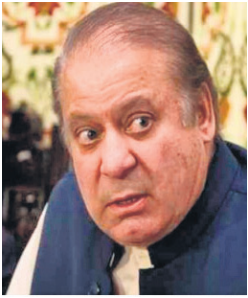


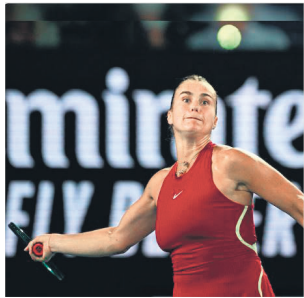
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MY PERSONAL GUARANTEE TO FULFIL YOUNG GENERATION'S ASPIRATIONS: PM MODI



11

PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT BROUGHT MY FATHER BACK FROM UK: NAWAZ SHARIF'S DAUGHTER



16

SUPERB SABALENKA POWERS PAST GAUFF, STORMS INTO AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINAL

FRENCH PREZ'S DAY OUT IN PINK CITY WITH PM MODI

Chants 'Modi-Macron Zindabad' echoed during the roadshow

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, arrived in the Pink City on Thursday, a day before Republic Day celebrations in the national capital where he will be the chief guest.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was pictured extending him a warm welcome at Jantar Mantar. The two leaders warmly greeted each other and posed for the cameras. They then headed to see Jantar Mantar.

The French President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a mega roadshow in the city. They moved in an open car with PM Modi and witnessed the cultural heritage from Jaipur's Parakote.

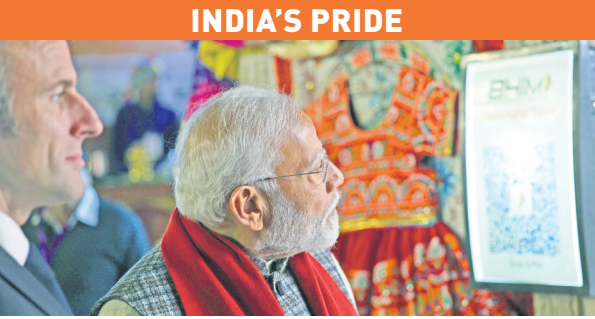
As soon as Modi and Macron's convoy emerged from



Tripoli Gate, a large crowd chanted slogans in favor of both leaders. Along with 'Jai Shri Ram,' cheers of 'Modi-Macron Ki Dosti Zindabad'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a replica of the Ram Mandir to French President Emmanuel Macron

were also heard. During this time, both leaders shook hands with the crowd, accepting greetings along the



PM Modi explained the UPI payment to French President Emmanuel Macron as the two leaders visited a local shop during their visit to Hawa Mahal in Jaipur.

The French President and the Prime Minister held a mega roadshow. They moved in an open car and witnessed the cultural heritage.

'I.N.D.I.A bloc fine, Nitish has no issue'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As a public statement by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, hitting out at dynastic politics without taking names, set the cat amongst the pigeons, ruling JD(U) leader KC Tyagi on Thursday affirmed that the party was still with the Mahagathabandhan (grand alliance) in the state and the Opposition bloc-I.N.D.I.A.

Earlier, in the day, the RJD claimed that his critique of dynastic politics was directed at the BJP and not at the ruling ally in the state.

"JD(U) remains a part of the INDIA alliance," ANI quoted Tyagi as saying.

Meanwhile, amid the hectic political developments in Bihar, BJP national president JP Nadda cancelled his scheduled visit to Kerala. He was scheduled to participate in a Pad Yatra at Kasaragod on January 27.

Further, in an intriguing development, the BJP's



WILL NITISH JUMP SHIP AGAIN?

In an intriguing development, the BJP's Bihar chief Samrat Chaudhary and former deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi arrived in the national capital on Thursday for a meeting with the party top brass.

Bihar chief Samrat Chaudhary and former deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi arrived in the national capital on Thursday for a meeting with the party top

brass. Earlier, on Wednesday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann announced that the ruling TMC and the AAP in these two states wouldn't ally with the Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The announcements came as a hammer blow to the INDIA partners to agree on a seat-sharing deal for the ensuing elections.

Before Rahul Gandhi-led ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is scheduled to reach West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo as well as Punjab CM Mann said there will be no alliance with the grand old party for the Lok Sabha elections, adding their parties would go it alone in polls.

"I had no discussions with the Congress. I have always said that in Bengal, we will fight alone. I am not con-

TOP OF THE DAY

NARI SHAKTI, MILITARY MIGHT ON DISPLAY TODAY

New Delhi: India gears up for a momentous platinum celebrations of the country's Republic Day on Friday with an enthralling showcase of its military prowess and rich cultural heritage at the majestic 'Kartavya Path' in the national capital. President Droupadi Murmu will lead the country in the grand celebrations in its journey of Amrit Kaal that began post the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of the country's independence.

MUMBAI BRACES FOR MASSIVE RALLY

TDG NETWORK
PUNE

Maratha Reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil said on Thursday that their rally towards Mumbai will be peaceful, even as the Mumbai Police has reportedly deined permission to hold a protest at Azad Maidan on January 26. Patil is expected to address a crowd and lead a march towards Azad Maidan with his supporters. The administration has instead asked him to move the protest to the International Corporate Park in Navi Mumbai's Kharghar to avoid traffic congestion in Mumbai.

Patil meanwhile said they will not return from the state capital without reservation. Social media is flooded



Manoj Jarange Patil being welcomed by supporters File photo

with photos of massive crowds at the rally which is moving towards Mumbai from Pune. The financial capital is expected to see traffic disruption as the rally enters the city. Mumbai Police has cancelled all the leaves of its personnel for three days.

"We are now left with one

last stop, which is at Vashi. After Vashi, we will go towards Mumbai peacefully, but we will not come back without reservation. From today on, our number will increase and all the Maratha people from all over Maharashtra will gather in Mumbai. The people of Mumbai are also with us," said Patil.

"We are now left with one last stop, which is at Vashi. After Vashi, we will go towards Mumbai peacefully, but we will not come back without reservation."

"Everyone has to take on the responsibility of becoming a volunteer starting today. Everyone has to keep an eye on their nearby locations. If they see anything wrong, they should immediately inform the police. Our demand is that the government must immediately give a Kunbi certificate to all 54 lakhs whose proof of being Kunabi has been found till now," he added.

PS

BJP launches 'Modi ko chunte hai' campaign for 2024 polls

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday launched its poll campaign for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2024 with a new slogan, "Modi ko chunte hai," (let us choose Prime Minister Narendra Modi).

The campaign was launched in the presence of PM Modi, with party president JP Nadda releasing the theme song in a 2-minute, 10-second video, "Sapne Nahi Haqeeqat Bunte Hai, Tabhi Toh Sab Modi Ko Chunte Hai."

During the campaign launch, which was done at the First Time Voters Conclave, NaMo Navmatdata

Sammelan, a music video was released that showcased how Prime Minister Modi has turned the dreams and aspirations of crores of Indians into reality.

The campaign song says India's situation was deplorable and then the country chose NaMo (PM Modi) as the PM.

Namo kept his promise and the dream of a developed country did not merely remain a dream. Namo chose the right paths and weaved reality, not a dream. That's why everyone chooses Modi, the lyrics go on...

JP Nadda, while addressing the NaMo Navmatdata Sammelan, conveyed this message on behalf of everyone to Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi.

"In Your Adept Leadership, a historic event occurred on January 22, a 500-year struggle finally had an end. For this consecration of Ram Lalla on the 22nd, heartfelt congratulations to you from all of us."

"Today, a beautiful presentation is also being made, allowing us to see in a small presentation the aspirations of the youth who think for the country and have dreams for the country. When we express it in words, we say, 'Sapne Nahi Haqeeqat Bunte Hai, Tabhi Toh Sab Modi Ko Chunte Hai,'" he added.

Talking about 'Saksham Bharat', BJP party president JP Nadda said, "Prime

PS

ASI REPORT PROVES GYANVAPI WAS A TEMPLE: HINDU SIDE LAWYER

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Citing the survey report of Gyanvapi complex in Varanasi, lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain has said that the structure of the mosque has been erected over the temple. There was a temple here before the existing structure. The ASI report said that Om, Lotus and Trishul are carved on the structure.

On the orders of the court, the Hindu side's lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain received the survey report of ASI on Thursday and then also addressed the media. Answering media questions, he said that inscriptions in Tamil, Telugu and another South Indian language have been found.

All these are apart from the rock inscriptions found in Sanskrit language. The



western wall of the complex dates back to the reign of Vikramaditya 5000 years ago. ASI survey has also revealed that there are idols of Shivalinga, Damru, Trishul and gods and goddesses on the walls of the premises.

There are some places in the walls in which Shivalingas are installed. According to lawyer Vishnu Jain, the evidence of the report presented by ASI in front of the court screams that there was a temple there. Which was demolished and a mosque was built.

In a special programme of

Inscriptions in Tamil, Telugu and another South Indian language have been found. These are apart from the rock inscriptions found in Sanskrit language

- Vishnu Shankar Jain

Legally-Speaking with Hindi news channel India News, lawyer Vishnu Jain's father and senior advocate Harishankar Jain said that the ASI report has proved that there was a temple there and there is a temple. "But now the Muslim side will present its arguments and arguments against the ASI report, we, the Hindu side, will present our arguments. We will prove the ASI report correct. And in the end the Hindu side will win."

Earlier, Vishnu Shankar Jain also showed the copy

PS

Army doctor, two others, get Kirti Chakra posthumously

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has approved gallantry awards to 80 Armed Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous, on the eve of the 75th Republic Day.

These include six Kirti Chakras, including three posthumous; 16 Shaurya Chakras, including two posthumous; 53 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous; one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry); and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Captain Anshuman Singh, Army Medical Corps, 26TH battalion Punjab Regiment, Havaldar Abdul Majid of 9 Para Special Forces unit and Sepoy Pawan Kumar of 55 Rashtriya Rifles (Grenadiers) were awarded the second highest peacetime gallantry award, Kirti Chakra, posthumously.



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the nation on the eve of the 75th Republic Day. See page 4

Captain Anshuman Singh, a doctor, was posted with 26 Punjab as a medical officer in the Siachen Glacier area. On July 19, 2023, there was a fire incident in which he saw a fi-

reglass hut engulfed in fire, after which he helped save 4-5 individuals. He went inside the medical investigation room, which was also on fire,

PS

BRAVEHEARTS

- Captain Anshuman Singh, Army Medical Corps, 26TH battalion Punjab Regiment
- Havaldar Abdul Majid of 9 Para Special Forces unit
- Sepoy Pawan Kumar of 55 Rashtriya Rifles (Grenadiers)

VENKAIAH, VYJAYANTIMALA GET PADMA VIBHUSHAN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, South superstar Chiranjeevi, actor and dancer Vyjayantimala Bali, and dancer Padma Subrahmanyam will be among the recipients of Padma awards to be conferred by President Droupadi Murmu this year.

Chiranjeevi, Vyjayantimala and Padma Subrahmanyam will be conferred with Padma Vibhushan - the second-highest civilian honour in the country.

Veteran actor Mithun

Chakraborty and singer Usha Uthup will be conferred with Padma Bhushan third-highest civilian award.

The recipients of this year's Padma awards were announced on Thursday evening.

Chiranjeevi is among the most influential and successful actors and worked in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil and Kannada films.

He is known for his movies such as 'Vijetha', 'Indra', 'Shankar Dada M.B.B.S.', and most recently he was seen in 'Bhola Shankar'.

PS



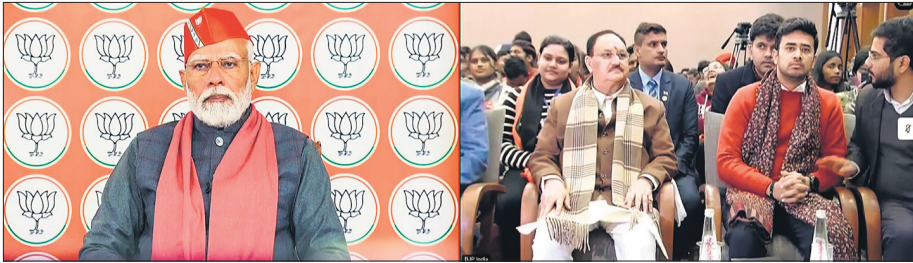
MY PERSONAL GUARANTEE TO FULFIL YOUNG GENERATION'S ASPIRATIONS: PM MODI

RAHUL CHHABRA
NEW DELHI

Aiming to reach out to the youth, especially the first-time voters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said each vote shall decide the direction and pace of the country's development at a time when we are aiming for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and gave his personal guarantee to fulfil young citizens' aspirations.

While addressing the 'Namō Navmatdata Sammelan' via video conferencing, PM Modi sought to crowd source out-of-the-box ideas for nation building from the youth.

PM's virtual engagement with 50 lakh youth on the 14th National Voters' Day coincided with the launch of BJP's Mission-2024 from Western Uttar Pradesh as he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore and addressed a rally in Bulandshahr – his first public appearance in the state after



PM Narendra Modi virtually attends 'NaMo Nav Matadata Sammelan' for first-time voters, in New Delhi on Thursday. BJP President JP Nadda and BJYM President Tejasvi Surya are also seen.

the consecration ceremony at Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22.

The BJP also launched its Campaign Theme for 2024 Lok Sabha Elections at the new voters' meet. A music video released by the party showcases how Prime Minister Modi has turned the dreams and aspirations of crores of Indians into reality. Its concept revolved around the words: "Sapne Nahi Haqeeqat Bunte Hai, Tabhi Toh Sab Modi Ko Chunte Hai."

Earlier in his interaction with first-time voters, PM Modi said, "Fulfilling the young generation's aspirations will be my guarantee. I will also personally meet the youth whose sugges-

tions will be included in BJP's manifesto," he said on the eve of the Republic Day.

"You can share your ideas and views with me through NaMo App. I want you to join nation-building even before casting your vote. Tell me what should be there in BJP's Sankalp Patra, especially for the youth.

I want the youth to guide BJP's Sankalp Patra," said Modi. He was virtually addressing 50 lakh first-time voters simultaneously during the Sammelan organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in 5,000 locations across the country.

He said it will depend on the youth of the nation where we reach in the next

few years in fields like space, defence, manufacturing, technology and innovation.

"Today, when the country is working to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047... The responsibility of what the possibilities will be for you will be on those who will manage the country during this period. In such a situation, the responsibility of making sure that those people are properly elected also depends on your votes," he said.

"Your one vote and the direction of the country's development are interconnected," he added.

Modi asserted that when there is a stable government, it becomes easier for a country to make big decisions.

LEFT-LEANING PEOPLE NOWADAYS IN CONGRESS: HIMANTA

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said that the politics of Congress has become 'soft Naxalite' and that the grand old party is filled with left-leaning people. He said that the slogans of Congress don't reflect Gandhian principles anymore. "Congress' politics has become 'soft Naxalite'. Their slogans don't reflect Gandhian principles anymore. I too was in Congress for 22 years.

But it never had such slogans earlier. Congress had a soft slogan. I see that they have killed even the soul of Congress. Entire carcade was full of so-called Left people, Left-leaning people," CM Sarma said in a press briefing here.

This came days after the Bharatiya Janata Party leader termed the Congress protests during the Assam leg of the ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on the outskirts of Guwahati city as "Naxalite tactics".

Jagadish Shettar's 'ghar wapsi' to BJP irks Congress leaders

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka chief minister Jagadish Shettar returned to the BJP after a nine-month stint in the Congress party.

Shettar, who had quit the BJP after being denied a ticket to contest the Assembly polls last May, landed in BJP headquarters in Delhi on Thursday and rejoined the party in the presence of senior leaders including former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa and state BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra.

Shettar stated that he had joined the party in the belief that Narendra Modi would "once again become the Prime Minister".

"Both the party leaders and workers had been urging me to return to the BJP. So I decided to return and it has made me happy. Today morning, I met Union Home minister Amit Shah ji and he welcomed me with great affection," said Shettar.

The Lingayat leader claimed he had resigned from both the Congress party and the Upper House.



"I am currently working as the Congress MLC. So I have sent my resignation letter to the Karnataka Legislative Council chairman Basavaraj Horatti and urged him to accept it. I am giving up the primary membership of the Congress party and have sent my resignation letter to KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on email," said Shettar.

Further, Shettar said he had joined the BJP in the belief that Modi would become the Prime Minister once again.

"Today, the challenge before the country is to keep it united and secure. For the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading the country towards progress and protecting its interest too. I want to see Modi become the PM for a third term," he added.

The Congress leaders in Karnataka were visibly up-

set with the development though it was not a surprise as there were murmurs of Shettar meeting the BJP top brass in Delhi.

"We had welcomed him and treated him well, made him the MLC even though he lost the Assembly polls by 35,000 votes. In fact, Shettar had been telling us that the BJP is a bad party and he was giving statements against the BJP on Ram Mandir. The Congress party held him in good faith. But as is evident from his action now, he has breached our trust. My office has informed me that Shettar had called the Council chairman and told him he would send his resignation by fax," said Shivakumar who was upset as he had flown the rebel BJP leader to Bengaluru and inducted him into the party.

Reacting strongly to Shettar's statement on joining the BJP "in the interest of the country", Shivakumar slammed the veteran leader saying he had not felt the same way after he was denied the BJP ticket or when he was given the MLC seat by the Congress.

I.N.D.I.A. bloc will fight 'anyay' together: Rahul Gandhi

TDG NETWORK
COOCH BEHAR (WB)

As the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Bengal, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi adopted a conciliatory tone saying that the I.N.D.I.A. bloc will fight 'Anyay' together. The comments come a day after senior opposition leader Mamata Banerjee vowed that she would fight the Lok Sabha polls alone in her state.

The Wayanad MP said that he is happy to have come to West Bengal.

"I am happy to have come to West Bengal. We have come here to listen to you and stand with you...BJP-RSS are spreading hatred, violence and injustice. So, I.N.D.I.A. formation is going to fight 'Anyay' together" he said.

The conciliatory tone was also sounded by Jairam Ramesh who reiterated that Mamata was an important part of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc.

"I have said that TMC is an important pillar of I.N.D.I.A. bloc which comprises 28 parties. Mamata Banerjee is an experienced and energetic leader of the



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi meeting people as his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered West Bengal on Thursday.

country, a tall leader. We respect her...Everyone knows that she holds a special place and identity in the politics of our country. I am very confident that she too wants to defeat the BJP, we also want the same. We will fight together. We will make I.N.D.I.A. alliance successful. That is our duty" Jairam Ramesh said

The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra crisscrossed West Bengal from Assam this morning. Assam Congress chief Angika Dutta handed over the 'tricolour' to the party's Bengal unit president Adhir Ranjan

Wayanad MP's comments come a day after West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee vowed that she would fight Lok Sabha polls alone.

Chowdhury. "A year ago we did the 4000 Km long Bharat Jodo Yatra, traversing from Kanyakumari to Jammu and Kashmir. We opened Mohabbat Ki Dukkan in Nafrat Ka Bazaar (a shop of love in the market of hatred). Now we are moving from Imphal to Mumbai. Today we are entering West Bengal from Assam.

I want to wholeheartedly thank the Congress workers in Assam. You managed the (arrangements of the) Yatra very brilliantly. You have changed the politics of Assam, and for this, I thank you wholeheartedly. I am happy to have come to West Bengal. We have come here to listen to you and stand with you," Rahul said.

"We have added the word Nyay in our Yatra, because BJP-RSS are spreading hatred, violence and injustice in the country" the Congress MP added.

The India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, formed to take on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, suffered a huge setback on Wednesday as Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee said that her party declared that it would fight alone in Bengal. "I had no discussions with the Congress party. I have always said that in Bengal, we will fight alone. I am not concerned about what will be done in the country but we are a secular party and in Bengal, we will alone will defeat BJP," the TMC supremo had said.

Meanwhile, several TMC supporters standing on the roadside of Rahul's route held banners with "Didi is enough for Bengal" written on them.

The Yatra, flagged off from Manipur's Imphal on January 14, will conclude in Mumbai on March 20.

TMC BLAMES ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY FOR CRACK IN THE I.N.D.I.A. BLOC IN BENGAL

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Derek O'Brien Thursday held West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury responsible for an alliance not working out between the two parties in West Bengal. The remark came a day after West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee announced that her party will fight the Lok Sabha polls "alone" in the state.

"Three reasons for the alliance not working in Bengal – Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury," O'Brien told reporters here. Lashing out at the Congress State unit President, O'Brien alleged that Chowdhury is speaking the language of the BJP. Rajya Sabha leader on the Congress-TMC rift over seat sharing in the state said, "I.N.D.I.A. alliance has two main detractors: BJP and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. He speaks the language of the BJP. " This comes after Mamata Banerjee's announcement that her TMC party will fight Lok Sabha polls alone in the state. "I had no discussions with the Congress party. I have always said that in Bengal, we will fight alone. I am not concerned about what will be done in the country but we are a secular party and in Bengal, we alone will defeat the BJP," the TMC supremo had said. Mamata's decision to contest the elections alone dealt a blow to the prospects of the India National Developmental



TMC leader Derek O'Brien

Inclusive Alliance, which was formed seven months ago to take on the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Bengal today. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi adopted a conciliatory tone saying that the I.N.D.I.A. bloc will fight 'Anyay' together. The comments come a day after senior opposition leader Mamata Banerjee vowed that she would fight the Lok Sabha polls alone in her state. The Wayanad MP said that he is happy to have come to West Bengal. "I am happy to have come to West Bengal. We have come here to listen to you and stand with you...BJP-RSS are spreading hatred, violence and injustice. So, INDIA formation is going to fight 'Anyay' together" he said. The conciliatory tone was also sounded by Jairam Ramesh who reiterated that Mamata was an important part of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc.

JUSTICE PB VARALE SWORN-IN AS SC JUDGE, ACHIEVING FULL STRENGTH OF 34 JUDGES

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Karnataka High Court Chief Justice PB Varale was sworn in as a Supreme Court judge on Thursday, with Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud administering the oath of office.

The swearing-in ceremony took place in the Supreme Court premises, a day after the Centre approved his appointment to the judgeship.

With this induction, the top court has reached its full strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India, marking the first time it will have three sitting judges from the Dalit community. The other two sitting judges from the Scheduled Caste community are Justices B R Gavai and C T Ravikumar.

In its recommendation earlier this month, a five-judge SC Collegium led by CJI Chandrachud highlighted Justice Varale's position as one of the senior-most high

court judges and the sole high court chief justice from the Scheduled Caste.

The vacancy in the apex court arose following the retirement of Justice SK Kaul on December 25 last year. Justice Varale's appointment came swiftly, within a week of the SC Collegium recommending his name.

The law ministry's notification stated, "In exercise of powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale, Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office."

In its recommendation, the collegium noted the Supreme Court's operational continuity throughout the previous year with a full strength of 34 judges, achieving an unprecedented rate of case disposal with 52,191 cases resolved

in the calendar year 2023. Recognizing the increased workload on judges, the collegium emphasized the need to maintain a full working judge-strength at all times.

Born on June 23, 1962, in Nipani, Justice Varale graduated in arts and law from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. He commenced his legal career by enrolling as an Advocate in 1985. Appointed as an additional judge of the Bombay High Court on July 18, 2008, he was subsequently made permanent on July 15, 2011. On October 15, 2022, he was elevated to the position of Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Varale's elevation to the apex court brings the representation of the Bombay High Court in the Supreme Court to four. The other three judges from the parent high court of Bombay are CJI Chandrachud, Justices Gavai, and Abhay S Oka.

AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES E-BUS SERVICE IN JAMMU

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched e-bus service in Jammu and distributed more than 1,000 appointment letters for Jammu and Kashmir Combined Examination-2024

and compassionate appointment through video conferencing from the national capital. In his address, Shah said 100 fully air-conditioned e-buses have been dedicated to the people of Jammu. He further said this project has started with the operation and maintenance of these buses for 12 years at a cost of Rs 561 crore. Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has spread environmental awareness throughout the world and the best steps in this direction have been taken.

CONGRESS WANTS WB CM MAMATA BANERJEE TO JOIN YATRA: JAIRAM RAMESH

TDG NETWORK
SILIGURI

As the Congress' Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered West Bengal today, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Thursday that he is very confident that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too wants to defeat the BJP, adding, "We especially want CM herself to come, even if that is for 10-15 minutes."

Jairam Ramesh told ANI that Mamata Banerjee is an experienced and energetic leader of the country and they respect her.

"I have said that TMC is an important pillar of the INDIA bloc which comprises 28 parties. Mamata Banerjee is an experienced and energetic leader of the country, a tall leader. We respect her. Everyone knows that she holds a special place and identity in the politics of our



country. I am very confident that she too wants to defeat the BJP, we also want the same. We will fight together. We will make the INDIA bloc successful. That is our duty," he said.

This comes after Mamata Banerjee's announcement that her Trinamool Congress (TMC) party will fight Lok Sabha polls alone in the state.

Responding to whether CM Mamata will attend the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in West Bengal, Ramesh said, "She had been invited. Mallikarjun Kharge had written

a letter to her and also sent her an email. Our leaders - Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi - all of them want leaders from TMC to come and participate in the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. We especially want CM herself to come; even if that is for 10-15 minutes, Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will have more impact."

The India National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, formed to take on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, suffered a huge setback on

Wednesday as Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee said that her party declared that it would fight alone in Bengal.

"I had no discussions with the Congress party. I have always said that in Bengal, we will fight alone. I am not concerned about what will be done in the country but we are a secular party and in Bengal, we alone will defeat the BJP," the TMC supremo had said.

Further, Congress General Secretary in-charge Communications slammed Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and said the Assam CM was engaged from the first minute in stopping the yatra.

"Let Himanta Biswa Sharma say whatever he wants to say. Before this visit, Rahul ji had presented five justices before the country - Youth Justice, Women Justice, Farmer Justice, Partnership Justice and Labor Justice.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi



I invite the youth of India to contribute to the @BJP4India Manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Share your thoughts on the NaMo App. I look forward to meeting some of the contributors myself in the future.

