

# Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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## INDIA alliance has neither a leader nor policy: Amit Shah

**Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh)** : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday attacked the INDIA alliance and its leaders and said that they neither have a leader, nor intention nor any policy and all they have is 'nepotism'. Addressing an election rally in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Kheri Ajay Kumar Mishra 'Teni', the Home Minister said, "You tell me who will be the Prime Minister if INDIA alliance comes to power even by mistake. Can Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Akhilesh Yadav or Rahul Gandhi become the PM? They don't have a candidate for the post of PM."



He said, "When asked by the journalists the leaders of INDIA alliance replied that one by one everyone will get a chance for one year. The country doesn't run like this. I want to tell Akhilesh Yadav that it's not a grocery shop, it's a country which needs strong leadership. And only one person can provide strong leadership, that is Narendra Modi."

Shah said that the people of Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were defaming BJP and PM Modi by spreading canard that if the BJP gets 400 seats then the reservation will end. "If anyone committed dacoity on the reservation of the OBCs then it is Congress. They got majority in Karnataka and gave five percent reservation to Muslims from the share of OBCs," he said.

The Home Minister said, "Give majority to BJP and we will end this

ant-Constitutional reservation to Muslims and that share will be given to OBCs. All I want to say is that Congress and its allies in UP are anti-backward and all the OBCs should understand it."

Shah claimed that the third round of Lok Sabha elections got over on Tuesday and with that PM Modi has crossed 190 seats mark and with the fourth phase BJP and NDA are strongly heading towards 400 mark. "SP, Congress and BSP have been wiped out. This election is all about making Modi the PM for the third time, to make 3 lakh sisters 'lakhpati', to give houses to 4 crore poor and make cattle breeders prosperous by setting up dairies in 3 lakh villages," he said.

The Senior BJP leader said that Modi brought the law Citizenship (Amendment) Act to give citizenship to persecuted Hindus, Sikhs and Jains coming from Pakistan.

"Shouldn't these people get citizenship? Now Rahul and Akhilesh say that if elected to power they will remove CAA. I want to tell that no one can remove CAA," he said.

Shah claimed that the third round of Lok Sabha elections got over on Tuesday and with that PM Modi has crossed 190 seats mark and with the fourth phase BJP and NDA are strongly heading towards 400 mark. "SP, Congress and BSP have been wiped out. This election is all about making Modi the PM for the third time, to make 3 lakh sisters 'lakhpati', to give houses to 4 crore poor and make cattle breeders prosperous by setting up dairies in 3 lakh villages," he said.

Raising the issue of Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Home Minister said

that Congress cheated the people for 70 years by making excuses about the court case. "You made Modi PM for the second time, the case was won in five years, bhoomi puja ceremony of the temple was performed and on January 22 the consecration of Lord Ram was completed," he said.

He said that before the consecration ceremony Shri Ram Trust invited opposition leaders to attend the event. "But none of them attended the event as they are scared about their vote bank. I would like to tell Rahul and Akhilesh that UP will never stand with a person who is scared of doing the work of Lord Ram."

Taking a dig at Secretary General of SP Prof Ram Gopal Yadav, he said that the SP leader terms the Ram temple as useless. "I want to tell you that if you make a slight mistake they will put a lock of Babri's name on the Ram temple," Shah said.

The Minister said that when SP was in power in UP, mafia and goons used to call the shots and the public land was grabbed. "Today in the Yogi Adityanath government instead of the people, the mafias are forced to migrate out of the state. This is the BJP government," he said.

He said that Lakhimpur comes in the Terai belt of UP which is also the sugarcane belt and known as the sugar bowl. "When the BJP government came to power at the centre and in the state maximum payment of cane was done by PM Modi. 20 closed mills were re-started, 5 new mills were set up, capacity of 38 others was expanded and the cane area increased by 9 lakh hectares," Shah added.

## Police summons Nadda, Malviya over alleged social media intimidation



**Bengaluru** : In a significant development, Bengaluru Police has summoned BJP President J.P. Nadda and the party's IT cell head Amit Malviya concerning a contentious social media post believed to intimidate members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities against voting for a specific candidate, officials disclosed on Wednesday.

Both Nadda and Malviya have been directed to participate in the investigation at the High Grounds police station in Bengaluru.

"Regarding this case, you are hereby summoned to appear before the designated investigating officer at 11 am at the High Grounds police station within seven days of receiving this notice," the summons stated.

The move follows the filing of a First Information Report (FIR) against Nadda, Malviya, and BJP's Karnataka unit chief Vijayendra Yediyurappa following a complaint lodged by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) with the Election Commission and local police on May 5, alleging violations of the model code of conduct. According to a senior police official, they face charges under sections of the Representation of People Act and section 505 (2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred, or ill-will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code. In its com-

plaint, the KPCC highlighted a video uploaded on the social media platform 'X' by the official account of Karnataka State BJP, purportedly operated by Malviya.

The video, allegedly uploaded on instructions from Nadda and Vijayendra, depicted animated characters of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. It portrayed the SC, ST, and OBC communities as "eggs" in a nest, suggesting Rahul Gandhi planted a big egg labeled as the Muslim community. The video insinuated that funds were being diverted to the Muslim community at the expense of the SC, ST, and OBC communities. "The act of the accused persons is to wantonly provoke rioting and promote enmity between different religions and is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony, apart from intimidating members of SC/ST communities not to vote for a particular candidate and causing enmity against members of SC/ST communities," the complaint alleged.

This development has sparked widespread debate, with political analysts and civil society groups calling for a thorough investigation into the matter to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process and ensure the fair and free expression of democratic rights for all citizens.

## UP: Modi govt gave nothing to country except unemployment, inflation: Priyanka

**Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)** : Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said that during its 10 years tenure, the Narendra Modi government at the centre has not given anything to the country except inflation and unemployment. Addressing the public meetings in Bachhrawan and Thulwasa in support of her brother and Congress candidate from Rae Bareilly Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka said that the only objective of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is to benefit the selected capitalists and waive off their debts. "On the other hand the government has pushed the general public into the quagmire of inflation and unemployment by luring them with five kilograms of free ration," she said. The Congress general secretary said that the BJP government made all efforts to stop Rahul Gandhi from fighting for social justice. "They threw him out of the Parliament and even evicted him from his house, but following the ideals of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi marched thousands of kilometres from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from



Manipur to Mumbai to understand the problems of the people and raise their voice," she said. Priyanka said that before 2014, the Congress government implemented many schemes to save the common people from the sting of inflation and unemployment, but the present government brought schemes only for a few capitalists. "It is not concerned with the sufferings of the poor people of the country. Fertiliser and seeds are becoming expensive. The farmers of the country are committing suicide due to distress, while the agricultural labourers have no work," she alleged. She said that despite lakhs of government posts being vacant, the youths are yearning for employment. "The government has made the future of the youth guard-

ing the borders bleak by introducing the Agniveer scheme," the Congress leader said. Linking his family connection with Rae Bareilly, Priyanka said that his mother Sonia Gandhi has been an MP here since 2004 and her family has a close relationship with Rae Bareilly. "Sonia Gandhi could not come to Rae Bareilly for some time due to health reasons, but even while sitting in Delhi, she not only understood the problems of the people here but also made every effort to solve them," she said.

The Congress general secretary said that now her brother Rahul Gandhi needs the blessings of the people of Rae Bareilly. Priyanka said that she has full faith that his family will continue to receive the love of Rae Bareilly like before.

## Rajnath slams Congress & BJD for neglecting development of Odisha in last 75 years

**Bhawanipatna** : Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday came down heavily on both the Congress and the BJD for neglecting Odisha during the last 75 years of rule.

Addressing an election meeting here, Rajnath said, "The people of Odisha have seen what type of development has taken place in the state by the Congress in 50 years followed by the BJD in the last 25 years."

Stating that the BJP is totally different from the Congress and the BJD, the Defence Minister said, "You have given 50 years to Congress and 25 years to BJD, and now give five years to BJP, we will wipe out corruption and ensure all-round development of the state."

He urged the people to vote BJP to power in the state; the party will implement all the central welfare schemes in the state which were not implemented by the BJD government. Rajnath slammed Naveen Patnaik for depriving the people of the benefits of several central schemes, including the Ayushman Bharat, and



said once the BJP government is formed in the state, the people deprived of the Ayushman Bharat scheme will be covered.

The Defence Minister, who is the chairman of the party's manifesto committee, said the manifesto has been prepared after several deliberations and claimed that the BJP believes in doing what it says.

He said during the last ten years of Modi's rule, the country witnessed 25 crore

people brought out of the poverty line and asserted that in the next 10 to 15 years, there will be no poor in the country.

Similarly, not a single family will be left without a pucca house, drinking water, and LPG gas connection in the next five years, Singh remarked.

Rajnath said this was his first visit to Kalahandi, which was projected as poverty-ridden, with hunger and starvation deaths in the

newspapers. The Congress, he said, was in power for a long time but could not eliminate poverty, adding that it was only after Modi came to power that the situation in Kalahandi changed a lot.

The Defence Minister appealed to the people to vote for BJP's Kalahandi Lok Sabha candidate Malvika Devi and other candidates for Assembly constituencies coming under it. He accused both the

Congress and the BJD of only giving assurances to the people and said the BJP is different from them as 'we do what we say.'

Singh said the BJP fulfilled its commitment by abrogating Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, abolishing Triple Talaq, and constructing the Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Rajnath said earlier there used to be terrorist attacks in every part of the country, but after the BJP came into power, such attacks have been drastically reduced.

The Senior BJP leader also addressed another election meeting in Rayagada during the day where he also appealed to the people to bring the BJP government to power in the state, assuring that all the central schemes will be implemented, benefiting all sections of people in the state.

He said the atmosphere in Odisha is now different than what it was in the past, and people are in a much jubilant mood to ensure that BJP wins all the 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

## Current election is between Ram Bhakts and Ramdrohis: Yogi

**Kanpur** : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said with the completion of elections in three phases voting on half of the country's Lok Sabha seats have concluded and the only slogan echoing across the country are 'Modi government once again', which has left the opposition parties bewildered.

Addressing an election rally for the Akbarpur Lok Sabha seat organised at Patara Railway Station ground in Ghatampur, the CM said, "When they fail to comprehend anything, they resort to conspiracies against India. Statements from opposition parties indicate that these elections are between 'Ram Bhakts' and 'Ramdrohis'. Those who are 'Ram Bhakts' are also 'Rashtra Bhakts' of the nation."

During this, he appealed to the public to vote in favour of BJP candidate Devendra Singh Bhole.

Yogi said that the mere mention of the name Akbarpur often evokes hesitation. "All of this will change. We

must put an end to the signs of slavery and honour our heritage. This region needs to be integrated with the mainstream of development. To achieve this goal, active participation through voting in the ongoing national campaign is essential," he said.

He said that it is an eternal truth that 'Ramdrohis' have always met their downfall. "The 2024 Lok Sabha elections will confirm this truth. This is not merely an election to form a government. On one hand, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the country is being established as a new Aatmanirbhar Bharat, while on the other hand, 'Ramdrohis' are working to divide us based on caste and regional identities," he said.

The CM said, "Terrorists are being glorified and mafias are encouraged. There is a conspiracy underway to grant the rights of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Castes to minorities."

Attacking the opposition, he said



that during the UPA government, SP and BSP were supporting Congress. "At that time, the Ranganath Mishra Committee had recommended giving Muslims a 6 per cent reservation by

deducting from the reservation for backward classes. When the BJP opposed this due to which Congress had to withdraw the proposal," he said.

Yogi said, "Similarly, the Sachar

Committee was formed and Congress conspired to include some castes of Muslims in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Congress has consistently engaged in divisive politics, fostering division within the nation and actively promoting terrorism and separatism in various regions. Congress has once again promised to give such reservations in its manifesto this time," he said.

He said that Congress and SP did not express condolences on the demise of former UP CM Kalyan Singh. "Likewise, there was no compassion shown for the murder of Raju Pal in Prayagraj and advocate Umesh Pal. Presently, the mafia has been eradicated and justice has been served. Their sympathy lies with the mafia and Ramdrohis," he said.

The CM said that the government is currently conducting a survey to assess the potential for cultivating sugarcane in the area. "If viable, plans are underway to set up a sugar and ethanol

complex in the region. During the SP regime, only guns were manufactured here, but under the Kanpur Defence Corridor, cannons for the nation will be produced. When the cannons will kill terrorists at the border, the names of Kanpur and UP will resonate in everyone's minds," he said.

