

# THE INDIAN MAIL

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## Andy Murray set for comeback at ATP Challenger Tour in Bordeaux

Former world No.1 tennis player Andy Murray will make his comeback from an ankle injury at a second-tier Challenger...

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## Audi launches two new cars under its Bold Edition in India

German luxury car manufacturer Audi on Friday launched two new cars under its Bold Edition -- Q3 and Q3 Sportback, in India. The Audi Q3 comes at a price of Rs 54,65,000 (ex-showroom)...

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## Harish rao addresses public meeting in Husabad

Former minister and MLA Harish Rao today attended a corner meeting of Karimnagar BRS MP candidate Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar at Ambedkar Chowrasta in Husnabad of Siddipet...

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## Modi's guarantee means development: PM

**Narayanpet, May 10 (NSS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the Congress party was making false promises and added that Modi's guarantee means a guarantee of development. He made these remarks while addressing an election rally in Narayanpet on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Modi said these were the elections that would decide the future of the country. He said Modi's guarantee was meant for the construction of three crore houses in the next five years. "The country has developed a lot in ten years. Lakhs of crores of rupees have been

sent to Telangana. That money is being looted by the BRS and the Congress parties. The Congress came to power in Telangana by making many false promises. I have said the people of Telangana should think of double R tax," he said. He said although he didn't mention anyone's name, the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy came forward to the media and talked about the RR tax. "The only thing the Congress party has done for the country so far is treachery. The Congress leaders are talking about dividing the country after the elections.

## Kharge accuses PM Modi of spreading lies

**Hyderabad, May 10 (IANS)** : Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of spreading lies to 'misguide' and 'insti-

gate' people. Addressing a Press conference here, he said that it is unbecoming of a Prime Minister to indulge in 'petty and childish' talk. Dubbing the PM 'johooton ke sardar' (leader of liars).



## SC releases CM Kejriwal on interim bail till June 1

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS)** : In a big relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Supreme Court on Friday ordered him to be released on interim bail in the excise policy case till June 1. A bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said that the AAP supremo will have to surrender on June 2.

## CEO issues notice to Congress for making demeaning remarks against KCR

**Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS):** Following a complaint dated May 5, 2024 received from BRS party general secretary Prof. M. Sreenivas Reddy stating that CM and TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy and other Congress leaders were making personal, threatening and demeaning remarks towards the BRS party leaders and K. Chandra Sekhar Rao in violation of Model Code of Conduct in the wake of Lok Sabha Election 2024, Vikas Raj, Chief electoral officer & EO special chief secretary to government, issued a notice to the Congress leaders to reply. As the General Election to the Lok Sabha 2024 has been announced by the Election Commission on March 16, 2024 and the pro-



visions of Model Code of Conduct came into force with immediate effect in Telangana, Sreenivas Reddy, alleged that CM Revanth Reddy has used demeaning, personal, derogatory and vulgar language while criticising K. Chandra Sekhar Rao during the public meetings in violation of Model Code of Conduct in the wake of Lok Sabha Election 2024 and requested to take necessary action against him.

## People's future will be in jeopardy if BJP wins from Mahabubnagar : CM Revanth

**Makthal, May 10 (NSS):** Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the people of Mahabubnagar district must support for Congress in the Lok Sabha elections, otherwise their future will be in jeopardy. Addressing the Jana Jatar Sabha at Makthal in Narayanapet district on Friday.



## Case Registered Against BJP leader Navneet Kaur

**Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS):** A case has been registered against Amaravati MP and BJP star campaigner and film actress Navneet Kaur at Shad nagar police station in Ranga Reddy district. The police have registered a case on the basis of a complaint filed by the Election Commission's flying squad.

**चुनाव का पर्व**  
**DESH KA GARV**  
LOK SABHA ELECTION 2024

**Chief Electoral Officer**  
**Telangana**

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FOR VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

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Chatbot on CEO, Telangana

**Documents that can be used as Proof of Identity at Polling Stations**

Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC, can carry the following documents.

<b>EPIC</b>	<b>Aadhaar Card</b>	<b>MNREGA Job Card</b>
<b>Passbook</b> <small>(Issued by Bank/Post Office with photo)</small>	<b>Health Insurance Smart Card</b> <small>Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour</small>	<b>Driving License</b>
<b>Pan Card</b>	<b>Smart Card</b> <small>(Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour)</small>	<b>Passport</b>
<b>Pension Document</b> <small>With photo</small>	<b>Service Identity Card</b> <small>Issued to employees by Central/State Govt./ PSUs/ Public Limited Companies</small>	<b>Official Identity Card</b> <small>Issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs</small>
<b>Unique Disability ID (UDID)</b>	<p><b>Please Note :</b> Voter Information Slip and e-EPIC cannot be used as Identity Proof at Polling Station. They are only for guidance. Cell phones and Electronic gadgets will not be allowed in the polling booth.</p>	

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## Harish rao addresses public meeting in Husababad

Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS) : Former minister and MLA Harish Rao today attended a corner meeting of Karimnagar BRS MP candidate Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar at Ambedkar Chowrasta in Husababad of Siddipet district. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Husababad was a region, which is favourite and sentimental place for former CM KCR. He said that their party candidate Vinod Kumar should win from Karimnagar District in the upcoming elections and added that The Congress and the BJP should win in the elections if the

people wanted the state to be destroyed. He said that the BJP has only thought of big corporate houses and added that Rs 14 lakh crore corporate loans had been waived off by PM Modi while noting that Not a single rupee has been waived off for the poor by the BJP led central government. He alleged that the BJP was an anti-worker and anti-farmer party and reminded that 700 farmers had died due to the three black laws introduced by the centre.

## Cocaine & MDMA drugs sale racket busted, trio held

Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS): On credible information, the Commissioner's Taskforce, East Zone Team along with Lake Police apprehended three drug peddlers identified as Abbula Sai Sharath, Abbula Shraavan and Srivastav Rishab, who were found in possession of psychotropic drug i.e cocaine near Jalavihar, Necklace Road, Hyderabad and seized 11.34 gm Cocaine, 3.66 gm MDMA, one bike, two envelopes, four cell phones and a weighing machine. Accused Abbula Sai Sharath, residing at Begumpet is native of Nizambad, Abbula Shraavan of Begumpet, native of Nizambad and Srivastav Rishab, Age is resident of Yousufguda, Hyderabad. The prime accused Abbula Sai Sharath and his brother Abbula Shraavan hail from Nizamabad and residing in Begumpet. In the year 2019, they started a

restaurant in Banjara hills styled as LittleDly which was maintained by Sai Kiran, who is professional chef. Sharath was disturbed due to his love affair and started consuming alcohol and drugs. Sharath met Srivastav Rishab through Sai Kiran at his restaurant and became friends and started consuming drugs as Rishab is also addicted to drug and a case was registered against him under NDPS Act at SR Nagar PS. He along with Rishab and Shraavan hatched a plan to procure cocaine to sell in the Market to gain profits. They collectively assigned tasks as, Sharath has to procure Cocaine, Shraavan has to collect the drug from courier office and Rishab has to sell the drug to the needy. Accordingly, Sharath enquired about drug supplier and came into contact with a Mumbai based peddler and started to place order for cocaine, used to receive through

courier. Accordingly, Sharath received courier at Begumpet in an envelope by covering drug with blank pile of papers as it seems like a document inside the envelope so that no one can suspect it. Sharath took courier and proceeded to Jalavihar to deliver the same to Rishab. Acting on the tip-off the Commissioners Taskforce, East Zone Team swiftly proceeded to Jalavihar and apprehended trio persons who were found in possession Psychotropic substance i.e Cocaine and MDMA drugs from their instances. The accused persons along with seized property were handed over to SHO Lake Police for taking action. The arrests were made under the supervision of Ande Srinivasa Rao, Addl. Dy. Commissioner of Police, Commissioners Taskforce, Hyderabad.