Jagat Prakash Nadda
@JPNadda

We have full confidence that under the leadership of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the dream of a capable, self-reliant and developed India will come true.

NDMC TO PARTNER WITH COACHING CENTRE TO PROVIDE FREE NEET, JEE CLASSES

NDMC has floated a tender to invite bids from coaching institutes

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) plans to tie-up with a reputed coaching centre to provide free NEET and JEE preparatory classes to 100 meritorious students studying at its schools and the Navyug schools, officials said. It will be a two-year integrated coaching for students studying in Class XI at these schools.

The NDMC has floated a tender to invite bids from coaching institutes to kick off the project to prepare students for National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). "Around 50 students each will be enrolled for coaching for JEE and NEET. This means that in the first year, 100 students will be enrolled



POSITIVE ATTITUDE

- NDMC plans to tie-up with a reputed coaching centre
- The selected coaching centre will conduct a screening test

for JEE-NEET coaching and the numbers will start increasing from the subsequent years," said an official.

The selected coaching centre will conduct a screening test of Class XI and Class XII students to shortlist the 100

students.

"The coaching will be provided under the comprehensive programme being run by the institute through offline mode.

The coaching partner will include the shortlisted stu-

dents in the classes run by the institute.

Thus, no separate group will be formed solely for the students of NDMC school," the official added.

The official said the coaching institute cannot make any distinction between students shortlisted through the scheme and students enrolled by them directly. He said the institute will have to provide study material, conduct mock tests, psychology sessions through reputed psychologists to the students.

Dense fog likely in Delhi on Republic Day morning

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Moderate to dense fog conditions are likely in parts of the national capital in the early hours on Republic day, the weather department predicted, issuing an 'orange alert' for Friday.

Delhi on Thursday recorded a minimum temperature of 4.8 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season's average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its bulletin.

The maximum temperature was noted at 20.5 degrees Celsius, one notch below the normal, according to the bulletin.

The relative humidity at 5.30 pm was at 69 per cent, it added.

According to the Indian Railways, 24 Delhi-bound trains were delayed due to fog in parts of northern



Air Quality Index (AQI) on Thursday settled at 332 in the 'very poor' category. CPCB's data

IMD said.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board's data, the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) on Thursday settled at 332 in the 'very poor' category.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

India.

The national capital is experiencing cold day conditions and dense fog in the morning and night, the

SANGRUR COURT STAYS AAP LEADER AMAN ARORA'S CONVICTION TILL JAN 31

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A court in Sangrur district, Punjab, granted interim relief on Thursday by staying the conviction of Punjab Cabinet minister Aman Arora in a 2008 assault case until January 31, 2024. The District and Sessions judge issued the stay in response to a petition filed by Minister Arora seeking relief from his conviction. Yogesh Gupta, Arora's counsel, stated, "The court has stayed the minister's conviction until January 31 and postponed the matter for the final pronouncement of the order." Arora, who represents the Sunam assembly constituency, had appealed to the district court challenging his conviction. In a case dating back 15 years, Arora and

eight others were sentenced to two years of imprisonment by a Sangrur district court on December 21. The case originated from an assault on a relative of Arora in his residence. Arora's brother-in-law, Rajinder Deepa, filed a complaint leading to the booking of the accused under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 452 (house-trespass) and 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt). The court imposed a two-year sentence under section 452 and a one-year sentence under section 323 of the IPC.

Aman Arora, currently overseeing portfolios such as new and renewable energy, printing and stationery, employment generation, and training and governance reforms in the Bhagwant Mann cabinet.

SC GRANTS PROTECTION FROM ARREST TO UMAR ANSARI

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted protection from arrest to Umar Ansari, son of politician Mukhtar Ansari, in a criminal case related to the 2022 assembly elections.

Umar Ansari is accused of violating the model code of conduct during the elections. The bench, comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and P.K. Mishra, issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government on Ansari's plea challenging the Allahabad High Court's order.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Umar Ansari, argued that the main accused had already been granted regular bail in the

case. The Allahabad High Court had earlier rejected Umar Ansari's anticipatory bail application on December 19, 2022, stating that the offense was made out based on the facts and circumstances of the case.

The FIR was registered on March 4, 2022, at Kotwali police station in Mau district against Abbas Ansari (SBSP candidate from Mau Sadar seat), Umar Ansari, and 150 unknown individuals. The FIR alleged that during a public meeting on March 3, 2022, at Pahadpura ground, organized by Mansoor Ahmad Ansari, Abbas Ansari, and Umar Ansari called for settling a score with the Mau administration, constituting a violation of the election code of conduct.

10 MEMBERS OF 'GOGI GANG' HELD FOR EXTORTION IN DELHI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ten people, including two juveniles and a woman, belonging to the 'Gogi gang' were apprehended for allegedly running an extortion racket here, police said on Thursday.

Police said they had recently fired at the house of a businessman in Wazirabad and demanded Rs 50 lakh as extortion money from him.

The accused were identified as Deepak Pahal,

Narender Yadav, Manish, Manmohan, Navprabhat Chaudhary, Devraj Dabas, Azad and Khushboo, police said.

On November 30, a person filed a complaint in which he said that unidentified people had fired at his house in Wazirabad village. Police also found an empty cartridge and a note near the main gate of his house, they said.

The note was from the 'Gogi gang' and demanded Rs 50 lakh from the businessman, police said.

गणतंत्र के गौरव गान में, भारत की शान में,
आओ फहराएं तिरंगा, संविधान के सम्मान में

January 26, 2024

Greetings to all
on the occasion of
75th Republic Day

“Wishing you all a
happy Republic Day.
Jai Hind!”
- Narendra Modi

Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Haryana
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HOPE REGIONS EMBROILED IN CONFLICTS FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION: PREZ MURMU

In her Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day, the President said India's ancient wisdom can help world find a way out of environmental crisis.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Noting that many conflicts have emerged around the world in recent times and several parts of it have been suffering from violence, President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday hoped that the regions embroiled in conflicts will find a peaceful way to resolve conflicts and bring about peace.

In her Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day, the President said that India has time and again shown that non-violence is not just an ideal that may be difficult to achieve but it is a distinct possibility and that it is a lived reality for many. "In recent times, many con-



President of India, Droupadi Murmu addressed the nation on the eve of 75th Republic Day, in New Delhi on Thursday.

licts have emerged around the world and several parts of it have been suffering from violence. When each of the two conflicting sides believes that it is right and the other is wrong, the way out should be found in the light of reason. Unfortunately, instead of reason, fears and prejudices

have fueled passions, leading to relentless violence. There have been a series of humanitarian tragedies on a large scale, and we feel aggrieved over the human suffering," she said and recalled Buddha's words which mean 'Not at any time are enmities appeared here through en-

mity but they are appeased through non-enmity. This is the eternal law.'

"From Vardhaman Mahavir and Samrat Ashok to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, India has time and again shown that non-violence is not just an ideal that may be difficult to achieve but it is a distinct possibility - in fact, it is a lived reality for many. Let us hope that the regions embroiled in conflicts will find a peaceful way to resolve conflicts and bring about peace," she added.

The President said India's ancient wisdom can also help the world find a way out of the global environmental crisis.

"I am glad to see India at the forefront of promoting

renewable sources of energy and taking a leadership position in global climate action. India has launched the 'LiFE Movement' for adoption of an environment-conscious lifestyle. The global community has appreciated our country's emphasis on individual behaviour change for dealing with the issues of climate change."

She said people everywhere can and must contribute by bringing their lifestyle in tune with Mother Nature. "That will not only help save the planet for the generations to come but will also enhance the quality of life".

The President said India is moving ahead with confidence, which comes from and is also reflected by the robust health of the economy.

KARNATAKA HC TELLS INDIAN COUPLE IN GERMANY TO FOLLOW HAGUE CONVENTION ON ADOPTION

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Karnataka High Court has directed a couple from India to adhere to the Hague Convention and apply for a 'Conformity Certificate' for their adopted child through German authorities, as the husband is a resident of that country.

The couple had approached the High Court seeking a directive to the District Child Protection Unit to issue them a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) and a 'Conformity Certificate.'

The couple had adopted a girl child, and the adoption deed between the biological mother and the couple was registered before the sub-registrar in the district headquarters town of Chikaballapura on March 29, 2023.

Although the Deputy Commissioner had verified the deed and recommended necessary action for the adoption, the District Child Protection Unit refused to

grant them the NOC and Conformity Certificate.

The case was heard by Justice M Nagaprasanna, and the Deputy Solicitor General of India, H Shanti Bhushan, who represented the Union, argued that adoption under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act was not internationally recognized. Any inter-country adoption, according to Bhushan, must comply with the Hague Convention.

Under the Hague Convention, to which Germany is a signatory, the couple is required to "go before the country in which the father resides, communicate via mail to the Indian counterpart under the adoption regulations, and within 10 days, a certificate and NOC would be issued in this country."

In agreement with this argument, the High Court stated in its judgment: "The aforementioned norms would indicate inter-country adoption of a German national.

After Mamata, Mann's shocker, I.N.D.I.A. bloc rift wide open

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

Ultimately, what was predicted quite earlier has started happening in the I.N.D.I. Alliance. A serious rift has surfaced in the alliance even before it could take off. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has started it by announcing that she will contest the Lok Sabha elections alone on all the seats. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann also declared that AAP would contest all 13 seats of the border state at its own.

If sources are to be believed, the opposition bloc may break in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar also. As per latest developments in Bihar, Nitish Kumar may change sides again, the sources said. There is every possibility of him joining NDA again. BJP has approved Nitish Kumar's return to NDA, they added. In such a situation, Bihar assembly may be dissolved. According to sources, BJP has called its MLAs to Patna. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday targeted Lalu family on the issue of nepotism, which created an up-

roar in the politics of Bihar. The tension has started increasing between Lalu's party Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Nitish Kumar's party Janata Dal United (JDU). The differences in I.N.D.I.A. alliance was also visible in Nitish Kumar's cabinet meeting held on January 25.

The meeting ended soon and later the press conference was also cancelled.

National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah's statement last week regarding the new alliance may bear fruit in the coming days. After the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, it is now more likely that some parties in the opposition alliance will distance themselves from the Congress. In Maharashtra, Congress has agreed to accept the conditions that Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena has laid down. Perhaps the alliance will remain in Maharashtra, but there are apprehensions regarding the remaining states. If sources are to be believed, a new alliance may be formed in which some small parties such as TMC of Mamata Banerjee, BRS of K Chandrashekar Rao, SP

led by Akhilesh Yadav and Aam Aadmi Party may be included. BRS leader Chandrashekar Rao had already tried to form a third front before the assembly elections last year for which SP and AAP were the constituents. Rao had also met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. But by then, after the victory of Karnataka, Congress took the initiative and formed the INDI Alliance. After KCR's defeat in Telangana, the issue of Third Front was relegated to the backburner.

But the Congress' defeat in three major Hindi belt states also weakened the grand old party, due to which the parties in INDI alliance started keeping distance from the bloc. Among the parties with which the national alliance committee of the Congress has held talks so far, only outfits in Maharashtra seem to have reached an agreement. The atmosphere created in the country after the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya has worried the constituent parties in the alliance. TMC leader Mamata Banerjee distanced herself from the bloc thereby leading to pos-

WE HAVE TO FURTHER PAVE WAY FROM 'RAM TO RASHTRA': MODI

TDG NETWORK
BULANDSHAHR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled multiple development projects in Uttar Pradesh and said that his government was giving top priority to the welfare of farmers and making efforts to link agriculture with technology.

The Prime Minister referred to the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at grand Ram temple in Ayodhya on Monday and said that he had stated that it is time to take the country's prestige to new heights.

"In Ayodhya, I had said in the presence of Ram Lalla that the work of Pran Pratishtha has been completed, now is the time to give new heights to the prestige of the nation. We have to further pave the way from 'Dev to Desh' and from 'Ram to Rashtra'. Our target is to make the country Viksit Bharat by 2047. The creation of a developed India is also not possible without the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates multiple development projects worth over Rs 19,100 crores during a public event, in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh Thursday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also seen.

rapid development of Uttar Pradesh. For many years after independence, development was limited to only a few areas. A large part of the country remained deprived of development. Even in this, Uttar Pradesh, which had the largest population, was not given much attention because for a long time, the governments here behaved like rulers," PM Modi said.

"Today, western UP has received developmental projects worth over Rs 19,000 crore. The initiatives will include upgradation of railways, highways, petroleum

pipelines, water supply projects, sewage treatment, and medical colleges among others. We have also inaugurated projects related to the cleanliness of rivers Yamuna and Ramganga," he added.

He also recalled the contributions of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, stating that the former state chief minister dedicated his life to both Ram and the nation.

PM Modi said work is on for two big defence corridors in the country and one of them is being built in Uttar Pradesh.

"Today, the National Highways are being developed rapidly in India. Many of them are being built here. When Jewar International Airport is ready, this area is going to get new strength.. Due to airports and dedicated freight corridors, the goods manufactured in India and the produce of the farmers will be able to reach foreign markets more easily," PM Modi said.

Plea filed in Mathura court over sanctum sanctorum of Krishna Janmabhoomi temple

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

A fresh plea has been filed in a Mathura court, seeking the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust to install a notice board at the temple premises indicating that the existing sanctum sanctorum is "not the real birthplace" of Lord Krishna.

The petition has been filed by Delhi-based advocate PV

ancient Keshavdev temple was dismantled by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, and the Shahi Idgah mosque was constructed in its place.

Consequently, the petition asserts that devotees visiting the current sanctum sanctorum of the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple should be explicitly informed that the location is not the "actual" sanctum sanctorum, and

Plaintiff Raghunandan's counsel, Pankaj

Joshi, informed the media that the case

has been accepted for hearing, although

no specific date has been assigned yet.

Raghunandan in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Anupama Singh.

The plaintiff Raghunandan's counsel, Pankaj Joshi, informed the media that the case has been accepted for hearing, although no specific date has been assigned yet.

In the plea, the plaintiff contends that the original sanctum sanctorum of the

this can be achieved by installing a notice board. Joshi explained that the plea seeks a court order to implement the installation of such a notice board.

The defendants in this case include the Uttar Pradesh government, Mathura Municipal Corporation, and the State Archaeology Department, among others.

Placards praising Mamata greet Rahul's Nyay Yatra in Bengal

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

A day after Mamata Banerjee pulled the plug on the I.N.D.I.A. bloc in West Bengal, Rahul Gandhi was greeted with placards and festoons extolling Mamata when the latter's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Cooch Behar district from Assam.

A group calling itself Nagarik Mancha waved festoons and placards at Baksirhat while the yatra was passing through which said that Mamata was enough to take on the BJP in West Bengal.

The Trinamool Congress' Minister for North Bengal Affairs, Udayan Guha, told The Daily Guardian: "I know the Nagarik Mancha people. They are with us and they know that Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress party is more than enough to take on and defeat the BJP in the State. We have done it in the past and shall do the same in the future as well".

Following a two-day hiatus on January 26-27, Rahul

Gandhi's yatra will navigate through Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Uttar Dinajpur, and Darjeeling districts before entering Bihar on January 29.

Re-entering West Bengal on January 31 via Malda, it will pass through Murshidabad, both Congress stronghold districts, before departing the State on February 1.

The Bengal leg of the yatra spans 523 km across six districts and six Lok Sabha constituencies-Darjeeling, Raigunj, North and South Malda, and two in Murshidabad over five days.

This marks Rahul Gandhi's first visit to the State since the April-May 2021 Assembly polls.

Former State Congress president Pradip Bhattacharya expressed optimism, stating: "We are hopeful that the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of Rahul ji will give a new lease of life to Bengal's Congress unit. This yatra will not only help us organisationally but also electorally ahead of the Lok Sabha polls."

Meanwhile, a day after Mamata Banerjee binned

the chances of any under-standing with the Congress Party, her party, the Trinamool Congress squarely blamed Pradesh Congress Committee chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for the alliance not working out.

Chowdhury had called the Trinamool chief an "opportunist" leader and said the Congress is capable of contesting polls on its own.

Both Kunal Ghosh, the Trinamool Congress spokesperson and Derek O'Brien, Trinamool's parliamentary party leader in Rajya Sabha and national spokesperson, told the media that Chowdhury had repeatedly spoken out against the bloc. "He is the reason for the alliance not working out in West Bengal," Kunal Ghosh said.

"After the general elections, if the Congress does its job and defeats the BJP on a substantial number of seats, the Trinamool Congress will very much be a part of the front that believes and fights for the Constitution," Derek O'Brien added.

Ghosh said Chowdhury was the "gravedigger" of the I.N.D.I.A. alliance in Bengal.

"It is because of him and his daily rant that things have fallen flat. After the Chief Minister's bye yesterday, they (Congress) are getting into damage control. It is too late now," he added.

He added that the Trinamool Congress "was very patient" during the seat-sharing negotiations. "We were gracious enough. But all we saw was delay, delay and delay," he added.

However, Congress Working Committee member Deepa Dasmuni said: "It seems the Trinamool Congress is trying to help the BJP in the State".

In another snub to the Congress Party, another I.N.D.I.A. bloc member - the CPIM - too hit out at the lack of any communication from the grand old party.

Senior CPIM leader Surja Kanta Mishra, echoed Mamata Banerjee's words, and said that his party, despite being an "integral member of the anti-BJP front", had not received any invitation to participate in the West Bengal leg of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

NFIW MOVES SC CHALLENGING DELIMITATION CLAUSE OF WOMEN'S ACT

NEW DELHI: The National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) has approached the Supreme Court challenging the provision mandating the delimitation of constituencies as a precondition for the enactment of the Women's Reservation Act.

The case was listed before a bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, which, on Friday, consolidated the matter with another petition concerning the same issue. NFIW, in its petition, moved through advocates Prashant Bhushan and Ria Yadav has challenge the constitutional validity of Article 334A(1) or Clause 5 of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023. The contention is centered on the provision that mandates the delimitation of constituencies as a prerequisite for the effective implementation of the Act.

The petitioner, the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW), an organization dedicated to safeguarding women's rights since its establishment in 1954, is currently led by General Secretary Annie Raja, a prominent social activist.

BRAHMOS MISSILE SYSTEM EXPORTS TO BEGIN IN NEXT 10 DAYS: DRDO CHIEF

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India will begin the export of ground systems for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in the next 10 days while the missiles of the system would be sent by March this year, DRDO chairman Dr Samir V Kamat said on Thursday.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation chairman said the first set of BrahMos missile systems is expected to reach Philippines by the end of March.

"The ground systems should be sent in the next 10 days, the missiles will hopefully go by March (to Philippines)," Kamat said.

BrahMos missiles export to the Philippines is the biggest ever defence export contract signed with any foreign country by India.

India had signed a deal with the Philippines worth USD 375 million in January 2022 for the supply of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

The DRDO chairman said



that exports are going to play a significant role in the defence sector.

"I am sure over the coming years exports are going to become a very important part of our portfolio," he said.

"So far, a lot of our hull-mounted sonars, light-weight torpedoes, we have exported radars, we have now a lot of interested (countries) on Pinaka among others," the top DRDO official said.

He said that approximately Rs 4.94 lakh crores worth of DRDO-developed products have either been inducted in defence or have received Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) from the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

"The developments are now increasingly getting done much faster than earlier. My estimate is, more than

60 per cent or 70 per cent of the inducted products are in the last 5-7 years. This rate is going to increase dramatically as we go ahead," he added.

The BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile system is one of the most successful missile programmes in the world. As the world's best and fastest precision-guided weapon, BRAHMOS has fortified India's deterrence power in 21st century. Designed and developed by India-Russia JV entity BrahMos Aerospace, supersonic cruise missile BRAHMOS has continued to evolve as the most versatile weapon in its genre. The next generation variant of the missile has smaller, lighter and smarter dimensions designed for deployment on a wider number of modern military platforms.

THAIPUSAM FESTIVAL CELEBRATED WITH FANFARE IN TAMIL NADU

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

January 25 was the Hindu festival Thaipusam and it was celebrated with a lot of pomp across Tamil Nadu in all the Lord Murugan temples. Thaipusam is dedicated to Lord Murugan (Kartikkeya) and is the day when Lord Murugan vanquished the demon Surapadman with his vel (spear). This day falls on the first full moon day of January or Thai (Tamil month) on the Pusam (Pushya) star day. Devotees celebrate the day with numerous rituals, like piercing their tongue or cheek with the vel (spear) and walking across blazing coal. This is the day that devotees thank

Lord Murugan for fulfilling their wishes and

One of the most famous events that Lord Murugan devotees throng to watch is the Thaipusam jyoti darshan (lighting of the lamp) at Vadalur's Sathya Gnana Sabha, Cuddalore district. Saint Ramalinga Adigalar established the Sathya Gnana Sabha in 1867 and lakhs of devotees come to witness this special Thaipusam jyoti darshan each year. 2024 was the 153rd Thaipusa Jyoti Darshan festival at Sathya Gnana Sabha. More than 800 police personnel were deployed at Vadalur along with CCTV cameras to monitor the large crowds on January 25.

Thaipusam is an important Hindu festival in Tamil Nadu. This holy day involves severe penance and sacrifice to express devotion and seek blessings, giving it great spiritual and cultural significance. Lord Murugan devotees undertake physical treks which represent his or her perseverance, faith and willingness to face adversity to attain spiritual fulfilment. The devotees dressed in yellow (Lord Murugan's colour) and if they have taken any religious vows, fulfill them on this day. This festival signifies cultural identity, religious passion and community unity among Hindus. It serves as a powerful reminder of the victory of virtue over evil.

TN TV journalist brutally attacked; EPS, Annamalai cite 'law and order' failure

LATHA SRINIVASAN
CHENNAI

A television channel reporter was brutally attacked with sickles near Palladam, Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday night around 9 45 pm.

Thirty-year-old Nesaprabhu is in critical condition and is battling for his life in a private hospital in Coimbatore. The incident sent shockwaves in the state, especially among journalists. Journalists protested across Tamil Nadu on Thursday, including Chennai and Coimbatore, and demanded that action be taken against

the accused. Meanwhile, Opposition leader Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), TN BJP leader K Annamalai, Pattali Makkal Katchi, and other politicians condemned the DMK government and stated that there was a 'breakdown of law and order situation' in Tamil Nadu.

Nesaprabhu, a journalist working with News 7 Tamil TV, was returning home on Wednesday night when six men, armed with sickles and knives, waylaid him on the main road in Palladam while he was on the phone pleading with the police for help. He sustained 62 cuts on his head, chest, arms and

legs and was rushed to a local hospital before being admitted in Coimbatore.

It is reported that Nesaprabhu had spoken to the police several times on Wednesday complaining that a gang of men had been following him for several days and he felt his life was threatened. Some men in SUVs and bikes had been enquiring where he lived and the TV reporter had informed the police of this as well. However, the police didn't take any action and told him there wouldn't be any problem. The audio of these conversations with the police are out on social media now.

Nesaprabhu had recently

reported about the illegal sale of liquor happening at the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited (TASMAC) liquor shop in the Kamaanaickenpalayam area. He felt this was the reason the unidentified men were following men and had conveyed this to the police as well.

EPS took to his social media on Thursday to condemn the attack and stated the police were 'complacent'. He wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "The incident of journalist Nesaprabhu being brutally attacked in Palladam of Tiruppur district is shocking. Nesaprabhu continuously

complained to the police that there was a fearful situation that unknown people would attack him and informed them four hours before the attack. The police of this government acted with complacency without taking any action is highly condemnable."

"Today's murderous attack on a journalist is the result of my constant pointing out that there is already an unsafe situation for the public in Tamil Nadu due to law-and-order disorders, but no action was taken. I pray to the almighty God for the speedy recovery of the injured journalist Nesaprabhu.....," he added.

VENKAIAH, VYJAYANTIMALA GET PADMA VIBHUSHAN

CONTINUED FROM P1

Vyjayantimala is regarded as Indian cinema's one of the finest actor and dancer. She earned a lot of praise for her portrayal of Chandramukhi in the 1955 film 'Devdas'. She was also a part of BR Chopra's 'Naya Daur' in which she starred opposite late actor Dilip Kumar.

Mithun made his acting debut in Mrigayaa (1976). He won the National Film



Award for Best Actor for his performance. Later, he won two more National Film Awards for his roles in Tahader Katha (1992) and Swami Vivekananda (1998).

He was also a part of the superhit film 'The Kashmir



Files', directed by Vivek Aghnihotri.

Lastly, Usha Uthup is known for her super hit songs like 'Hari Om Hari', 'Shaan Se.', 'Darling', 'One Two Cha Cha Cha', and 'Uri Uri Baba', among others.

Army doctor, two others, get Kirti Chakra posthumously

CONTINUED FROM P1

to retrieve the critical medical aid box but could not make it out due to heavy fire amid strong winds. He has been awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously.

Havildar Abdul Majid of 9 Para Special Forces was operating as a squad commander in a search operation in forested areas of the Rajouri sector on November 22 last year. He first helped evacuate wounded Captain MV Pranjal of 63 RR. He then took position near a natural cave where terrorists were hiding. Despite being injured in the terrorist firing, he lobbed a grenade to force the hiding terrorist to come out. Sensing danger to his team, he moved towards the terrorist, killed him and succumbed to his injuries later. He has been awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously.

Havildar Pawan Kumar of

55 Rashtriya Rifles Grenadiers was part of an operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 27, 2023, when, during a room intervention exercise, he killed a terrorist and injured another in hand-to-hand combat while laying down his own life. He has been awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously for exceptional bravery.

16 Shaurya Chakras for bravery have been awarded to personnel, including three posthumously.

Captain MV Pranjal, 63 Rashtriya Rifles Corps of Signals, was leading a small surveillance team when he came across two terrorists who too saw him in the Rajouri district. The officer sensed danger for the women and children present there and pushed them to safety as terrorists opened fire. He engaged the terrorists despite the minimum cover

and maintained contact until the arrival of additional troops. He later succumbed to gunshot wounds. For saving the lives of civilians and sustained contact with terrorists, which led to their elimination, he has been awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously. The Indian Army's Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Central Army Commander Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, and Southern Army Commander Lt Gen AK Singh have been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal. The Indian Air Force's Maintenance Command chief, Air Marshal Vibhas Pande, has been awarded the PVSM.