He said that presently, the ammunition being produced here is reaching the entire world. "Only the BJP government can accomplish such tasks. Whether it's about free ration or free healthcare, from the birth of a daughter to her education and marriage arrangements, or providing security to daughters and businessmen, your vote is shaping the vision of a new India," he said.

Taking a dig at the Congress and INDI alliance, Yogi said, "Those who are responsible for dividing the country will work to divide you in future. We have to make the country self-reliant and developed under the leadership of PM Modi."



## Congress-BRS alliance synonymous with corruption and appeasement politics: PM

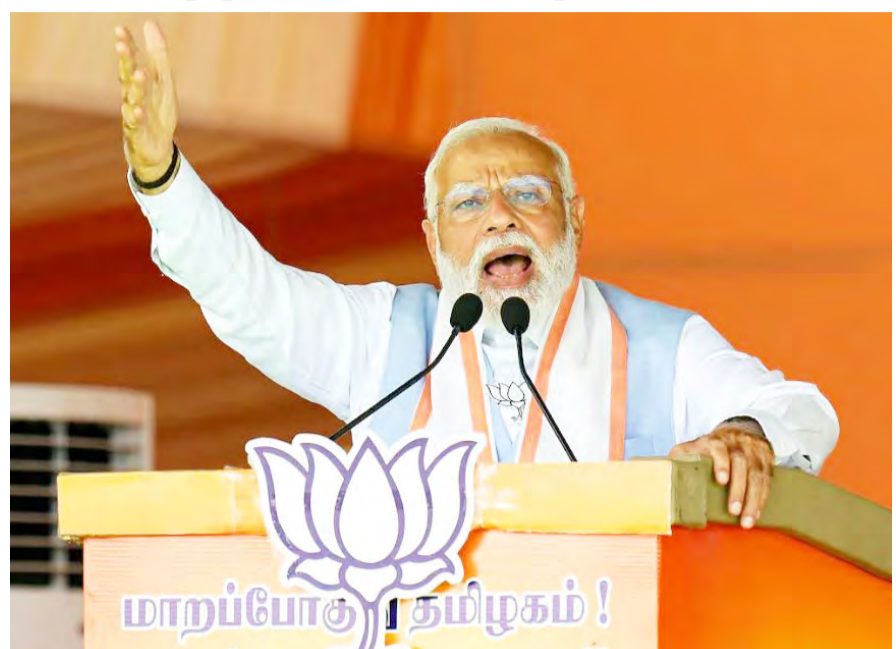
Hyderabad : The Congress-BRS alliance is synonymous with corruption and appeasement politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday alleged and said their governance model is synonymous with 'zero governance'.

"It's imperative that we unite to save Telangana from this destructive alliance," Modi gave a call while addressing public meetings in Karimnagar and Warangal in Telangana.

Drawing a comparison between the BJP and the opposition parties, Modi emphasized, "The BJP has always prioritized Nation First above all else. However, in Telangana, both the Congress and BRS prioritize their own families first. There's little to distinguish between Congress and BRS.

Expressing deep concern, PM Modi remarked, "When Telangana was formed, we placed our trust in the BRS party. However, for the sake of his family, BRS shattered the dreams of Telangana's families.

This echoes the history of Congress, he said that after independence, the nation placed its hopes in the Congress Party, only to witness the same pattern: Family First. Even if the country suffers, their Family First Policy comes first, highlighting



the sorry state of affairs.

"The Congress' Family First policy even led to the disrespect of leaders like PV Narasimha Rao. Even after his passing, his mortal remains were denied entry into the Congress office. It was the NDA government that bestowed upon PV Narasimha Rao the Bharat Ratna, honoring his contributions," the PM said while exposing the cruelties of Congress party.

PM Modi pointed out, "Corruption is the hallmark of the Congress-BRS alli-

ance.

Despite accusing each other of corruption, they are part of the same syndicate, he said when BRS accused Congress of 'cash for votes? Did any investigation happen when BRS was in power," he questioned.

Likewise, Congress accused BRS of the Kaleshwaram scam but despite being in power in Telangana for so long, has Congress conducted any investigation into it, the PM also questioned and added that "It's evident: both are involved in the same

corruption syndicate."

In a scathing attack on the Congress's double standards, PM Modi questioned that just five years ago, they were obsessed with Ambani and Adani.

However, overnight, their perspective has shifted, and now they remain silent about them.

"What could be the reason behind this sudden change? How far will this hypocrisy go? How much black money have they received from Adani, Ambani?" he asked.

## Cong manifesto 'Anyay Patra' towards SC, ST, OBC : Yogi

Gorakhpur : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched an attack on Congress over its manifesto and said it is like a 'new version' of the Muslim League.

Addressing media in the Gorakhnath temple premises, the CM said, "This is not a 'Nyay Patra', but 'Anyay Patra' towards the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Castes and Sanatana Dharma. A new version of the Muslim League has come. Nothing can be more shameful than the manifesto of the country's oldest political party, Congress, representing the Muslim League."

When asked about former Congress president Sonia Gandhi accusing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of promoting the politics of hatred, he said that instead of telling white lies, Sonia Gandhi should at least develop a habit of speaking the truth. "During the elections, these people won't be able to deceive the public anymore because under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire nation has come together in the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'," he said.

It may be noted that former Congress president Sonia Gandhi had on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Nar-



endra Modi of promoting hatred for political gains and urged the voters to vote for Congress for a bright future.

Continuing his attack, Yogi said, "Everyone knows that Congress has inherited the policy of divide and rule. In 1947, Congress allowed the cunning tactics of the Britishers to succeed and divided the country. After independence, Congress fuelled class struggles within the country based on caste, region and language due to political selfishness. Terrorism, Naxalism, and separatism, all of these are contributions of Congress."

He questioned, "Who doesn't know what Sonia Gandhi did as the chairperson of the UPA from 2004 to 2014?" They formed the Justice Ranganath Mishra Committee to undermine OBC reservation. The committee even suggested allocating 6 percent of the OBC reservation to Muslims. BJP and NDA opposed it at the time, and Congress' plans couldn't materialise."

The CM claimed that Congress and its allies also attempted to encroach upon the rights of SC-ST communities. "During the Congress government, there were at-

tempts, as mentioned in the Sachar Committee report, to include some Muslim communities in the Scheduled Caste category. However, due to opposition from the NDA and BJP, Congress' plans couldn't be fulfilled, he said.

He criticised Congress' track record, accusing them of implementing Section 370 in Kashmir and undermining OBC reservation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. "The people of India will never allow the intention of Congress to be fulfilled because divisive politics is not in anyone's interest," he said.

Continuing his criticism of Congress' manifesto, Yogi emphasised its divisive nature, warning that it could lead India towards class conflicts and encroach upon the rights of Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and Backward Classes. However, he expressed confidence that the people of the nation will resist these Congress plans.

He noted the current unity across the country under PM Modi's leadership, striving to achieve the vision of a self-reliant and developed India. He said that the people of the entire country are determined to support the BJP and NDA under the leadership of PM Modi for a developed India.

## RJL to support to Altaf Bukhari led Apni Party in Kashmir: Sanjay Saraf



Srinagar : Rashtriya Lok Janshakti (RLJ) Party on Wednesday announced to support the Altaf Bukhari led Apni Party in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir valley. Addressing a press conference here today RLJ Kashmir head Sanjay Saraf said that "after deliberations with the party cadre it has been decided to support Apni Party candidates in the Parliament elections". He said "even Na-

tional Democratic Alliance is not contesting elections in Kashmir, a clear cut is there that without National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party the RLJ will support the Apni party".

He said the NC and PDP are repeating the chords of Article 370 and 35A. "Everybody knows that for repealing the Article 370 there is a need of 300 members in the parliament and majority in the

upper house besides the President's nod on that", he said and added "what else was left there these people had completed that with the stamp in the Supreme Court". He said RLJ during a meeting decided that Altaf Bukhari led Apni Party has a vision for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. "We have decided to support the Apni Party candidate for the Srinagar Parliamentary seat", Saraf said.

## RCC Cyberattack: Ransom in cryptocurrency demanded, 20 lakh patient data stolen

Thiruvananthapuram : In one of the highest volumes of cyberattacks in India, details of 20 lakh patients with the Regional Cancer Center (RCC) here were compromised, affecting 11 out of 14 servers and causing disruptions in many divisions, including the Radiation Department.

The attack compromised the health information of over 20 lakh patients and demanded a ransom in cryptocurrency, sources told UNI.

But there were allegations that the Korean-based cybercriminals successfully infiltrated the data source of RCC and extracted sensitive information of over 80 lakh patients and demanded a ransom of USD 100 millions.

"The cyberattack on the Radiation Department at the RCC in Thiruvananthapuram took place on April 30, 2024. It is a state-owned premium cancer care hospital and research centre, serving patients from across India. The attack targeted software used for radiation treatment. The software administering radiation to patients was hacked. The group responsible for the attack is known as the Daixin Team,"

the sources said.

Two key servers storing health information for more than 20 lakh people were compromised. Servers containing surgical, radiation, and pathology results of lakhs of patients were attacked. The attack sabotaged the treatment and follow-up examinations of patients. Patients could receive incorrect radiation doses, posing life-threatening risks. The hackers claimed responsibility and sent an email from abroad. They demanded cryptocurrency worth billions of rupees. Radiation treatment has been halted since the attack and is expected to resume in the coming days. The attack put sensitive patient data at risk, including personal credentials like names, ages, addresses, phone numbers, and medical histories. According to the Cyber Police probing the case and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-K), the role of Chinese and North Korean hackers is suspected. A similar cyber attack on Delhi AIIMS took place in 2022, in which the health information of prominent individuals was compromised.

## Learn from PM on how to remain fit, Hussain to Tejaswi



Patna : Senior BJP leader and former Union minister, Shah Nawaz Hussain, on Wednesday advised Leader of the Opposition Tejaswi Yadav to learn from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how to keep oneself always fit and energetic.

Talking to media persons here, he said that Yadav who had few days back described Modi as an old person, was himself suffering from serious health complications.

Yadav was feeling difficulty to deliver speech

while standing on dais and he had to seek medical advice, he said and asked him to learn from Modi on how to keep oneself fit and energetic.

"Yadav has been a sportsman and he should take care of his fitness," BJP leader said and advised him to practice yoga and pranayam for fitness. Instead of delivering more speeches, Yadav should focus on his fitness," he advised.

Hussain said that Yadav was making tall claims despite fact that his party

RJD had no MP in Lok Sabha.

On his remark about proposed roadshow of PM Modi in Patna, BJP leader noted that Modi is a grass-root leader and became PM by serving the people.

Yadav had few days back described PM Modi as an old man. He had undergone CT scan and other tests in IGIMS, Patna for his backache and other complications.

On Modi's proposed roadshow in Patna, Yadav had said that he forced him to be on road.

## K'taka Dy CM Shivakumar accuses Kumaraswamy of blackmailing

Bengaluru : In a dramatic turn of events, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday accused JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy of orchestrating a scandal involving explicit videos allegedly linked to Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna.

Shivakumar labeled Kumaraswamy as the "king of blackmailing" and the mastermind behind the scandal, further asserting that Kumaraswamy is the "lead, director, and producer of the story."

The controversy deepened as Kumaraswamy called for Shivakumar's dismissal from the Cabinet, branding him a "key conspirator" in the dissemination of the alleged sex videos implicating Prajwal, who is Kumaraswamy's nephew.

Prajwal, a 33-year-old MP, faces serious allegations of sexual abuse, triggering a political firestorm between the ruling Congress and the BJP-JDS coalition.

While the Congress government has initiated a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter, the



BJP and JD(S) alliance partners have vehemently demanded a transfer of the case to the CBI, intensifying the political deadlock.

Responding to Kumaraswamy's accusations, Shivakumar sarcastically offered his resignation, implying a challenge to Kumaraswamy's authority in the Vokkaliga community leadership.

He condemned Kumaraswamy's alleged tactics of political elimination and blackmail, urging for a dis-

cussion on the matter in the Assembly. The exchange of allegations reached a peak when Kumaraswamy claimed that 25,000 pen drives containing videos of women being sexually abused, purportedly involving Prajwal, were circulated before the elections. He accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar of colluding in a conspiracy. However, Shivakumar dismissed these claims, emphasising that the Revanna family's issues should not be

linked to Kumaraswamy or his father, HD Deve Gowda. In response to questions regarding Congress party's involvement, Shivakumar accused Kumaraswamy of orchestrating the entire scandal with the support of the BJP. He urged for a thorough investigation into the matter and called for empathy towards the victims' families. Meanwhile, JDS staged a protest against Shivakumar, illustrating the deep-seated animosity between the parties.