## BRS party leader Krishank gets conditional bail

Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS): BRS party social media convenor Krishank has been granted a conditional bail by the Nampally court. The police have registered a case against Krishank for morphing and making the OU circular viral. Krishank is currently lodged in Chanchalguda jail. As per the bail order, the court asked Krishank to furnish two sureties of Rs 25,000. He was asked to appear before the police every day. Krishank was arrested by the police a few days ago at the Panthangi check-post. Krishank's car was stopped and he was taken into custody. He was then taken to the Choutuppal police station. The police took action after the Congress party leaders lodged a complaint against Krishank in alleging that he had created a fake letter in the name of OU VC.

**UNION BANK OF INDIA**  
Regional Office, Koti, Hyderabad.

**PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS**

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 17-05-2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 04:00 P.M on 18-05-2024 without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

**TURKAYAMJAL, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9652288178**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
1	12.09.2023	124616630000535	Mr. Sunkari Mahesh, Plot No.98, Sri Ram Nagar Colony, Thurkayamjal, Rangareddy, Telangana-501510.

**UPPAL, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9653317641**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
2	31.12.2022	176416530000967	Mr. R.Satyanarayana, Flat No.302, H.No.2-17-110, TG Ashray, Opp. Coffee Day Outlet, SBH Colony, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500039, Telangana.

Date: 10-05-2024 Sd/- OFFICER/MANAGER

**UNION BANK OF INDIA**  
Regional Office, Koti, Hyderabad.

**PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS**

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered, to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 17-05-2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 04:00 P.M on 18-05-2024 without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

**KOTHAPET 2, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9652434435**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
1	24.03.2023	019216630000956	Mr. Duddu Srikanth, H.No.11-7-8-237, Ambedkar Nagar, Saroornagar, Telangana-500035.

**BODUPPAL, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9246481491**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
2	23.11.2022	155616630000362	Mr. Deekonda Rajkumar, H.No.F-75, Pylon Colony, Nalgonda, Telangana-508001.
3	14.11.2022	155616630000336	Mr. Deekonda Rajkumar, H.No.F-75, Pylon Colony, Nalgonda, Telangana-508001.

**CHARMINAR, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9728577514**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
4	24.08.2016	009030100023956	Mr. Sultan Mohd Yunus, H.No.23-2-399, Opposite Water Tank, Moghulpura, Hyderabad, Telangana-500002.

**B.N.REDDY NAGAR, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9550418743**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
5	17.11.2022	112116630000058	Mrs. M.Ankamma Rao, Plot No.212, Hastinapuram North, Hyderabad-500070, Telangana.
6	16.05.2023	112116540000583	Mrs. M.A.Ankamma Rao, Plot No.212, Hastinapuram North, Hyderabad-500070, Telangana.

**BALAPUR, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 8171817132**

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
7	20.07.2022	172216540000353	Mr. Garadi Prasad, Plot No.90, Sri Sai Balaji Township, Almasguda Vaishali Nagar, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana-500005.
8	02.11.2022	172216540000630	Mr. Ratilavatt Saikumar, H.No.8-427/1, Balaji Nagar, Mallapur, Balapur, Telangana-500005.

Date: 10-05-2024 Sd/- OFFICER/MANAGER

## Administration ready to conduct elections: Ronald Rose

Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS): District Election Officer and GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose said all arrangements are in place and the district administration is ready to conduct the Lok Sabha elections. Speaking to the media here on Friday, Ronald Rose along with Hyderabad Police Commissioner Srinivas Reddy, District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, Secunderabad Returning Officer Hemanth Keshav Patil, Secunderabad Cantonment Returning Officer and CEO Madhukar Nayak said that the district administration made all arrangements for the polling of Hyderabad Secunderabad Parliamentary Constituencies and Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly segment. The deployment of manpower and material have been completed with 100 percent. Similarly, the commissioning of this EVMs has been completed and all the procedures were done before the start of polling, he said. Ronald Rose stated that 100 percent webcasting has been arranged in 3,986 polling cen-

ters in the district and 1,250 micro observers have been appointed. He disclosed that Rs. 4.56 crore cash and Rs.11.65 lakhs worth of silver, gold, platinum and other items have been released from the confiscated items through the District Grievance Committee. Ronald Rose further stated that so far 14,292 people have exercised their right to vote through postal ballot in the district. Similarly, 362 people have exercised their right to vote in Secunderabad Parliamentary Constituency, 119 in Hyderabad Parliamentary Constituency and 55 in Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly Constituency through home voting. In addition to this, 7 voters of essential services exercised their right to vote, he added. He informed that no one from outside and other constituencies should be present in the district from 6 PM on May 11, which is considered 48-hours as the silence period. "All the enforcement teams will work on the field level with vigilance and check the welfare centers, hotels, lodgings, etc," Ronald Rose said. As per the rules of the Election Commission, it is suggested that no election campaign advertisements should be published in the print media without the permission of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) on the day of polling, as well as one day before the polling on May 12 and 13. Police Commissioner Srinivas Reddy said that all kinds of measures are being taken to ensure that elections are conducted smoothly in a free atmosphere in the district. He said the ban on campaign activities will come into effect from 6 PM on May 11 and Section 144 will be in force in the district till the end of the elections.



## Congress leaders forgot governance of State : Sabitha Indra Reddy

Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS): Senior BRS party leader and former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy today said the Congress party leaders in Telangana had forgotten the rule of the State and were competing in abusing BRS party chief and former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Speaking at a corner meeting organised in support of the BRS party Chevella candidate Kasani Gynaneswar Mudiraj at RK Puram division of Sherlingampally assembly constituency on Friday, she said the area had become a stronghold of the BRS party with the support of Maheshwaram cadre. "Congress leaders have thrown the regime for the toss and its leaders are preferring only to cover their scarves. It is now clear that the Congress has cheated the people with promises," she said. She said if the people wanted KCR's rule again, they should support Kasani Gynaneswar. "Whether I have a post or not, I will stay among the people and fight on people's issues."

**Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale Of Immovable Properties**

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at "Door No 4-14-111 A, 1st Floor, Opposite Sivajayam, Anjaneyapuram, Amaravathi Road, Guntur - 522007" under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS "for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflhome.com

Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
1. Mr. Nemalikanti Jagannadam	12-Oct-2022 Rs. 7,63,950/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing D.No.279. (As per site D.No. 9-51) Admeasuring Land Area 609 Sq. Ft., Carpet Area 360 Sq. Ft., Built Up Area 504 Sq. Ft., Gundlupally Grama Panchayati, Nakarikallu Mandal, Gundlupally Village, Guntur, 522615, Andhra Pradesh, India	20-Apr-2024	Rs. 7,54,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Only)
2. Mrs. Nemalikanti Nagendram (Prospect No 887672)	Bid Increase Amount Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)		As On Date 03-May-2024 Rs. 9,84,972/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two Only)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 75,400/- (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Only)

Date of Inspection of property: 10-Jun-2024 1100 hrs -1400 hrs. EMD Last Date: 12-Jun-2024 till 5 pm. Date/ Time of E-Auction: 14-Jun-2024 1100 hrs-1300 hrs.

Mode Of Payment:- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www.iiflhome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.  
Note: Payment link for each property/ secured asset is different. Entries are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. For balance payment, upon successful bid, has to pay through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the Account:- IIFL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank:- Standard Chartered Bank, c) Account No:-9902879xxxxx followed by Prospect Number, d) IFSC Code:-SCBL0036001, e) Bank Address: Standard Chartered Bank, 90 M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-**

- For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider https://www.iiflhome.com well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit/ send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
- The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
- The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
- The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
- Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflhome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
- For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iiflhome.com, Support Helpline Numbers: @1800 2672 499.
- For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iiflhome.com
- Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
- Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law, 11. In case of default payment at any stage by the successful bidder/ auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
- AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason therefor. In case of any dispute in tender/auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002  
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place:- Guntur, Date: 11-May-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.

