened on same day at 15:00 hrs. Revised Particular: Bidding will be closed on 24-05-2024 at 15:00 hrs. and will be opened on same day at 15:30 hrs. (2) All other terms and conditions of tender will be as same as BRC35
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GUJARAT CONTAINERS LTD
CIN - L28120GJ1992PLC017081
Corporate Office : 201/202B, Alkapuri Arcade, Opp. Welcome Hotel, R C Dutt Road, Vadodara
Regd. Office:- 488, Baroda - Savli Highway, Village - Tundav, Taluka-SAVLI, DIST Baroda-Gujarat.
Ph. No. 2667-262084/26220 : Website : www.gujaratcontainers.com
Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and ended 31st March, 2024 (RS. IN Lakhs)

SR. NO.	PARTICULARS	QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED	
		31/03/2024 (Audited)	31/12/2023 (Unaudited)	31/09/2023 (Audited)	31/03/2024 (Audited)	31/03/2023 (Audited)
1	TOTAL REVENUE	3,621.78	3,772.59	3,184.41	14,156.52	13,575.10
2	Profit Before Tax	248.03	286.54	323.89	1,203.07	1,496.90
3	Tax Expenses	47.88	69.43	82.59	301.38	387.54
4	Profit for the period	200.15	217.11	241.30	901.68	1,109.36
5	Total other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	-4.93	-0.70	-3.91	-7.02	-2.78
6	Profit net of Comprehensive Income	195.22	216.41	237.39	894.66	1,106.57
7	Paid up Equity Capital (Rs. 10 each)	565.00	565.00	565.00	565.00	565.00
8	Other Equity				3,807.45	2,912.79
9	Earnings per equity share (Face value of Rs. 10 each)	3.54	3.84	4.20	15.96	19.59
10	Basic & Diluted (in Rs.)	3.54	3.84	4.20	15.96	19.59

Notes :
1). The above financial results for the quarter ended 31st March, 2024 was audited and recommended by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 11th May, 2024 and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors and taken on record, at the meeting held on 11th May, 2024.
2). The Company is primarily engaged in Packing Material Business and therefore there is only one reportable segment.
3). The Board of Directors have recommended dividend of Rs. 1.50 per equity share for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024. (Previous Year Rs. Nil per equity share)
4). The above results of the Company are available on the Company's website www.gujaratcontainers.com and also on www.bseindia.com.

For Gujarat Container's Limited (Neil Shah)
DIN : 08616568
Managing Director & CFO

Place : Vadodara
Date : 11-05-2024

UPL Limited
CIN: L24219GJ1985PLC025132
Regd. Office: 3 -11, G.I.D.C., Vapi, Valsad-396195, Gujarat
Telephone: +91 260 2432716 | Email: upl.investors@upl-ltd.com | Website: www.upl-ltd.com

EXTRACT OF AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024 (Rs. in Crores)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended	
		Mar-24	Dec-23	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-23
		(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Revenue from operations	14,078	9,887	16,569	43,098	53,576
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (before exceptional items)	135	(1,649)	1,420	(1,835)	5,320
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	30	(1,666)	1,391	(2,087)	5,150
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the period after tax	(80)	(1,607)	1,080	(1,878)	4,414
5	Total Other Comprehensive (Loss) / Income for the period, net of tax	(299)	581	(97)	99	2,010
6	Total Comprehensive (Loss) / Income for the period	(379)	(1,026)	983	(1,779)	6,424
7	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items) attributable to shareholders of the Company	40	(1,217)	792	(1,200)	3,570
8	Other comprehensive (Loss) / Income for the period attributable to shareholders of the Company	(237)	469	(80)	92	1,697
9	Total Comprehensive (Loss) / Income attributable to shareholders of the Company	(197)	(748)	712	(1,108)	5,267
10	Paid up equity share capital (Face Value of the Share - Rs. 2/- each)	150	150	150	150	150
11	Other Equity				24,657	26,708
12	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (of Rs. 2/- each) :					
	Basic Earnings per Share	0.52	(17.11)	10.68	(17.80)	45.79
	Diluted Earnings per Share	0.52	(17.11)	10.68	(17.80)	45.79