## Centre making efforts to snatch the rights of people of J&K: alleges Mehbooba

Srinagar : Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday alleged that efforts are being made by the government at the Centre to snatch the identity and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Delhi is issuing new decrees every day changing our law, state subject, domicile, and land status after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019", Mehbooba told media persons in central Kashmir's Chadoora area of Budgam district while campaigning for the party candidate.

She said after abrogating Article 370 everything has not been finished but the central government is bent to snatch all authority and to evict the people from their lands.

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister alleged that electricity is being provided to people of Jammu and Kashmir at high rates while it has been provided to other parts of the country at cheap rates and even free of cost.



"To participate in these elections became necessary so that the people could convey a message to the Central government that what they did in 2019 was unconstitutional and logically illegal and not acceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir", the PDP president said.

Mehbooba urged the people to vote for the party who will raise the issues of people of Jammu and Kashmir in the National Capital truthfully and without any

fear.

Replying to a question, she said that PDP is living in the hearts of the people. "May be the people were angry with the PDP for some time, but people understand that PDP is the only party that remained in the government for a very short period and achieved many major things", the PDP President said.

"If one compares the three years regime of the late former Chief Minister Mufti

Mohammad Sayeed, who is also the founder of PDP, Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Rawalkote roads were opened which were never in the minds of the politicians and people of Jammu and Kashmir".

She said the talks were held with Pakistan during his tenure to ease the tension in the sub-continent.

"PDP is sustaining in the hearts of the people it is not easy to finish it", the former CM said.



Briefs :

Sam Pitroda quits Congress post after row over his racial remarks

New Delhi : Sam Pitroda resigned from his position as the chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress amidst controversy surrounding his remarks. Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress chief, accepted his resignation. Jairam Ramesh, a Congress leader, announced Pitroda's voluntary decision to step down, which was accepted by the Congress President. Pitroda stirred controversy when discussing diversity in India during an interview, where he compared Indians from different regions to various ethnicities. This remark drew criticism, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who condemned it as racist. This isn't the first time Pitroda's statements have sparked controversy. In the past, he made remarks about issues such as temple construction, inheritance tax, responses to terrorist attacks, and historical events, which have garnered criticism from various quarters. Pitroda's recent actions, such as sharing an article that sparked accusations of Congress being 'anti-Dalit', have further fueled controversy and drawn backlash from political opponents.

Will quit politics instead of again leaving BJP: Arvinder Singh Lovely

New Delhi: Arvinder Singh Lovely, who recently resigned from his post as Delhi Congress president, announced his decision to remain with the BJP, which he recently joined along with other senior Delhi Congress leaders. Despite his previous shifts between the Congress and the BJP, Lovely stated that this time, the decision was made calmly and after careful consideration. He emphasized his commitment to the BJP, indicating that he would rather exit politics than leave the party. Speaking at the Delhi BJP office, Lovely expressed his dedication to his new party and willingness to undertake any role assigned to him, emphasizing the importance of grassroots work in politics. He also hinted at the possibility of more leaders from Delhi Congress joining the BJP in the future. Lovely highlighted the influence of leaders like himself and Raj Kumar Chauhan in various constituencies, suggesting that their entry into the BJP would significantly impact electoral dynamics, particularly in areas like East Delhi and North East Delhi. In his remarks, Lovely criticized the Congress for deviating from its historical stance on patriotism and accused it of adopting a divisive ideology. He expressed gratitude to prominent BJP leaders for welcoming him into the party and hinted at his intention to play a role in countering the INDIA bloc's candidates in the upcoming elections.

Delhi's 'vada pav girl' flaunts new Ford Mustang, spins social media heads

New Delhi: Chandrika Dixit, affectionately known as Delhi's "vada pav girl," has garnered widespread attention for her food business in Mongolpuri, where her stall serves up delectable vada pav that attracts a steady stream of customers daily. Adding to her fame, Ms. Dixit has recently made waves on social media with her latest acquisition: a luxurious Ford Mustang. A viral video captures her behind the wheel of the high-end vehicle, drawing the fascination of onlookers. In the circulating video, a crowd gathers around a white Ford Mustang, and attention shifts to a man opening the trunk, revealing Ms. Dixit holding a plate of Pav, a popular Indian bread.

PM Modi challenges INDIA constituents, Congress CMs on Sam Pitroda's racial remarks

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday criticised the Congress party's "divisive mindset", specifically targeting the controversial remarks made by Sam Pitroda, and questioned whether the DMK, a key ally of the Congress, would sever ties with the party for the sake of Tamil "culture and pride".

The Prime Minister alleged that if voted to power, the Congress would reinstate Article 370, cancel the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), halt free ration schemes for the poor and free medical treatment, and reverse the Supreme Court's verdict on the Ram Mandir, ultimately locking it up.

"A big leader has displayed the divisive mindset of Congress.

What the man, very close to Gandhi family and the biggest advisor of



shehzada (Rahul Gandhi), said is very shameful," PM Modi said.

"Congress feels those in north eastern India look like Chinese. Can the country accept things like this? Congress feels people in the south look

like Africans, will they accept this," he asked, referring to Pitroda's controversial remarks.

The PM further questioned whether the Congress chief ministers of Karnataka and Telangana.

Siddaramaiah and A Revanth Reddy, would accept "such an accusation".

PM Modi also challenged DMK president and Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin, asking if he would snap ties

with the Congress for the sake of Tamil pride and the Tamil people, given the serious allegations made by Pitroda.

He asked, "Do they have the guts?"

The PM also criticised the Congress for suggesting that people in the western parts of the country look like Arabs, questioning whether the people of Maharashtra accept such language. In an obvious reference to Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, PM Modi said: "I want to ask ... do people of Maharashtra accept such language. Do north Indians look like White (people).. what has happened to the Congress party."

The PM also took a swipe at the YSR Congress government in Andhra Pradesh, accusing it of betraying people's trust and allowing ministers to run a 'rowdy raj' in the state.

SC to Rule on Arvind Kejriwal's Bail Plea in Delhi Excise Policy Case



New Delhi : Justice Sanjiv Khanna has indicated that the Supreme Court may issue an order regarding Arvind Kejriwal's interim bail plea on May 10. In his statement, Justice Khanna mentioned, "We will pronounce the interim order on Friday. The main matter related to the challenge to arrest will also be taken on the same day." During the previous hearing on Tuesday, the Supreme Court informed Kejriwal's lawyer that if interim bail is granted to the Chief Minister, it would prefer him not to undertake official duties to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Arvind Kejriwal was detained by the (ED) on March 21, following the Delhi High Court's decision not to shield him from the federal anti-money laundering agency's coercive measures. Currently, Kejriwal remains in judicial custody at Tihar jail. On April 15, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the ED, seeking its response to Kejriwal's plea contesting his arrest in the money-laundering case. Prior

to this, on April 9, the Delhi High Court upheld Kejriwal's arrest, asserting its legality. The court noted that the ED's actions were warranted due to Kejriwal's repeated non-compliance with summonses and his lack of cooperation with the ongoing investigation. The case centers around allegations of corruption and unlawful financial transactions linked to the formulation and execution of the Delhi administration's now revoked liquor policy for the fiscal year 2021-22.

'South Indians look like Africans ...' Sam Pitroda's racist remark stirs controversy

New Delhi : Congress leader Sam Pitroda recently stirred controversy by making remarks that drew parallels between Indians from different regions and various ethnicities.

Pitroda's comments, made during an interview about diversity and democracy in India, were widely criticized, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemning them as racist and divisive.

Modi linked Pitroda's statement to Congress's decisions, alleging that they reflected a broader racist mentality within the party. Other political figures, including Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and BJP's Lok Sabha



candidate Kangana Ranaut, also criticized Pitroda's remarks. Senior BJP leader Ravi Shan-

kar Prasad and former Congress leader CR Kesavan lambasted Pitroda's comments, with Kesavan

calling for his expulsion from the Congress party. In response, Congress disassociated itself from Pitroda's remarks, labeling them as unfortunate and unacceptable.

This is not the first time Pitroda has sparked controversy with his remarks. Previously, he expressed support for an inheritance tax, drawing criticism from BJP leaders and Prime Minister Modi, who used the opportunity to attack Congress on the issue of wealth redistribution.

In response to the backlash, Pitroda clarified that his comments were merely an example and not indicative of any party's policy, including Congress.

Journalist Rajat Sharma moves Delhi HC on Govt's no-control on Deepfake Technology

New Delhi : Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by senior journalist Rajat Sharma against non-regulation of deepfake technology in the country.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora sought a response from the Union Government through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and asked the Central Government if it is willing to act on the issue.

In his PIL, journalist Rajat Sharma, who is the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Independent News Service Private Limited (INDIA TV) said the proliferation of deepfake technology poses significant threats to various aspects of society, including misinformation and disinformation campaigns.

Deepfake undermines



the integrity of public discourse and democratic processes, potential use in fraud and identity theft as well as harm to individuals' reputations and privacy. "All these threats are compounded when a deepfake is made of an influential person such as a politician, sportsman, actor, or any other public figure capable of influencing public opinion," the petitioner said and added, "The threat increases more in the case of a person who

is visible on television daily and on whose statements the public has come to place faith in."

Rajat Sharma said there is a pressing need for strict enforcement and proactive action to mitigate the potential harms associated with their misuse. The absence of adequate regulation and safeguards against the misuse of deepfake technology poses a grave risk to the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitu-

tion of India, including the right to freedom of expression, the right to privacy, and the right to a fair trial.

The Petitioner has asked the court to intervene and issue directions to the Union Government to identify and block public access to the applications, software, platforms and websites enabling the creation of deepfakes.

The Petitioner also sought the Government to issue a directive to all social media intermediaries

to take immediate action to take down deepfakes upon the receipt of a complaint from the person concerned.

The petitioner also sought that the government should ensure that the platforms, and websites enabling the creation of deepfakes disclose that the content has been generated by AI either by watermark or some other effective methodology.

The PIL also seeks the issuance of guidelines to ensure that any access to Artificial Intelligence and deepfakes is carried out strictly under the Fundamental Rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution till relevant Rules are framed by the Centre.

A further direction is sought to appoint a dedicated nodal officer for receiving complaints regarding deep fakes and acting upon a complaint within 12 hours and 06 hours in the case of a complaint received regarding content featuring a public figure, the petitioner contended.

Gangs' Influence in Delhi: Beyond Bishnoi, Rivals Asserting Control in the Capital

New Delhi : The owner of the Tilak Nagar car showroom, recently targeted by armed assailants resulting in injuries to multiple individuals, received an extortion call from the Portugal-based gangster Himanshu, also known as Bhau, a day after the attack.

The assailants, who attacked the showroom on Monday, fired indiscriminately after presenting a note containing the names of two gangsters - Neeraj

Faridpuria and Naveen Bali - alongside a demand for Rs 5 crore from the owner, Tarun Malik.

While investigations continue, law enforcement officers informally questioned Bali and another notorious gangster, Neeraj Bawana, currently incarcerated in Tihar Jail. Bali and Bawana are known to operate together and have been issuing threats to various businessmen in Delhi and Haryana.

Although the identity of the shooters remains unknown, sources suggest that one of them bears resemblance to a henchman known as Sonu, allegedly involved in two murders in Delhi and Sonipat earlier this year.

Investigations indicate that Bhau and Faridpuria may have orchestrated the attack, possibly arranging the shooters, while a spotter, believed to be Bali's associate, facilitated the get-

away. Faridpuria, a close associate of Kaushal, a jailed gangster, may have supplied the firearms used in the incident.

The incident highlights a concerning trend wherein not only Lawrence Bishnoi but also his rivals, including Bhau, are increasingly active in Delhi.

This escalation raises fears of heightened violence as these syndicates vie for dominance. Bishnoi has formed al-

liances with gangs like Boxer-Gogi, alongside those led by individuals such as Rohit Godara and Kala Jathedi. Similarly, Bhau has aligned with Bambiha syndicates, as well as those led by Bawana, Bali, and Kaushal, with support from Canada-based gangster-turned-terrorist Arsh Datta. This network sharing complicates law enforcement efforts in the aftermath of such incidents.