## Delhi HC seeks ED's reply on BRS leader K. Kavitha's bail plea

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) : Delhi High Court on Friday issued a notice to the ED on bail plea of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K. Kavitha, an accused in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam. Kavitha moved the high court after a special court here on May 6 turned down her regular bail pleas in cases being probed by both -- the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court had cited the gravity and seriousness of the offence, the nature of the allegations against her, and the offences invoked in the case to turn down her pleas. Currently, Kavitha, the daughter of BRS chief and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, is in judicial custody till May 20 in ED's case and till May 14 in CBI's. The high court on Friday sought ED's response on her bail plea and listed the matter for the next hearing on May 24. The special court had noted that the investiga-



tion is in a very crucial stage on certain key aspects, including the involvement of public servants and private persons and to ascertain the flow of ill-gotten money (proceeds of crime). The judge had noted that prima facie, Kavitha appears to be the key conspirator of the criminal conspiracy hatched for the purpose of collection and payment of upfront money to the Aam Aadmi

Party through the co-accused for getting favourable provisions in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. "Her role in demanding upfront money and the alleged payment thereof for favourable provisions in the excise policy has also been highlighted in the course of the arguments," the court noted.



When will K. Sudhakaran return as Congress' Kerala chief?

Thiruvananthapuram, May 10 (IANS) : Amid speculation that he has been asked to wait some time more before again assuming the post of Congress' Kerala unit President, after temporarily stepping aside for the Lok Sabha polls, K. Sudhakaran on Friday said that he could return any time. Sudhakaran was asked to focus on retaining his Kannur Lok Sabha seat and veteran party leader M.M. Hassan was named the acting President.

Lalu Prasad clarifies Muslim quota pitch, says social backwardness is basis for reservation

Patna May 10 (IANS) : Hours after his remark that people from the Muslim community should get full reservations triggered a political row, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav clarified in a video statement that the Mandal Commission recommendations provide reservations for more than 3,500 backward and extremely backward classes, including many from other religions. "Social backwardness, not religion, is the basis for providing reservations. The Prime Minister doesn't even have that much understanding. We implemented the Mandal Commission recommendations. More than 3,500 backward and extremely backward classes get reservations under the Mandal Commission recommendations, which include many people from other religions," Lalu Prasad said in a video message posted on X. The clarification came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday tore into the RJD chief for making a fresh quota pitch for Muslims, saying the INDI Alliance cannot see beyond 'apneapment'. Addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar, PM Modi berated the INDI Alliance for Lalu Prasad's 'reservation must for Muslims' statement and said that those who were in jail till some days are now rallying behind religion-based reservations. In his message, Lalu Prasad said, "They (BJP) do not understand the poor, backward, and Dalit people more than us. The RSS and the BJP have been conspiring to abolish the reservations provided in the Constitution by B.R. Ambedkar and Jannayak Karpuri Thakur for long," the RJD chief said. "These people do not believe in the Constitution. If they did, they would not have used divisive language that spreads hatred," he added. Earlier on Tuesday, Lalu Prasad said, "The BJP leaders are provoking the people by talking about 'Jungle Raj' in Bihar. They are simply scared of losing the elections and that is why they are trying to instigate the people. The

BJP is trying to destroy reservation and democracy. Muslims in India should get full reservation." Lalu Prasad's remarks triggered a political row in Bihar with state BJP President and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary saying special reservations cannot be provided to people from the Muslim community. "Today, Lalu Prasad Yadav said that Muslims should get reservations. We oppose his remark. The BJP will not allow any tinkering with the reservations for the extremely backward classes, Dalits, and others under any circumstances. No matter how hard Lalu Prasad tries, there will be no reservations based on religion," Choudhary said. Construction of auditorium in Ram Temple complex set to commence in 15 days: Nripendra Misra New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) : Nripendra Misra, the Chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee on Friday unveiled the construction plan for an auditorium within the temple premises and said that it will begin as early as 15 days. Speaking to newsmen, Misra said the soil testing work is currently underway and once it is done, the construction of the auditorium within the temple complex will begin soon, say about 15 days. Emphasising the importance of the auditorium, he said that there are plans to integrate special features in its design so that large religious gatherings can also be accommodated.

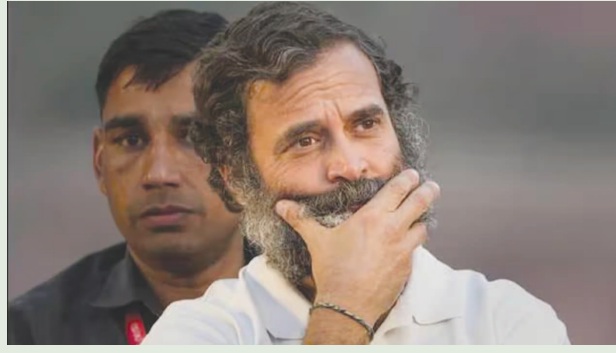
SBI State Bank of India KAMAREDDY BRANCH: 5-3-53, NH-7 Road, Kamareddy. PH.No.08468-220758 Appendix - IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Borrower (s) / Co-Borrowers, Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property), Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.), Date of Possession, and Date of Demand Notice. Contains multiple rows of property auction details.

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pnb पंजाब नेशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank B-2 MCC, Secunderabad, 126, Sarojini Devi Road, Opp. Centro, Paradise Circle, Secunderabad-500003 DEMAND NOTICE Notice U/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI).

## OPINIONmail



## RAHUL GANDHI CONTESTING FROM RAEBARELI IS A CALCULATED DECISION

Narendra Modi expressing joy and taking jibe at Rahul Gandhi's candidature from Rae Bareli shows that the man is blinded by political arrogance and overconfidence. His remark "Daro mat, bhago mat", implying that Rahul left the Amethi seat out of fear, is simply empty electoral rhetoric wrapped in perception of joyous misreading of the moment. His jibe, however, is also deceptive. Addressing an election rally in Bardhaman in West Bengal, Modi said: "I had said that Shehzada will lose the election in Wayanad. In fear of losing the seat, he will look for another seat to contest the election from. His party leaders were saying that he would come to Amethi. But he got so scared that he ran away from Amethi and is trying to find a way out in Rae Bareli. Tell him, "daro mat (don't be scared)". His remark on Sonia Gandhi re-entering Parliament through Rajya Sabha certainly does not behoove the political stature of a prime minister. Sonia has been on medication for long and prescribed restricted movement, naturally excluding her physical participation in the strenuous electoral campaigning activities for Lok Sabha. Modi's remark on Sonia, "When a Congress leader quit Lok Sabha to enter Parliament via Rajya Sabha, I foresaw party's imminent defeat", is not only uncivil, but also politically immature and reflects his shakiness. Modi conveniently forgot the fact that Indra Gandhi too had been a member of Rajya Sabha from 1964 to 1967.