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of audited consolidated financial results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the audited financial results (consolidated and standalone) for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2024 are available on the Company's website viz. www.upl-ltd.com and on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and NSE (www.nseindia.com).
2. For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to NSE (www.nseindia.com) and can also be accessed on the Company's website viz. www.upl-ltd.com.
3. Key standalone financial information is as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended	
		Mar-24	Dec-23	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-23
		(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Revenue from operations	1,248	1,025	1,528	5,398	9,032
2	Profit / (Loss) before Tax from continuing operations	48	(63)	3	931	681
3	(Loss) / Profit before Tax from discontinued operations	(29)	47	(59)	422	603
4	Profit / (Loss) after Tax from continuing operations	76	(6)	(12)	891	573
5	(Loss) / Profit after Tax from discontinued operations	(86)	52	(151)	317	402

4. The above results have been reviewed and recommended to the Board of Directors by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 13th May, 2024 and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 13th May, 2024.

For and on behalf of UPL Limited
Raj Tiwari
DIN - 09772257
Wholtime Director

Place : Mumbai
Date : 13th May, 2024

News
in a Nutshell

Man stabbed to death by relatives at UP mosque

Lucknow, May 13 (IANS) An apparel graphic designer, Mohammed Zaid, was fatally stabbed over a property dispute by his uncles and cousins in Bhadeva locality under the Bazarkhala police station on Sunday, the police said.

Zaid was attacked with knives by Mohammed Karim Parvez, Mohamed Zubair, Taham, Mohamed Shahab, Mohamed Harish, Mustafa, all residents of Bhadeva in Bazarkhala, and their three to four aides.

All the accused named are relatives of the deceased. Zaid had gone to Bhadeva to drop his wife at her parent's house in the locality. He later went to a nearby Masjid to offer namaz.

The deceased's brother Faiz Alam of Almas Bagh in the Thakurganj area said the attackers knifed the victim to death. "He was attacked as he stepped out of the mosque. Nobody came forward to rescue Zaid as he fell on the ground with blood gushing out from his head.

Enthusiastic voters line up outside polling stations in J&K's Srinagar LS seat

Srinagar, May 13 (IANS) Polling started on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency as voter lines were seen in many polling stations, including the old city area of Srinagar city.

Braving an overcast sky, voters came out in large numbers in Pulwama, Kangan, Ganderbal, Budgam, and Pampore areas to exercise their franchise. This is the first election in Kashmir after 1987 when the separatists have not called for a poll boycott and even in the once perceived hotbed of separatist sentiment in the Valley, the old city areas of Srinagar, voters came out without any fear to cast their vote. Authorities have made elaborate security arrangements to provide a fearless voting environment to the people. Despite a large number of security forces deployed in the entire constituency, there is no tension or fear anywhere in the constituency.

Varanasi decks up to welcome PM Modi today

Varanasi, May 13 (IANS) Varanasi is all decked up to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday when he arrives for a massive roadshow, ahead of his filing nomination papers for a third term from Varanasi.

The five-km roadshow will begin from the intersection at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) gate, where the Prime Minister will garland a statue of BHU founder 'Mahamana' Pt Madan Mohan Malviya and conclude at the Gate Number 4 of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham. The district administration has put in place tight security arrangements.



LOHARDAGA, People stand in queue showing Voter ID cards to cast their vote at a polling station during fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections, at Maoist affected areas of Mandar, Lohardaga District, Jharkhand on Monday. UNI

Polling underway in 8 LS seats in Bengal, ex-Trinamool worker found dead

Kolkata, May 13 (IANS) A former Trinamool Congress worker was found dead in West Bengal's East Burdwan district on Monday as polling began for the eight Lok Sabha constituencies in the state in the fourth phase.

The polling started at 7 a.m. The body of the former Trinamool Congress worker, identified as Mintu Sheikh, was recovered from Ketugram in the district. Sheikh quit the party three months ago. His family claimed that he was attacked by some unknown miscreants while returning home late Sunday night and was killed.