## Editorial

### China's struggle for whom?

Most of the countries in the world are in a hurry to know what another country is doing. There is hardly any exception to this. America, Russia, and China are the major countries in this group. When the US looked into China in the same way, the US found that China was on the verge of changing its strategy. The same report has been prepared by the US Military Strategy Committee and placed before the country. Along with advanced offensive weapons, China has also attempted to develop advanced deterrent weapons. It has various types of weapons, they are being produced in large quantities and their quality is also up-to-date, the report says. They are just weapons and useless. A system (delivery system) is also needed to stain it. China has undertaken a military program to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) to be launched from land. Today, China has more such missiles than the US. The US is wondering why China is developing armor-free weapons capable of deterring an attack. Today, it is unlikely that any country in the world would think of attacking China by taking the initiative on its own. Then the US has a right doubt that China is not the only one thinking of such an attack. If such an attack is made by China, it is obvious that the attacked country will not hesitate to give a befitting reply. In order to be able to defend in such a situation, the US is wondering whether China is in the process of acquiring such shells.

China will be thinking of only two countries to attack. The first nation is America and the second may be India. China will be looking at the US as an existing competitor and India as a potential competitor. It does not seem that the army that China has brought and stationed on the border of India will attack immediately. China will continue to play small and big pranks on India from time to time and there will be clashes at various places. But due to this, India's huge army will be stuck everywhere along the border. China's limited intentions are evident at least for now, as India will have to spend huge amounts of money forever and India will have to keep cutting back on development spending. China wants to be at par with America and Russia in terms of nuclear weapons, this should be considered as an alarm bell for India. That is why India's efforts to build a nuclear deterrence system become important.

To know why it was necessary for India to take timely notice in this regard, one can see where China's missile bases are located. Most of the bases like Kunqmag are at a distance of 1500 km from India by air. This means that important cities and military bases in India come within the range of Chinese missiles. In addition, China is supplying Pakistan with nuclear weapons, missile raw materials and technology, which is even more serious. Because Pakistan is not known as a responsible nation. This act of China will be a monkey's hand.

As soon as Xi Jinping came to power, he established a new branch of the military called the 'Rocket Force' and assigned all types of missiles to this branch. The 'Strategic Support Force' branch is tasked with countering space-based attacks, cyber-attacks and electronic attacks. There is only one university related to these subjects in China. Along with the regular curriculum, the subject of new research is also dealt with in this university. Researchers at this university have developed high-speed and long-range missiles. While there is no possibility of an attack on China by any distant nation, on the one hand, China is building a shield-like defense system to stop space attacks, cyber attacks and electronic attacks, and on the other hand, China is preparing sophisticated weapons and missiles for retaliatory attacks.

These new missiles can carry any type of weapons including biological, chemical and nuclear. China is building interconnected tunnels for easy movement of the pair. It is a system for safe storage and subsurface movement of all weapons stockpile. Besides, China is building more than 100 underground shelters (silos) of concrete. These will provide security for individuals and can also be useful for storing weapons. China has devised a war program to deal with the question of having weapons but how to fire them. New platforms have been built to launch air-launched ballistic missiles and cruise missiles.

There is an American bomber named 'Stealth Bomber'. The aircraft can infiltrate enemy territory and launch bombing raids, evading detection systems. China is in the process of developing such bombers. These aircraft can also carry nuclear weapons. Apart from this, China has taken up the program of making unmanned aerial vehicles. Nuclear-armed missile-carrying submarines were developed by China in 2014. Realizing its presence in the Indian Ocean, India immediately embarked on a war program to acquire an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability as a deterrent.

China has made enormous efforts to produce highly purified uranium and recovered (reprocessed) plutonium. There is an international agreement that each country should publish their information from time to time. Since 2017, China has stopped disclosing its stockpiles of the element. But whistle-blowers have revealed that China has 500 nuclear warheads made of highly purified uranium. More are under construction and it has been revealed that China is building at least 1000 such weapons. China's claim that we are achieving military capability only for minimum deterrence is false. America and India have also started planning and implementing the capability to know immediately that they are under attack, to have proof of its prevention and to be able to repel the enemy immediately. For, if two nations are of equal strength, they grumble at each other very much, but refrain from attacking when it is unnecessary. Will the world be ready to consider this preparation of China as a weapon for defense?

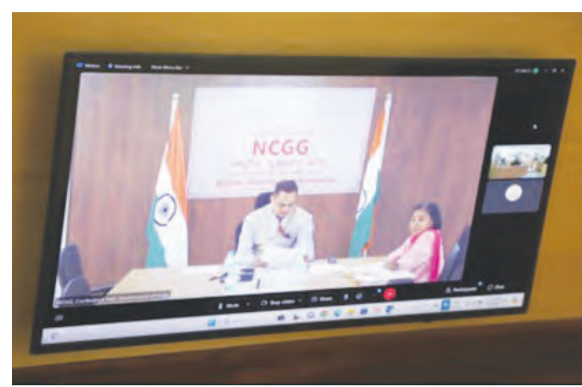
## Progressive policies and digital governance is the mantra for development and empowerment of citizens

The two weeks program on Capacity Building Programme on Project and Risk Management for Public Works for the officers from Republic of Tanzania commenced today at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Mussoorie. The program is being organized from 6th May, 2024 to 17th May, 2024 in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Government of India. A total of 39 officers representing various organisations and ministries in Tanzania such as National Roads Agency, Ministry of Energy, Planning Commission, Tanzania Building Agency, Tanzania Railway Corporation, Housing investments, Rapid Transit Agency, E-government authority, Energy and Water Regulatory Authority, President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance, Regional Administration and Local Government, Livestock and Fisheries among others are attending the programme.

The NCGG, an autonomous institution under the Department of Adminis-

trative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, is committed to action research, studies, and capacity building at both the national and international levels. NCGG's efforts align with the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e. "The world is one Family" and emphasizes strengthening bilateral ties and fostering cooperation with other countries. The capacity building program focuses on providing a rich cross country experience and a platform for policy dialogue, while sharing best practices focusing on project and risk management in various sectors. This will result in the officers gaining valuable insights into the manner in which projects are planned and executed and institutions are being transformed and people are getting closer to the government.

Shri V. Srinivas, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Secretary, Department of Administration Reform and Public



Grievances (DARPG) in his inaugural address extended a warm welcome to the participating officers. During his address, he talked about the relations between the two nations and the outline of future collaborations in the area of capacity building programmes. He focused on the evolving landscape of governance and gave an elaborate presentation on the New Paradigms of Governance and emphasized on the transformative role of technology in maximizing governance efficiency and development thereby bringing citizens closer to government. He elaborated on National E-Service Delivery Assessment, India's vision

for 2047 and showcased exemplary governance models such as Aadhaar Card, Advancements in Fintech, Public Grievance Redressal Mechanisms like CPGRAMS, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence in administration.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. George Nsaviye Ndatta, Head of the Delegation expressed gratitude to the Indian Government for extending such a warm hospitality and providing this immensely useful opportunity to facilitate knowledge exchange. He was of view that this will ultimately empower officers to implement and design effective projects thereby aiding develop-

ment in the country.

Dr. B.S Bisht, Associate Professor and Course Coordinator gave a comprehensive presentation on the background and ongoing initiatives of the National Centre for Good Governance. He also highlighted the core objectives of the two-week training program, which is meticulously structured to equip officers with essential skills in Project and Risk Management for Public Works, while showcasing several projects and works in several important sectors relevant to the participants. He elaborated how the programme is designed for officers who are at decision making level and is aimed at equipping them with the cutting-edge knowledge, skills and tools to deliver and design effective public works projects, which will lead to achievement of good governance and ultimately sustainable development apart from providing a rich cross-country experience so that there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

He discussed how the programme covers a diverse range of topics such

as Project Selection and Formulation, Project Management Framework and Processes, Project Risk Management, PPP in Infrastructure Projects, Smart and Resilient Cities, Innovation in Awarding Public Projects, and Managing Rural and Urban Housing Projects. Additionally, the program incorporates immersive field visits, with officers slated to visit key project sites such as Dakpathar Hydro-power and Irrigation Dam, NHAI in Uttarakhand, Dwarka Expressway in New Delhi, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, World Trade Centre NBCC in New Delhi, and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, culminating with a visit to the iconic Taj Mahal. He also informed that in partnership with MEA, NCGG has imparted training to civil servants of 17 countries. The entire capacity building programme will be supervised by Dr. B.S Bisht, Associate Professor and Course Coordinator, Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Associate Course Coordinator and Shri Brijesh Bisht, Training Assistant, NCGG.

## Exhorts BRO to infuse latest technology for faster completion of projects



The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is celebrating its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024. To mark the day, an event was organised in New Delhi, which was presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. In his address, the Defence Secretary lauded the BRO for fulfilling its responsibilities successfully in inhospitable terrain and tough weather conditions. He termed the BRO an extremely crucial organisation which, through its infrastructure projects in border areas, is playing a major role in the security of the country, besides ensuring the socio-economic progress of far-flung areas.

Shri Giridhar Aramane commended the BRO for completing the projects in a time-bound manner, exuding confidence that the Karmayogis will continue to ensure border infrastructure development in a record time. He urged the BRO to

infuse latest technology and techniques for faster completion of projects, through which human efforts will be reduced & utilised more efficiently. Automation and mechanisation will be key for the BRO in the future, he said.

The Defence Secretary also recalled the valuable contribution of the BRO personnel in the relief and rescue efforts during the Silkyara Tunnel Collapse and the Sikkim Floods. He added that the Organisation will play an important role in the Vibrant Villages Programme which envisages comprehensive development of select border villages.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General, Border Roads Lt Gen Raghuvir Srinivasan extended greetings to all ranks of the BRO. He stated that the pan-India presence of the BRO reflects its commitment to national security, connectivity and develop-

ment. He added that the tagline 'In the Silence of Our Great Mountains - Work Speaks' speaks volumes of the Organisation's dedication, perseverance and impact on the lives of the people residing in the remotest corners of the country. He exhorted all ranks to renew the pledge to continue 'Connecting Places Connecting People' and leaving a lasting legacy of progress, prosperity and unity.

The event also witnessed the unveiling of a compendium on Sela Tunnel as well as some books including 'Oonchin Sadaken', 'Path Pradarshak' and 'Path Vikas' by the Defence Secretary. He gave away Excellence Awards to the BRO personnel for the year 2023-24 and felicitated the women achievers of the Organisation. The Casual Paid Labourers who worked in various projects such as Sela Tunnel, as well as during Sikkim floods were also felicitated.

Raised with just two projects in 1960 - Project Tusker (now Vartak) in the East and Project Beacon in the North, the BRO has today become a vibrant organisation with 18 projects operating in 11 States and three Union Territories. It has now established its credentials as the leading infrastructure agency in the high-altitude and difficult snow-bound areas.

The BRO executes road construction and maintenance works at altitude ranging from 9,000 ft up to 19,000 ft along the Northern and Western frontiers, primarily to meet the strategic requirements of the Armed Forces. In over six decades, it has constructed over 62,214 kms of roads, 1,005 bridges, seven tunnels and 21 airfields in adverse climatic and geographical conditions along India's borders as well as in friendly countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan & Tajikistan, thus

contributing towards the nation's strategic objectives.

In 2023-24, the BRO completed a total of 125 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,611 crore. This includes the construction of Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chardwar-Tawang Road. The tunnel was dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently from Itanagar virtually. The BRO will soon commence the construction on 4.10-km long Shinkun La Tunnel. Once completed, this tunnel will become the world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft bypassing Mila Tunnel in China at 15,590 ft.

The BRO accomplished the completion of two significant airfield projects namely Bagdogra and Barackpore, marking yet another milestone in its journey of excellence. The foundation stone for Mudh Airfield Project was laid by

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh recently. The BRO aims to complete the project within just two working seasons.

Over the few years, the BRO has witnessed an exponential surge in budget expenditure, marking a remarkable leap forward in capabilities and impact. This increased budgetary support has empowered the organisation to undertake crucial projects, accelerate critical infrastructure development, and enhance its operational readiness.

The BRO has been at the forefront of promoting gender equality and inclusivity, offering key roles and opportunities to women. Officers like Col Ponung Doming is leading critical projects in Eastern Ladakh. Assistant Executive Engineer (Civ) Smt Nikita Chaudhary has played a pivotal role in successful completion of Sela Tunnel Project.

## 'Run for Sun' Marathon

The Government of India joined the global community in commemorating International Sun Day today, 3rd May, 2024, as an annual reminder of the significant benefits of solar energy in fostering a greener and healthier planet. On this day, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, organized a 'Run for Sun' Marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. The 'Run for Sun' Marathon, featuring 3 km and 5 km races, was designed to raise awareness about the pivotal role of solar power in mitigating climate change and promoting a cleaner and healthier future for all.