It is not that the saffron think-tank and ecosystem is unaware of the significance and efficacy of Rahul's decision. There is no doubt that Amethi is identified with the Gandhis. But Rae Bareli carries cross-generational the Nehru-Gandhi legacy. In 2019, Rahul lost Amethi. That defeat, now inconsequential, is relevant only for records, and hardly for Rahul's political potency. It is widely known that Rahul lost by 55,000 votes at the peak of communal polarisation of Hindus and post-Pulwama ultra-nationalism drummed up by the BJP-RSS ecosystem. Like much of India, voters of Amethi too were carried away in the ensuing emotions. In sharp contrast, the voters of Rae Bareli did not allow themselves to be carried away by the communal rhetoric of Modi and continued to show their adherence to the Gandhi family. Obviously, this sentiment of the voters of Rae Bareli ought to be respected. There is no denying that Rahul's decision to contest the election from Rae Bareli, historically linked to the Gandhi family for six decades now, has drawn attention to its VVIP legacy. Rahul Gandhi's grandfather Feroze Gandhi and his grandmother, former PM Indira Gandhi had represented the Rae Bareli seat since India became Independent. The illustrious seat has a rich history, with leaders like Arun Nehru, Sheila Kaul, and Satish Sharma, all associated with the Gandhi family, representing it in the past. Sonia Gandhi has held Rae Bareli four times between 2004 and 2019. If the Congress had fielded some other candidate, the party would have sacrificed the legacy. Naturally, fielding Rahul from Rae Bareli instead of Amethi reflects the party's strategic move. Not only it allows Rahul Gandhi to strengthen his hold on this Nehru-Gandhi bastion in the heart of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous and electorally significant state, it also frees up Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra to concentrate on nationwide campaigns, with five phase of elections still to be held. Rahul contesting from Rae Bareli has higher organisational stake. Modi has pinned his hope for future survival on Uttar Pradesh. However, the common people of the state have turned hostile to Modi. They want to defeat him. Realizing peoples' mood, Rahul had agreed to Congress playing second fiddle Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party and accepted his offer of 17 seats out of 80. Rahul's second constituency, Wayanad in Kerala, which delivered for him a landslide victory in 2019, is expected not to betray Rahul, because the stakes of the election are much higher than a single prominent candidate. It is Rahul's urge and commitment to rejuvenate the party in Hindi heartland that has made him also contest from the heart of Uttar Pradesh.

(By Arun Srivastava)

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail

## SAUDI ARABIA HAS ITS PIVOTAL MOMENT IN THE PURSUIT OF INTERNATIONAL CLOUT

In the vibrant heart of Riyadh, amidst its soaring skyline and lively thoroughfares, a momentous gathering of global leaders, policymakers, and influential business figures recently unfolded. The occasion? The World Economic Forum's Special Meeting in the Kingdom—an event of profound significance, highlighting Saudi Arabia's escalating prominence on the international platform and marking a pivotal juncture in the region's course. As delegates from every corner of the globe converged, the conversations transcended mere economic discourse, delving deeply into the intricate realms of ge-

politics, ideological currents, and the very future trajectory of the Middle East. At the heart of these discussions lies Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030—a holistic strategy for economic diversification, social transformation, and national revitalization. After eight years of implementation, the Kingdom's visionary agenda is yielding tangible results, ushering in a period of advancement, creativity, and societal integration. Against this dynamic backdrop, the World Economic Forum provided a stage to highlight Saudi Arabia's evolving role—a symbol of promise and potential in a region historically marred by unrest and unpredictability. Within the esteemed confines of the forum, what unfolded tran-



scended traditional rhetoric and dialogue, encapsulating a profound shift in the geopolitical paradigm—a shift defined by the rise of a new catalyst for positive change, prosperity, and regional cohesion. As eloquently articulated by a participant, this phenomenon signals the Middle East's "1989 moment"—an analogy drawn to the pivotal events that redefined the global landscape three decades prior. Thus, the discussions and interactions at the forum symbolized not just discourse, but a pivotal moment in the ongoing narrative of regional and global transformation.

Just as the fall of the Berlin Wall and the demise of communism in Eastern Europe marked the onset of a transformative era, the developments transpiring in Riyadh signify a monumental shift in the Middle Eastern landscape. The era of entrenched authoritarian rule and ideological steadfastness is waning, making way for a fresh ethos characterized by pragmatism, collaboration, and forward-thinking strategies. It's a time where the region is embracing a new dawn of possibilities and progress.

(IPA Service)



## TIME FOR PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK TO CALL EARLY GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Tories are imploding. That is the story of local election results following the polls to the councils throughout Britain, hundreds of Conservative seats lost, and gains for Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. Keir Starmer says Rishi Sunak should take the hint and call a general election. Pressure should be put on the Tories to do so, though many of their MPs may be keen to postpone.

## SMRITI IRANI LOSES VIP TAG WITH RAHUL'S RAEBARELI MOVE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's move to shift battleground from Amethi to Raebareli is a King's defence. Chess great Garry Kasparov, however, didn't seem to agree. He cracked his "little joke" on the Gandhi family scion even while stating that Indian politics shouldn't take his "advocacy or expertise" seriously. Garry Kasparov, like so many others who walk upright, appeared surprised that Gandhi had it in him to think strategically. For moving the constituency from Amethi to Raebareli was application of mind which is how top chess masters play the game. People, however, forget chess is an Indian invention and it was only later that the rest of the world discovered Chess. Today, a whole lot of nationalities play Chess but Russia and Russians somehow make us believe they make the best moves. Garry Kasparov should take back his "little joke" and apologise to the Wayanad MP. Kasparov should have said "first win Wayanad before challenging for the top". Garry forgot that the 54-year-old was around when the 61-year-old was playing serious chess at the turn of the millennium.



Do not forget there is also Wayanad, apart from Amethi and the original Gandhi family pocket-borough Raebareli. By completely forgetting Wayanad, Garry willy-nilly showed Wayanad its place. Kerala's safe haven for Rahul Gandhi is yet to get its due, the Gandhi family "pocket-borough" tag, which is reserved only for Amethi and Raebareli. But Kasparov can be forgiven for not knowing India and Indian elections like he would the face of a chessboard.

## BJP IS STILL DEPENDING ON RAM MANDIR FOR GETTING MAXIMUM SEATS IN HINDI HEARTLAND

Modi ki Guarantee—Ram Lalla Darshan Yojana. The promise, displayed on large hoardings, is what welcomes you to Raipur as you exit airport. Even those who live in the hinterlands of Chattisgarh have been assured of a darshan at the Ram temple in Ayodhya if Prime Minister Narendra Modi becomes the Prime Minister for the third time after the Lok Sabha polls. Sure enough, the grand new Ram temple has become the focal point of the BJP's campaign in heartland states—Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Together, these states have 214 of 543 Lok Sabha seats, and Modi hopes they will power him to victory for the third consecutive term. The BJP has, indeed, left no stone unturned to woo South India—the Ram idol in Ayodhya was sculptured in stone by a Mysuru artist—but the party continues to depend heavily on support from the Hindi heartland. Barring Uttar Pradesh, the BJP-led NDA won almost in all these states in 2019. So the BJP has its task cut out to raise its UP tally while maintaining the high numbers in all other states. The party won 62 seats in UP in 2019, down from 71 in 2014. Its

ally Apna Dal won two seats in 2019. The BSP, which drew a blank in 2014 and won 10 seats in 2019 (in brief a alliance with the Samajwadi party), has become so inactive that even its supporters share the common perception that the party chief Mayawati has yielded to the BJP. With senior BSP leaders having joined other parties, ten seats are up for grabs. The SP, which won only five seats in 2019 is out to regain its lost domain, while the Congress is struggling to look beyond Raebareli, the lone seat won by the party leader Sonia Gandhi. With Sonia having moved to the Rajya Sabha because of her ill health, Rahul Gandhi is finally contesting from Raebareli putting big responsibility on the Congress leader to step up campaign for the Congress in the state. The BJP is heavily depending on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who maintains his reputation as a master polarizer to make on gains in UP. But the common impression is that he is not on best terms with Amit Shah, the master strategist of the BJP, who.. No wonder that 'Ram Lalla darshan', the icing on the 'Modi guarantees' cake, is dominating his campaign in heartland states. The guarantees themselves are reiterations of the welfare schemes that Modi has initiated



over past ten years. Interestingly, while Modi is tireless in describing similar welfare schemes by his rivals as "rewri batna" (distribution of freebies)", he does not hesitate to boast about welfare push in the name of "Modi ki guarantee." The darshan guarantee, specially seems to have already taken the BJP ahead of its rivals in the Hindi belt. The party has long been trying, overtly and covertly, to polarize voters by shrewdly playing the Hindutva card. Facts have been tweaked or distorted, and incidents blown out of proportion, to achieve desired results. The most glaring example in recent years relates to the beheading of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, Rajasthan by two Muslim extremists in June 2022. The Rajasthan Police, under Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot, arrested the assailants in just two hours, but the BJP claimed that the arrest was made only after the Union Government handed over the case to the National Investigation Agency. While Gehlot gave a compensation of Rs 50 lakhs to Kanhaiya Lal's family, and provided jobs for two family members, the BJP created a story that only Rs. Five lakhs was given to Lal's family, while Rs 50 lakhs was doled to a Muslim who was killed in a road rage in Jaipur. Such claims, amplified by the media, paid the BJP rich dividends in the Rajasthan assembly polls last year. With the Congress failing to effectively counter the disinformation campaign, the polarization of votes brought down the Gehlot government.