The Indian Navy's Vice Chief and Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi have been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal. Indian Coast Guard Chief Director General Rakesh Pal has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

BJP launches 'Modi ko chunte hai' campaign for 2024 polls

CONTINUED FROM P1

Minister Modi Ji has set a significant goal for us, and that goal is to build a 'Saksham Bharat', 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and a 'Viksit Bharat'. Only a great leader like Modi Ji can help realise this goal. We have a firm belief that under the visionary leadership of Modi Ji, India will soon become a developed country."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi connected virtually at the First Time Voters Conclave and highlighted the power of the 'full majority government'.

"Today, India's glory shines highly on the global stage. When I meet and greet global leaders, it's not Modi but 140 crore Indians who represent India, who represent this great nation. Today, India stands strong and resilient, more than ever before. Notably, this is the power of

a poorna bahumat sarkar'," PM Modi said.

Talking about the current circumstances of the country, PM Modi said, "The conditions prevailing in the country 10-12 years ago had made the future of India bleak. You may not even be aware of the conditions of those times. The generation before 2014 had given up hope in the possibilities we are talking about today. But today, the circumstances have changed! From the ramparts of the Red Fort, I stated that 'yehi samay hai, sahi samay hai.' And this holds true today. You read the newspapers, and you will get to see India shine and make big strides in one sector after another."

Emphasising the importance of every vote in a democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged young voters and said that when

the country is working to become a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, your vote will decide the direction of India.

While addressing the youth, he said, "My youth of India, please join the MY Bharat organisation. You can also keep sending me your views and suggestions through the NaMo app as to how the BJP's resolution letter should be in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, especially what should be included in it for the youth." PM Modi said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, extended greetings on the occasion of National Voters Day.

The Prime Minister posted on X, "Greetings on National Voters Day, an occasion that celebrates our vibrant democracy and is also a day to encourage people to register as voters if they haven't already.

AIIMS BHUBANESWAR MAKES HISTORY AFTER SUCCESSFUL INDUCTION OF DRONE SERVICES

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to strengthen medical care, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar made history on Thursday with the successful induction of drone services for providing superior medical deliveries in

Odisha. The drone took off from AIIMS Bhubaneswar to Community Health Centre (CHC) Tangi, carrying the essential blood supplies weighing around 2kg for a pregnant woman at CHC, which was around 70 KM away from AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Speaking to ANI, "AI-

IMS Bhubaneswar Director, Ashutosh Biswas, says, "AIIMS Bhubaneswar has made history in India after utilising drone services for superior medical deliveries in Odisha."

"After the successful experiment of drone services, today, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has started drone servic-

es for medical deliveries, which include multiple health products like vaccines, essential drugs, blood units, diagnostic and samples on regular practice as needed. The drone took off from AIIMS Bhubaneswar to CHC Tangi, carrying essential blood supplies of around 2 kg for a pregnant

woman," Biswas added.

Further, Biswas highlighted "the pivotal role that drone services can play during natural disasters, overcoming geographical barriers and ensuring timely delivery of critical medical supplies to remote areas. It's a game changer in the field of medical services."

'I.N.D.I.A bloc fine, Nitish has no issue'

CONTINUED FROM P1

cerned about what will happen elsewhere in the country but we are a secular party. In Bengal, we have what it takes to defeat the BJP," the TMC supremo said.

In Chandigarh, Punjab CM Mann said the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will not go into an alliance with the Congress in the state, asserting that his party would win all 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

"We will win all 13 Lok Sabha seats (from Punjab) in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," Mann said at a media briefing on Wednesday.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has 79 seats while Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United has 45 seats in the 243-member Bihar Assembly. The BJP has 82 seats.

Nitish can form the government with the support of the BJP if he were to return to the NDA.

However, the ruling party affirmed that it was still with the RJD.

ASI REPORT PROVES GYANVAPI WAS A TEMPLE: HINDU SIDE LAWYER

CONTINUED FROM P1

of ASI's scientific survey obtained through the court to the media in Varanasi. In the 7th point of this report, pre-existing structure, among other things it is clearly written that, '...it can be said that before the existing structure, the structure of a big Hindu temple was present there.

The ASI report also said that this big Hindu temple had a central chamber and one chamber each in four directions. Of these, the chambers in the north, south and west directions still exist.

The rest could not be physically searched because stone flooring had been done over it. The ASI report states that during the scientific survey, the investigation team found 34 inscriptions. Which is in Devanagari, Telugu, Kannada and Grantha languages. Names like Janardan, Rudra, Umeshwara and Maha Muktimandap are carved on the walls of these chambers.

The ASI survey report, which was conducted after a battle ranging from the District Court to the Supreme Court, runs into a total of 839 pages. The gist of this report is that there was a temple

here which was demolished on the orders of Aurangzeb and a mosque was built. And the broken parts of the temple were also used to build a mosque.

Apart from this report, some historians and litterateurs say that the Muslim rulers did not build any single mosque but built mosques by demolishing more than 30 thousand temples and parts of the temples were used so that Hindus would feel embarrassed after seeing them. May their courage be broken. Hindus should lose faith in their religion and become Muslims.

FRENCH PREZ'S DAY OUT IN PINK CITY WITH PM MODI

CONTINUED FROM P1

entire route. The roadshow, starting from Jantar Mantar, concluded at Sanganeri Gate. After this, the convoy of Modi and Macron reached Hotel Rambagh.

Following the roadshow, PM Modi and French President visited Hawa Mahal. Hawa Mahal, also known as 'Palace of Breeze', was built in 1799 as an extension to the Royal City Palace of Jaipur.

Prior to the road show, French President Emmanuel Macron arrived at Jantar Mantar in Pink City, Jaipur.

Earlier, Macron arrived at Amber Fort in Rajasthan's Jaipur. He also met school students who gathered there to welcome him.

On his visit to the fort, the French President was accompanied by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. At the fort, Macron also posed for a picture with Jaishankar

and Diya Kumari.

As the French President walked around the Royal fort and took in the unique architecture, he was also given an overview of the history the fort carries. Macron appreciated Rajasthani painting and art and also interacted with artists at Amber Fort.

Royal feast

Meanwhile, a royal feast was organised at Hotel Rambagh. In this, Macron tasted the Rajasthani cuisine Dal-Baati-Churma. Millet-based dishes were also served to him. Additionally, dishes like Ker-Sangri ki Sabzi and chutney were included in the dinner. Macron enjoyed these dishes. Special French dishes were also prepared at Hotel Rambagh for him. After dinner, discussions were held on various issues between the two. Late at night, Modi and Macron left for Delhi.

Presentation of Folk Dances

For the welcome of Modi and Ma-

cron, people waved their hands with photos of both leaders. Along with the national flag, a grand welcome was extended to both dignitaries. Earlier, when Macron and Modi left for Parakote from the airport at different times, folk dance performances were presented at various places, including Albert Hall. School students also arrived to welcome them.

Greeting at Jantar Mantar, Macron Asked Two Questions

After visiting Amer, when Macron reached Jantar Mantar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was already present there. He greeted Macron upon seeing him, and both warmly hugged with full enthusiasm. After that, they visited Jantar Mantar. Here, Macron saw the Samrat Yantra, which is the largest instrument at Jantar Mantar with a height of 90 feet. Meanwhile, when Modi and Macron reached Hawa Mahal, they asked two questions to PM Modi. The first question was about the number of windows

in Hawa Mahal. While the second question was why the glass in the windows is blue. Modi answered both questions.

Governor Writes, 'Welcome, Congratulations'

Governor Mishra shared a photo on the social media platform 'X' and wrote, 'Welcome, congratulations. With the sacred stream of sacrifice and sacrifice, a heartfelt welcome and congratulations to President Emmanuel Macron of France for visiting Rajasthan.'

CM Writes, 'Welcome to My Country, Guest is God'

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma shared a post on 'Ex' and wrote, 'Welcome to my country, Atithi Devo Bhavah.' With the spirit of valor, sacrifice, and sacrifice, a heartfelt welcome and congratulations to President Emmanuel Macron of France for visiting Rajasthan at the airport.

MUMBAI BRACES FOR MASSIVE RALLY

CONTINUED FROM P1

The Maratha Reservation activist further said that their agitation has been very peaceful and he promised that this would continue to be peaceful.

"This agitation will not halt till the last person in the Maratha community gets reservation," said Patil.

Earlier in the day, a representative of the Maharashtra government, Marathwada Divisional Commissioner Madhukar Ardhal held a meeting with Manoj Jarange Patil in Pune's Lonavala.

Meanwhile, heavy security deployments were made at both entry and exit points of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway at Lonavala ahead of Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil's Padayatra today, demanding immediate implementation of the Maratha reservation.

Maratha reservation supporters wanted to go towards Mumbai via the Mumbai-Pune Expressway but the police permitted them to travel through the old Pune-Mumbai highway. Maratha reservation protests reignited in Maharashtra on Friday as Manoj

Jarange Patil led a march to Mumbai demanding immediate implementation of the Maratha reservation.

The Supreme Court posted for hearing on January 24 a curative petition filed by the Maharashtra government challenging its May 5, 2021 judgment, which had held the Maratha reservation law unconstitutional.

The curative petition is the last chance available to the people or parties in the case after the review petition is dismissed.

On May 5, 2021, the Supreme Court struck down reservations for the

Maratha community in colleges, higher educational institutions, and jobs, after noting that there was no valid ground to breach 50 per cent reservation while granting Maratha reservation. Jarange Patil earlier told ANI that he did not have any option but to march to Mumbai

"We don't have any other option than to go to Mumbai. Today is the second day of the padayatra. Nearly 15 lakh people joined the padayatra yesterday. We have to ask some of them to go back to avoid inconvenience," Patil said on Sun-

day.

Patil also said that on January 25 and 26, Mumbai will be filled with Maratha people and they will not walk back from there without reservations.

"...but one thing is sure, on January 25 evening and on January 26, Mumbai will be full of Maratha people and the whole of Mumbai will become Bhagva (saffron). Our community will go in full strength. One thing is sure we will not back from here without taking reservations at whatever cost. We will not take our step back," Patil said.

ASSESSING RAMESH POKHRIYAL’S PERFORMANCE AS HARIDWAR’S MP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A ground-level survey of the Haridwar Parliamentary constituency was conducted by India News to analyse the performance of Ramesh Pokhriyal, the Member of Parliament from Haridwar, and gather voters’ feedback about him.

Haridwar, known as the religious city, holds its distinct religious identity worldwide. It is believed that taking a dip in the Har Ki Paurigrants access to heaven. The Kumbh Mela is held here every twelve years. The journey from the mountains of the Ganges River to the plains makes Haridwar one of the prominent cities. The lush green forests and the sacred Ganges River add natural beauty to this land, while the political atmosphere here remains quite active.

Currently, Ramesh Pokhriyal, a stalwart leader of the BJP, represents Haridwar in the Lok Sabha. Known as the religious city of the country, Haridwar is considered the centre of faith for people of Hindu culture worldwide. In the present time, this seat, under the BJP’s control, has alternated between Congress and BJP. In 1977, the competition between Congress and BJP was equal on this seat.

BJP has won six times from this seat, while Congress has secured victory five times. It will be intriguing to see who emerges victorious in this grand contest this time. The Haridwar Lok Sabha seat is considered a VIP seat. Voters here often cast their votes based on the candidate’s profile more than development.

Issues in Haridwar range from ghats to city cleanliness. Both caste cards and development are crucial

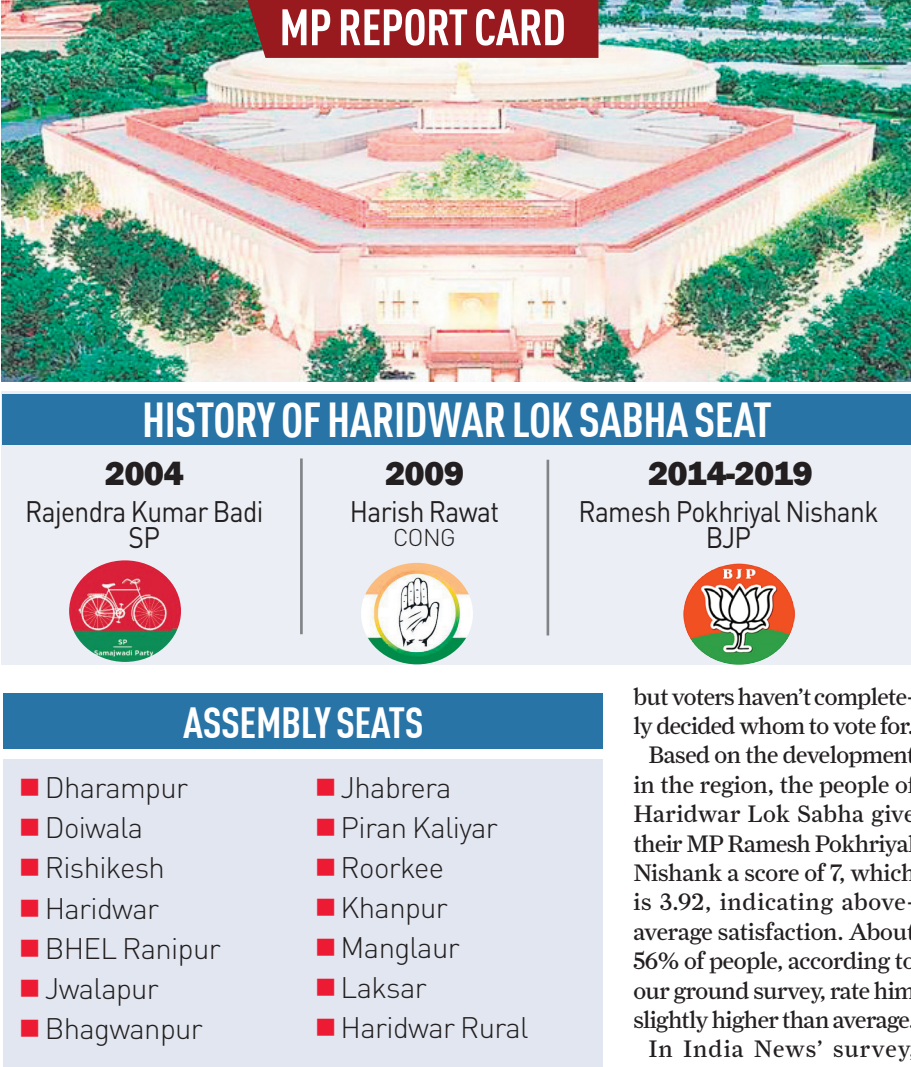
factors in voting in rural areas. There are a total of 14 assembly seats here. Haridwar Lok Sabha seat has approximately 1.8 million voters. Voter demographics are determined based on mountainous and plain regions.

People living in the mountains have their specific issues, while voters in the plains vote based on their problems. Winners from here need to establish proper communication between mountain and plain voters. The pace of development in Haridwar Lok Sabha appears rapid when there is a major event. The Kumbh Mela showcases splendid development, limited to the city of Haridwar.

The basic infrastructure in Haridwar has developed, with attention to cleanliness. However, foundational structures in rural areas appear weaker. Many issues require significant attention. The 2024 general election for the Haridwar Lok Sabha seat is crucial. Before the election, the public is undoubtedly evaluating their representative’s work.

India News is conducting precise surveys to assess the Member of Parliament’s performance, ensuring the public’s opinions are transparently conveyed to the nation. The speed of development in Haridwar Lok Sabha becomes apparent during significant events like the Kumbh Mela, but it is limited to the city of Haridwar.

The basic structures in Haridwar have developed, with a focus on cleanliness. However, foundational structures in rural areas appear weaker. Many issues require significant attention. The 2024 general election for the Haridwar Lok Sabha seat is crucial. Before the election, the public is un-



doubtedly evaluating their representative’s work.

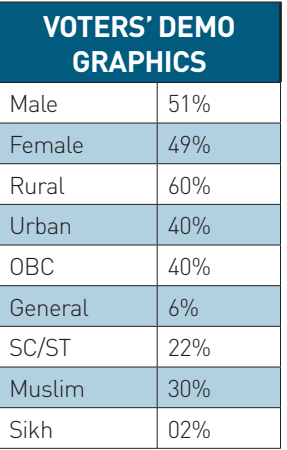
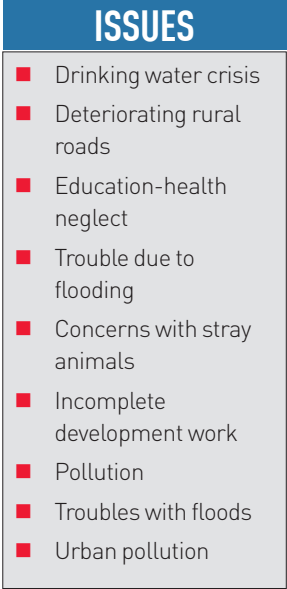
Presence in Parliament, number of questions, utilisation of MP funds, and special contributions are factors considered for assessing parliamentary performance. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank’s presence in Parliament is approximately 80%.

He has raised about 14% of the questions, focusing on the region and the country’s development. Regarding the MP fund, he has spent around 73%, and his special contribution to parliamentary proceedings is around 55%. Based on these factors, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is rated at 1 with a score of 0.55, which is better than

but voters haven’t completely decided whom to vote for. Based on the development in the region, the people of Haridwar Lok Sabha give their MP Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank a score of 7, which is 3.92, indicating above-average satisfaction. About 56% of people, according to our ground survey, rate him slightly higher than average.

In India News’ survey, questions were asked to the public about the MP’s performance, similar to our ground survey. The results of the social media survey are also being presented to you. In the social media survey, the MP received a score of approximately 0.50 in 1, which is average. Around 50% of people on social media have a favourable opinion about the MP.

Considering the parliamentary performance, presence in Parliament, ground performance, social media survey, and our ground survey, MP Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank receives approximately 5.42 in 10, which is better than average but less than 60%. Therefore, the people of Haridwar Lok Sabha



MP REPORT CARD (GROUND)	
1- Are you satisfied with the work of your Member of Parliament (MP) and would you like to vote for them again?	
Yes	56.17%
No	38.07%
Cannot say	5.76%
2- Should your MP be more active in the development of the area?	
Yes	91.01%
No	7.11%
Cannot say	1.88%
3- In the 2024 general elections, which party would you like to vote for?	
N.D.A	61.92%
I.N.D.I.A	4.99%
Other parties	5.99%
N.O.T.A.	3.12%
Cannot say	23.98%
4- On what basis will you vote in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections?	
Performance of the Modi government	59.17%
Unemployment and inflation	22.84%
Caste	0.74%
None of these	10.11%
Cannot say	7.14%
5- Have you benefited from the central government’s schemes?	
Yes	28.21%
No	71.41%
Cannot say	0.38%
6- Which scheme has benefited you?	
Free Ration	7.99%
Jan Dhan Yojana	0.62%
Housing and Toilet	0.74%
Ayushman Bharat	8.11%
Ujjwala Yojana	0.74%
Other scheme	1.99%
All of these	8.48%
None	71.33%

interacting with people from various backgrounds, including women, men, farmers, labourers, students, and business people, this interesting figure has emerged.

Analysing civil aviation accidents throughout the decades

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

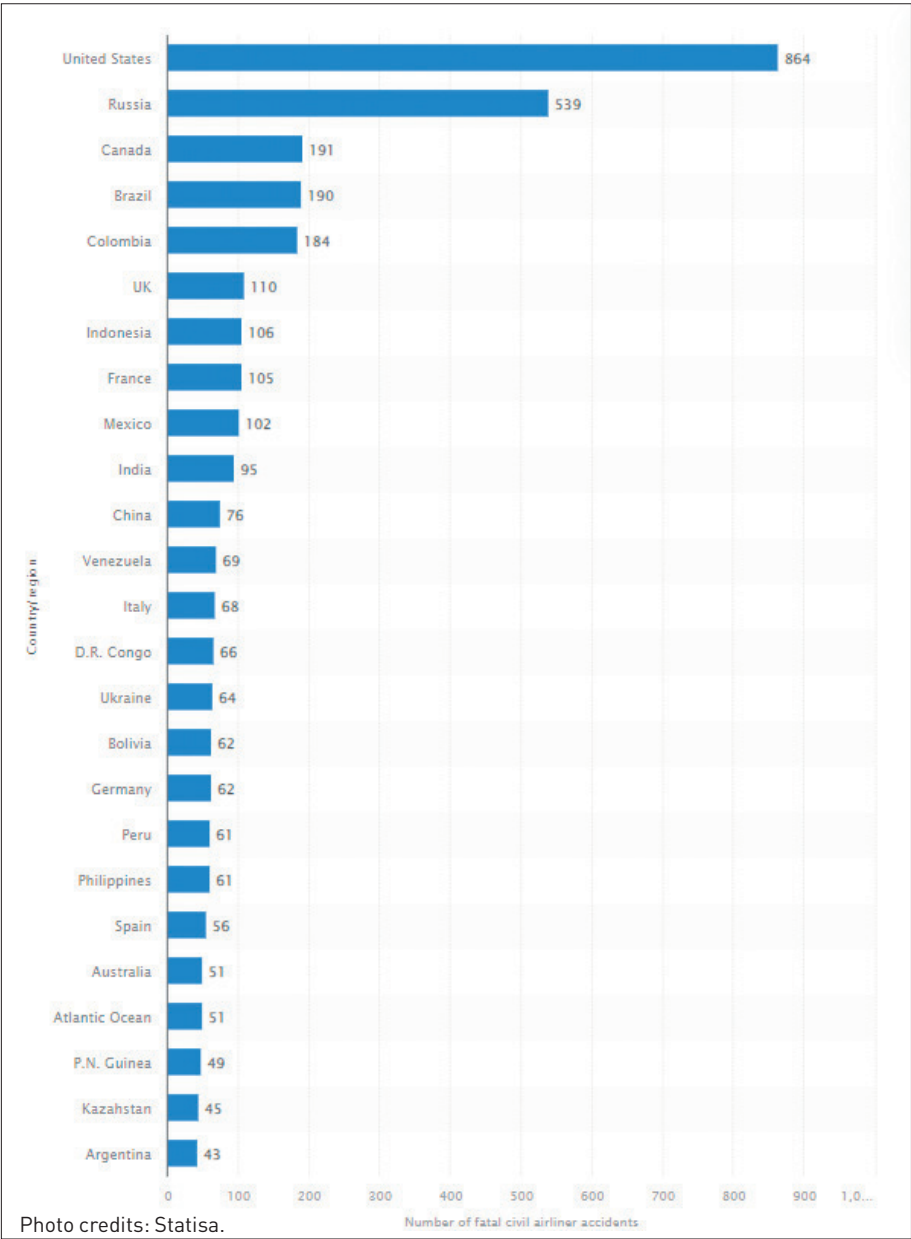
Air travel, renowned for its safety, has encountered approximately 75 per cent of global civil and military aviation accidents attributed to human errors across various stages, including design, manufacturing, assembly, maintenance, and flight operations.

The application of the Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS) framework is exemplified, emphasising its role in understanding and preventing accidents. Notably, a significant number of recent civil aviation accidents have been observed during the landing and approach phases. These statistics underscore the potential to minimise accidents by enhancing situational awareness, particularly crucial as air traffic is projected to double in the next 10–15 years.

Considering this growth, the role of human factors in accident prevention has become increasingly significant. The statistics propose a new model for human factors and outline a path towards ensuring even safer skies in the future.

The number of fatal civil airliner accidents from 1945 through February 2022. At 864, the United States is the country with the highest number of fatal civil airliner accidents, followed by Russia, Canada, Brazil, and Colombia. At 43, Argentina has the least fatalities.

A total of 28,442 aircraft accidents have resulted in 1,58,798 fatalities. Maximum peak is observed during the 1940s, and there is a gradual decrease in the number of accidents from the year 1978. Considering the period be-



tween 2001 and 2022, a total of 3769 aircraft accidents have resulted in 20,172 fatalities. Fitting a linear trend line for the data between 2001 and 2022 would indicate a theoretical possibility of aircraft accidents tending to near zero by the mid-2040s.

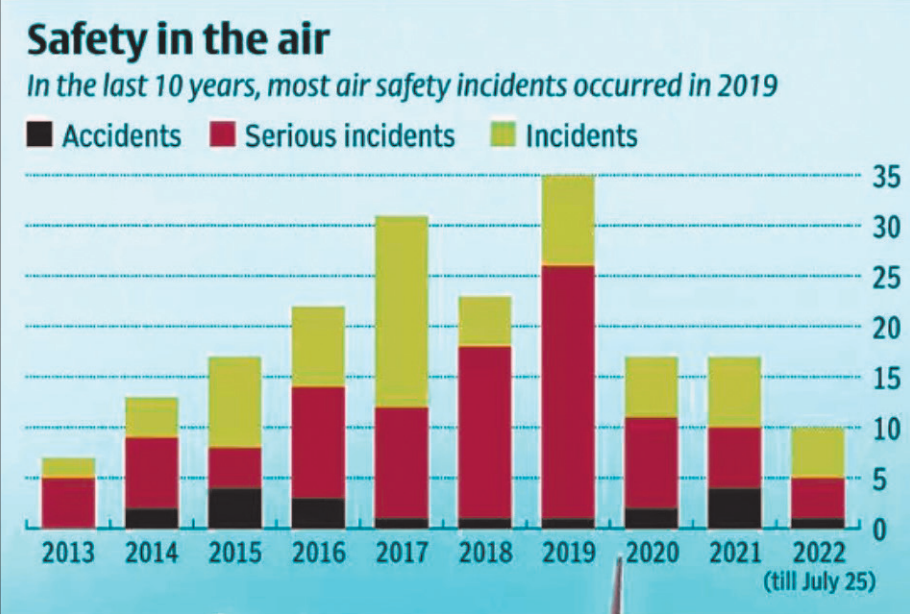
The majority of these accidents were caused by a runway excursion, whereby the plane veers off or overruns the

runway surface during takeoff or landing. Issues with landing gears and ground damage, where airline personnel cause damage to an aircraft on the ground, were also common causes. Of the fatal accidents in 2020, the majority of fatalities were due to a loss of control of the aircraft in-flight, followed by runway excursion.