On one hand, the Trinamool Congress legislator from Ketugram Sheikh Shah Nawaz claimed that the local CPI(M) activists were behind the murder. "He was an active worker of our party. He was killed late Sunday night as he was coming back. The goons having the backing

of CPI(M) are behind the murder," he said.

However, CPI(M)'s East Burdwan district committee member Tamal Majhi claimed that fighting in the ruling party in the area had led to the murder. The family members of the deceased claimed that it was unlikely that any opposition party was involved in the murder as they did not have any effective presence in Ketugram. Apart from this incident, stray incidences of poll-related tension have already started surfacing from different pockets in the state.

The BJP complained that a temporary party camp at Suri in Birbhum district was demolished by the ruling Trinamool Congress activists before the beginning of the polls. The ruling party leadership has, however, denied the allegations.

Reports of tension have also been reported

from Naskashipara in Nadia district, as bombs were hurled at the residence of a local BJP leader Hazrat Mondal. Reports of clashes between Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) activists have also been reported from the Kaliganj area under Krishnanagar Lok Sabha constituency in Nadia district.

The eight constituencies in the state going to polls are Baharampur in Murshidabad district, Birbhum and Bolpur in Birbhum district, Krishnanagar and Ranaghat in Nadia district, Bardhaman-Purba in East Burdwan district and Bardhaman-Durgapur and Asansol in West Burdwan district.--IANS

Chiranjeevi, Jr NTR, Allu Arjun cast votes in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 13 (IANS) Tollywood stars K. Chiranjeevi, Junior NTR and Allu Arjun were among the first to cast their votes in Hyderabad on Monday.

Chiranjeevi accompanied by his wife Surekha cast their votes at a polling centre in posh Jubilee Hills. Junior NTR with his wife Lakshmi Pranithi and mother Shalini cast their votes at the polling centre at Obul Reddy school in Jubilee Hills. They arrived

at the centre even before the polling process began at 7 a.m. and stood in a queue to exercise their franchise. After casting his vote, Chiranjeevi appealed to all, especially young voters, to vote. "Vote is not just our right but it is our responsibility. Everyone should exercise this right. Then only you will have good leaders, good government and then only you will have development," he said.

This is a crucial phase to turn the tide: Cong chief Kharge

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) As voting for the 96 Lok Sabha constituencies in the fourth phase of general elections was underway on Monday, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said this was a crucial phase to turn the tide in favour of the INDIA bloc's win. "This is a crucial phase to turn the tide completely in favour of NYAY - Justice and make INDIA win. Do not get deterred by the diversionary tactics of hateful speeches which divide the society," said Kharge.

Addressing the voters through social media, he said, "I urge you to completely focus on our collec-

tive objective in protecting Democracy and safeguarding the basis of our existence - The Constitution of India." The Congress chief said, "In the first three phases of the Lok Sabha elections, you have shown your might by voting for Democracy and striving to save the Constitution from autocratic forces. Today, 96 Lok Sabha constituencies in 10 States/UTs are going to vote. Assembly elections for Andhra Pradesh and the first phase of Odisha Assembly elections would also be underway." He also urged the voters to consider the INDIA bloc's objectives of Nyay.

INDIA bloc will form govt at Centre on June 4: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, May 13 (IANS) As voting is underway for the fourth phase on 96 Lok Sabha seats across 10 states and union territories on Monday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged people to exercise their right to vote and exuded confidence that India bloc winning the elections.

Rahul said voting for the fourth phase is underway, and "it has already been clear from the first three phases that the INDIA bloc will form a government at the Centre on June 4."

Emphasising the significance of voting and

urging people to participate in large numbers, he wrote: "Remember, your one vote will not only protect your democratic rights but will also change the fate of your entire family." "One vote is equal to the first job of Rs one lakh per year guaranteed for youth. One vote is equal to Rs one lakh per year in the bank account of poor women," he added, highlighting his election promises. Reiterating that voting could bring about significant changes, the Congress leader added: "So come out in large numbers and vote and show that the country will now vote on its issues - it will not get distracted!"