(IPA Service)



### Paris accuses Iran of detaining French citizens as 'state hostages'

Paris, May 10 (IANS/DPA) : France has accused Iran of arbitrarily detaining several French citizens and holding them hostage and demanded their release. The French Foreign Ministry on Friday demanded the immediate and unconditional release of two French tourists detained in Iran two years ago on espionage charges. They have been held there ever since. Paris also called for the release of two other French citizens detained by Tehran. "France condemns this state hostage policy and the constant blackmail by the Iranian authorities," the French ministry said.

"France condemns the Islamic Republic's abhorrent practice of forced and public confessions, as well as the inhumane and degrading conditions of detention inflicted on our compatriots." The ministry also commented on other Europeans jailed in Iran and subjected to absurd charges and sham trials. Last October, a French academic jailed in Iran returned to France after having been handed a five-year sentence for endangering national security and spreading anti-regime propaganda. Her release came after the release of one of her colleagues who had also been imprisoned.

### Turkish Police detain 363 drug suspects

Ankara, May 10 (IANS) : Turkish Police have launched a wide-scale operation against drug dealers across the country and detained 363 suspects, Turkey's Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on Friday. In a nationwide crackdown on local crime syndicates, as well as drug manufacturers and dealers, the "Narcocelek-15" operation was carried out across 52 provinces, including Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, and

Antalya, Yerlikaya said on social media platform X, without specifying the time of the operation. The police seized 217 kg of narcotics and more than 1.1 million narcotic pills, he added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The operations involved 936 police teams, and a total of 2,340 personnel, along with nine aircraft, and 38 narcotics detection dogs, he added. "Our fight against drug traffickers and organised crime syndicates, which poison our people,



will continue with the unwavering support and prayers of our nation. They cannot escape from us; we are constantly vigilant," Yerlikaya said. Turkey has long

been known as a transit country for narcotics, but the government has stepped up operations against drug gangs since last year.



### Work to form multi-polar world order will continue, says Putin after beginning fifth presidential term

Moscow, May 10 (IANS) : Promising continuation of his efforts to form a "multipolar world order" and an "equal and

indivisible security system", Vladimir Putin, who took office as President of Russia for the fifth time on Friday.



### Turkey issues warrants for 23 military personnel over links to failed coup

Istanbul, May 10 (IANS) : Turkish prosecutors on Friday issued arrest warrants for 23 former and current military personnel over their suspected links to a network accused of orchestrating a coup attempt in 2016. The state-

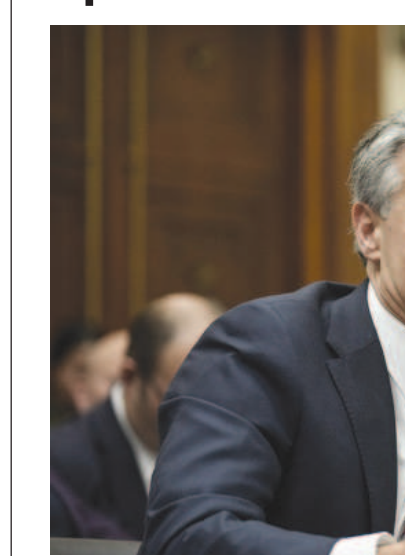
run TRT broadcaster said 19 suspects, including soldiers on duty, former military school students and a police officer, have been detained so far in large-scale operations covering 11 provinces.

### Israel : Two reservists killed by Hezbollah fire on Lebanese border

Tel Aviv/Beirut, May 10 (IANS/DPA) : Two Israeli reservists have been killed in a drone attack by the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, the

Israeli army said on Friday. The two 31-year-old soldiers were killed on Monday in an incident on Israel's northern border, the army said.

### UK Defence Minister to update Parliament on cyberattack



London, May 10 (IANS/DPA) : UK Defence Secretary Grant Shapps will update members of Parliament on a cyberattack on a database containing details of armed forces personnel amid reports that China was behind the hack. A third-party payroll system has been hacked, potentially compromising the bank details of all serving personnel and some veterans, along with this, a few addresses may also have been accessed. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) took immediate action when it discovered the breach, taking the external network -- operated by a contractor -- offline. Cabinet Minister Mel Stride said the government takes cybersecurity "ex-

tremely seriously". The Work and Pensions Secretary said the government was not yet blaming Beijing. He told Sky News, which first claimed China was behind the hack: "That is an assumption. We are not saying that at this precise moment." But Stride said the government viewed Beijing's government as an "epoch-defining challenge" and "our eyes are wide open when it comes to China". He confirmed the attack was on a third-party system rather than a MoD database, but "nonetheless, that's still a very significant matter". He added that the Ministry of Defence acted "very swiftly" to take the database offline. "We take cybersecurity extremely seriously. Our intelligence services do, our military does as well." The government's refreshed review of foreign and defence policy had cybersecurity "right at the heart of that, exactly these kinds of risks,

Advertisement for BOI Dilsukhnagar Branch. Includes text: 'DILSUKHNAGAR BRANCH: 16-11-740/7, Near Nikhil Hospital, Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad Ph: 040-24151557'. Also contains 'APPENDIX-IV POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)]' and a table of property details.

Advertisement for BOI Film Nagar Branch. Includes text: 'FILM NAGAR BRANCH : Plot No.A-10, Film Nagar Road No-4 Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500096 Tel No.040-23542845/53'. Also contains 'POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)]' and a table of property details.

Table titled 'Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8(1)'. It contains multiple columns: Name of the Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower(s), Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property), Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.), and Date of Possession. The table lists numerous property entries with their respective details.



## AIADMK demands judicial probe into charges of custodial torture of YouTuber Savukku Shankar

**Chennai, May 10 (IANS) :** AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Friday demanded a judicial probe into the allegations of custodial torture of popular YouTuber Savukku Shankar in the Coimbatore Central prison. Shankar's counsel Gopalakrishnan had alleged on Monday that his client was tortured in prison after he was arrested from Theni on charges of using obscene language against women police officers in Tamil Nadu in his YouTube show. The counsel also said that a medical check-up done before Shankar was lodged in the prison revealed that he was physically fine and had no injuries. Palaniswami said that the allega-

tions levelled by Shankar's advocate were serious, as he called for a judicial probe into the matter. He also demanded a fresh medical check-up of Shankar in the prison in the presence of a judicial officer. Claiming that freedom of the press is being curbed in Tamil Nadu, Palaniswami said while Shankar has been put behind bars for using disparaging comments in his YouTube show, many functionaries of the ruling DMK are roaming freely despite their involvement in similar crimes. Former Chief Minister Palaniswami also said that the law of the land should be the same for everyone.



## Fresh firing starts at encounter site in J&K's Kulgam

**Srinagar, May 10 (IANS) :** Fresh firing started on Friday at the encounter site in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district where two terrorists, including the top commander of The Resistance Front (TRF), were killed by the security forces, the police said. The police added that fresh firing occurred at the encounter site on Tuesday in the Redwani area of Kulgam where two terrorists, including Basit Dar, a top com-

mander of TRF, were killed by the security forces. "Fresh firing has erupted at yesterday's encounter spot in the Redwani area which indicates the presence of a third terrorist." "The area has been cordoned off and all routes into and from the area have been sealed. Security forces are proceeding to eliminate the surviving terrorist in this area," the police said.