Air transportation safety is a broader issue than the risk

of aircraft accidents though. Another key safety issue is the need for airports to screen passengers and baggage prior to boarding, reducing the risk of dangerous goods or passengers endangering other passengers or the crew during the flight.

Airport security procedures create waiting times though, creating the need to balance efficiency with safety – es-



pecially seeing as most passengers believe a wait time of more than five minutes is unacceptable. Accordingly, hundreds of millions of dollars are invested globally every year in improving airport security while speeding up processes, for example through implementing automated biometric identification systems.

The continuous annual growth in global air traffic passenger demand has led to an increase in the number of aeroplanes involved in accidents. Despite being among the top 20 countries with the highest quality of air infrastructure, the United States reports the highest number of civil airliner accidents globally.

In 2020, which saw a 57 per cent drop in the number of commercial flights to 16.4 million, there was a rise in the number of people killed in accidents involving large commercial aircraft. The majority of these deaths occurred in January 2020, following the tragic downing of a Ukrainian plane in Iranian airspace, resulting in 176 fatalities. Another fatal incident occurred in May, with a Pakistani airliner crash claiming 97 lives.

On January 15, 2023, a Yeti Airlines-operated ATR-72 aircraft crashed while landing at the Pokhara International Airport. The Kathmandu-Pokhara flight was carrying 172 people onboard, of these, 168 bodies were recovered, and authorities confirmed there were no survivors.

This is the first major aviation disaster in 2023, and hopefully the last.

Examining aviation safety parameters, there appears to be a decline in certain aspects. For instance, there were 0.37 jet hull losses per one million flights in 2016, improving to a record-low of 0.11 jet hull losses per one million flights in 2017. However, in 2020, the region with the highest hull loss rate was the Commonwealth of Independent States. It’s important to note that these figures exclude accidents involving military, training, private, cargo, and helicopter flights.

CIVIL AVIATION ACCIDENTS IN INDIA

In India, despite a relatively low number of reported flight accidents, recent data from the Ministry of Civil Aviation reveals 192 airline safety issues over the last decade. The majority of these events occurred on flights operated by IndiGo and Air India. Between 2013 and July 25, 2022, Indian airlines reported 19 accidents, 99 serious incidents, and 74 incidents. An airline accident is defined as an occurrence where a person is fatally or seriously injured, the aircraft sustains damage experiences structural failure, or it goes missing or becomes inaccessible. A serious incident is an event that could have led to an accident, while an incident is a situation affecting the flight’s safety.

During the past decade, six Air India aircraft were involved in accidents, followed by five SpiceJet and four Jet Airways flights. Notably, 2022 witnessed one accident involving a SpiceJet flight on

May 1.

In terms of serious incidents, IndiGo leads the list with 35 reported incidents since 2013, while Air India follows closely with 49 incidents. The data also reveals that in the last year (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022), a total of 478 technical snags were reported.

A detailed analysis of the data indicates that safety issues peaked in 2019 with 35 reported incidents across airlines. The numbers decreased by almost half in 2020 and 2021 (17 each), likely influenced by lockdowns and reduced air travel frequency. However, four airline accidents occurred in 2021. As of July 25, 2022, ten incidents have been reported, including one accident. In conclusion, the analysis of civil aviation accidents spanning several decades highlights the critical role of human factors in air travel safety. Despite the overall safety record of air travel, human errors at various stages remain a significant contributor to accidents globally. The Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS) framework has proven valuable in understanding and preventing accidents, emphasising the importance of situational awareness, particularly during landing and approach phases. The data presented illustrates the historical trends in aviation accidents, with the United States leading in the number of fatal civil airliner accidents. The year 2020, marked by a significant reduction in commercial flights, saw an increase in fatalities per accident, emphasizing the need for ongoing safety measures.

NITIN GADKARI ADVOCATES BIOFUELS FOR ENERGY GROWTH AND CLIMATE MITIGATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has championed the cause of comprehensive exploration of biofuels and alternative fuels to drive unprecedented growth in the energy and power sector. Speaking at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) summit on the Role of Bio Energy for Atmanirbhar Bharat in Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation, Gadkari outlined a strategic shift from being a fuel importer, which constitutes 85 per cent of the fuels equivalent to around 16 lakh crores, to becoming an exporter. He underscored the potential of utilizing surplus products like broken rice and sugarcane for ethanol production, reducing the government's need to pur-



chase these products at MSPs. Addressing the issue of stubble burning, he proposed encouraging farmers to sell crop residues for biofuel production, contributing to the economic upliftment of the rural, agricultural, and tribal sectors. Highlighting the importance of policy diversification, Gadkari advocated for Sustainable Aviation Fuel, expressing optimism about the significant investment potential in BioAviation Fuel in In-

dia, with a target to build a 2 lakh crore economy. He emphasized the need for increased ethanol production, suggesting leveraging Northeastern India's bamboo resources for ethanol production and promoting flex engines, particularly in drones, for enhanced environmental friendliness. Sanjeev Agrawal, President of PHDCCI, praised Gadkari's visionary approach and commitment to developing qualitative, time-bound, cost-effective, and sustainable infrastructures

in the country.

Agrawal said, "Apart from renewable energy, Gadkari ji is a proponent of remote connectivity. Under his supervision, over 70,000 kms of National Highways have been constructed in the last 7 years and 3,00,000 kms of new roads are being constructed currently".

He added, "He is committed towards the development of qualitative, time-bound, cost-effective and sustainable world-class infrastructures in the country. The Government of India, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has initiated numerous policies and programs to promote bioenergy in the country".

Recognizing the government's initiatives, Agrawal mentioned that India, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has initiated policies and programs to promote bioenergy. Hemant Jain, Senior Vice

President of PHDCCI, appreciated the shift towards green and clean sources of energy, emphasizing the adoption of Green Hydrogen and Biofuels as the future of fuels. Saket Dalmia, Immediate Former President of PHDCCI, discussed practical challenges faced by the industry and urged Gadkari for support.

Dr Venu Gopal Achanta, Director of CSIR - NPL, the Guest of Honor, briefed about various energy technologies developed by CSIR, highlighting the successful test flight of a pilot plant for Sustainable Aviation Fuel. Dr Ranjeet Mehta, Executive

Director of PHDCCI, emphasized the potential of Biofuels across industries and the transportation sector, presenting an excellent opportunity for startups, MSMEs, research institutions, and corporates to be part of India's green energy transition.

BYJU'S \$12 billion Term Loan B lenders move NCLT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Majority of lenders who were part of USD 12 billion Term Loan B (LB) secured by BYJUS have filed an insolvency petition with NCLT Bangalore against the company, according to people aware of the development. While the filing has not been made public yet, BY JUS has termed the claims as "premature and baseless". The case has been filed through Glas Trust Company, which represents over 80 per cent of lenders that were part of the TLB loan which is granted by institutional lenders instead of banks. The development comes when BYJUS has claimed to be negotiating with the TLB lenders to settle the entire debt by raising funds from the sale of a couple of subsidiaries.

The matter is also sub-judice before Delaware appellate courts. On the petition, a BYJU'S spokesperson said, "As we have stated before, the validity of lenders actions, including acceleration of the term loan, is pending and under challenge in several proceedings, including before the New York Supreme Court. Hence, any proceedings by lenders before NCLT are premature and baseless."

The company said the acceleration and consequent actions by the lenders appear to be based, in part, on the failure of Whitehat Education Technology Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Think & Learn, to guarantee the term loan.



"This is despite the fact that provision of such guarantee would contravene extant RBI regulations. In fact, proceedings are on foot before the Delaware appellate courts on this very issue, the spokesperson said. BYJU'S took the Term Loan 8 in 2021 when interest rates were low.

However, the lenders contested transferring USD 500 million from BYJUS US-based subsidiary BYJU'S Alpha to other entities in a Delaware court. The edtech major has also approached New York Supreme Court to challenge lenders' demand to Pri immediately pay USD 1.2 billion and disqualify one of the lenders, Redwood. BYJU'S said that the lenders have made unsuccessful attempts to interfere with BY JU'S rights to deal with capital provided under the loan agreement.

The Delaware Chancery Court has rightfully refused to let the lenders do so, and lenders subsequent attempts on this front have been unsuccessful. Incidentally, the Delaware court has also refused to interfere with BY JU'S rights to disqualify distressed asset fund lenders under the loan agreement who con-

tinue to take these steps in an attempt to get BY JU's to succumb to their extortionate demands," BY JUS said. The edtech firm said that it has been in regular touch with the lenders and has also involved them. About in the sales process of some of its prized US subsidiaries to settle matters.

"The timing of these proceedings is also conspicuous as it coincides with the commencement of a Complic rights issue by the parent company of BYJU'S. The initiation of this legal process does not reflect the true financial standing of our company, not does it accurately represent our ability to meet our obligations. We firmly maintain that we are a resilient, viable entity that is incrementally charting a path towards sustainable growth," the BYJU'S spokesperson said. The spokesperson said that BYJU's remains committed to a constructive dialogue with the lenders. Besides TLB lenders, operational creditor, Teleperformance Business Services India Ltd (TBSIL), has also approached NCLT Bangalore against Think and Learn. An email query sent to Glas Trust Company did not elicit any reply.

GOVT, RBI ACTIVELY ENGAGED ON DIGITAL CURRENCY: FM SITHARAMAN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Thursday, said the government and the Reserve Bank are actively engaged in improving the central bank digital currency (CBDC) so that it can be used for cross-border payments.

RBI began the pilot project wholesale CBDC and picked up nine banks—State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC.

Besides, RBI has already rolled out a pilot in the retail



version of CBDC or e-rupee on December 1, 2022. The e-rupee is in the form of a digital token that represents

legal tender.

It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It

is being distributed through financial intermediaries, i.e. banks. Users are able to transact with e-rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks.

"We strongly believe it helps in cross border payments. It will bring in greater transparency and traceability....," Sitharaman said while speaking at an event to mark 125 years of Hindu College.

It helps in speeding up payments with less cost, she said, adding it brings down cost for inward and outward remittance.

"Both the regulator and the

government are working on it. We are actively engaged in it," she said. Asked about priority sectors to make India 'Viksit Bharat', she said, focus areas would be manufacturing and agriculture.

"Agriculture retains its primacy and we are looking at strengthening agriculture by modernizing some of the practices, post harvest practices and so on," she said.

In manufacturing, she said, the government had identified 13 sunrise sectors including renewable energy, semiconductor, machine learning, earth sciences and space.

STATES

KERALA GOVERNOR CUTS SHORT HIS BUDGET SESSION SPEECH, COMPLETES ADDRESS IN ONE MINUTE AMID RIFT WITH GOVT

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid a rift with the Pinarayi Vijayan government, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Thursday cut short his budget session speech in the Kerala Assembly, completing the address in just one minute, reading only the last paragraph of the text. He said: "It is my honour to address this august body of the representatives of the people of Kerala, marking the beginning of the 10th session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly. And now I will read the last paragraph."

He talked about the importance of upholding the legacy of the Constitution and highlighted the values of democracy, secularism, federalism and social justice.

"Let us remember that our greatest legacy lies not in buildings or monuments, but in the respect and regard we show to the priceless legacy of the Constitution of India and the timeless values of



Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

democracy, secularism, federalism and social justice," Arif Mohammed Khan said in his speech.

Article 176 of the Constitution requires the governor to mandatorily address the members of the legislature at the commencement of the first session of each year.

Though the governor reads the speech, it is prepared by the state's cabinet. In the address, the governor said that the essence of co-

operative federalism is what has kept the country united and strong all these years.

"It is our bounden duty to ensure that this essence is not diluted. Together, as part of this varied and beautiful nation, we will weave the tapestry of inclusive growth and responsible resilience, overcoming all the challenges that are thrown our way," the governor said.

The Assembly will meet for a total of 32 days before

concluding on March 27. The session is mainly intended to pass the 2024-25 Budget. The Assembly will discuss the motion of thanks to the Governor's address on January 29, 30, and 31. There will be no sitting from February 6 to 11. The general discussion on the budget will be held from February 12 to 14.

Earlier, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan; K Radhakrishnan, Parliamentary Affairs Minister of the state and Speaker AN Shamseer welcomed the governor into the Legislative Assembly. Arif Mohammed Khan and the cabinet have sparred over a host of issues, including pending bills, various appointments at universities in the state, etc. The ruling CPI (M) student wing, SFI conducted many protest marches against the governor, alleging that he appointed Sangh Parivar supporters in the universities in a bid to "saffronise" higher education.

Smriti fumes as screening of PM's interaction with voters stopped

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

West Bengal Police on Thursday stopped the screening of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to first-time voters on the occasion of National Voters Day across the state, the BJP's media cell chief Amit Malviya alleged, adding that the broadcast was impeded despite having all necessary clearances.

Malviya shared a video clip from his X handle, purportedly showing the police stopping the screening of PM Modi's live interaction with first-time voters in North Kolkata.

Union Minister Smriti Irani tore into the Mamata Banerjee government over the incident, saying, "The police were nowhere to be seen when Ram Bhakts were pelted with stones. But they were out in big numbers to stop the live screening of PM Modi's interaction with young voters. The disrespect of the INDI-al-



liance leaders towards Sanatan Dharm and Lord Ram is evident from such acts."

Prime Minister Modi virtually interacted with huge numbers of young and first-time voters on the occasion of National Voters Day across the country on Thursday. The interaction is part of the 'Namo Nav Matdata' Conference organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Mor-

electoral awareness amongst citizens and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.

"Dedicated to the voters of the country, National Voters' Day is also used to facilitate the enrolment of voters, especially the newly eligible young voters. New voters are felicitated and handed over their Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) at the NVD functions held across the country," the release stated.

NVD is celebrated at the national, state, district, constituency and polling booth levels, which makes it one of the largest celebrations in the country. "On January 25, 2024, the Election Commission of India celebrates its 75th year of service to the nation. To mark this momentous occasion and in light of the 2024 Parliamentary Elections, a commemorative postage stamp themed 'Inclusive Elections' will be released," the release added.

Padma Shri awards: Unsung heroes to be honoured

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Padma Awards 2024 were announced on Republic Day eve, Thursday. For this year, the President has approved the conferment of 132 Padma Awards, including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).

The list also comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women

and the list also includes 8 honorees from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.

The list includes several unsung heroes who have made a remarkable impact on society.

Parbati Baruah, a native of Assam and India's first female elephant mahout, who overcame stereotypes to create a space for herself in a traditionally male-dominated field was awarded

Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Animal Welfare). She stood out for her commitment towards mitigating human-elephant conflict with the help of the application of scientific practices - assisted 3 state governments to tackle and capture wild elephants.

Jageshwar Yadav, a Tribal Welfare Worker from Jashpur, Chhattisgarh who dedicated his life to the upliftment of marginalized Birhor Pahadi Korwa

people, has been awarded Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Tribal PVTG).

Chami Murmu, a Tribal Environmentalist and Women empowerment champion from Seraikela Kharsawan, will receive Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Environment afforestation). She spearheaded afforestation efforts planting over 30 lakh plants with 3,000 women.

Gurvinder Singh, a Diyang Social Worker from

Sirsa, worked for the betterment of the homeless, destitute, women, and orphans and Divyangjan has also been awarded Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Divyang).

Sathyanarayana Beleri, a paddy farmer from Kasaragod who emerged as a custodian of the paddy crop by preserving over 650 traditional rice varieties, will receive Padma Shri in the field of Others (Agriculture Cereal Rice).

Dukhu Majhi, a Tribal Environmentalist from Sindri village, Purulia planted over 5,000 Banyan, Mango and Blackberry trees on barren land while travelling to new destinations on his bicycle every day, will receive Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Environment Afforestation).

K Chellammal, an organic Farmer from South Andaman who successfully developed a 10-acre organic farm, will receive Padma

Shri in the field of Others (Agriculture Organic).

Sangthankima a social worker from Aizawl who has been running Mizoram's largest orphanage 'Thutak Nunpuitu Team', to receive Padma Shri in the field of Social Work (Children).

Hemchand Manjhi, a traditional medicinal practitioner from Narayanpur providing affordable healthcare to villagers for over 5 decades, having start-

ed serving the needy at the age of 15, to receive Padma Shri in the field of Medicine (AYUSH Traditional Medicine).

Yanung Jamoh Lego, East Siang-based herbal medicine expert who has provided medical care to over 10,000 patients, educated 1 lakh individuals on medicinal herbs and trained SHGs in their use, will receive Padma Shri in the field of Others (Agriculture Medicinal Plants).

Decoding the pictures in Constitution

The visual narrative serves as a constant reminder that the Constitution is not merely a document, but a living dialogue, one that invites us to participate, to interpret, and to contribute to the ongoing story of India’s democracy.

OPINION

DR. DAISY SHARMA



The Indian Constitution, adopted in 1950, is more than just a legal document. It is a living testament to the dreams and aspirations of a newly independent nation, a blueprint for a diverse and vibrant democracy. But within its pages lies another layer of storytelling, not woven with words, but with intricate pictures. These illustrations, adorning the original copy of the Constitution, offer a unique window into the values, symbols, and cultural ethos that underpinned the founding principles of the republic.

A FUSION OF TRADITIONS
The artwork decorating the Constitution is a fascinating blend of artistic traditions. The horizontal format of the drawings draws inspiration from ancient palm leaf miniatures of Bengal and South India, while the decorative

borders echo the Mughal style prevalent in miniature paintings. This artistic confluence mirrors the rich tapestry of India itself, where diverse cultures and influences have come together to create a unique national identity.

SYMBOL OF RAMRAJYA
One of the most symbolic illustrations in the original Constitution is the depiction of Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana returning to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana in the epic Ramayana. This picture adorns the section on Fundamental Rights, sparking interpretations and discussions about its significance. Its inclusion is a manifestation of Rama Rajya, the ideal kingdom ruled by Rama, as a metaphor for a just and equitable society. They believe the image signifies the Constitution’s promise of fundamental rights to all citizens, mirroring Rama’s fair and righteous rule. The emphasis on family reunion further resonates with the importance of family life and communal harmony in Indian society.

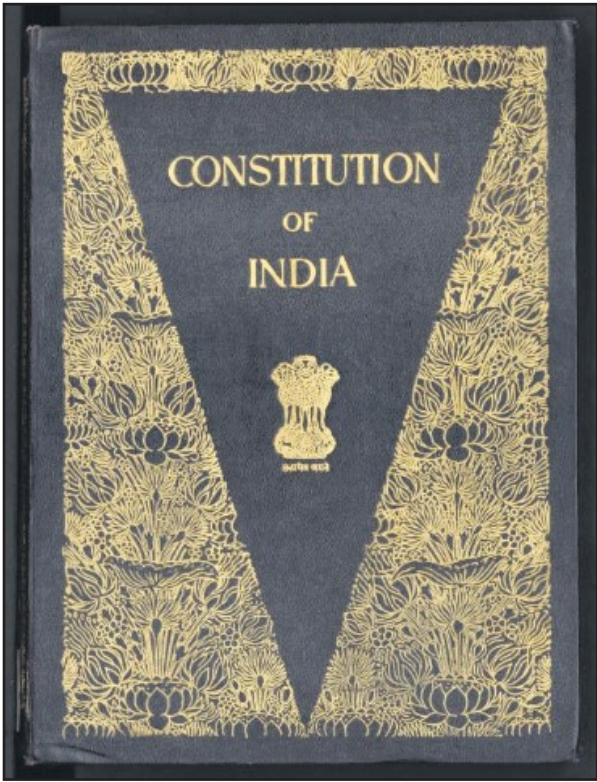
BEYOND BORDERS
Each part of the Constitution is accompanied by a specific illustration, symbolically

reflecting its contents. For instance, the depiction of a hand holding a quill pen graces the section on Fundamental Rights, highlighting the importance of individual expression and the right to education. Similarly, the scales of justice adorn the chapter on the Judiciary, signifying the commitment to fairness and impartiality.

ECHOES OF HISTORY
The illustrations also pay homage to India’s rich history and cultural heritage. The iconic image of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, the valiant freedom fighter, finds its place alongside mythological figures like Sita and Shivaji. These depictions serve as a reminder of the sacrifices and struggles that paved the way for India’s independence, and the values of courage, resilience, and self-determination that inspired the nation’s founding fathers.

NATURE’S TAPESTRY
The landscape illustrations within the Constitution add another layer of meaning. The majestic mountains, flowing rivers, and verdant forests represent the geographical diversity of India. These images not only evoke a sense of national pride but also serve as a reminder of the importance of environmental protection and the need to ensure sustainable development for future generations.

A BRIDGE BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT
The artwork in the Indian Constitution not only reflects the aspirations of the past but also speaks to the



As India continues its journey towards a more just and equitable society, the pictures within the Constitution offer a source of inspiration and guidance. They remind us of the values we hold dear, the challenges we face, and the future we strive to create.

challenges of the present. The illustration of a man and a woman standing side-by-side, each holding a book, symbolizes the commitment to gender equality and education. Similarly, the image of a farmer tilling the land highlights the importance of agriculture and rural development.

A CONSTANT DIALOGUE
The pictures in the Indian

Constitution are not simply decorative flourishes. They are an integral part of the document, sparking conversation and interpretation. They prompt us to go beyond the text and engage with the deeper meanings enshrined within the Constitution. They invite us to question, to analyze, and to reimagine the India we wish to build, all the while keeping the core values of the document at the heart

of our national discourse.

LOOKING AHEAD
The artwork in the Indian Constitution serves as a powerful reminder that the document is not a static entity but a living, breathing framework that can evolve and adapt with time. As India continues its journey towards a more just and equitable society, the pictures within the Constitution offer a source of inspiration and guidance. They remind us of the values we hold dear, the challenges we face, and the future we strive to create. By actively engaging with this visual narrative, we can ensure that the Indian Constitution remains not just a legal document but a vibrant canvas for a diverse and ever-evolving democracy.

Hence we can proudly say that the pictures in the Indian Constitution are more than just artistic embellishments. They are a silent language, telling stories of history, culture, and values. By deciphering their meaning, we gain a deeper understanding of the ideals that underpin the Indian republic and the aspirations that continue to guide the nation in its quest for a brighter future.

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Surrogacy: Navigating rights, ethics, and religious perspectives in today’s world

OPINION

DR. PYALI CHATTERJEE



Recently, an insightful article penned by Sarah Jefford, titled “I am a surrogate mother - the Pope should stay out of my life”, has found its place in The Age newspaper of Australia, delving into the statements made by the Pope regarding surrogacy. Within the context of today’s scientific advancements, the article challenges the relevance of these statements, emphasizing the nuanced aspects of women’s reproductive autonomy. Despite ongoing discussions by human rights advocates on this matter, the actual experiences differ, whether one is navigating the path of becoming a surrogate mother or advocating for a woman’s right to abortion.

The Pope’s proclamation, labeling surrogacy as “deplorable” and a “grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child” based on the alleged exploitation of maternal material needs, further advocates for a universal ban on the practice. This stance prompts the author, along with Sarah Jorden, to question the rationale behind such a prohibition and its perceived impact on the dignity of women and children. Even as the Pope refers to children as a “gift of God,” the reality remains that not every couple globally is blessed with this divine gift. Consider the plight of couples medically incapable of conceiving due to health reasons. In such cases, medical technology has evolved to facilitate the birthing of a biological child through surrogacy, fostering a genetic connection. This technological progression, considered by many as a providential blessing, has undergone transformations over time. Acknowledging



past infringements on the rights of surrogate mothers, it is noteworthy that many countries where surrogacy is legal have implemented stringent laws aimed at safeguarding the rights of surrogate mothers, children born through surrogacy, and intended parents. A notable example is India, which, in 2021, instituted progressive surrogacy laws that exclusively permit altruistic surrogacy while decisively prohibiting commercial practices. These laws dictate that surrogate mothers receive compensation limited to essential expenses, including medical costs and insurance coverage. Eligibility criteria for surrogate mothers and egg donors encompass being

ever-married, having their own child, and falling within the age range of 25 to 35 at the time of implantation. A critical provision prohibits surrogate mothers from using their own gametes, ensuring the absence of a genetic link with the child. Additionally, the legislation mandates a comprehensive 36-month insurance coverage for surrogate mothers, provided by a recognized insurance company, underscoring its commitment to protecting surrogate mothers from exploitation. The overarching objective of such legislation is to fortify the rights of surrogate mothers and prevent the exploitation that was observed during the era of commercial surrogacy in India. It

becomes imperative for governments to meticulously scrutinize surrogacy laws to guarantee the protection of the rights of all parties involved. The Pope, in this context, is urged to refrain from undue interference in the decisions of surrogate mothers and intended couples. Instead, he should find cause for celebration in the joy experienced by couples assisted by surrogate mothers in their journey to parenthood. Extending blessings to these surrogate mothers, who act as conduits for couples seeking to have their biological children, is a more constructive approach. Moreover, a pertinent question arises concerning the role of religious

heads in influencing the utilization of medical science for the general public. Governments across different countries have already taken affirmative steps and continue efforts to refine laws for the safeguarding of surrogate mothers, children born through surrogacy, and all other involved parties. Respecting the reproductive autonomy of women is a fundamental principle. The decision of when and for whom to give birth should be strictly theirs. While the necessity for laws to protect women in this regard is undeniable, imposing personal opinions on others is unwarranted. Moreover, is there any inherent difference between a child born through the surrogacy process and one born from their own mother’s womb? In both instances, the child is a human being with inherent human rights. The question is posed: would God differentiate between children born through surrogacy and those born naturally? These profound inquiries underscore the need for open and comprehensive discussions on the ethical dimensions and societal implications of surrogacy.