The voting is underway in 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh, five in Bihar, one in Jammu and Kashmir, four in Jharkhand, and eight in Madhya Pradesh, 11 seats in Maharashtra, four in Odisha, 17 in Telangana, 13 in Uttar Pradesh, and eight in West Bengal.

With the completion of the third phase of the general elections, voting has taken place in 283 parliamentary constituencies across 20 states/union territories. The counting of votes is scheduled for June 4.



HYDERABAD, Union Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Telangana BJP President, G Kishan Reddy, along with family members displaying inked finger after casting vote for Lok Sabha election, in Hyderabad on Monday. UNI

Ex Vice-President, Tripura Governor cast votes in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 13 (IANS) Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Tripura Governor N. Indrasena Reddy, were among prominent leaders who cast their votes here on Monday for Lok Sabha elections in Telangana.

Naidu and his wife Ushamma were among the first voters at a polling station at Obul Reddy School in upscale Jubilee Hills in Secunderabad parliamentary constituency.

The former Vice President later posted on social

media that they fulfilled their duty as responsible citizens by exercising their franchise. He appealed to all citizens to vote and urged others to participate actively in the world's largest electoral process.

Tripura Governor Indrasena Reddy also cast his vote in Malakpet, a part of the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency.

Former Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana also exercised his franchise in Hyderabad.

Telangana Chief Elec-

toral Officer Vikas Raj, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Director General of Police Ravi Gupta also cast their votes.

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao cast his vote at Nandi Nagar in Hyderabad. His wife and son too polled their votes with him.

The BRS leader appealed to the people to exercise the valuable right given by the Constitution of India to elect the government of their choice.

Appointment against guidelines, says UGC on CM Vijayan's private secretary's wife

Thiruvananthapuram, May 13 (IANS) In a jolt to Priya Varghese -- the wife of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's secretary K.K. Ragesh -- the UGC has filed a counter affidavit in the Supreme Court that her appointment as an Associate Professor in Kannur University was against the guidelines of the UGC.

In its affidavit, the UGC has said that the period during which any candidate goes for PhD studies cannot be considered as experience. If the apex court accepts the UGC view, then the appointment of Varghese can run into trouble. It was on June 22 last year that a division bench of the Kerala High Court overturned a single bench judgment that asked to re-scrutinize her appointment after the second-ranked candidate raised objections against her appointment, which according to the petitioner was in violation of the UGC guidelines.

The verdict of a Kerala High Court division bench in July last year went in Varghese's favour following which she joined her new post. The second-ranked candidate, however, approached the apex

court and it was in this case that the UGC filed its counter affidavit. With the apex court all set to go for its summer recess, in all likelihood, the case will now be heard after the break. The controversy surfaced when an RTI query revealed that Varghese marks (32 out of 50) in the personal interview, while the second-ranked candidate Jacob Skariah scored 30. Varghese's research score was a mere 156, while the second-ranked candidate secured 651. However, Varghese was ranked first based on the personal interview.

material to ripen the fruit. "Due to the unprecedented dry spells, there is a slump in production of mangoes. We got less than thirty per cent of what we harvested last season," he said.

He said that it has led the mango prices to go up. "One kilogram of good quality mango which was priced at Rs 150 is now being sold at Rs 250," he said. Salem district has around 15,000 acres of mango farming and the dry spell has affected the mango market of the district.

10.18 pc polling in first two hours of voting in Bihar: EC

Patna, May 13 (IANS) Polling for the fourth phase got underway in Bihar on Monday on the 5 Lok Sabha seats of Darbhanga, Begusarai, Munger, Ujjainpur and Samastipur.

The Election Commission stated that 10.18 per cent polling was registered in the first two hours of voting on Monday.

The Election Commission registered the highest voting in Darbhanga with 11.61 per cent polling followed by Samastipur where 11.11 per cent polling was done in the first two hours of voting.