The Marathon expressed the nation's steadfast commitment to solar energy and environmental sustainability. On the occasion, Secretary, Ministry of New & Re-



newable Energy, Shri Bhupinder S. Bhalla said: "This event underscores our dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions and highlights the importance of solar power in our journey towards environmental stewardship. The Marathon aligns perfectly with the Government's vision to promote

physical fitness and well-being, wherein we encouraged citizens to embrace an active lifestyle while championing the cause of renewable energy. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants whose enthusiasm and support made this event a resounding success. We look forward to building

upon this momentum and establishing it as an annual tradition."

Another highlight of the International Sun Day celebrations was Solar Stops — kiosks boasting a diverse array of elements that bring out the significance of solar energy. The 12 captivating installations have been set up at promi-

ent malls in six Indian cities, namely Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Vadodra, Guwahati, Varanasi and Chennai. Serving as focal points, Solar Stops highlight the innovative and eco-friendly aspects of solar energy, inviting attendees to learn and engage with the displays.

On the occasion, the Ministry has also announced Solart, an All-India Intra-School Solar Art Competition, which would be an engaging and educational way to celebrate solar energy through artistic expressions, in recognition of International Sun Day. The competition seeks to spark creativity and promote awareness of solar energy among school students across India. Winners, as adjudged by schools, will receive commendation certificates from the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.



# HARYANA

## Briefs :

### Auto drivers must don grey uniform or face challans

**Gurugram :** In Gurugram, despite repeated instructions from various authorities, many autorickshaw drivers continue to flout the rule requiring them to wear a prescribed uniform, prompting the traffic police to take stricter measures. In response, the police department has communicated with autorickshaw unions, urging them to enforce the mandatory wearing of uniforms and unique identity badges for all drivers. A 15-day ultimatum has been issued for compliance, after which action will be taken against those who fail to adhere to the directive. DCP Traffic, Virender Vij, addressed this issue in a letter to all autorickshaw unions in Gurugram, citing an order from the Transport Commissioner of Haryana mandating a dress code for autorickshaw drivers. The order specifies that drivers must wear grey uniforms with identity badges stitched on the left side. Failure to comply with this directive by May 20 will result in penalties under Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act. DCP Traffic emphasized that while the dress code has long been in effect in Gurugram, some drivers have disregarded it. Strict enforcement will commence after the grace period expires on May 20.

**Overloaded tractor-trailers laden with straw pose threat to commuters**

**Kurukshetra :** In Kurukshetra, overloaded tractor-trailers carrying wheat straw and dry fodder are posing a threat to commuters, both on highways and within urban areas. These vehicles not only obstruct visibility for drivers behind them but also contribute to traffic congestion. To address this issue, the traffic police have been instructed to take necessary measures to prevent traffic jams caused by these overloaded vehicles entering city areas. Reflectors are being mandated on tractor-trailers to enhance visibility, as stated by Surinder Singh Bhorla, Superintendent of Police in Kurukshetra. Residents have voiced their concerns, citing instances of inconvenience and potential hazards caused by these overloaded vehicles. Rajiv Prasad, Secretary of the Regional Transport Authority, highlighted efforts to promote responsible loading practices and enhance safety measures, including the installation of reflectors. Tejinder Sharma, a road safety advocate, emphasized the importance of public compliance with traffic rules and patience during transit. Despite observed reductions in the number of overloaded vehicles, challenges persist, especially concerning visibility and road safety. Efforts are underway to mitigate these risks, including strict enforcement measures such as issuing fines for overloading. It's imperative for authorities to uphold road safety initiatives and strengthen enforcement to ensure safer commuting experiences for all. Sandh, President of the Haryana Sikh Management Committee, and other devotees.

**Had warned BJP of growing discontent: Haryana's 3 Independent MLAs**

**Rohtak :** In a significant political turn of events, three Independent MLAs—Sombir Sangwan (Charkhi Dabri), Randhir Gollen (Pundri), and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri)—have withdrawn their support from the BJP government and extended their backing to the Congress. The MLAs made this announcement at a press conference in Rohtak, accompanied by Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Hooda, state Congress chief Uday Bhan, and MLA Bharat Bhushan. They have formally communicated their withdrawal of support to the Governor through letters. Speaking to the media, the MLAs highlighted growing discontent among various sections of society due to rising unemployment, inflation, crime rates, and shortcomings in the administration of family and property IDs. Despite attempts to alert the BJP about these issues while they were supporting the government, their concerns were disregarded. Expressing appreciation for the MLAs' decision, Bhupinder Hooda asserted that their timely move would yield positive results, ensuring the victory of the Congress party. He called for the imposition of President's rule in the state, emphasizing that the BJP government had lost its majority following the withdrawal of support from the JJP and Independent MLAs. Hooda noted a significant shift in political allegiance, stating that many disillusioned BJP leaders and workers were now joining the Congress. He claimed that over the past year, more than 100 senior leaders, including 40 MLAs, former MLAs, MPs, and former MPs, had joined the Congress. Uday Bhan remarked on the rare occurrence of politicians leaving the ruling party to support the opposition, emphasizing that the BJP no longer had a mandate to govern. He echoed Hooda's call for immediate Assembly elections under President's rule, underscoring the BJP's diminishing support base.

**Yamunanagar May Fall Short of Wheat Procurement Target**

**Yamunanagar :** It appears that the district may fall short of achieving its wheat procurement target for the season. Government agencies had aimed to procure 3.30 lakh MT during the 2024 season, compared to 2,97,228 MT in 2023. However, until May 6, only 2,76,780 MT of wheat had been procured at the district's grain markets, leaving around 53,000 MT yet to be acquired to meet this season's target. Reports indicate that wheat arrival was negligible at the Chhachhrauli, Saraswati Nagar, and Radaur grain markets on May 6. Ashok Kumar Sharma, the District Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Controller in Yamunanagar, mentioned that wheat arrivals are expected to continue for about a week. Despite the slowdown in arrivals, he expressed optimism about reaching the estimated procurement target of 3.30 lakh MT.

**Gurugram scrambles to fight 'poor' air**

**Gurugram :** Gurugram is grappling with severe air pollution caused by widespread waste burning across the city, leading to one of the poorest air quality levels in the Delhi-NCR region. Despite soaring temperatures reaching up to 42°C, the air quality remains reminiscent of winter conditions, with an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 291 recorded on Tuesday. Sector 51 stands out as a hotspot for waste burning, with AQI readings peaking at a staggering 399. The administration is inundated with approximately 60 complaints daily regarding this issue, indicating the extent of public concern. Ruchika Sethi from Citizens for Clean Air Bharat expressed frustration, stating that despite regular complaints, waste burning continues unabated throughout the city. This persistent problem has led to three consecutive days of 'poor' air quality, with AQI levels exceeding 200 in most areas.

**Had warned BJP of growing discontent: Haryana's 3 Independent MLAs**

**Had warned BJP of growing discontent: Haryana's 3 Independent MLAs**

## Stage set for Kurukshetra University teachers' body elections

**Kurukshetra :** The Kurukshetra University Teachers' Association (KUTA) elections are poised for action, with three contenders vying for the coveted position of president. The association comprises five office-bearers and a 20-member executive council, with voting scheduled for May 14 to elect four office-bearers. The treasurer and all 20 executive council members have already been elected unopposed, leaving 341 eligible voters to cast their ballots. The presidential race features three candidates: Dalip Kumar from the Department of Law, Vivek Gaur from the Tourism Department of the Institute of Integrated and Honour Studies, and Gyan Chahal from the Department of Public Administration of the Institute of Integrated and Honour Studies. Additionally, Deepak Rai and Mohinder Singh are competing for the vice-president position, while Rajpal and Vijay Kumar are in contention for the secretary role. For the joint secretary position, Manisha Sandhu and Vivek Kumar are the contestants. Satish Kumar has been slated as treasurer, as only one nomination was received for the post. Candidates are advocating for various issues, including attaining central university status, raising the retirement age to 65 years, addressing pending promotions of teachers under the self-finance scheme, and implementing a five-day working week. Gyan Chahal emphasized the need for central university status, pension benefits for teachers who joined after 2006, and promoting research initiatives. Dalip Kumar pledged to advocate for raising the retirement age, releasing pending PhD increments, implementing a five-day work week, and ensuring timely promotions and research support. Vivek Gaur highlighted expediting promotions under the self-financed scheme, converting teachers to budgeted posts, implementing a five-day work week, and ensuring timely benefits and dues for teachers. The upcoming elections promise to address critical issues facing the teaching community and shape the future direction of KUTA.



**Punjab and Haryana High Court calls for clarity on foreign prisoners' phone access**

**Chandigarh :** In Chandigarh, a significant political development unfolded as three Independent MLAs in Haryana, amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, declared their withdrawal of support from the government led by Nayab Singh Saini. Sombir Sangwan, Randhir Gollen, and Dharampal Gonder, the three MLAs, conveyed their decision to extend support to the Congress during a press conference held in Rohtak, alongside former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and State Congress Chief Uday Bhan. Gonder expressed their reasons for withdrawing support, citing various concerns, particularly those affecting farmers, as contributing factors. Addressing the media, Uday Bhan clarified the political implications, highlighting that the BJP government now finds itself in a minority position in the 88-member Haryana Assembly, which currently stands at 88 members.

**Punjab and Haryana High Court calls for clarity on foreign prisoners' phone access**

**Chandigarh :** In Chandigarh, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has revisited its stance on facilitating telephonic communication for foreign national prisoners detained in Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh. Just a month after signaling its intention to implement a new communication system, the Division Bench, comprising Acting Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Lapita Banerji, has requested affidavits regarding the number of foreign prisoners in these regions and details of those who have completed their sentences. Expressing concern over the financial burden imposed on prisoners for phone calls, the Bench emphasized the need for clarity on this matter, particularly considering that foreign nationals might lack the means to afford such expensive calls. It directed the states of Punjab and Haryana, along with the Union Territory of Chandigarh, to submit comprehensive affidavits addressing the court's apprehensions. Reviewing affidavits submitted by Haryana's Inspector-General of Prisons, Jagjit Singh, and Punjab's Deputy Inspector-General (Prisons), Surinder Singh, the Bench noted varying degrees of progress in implementing communication systems. While Haryana had already installed an audio and video calling system in 20 jails and signed agreements with service providers, Punjab was in the process of seeking approval to provide ISD facilities to foreign nationals in its jails. The court proceedings originated from a suo motu petition initiated by the high court after a Kenyan national raised concerns during Justice Sandhawalia's inspection of a women's central jail. The absence of a communication system for foreign prisoners to connect with their families post-arrest prompted the court to address the larger human rights issue at hand. The case is scheduled for further review in late May, underscoring the judiciary's commitment to ensuring the rights and welfare of foreign nationals detained in the region's jails.

**Kumari Selja Accuses BJP of Deceiving the Public**

**Sirsa :** The Congress candidate for the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, Kumari Selja, has leveled accusations against the BJP government, asserting that it has betrayed every segment of society, including farmers, laborers, Dalits, marginalized communities, youth, women, and traders. "None of the promises made by BJP leaders have been fulfilled. It is imperative that we safeguard democracy and instigate a change in the prevailing system," she remarked during her campaign in the Fatehabad Assembly constituency on Tuesday, where she addressed gatherings in both rural and urban areas. In response to the BJP's false assurances, Selja highlighted the Congress manifesto named 'Nyay Patra,' which pledges justice for laborers, youth, women, and farmers. Additionally, 25 guarantees have been outlined for the nation's citizens. Selja emphasized the duty of every Congress and INDIA bloc worker to actively engage in door-to-door campaigning, enlightening people about the deceptive promises made by the BJP.

**Three Independent MLAs Withdraw Support from Haryana Government**

**Chandigarh :** In a significant political turn, three Independent MLAs—Sombir Sangwan, Randhir Singh Gollen, and Dharampal Gonder—announced the withdrawal of their support from the Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP Government in Haryana, pledging allegiance to the Congress during a gathering in Rohtak today. Despite the withdrawal of support by three Independent MLAs, the Saini government faces no immediate threat, as it remains in a "safe zone" despite being in the minority. Presently, the ruling BJP, with 40 MLAs, is backed by two Independent MLAs and one Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) legislator, totaling to 43 seats. On the other hand, the Congress holds 30 MLAs, while one MLA belongs to the Indian National Lok Dal, and the Jannayak Janta Party has 10 MLAs. However, at least five MLAs, although "inclined" towards the BJP, are restrained due to potential action under anti-defection laws. With two seats vacant following the resignations of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and former Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala, the House strength is reduced to 88 out of 90. Consequently, the BJP falls short of the majority mark by two MLAs, needing 45 seats for a majority.