Dr. Pyali Chatterjee, HOD, Faculty of Law, ICEAI University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

PERSPECTIVE
COUNTER TO CHINA

GLOBAL COMMUNITY MUST
CALL OUT MALE FOR IGNORING
INDIA’S SECURITY CONCERNS

While the Male government led by President Mohamed Muizzu continues to be adamant on allowing Chinese “spy” vessel, equipped to carry research and surveys, to dock at a Maldivian port despite India’s security concerns, the global community including the US must call out Maldives for not addressing the concerns that New Delhi has flagged over the development. The US and other major countries of the world including European nations must come out with an unequivocal statement against Maldives allowing the Chinese ship to make a port call. The international community should also give a strong message to Maldives for its adversarial attitude towards India.

In fact, Maldives allowing a spy ship from Beijing to dock in the maritime backyard of India has strategic and security implications not only for New Delhi but also for other countries of the world including the US. The Maldives is adjacent to one of the densest trading routes in the world. Over 80 per cent of energy imports to the Indian subcontinent pass through the shipping lane to the north of the Maldives. This is one of the major reasons why the global community should focus on the development in the maritime backyard of India. The international community should not hesitate to criticize Male’s anti-New Delhi stance in the backdrop of this development. French President Emmanuel Macron, who is currently on visit to India as chief guest for Republic Day celebrations in Delhi to be held today, should also send out a meaningful message to both China and Maldives on security concerns that India has raised. Diplomats in New Delhi rightly say that it will create an impact if Macron does so. When Sri Lanka had allowed a Chinese research ship to dock near Colombo, the US joined India to convey its concerns to the Sri Lankan government over the same.

Then, US Under Secretary Victoria Nuland had raised concerns about the visit of the Chinese research vessel Shi Yan 6 to Sri Lanka. The pressure that India and the US mounted on Colombo together has now yielded positive results. This month, Sri Lanka finally declared a moratorium on foreign research ships entering its waters for a year amid concerns from India and the US over Chinese research vessels docking in New Delhi’s neighbourhood. This was a setback for China. What the international community is well aware of is that China dispatches its research and surveillance vessels to the Indian Ocean Region.

What the international community is well aware of is that China dispatches its research and surveillance vessels to the Indian Ocean Region. After Sri Lanka’s moratorium, it has turned to newly-elected Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu who is already known for having a soft corner for Beijing. The Muizzu government’s permission to the Chinese vessel to dock at Male near India’s maritime doorstep is a clear example of his being a pro-China leader. This is something that the entire global community must keep its focus on. Even the two major opposition parties in Maldives have expressed concerns about the Muizzu government’s anti-India stance.

These parties have called India as the most long-standing ally. Significantly, the open support by the two parties- the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and the Democrats—came a day after the Maldives government said a Chinese ship will be docking at a Maldivian port after being permitted by the Male government to make a port call for replenishment. With the voice of concern over what is being dubbed as Muizzu’s “anti-India” stance surfacing in Maldives, the US and the European countries must also call out Male for turning a blind eye to the points that India has highlighted as security issues in the Indian Ocean in the midst of China sending its vessels. This is the right time for the same. This development should not be taken lightly, as Maldives would be allowing more such ships from China in future, which will disturb the security ecosystem of the region. Maldives has already issued a statement saying that it will continue to welcome ships from friendly countries in its waters. Apart from the US, Australia and Japan who are Quad partners with India must also send out a terse message to China over all this.

All these countries have been concerned about growing expansionist and aggressive behaviour of China in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region. If Maldives continues to allow China to send ships to strategic maritime regions like this, the practice will embolden Beijing in other maritime regions like the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea and East China Sea. The need of the hour is that there should be a collective effort on the part of the global community to ensure that this practice is stopped immediately.

T. BRAJESH

Conundrum of Coalition Governments

A coalition government is a form of government in which political parties co-operate to form a government. The usual reason for such an arrangement is that no single party has achieved an absolute majority after an election.

A coalition agreement is a negotiated agreement between the parties that constitute a coalition government in multi-party nations.

It codifies the cabinet's most essential common aims and objectives. It is frequently written by legislative party leaders.

A coalition system's core basis is the simple fact of temporary convergence of specific interests. Coalition politics is a dynamic affair in which coalition actors and organizations can dissolve and create new ones.

Coalitions are divided into two types: internal coalitions and external coalitions. Internal coalitions are made up of people who already work in an organization, such as a workplace.

MERITS OF COALITION

A coalition government acts as a channel to meet the expectations and redress the grievances of different groups.

India is a highly diversified country. There are different cultures, languages, castes, religions and ethnic groups. This means that the coalition government's more representative in nature and reflects the popular opinion of the electorate.

A coalition government comprises different political parties having their own ideologies or agendas. But the government policy requires the concurrence of all the coalition partners. Therefore, a coalition government leads to consensus-based politics.

Coalition politics strengthens the federal fabric of the Indian political system.



The first successful coalition government in India which completed a whole five-year term was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance with Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister from 1999 to 2004.

This is because a coalition government is more sensitive and responsive to regional demands.

A coalition government reduces the chances of despotic rule. This is due to the reduced domination of a single political party in the functioning of the government. All the members of the coalition participate in the decision making.

DEMERITS OF COALITION

Usually, the inherent nature of coalition government is of instability. They are mostly unstable or prone to instability. The difference of opinion among coalition members leads to the collapse of the government.

Leadership of the Prime Minister is a principle of



mittee of the coalition partners acts as the 'Super-Cabinet' and thereby it undermines the role and position of the cabinet in the functioning of the government machinery.

There is a possibility of the smaller constituents of the coalition government playing the role of a 'king-maker'. They demand more than strength in the Parliament.

The leaders of regional parties bring in the regional facts in the national decision-making. They

pressurise the central executive to act on their lines; otherwise, they would threaten to withdraw from the coalition.

The members of the coalition governments do not assume responsibility for the administrative failures and lapses. They could play blame games and there by escape from collective and individual responsibilities.

Post India's freedom on 15 August 1947, the Indian National Congress, the prominent political party and a key catalyst in the Indian independence movement, ruled the nation.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister and his successor Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Indira Gandhi, the third Prime Minister, were all members of the Congress party.

However, Raj Narain, who lost to Indira Gandhi in Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha election in 1971, lodged a case alleging electoral malpractice. Indira was found guilty in June 1975, and was barred by the High Court from holding public office for 6 years.

Eventually, Mrs Gandhi declared a state of emergency under the pretext of national security. The next general election resulted in the formation of India's first ever national coalition government with Morarji Desai as then prime minister. It was also the first non-Congress national government.

That government existed from 24 March 1977 to 15 July 1979, headed by the Janata Party, an amalgam of political parties opposed to the emer-

Formation of Coalition Governments in India (1977-Present)		
Period	Coalition	Prime Minister (Party)
1977-1979	Janata Party	Morarji Desai (Congress [O])
1979-1980	Janta Party (Secular)	Charan Singh (Janata [S])
1989-1990	National Front	V.P Singh (Janata Dal)
1990-1991	Janata Dal (Socialist) or Samajwadi Janata Party	Chandra Shekar (Janata Dal [S] or Samajwadi Party)
1996-1997	United Front	H..D Deve Gowda (Janata Dal)
1997-1998	United Front	I.K Gujral (Janata Dal)
1997-1998	BJP-led Coalition	A.B. Vajpayee (BJP)
1999-2004	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	A.B. Vajpayee (BJP)
2004-2009	United Progressive Alliance (UPA)	Manmohan Singh (Congress)
2009-2014	United Progressive Alliance – II (UPA-II)	Manmohan Singh (Congress)
2014-2019	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	Narendra Modi (BJP)
2019-present	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	Narendra Modi (BJP)

gency imposed between 1975 and 1977. Following dwindling popularity of the Janata Party, Desai had to resign, and his rival Chaudhary Charan Singh became the fifth Prime Minister. Unfortunately, owing to lack of support, his coalition government failed complete its five-year term.

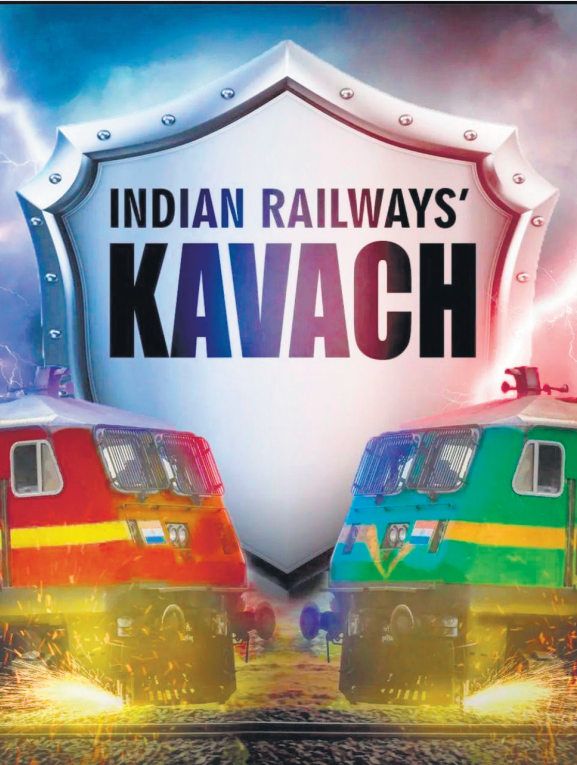
Congress returned to power in 1980 under Indira Gandhi, and later his son Rajiv Gandhi became the sixth Prime Minister. The general election of 1989 once again brought a coalition government under National Front, which lasted until 1991, with two Prime Ministers, the second one being supported by Congress. The 1991 election resulted in a Congress-led stable minority government for five years.



Prime Minister Morarji Desai made the first ever national coalition government in 1977-1979.

EXPLAINER

How indigenous anti-train collision system Kavach works



Kavach helps loco pilots avoid overspeeding, signal passing and improves safety and also efficiency during adverse weather conditions.

TBG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A recent trial carried out by the Agra Division of North Central Railway has yielded promising results for, the Kavach, anti-train collision system, which was tested successfully at a speed of 160 kmph.

It marks a significant advancement towards the In-

dian Railways' dream of establishing a semi-high-speed rail network.

The Railway Ministry has achieved another milestone with the successful recent trial of braking parameters of the 'Kavach' anti-train collision system at a speed of 160 kilometer per hour.

The trial was conducted by the North Central Railway's Agra Division and it has yield-

ed promising results for the Kavach. Indian Railways is in the process of implementing the Kavach across its network to enhance operational safety.

The Agra Division has developed a complete Kavach network on the 80-km stretch between Mathura and Palwal near Faridabad. It involves the placement of RFID tags on railway tracks in station areas and other places, installation of stationary Kavach units at several places such as stations, and installation of towers and antennas along the tracks.

The new braking system helps loco pilots avoid overspeeding, signal passing and improves safety and also efficiency during adverse weather conditions.

However, Similar safety systems are followed in other countries as well.

Kavach was tested on a WAP-5 semi-high-speed en-



gine, operating on the Palwal-Mathura section on 19 January. Shatabdi and Gatimaan Express pull passenger coaches at speeds of 160 kmph and commonly used WAP-5 engines.

Presently, Kavach is deployed on routes where trains



Kavach, the new braking system, prevents train accidents.

operate at a maximum speed of 130 kmph.

With the introduction of trains like Vande Bharat, which can run at 160 kmph, it becomes crucial for the railway infrastructure to be upgraded to accommodate semi-high-speed operations.

According to the railways, the Kavach system is already functional in three sections on a 1,465-km route and in 139 locomotives in South Central Railway. However, a trial cannot be conducted on that route because of speed restrictions.

INCEPTION OF KAVACH

With three Indian vendors 'Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd, HBL Power Systems Ltd and Kernex Microsystems', this braking system was created by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) under Indian Railways. Later, Kavach was adopted as our National Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System.

The Railways have been conducting out field tests

for this braking system on passenger locomotives, with further operational improvements in the works since 2016.

In this system, railway tracks, signalling systems on railway tracks, and the engines of trains are installed with radio frequency devices sans relying on a central server that continuously send signals back and forth on a real-time basis to indicate that the track on which the train is operating has no obstacles.

Kavach effectively controls the train's speed and auto-

matically applies brakes when required, particularly in situations where the loco pilot may not be able to do so.

The tracks will be equipped with pressure sensors capable of detecting weights exceeding 500 kg and then transmit signals to the train's engine, prompting the automatic application of brakes.

It detects the obstacles up to 10 km ahead with the help of the devices installed on railway tracks.

The features include transmitting line-side signals to the

The eleventh parliament produced three Prime Ministers in two years and forced the country back to the polls in 1998.

The first successful coalition government in India which completed a whole five-year term was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance with Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister from 1999 to 2004. Then another coalition, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance, consisting of 13 separate parties, ruled India for two terms from 2004 to 2014 with Manmohan Singh as PM.

However, in the 16th general election in May 2014, the BJP secured a majority on its own (becoming the first party to do so since the 1984 election), and the National Democratic Alliance came into power, with Narendra Modi as Prime Minister.

In 2019, Narendra Modi was re-elected as Prime Minister as the National Democratic Alliance again secured a majority in the 17th general election.

train cab, which is beneficial in high-speed and foggy conditions.

The progress of Kavach, so far 1,659 km of railway line has been covered and an additional 500 km will be covered by March this year. In the next three years, at least 5,000 km will be covered.

CONSTRAINTS OF THE MAXIMUM TRAIN SPEED

There is always a crucial need that still remains for the railways to upgrade tracks meeting requirements for managing maximum speeds achievable by semi-high-speed trains in India's railway network.

The only 125 km stretch, divided into three parts between Delhi and Agra, currently permits trains to operate at a maximum speed of 160 kmph.

Even these tracks are not fully free of train traffic, stopping engines from reaching their maximum speed. Trains are limited to a maximum speed of 130 kmph across the country.

Efforts are underway to strengthen the Indian railway tracks. As a matter of fact, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Delhi (1483 km) and Howrah-Delhi (1525 km) rail corridors are among the first to support trains running at 160 kmph.

DELHI HIGH COURT: DELHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED, DIAL AGAINST THE DECISION TO COMMENCE COMMERCIAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT HINDON AIRFORCE STATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Delhi International Airport Limited v. Union of India and Anr. observed wherein the court observed that DIAL is a joint venture of the GMR led consortium and AAI and court challenging the decision of the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation in October last year to allow the Airports Authority of India, AAI to commence commercial flight operations at the Hindon Airforce Station situated in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.

The bench headed by Justice Subramonium Prasad

in the case observed and has issued the notice on the petition moved seeking response of the Union Government and AAI in the matter. the court observed that DIAL is a joint venture of the GMR led consortium and AAI and also undertakes functions concerning operations and maintenance of the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Therefore, DIAL has also challenged a communication issued by AAI inviting various airline operators to increase flight operations and file their respective flight schedule for availing

Therefore, DIAL has also challenged a communication issued by AAI inviting various airline operators to increase flight operations and file their respective flight schedule for availing slots at the Hindon Airforce Station.

slots at the Hindon Airforce Station.

It being the case of DIAL that the impugned decision and communication are in the teeth of Union Government's policies, including the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, 1997, which mandates that no greenfield airport will be allowed

within an aerial distance of 150 kilometres of an existing airport.

The petition moves stated that Centre's decision is arbitrary, unfair and unsustainable as it does not satisfy the tests in the 1997 Policy as well as the Greenfield Airport Policy and the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016,

for setting up a new greenfield airport within 150 kms of an existing airport. Further, the petition states that the impugned Decision, Impugned Proposal, and Impugned Communication also fails to consider that already a greenfield airport is being developed at Jewar with ultimate passenger capacity of more than 100 mppa within 150 km of the IGIA. Thus, the aggregate passenger capacity of about 250 mppa is being created in the NCR, which is projected to be sufficient till 2050. Adding to it, the court stated that allowing the Hindon Airforce Station to be used for scheduled commercial operations to cater to the

same catchment area, even before IGI Airport and the airport at Jewar reach their saturation capacity, would seriously impact the viability of IGI Airport.

The petition stated that it would not only be detrimental to the existing airport i.e. IGIA but also render the upcoming airport at Jewar and Hindon Airforce Station, if it is permitted to be developed into a greenfield airport, unviable as it would result in three weak airports, with all competing and eating into the revenues of each other.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on March 07, 2024.

Supreme Court Issued Notice On VHP's Plea Seeking Permission To Offer Free Transport Services For Sabarimala Pilgrims

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Vishwa Hindu Parishad Kerala v. State of Kerala observed and has issued the notice on a petition filed by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad wherein seeking permission to operate vehicles offering free transport for Sabarimala pilgrims in Nilakkal to Pampa route.

The court in the case observed and seek responses of the State of Kerala and the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation.

The bench comprising of Justice Surya Kant and Justice KV Viswanathan in the case was hearing the Special Leave Petition filed by the VHP challenging a judgment delivered by the Kerala High Court in April 2023 wherein the court rejected the plea.

The counsel, Senior Advocate V Chitambareish, appearing for the organisation, told the bench that till the COVID season, vehicles were allowed till Pampa, from where the 6 KM trek to the Sabarimala shrine starts. Thus, the distance between Nilakkal and Pampa is 22 kilometres and only the KSRTC buses are allowed to ply in this route.

Adding to it, the counsel, Senior Advocate V Chitambareish stated that the VHP offered to do free services and when the bench asked that if the petitioner was asking for a stage carriage permit or a contract carriage permit, Chitambareish said that the organisation just wanted to offer free services, which the government is not allowing.

At present, only the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation is allowed to operate on this route.

It has also been submitted by him that Lakhs and lakhs of devotees are coming there and they are waiting for 28 hours, 30 hours in serpentine queues. Thus, the KSRTC is not running sufficient buses. They are not in good con-

The counsel, Senior Advocate V Chitambareish, appearing for the organisation, told the bench that till the COVID season, vehicles were allowed till Pampa, from where the 6 KM trek to the Sabarimala shrine starts.

dition too.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner proposed free service from Nilakkal to Pampa and vice versa, by taking 20 contract carriages on lease for free transportation of the pilgrims.

The High Court in the case observed that if the petitioner was allowed to operate special permit vehicles with pick and drop at the start and terminal points, it will virtually become a stage carriage with a corridor restriction, which will violate permit conditions.

Supreme Court Acquitted Woman In 23-Year-Old Murder Case After Finding Her To Be A Juvenile At The Time Of Offence

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Pramila versus State Of Chhattisgarh observed and has acquitted a woman who was sentenced to suffer life-imprisonment for committing an offence of murder, after finding that she was a juvenile in 2000 when the said offence took place.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in the case observed and has noted that at the time of occurrence of the offence, the accused was juvenile, and therefore, no punishment could be imposed on the accused in view of the Juvenile Justice Act.

The court in the case observed and has set aside the concurring finding of the

High Court and the Trial Court.

The court stated that on the date of occurrence of the offence, the appellant was a juvenile and the maximum action which could have been taken against the appellant was of sending her to a special home.

The court observed that the accused in the case had already undergone incarceration for a period of more than eight years as a juvenile.

In the present case, one Pramila-accused was convicted for committing an offence of murder i.e., the date of offence being June 15, 2000 and was sentenced to undergo life-imprisonment by the trial court. Thus, while challenging the

decision of the trial court, the accused preferred an appeal before the High Court that

maintained the sentence of the accused while dismissing the appeal.

Therefore, the present criminal appeal was preferred by the accused before the Supreme Court.

The accused took a plea of 'juvenile' at the time of occurrence of the offence and after perusing the record of documents proving the date of birth of the accused, the court found that the accused was juvenile at the time of occurrence of offence.

The court stated that this court have to proceed on the footing that on the date on which the incident constitut-

ing the offence took place, the age of the appellant was less than 18 years.

It has also been noted by the said court that the accused case squarely falls under the old Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 which defines the juvenile girl as someone who has not attained the age of eighteen years.

The court stated that the Juvenile Justice, the Care and Protection of Children Act, 2000 for short, 'the 2000 JJ Act' was admittedly not in force when the incident occurred. Thus, the said case will be governed by the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, for short, 'the 1986 JJ Act'.

The court stated that Under clause (h) of Section 2 of the 1986 JJ Act, a 'juvenile' has been defined to mean a boy

who has not attained the age of sixteen years or a girl who has not attained the age of eighteen years. The appellant was a juvenile, on the occurrence of the offence.

The court stated that the age of the appellant was 17 years, 09 months and 14 days on the date of the offence.

Further, the court in the case noted that the imposition of the sentence of life-imprisonment upon the accused is not justified as maximum punishment under the JJ Act is to send her to a special home for up to three years.

The court stated that in the case of a girl of sixteen years of age, she could have been sent to a special home for a period of not less than three years. Thus, as per Section 22(1) of the 1986 JJ Act, there was a

prohibition on sentencing a juvenile to undergo imprisonment and there is similar provision under Section 16 of the 2000 JJ Act.

The court in the case declined to send the accused before the Juvenile Justice Board, while taking note of the eight-year incarceration suffered by the accused.

The court in its order stated that the present Appeal must succeed and the impugned judgment and order dated May, 03, 2010 passed by the High Court and the impugned judgment and order dated June 30, 2003 passed by the Additional Sessions Judge, Ramanujganj, District Sarguja, Chhattisgarh, are hereby quashed and set aside only insofar as the appellant i.e., the accused no.2 is concerned.

Allahabad High Court: Plea Moves Challenging Order Of Govt Advocate, Chief Standing Counsel Refusing To Accept Notice Vide Email

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case Pradeep Kumar Singh v. State Of U.P. And 4 Others observed and seek response from the Chief Standing Counsel for Uttar Pradesh on a plea challenging his notice directing that all soft copies of petitions or applications be supplied to his office through pen drive.

The court observed that the Chief Standing Counsel and the Government Advocate for the State of U.P. published a notice on October 11, 2023 wherein it is stated that no

pdf copy of any notice served through email shall be accepted.

The counsel appearing before the court were directed to provide pdf copies only through USB/ Thumb Drives.

In the present case, the Petitioner, Pradeep Kumar Singh, a practicing advocate of the Allahabad High Court moved the writ plea challenging the said order, which was later converted into a public interest litigation by the Court.

It has also been argued before the court that providing pdf copies of petitions was

It has also been argued before the court that providing pdf copies of petitions was easier through e-mail. Thus, the emails are easily accessible to the advocates and litigants appearing in-person, it is said.

easier through e-mail. Thus, the emails are easily accessible to the advocates and litigants appearing in-person, it is said.

The court stated that the e-service centres established for e-filing of cases will become meaningless if the litigant or the advocate has to physically visit the office of the Chief Standing Counsel and the Government Advo-

cate for giving notice.

The bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Kshitij Shailendra in the case observed and has directed the Chief Standing Counsel, to apprise the Court of the steps taken by the State for accepting notice by email.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter to be next heard on February 07, 2024

JUSTICE PB VARALE SWORN-IN AS SUPREME COURT JUDGE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Justice Prasanna B Varale was sworn-in as a judge of the Supreme Court took oath on January 25, 2024. The Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud administered the oath to Justice Varale, who was previously the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court and a judge of the Bombay High Court.

With the appointment of Justice Prasanna B Varale, the Supreme Court is back to

its full strength of 34 judges. The Supreme Court at present has three judges from the Scheduled Castes - Justices BR Gavai, CT Ravikumar and Varale. This is the highest-ever representation of the Scheduled Caste community in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court Collegium appointed chief justice of Karnataka High Court, Justice Prasanna B Varale as Judge of the Supreme Court.

Last week, the Supreme Court Collegi-

um recommended his elevation.

The Supreme Court Collegium had con-

Therefore, the court stated that his elevation as a Judge of the Bombay High Court in 2008, he practised at the Bar for over 23 years in civil, criminal, labour and administrative law matters in District and Sessions Court and in Constitutional matters at the High Court Bench at Aurangabad. Thus, he was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court in October 2022.

sidered the fact that among the High Court Judges, Justice Varale is the senior-most Judge belonging to a

Scheduled Caste and the only Chief Justice belonging to a Scheduled Caste among the

Chief Justices of High Courts across the country.

Justice Varale stand at Sl No.6 in the com-

bined all-India seniority of High Court Judges.

Justice Varale being

the senior-most judge of the Bombay High Court.

The Supreme Court Collegium bench

headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud in the case observed that the judgments authored by him deal with variety of issues in every field of law. The five-member collegium recorded in the resolution that he is the competent judge with unimpeachable conduct and integrity and has throughout maintained high standard of professional ethics.

Therefore, the court stated that his elevation as a Judge of the Bombay High Court

in 2008, he practised at the Bar for over 23 years in civil, criminal, labour and administrative law matters in District and Sessions Court and in Constitutional matters at the High Court Bench at Aurangabad. Thus, he was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court in October 2022.

The said recommendation is made towards the vacancy which the central government had cleared the appointment of the chief justice of Karnataka

High Court, Justice Prasanna B Varale as Judge of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court Collegium made the recommendation towards the vacancy which arose in the Supreme Court following the retirement of Justice SK Kaul last month.

Further, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant and Justice Aniruddha Bose are the other members of the Supreme Court Collegium.

TOP OF THE DAY

PAK: FIVE PEOPLE
KIDNAPPED IN
BALOCHISTAN

BALOCHISTAN: At least five people from Pakistan’s Punjab province were abducted in the Kech district of Balochistan, reported The Balochistan Post. Unidentified gunmen kidnapped five individuals from Punjab province in Dandar village, on the outskirts of Hoshap sub-tehsil of Kech on Wednesday. The detainees have been identified as Nazir Ahmed, Muhammad Tariq, Safdar Ali, Farooq, and Hasnain. Reportedly, the detainees were working there to install a new tower for the “state-run” telecom company Ufone, the Balochistan Post reported.

ISRAELI FORCES
CONTINUE
ADVANCES IN GAZA

TEL AVIV: As the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) press forward against the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, its 98th Paratrooper Division raided military sites and eliminated dozens of terrorists in the Khan Yunis region. The forces of the brigade operated in the Al-Amal neighbourhood there over the past day. In another activity in the area, fighters of the IDF’s Maglan commando unit raided a number of terrorist targets, including a military headquarters where many weapons were located, and terrorists were eliminated in close-range fire. In the north of the Gaza Strip, the fighters of the 5th Infantry Brigade eliminated a number of terrorists and located weapons in the area.