## Odisha: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan challenges CM Patnaik for open debate

**Bhubaneswar, May 10 (IANS) :** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday challenged Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for an open debate on various issues faced by the state despite being a recipient of huge financial aid from the Central government. Speaking at a press meeting in Sambalpur, Pradhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised a few questions regarding the high student dropout rate, lack of irrigation facilities, deteriorating primary

healthcare system in the state, and the inter-state migration of labourers etc. Pradhan asserted that CM Patnaik instead of answering the questions raised by PM Modi said that the BJP is daydreaming to form the government in Odisha. He said there is no democracy in Odisha as the journalists are barred from entering any government offices from the district to state level. He said that if the BJP government comes to power a new accreditation policy will be introduced for journalists. Pradhan said that his party would



also introduce pension facilities for the journalists in Odisha. He added that women will get a Rs 50,000 cash voucher as a financial gift under the Subhadra Yojana. "They can encash the Rs 50,000 over a period of two years. And 25 lakh women will be made Lakhpati Didis," he said.

He added that the BJP has stressed on farmers' welfare the most in its manifesto, adding that the BJP government will ensure the payment of Rs 3,100 per quintal to the paddy farmers within 48 hours of procurement of paddy from the mandis.



## Heroin smuggled from Pak valued at Rs 10 crore seized in Rajasthan

**Jaipur, May 10 (IANS) :** Around 2 kg heroin valued at Rs 10 crore smuggled from Pakistan was seized in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district in a joint action by the police and the BSF, an official said on Friday, adding three persons including a minor were also arrested in this connection. The heroin was bought from Pakistani smugglers through drones, said Superintendent of Police Gaurav Yadav said, adding joint efforts are being made by the Sriganganagar district administration and the police to make the district drug-free. The police officer said that during checking, a Swift car was stopped and checked following which 2 kg heroin was recovered from the car. The arrested individuals have been identified as Manjeet Singh (20) and Nirmal Singh (36), residents of Tarn Taran district in Punjab.



## Patanjali case: SC expresses displeasure over misleading advertisements continuing after product licences suspended

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Friday took a stern stance while hearing the contempt case against Patanjali, stressing the need for immediate action to address misleading advertisements continuing despite the suspension of product licences. A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah expressed dissatisfaction over the persistence of Patanjali's misleading advertisements on various platforms, including the internet and television channels, as it pointed out Uttarakhand's earlier actions, including the suspension of manufacturing licences for 14 products and the filing of a criminal complaint

against Patanjali, its Managing Director Acharya Balkrishna, and co-founder Baba Ramdev under relevant legislation. Despite these measures, the court questioned senior advocate Balbir Singh, representing Patanjali, about the continued presence of misleading ads, particularly on social media platforms. He assured the bench that Patanjali was aware of the issue and committed to addressing it comprehensively by the next hearing. However, the court expressed concern over Patanjali's collaboration with certain media channels, which continue to air these advertisements. Justice Amanullah reiterated the significance of the suspended licences, saying that products un-

der suspension cannot be sold or dealt with in any manner. The court criticised the State Licensing Authority for not taking proactive measures to ensure compliance with the suspension orders, stressing that the onus is on them to enforce the suspension effectively. Justice Kohli said that it is not the court's role to instruct the Licensing Authority on their duties and called for proactive measures without the court's intervention. The court dismissed Singh's request for the exemption of Patanjali's Managing Director and co-founder from personal appearance, stating that such requests must be formally submitted through the appropriate channels.

## Will Jagan hold on to family bastion Pulivendula?

**Amaravati, May 10 (IANS) :** Such has been the grip of the YSR clan over the Pulivendula Assembly constituency for over four decades that the outcome of successive elections was never in doubt and often the wait was only to know the margin of victory. From Yeduguru Sandinti Rajasekhara (YSR) Reddy to his brother, uncle, wife and son all have represented this constituency in the family's home district Kadapa, now named after the late Chief Minister. Despite his revolt against Congress, to which his father was associated till his tragic death in a helicopter crash in 2009, and even after floating a new party YSR Congress, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy ensured that the family maintained its vice-like grip on the constituency. With his victory in 2019, Jagan became the second MLA from Pulivendula after his fa-

ther to occupy the post of Chief Minister. Five years later, he is not only facing a challenge to retain power but is also battling a spirited opposition on home turf. If the ruling YSR Congress coined the slogan 'Why not 175' with the target to make a clean sweep in Assembly polls, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) upped the ante with the counter slogan 'Why not Pulivendula.' While Jagan tried to capture TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu's stronghold of Kuppam, the later took the fight to the YSRCP Chief's doorsteps. TDP, which is contesting the May 13 elections in alliance with the Jana Sena and BJP, is making every effort to upset Jagan on his home turf. TDP's Mareddy Ravindranath Reddy, who is known as 'B.Tech' Ravi, is working hard to deny Jagan a hat-trick from Pulivendula but what has added to Jagan's problems is the rift within his family. Jagan's sister Y. S. Sharmila, who stood with



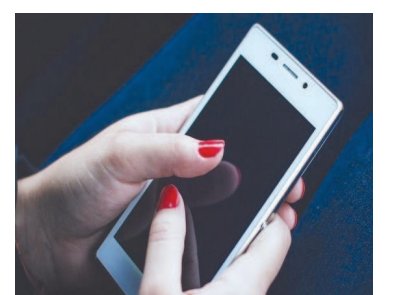
him in every election since he floated YSRCP in 2011, has not only joined the rival Congress but is contesting from Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency against their cousin and sitting MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy. Pulivendula is one of the seven Assembly segments of the Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency, which is also considered a pocket-borough of the YSR family. However, the sibling rivalry and acrimony caused by the allegations over the murder of their uncle and former minister Y. Vivekananda Reddy seems to have queered the pitch for Jagan. Vivekananda Reddy was murdered a few days before the 2019

elections and five years later the sensational case has returned to haunt Jagan with the slain leader's daughter Y. S. Suneetha joining hands with Sharmila in the fight for justice. The cousin sisters are questioning Jagan why he fielded Avinash Reddy once again despite the CBI naming him as an accused in the case. Jagan's allegation that his sisters were misguided by the TDP has led to more questions from the duo, who have called up on people to defeat him for shielding the murder accused.

## Teachers, students in Kota barred from using mobile phones during school hours

**Jaipur, May 10 (IANS) :** The teachers, students and other staff in all government and private schools in Rajasthan's Kota have been barred from using mobile phones during the school hours, an official said on Friday. A notification issued in this regard by Tej Kanwar, Joint Director, School Education Department, Kota division, mentioned that teachers will have to submit their mobile phones to the principal after reaching school. The notification has been sent to all education department officials in Kota division. Notably, the order came after a recent video of the state Education Minister Madan Dilawar went viral. In the video, he can be heard saying that there will be a ban on teachers using smartphones in government schools. According to the Joint Direc-

tor, these orders were issued around one and a half months ago. Following the instructions of the state Education Minister, a reminder letter has been issued for its strict implementation. It has also been mentioned in the notification that during the inspection of schools, it has been found that teachers and employees use mobile phones during the school hours. The principals have also been directed to keep the mobile phones of the employees in safe custody. The order mentioned that if anyone is seen using mobile phone in the school.





**Cipla Q4 net profit surges by 79 pc, declares dividend of Rs 13 per share**

**Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) :** Pharma major Cipla on Friday reported a 78.5 per cent surge in net profit to Rs 939 crore for the Jan-March quarter of 2023-24 compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 525 crore for the same period last year. The company's revenue from operations increased 7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 6,163 crore in the fourth quarter. Cipla's board of directors have recommended a payment of the final dividend of Rs 13 per equity share for the financial year ending March 2024. The company's EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) for the quarter increased 13 per cent to Rs 1,316 crore as from Rs 1166 crore in the same period last year.