**Yamunanagar May Fall Short of Wheat Procurement Target**

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## Despite Challenging Weather, Wheat Production Surges in Karnal District

**Karnal :** Despite facing adverse weather conditions including hailstorms, rainfall, and strong winds during March and April, Karnal district has witnessed a remarkable increase in wheat production. The influx of wheat at the grain markets in the district has exceeded last year's figures. An official reported that the total quantity of wheat arriving at the grain markets reached 774,468 metric tons, surpassing last year's 752,052 metric tons. Compared to the corresponding date last year, when arrivals stood at 744,059 metric tons, this year's numbers are notably higher. The season is anticipated to continue for a few more days, with expectations of further increases in arrivals. Of the total arrivals, procurement agencies have acquired 765,704 metric tons of wheat. The Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department procured 301,718 metric tons, HAFED secured 396,338 metric tons, and the Haryana State Warehousing Corporation obtained 67,648 metric tons. The remaining 8,764 metric tons were purchased by traders. Experts attribute this year's robust production to several factors. Dr. Gyanendra Singh, Director of the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), pointed out that this season's extended duration, about ten days longer than previous seasons due to weather conditions, played a significant role. Additionally, the adoption of new high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties by numerous farmers contributed to the increased production. The Agriculture Department emphasized that despite challenges such as hailstorms and rainfall during March and April, resulting in crop damage, wheat production exceeded expectations. This achievement was credited to the collaborative efforts of farmers and the adoption of high-yielding crop varieties. Dr. Wazir Singh, Deputy Director of Agriculture, noted, "The department has conducted crop cutting experiments in 1,720 fields. While the final report is pending, initial indications suggest a higher production compared to last year."



**Punjab and Haryana High Court calls for clarity on foreign prisoners' phone access**

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## In Haryana, 'Bahu' vs 'bahu' vs 'chacha sasur': Chautalas fight among themselves in Hisar Lok Sabha seat

**Hisar** : In the arena of Haryana's Hisar Lok Sabha constituency, a captivating electoral spectacle unfolds as three members of the influential Chautala family, divergent in their political affiliations, engage in a spirited contest.

Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) MLA Naina Chautala and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) candidate Sunaina Chautala, both 'bahus' or daughters-in-law of the Chautala lineage, stand in opposition to BJP's Ranjit Singh Chautala.

Ranjit Chautala, the brother of Sunaina and Naina's fathers-in-law, occupies a familial role often referred to as 'chacha sasur'.

Adding another layer to the electoral landscape, the Congress presents three-time MP Jai Prakash as its candidate.

Naina Chautala (57), married to JJP chief Ajay Singh Chautala and mother of former Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant



Chautala, contests against INLD Women Wing general secretary Sunaina Chautala (47), spouse of Ravi Chautala, cousin of Abhay Singh Chautala.

While highlighting their commitment to the welfare of the state's farmers, crucial constituents of the voting populace, both INLD-JJP candidates critique the BJP's governance, particularly its handling of

the farmers' protests against the repealed farm laws.

Sunaina Chautala contends that under BJP rule, various sections, including farmers, Anganwadi workers, and employees, have expressed discontent through protests, challenging the BJP's claims of development.

In contrast, Naina Chautala asserts her son Dushyant Chautala's effective

support for farmers during his tenure as deputy CM, emphasizing his role in ensuring timely procurement and payment for their produce.

Meanwhile, Ranjit Chautala views the electoral competition among relatives as a democratic right, expressing confidence in the BJP's track record of development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

leadership.

The BJP nominee foresees victory across all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, citing the party's successful performance in previous elections and projecting Narendra Modi's re-election as Prime Minister.

Amid this familial electoral clash, it is noteworthy that Ranjit Chautala resigned as an Independent MLA to join the BJP and contest from the Hisar seat. He continues to serve as a Minister in the Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government.

This familial political rivalry evokes memories of past electoral contests within the Chautala clan, indicative of the complex dynamics within the family and its influence on Haryana's political landscape.

The forthcoming polling for all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, scheduled for May 25, promises to be a significant chapter in the state's political narrative.

## Punjab and Haryana High Court calls for clarity on foreign prisoners' phone access

**Chandigarh** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has once again emphasized the need for clarity regarding the telephone access of foreign prisoners held in Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh. Approximately a month after indicating its intention to establish a new communication system for foreign nationals incarcerated in these regions, a Division Bench, comprising Acting Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Lapita Banerji, has requested affidavits detailing the number of such prisoners and information on those who have completed their sentences.

Expressing concern over the payment of call charges by prisoners in the two states, the Bench noted that foreign nationals might not have the financial means to cover these expenses. Consequently, it called for more comprehensive affidavits from the governments of Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to address these apprehensions.



The Bench referred to an affidavit submitted by Haryana's Inspector-General of Prisons, Jagjit Singh, which outlined the installation of an audio and video calling system in 20 jails across the state. It also highlighted a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2022 with a service provider for a duration of five years. However, the Bench noted that the affidavit discussed per-minute call rates to be borne by the prisoners and emphasized the need for clearance from the Commission of Police/SP of the relevant district, differing from Punjab's proposal.

Additionally, the Bench reviewed another affidavit presented by Punjab's Deputy Inspector-General (Prisons), Surinder Singh, which mentioned a request for approval to introduce International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) facilities in jails.

The case is scheduled for further hearing in the last week of May, signaling ongoing efforts by the court to address the issue of telephone access for foreign prisoners in the region.

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## BJP Government Stalled Haryana's Progress: Deepender Hooda

**Rohtak** : In a scathing criticism of the BJP, Congress candidate and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda lambasted the ruling party for derailing the state's development, leaving the populace to grapple with issues like deteriorating law and order, contaminated water, crumbling infrastructure, and ineffective governance. Hooda emphasized that the substantial public discontent compelled the BJP to alter its government just before the Lok Sabha elections, attempting to deceive the electorate. However, he asserted that this change in leadership would not sway voters, as the public is determined to oust

the BJP from power in the upcoming elections.

Addressing gatherings in various villages across Haryana, including Dahkora, Rohad, Asanda, Bhaproda, Kharhar, Matan Silothi, Dabodha, Dulhera, Kharman, Chhudani, Rewari Kheda, Chhara, Mehra, Chamanpura, and Dujana, Hooda urged villagers to cast their votes in favor of a Congress. Hooda highlighted the Congress's developmental initiatives during its tenure, citing the construction of bypasses at 17 locations, including Jhajjar, Badli, Bahadurgarh, Meham, Kosli, Rohtak, Kalanaur, and Sampla.

## Assembly bypoll: At Karnal, Congress's Trilochan Singh hits trail

**Karnal** : In Karnal, Congress candidate Trilochan Singh has launched a vigorous campaign effort, embarking on a door-to-door outreach initiative to directly engage with voters and secure their support for the upcoming Assembly by-election. Beginning with a 'Prabhat Pheri' in the morning across various localities, Singh later intensified his campaign activities.

Formerly serving as the chairman of the Haryana Minority Commission during the previous Congress administration, Singh is emphasizing grassroots-level interactions, aiming to establish personal connections with the electorate. In addition to seeking votes for himself in the Karnal Assembly constituency, Singh is also rallying support for Divyanshu Budhiraja, the party's candidate for the Karnal Lok Sabha seat.

Competing against BJP candidate and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in the As-



sembly race, Singh is campaigning alongside a dedicated team of party leaders and workers, including Himanshu Budhiraja (Divyanshu Budhiraja's brother), senior Congress figure Parag Gaba, as well as Sagar Chandel and Kulwant Kaler. Together, they are actively addressing residents' concerns and grievances.

"Our door-to-door campaign is aimed at establishing direct contact with the

people. We commenced with the 'Prabhat Pheri' in various neighborhoods this morning and later expanded our campaign within the city," stated Singh.

He is engaging in personalized discussions with residents, covering a range of issues from local infrastructure development to social welfare programs.

"I am deeply rooted in the concerns of Karnal's residents. Unlike CM Saini, who

hails from another district and may not be acquainted with our local issues, I am committed to addressing them if elected," asserted Singh.

Parag Gaba, actively involved in both Singh's and Divyanshu's campaigns, expressed confidence in the Congress's prospects, predicting victories in all 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state and a decisive win in the Karnal Assembly seat.

## Farmers Flock to Kurukshetra for High-Yield Paddy Variety Seeds

**Kurukshetra** : With the commencement of paddy nursery sowing nearing, farmers are lining up in Kurukshetra and Ambala to acquire high-yield seed varieties, particularly the Sava 7501 and Sava 7301 strains.

Long queues of farmers can be observed outside seed distributors' shops as they wait for hours to procure seeds for their fields.

Demand for Sava Varieties Soars

The Sava 7301 and Sava 7501 varieties are currently in high demand due to their superior yields, although market stocks are limited. Despite their higher cost compared to standard parmal varieties, the significant yield difference of 5 to 7 quintals is advantageous for farmers, as stated by Sanjay Kumar, a paddy farmer from Ladwa in Kurukshetra. Sanjay Kumar shared his experience, saying, "Last year, I sowed Sava 7301 and achieved a yield of around 33 to 35 quintals per acre, compared to the previous 26 to 28 quintals. Despite the higher

cost, the substantial increase in yield makes these varieties favorable for farmers."

Prince Waraich, spokesperson for Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charumi), cautioned against the risks of black marketing and seed duplication due to high demand and limited supply. He urged farmers to consider alternative seed varieties and avoid rushing for specific strains.

Jitender Mehta, SDO of the Agriculture Department in Kurukshetra, outlined measures to ensure equitable distribution of seeds, stating, "To address the high demand and limited supply, each farmer will be provided with two packets of 3 kg each, allowing more farmers to access these particular varieties. Additionally, farmers are encouraged to explore other seed options, as sufficient stock is available in the market." Deputy Director of Agriculture in Ambala, Jasvinder Saini, emphasized the importance of diversifying seed choices and advised farmers to remain patient amidst fluctuating supply.

## "Haryana's CM Saini Asserts Firm Governance, Blames Congress for Instigating Uncertainty"

**Chandigarh** : In response to the withdrawal of support by three Independent MLAs from the BJP-led government, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini stated on Wednesday that his administration stands resolute and robust, brushing off any notion of instability. He attributed the perceived confusion to the Congress's maneuvers.

"The government stands firm without any trouble, functioning with vigor," remarked Saini during his visit to Sirsa to endorse Ashok Tanwar, the BJP's candidate for the Lok Sabha polls.

Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri), and Dharampal Gonder (Nikokheri) withdrew their support from the BJP government on Tuesday, opting to align with the Congress, thereby reducing the government to a minority in the state assembly.

With two other Independent legislators still offering support, the government remains two votes short of the majority mark in the 90-member House.



Saini directed criticism at the Congress, suggesting that the party is driven by a desire to cater to individual ambitions.

"The Congress, during its tenure at the Centre, often succumbed to pressure by fulfilling specific personal interests," he remarked, insinuating that the party's approach does not resonate with the people of Haryana.

Highlighting the accomplishments of the 'dou-

ble-engine' government, Saini emphasized the strides made in developmental initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.

However, the Congress's attempts to sow seeds of doubt about the government's stability are misguided, asserted Saini, maintaining that the administration remains steadfast and efficient.

The Haryana Congress

has announced its intention to petition the governor, asserting the government's minority status and advocating for its dismissal, the imposition of President's Rule, and fresh elections.

Saini also underscored the BJP's commitment to merit-based employment, contrasting it with the alleged favoritism and corruption he attributed to the Congress's approach during its tenure.

## We focus on national issues: MLA Harvinder Kalyan

**Karnal** : In Karnal, as the electoral arena intensifies and election day approaches, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has stepped up its efforts to secure victories for its candidates in the upcoming Karnal Lok Sabha elections and Karnal Assembly by-election.

"We prioritize national issues" The BJP operates as a cadre-based party, emphasizing national concerns in its electoral endeavors. Our focus remains steadfast on the nation. — Harvinder Kalyan, Ghararunda MLA

Employing meticulous planning at the grassroots level, the party has rallied its cadre to bolster the campaign, rallying behind former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for the Karnal Lok Sabha seat and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for the Karnal Assembly constituency.

Dedicated party workers, including 'panna pramukhs', booth-level volunteers, 'shakti kendra pramukhs', and other functionaries, alongside district bodies and the Lok Sabha election convener, are actively engaging with constituents to showcase the accomplishments of both Union and state governments.