TWO RETIRED
TAIWANESE
ARMY OFFICERS
CONVICTED IN
CHINA SPY CASE

TAIPEI: The convictions of retired military officers Lee Ching-hsien and Yeh Jui-chang have been finalized after their appeals were rejected by the Supreme Court, Central News Agency Taiwan reported on Wednesday. The Supreme Court did not immediately explain its decision on the appeals. Yeh and Tsui Yi-sheng were each sentenced by the Kaohsiung branch of the Taiwan High Court in June 2022 to eight months in prison for violating the National Security Act, while Lee was given sentences of seven months, seven months, and 14 months for multiple offences.

TEL AVIV STOCK
EXCHANGE
REPORTS STRONG
2023

TEL AVIV: The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) reported that despite the war in Gaza and the October 7 massacre, TASE companies continued to distribute high dividends, but they were still down from 2022. TASE firms distributed dividends of 27.2 billion Shekels (USD 7.4 billion) in 2023, compared to 28.6 billion Shekels (USD 7.8 billion) distributed in the record-setting year 2022. 62 per cent of the dividends were paid to public shareholders - 17 billion Shekels (USD 4.6 billion).

PAKISTAN’S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT BROUGHT MY
FATHER BACK FROM UK: NAWAZ SHARIF’S DAUGHTER

TDG NETWORK
LAHORE

The daughter of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has acknowledged that Pakistan’s powerful military establishment brought her father back from UK where he was in self-imposed exile for four years, confirming what his opponents have been alleging ahead of the general election on February eight.

Sharif’s daughter Maryam Nawaz, who is also the chief organiser for his party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), was addressing a rally at Nankana Sahib, about 80 kms from here, on Wednesday when she made this claim.

She shared the stage with Sharif, 74, who, however, did not make any such claim.

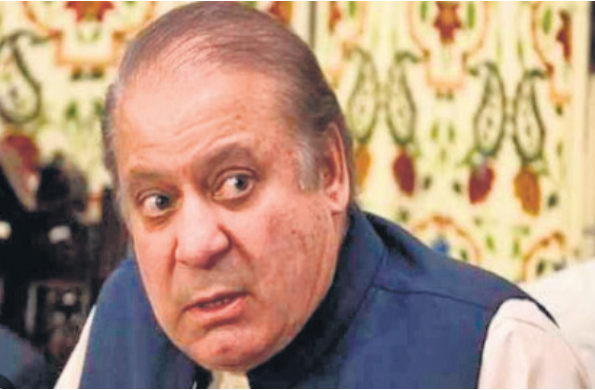
The PML-N supremo is the only Pakistani politician who

became the prime minister of the coup-prone country for a record three times. He ended his four-year self-imposed exile in the UK and returned to Pakistan in October last year after securing what his opponents and political analysts described as “blessings of the powerful military establishment.” His party is considered favourite to win next month’s polls for the same reasons with some of the opposition parties terming him a ‘Laadla’ (favourite) of the establishment.

However, this is the first time that someone from the Sharif family has revealed that it was the military establishment that brought him back to Pakistan.

“Those (military establishment) who ousted Nawaz Sharif have brought him back,” Maryam Nawaz told the rally.

A while later, she repeated:



“They ousted Nawaz every now and then. ... sometimes in (Musharraf) plane hijacking case and sometimes for not taking a salary from his son. But now those who ousted him have brought him back.” Sharif was disqualified in 2017 and later in 2018 convicted in two cases of corruption. He was arrested and put in jail but set free after being given a bail. He, however, jumped the bail and left for the UK in November 2019 on

“medical grounds.” Since his return to the country, things have eased for the PML-N leader as he has gotten relief from various courts in case after case against him.

As the moniker ‘Laadla’ (the blue-eyed of) of the establishment seems to haunt Sharif, Maryam said: “These days it is being said that Nawaz Sharif is a Laadla (of military establishment) ... yes, he is, but that of the people of the country.” Jailed former

PM Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has allegedly alleged that Nawaz returned to the country after striking a deal with the powerful military. “Under the London Plan, Imran Khan was sent to jail, the party was crushed and the government was given to Nawaz Sharif,” the PTI has maintained.

Khan has been lodged in the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi since August last year in different cases while his party has been deprived of its iconic symbol the cricket ‘bat’ for the February 8 polls. Its candidates are contesting independently.

On the other hand, Sharif is being given a PM-designate protocol in the country.

At the same rally, Sharif criticised Khan and declared himself a home grown prime minister, rejecting the notion of being an “imported” leader.

Section 144 imposed in Pakistani Punjab to hamper
PTI show of strength: Imran Khan

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the Punjab government has imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to hamper the upcoming power show by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf’s candidates, Dawn reported.

The former PM made the remarks after attending court proceedings of GBP 190 million, Toshakhana, and cypher cases. Accountability judge Mohammad Bashir deferred the indictment of Khan in the £190m reference as the defence counsel was absent.

Khan said Pakistan’s caretaker government, a few individuals in the establishment, and the Election Commission of Pakistan are united against his party, according to Dawn report.

He stressed that PTI had an overwhelming vote bank within the armed forces, and the party will not



be deterred whatever coercive measures were adopted to suppress its voice.

Khan said he never witnessed such pre-poll rigging in Pakistan’s history, and they planned to rig elections set to be held on February 8. However, he added that they would see the public rage on election day.

In response to a question about the possibility of a deal with stakeholders, he said that the only deal in which he is now interested is conducting free and transparent polls, Dawn reported.

Khan said the prevailing mindset of the power corridors is harmful for Pakistan and stressed that the election is for “real freedom.” He stated

that he has applied to cast his vote through the postal ballot.

He said Section 144 was imposed after he asked the PTI candidates to carry out large-scale public meetings. He expressed apprehensions that the government will not permit PTI candidates to hold their show of power.

The PTI founder accused Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader of being behind the imposition of Section 144 as he was not able to bring out people in public meetings, Dawn reported.

Imran Khan said the PTI has formulated a contingency plan and in case any candidate is arrested or stopped from contesting the polls, his replacement will do so.

Special Court Judge (Official Secrets Act) Abul Hasnat Mohammad Zulqarnain, concluded the cross-examination of four prosecution witnesses in the cypher case. There are 25 prosecution witnesses to be cross-examined by Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi’s lawyer.

Taiwan detects 18 Chinese
military aircraft, 6 naval
ships around nation

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Taiwan’s ministry of national defence (MND) has detected 18 Chinese military aircraft and six naval ships around Taiwan between 6 am on Wednesday, January 24 and 6 am on Thursday, January 25, the Taiwan News reported.

According to the MND, one of the 18 People’s Liberation Army (PLA) fighter jets breached the Taiwan Strait median line in the northeast sector of the country’s air defence identification zone.

Meanwhile, three PLA aircraft flew into the southwest corner of Taiwan’s ADIZ.

Taiwan responded by sending aircraft and navy ships, as well as deploying air defence missile systems, to monitor PLA action. The defence ministry of Taiwan, meanwhile, also tracked three Chinese balloons on Wednesday.

According to Taiwan News, the first crossed the median line at 5:57 a.m. 133 km (72 NM) west of Keelung, the second at 3:11 p.m. 230 km (124 NM) west of Pingtung, and the third at 3:30 p.m. 244 km (132 NM) west of Pingtung.

The balloons travelled east and later disappeared at 6:32 a.m., 3:57 p.m., and 4:14 p.m., respectively.

Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of grey zone tactics by gradually increasing the number of military aircraft and navy ships operating near Taiwan.

Gray zone tactics are defined as “an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one’s security objectives without resort to direct and sizable use of force,” reported Taiwan News.

This month, Taiwan detected 223 Chinese military planes and 106 navy vessels.

China stands ready to
work with Pakistan
to upgrade CPEC
project: Report

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD/BEIJING

China has said that it stands ready to work with Pakistan to upgrade the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to deepen the political mutual trust between the two “all-weather” allies, a media report said on Thursday.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said after having achieved the first phase of the CPEC, Pakistan is benefiting from its early harvest projects while remaining engaged with China to execute the next phase.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin while answering a question during a briefing on Wednesday said, “China stands ready to work with Pakistan to deliver on the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries, deepen political mutual trust, and expand practical cooperation.”

China has said it is ready to work with Pakistan to upgrade the CPEC and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan’s Balochistan with China’s Xinjiang province, is opposed by India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

About the recent visit of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong to Pakistan, Wang said, he called on President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Kakar, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani to have an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The spokesperson added that the Chinese minister also co-chaired the fourth meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination with Foreign Secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi.

“China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners,” he said.

China appreciates Pakistan’s firm commitment to the One-China principle and supports Pakistan in defending its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, stability, development and prosperity.

In Islamabad, Prime Minister Kakar said that after having achieved the first phase of CPEC, Pakistan is benefiting from its early harvest projects while remaining engaged with China to execute the next phase.

“We have already achieved the CPEC’s first phase and we are benefiting from its early harvest projects. We are entering the second phase. We do need more deliberations when it comes to the second phase,” he said in an interview recorded by CGTN during his recent visit to Davos to attend the World Economic Forum.

FEB 8 ELECTIONS TO ‘DAMAGE’
PAKISTAN, WARNS EX-PM ABBASI

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Thursday warned that the general elections slated for February 8 will “damage” the country as the poll process is rigged.

“Elections are a constitutional necessity - it is not a choice whether to hold elections or not - but the political leadership must make the elections meaningful and a way to solve the country’s problems,” Dawn News quoted Abbasi as saying.

“The political leadership has failed in this action,” Abbasi, who was the prime minister between 2017 and 2018 said.

“Making an election purposeful is a job of the political leadership, as this election has become purposeless. The political, military and judicial leaderships of the country should sit together on the table and determine the way forward for the country,” the veteran politician said, pointing towards alleged political engineering in the general elections scheduled for February 8. Talking to media outside the anti-corruption department office in Rawalpindi, where he arrived for interrogation into the case about embezzlement in road projects, Abbasi said the election should not be made controversial as polls are a revered process and making it controversial would damage the country.

Pointing towards alleged rigging in elections, he said the system did not work in 2018 and neither will it work now, Geo News reported.

He said the three largest



Ex-Pak PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

parties of the country had failed to deliver as neither they had the resolution for the solution of the problems. He also predicted that more than one political party would be created in Pakistan soon.

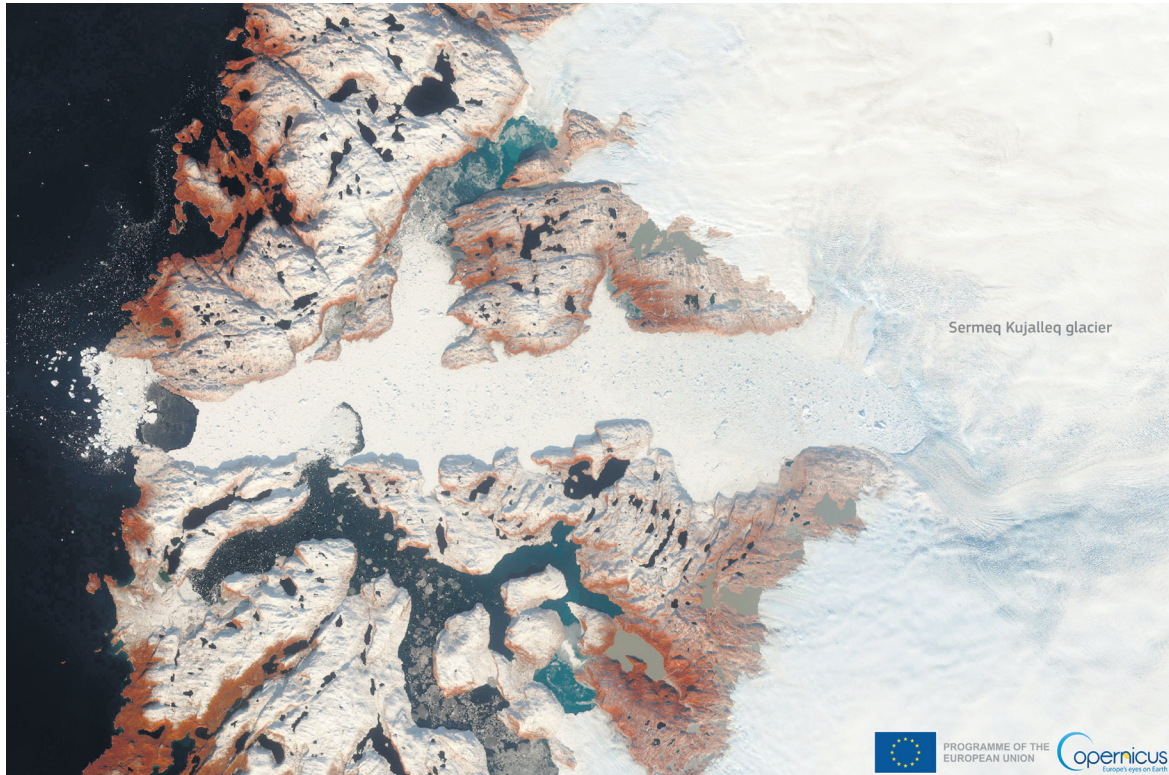
The estranged Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, who had developed differences with the party leadership over the last year, said he had left the elections, not politics, and added that he would decide about forming a new political party after the polls.

Abbasi in February last year had resigned as the party’s senior vice president to give Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz an “open field”.

Since 1947 every election has been stolen. The masses are disappointed with the election process. You still have time to make this process uncontroversial,” he said. On the embezzlement case against him, the ex-premier said the notice against him was sent to his spokesperson instead of him, which was a way of harassing a politician in the election process.

Imagine, how those contesting the polls were being treated if someone who is not even contesting the elections is being treated like this, he said.

THE SERMEQ KUJALLEQ GLACIER



The Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, is a prominent glacier located in western Greenland. Renowned for its dramatic ice flow and calving events, it is one of the fastest-moving glaciers in the world. Sermeq Kujalleq has attracted global attention because of its rapid retreat and increasing ice loss

HOUTHIS FIRE THREE ANTI-SHIP BALLISTIC MISSILES AT US SHIP, NO DAMAGES

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, DC

Iran-backed Houthis on Wednesday fired three anti-ship ballistic missiles at the US Ship Maersk Detroit transiting the Gulf of Aden.

“On Jan. 24 at approximately 2 p.m. (Sanaa time), Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists fired three anti-ship ballistic missiles from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward the U.S.-flagged, owned, and operated container ship M/V Maersk Detroit, transiting the Gulf of Aden,” US Central Command (CENTCOM) posted on X.

“One missile impacted in the sea. The two other missiles were successfully engaged and shot down by the USS Gravely (DDG 107). There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship,” the CENTOM further said.

Meanwhile, the US and UK recently carried out additional strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, CNN reported, citing a joint statement.

In the latest development, the countries attacked the rebels’ infrastructure on Monday and struck eight sites, as per a joint statement from the US and UK.

The two countries conducted the strikes, and Canada, the Netherlands, Bahrain, and Australia supported the



attacks, according to CNN.

Notably, the recent strikes on Houthi targets were “successful” and destroyed missiles, weapons storage sites and drone systems, a senior military official and a senior defence official stated.

The officials, who briefed reporters following the Monday afternoon operation, said the strikes “achieved the desired effect.”

However, the strike that was conducted on January 11 was smaller as compared to the first joint operation, which struck over 30 Houthi targets.

Reportedly, Monday’s strikes targeted a Houthi underground storage site and site associated with Houthi missiles and air surveillance, the statement added, according to CNN.

The senior military official said that the US used fighter jets from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, as well as surface vessels and a submarine, to strike eight locations.

He further added that approximately 25-30 precision-guided munitions were fired at the targets, including Tomahawk cruise missiles.

SCHIZOPHRENIC MAN WHO KILLED 3 WILL BE DETAINED IN HIGH-SECURITY HOSPITAL ‘INDEFINITELY’

AGENCIES
LONDON

A 32-year-old man, suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, was on Thursday sentenced to indefinitely be detained in a high-security hospital for killing British-Indian teen O’Malley-Kumar, her friend and a school caretaker last year.

Valdo Calocane admitted three counts of manslaughter by diminished responsibility, after denying the murder of Barnaby Webber, Grace O’Malley-Kumar, both 19, and Ian Coates, 65, in Nottingham in June last year.

He also pleaded guilty to three counts of attempted murder for driving a vehicle at three others, the BBC News reported.

Justice Turner said Calocane was “substantially impaired” by mental illness, but this did not detract from the “horror” of the crimes.

Turner said he was satisfied that Calocane was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and should therefore be detained in the Ashworth Hospital under section 37 of the Mental Health Act, adding that he would be detained “probably” for the rest of his life. Justice Turner said that Calocane will in future have the ability to apply to the first-tier tribunal for potential discharge to the community.

He will be subject to “careful

independent consideration” and his discharge would be based on conditions, such as him meeting a supervisor regularly, being compliant with his medication and remaining at a fixed address.

Any “deterioration” in his mental condition would lead to a “prompt recall” to a psychiatric hospital, the justice said, adding that given the severity of his offences, his condition and his chronic

slaughter plea. “Instead we have been rushed, hastened and railroaded,” family members say.

Prosecutors late last year accepted a plea of manslaughter from Calocane based on diminished responsibility after he denied murder charges in November.

Commenting on Assistant Chief Constable Rob Griffin’s earlier statement “We should have done more to arrest”

Any ‘deterioration’ in his mental condition would lead to a ‘prompt recall’ to a psychiatric hospital, the justice said, adding that given the severity of his offences, his condition and his chronic need for medication, it was ‘highly unlikely’ that he would be given an absolute discharge.

need for medication, it was “highly unlikely” that he would be given an absolute discharge.

Webber’s parents said they did not dispute that Calocane had been “mentally unwell” but he “knew exactly what he was doing”. They said justice had not been served today, hitting out at what they see as failures in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the police service.

In a statement, Barnaby’s family said the CPS did not consult with them on accepting the defence’s man-

Calocane before the killings, Barnaby’s parents said: “You have blood on your hands.”

“If you had just done your jobs properly there’s a very good chance my beautiful boy would be alive today.”

Nottinghamshire Police earlier said it had “previously engaged” with Calocane “on several occasions between 2020 and 2022”, saying this was “mostly while supporting our colleagues in the NHS”.

Calocane, formerly of Forest Fields, Nottingham, is expected to be sentenced at

the city’s Crown Court for the manslaughter of students Barnaby Webber and Grace O’Malley-Kumar, both 19, and school caretaker Ian Coates, 65, on June 13 last year.

Defence KC Peter Joyce, offering mitigation on behalf of Calocane on Wednesday, urged Justice Turner not to consider a whole-life order as the accused suffers from Schizophrenia.

Joyce went on to describe Calocane as “a man who before being smitten” by mental illness “was wholly law-abiding, was hard-working, put himself through university and was doing his very, very best to become a meaningful member of society”.

“Of course, he destroyed these lives. It (mental illness) destroyed their lives and his life is destroyed too.

Dr Sinead O’Malley and Dr Sanjoy Kumar, O’Malley-Kumar’s parents, said there needed to be a “massive deterrent” against using knives and called on the government to “urgently” examine the issue.

They told the court how O’Malley-Kumar was killed “heroically” trying to protect Webber as they walked home from a night out.

In an emotional interview with the BBC’s Breakfast, Dr O’Malley, a consultant anaesthetist, said carrying a knife was “no different” to carrying a gun.

PLANE CRASH: FLIGHT RECORDERS FOUND

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Investigators searching the site where a Russian military transport plane crashed in a border region near Ukraine reportedly have found the plane’s flight recorders, a day after Moscow accused Kyiv of shooting down the aircraft and Ukraine’s president demanded an international investigation.

The Il-76 fell from the sky and crashed in a huge ball of flame in a rural area of Russia on Wednesday, killing all 74 people on board, Russian authorities said, as the war nears its two-year mark.

Russian officials accused Kyiv of shooting down the plane with two missiles, claiming that 65 Ukrainian prisoners of war were on board as they headed for a



prisoner swap. They offered no evidence for their claim.

Ukrainian authorities confirmed a prisoner exchange was due to happen Wednesday, and that it was called off, but said they had no information about who was on the plane.

Kyiv officials gave no direct response to the Russian claim that Ukraine struck with plane with a missile, though they noted that Russian aircraft were legitimate targets and that Moscow had requested no safe passage in the context of the prisoner swap. They cautioned against spreading unverified reports.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Thursday repeated the allegation that Ukraine had downed the plane, describing it as a totally monstrous act.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy didn’t directly address Moscow’s allegation but said Ukraine would push for an international investigation.

It is necessary to establish all the facts, as much as possible, considering that the plane crash occurred on Russian territory beyond our control, he said in his nightly video address late Wednesday. It’s obvious Russians are playing with lives of Ukrainian POWs, with the feelings of their relatives and the emotions of our society, Zelenskyy said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called for an emergency meeting of the

UN Security Council, which was expected to take place on Thursday afternoon in New York.

The discovery of the plane’s flight recorders was reported by the state-owned RIA Novosti news agency, citing emergency services.

However, there was little hope that the true circumstances of the crash and the Russian allegations would be clarified by the investigation.

Deadly incidents followed by claims and counterclaims are a feature of the war, used as ammunition to tarnish reputations and swing public opinion.

The 1,500-km (930-mile) front line has been largely static amid a second winter of fighting. As both sides seek to replenish their weapons stockpiles, the war recently has focused on long-range strikes.

US, Iraq expected to soon begin talks on troops withdrawal

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, DC

The US and Iraq are expected to soon begin talks on the American military presence in the country following calls from the Iraq government for the US to withdraw its troops, as reported by CNN, citing sources.

Last summer, the US and Iraq agreed to form a higher military commission, according to the Pentagon, as a vehicle for the talks.

The discussions between both countries will focus on the next phase of the US-led anti-ISIS coalition, with the terror group now reduced to a shadow of its former self.

According to officials, US military officials and diplomats will be involved in the discussions.

The talks about the future of the US military presence in Iraq have sparked a greater urgency as regional instability rises, according to CNN.

Calls by the Iraq government for the US have come in response to the US launching airstrikes inside Iraq targeting Iran-backed militants who have been attacking US personnel there.

Reportedly, the US has roughly 2,500 troops currently in Iraq who have been operating there in an advise and assist capacity since December 2021, when the US military announced the end of its combat role in the country.

Moreover, some of the discussions will focus on whether and when it will be feasible to end the US military presence in Iraq, CNN reported.

The US officials said that they would prefer a schedule that would be based on conditions in Iraq, including the ongoing defeat of



ISIS and the stability of the government and the Iraqi security forces.

However, some elements within the Iraq government prefer a schedule based on a timeline, setting the date for the American withdrawal regardless of the stability of the security situation within the country.

Recently, on January 10, the office of Iraq Prime Minister Mohammed Shia-al-Sudani said that they would soon begin the process “to end the presence of the international coalition forces in Iraq permanently.”

“The US and Iraq are close to agreement on starting the Higher Military Commission dialogue that was announced back in August,” a US official said.

“The HMC will be an opportunity to jointly evaluate the conditions required for the future of the D-ISIS fight in Iraq and shape the nature of the bilateral security relationship. We have been discussing this for months. The timing is not related to the recent attacks. The US will maintain its full right to self-defense during the talks, the official added.

Jonathan Lord, the director of the Middle East security programme at the

Centre for New American Security, said that the US needs to transition its support for Iraq towards building “a lasting and sustainable military capacity in the (Iraq Security Forces), to avoid another 2014. That hasn’t happened.”

“If we leave now with no plan in place, we’re sending the patient back out on the street with no plan to stay healthy,” he added, comparing the initial anti-ISIS intervention to an emergency room hospital stay. “Chances are, if things go bad, they’ll end up right back there. And it’s the most expensive, least efficient way to help them.”

On Tuesday, following the latest round of US strikes in Iraq, a spokesperson for the prime minister said in a statement that the strikes are “undermining agreements and various sectors of joint security cooperation” as the two countries are working to “reshape the future relationship.”

Last year, the US and Iraq agreed to initiate talks on the future of the US military presence before the October 7 Hamas terror attack on Israel, which sparked wider regional tensions and encouraged the Iran-backed groups, particularly Ka-

taib Hezbollah, in Iraq and across the Middle East.

Moreover, the Pentagon emphasised that the Iraq government has not formally asked the US military to withdraw, stressing that the troops are still there at the invitation of the Iraq government, as reported by CNN, adding that there is no deadline for a conclusion to the higher military commission discussions or their ultimate outcome.

Jon Alterman, the director of the Middle East Programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the politics of the US military presence in Iraq have been “treacherous” for over a decade, but it’s not a binary choice of staying or leaving. Nor is this a process that needs to move quickly.

“This is a choice of where you want to be on a spectrum,” said Alterman. “Diplomats can manipulate both the timing and the direction of the talks and arrive at a wide variety of potential outcomes.”

Alterman further said that, rumblings of a potential US change in its force posture in Iraq would be a victory for Iran. “Any sign that this is the beginning of the end would be widely celebrated in Iranian corridors,” he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, Iraq’s foreign minister hinted at the upcoming discussions, and highlighted that he met with the US Ambassador to Baghdad, Elena Romanowski, and “received from her an important message from the American government to the Iraqi government, which will be studied by the Prime Minister and the relevant concerned authorities. Next steps will be taken regarding it soon.”

POTENTIAL 14-HOUR DELAYS LOOM FOR TOURISTS HEADING TO EUROPE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Tourists planning to visit Europe may encounter lengthy waits of up to 14 hours at border controls under a new scheme scheduled to commence in October, according to statements made to MPs. The Port of Dover and its vicinity could face significant disruptions with the launch of the EU Entry-Exit System unless steps are taken to avert potential delays, as highlighted in a session of parliament’s European scrutiny committee.