In Munger, the poll

panel registered 10.26 per cent polling, 9.31 per cent in Ujjainpur and 8.85 per cent polling in Begusarai District. A total of 55 candidates including 4 women are in the fray of the fourth phase of the election. Among them, 14 candidates belong to national or regional parties and 20 belong to other small parties. The commission has established 9,447 polling stations in those 5 Lok Sabha constituencies.

In a bid to ensure fair voting, the Election Commission is monitoring 4,810 polling stations through webcasting.

TN Food Dept on vigil against use of spraying agents to ripen mangoes

Chennai, May 13 (IANS) Tamil Nadu Food Department and the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) are keeping a tight vigil on mango farmers who are spraying ripening agents on raw mangoes.

A senior official of the Tamil Nadu Food Department told IANS that after strict monitoring and following police intervention and awareness, farmers have now stopped using Calcium Carbide for ripening of mango fruits.

This is following medical reports that calcium

carbide when used as a ripening agent was releasing acetylene gas leading to cancer in those who consume the fruit. While the mango fruit looks yellow after applying calcium carbide, it will not help in ripening. A senior official of the Tamil Nadu Food Department told IANS that after strict monitoring and following police intervention and awareness, farmers have now stopped using Calcium Carbide for ripening of mango fruits.

For the past few years, mango farmers

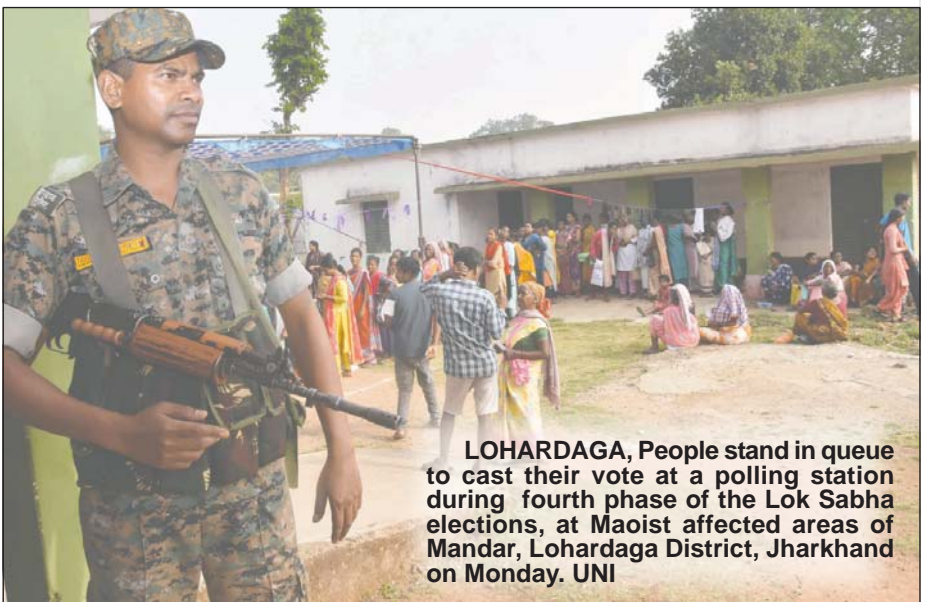
have been using permissible ripening agents like ethephon which releases ethylene gas for ripening of the fruit.

However, the Food Safety Department has banned the direct spraying of ethephon on the fruit as it would be harmful. Ethephon, according to a senior official of FSSAI, is permitted only in gaseous form but in certain cases, groups of farmers spray it directly for faster ripening of the fruit. The officials said that once ethephon is sprayed directly on the

fruit, it ripens in 12 hours. The FSSAI has recently conducted raids in many places in Salem district and seized around 800 kg of mangoes which was ripened using direct spraying of ethephon.

The FSSAI officials are conducting checks in several areas of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Madurai to find out if any banned ripeners were used.

R. Swaminathan, a mango farmer from Salem told IANS that they don't use any prohibited



LOHARDAGA, People stand in queue to cast their vote at a polling station during fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections, at Maoist affected areas of Mandar, Lohardaga District, Jharkhand on Monday. UNI