They are collectively addressing pressing national concerns, seeking endorsement by highlighting the party's initiatives for public welfare. Additionally, they are leveraging digital platforms to reinforce their organizational



efforts. "The BJP, with its cadre-driven approach, centers its electoral discourse around national interests. Our commitment to the nation remains unwavering," affirmed Harvinder Kalyan, the Karnal Lok Sabha election convener and MLA from Ghararunda. He underscored the grassroots workers' dedication to fortifying the party and serving the community.

"Our core mission is community service, and our workers are fully devoted to this endeavor," he emphasized. Brij Gupta, the district body's treasurer, echoed similar sentiments, stating, "Our party activists are tirelessly engaged at the grassroots level to ensure victory for our candidates.

They are wholeheartedly dedicated to the party's mission of community service." Gupta reiterated the party's confidence in securing victories across all contested seats.

Jagmohan Anand, former media coordinator for Khattar, highlighted their strategy to boost voter turnout, with party workers actively urging constituents to cast their ballots in favor of the BJP on election day.

"Our officials, from Panna Pramukhs to district and state bodies, are striving to increase voter participation," Anand asserted, expressing confidence in the BJP's prospects of winning all ten Lok Sabha seats and the Karnal assembly by-election.

## Feeling the heat, BJP to reach out to women, Sikhs, SCs, youth in Haryana

**Rohtak** : In response to growing concerns over the perceived challenge posed by Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha elections due to factors such as "anti-incumbency" and "caste equations" in Haryana, the BJP has initiated efforts to engage with various demographic groups, including women, Sikhs, Scheduled Castes (SC), and youth.

Sources reveal that the party is concentrating its efforts on these specific segments of the population, providing its workers with detailed information about the developmental achievements

of the Modi government over the past decade. An internal directive has been circulated among the party workers outlining the objectives of this outreach initiative.

A BJP leader explained that the campaign aims to engage with a wide range of individuals from these demographic groups, which are expected to play pivotal roles in the upcoming elections. Given that some constituencies share borders with Punjab and have a significant Sikh population, efforts are being made to inform Sikh voters about the government's achievements.



The communication emphasizes key accomplishments such as the reopening of the Kartarpur corridor, the recognition of December 26 as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to honor Guru Gobind Singh, and the convictions related to the 1984 riots, along with the provision of financial aid to Sikh families affected by the riots.

Constituencies like Sirsa, Ambala, and Kurukshetra, with sizable Sikh electorates, are particularly targeted for this identification strategy. Additionally, the party has identified specific developmental initiatives to highlight among SC

voters, including the establishment of 'Panch Tirth' sites related to Dr. BR Ambedkar's life and various other governmental appointments and recognitions.

Party workers have been advised to approach these engagements as informed citizens rather than as political advocates, with instructions to refrain from displaying party symbols or wearing party attire during such meetings. This approach underscores the BJP's concerted efforts to engage with diverse segments of the electorate in Haryana ahead of the elections.



## DC keep playoff hopes alive by defeating RR

**New Delhi** : In a captivating match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, the Delhi Capitals clinched a thrilling victory over the Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday, keeping their hopes alive for a playoff spot in the IPL 2024 tournament.

The clash witnessed a formidable display from the former finalists, as they successfully defended a challenging total of 221 runs against Rajasthan, showcasing resilience and tactical prowess under pressure. Led by the dynamic Rishabh Pant, Delhi's victory was a testament to their all-round performance. Pant's strategic bowling changes and tactical acumen played a pivotal role in containing Rajasthan's batting onslaught, overshadowing the efforts of Rajasthan's Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Contributions from Abhishek Porel, who scored a maiden IPL fifty, and a sensational blitz from Jake Fraser-McGurk propelled Delhi to a competitive total. Despite Rajasthan's valiant effort with the bat, led by a magnificent innings from Sanju Samson (86 off 46), they fell short of the target, ending their chase at 201 for 8 in 20 overs.

Samson's exceptional innings kept Rajasthan in the hunt until a controversial decision by the third umpire resulted in his dismissal, triggering a collapse in their batting lineup.

Following Samson's departure, Rajasthan strug-



gled to maintain momentum, managing only 39 runs in 26 balls and losing four wickets in the process.

Despite their efforts, they were unable to overcome Delhi's determined bowling attack, falling short by 20 runs in the end.

With this crucial win, Delhi Capitals have elevated themselves into the mid-table mix, intensifying the competition for the top four spots as the IPL 2024 league stage approaches its climax.

In the batting department, Delhi got off to a flying start with McGurk aggressively dominating the early overs, while Porel

provided solid support. McGurk's onslaught, including an array of boundaries and towering sixes, set the tone for Delhi's innings, propelling them to a swift 221/8 in their allotted 20 overs.

Despite losing key wickets at regular intervals, Delhi's middle order, led by skipper Rishabh Pant and aided by contributions from Tristan Stubbs and Gulbadin Naib, ensured that the scoreboard kept ticking. Stubbs, in particular, played a pivotal role in the death overs, unleashing a flurry of boundaries to propel Delhi past the 200-run mark.

Ravichandran Ashwin emerged as the standout performer with the ball for Rajasthan Royals, claiming three crucial wickets for 24 runs, while Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, and Yuzvendra Chahal chipped in with a wicket each to restrict Delhi's formidable batting lineup.

Brief Scores: Delhi Capitals: 221 for 8 in 20 overs (Jake Fraser-McGurk 50, Abhishek Porel 65; Ravichandran Ashwin 3/24).

Rajasthan Royals: 201 for 8 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 86; Kuldeep Yadav 2/25, Khaleel Ahmed 2/47, Mukesh Kumar 2/30).

## Chahal creates record, secures 350th T20 wicket

**New Delhi** : Yuzvendra Chahal, the spin maestro of Rajasthan Royals, once again showcased his bowling prowess in a face-off against Delhi Capitals, achieving a significant milestone here on Tuesday as he secured his 350th wicket in T20 cricket, making him a formidable force in the format.

The milestone moment arrived in the 14th over of the match when Chahal bowled a fuller delivery targeting the middle and leg stump.

Rishabh Pant, aiming for a cross-bat shot, mistimed his stroke, sending the ball towards deep backward square leg where Trent Boult executed a comfortable catch. With this wicket, Chahal etched his name in T20 cricket history, achieving the landmark in his 300th match, boasting an economy rate of 7.68.

Veteran bowler Piyush Chawla trails behind Chahal with 310 wickets to his name, emphasising Chahal's dominance in the bowling department.

Chahal's milestone set the stage for



an enthralling finish as DC pulled off the match in an high-octane encounter.

## Delhi Capitals co-owner Parth Jindal meets Sanju Samson after DC vs RR amid backlash over 'out hai' reaction

**New Delhi** : A video shared on Delhi Capitals' official social media platform captures a significant moment between co-owner Parth Jindal and Rajasthan Royals' captain Sanju Samson following a tense encounter. Despite Delhi's victory over the Royals, the aftermath was clouded by criticism directed at Jindal for his animated response to Samson's dismissal, which required the intervention of the third umpire. Jindal's reaction drew considerable backlash on social media, yet the video shared by DC de-



icts a scene of mutual respect and casual conversation between him and Samson post-match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi. The incident unfolded

during the 16th over of RR's chase, following Delhi's imposing total of 221 for 8. Samson, who showcased a stroke-filled innings of 86 off 46 balls, struck a powerful shot off medium-pace Mukesh Kumar that seemed destined to clear the boundary.

However, Shai Hope executed a spectacular catch inches from the boundary rope, with the third umpire confirming that Hope hadn't made contact with the boundary cushions while taking the catch, resulting in Samson's dismissal.

## Dortmund defeat PSG to reach Champions League final

**Paris** : Borussia Dortmund reached their first Champions League final since 2013, outplaying Paris Saint-Germain in a 1-0 victory on Tuesday, despite a lackluster domestic season.

Dortmund secured their spot with an aggregate score of 2-0, having won the first leg by the same margin.

The crucial goal came in the second half when Mats Hummels headed in from a Julian Brandt corner. Moments earlier, PSG's Warren Zaire-Emery narrowly missed a golden opportunity, volleying against the post from close range.

Despite the French giants dominating possession and amassing 30 shots to Dortmund's seven, they were thwarted repeatedly, hitting.

The woodwork four times in the second half alone.

Kylian Mbappe ex-



pressed his disappointment post-match, stating, "We always want to win at PSG, we feel sad."

"We should have scored. We had the chances to score (and) when you don't, when you're not ef-

ficient at both ends, it's difficult to go through," Mbappe said after Tuesday's defeat.

At the start of the season, no one could have expected Dortmund to be in the final of the Champions League after they were drawn in a tough group alongside PSG, AC Milan and Newcastle.

But Edin Terzic's side finished top before they got past PSV Eindhoven in the round of 16 and then knocked out Atletico Madrid in the quarterfinals.

"The belief was there. We spoke about the game against Eindhoven (Dortmund's last-16 tie) how short the road to London is. It'll take us a bit of time to realize that, but we're looking forward to it very much."

The other semifinal pits Bundesliga's Bayern Munich against Real Madrid, with their first leg ending in a 2-2 draw in Munich.

The Champions League final is set to be held at Wembley Stadium in London on June 1.

## 'Yashasvi Jaiswal has got very good chance of...': Brian Lara

**New Delhi** : Brian Lara sees immense potential in Yashasvi Jaiswal's burgeoning Test career, foreseeing the 22-year-old Indian left-hander possibly challenging Lara's own record-breaking 400 not out. Their close relationship, fostered during interactions over the past year, especially during their time together at the IPL, has deepened their bond. Jaiswal's rise to prominence in India's Test and T20 teams since IPL 2023 has been remarkable, with outstanding performances, including two double centuries in the recent home series against England, catching Lara's eye.

Lara highlights Jaiswal's exceptional ability to adapt to match situations, a quality he finds impressive and vital for record-breaking feats. Speaking to PTI editors in an interaction arranged by Star Sports, where

Lara serves as a commentator and expert for IPL, he expressed confidence in Jaiswal's potential to surpass records, given his talent and determination.

Reflecting on their initial encounter, Lara fondly recalls their late-night conversation, showcasing Jaiswal's eagerness to learn and improve.

Lara appreciates Jaiswal's humility and work ethic, emphasizing their discussions aimed at honing his cricketing skills.

As a fellow left-hander, Lara admits his bias towards left-handed players, praising Abhishek Sharma along with Jaiswal for their humility and aspirations for greatness. Lara believes that players who score quickly and possess a hunger for long innings are typically record challengers, a trait he sees in Jaiswal.



## Japan bowl out Mongolia for 12, second lowest total in T20I history

**New Delhi** : In a lopsided demonstration of cricketing skills, Mongolia endured a resounding 205-run loss to Japan on Wednesday in Sano, marking a disheartening chapter just months after their debut at the Asian Games. The Mongolian squad faltered, managing a mere 12 runs, marking the second lowest score in T20 International history, trailing only Isle of Man's 10 against Spain in February 2023. Japan's dominance was evident with a commanding total of 217 for 7. Leading the Japanese bowling charge was 17-year-old left-arm seamer Kazuma Kato-Stafford, who clinched an impressive 5 wickets for just 7 runs in his 3.2 overs. Supporting him were Abdul Samad and Makoto Taniyama. Mongo-

lia's batting lineup crumbled under pressure, with Tur Sumaya managing only 4 runs off 11 deliveries, while opener Namsrai Bat-yalalt faced the most deliveries at 12. This match was part of a series of seven matches, with the third T20I, scheduled for later in the day, ending inconclusively. In the first T20I, Mongolia faced a similar fate, succumbing to a 166-run defeat after being bowled out for 33 while chasing Japan's 199 for 5. Mongolia's journey in international cricket has been fraught with challenges since their debut at the Hangzhou event, where they failed to advance past the group stage after suffering defeats in both their matches. In their inaugural international encounter, they were over-

whelmed by Nepal, conceding a massive total of 314/3 and losing by 273 runs after being dismissed for 41. Their woes continued with a nine-wicket defeat against Maldives in their second match, managing a mere 60 for 9. According to reports from the ICC, Battulga Gombo played a pivotal role in promoting cricket in Mongolia. His efforts, starting in 2014, led to the development of a cricket ground in a wasteland area, and in 2015, alongside Chris Hurd, he initiated the Mongolian Cricket Seed Appeal. Since then, the cricket program in schools has expanded, with six provinces outside Ulaanbaatar actively participating in the sport, and regular indoor and outdoor tournaments being organized throughout the year.