Ashford borough council, responsible for Dover, informed the committee that a 14-hour queue represents a “reasonable worst case” scenario if the system

is implemented as per the current plan later this year. The new controls mandate individuals entering the EU to register their fingerprints and a photograph in addition to presenting their passport.

Over the past few years, the Port of Dover and surrounding roads have witnessed instances of traffic congestion, exacerbated by post-Brexit checks leading to extended waiting times. Visit Kent, a tourist organization, expressed concerns that delays stemming from the new system could negatively impact local businesses, a situation observed during previous periods of disruption.

Ashford council indicated that 14-hour delays at the port might result in queues along the A20 and M20,

potentially obstructing access to staff and tourist traffic at Eurotunnel in Folkestone. Eurostar warned that without upgrades, terminals could experience queues exceeding an hour during peak times. High Speed 1, responsible for UK high-speed rail services, criticized the decision not to enable online pre-registration, stating that it would “put enormous pressure on infrastructure at St Pancras International.”

Downing Street downplayed the risks of delays, with a No 10 spokesperson stating, “On some of those scenarios, rightly we’re not going to get into hypotheticals about delays...but there are tried and tested contingency plans in place, and a lot of work is managed by the Kent resilience forum.”

BHUMI PEDNEKAR HOPES FOR ANOTHER FEBRUARY WIN WITH UPCOMING ‘BHAKSHAK’

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bhumi Pednekar is set to impress her audience once more with her latest role in the upcoming crime thriller ‘Bhakshak.’ Known for her remarkable February successes since her debut in ‘Dum Laga Ke Haisha,’ Bhumi is optimistic about the film’s performance. In ‘Bhakshak,’ she portrays a determined underdog journalist confronting a formidable villain involved in exploiting young girls at a women’s shelter.

The actor has had incredible February successes right since her debut as an actor and now she hopes the same for ‘Bhakshak.’ Bhumi made her Bollywood debut with ‘Dum Laga Ke Haisha’ in 2015 and made a mark for herself in Bollywood through her determination and commitment that set her apart. Sharing her thoughts, Bhumi said, “For me, the month of February has been most special ever since my debut as an actor. My first film Dum Laga Ke Haisha released in February and it got me so much love, acclaim and respect that it cemented my position as an envelope pushing actor in the industry. It was a true disruptor of a project. I couldn’t believe the outpouring of appreciation coming my way for my first film and I will be forever indebted to this film for giving me a dream start to my film career.” “My film Badhaai Do also released in Feb. It was a game-changing film of my career and for the film industry as we openly celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community and their rights. It was also special



for me because I stood up for something I truly believed in and was proudly vocal about it. Again, like Dum Laga Ke Haisha, I was flooded with love. The praise, the countless Best Actress awards, the opportunities that were unlocked because of Badhaai Do is stuff that dreams are made of,” she added. Bhumi is all set to don never-seen-before avatar in Bhakshak, said, “Now, Bhakshak is slated to release on Feb 9th. It is one of the most important films that I have done in my career and I hope that the project, my director Pulkit and I get the same amount of love that I had received for Dum Laga Ke Haisha and Badhaai Do. I hope February is again lucky for me and I manage to deliver a performance that people will remember forever.” Helmed by Pulkit, ‘Bhakshak’ stars Bhumi Pednekar, Sanjay Mishra, Aditya Srivastava and Sai Tamhankar in pivotal roles. ‘Bhakshak’ explores the journey of an unwavering woman’s quest to seek justice. Bhumi Pednekar as Vaishali Singh portrays the role of an investigative journalist who wants to bring to light a heinous crime, laying bare the ground reality of crimes against women. The film is all set to stream on the OTT platform Netflix from February 9. Meanwhile, Bhumi will also be seen sharing screen space with Rakul Preet Singh and Arjun Kapoor in a yet-to-be-titled film.

DAZZLING JEWELS TO CUTTING-EDGE GADGETS: UNPACKING THE ‘KOFFEE WITH KARAN 8’ HAMPER



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Karan Johar has concluded the eighth season of his renowned talk show ‘Koffee With Karan.’ The accomplished filmmaker has now revealed the contents of the ‘Koffee Hamper’ for this season.

Karan revealed all the gifts that were given to the guests in the big coveted Rapid Fire Koffee hamper.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Karan Johar shared a video, in which he finally revealed the contents of this season’s Hamper.

KJo gave a sneak peek at an amazing necklace from Tyani Jewellery by Karan Johar, that is given to the guests among the various items that make up the Koffee hamper. Tech items like the GoPro Hero 11 camera, Sonos Move speakers, Google Pixel 8 Pro, and Theragun Elite smart percussive therapy device are all included in the hamper. Along with gourmet chocolates, high-end tea, and luxury drinks, the hamper also included some luxury perfumes such as YSL Y (for Him) and YSL Libre (for Her) by Parcos and beauty products like L’Occitane’s Almond Shower Oil and L’Occitane’s Almond Milk Concentrate.

The Koffee With Karan season 8 mug, a “handcrafted designer mug made from the finest Indian clay,” was finally shown by Karan.

“The one constant guest of honour on the Koffee couch has been none other than the koffee hamper! Not going to gate-keep the secret about this one, so here you go!,” he wrote in the caption along with the video.

While sharing details about every product Karan refrained from telling about a few of them, saying, “There are a couple of more high luxury items in the hamper, and an exciting, must-have high-tech product, that we are sure our guests have completely, loved, adored. But I won’t tell you what those are. There is no hamper without a little element of intrigue to it. These are some secrets we can only keep to ourselves.”

The Koffee hamper for this season has been curated by Shikha Sethi Chowdhary and the design and packaging have been done by Dipti Goenka at Budluv.

Talking about the show, in the last episode, social media sensation Orry made his presence. Kusha Kapila, Tanmay Bhat and Danish Sait also graced the Koffee couch in the last episode.

Karan and Orry can be seen indulging in a fun conversation.

Karan asked Orry if he’s single. He replied, “I have five.” A confused Karan asked him, “You are dating five people?”

Orry responded, “I am cheating. I am a cheater.

PICTURE PERFECT

Bollywood actors Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor along with director Siddharth Anand during the promotion of their upcoming film ‘Fighter’ (ANI)



OSCAR NOMINEE PETER SOHN EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO PARENTS

TDG NETWORK
LOS ANGELES

‘Elemental’ director Peter Sohn attributed his Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature to his team, expressing gratitude for their hard work and dedication. He reflected on the immense effort, passion, and love invested by the team in the film, evoking a deeply emotional response.

This was reported by Deadline. ‘Elemental’ brings out the love story between two opposing elemental beings, Ember and Wade, but there is an underlying theme of honouring parents and the sacrifices they made for their children.

“When I first pitched, it was seven years ago,” said Sohn. “It was just this anecdote about going to this venue where I got to thank my parents in



front of a large crowd, and it was a very emotional moment for me... Getting to this point with the kind of recognition, I just think of my parents looking down and hoping that they’re proud. To bring these elemental beings to life, the animation approach for Elemental required numerous advances in addition to the tale.

“It was an amazing process to build

a road where there wasn’t one here at Pixar, to make characters that were all effects. Creating characters like fire and water where they didn’t have any skin or a skeleton to hold them up... Some of my favourite parts of this journey was seeing them come to life through a collaboration of hundreds of really amazing artists.” As Sohn speaks about the nomination, he thinks back to a moment during production when the COVID restrictions lifted enough to allow the crew to sit in a theatre together.

“In the darkness of that theatre, it was the first time the artist put up Ember, our main fire woman,” he says. “Seeing her flames going and blinking for the first time, and coming to life brought the magic of what’s so amazing about animation.

Eva Mendes proudly applauds Ryan Gosling’s Oscar nomination for ‘Barbie’

TDG NETWORK
LOS ANGELES

Eva Mendes expresses joy for her partner, Ryan Gosling, following his Oscar nomination. She extends congratulations for his role as Ken in Greta Gerwig’s directorial project ‘Barbie,’ as reported by Deadline.

Taking to her Instagram handle, she wrote a message on his achievement and congratulated him for the nomination, despite all the criticism he received before the film was released.

“So proud of my man. So much hate when he took on this role. So many people trying to shame him for doing it. Despite all the #Notmyken ridicule and articles written about him, he cre-



ated this completely original, hilarious, heartbreaking, now iconic character and took it all the way to Oscars,” Eva mentioned in her post. Gosling’s Barbie co-star and fellow Oscar nominee, America Ferrera, took to the comments to also praise the actor for his work.

“He is brilliant as Ken!” Ferrera replied. “Pulled off a triple somersault

performance! We’re so lucky it was him and I’m so grateful for the way he showed up with his superstardom, and continues to show up to support all the women in this process! He is a class act and insanely deserving and talented.” Mendes replied to Ferrera’s message, adding, “Felicidades!!!! I love you hermana!!! Bravo to YOU, reina!!!”

Just a day before, Gosling released a statement extending his support to Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, who were snubbed in the Best Director and Best Actress categories, respectively.

“There is no Ken without Barbie, and there is no Barbie movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, the two people most responsible for this history-making, globally-celebrated film,” Gosling said in the statement.

“No recognition would be possible for anyone on the film without their talent, grit and genius. To say that I’m disappointed that they are not nominated in their respective categories would be an understatement,” reported Deadline.

HRITHIK AND DEEPIKA’S EXPLOSIVE CHEMISTRY IN ‘FIGHTER’ DELIGHTS FANS

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

As Siddharth Anand’s film ‘Fighter’ hit theaters today, fans are raving about the remarkable chemistry between Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, along with the captivating storyline that beautifully captures the spirit of patriotism.

It features Hrithik as Squadron Leader Shamsher Pathania aka Patty, Deepika as Squadron Leader Minal Rathore aka Minni, and Anil as Group Captain Rakesh Jai Singh aka Rocky fighting for the country.

One of the fans expressed her admiration for the film and said, “Hrithik Roshan has done justice to the role. He looks like a real Air Force personnel. And people should watch this film as it is full of patriotism.” Another fan added, “I love the chemistry between Hrithik and Deepika. It is killer”. While praising the movie, she was not so happy with the music, “Music is low”. While the other fan also appreciated the storyline and said, “It will do well at the box office”. Helmed by Siddharth Anand, the film stars Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, and Anil Kapoor in the lead roles. It marks Hrithik and Deepika’s first-ever on-screen collaboration.



Recently, the trailer of the film was released. The three-minute-nine-second long ‘Fighter’ trailer takes the audience on an epic journey with the elite unit of the Indian Air Force - the Air Dragons. The squad members embark on a mission to safeguard our skies and nation by confronting looming threats. The trailer beautifully encapsulates the camaraderie, courage and sacrifice of these heroes. With power-packed aerial action sequences, hard-hitting dialogues and strong performances of the star cast the ‘Fighter’ trailer perfectly hits the patriotic nerve. The film also stars Karan Singh Grover and Akshay Oberoi in the lead roles. In the trailer, Hrithik’s character could

be seen fighting with a terrorist and delivering a powerful dialogue, “POK ka matlab hai Pakistan occupied Kashmir, tumne occupy kiya hai...maalik hum hain. Tujh jaise terrorist ki wajah se agar hum badtameez par utar aaye to tumhara har mohalla IOP ban jayega.. India Occupied Pakistan.”

The film is primarily shot at air bases in India with real Sukhoi’s, Indian fighter planes. Meanwhile, Deepika will also be seen in the sci-fi pan-India film ‘Kal’ 2898 AD’ opposite Prabhas. She also has ‘The Intern’ in her kitty. Hrithik, on the other hand, will also be seen in the action thriller film ‘War 2’ alongside Jr NTR and Kiara Advani.

BRAIN PICKING



I believe that if you reject and don’t respect what you have now, that’s ingratitude. I’m grateful for everything I have today.

–KATRINA KAIF
(Indian actress)



KUNAL KEMMU AND SOHA ALI KHAN’S ‘WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY’ POST WOWS FANS

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Cute B-Town couple Kunal Kemmu and Soha Ali who completed nine years of blissful married life. On Thursday, the duo took to their respective social media handles and shared special posts to mark the occasion. Kunal Kemmu dropped a video along with a quirky message on Instagram.

From unseen wedding pictures, family vacations to goofy moments, the video is filled with love and happiness. Sharing the video, he wrote, “Aajhumari shaadi ka Happy Birthday hai. With love, Soha ka Aadmi @sakpataudi.” As soon as the post was uploaded, fans and industry members chimed in the comment section. Kareena Kapoor Khan commented, “Happy anniversary lovers. we love you.” Neha Dhupia wrote, “Happy happy happy anniversary dollies.” One of the users wrote,



“Happy Anniversary to both of you.” Soha also shared a couple of beautiful pictures to wish her hubby.

In one of the pictures from the album, Soha is seen flaunting her baby bump whilst the couple was expecting their first child. Sharing the pictures, she wrote, “Yes, please.” Soha, daughter of former cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and actor Sharmila Tagore, got married to Kunal in January 25, 2015. The couple had their first child-daughter Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, in September 29, 2017. Meanwhile, on the work front, Kunal is making his directorial debut with the upcoming film ‘Madgaon Express’.

JENNIFER LOPEZ RETURNS TO ‘SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE’ AS A MUSICAL GUEST



TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

Jennifer Lopez, aged 54, is set to be the musical guest for the February 3 episode of Saturday Night Live. The renowned star will be joining Ayo Edebiri, who is making her hosting debut on the late-night show, according to a report by People. The singer-actor’s upcoming appearance will mark her fourth time on SNL. ‘Saturday Night Live’ is an American late-night sketch comedy variety show conceived by Lorne Michaels and developed by Dick Ebersol.

It airs on NBC and streams on Peacock. Lopez made her first appearance on the show in 2000, alongside presenter Alan Cumming, and returned later in 2001 as both host and musical guest. Edebiri, meanwhile, will host the show for the first time, following a successful awards season.

The 28-year-old star of ‘The Bear’ just won an Emmy, Golden Globe, and Critic’s Choice Award for her role as Sydney on the FX series. Earlier this year, the performer, who has experi-

ence in stand-up comedy and comic writing, co-directed the film Bottoms with Rachel Sennott. Edebiri and Lopez will appear on Saturday’s SNL, following Dakota Johnson and Justin Timberlake, who will host and perform. JLo will perform at Studio 8H shortly before the release of her highly anticipated ninth studio album, ‘This Is Me... Now’, on February 16. The record is a follow-up to her 2002 CD This Is Me... Then, it addressed her relationship with then-boyfriend Ben Affleck and comes a decade after her last full-length album, A.K.A. The pop superstar’s new record is set to arrive along with a film, This Is Me... Now: A Love Story, which is described by the official synopsis as a “narrative-driven cinematic odyssey, steeped in mythological storytelling and personal healing.” The trailer for the project, which Lopez created along with Grammy-winning director Dave Meyers, dropped last week. The ‘On the Floor’ singer has also since shared the single ‘Can’t Get Enough,’ reported People.



Republic Day chic: Bollywood divas inspire effortless elegance



Republic Day marks the foundation of the world's largest democracy with the enactment of the Indian Constitution, preparations are in full swing. From the grand parade on Rajpath to hoisting the tricolour in neighborhoods, the spirit of celebration is evident across India in schools, offices, societies, and colleges.

The festivities extend to fashion as well, with individuals donning saffron, white, and green ensembles to showcase their patriotic pride. If you're still deciding on your Republic Day outfit, draw inspiration from Bollywood divas who effortlessly blend elegance and style into their looks.

Aditi Rao Hydari: She wore a green kurta set, exuding pure regality with her finely crafted fit made out of Banarasi brocade. The kurta here had a mandarin collar with a leaf neckline. The half-sleeved kurta was paired with gharara pants. The Raw Mango kurta set's fabric was finely interwoven with golden thread. If you are wearing green, this will serve as a stand-out option.

Sara Ali Khan: Follow Sara Ali Khan's lead if you aim to effortlessly transform a kurta style into a glamorous affair. Choose a white kurta with a split crew neckline, paired with a matching sharara pant and a tri-colour dupatta. Achieve a polished look with dewy makeup and loose hair to slay in style this Republic Day. **Madhuri Dixit:** For those bored with kurtas, embrace the timeless elegance of a six-yard wonder inspired by Madhuri Dixit. Drape yourself in an orange-bordered green silk saree, pairing it with a matching blouse. Channel the queen of saree fashion and elevate



your splendor with stunning silver Indian jewelry.

Alia Bhat: Alia Bhatt's fashion prowess is undeniable, and her green anarkalikurta paired with an embroidered blue dupatta is a must-have for Republic Day. Achieve a perfect blend of grace and glamour with minimal makeup, a bun hairstyle, and statement earrings, ready to turn heads with your impeccable style.

Shraddha Kapoor: Emulate Shraddha Kapoor's regal style by opting for an orange lehengacholi with silver embroidery. Complete the look with a neat ponytail, a choker necklace, and a touch of makeup featuring nude eyeshadow, mascara, glossy lipstick, contoured cheeks, and a glowing highlighter. Transform into an elegant princess for the Republic Day celebrations. Celebrate the spirit of democracy in these Bollywood-inspired outfits, showcasing your love for the nation with style and panache.



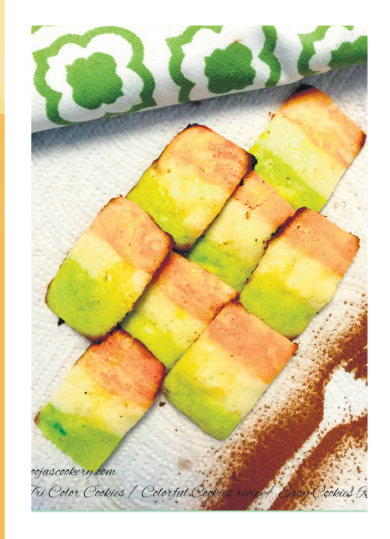
FESTIVE FLAVOURS: 6 EASY AND DELIGHTFUL TRICOLOUR COOKING RECIPES

TDG NETWORK

Infuse vibrancy into your table: Explore the art of tri-color dishes inspired by flags & themes!

Tri-color dishes typically refer to dishes that incorporate three different colors, often representing the colors of a particular flag or theme. This concept is commonly associated with national flags, cultural celebrations, or events where three specific colors hold significance. Here are a few examples of tri-color dishes inspired by various themes:

- 1. Indian Tricolor Sandwich:** Carrots (orange), paneer or white cheese (white), spinach or coriander chutney (green). Use these ingredients to create a visually appealing tricolor sandwich.
- 2. Tricolor Sushi Rolls:** Use colorful ingredients like salmon or tuna (red), cucumber or daikon radish (white), avocado or seaweed salad (green). Roll these ingredients in a sushi roll to create a tricolor effect.
- 3. Flag-Inspired Fruit Salad:** Berries (red and blue), bananas or apples (white), kiwi or green grapes (green). Arrange the fruits to resemble the colors of a flag.
- 4. Saffron and Mint Lassi:** Prepare a refreshing lassi by blending yogurt with saffron (kesar) for the orange color and mint for the green color.
- 5. Tiranga Dhokla:** Prepare dhokla (steamed



savory cake) and cut it into three layers. Use food coloring or natural ingredients like spinach puree for green, saffron for orange, and the original batter for white. Stack the layers to resemble the Indian tricolor.

- 6. Tri-color Pulao:** Make a tri-color pulao by using vegetables like carrots (orange), peas (green), and paneer (white). Each color represents

a part of the Indian flag. Remember, the key is to be creative and use ingredients that naturally come in the desired colors. These dishes not only look appealing but also celebrate the significance of the colors in different cultural contexts.



BEAUTY TIPS

EMBRACING RADIANT SKIN WITH DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S 82°E

SANJANA CHAWLA

Being a fan of Deepika Padukone, I was thrilled to discover her brand 82°E's range of skincare products. Eager to experience the transformative power behind her radiant skin and the hyped collection of products, I embarked on a journey of self-care with its All Skin Type routine!

I got my hands on 82°E's Ashwagandha Bounce moisturiser, Lotus Splash cleanser, and Turmeric Shield sunscreen with SPF 40 PA +++. Here's my personal product review of the products, highlighting the effects on my skin after consistent use for weeks and benefits of the brand's offerings:

82°E's Face Cleanser - Lotus Splash, proved to be a refreshing and revitalising addition to my daily skincare ritual. The gentle formula, infused with the essence of lotus flowers and bioflavonoids, effectively cleansed my skin, removing impurities and excess oil without stripping away its natural moisture. With each use, my skin felt refreshed, rejuvenated, and deeply cleansed over the weeks. The delicate fragrance and luxurious texture turned my cleansing routine into a delightful sensory experience. It left my skin feeling clean, balanced, and ready to absorb the benefits of other skincare products.

Ashwagandha Bounce, a face moisturiser from Deepika Padukone's brand, is likely to become a staple in my skincare routine hereon. Enriched with the goodness of ashwagandha and sodium hyaluronate, it provided my skin with a burst of hydration and nourishment. The lightweight formula effortlessly absorbed into my skin, leaving it feeling soft, supple, and deeply moisturized. Over days, I noticed a visible improvement in the texture and elasticity of my skin, giving it a youthful, glowing, and radiant appearance. The calming properties of ashwagandha helped to soothe all my little bumps, redness, and irritation, making it ideal for sensitive skin. The Ashwagandha Bounce, for me, lived up to its name, giving my skin a bouncy and healthy glow!

82°E's Turmeric Shield, is a sunscreen serum with SPF 40 PA +++, and certainly



my new go-to product for sun protection! This lightweight sunscreen not only shielded my skin from harmful UVA and UVB rays but also offered multiple benefits. Enriched with the goodness of turmeric and ceramides, it provided antioxidant protection, helping to combat environmental stressors and reduce the signs of aging. The non-greasy formula effortlessly blended into my face, leaving behind a natural and radiant finish. Its high SPF ensured that my skin remained protected throughout the day, without any greasiness or white cast. Turmeric Shield is now an essential step in my skincare routine, allowing me to confidently embrace the outdoors while maintaining healthy and protected skin.

Deepika Padukone's 82°E has truly impressed me with its commitment to effective and natural skincare solutions. Ashwagandha Bounce, Lotus Splash, and Turmeric Shield have become my trusted allies in achieving and maintaining a radiant skin. From the nourishing and hydrating effects of Ashwagandha Bounce to the refreshing and cleansing properties of Lotus Splash, and the sun protection and antioxidant benefits of Turmeric Shield, each product is my new best friend for skin and sun!

For anyone seeking a skincare routine that prioritises healthy, glowing, and protected skin, DP's 82°E is a must try!

METAPHYSICAL MUSINGS: AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR PREETH NAMBIAR



PROF SHIV SETHI

A piece of writing unfolds, rather than being consciously authored. The moment you proclaim, 'I wrote a poem,' it's time to cease writing." Preeth Nambiar

In the ethereal realms where metaphysical literature intertwines with humanitarian values, Preeth Nambiar

ar emerges as a modern-day sage. A mystic poet, humanitarian and educationist, he champions the cause of global unity, transcending borders. The recently published collection of short fiction "Tales Beyond Twilight" is a testimony to his poetic brilliance and shows the world how to add depth to fiction bringing profound themes into it. Here is a brief conversation with the saintly poet who often walks away from the crowd and prefers to be amidst the bounty of nature.

In the intricate tapestry of your literary works, how do you intentionally infuse metaphysical themes to create a unique and profound narrative experience?

Each writer boasts a distinct style, and the introduction of so-called metaphysical elements in my work wasn't intentional. It likely sprang from my life's past experiences, dominated by journeys aimed at self-discovery. This influence may also trace back to my early years in the tranquil rural landscape of Kerala, where nature, devotion, and innocence seamlessly interwove into the fabric of daily existence.

We observe substantial intervals between the release of your books. Could you shed light on your choice to refrain from frequent writing and publishing?

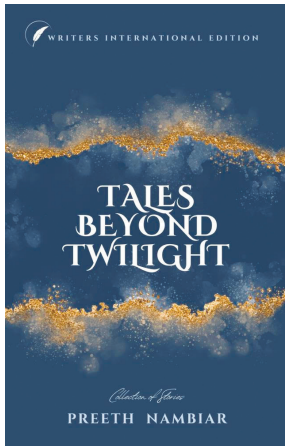
I contend that a piece of writing unfolds, rather than

being consciously authored. I often advise fellow writers



that the moment you proclaim, 'I wrote a poem,' it's time to cease writing. Rather than asserting 'I am writing,' it's about being the conduit

through which an existing idea finds expression. Similarly,



lar to the various stages in the conception of an idea leading to its eventual delivery, I find myself compelled to write only when a profound urge

arises.

As the head of Writers Capital International Foundation, you've extended its reach to 87 countries. Can you share a key moment or initiative illustrating the foundation's impact on global unity through literature? Ten years ago, my writing shifted significantly as I questioned the purpose of this craft. Beyond the inherent fulfilment in writing, I sought a broader significance for the gift of words. This contemplation gave rise to the Writers Capital Foundation, encouraging writers to infuse and spread the mighty values of humanity through their work. Living for others, even the smallest creatures, transforms existence into

something extraordinary.

What inspired the Panorama International Arts & Literature Festival, and how does it feel to see writers and artists globally participating enthusiastically in this creative celebration?

The Panorama International Arts & Literature Festival is a globally significant meeting ground for writers and artists, delving into philosophical themes intertwined with societal issues. This year's 'Fire' theme addresses urgent matters like global warming, igniting a call to action. Harnessing writers' potent words, we aim to kindle transformative change. Incorporating cutting-edge technology seam-

lessly connects participants worldwide. What are your visionary plans for the future of writing, given your extensive involvement in literature, education, and global literary initiatives?

Prioritizing my personal writing has never been my primary focus. However, I'm currently in the process of crafting a poetry collection titled 'The Passage to the Infinite.' Moreover, I have a long fiction project that I commenced a few years ago. The completion of the long fiction piece may require further isolation, as it demands heightened focus and continuous engagement—a task that, at present, presents its own set of challenges.