**Audi launches two new cars under its Bold Edition in India**

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** German luxury car manufacturer Audi on Friday launched two new cars under its Bold Edition -- Q3 and Q3 Sportback, in India. The Audi Q3 comes at a price of Rs 54,65,000 (ex-showroom) in five colours -- Glacier White, Nano Grey, Mythos Black Navarra Blue & Pulse Orange, while the Audi Q3 Sportback is priced at Rs 55,71,000 (ex-showroom) and comes in Glacier White, Daytona Grey, Mythos Black, Progressive Red and Navarra Blue colour options. "A perfect blend of luxury, performance and ver-

satility, both these models are now being offered with a Bold Edition -- a more exclusive and sportier variant packed with distinctive styling elements," Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India said in a statement. "The Bold Editions are designed for those who want to make a unique statement on the road. With limited units available, we are positive that these will be sold out in no time," he added. Audi's Black styling package for the cars features a striking black design that radiates elegance, which includes a gloss-black grille, black Audi rings in front.



**Tesla to invest over \$500 mn on Supercharger network expansion**

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Friday said that the company will be investing more than \$500 million in its Supercharger network to create thousands of new chargers in 2024. "Tesla will spend well over \$500 million expanding our Supercharger network to create thousands of new chargers this year," Musk wrote in a post on X. He also said that this money only accounts for new sites and expansions, and not for

operations costs, which are much higher. "That's just on new sites and expansions, not counting operations costs, which are much higher," the tech billionaire said. This comes after Tesla emailed its customers in Australia to update them on Supercharging amidst growing concerns about service quality following layoffs. In an email to Australian customers, Tesla underlined that the "network will continue to be expanded," and that all currently under-construction locations "will be completed and put into operation", according to electric-

vehicles.com. Less than two weeks ago, the company laid off hundreds of employees in its charging team. Meanwhile, Musk has invited billionaire investor Warren Buffett to come and invest in Tesla, which is facing tough times amid a global slowdown in EV sales. Replying to an X user who posted that Berkshire Hathaway owner should sell all his shares in Apple and buy Tesla instead, the electric car company owner responded that it is an "obvious move" for him.



**Indian IT companies become more conservative in FY25 growth projections**

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** As the IT sector goes through muted revenue growth, companies have become more conservative in their FY25 projections, baking in anticipated delays in executions and project closure activities, market analysts said on Friday. The revenue growth outlook for FY25 has been discouraging, with tier-1 IT companies expected to report below mid-single digit growth on average, while tier-2 firms capping their revenue growth to high-single digits. "However, if the spending recovery coexists with an anticipated macro recovery in the near-term, then we might see an upward re-

vision to the estimates for the companies as they progress through the year," said analysts from financial services organisation Prabhudas Lilladher. FY24 ended with another quarter of weak performance within IT services. Leading IT companies in the country saw a drop of nearly 70,000 employees in the last fiscal year. Within tier-1, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) relatively outperformed the peers and reported +1.1 per cent revenue growth (on-quarter), while HCLTech reported +0.3 per cent QoQ revenue growth. On the other side, Infosys has been

the outlier and reported another quarter of decline at 2.2 per cent QoQ in Q4, vs a decline of 1 per cent reported in Q3, said Prabhudas Lilladher. IT major Wipro reported a 8 per cent dip in net profit at Rs 2,835 crore for the January-March quarter, compared to Rs 3,074.5 crore in the same period last year. The company's revenue fell 4.2 per cent to Rs 22,208.3 crore in Q4. The IT services sector in the country is likely to see a second successive year of muted revenue growth, at 5-7 per cent in FY25, according to a latest Crisil Ratings report.

**Paytm refutes reports on invoking loan guarantees due to repayment defaults by lending partners**

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** Fintech services major Paytm on Friday refuted media reports claiming about invoking loan guarantees due to repayment defaults by the company's lending partners. In a stock exchange filing, Paytm said such reports are "inaccurate". "Paytm acts as a distributor of loans, and does not provide a First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) or other loan guarantees to lending partners," said the fintech major. "We continue to collaborate with multiple banks and NBFCs.



**Sensex up by 466 points, Nifty climbs over 22,050**

**Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) :** Indian stock indices are in green on Friday, after a range-bound opening. At 9:50 a.m., Sensex was up by 466 points, or 0.64 per cent at 72,871 points, and Nifty was up by 138 points, or 0.64 per cent at 22,096 points. Compared to the largecap, midcap, and smallcap indices are underperforming. Nifty Midcap 100 is down 2.10 points at 49,107, and Nifty Smallcap 100 is down 3.90 points at 15,991. The Indian Volatility Index (India VIX) is down nearly 1 per cent at 18 points. Sectorally, Nifty FMCG is the top gainer, up by 1.30 per cent, while Nifty Pharma and Nifty Energy indices are up by 0.94 per cent and 0.86 per cent, respectively. Nifty Realty and Nifty IT are down by 0.07 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively.

**BPCL declares 1:1 bonus share issue, Q4 profit declines 30 per cent**



**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on Friday reported a 30 per cent decline in consolidated net profit of Rs

4,789.57 crore for the January-March quarter financial year 2023-24 compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 6,870.47 crore in the same period last year. The decline in the government-owned company's profit comes amid volatile crude oil prices during the quarter which led to an increase in input costs that could not be fully passed on to consumers. BPCL said its board has recommended the issue of bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1 i.e. one new bonus equity share of Rs 10 each for every one existing equity shares of Rs 10 each fully paid up, subject to the approval of shareholders through postal ballot. "The Board has fixed Saturday, 22nd June 2024 as Record date to determine the eligibility of shareholders to receive bonus shares," the company said in an exchange filing.

**Dell discloses data breach of some customers' names, physical addresses**

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** Tech giant Dell Technologies on Friday admitted that it experienced a data breach that exposed some customers' names and physical addresses. In an email sent to customers which went viral on social media, the tech giant said it was investigating "an incident involving a Dell portal, which contains a database with limited types of customer information related to purchases from Dell." "We believe there is not a significant risk to our customers given the type of information involved. At this time, our investigation indicates limited types of customer information was accessed, including name and physical address," the message from Dell read.



The exposed data did not include email addresses, telephone numbers, financial or payment information, or "any highly sensitive customer information". A Dell spokesperson, when asked

how many customers were impacted in the data breach, told TechCrunch that "We are not disclosing this specific information from our ongoing investigation".

## 40 mn Filipinos have no access to potable water : Govt

**Manila, May 10 (IANS) :** At least 40 million people in the Philippines have no access to fresh or potable water, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said on Friday. Responding to the dire situation, Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos has directed the government agencies to come up with concrete solutions to provide suf-

ficient water supply to Filipinos deprived of potable water, Xinhua news agency reported. "Let's come up with a plan for the 40 million so that they have at least potable water to take in. We need to come up with a plan for the remaining 40 million who do not have an assured water supply -- a locally sourced water supply," the PCO said, quoting Marcos' order.

The PCO said Marcos stressed the need for the government to focus on the 40 million underserved Filipinos and to balance the water requirements for irrigation, household and industrial use. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Lozaga told Marcos that the 40 million residents who do not have enough access to water supply

usually ride a motorbike to fetch water from the nearest island. In a press briefing at the presidential palace, DENR Undersecretary Carlos Primo David said the department has devised a few strategies to provide sufficient water supply to the 40 million individuals who are primarily residing in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

According to David, one promising strategy being considered for small island villages and other coastal areas is implementing the desalination process, a method that converts seawater into freshwater. This initiative has the potential to improve the water supply in these areas significantly.



## Ending Pakistan's long wait, Saudi Crown Prince could visit Islamabad next week

**Islamabad, May 10 (IANS) :** Saudi Arabia Crown Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS), is likely to travel to Islamabad next week, a visit that has been long overdue and suffered last-minute cancellations in the past.