## Bangladesh recall Shakib for last two Zimbabwe T20s

**New Delhi** : Bangladesh has made strategic changes to their squad for the final two Twenty20 internationals against Zimbabwe in the ongoing five-match series. Notably, all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman have been reintroduced. Shakib, previously the team's captain, has been absent from T20 cricket since July 2023 due to his parliamentary responsibilities following his election as a member of parliament for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's party earlier this year. Despite his political duties, Shakib's return for this series underscores his continued relevance in Bangladesh's cricketing plans, especially with the Twenty20 World Cup approaching in June. Mustafizur Rahman, the left-arm spinner, was given a break for the first three



matches after his stint in the Indian Premier League, where he excelled as the joint-highest wicket-taker

for the Chennai Super Kings. Additionally, top-order batsman Soumya Sarkar, who missed the initial

matches due to injury, has also made a comeback. Parvez Hossain Emon and Afif Hossain, initially in-

cluded in the squad but not fielded in the playing XI, have been omitted for the remaining matches to accommodate the returning players. Pace bowler Shoriful Islam has been rested to make room for the returning trio. Bangladesh has already secured the series with a 3-0 lead, with the last two matches scheduled in Dhaka on Friday and Sunday. This series against Zimbabwe marks Bangladesh's final home engagements before the Twenty20 World Cup commences in the United States and the West Indies next month. The squad for the remaining matches includes: Najmul Hossain Shanto (capt), Liton Das, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Towhid Hridoy, Mahmudullah Riyad, Jaker Ali Anik, Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain.



## BSE Sensex

Close	73,466.39
Percent change	0.062%
Previous close	73,511.85
Open	73,225.00
High	73,684.93
Low	73,073.92

## Nifty 50

Close	22,302.50
Percent change	0.00%
Previous close	22,302.50
Open	22,231.20
High	22,368.65
Low	22,185.20

## Nifty 500

Close	20,704.90
Percent change	0.33%
Previous close	20,636.05
Open	20,586.80
High	20,768.75
Low	20,516.25

## Nifty Next 50

Close	64,784.25
Percent change	1.32%
Previous close	63,937.35
Open	63,908.05
High	65,076.00
Low	63,562.90

## Nifty 100

Close	23,166.00
Percent change	-0.83%
Previous close	23,103.75
Open	23,040.80
High	23,236.65
Low	22,982.85

## Nifty Bank

Close	48,021.10
Percent change	0.55%
Previous close	48,285.35
Open	48,124.20
High	48,223.05
Low	47,851.15

## Nifty Midcap 100

Close	50,036.30
Percent change	0.73%
Previous close	49,674.45
Open	49,588.80
High	50,169.85
Low	49,265.60

## Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Hero Motocorp	4,613.90	3.06
BPCL	620.30	2.65
Tata Motors	1,012.10	2.38
Power Grid Corp	302.00	2.29
Hindalco	633.50	2.14

## Top Losers

Company	Current	% Loss
Dr Reddys Labs	6,056.35	-3.22
Asian Paints	2,843.30	-2.39
Grasim	2,377.35	-1.80
UltraTechCement	9,519.40	-1.68
SBI Life Insura	1,426.75	-1.61

## Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Jun 05	71,193.00	45.00 0.06
Silver Jul 05	82,827.00	-51.00 -0.06
Crudeoil May 20	6,473.00	-112.00 -1.70
Naturalgas May 28	189.40	5.20 2.82

## Toyota logs record net profit in fiscal 2023



**Tokyo** : Toyota Motor Corp. said Wednesday it saw a record net profit of 4.94 trillion yen (31.82 billion U.S. dollars) for the fiscal year of 2023, citing robust demand and the yen's depreciation.

The figure doubled from the previous fiscal year, while the operating profit almost doubled from a year earlier to 5.35 trillion yen during the fiscal period from April 2023 to March 2024, the company said in its latest financial results.

According to local media reports, Toyota became the first Japanese company to top the 5-trillion-yen mark in operating profit for fiscal 2023.

The Japanese automaker re-

ported a record 45.1 trillion yen in sales, up 21.4 percent from a year ago. Citing the popularity of hybrid cars, the company said its group vehicle sales, including those of its subsidiaries Daihatsu Motor Co. and Hino Motors Ltd., rose 5.0 percent to 11.09 million units.

Toyota expected its net profit to decline 27.8 percent to 3.57 trillion yen for the current fiscal year ending next March, with a 2-percent rise in sales. Its planned global sales are downgraded to 10.95 million vehicles worldwide for the year, down 1.3 percent from the previous year, the company said. (1 U.S. dollar equals 155.23 Japanese yen).

## Stock market on roller coaster; BSE Sensex ends 45 points down

**Mumbai** : The stock market was on a roller coaster on Wednesday as the BSE Sensex moved up and down during the day amidst concerns over the outcome of Lok Sabha election.

The 30-share index ended little over 45 points down from previous close after seeing a drop of over 200 points during the day.

The BSE Sensex remained negative on Wednesday too, slipping 45.46 points to settle at 73466.39 as gains in Reliance Industries, L&T shares was overshadowed by heavy losses in the private banking and technology stocks.

Meanwhile, as per the data available, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 3,669 crore in the previous trading session while the Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought to the tune of Rs



2,304 crore.

According to sources, a multiple factors including uncertainty over the outcome of Lok Sabha election, geo political situation were responsible for the cautious approach by investors.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) ended flat at

22,302.50.

The Sensex opened in red with a loss of 286 points at 73225. During the day, it dropped 204 points at 73073.92, day's low before closing at 73,466.39, easing 45.46 points from its previous close.

During the intra-day it

had surged 173 points at 73684.93, day's high. The NSE registered days high and low at 22,368.65 and 22,185.20 points respectively. Stocks including IT, Bankex and Technology kept the market under pressure. In the 30 scrips, 15 advanced while 15 declined.

## Tata Power reports highest ever PAT of Rs. 4,280 crore for FY24

**Mumbai** : Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies, on Wednesday reported its highest ever PAT of ₹ 4,280 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2024.

The Company has maintained strong growth momentum by reporting PAT growth for the 18th consecutive quarter to ₹ 1,109 crore for Q4FY24.

The company's market capitalisation has surpassed ₹ 1.4 lakh crore, according to a media statement.

FY24 saw the company achieve its highest-ever Revenue and EBITDA at ₹ 61,542 crore and ₹ 12,701 crore respectively, backed by

A strong rising share from core businesses of Generation, Transmission & Distribution and Renewables, which contributed 74% to FY24 PAT compared to 44% in FY23.

Dr. Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Power, said, "The Company reported yet another quarter of stellar results with Q4FY24 being the 18th consecutive quarter of PAT growth."

The operational and financial performance of all our core businesses - Generation, T&D and Re-



newables - has been strong and is on a growth path."

"Today, Tata Power stands at the forefront of India's energy transition with its integrated presence across the value chain. Our clean energy portfolio will touch 15 GW by FY27 and we are committed to supplying round-the-clock renewable energy to our consumers with a mix of solar, wind and Pumped Hydro Storage Projects in our portfolio."

"The Odisha Discoms have demonstrated the success of the Public Private Partnership model

and are now profitable within a short span of three years. We are well-poised to take on newer power distribution opportunities once they open for privatization."

"The rooftop solar business is displaying growth momentum and with a portfolio of over 2 GW, we are well-positioned to tap the increasing opportunities, especially under.

The PM Surya Ghar Yojana which aims to light up one crore households."

"We continue our journey to be the most pre-

ferred and trusted green energy solutions provider and utility of choice for every customer."

Tata Power's 4.3GW Cell & Module manufacturing facility in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu has commenced production and commercially produced around 130MW of Modules in Q4FY24.

The Company's inclusion in MNRE's ALMM (Approved List of Models and Manufacturers) scheme further strengthens its position to significantly contribute towards PM Surya Ghar Yojana.

## PolicyBoss.com launches Live Brokerage &amp; InstaPay features

**New Delhi** : PolicyBoss.com, a new-age insurance solutions provider, Wednesday launched two innovative features - Live Brokerage and InstaPay.

With these features, Point of Sales Persons (PoSPs) registered with the company can get real-time access to their earnings from selling the insurance policies and immediate realisation of the same.

Traditionally, insurance agents and PoSPs have to refer to complex grids to understand the income potential from commissions. Add to that, there are over 72 parameters that need to be considered for ensuring payout, a company statement said.

Usually, commission payments are made over 30-45 day payment cycles across the industry, and reconciliation efforts further take time.

Hence, for the insurance agents and PoSPs, a lot of productive time goes in figuring out the accuracy and case wise details of commissions earned.

For the first time in India, Insurance PoSPs will be able to see live brokerage against each quote option they generate and upon completing sale, they will receive their commission payment immediately.

Commenting on the launch, Susheel Tejuja, Managing Director & Co-Founder of PolicyBoss.com, said



"With the unveiling of Live Brokerage and InstaPay features, we are ushering in a new era of support for PoSP agents.

These features will provide our PoSPs with seamless commission tracking and swift commission realisation. It will unlock their full potential and drive industry innovation."

We are now confident that more PoSPs will join the PolicyBoss community and revolutionise the insurance industry, he added

The 'Live Brokerage' feature seamlessly integrates commission tracking into the policy quote page, providing real-time visibility of earnings. PoSPs get immediate information about the commission that can be earned on the said quote, ensuring transparency and clarity in their earnings.

By integrating commission tracking into the quote page, Live Brokerage eliminates the need for manual

tracking through separate systems or paperwork. InstaPay tackles a common challenge faced by PoSP agents - delayed commission payments.

The 'InstaPay' feature facilitates seamless and instant realisation of commissions by simplifying the payment process. With this feature, PolicyBoss.com ensures that agents receive their hard-earned commissions instantly, providing them with financial stability and motivation to excel in their roles.

InsurTech company, PolicyBoss.com aims to revolutionise the Indian customer's insurance experience with its hands-on consultative approach. It's a B2B2C player keen on changing the perception of insurance by providing customers with simple, transparent, and hassle-free interactions backed by a robust technology framework, it added.

## Chatterjee Group appoints Mehta as CPO &amp; Gagneja as CGRO

**Mumbai** : Kashyap Mehta and Prashant Gagneja has onboarded as key leader of First LivingSpaces Private Limited's (FLS) new technology ventures - Ziki and Sirrus.ai. According to the statement, FLS has positioned its new businesses in two core domains. Ziki focuses on crafting technology-enabled communities, both online and offline. Sirrus.ai is an experience ecosystem with AI-first principles, catering to the real estate industry. Mehta, an e-commerce specialist with over 25 years of expertise in multiple industries, has joined FLS as the (CPO), while Gagneja, a seasoned strategist in (CPG) and Fin-tech industries, has assumed the role of the (CGRO). FLS spokesperson Sovon Manna said, "We are delighted to



have the two visionary achievers joining us. Their experience, exuberance and unique approaches will be instrumental in propelling our businesses towards greater heights of success." Gagneja brings to the table his 16 years of extensive experience in driving operational success and optimising revenue streams through technology adop-



tion. In his previous role as the vice president of organised trade at BharatPe, he had played a pivotal role in fostering key account relationships. His go-to-market strategy has been instrumental in advancing revenue strategies at several CPG and FMCG giants, including Pepsico, Kellogg, Coca-Cola, and Pernod Ricard, statement added.

## South Indian Bank, Northern Arc Capital sign MoU to offer financial solutions

**New Delhi** : Kerala-based private sector bank South Indian Bank and NBFC Northern Arc Capital on Wednesday announced signing of MoU aiming at exploring and maximizing business opportunities through combined efforts in the areas of loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection and reconciliation process.

"South Indian Bank has entered into an alliance with Northern Arc Capital. This association has been formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) underscoring the commitment of both institutions to a mutually beneficial partnership," a joint press statement said.

The alliance will focus



on co-lending and partnership lending activities, as

well as facilitate seamless loan transfers between banks

and originators. Commenting on the de-

velopment, P R Seshadri, MD and CEO, South Indian Bank, said, "This alliance with Northern Arc Capital serves as a compelling testament to our unwavering commitment to innovation and sustained growth. As we unite our respective strengths, our collective aim is to forge a formidable presence in the financial sector."

"This collaboration is poised not only to drive enhanced value for our customers but also to create tangible benefits for our stakeholders. By leveraging the synergies inherent in this alliance, we look forward to pioneering innovative solutions and setting new benchmarks within the dynamic landscape of the financial industry," he added.