WHY READING IS THE PERFECT ESCAPE FROM EVERYDAY PRESSURES



GOVIND BHADU

In today's fast-paced and demanding world, stress has become a constant companion for many. As we navigate through work, relationships, and responsibilities, finding effective ways to relax and unwind becomes essential for our well-being. While various activities can provide relief, one timeless and accessible option stands out: reading. In this article, we will explore why reading is the perfect escape from everyday pressures and how it can provide a much-needed respite for our minds and souls.

1. A GATEWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD:

When we immerse ourselves in a book, we embark on a journey to another world. Books have the magical ability to transport us to different times, places, and perspectives. They invite us to step away from the stresses of our own lives and enter a realm where we can lose ourselves in captivating stories, intriguing characters, and vivid imaginations. This mental

escape offers a temporary respite from everyday pressures, allowing our minds to unwind and recharge.

2. MENTAL STIMULATION AND DISTRACTION:

Reading uniquely engages our minds, stimulating our imagination and intellect. As we dive into the pages of a book, our attention shifts

reduce muscle tension, and decrease stress hormone levels. The simple act of finding a comfortable space, settling into the pages of a book, and getting lost in the story offers an opportunity for relaxation and stress relief. It provides a much-needed break from the demands of our daily lives, allowing us to recharge and find balance.



from our worries to the thoughts and ideas presented in the story. This cognitive shift provides a welcome distraction from stressors, allowing us to focus on something outside of ourselves. The act of reading promotes mental clarity and can offer a reprieve from the constant stream of thoughts and pressures we face daily.

3. RELAXATION AND STRESS REDUCTION:

Reading has been recognized as a powerful relaxation tool. Studies have shown that reading can lower heart rate,

4. EMOTIONAL RESONANCE AND EMPATHY:

Books have the remarkable ability to evoke emotions within us. Whether it's laughter, excitement, or tears, connecting with characters and their stories can be deeply moving. This emotional resonance is not only therapeutic, but it also helps us develop empathy and perspective. By experiencing different emotions through the characters' journeys, we gain insight into our own lives and challenges. This emotional connection further contributes to stress relief as it allows us

to step outside our immediate concerns and engage with a broader range of emotions.

5. SELF-CARE AND MINDFULNESS:

In the whirlwind of daily life, we often neglect to take care of ourselves. Reading provides an opportunity for intentional self-care and mindfulness. By dedicating time each day for reading, we prioritize our mental well-being and create a healthy space for relaxation. Whether it's a few minutes during a break or a leisurely hour before bed, carving out this time for ourselves is an act of self-compassion and nurtures our overall sense of well-being.

In a world filled with constant pressures and demands, finding ways to unwind and alleviate stress is crucial for maintaining our mental and emotional health. Reading offers a sanctuary of tranquility and escape from the everyday whirlwind. By immersing ourselves in books, we gift ourselves with the luxury of relaxation, mental stimulation, and emotional resonance. So, pick up a book, turn the pages, and let yourself be transported to a world where stress holds no power. Allow reading to be your perfect escape from everyday pressures, nurturing your soul and revitalizing your spirit.

The author is an inspirational speaker & coach.

BHARAT RISING: CHALLENGES NEHRUVIAN NARRATIVE TAKE ON NAYA BHARAT

TDG NETWORK

Bharat Rising: Dharma, Democracy, Diplomacy (Ink) by Utpal Kumar not only sets the narrative right about Naya Bharat but also calls the democratic, secular, and liberal bluff of the Nehruvian golden era of the 1950s and after.

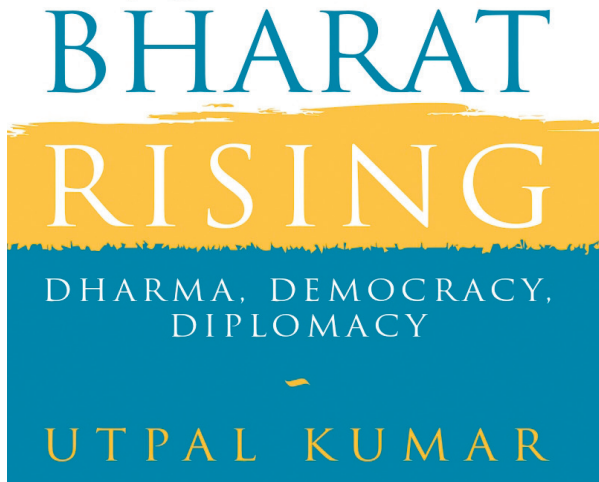
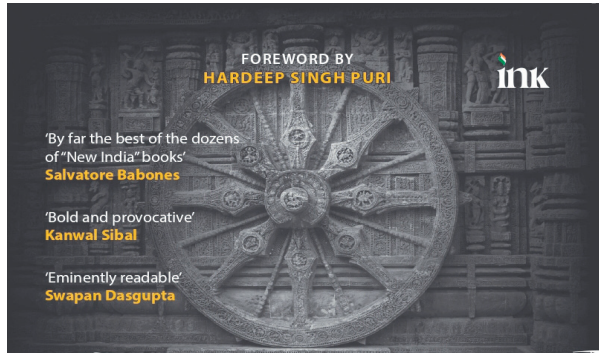
The book hits the stores on Republic Day, on January 26th, 2024. We were wondering if there's any possibility of carrying an excerpt from the book.

The book is divided into 2 sections, one in chronicles India's new historical awakening, as it talks about why new India is no longer apologetic about its civilizational past; and why Hindu temples continue to be administered by the secular state when the same rule is not applied to the religious institutions of other religions; why UCC is important, but Hindus should tread carefully on the issue and more

The other section talks about why India and the US-led West can be friends, if not frenemies, but not allies; why India has been duped so often and easily by China; why India and Pakistan can never be friends; and why Western liberal media writes India's obituaries.

With a foreword by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Bharat Rising is an earnest exploration, providing readers with a well-researched argument and a deeper understanding of India's contemporary narrative.

EARLY PRAISE



A fascinating, entertaining, and investigative take on the Lutyens reset button. Utpal Kumar has delivered a cracker of a book' - ASHWIN SANGHI, bestselling author and novelist.

A splendid piece of work, as it breaks away from the Nehruvian mold - FRANCOIS GAUTIER, journalist and author. Not everyone will agree with Utpal Kumar's analysis, but engaging with his lucid account will be very satisfying - GAUTAM SEN, writer and former lecturer, the London School of Economics.

This book, probably the first of several, takes stock of the needed changes in independent India - KOENRAAD ELST, Belgian Indologist and author.

Kumar's nationalist stance never deteriorates into chauvinism or jingoism, nor does it weaken into soft or soppy compromises with his ideological adversaries - MAKARAND R. PARANJAPE, JNU professor and former director, IIAS, Shimla.

Utpal Kumar has written a well-researched and hard-hit-

ting book on what he believes are the contours of an emerging new India - PAVAN K. VARMA, former diplomat, author, and politician.

Utpal Kumar is a refreshing rarity in our world today ... Bharat Rising is an argumentative and engagingly readable book - RAJIV DOGRA, author and former diplomat.

India, post-2014, has charted a new path of growth based on its civilizational roots ... This book examines this seminal change ... and suggests the way forward - TV. MOHANDAS PAI, partner, Aarin Capital.

A useful and insightful guide to understanding why many Indians feel confident

and optimistic about themselves and their future - VAM-SEE JULURI, professor, University of San Francisco, and author.

MORE ON BHARAT RISING

Argumentative and deeply researched, Bharat Rising combines the narrative style of journalism and the rigour and discipline of academia. It is as much about the resetting of Lutyens' world as it is about a new India shedding its traditional distrust, if not distaste, for the country's civilizational and cultural past.

Utpal Kumar has two decades of journalistic experience and has written hundreds of articles in several newspapers and magazines, and is a strong nationalist voice in the mainstream media. Bharat Rising: Dharma, Democracy, Diplomacy is his first book.

'TEXT' AND 'SUBTEXT': SUBSTANCE OF CINEMA



HIMANSHU DHULIYA

Not these days so much, but when we were University students in Allahabad in the late seventies there was this zeal and enthusiasm to decipher, analyze, anatomize a movie among friends and family members. It was our recreation at the 'chai shops', whilst cycling to the College or at friends' place. To some extent we were affected by the still surviving intellectual culture of the famous city which had produced large number of Academicians, Poets, politicians, Lawyers, bureaucrats and was holding on to the competition from Delhi and South. To some extent it was our Literature influence and to some our grooming at the SJC (St' Joseph's College

). Further, the Film Club under the genial patronage of Dr Chattopadhyaya Sahab was a big contributor in refining our cinema taste buds. We started with "The Bicycle Thieves" in one of the lecture rooms of the Science faculty (J K Institute) and our cinema borders expanded toward new horizon. Till then we had seen mostly highly acclaimed commercial Hollywood films at the Palace Theatre or at Plaza or at Niranjan. The advent of Shyam Benegal with 'Ankur' and some dose of Ray (the famous Apu Trilogy) and Mrinal Sen made us smug and skeptic of regular commercial cinema, though till then we had had our fulsome exposure to Dev, Dilip, Raj Kapoor , Bimal Roy , Guru Dutt etc . The commercial Hindi cinema with its idols and giants was deeply submerged in our consciousness. But this 'neo - realism' ;Cinemas commitment to society challenged our beliefs and for some time we were dedicated soldiers of the new wave 'Art Film' Army.



As time moved the gap between the two reduced. The commercial cinema was going great guns with the advent of International studios and corporate houses. Technology made a leap forward with reduction in print cost and the Box - Office norms were changed. Small budget Cinema too found an audience, but under the shadows of the commercial films. Multiplexes arrived

and single theatre virtually vanished. However the debate between meaningful Cinema and popular Cinema continued with the new vocabulary .

Some years ago ,I was watching a television show where an imminent Hollywood Director was a guest on show . He was being questioned by one of our imminent critic and after the initial pleasantries the subject and quality of Indi-

an films arose and in a very subdued and quiet manner he stated that the bulk of Indian Cinema does not have any 'sub-text' implying that it was very superficial and not well researched and the film makers just are concerned about the entertainment value and do not worry on research etc. Basically he was being very critical of our cinema though he was all praise for the standard few filmmakers who mostly operate on festival circuits. At that juncture I nodded my head in agreement. However, now after about decade and half during which I have seen a wide range of world cinema and revisited both popular and Art cinema of India I realize that we have been victims of 'Intellectual racism'. We could call it 'cultural imperialism' also.

My view on the subject of 'sub-text' or 'theme' is that a film cannot be made with the sub-text in mind; the sub-text emerges from the text and is the result of the main creation. If we make a film with a 'sub - text' in mind it would be very boring and didactic. The commitment should be toward the story, screenplay, the research, concentration on casting and not bothering on the sub-text. The film is remembered from its 'text' and 'sub-text' is a bonus, which at times surprises the maker himself. The 'sub-text' is a dynamic aspect and keeps evolving and changing with time.

Till recently among the top films rated by international cinema critics were 'Casablanca', 'Citizen Kane', 'Gold Rush', 'Roshomon', 'Rome - Open City' and others . All the above films are seen by audience today not for their sub-text but for their cinematic excellence. Do we remember Hitchcock or Charlie Chaplin for their sub-text or for their images, composition , execution, drama, narrative, action ? Things which are apparent, loud and visible. A few years back the cinema goers were surprised to find a dramatic change in the normally routine election when Hitchcock's 'Vertigo' starring James Stewart was adjudged as the best all

time film. Well! 'Vertigo' is a very nice crafted film and the entire film revolves around a 'twist' . I loved the film, but does it have any revolutionary 'sub-text'? , which has come to attention now! No; it was only after the viewership of Hitchcock's increased on DVD circuit worldwide that people realized his genius. As said above that the fuss over the 'sub-text' is to do with 'class- distinction', 'class- conflict' , 'cultural-complex' and sometimes 'intellectual subjugation'. It also emanates from critics and filmmakers who believe that cinema viewing itself is an 'Art' not fathomable by the commoners! My personal experience is that good cinema, serious cinema and so called 'Art cinema' is understandable by the common folk as well, they enjoy Ray as well as Manmohan Desai/Rohit Shetty , any good story narrated well, finds an audience. The myth that 'Art cinema' needs a nurtured audience has been broken by the rise of other world Cinema. Cinema of South

America, Cinema of Iran , Cinema of Soth Korea, China and Japan. And Yet; we cannot deny that Cinema has a sub-text which a discerning audience understands and appreciates, needs no classes or cultivation or instructions on 'appreciation'. The mass audience also appreciates. They know the sub-text of the stories told to them by their grandmothers. They know the theme of 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' ! And our Cinema and their stories are mere screenplays of the stories of our Mythologies and 'folklore'- Indian, Greek . Even Shakespeare is now part of the western 'folk-lore' on whose plays numerous western and even Indian cinema is inspired. The recent success of Indian cinema abroad/overseas such as 'Lunch Box', 'Bahubali', 'RRR', 'Jawaan' and others goes to show that variety of Indian cinema and also regional Indian cinema has come of age balancing the 'Text' and 'Sub-Text'.

SUPERB SABALENKA POWERS PAST GAUFF, STORMS INTO AUSTRALIAN OPEN FINAL

The contest unfolded as an intense battle between two players

TDG NETWORK
MELBOURNE

In a significant stride towards defending her Australian Open title, Aryna Sabalenka displayed tennis prowess and determination by defeating American fourth seed Coco Gauff in a gripping semifinal clash, securing a spot in the final. The Belarusian, at 25 years old, outplayed her opponent 7-6(2), 6-4 in a thrilling encounter on Thursday.

The match, reminiscent of their US Open final showdown in September, kicked off with a contrast in the starts of the two reigning hardcourt Grand Slam champions. Sabalenka, exhibiting her power-packed game, fired an ace and dominated with her forehand to secure an early hold. Exploiting two double faults from Gauff, she managed to



break her opponent and gain an initial advantage.

The contest unfolded as an intense battle between two players vying for their second Grand Slam title, ultimately seeing Sabalenka stand firm. Her victory marked a notable achievement, making her the first player since Serena Williams in 2016 and 2017 to reach consecutive finals at Melbourne.

Sabalenka attributed her success to her ability to focus on her own game, anticipating Gauff's agile movements and preparedness to engage in extended rallies. The Belarusian expressed her readiness for any challenge and acknowledged the support she received, contrasting it with her previous experience of minimal backing in the tournament.

Gauff, however, fought

COMMANDING PERFORMANCE

- Sabalenka attributed her success to her ability to focus on her own game
- She commended Gauff as an incredible player

back, leading to a series of exchanged breaks. The first set reached a climactic 6-5 scoreline, with Sabalenka managing to compose herself in a tiebreak to clinch the set. The second set remained tightly contested until 4-4, with Sabalenka's strategic play overpowering Gauff's speed. A decisive break by Sabalenka, coupled with two powerful serves, sealed her victory.

Reflecting on the match, Sabalenka commended Gauff as an incredible play-

er and expressed her enjoyment of their matchups, whether winning or losing. Looking ahead, she humorously expressed her hope for more future finals against Gauff, with the ultimate desire to emerge victorious in all of them.

With this triumph, Sabalenka now sets her sights on a historic achievement, aiming to become the first woman since compatriot Victoria Azarenka in 2012 and 2013 to secure consecutive Australian Open titles.

Australian Open: Bopanna, Ebden secure spot in final

TDG NETWORK
MELBOURNE

Rohan Bopanna earned himself one more opportunity to win a Grand Slam title by reaching the Australian Open men's doubles final with Australian partner Matthew Ebden after prevailing in a tense semifinal against Tomas Machac and Zhang Zhizhen here Thursday.

The second seeded Indo-Australian pair faced some stiff resistance from their rivals in the third set but eventually the experience of playing Super Tie Breakers helped them nail the finish with a 6-3 3-6 7-6 (10-7) scoreline after two hours and two minutes.

Zhang (WR 54) and Machac (Wr75) are quality singles players, featuring in the top-100 list and their powerful hitting from the baseline did make it a tough contest for the experienced Bopanna and Ebden.



A day after he was assured of becoming the world number one player, Bopanna as usual served well on big points and also manage to pull out the strokes and tricks when they needed the most.

Bopanna has reached the US Open final twice (2013, 2023) but a Major trophy has eluded him in his career.

Now at the far end of his career at the age of 43, he will have the chance to tick that box on Saturday.

Bopanna and Ebden will face Italian pair of Simone Bolelli and Andrea Pavassori, who beat German team of Yannick

Hanfmann and Dominik Koepfer 6-3 3-6 7-6 (5) in the other semifinal. "On the circuit, we have played lot of Super Tie Breaks, that gets us sharp. They (Machac and Zhang) return extremely well, we had to make sure we serve well and on spots. This partnership (with Ebden) has been good," Bopanna said after the match.

Asked about his success despite the age, Bopanna said, "A lot of stuff goes behind the scenes. A big team is part of me. I just made sure I stay focussed on what I need to do get to ready, that is mobility and recovery.

Yashasvi Jaiswal shines as India dominates England on Day 1

SUNIL YASH KALRA
HYDERABAD

In a dominant performance on the first day of the opening test against England, India asserted its authority, led by Yashasvi Jaiswal's unbeaten 76, guiding the team to 119-1 at the stumps after dismissing England for 246.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel emerged as key figures in dismantling the English innings. Ashwin concluded with figures of 3-68 in 21 overs, while Patel contributed with 2-33 in 13 overs.

England's captain, Ben Stokes, emerged as the savior, scoring a crucial 70 off 88 balls after choosing to bat. However, England faced early setbacks with their top three batters back in the pavilion by lunch, and further struggles led to a score of 155-7. Stokes showcased resilience, guiding the lower order to cross 200 and reach tea at 215-8. His aggressive play contin-

ued in the final session as he reached a fifty off 69 balls before falling to Jasprit Bumrah. In response, the opening pair of captain Rohit Sharma and young Yashasvi Jaiswal provided India with a swift start, forming an 80-run partnership for the first wicket. However, Rohit Sharma fell victim to

Jack Leach for the fifth time, departing after scoring 24 runs. Jaiswal, in turn, notched up the second half-century of his Test career, achieving the milestone in just 47 balls. By the end of the day's play, he remained unbeaten with 76 runs, forming an unbroken 39-run partnership with Shubman Gill. Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja made headlines by becoming India's highest wicket-taking pair in Tests, accumulating 505 wickets together. This surpassed the legendary duo of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, who had taken 501

wickets in this format. As the match progresses, India appears poised for a strong start to the five-match Test series, while England faces a challenging task to counter India's dominance on home soil.

Interesting Facts about the First Day of the India-England Test

- Ravichandran Ashwin completed 150 wickets in the World Test Championship (WTC), placing him third in the tournament's leading wicket-takers list.
- Ravindra Jadeja reached 550 wickets in international cricket, becoming the seventh Indian bowler to achieve this milestone.
- Joe Root became the top scorer in the India-England series, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record, and equaled Ricky Ponting's feat of scoring the most Test runs against India in fewer matches.

UEFA CHIEF OF FOOTBALL QUILTS OVER ROW WITH CEFERIN

TDG NETWORK
MADRID

Zvonimir Boban, the Chief of Football at UEFA, has announced his departure from the organization in protest of President Aleksandar Ceferin's endorsement of amendments to the statutes. These changes would potentially enable Ceferin to prolong his tenure in office.

Boban, a former AC Milan midfielder and captain of Croatia, announced his decision in an open letter published by Croatian website Telesport.

"I'm sorry and I'm sad, but I'm leaving UEFA," Boban said in the letter.

Boban added that the reason for his departure was Ceferin's support for a proposal to change UEFA's rules at its next Congress on Feb. 8 in Paris that would allow him to stand for re-election when his current four-year term ends in 2027. UEFA's cur-

rent rules prevent the president and members of the Executive Committee from running for office more than three times, or staying in their posts for more than 12 years.

"Paradoxically, it was Ceferin who proposed and launched the package of reforms in 2017 that were supposed to protect UEFA and European football," Boban said.

"His departure from these values and changes in the main reforms are difficult to understand, especially in this delicate football time.

"If I were to accept such a difficult and wrong decision and turn my head, I would be going against the principles and general values in which I deeply believe.

"I am not playing any hero, and I know very well that many are of the same opinion - perhaps naive, but certainly correct."

INDIA MUST HOST GLOBAL ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS WITHIN 2-3 YEARS: NEERAJ

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra now wants the country to go a notch higher in the pecking order by hosting global events in the next two-three years.

India is set to bid for the 2029 World Athletics Championships but Chopra said the country can host other global competitions of smaller scale before that.

"It will be good if we host 2029 World Championships but 2029 is a long way to go. I think India can host some big global competitions like Continental Tour event (of World Athletics) before that," Chopra told PTI in an interview felicitated by Switzerland Tourism.

"This kind of global event (like Continental Tour event) will keep Indian fans interested in athletics. If international track and field stars come to India and compete against Indian athletes, it will be good for the country's athletes as well as for the fans,"



he opined.

Continental Tour is an annual series of track and field competitions held under the aegis of World Athletics. It forms the second tier of international one-day meetings after the Diamond League. The reigning world champion said holding global events in India will also create awareness among fans. He also said that live telecast or streaming of global events like Diamond League Meetings, especially where Indian athletes are competing,

should be easily available for Indian fans.

Chopra, who is targeting a successful defence of his Olympic gold in Paris Games this year, said he will start competing in May. That means, his pre-Olympic competition schedule will be for two months or a little over that. The Paris Games begin on July 26.

"I am yet to chalk out a final plan. Probably, we will do that in March. But most probably I will start competition in May," he said.

Patna Pirates set to play their home leg matches after 4 years

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Patna Pirates, the three-time Pro Kabaddi League champions, are set to ignite the home turf at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna during their season 10 home fixture matches from January 26th to January 31st, 2024.

Gearred up for the home leg, the Pirates aim to deliver their best performances in front of their enthusiastic home fans. Renowned for their highly competitive style of kabaddi, the team is ready to thrill spectators with the inspiring new cheer slogan, "Garda Uda Denge Phirse." The

team boasts a balanced composition of both young and experienced players.

The champions kick off their home matches at Patna's iconic Patliputra Sports Complex against Bengal Warriors on January 26, followed by clashes with Puneri Paltan on January 27, Gujarat Giants on January 29, and Bengaluru Bulls on January 31. Anticipation is high for these matches, with each expected to deliver intense and thrilling kabaddi action.

Sachin Tanwar will lead the Patna Pirates during the home leg matches, stepping in for Neeraj, who is resting due to injury.

Manjeet assumes the role of vice-captain.

Under the leadership of captain Sachin Tanwar, the squad includes notable players such as Manjeet, Sudhakar, Sandeep Kumar, Ranjit Naik, Zheng-Wei-Chen in the Raiding department, and all-rounders Ankit, Babu M, Daniel Odhiambo, and Rohit.

The defensive lineup features Manish, Naveen Sharma, Thiyagrajan Yuvaraj, Abhinand, and Deepak Kumar. Sandeep Kumar, the first player from Bihar with Patna Pirates, adds a local touch to the team. Narendra Kumar

Redhu serves as the head coach, with Anil Chaprana as the deputy coach.

Pawan S Rana, CEO of Patna Pirates, expressed optimism about the evolving landscape of the kabaddi league in India, highlighting the increased competitiveness and unpredictability in each season. He emphasized the positive impact on fans, players, and the sport itself, noting that Patna Pirates, with a focus on nurturing talents at the grassroots level, continues to contribute to the growth of kabaddi as a career choice for young enthusiasts.



LAKSHYA SEN, PRIYANSHU RAJAWAT BOW OUT OF MEN'S SINGLES COMPETITION

TDG NETWORK
JAKARTA

India's Lakshya Sen and Priyanshu Rajawat suffered straight-game defeats in their respective pre-quarterfinal matches to crash out of the men's singles competition of the Indonesia Masters, a BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament, here on Thursday.

Taking on eighth-seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark, Sen came up with a strong fight but went down 19-21 18-21. He had beaten Weng



Hongyang of China in the opening round 24-22 21-15.

Rajawat was up against Brian Yang of Canada after

his conquest over Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in the first round 21-18 21-19. Although Rajawat produced a great show in the opening game against the Canadian, it wasn't enough as he lost 18-21 14-21 to bow out of the competition. Kiran George now remains the lone Indian in the tournament as he takes on Lu Guangzu of China later in the day in the men's singles event.

He is coming off a win over Toma Junior Popov of France in the opening round 18-21 21-16 21-19.

India secures second consecutive victory in U-19 World Cup

SUNIL YASH KALRA
BLOEMFONTEIN

In a remarkable display of dominance, India clinched its second consecutive victory in the Under-19 World Cup, overpowering Ireland by 201 runs. Following a convincing win against Asian champions Bangladesh in their opening match, India's triumph in the second game ensures their progression to the next stage. Opting to bat after losing the toss, Team India set a formidable target of 302 runs for Ireland. Despite a shaky start, the Indian team posted a total of 301 runs, losing seven wickets in their allotted 50 overs. Musheer

Khan, the younger brother of Sarfaraz Khan, played a stellar innings, contributing 118 runs in 106 balls. Captain Uday Saharan also played a crucial role, scoring 75 runs in 84 balls. The Indian innings began with a setback as Adarsh Singh departed after scoring 17 runs. However, a partnership of 48 runs for the second wicket between Arshin Kulkarni and Musheer set the tone. Musheer then combined with captain Uday for a significant partnership of 156 runs for the third wicket. Musheer's explosive innings came to an end after scoring 118 runs, featuring nine fours and four sixes. Further

contributions from Araveli Avneesh (22 runs in 13 balls) and Sachin Das (21 runs in nine balls) propelled India to a challenging total. Priyanshu Maulia and Murugan Abhishek were dismissed cheaply. Ireland's Oliver Riley took three wickets, while John McNally and Finn Lutton claimed two and one wicket(s) respectively.

India's victory in this encounter, coupled with their previous win against Bangladesh, solidifies their position in the tournament. Their next match promises to be an exciting contest as the team aims to maintain its winning streak in the U-19 World Cup.