The last time the Saudi Crown Prince visited Pakistan was in February 2019 when the then Prime Minister Imran Khan personally drove him to the Prime Minister's House.

Even though Islamabad has made arrangements and extended invitations to Prince Mohammad Bin Salman on multiple occasions after that, his proposed visits have been cancelled due to various unknown reasons. Last year, the ruling government in Pakistan was left embarrassed when the Saudi Crown Prince travelled to India to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

Islamabad tried hard to push for a brief stopover by MBS in Pakistan at that time but the efforts did not bear fruit, leaving the government in a spot of bother. "When MBS was trav-

elling to India for the G20 Summit, Pakistan's Foreign Office and the Prime Minister's office tried hard to have MBS land in Islamabad for a few hours before or after his return from India. It was only to show India that Saudi Arabia is a close friend of Pakistan. But that didn't happen," said senior political analyst Adnan Shaukat. "Contrary to the wishes of Pakistan, which wants to send strong messages to its arch-rival India on its relations with major powers in the Gulf, the Arab states have maintained a certain balance with respect to their relations with both India and Pakistan," he added. Other reasons why Pakistan has struggled when it comes to turning scheduled visits of MBS to reality are the serious concerns of security and political instability. "In late 2022, the Saudi Crown Prince was scheduled to visit Islamabad, but it had to be cancelled since the dates were close to the change of Army Command and also because of the ongoing protests and long marches by Imran Khan's party," said Shaukat. "After that, new schedules for the visit could not be finalised because of the developing political uncertainty in the country, coupled with the general elections," he added. However, it seems that this time, the Shehbaz Sharif government has done its homework. "Shehbaz Sharif visited Riyadh twice and met with MBS to extend his assurance and invitation. MBS also seems convinced and has agreed to travel to Islamabad on Sharif's invitation. This will be the third meeting of rime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and MBS within a space of about five weeks," Shaukat said. Shehbaz Sharif also cancelled his visit to the OIC meeting and has stayed back to host and meet



the Saudi business delegation, which is in Islamabad to seek business and investment opportunities. MBS' visit will also be significant in view of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi's recent trip to Pakistan amid the ongoing tensions in South Asia. Pakistan has opened up its doors to the Saudi business community and investors as it hopes to attract Saudi investments.

"The strategy to attract big Saudi investment in Pakistan is part of a civil-military-led initiative to pull the country out of its current economic turmoil. Pakistan is eyeing to materialise the first phase of \$5 billion investments by Saudi Arabia," said senior political analyst Kamran Yousaf. Pakistan, under the new business framework of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) spearheaded by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and the Shehbaz Sharif government, was able to impress the high-powered Saudi delegation headed by their Foreign Minister.



## TikTok sues US govt to block potential ban

**Washington, May 10 (IANS) :** TikTok, an online video entertainment platform, and its Chinese parent company ByteDance have filed a legal challenge against the US government over a law forcing ByteDance to sell off the ultra-popular app or face a nationwide ban in the country. US President Joe Biden signed a TikTok ban bill into law last month after it was passed by both houses of US Congress.

"Congress has taken the unprecedented step of expressly singling out and banning TikTok: a vibrant online forum for protected speech and expression used by 170 million Americans to create, share, and view videos over the Internet," said TikTok in the petition filed on Friday in the Court of Appeals for the Dis-

trict of Columbia Circuit, adding that "For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide."

TikTok pointed out in the petition that the law -- the Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act -- is "unconstitutional", Xinhua news agency reported. "Banning TikTok is so obviously unconstitutional, in fact, that even the Act's sponsors recognized that reality, and therefore have tried mightily to depict the law not as a ban at all, but merely a regulation of TikTok's ownership," said TikTok. The law only gives ByteDance



## Trump's classified documents trial postponed indefinitely

**Washington, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** The official start of the trial against former US President Donald Trump in the affair surrounding the retention of secret government documents has been postponed indefinitely.

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

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

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

Trump is currently also on trial in a court in New York in connection with hush money payments to a porn actress. But this trial is not Trump's only legal problem. Trump was hit with federal charges in the document affair last year.

He is accused of unlawfully retaining highly-sensitive information from his time as president between 2017 and 2021.

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

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

## Biden condemns anti-Semitism, promises to support Israel

**Washington, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** US President Joe Biden has strongly condemned anti-Semitism at pro-Palestinian protests at universities and reaffirmed his "ironclad" support for Israel. "My commitment to the safety of the Jewish people, the security of Israel, and its right to exist as an independent Jewish state is ironclad. Even when we disagree."



## Chinese investors ask 'iron brother' Pakistan to relocate funds as default risk gets real

**Islamabad, May 10 (IANS) :** Pakistan's economic woes continue to dampen its credibility among global investors as now its closest ally, friend, and 'iron brother' China, too, has put forward a demand, which has forced emergency consultations in Islamabad. Amid increased fears of a complete meltdown of the Pakistani economy leading to default, Chinese investors have told Islamabad to relocate funds in off-shore bank accounts to service debts sustained for establishing energy plants under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Moreover, Chinese investors

have also insisted that Islamabad should clear \$125 million in dividends it owes to Chinese firms functioning in Pakistan.

The Chinese demand has forced emergency huddles in relevant quarters of the Pakistani government, who are now contemplating and consulting the kind of response that should be given.

Sources aware of the development say that Pakistan has not accepted the demand till now and is being cautious over its potential reaction. "Islamabad is also cautious about potential reactions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to any new con-



cessions to Beijing," said the government source.

Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has urged focused caution in accepting any Chinese demand.

"The Finance Minister has cautioned the Cabinet Ministers in accepting any Chinese demand at the moment due to sensitivities surrounding the upcoming bailout programme talks with the IMF," said a senior official.

## UN agencies slam Israeli offensive in Rafah as 'darkest' day

**Geneva, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** The humanitarian agencies of the United Nations have condemned Israel's advance into Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, a spokesman said.

A spokeswoman for the UN Human Rights Office, Ravina Shamdasani, said that for civilians who have been ordered to evacuate,

there are no safe routes to the north and no safe havens with sufficient sanitary facilities and food supplies. These are basic humanitarian requirements for evacuations, she said in Geneva.

"There are strong indications that this is being conducted in violation of international humanitarian law," she added. "This morning is one of the darkest in this seven-months-long nightmare."





## Have 'irrefutable evidence' of India's involvement in recent targeted killings, claims Pakistan

**Islamabad, May 10 (IANS) :** Director General (DG) of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhary, said on Friday that Pakistan has "irrefutable evidence" of India's involvement in the recent targeted killings of various individuals in the country. "India's killing spree has spread to different countries now. From the killing of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in another country, India has been involved in killings of individuals in Pakistan," Chaudhary said while addressing media at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. "Pakistan has irrefutable evidence of India's involvement behind the killings," he added. The Major General said that Pakistani intelligence agencies are aware of India's plans to divert the attention of people from its internal issues by showing aggression along the border, and also by form-

ing an "anti-Pakistan" election narrative. "We are very well aware and prepared for India's plan to opt for aggression at the Line of Control (LoC) and divert attention from its internal issues through an "anti-Pakistan" narrative during the elections," Chaudhary added. He said that there have been at least 120 speculative, 15 air space, and 59 technical violations committed by India along the LoC in 2024 as of now. The DG ISPR claimed that India's plan to suppress the opinion of people in Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections is also quite clear. "Elections of five seats on five separate days are only aimed at suppressing the voice of Kashmiris and manipulating the poll outcome," he said. Referring to Afghanistan and the ongoing security situation in the country, DG ISPR issued a charge



sheet against the Afghan Taliban-led government, claiming that more than 90 per cent of the terror attacks in the country are facilitated by Afghanistan. "Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is supported, facilitated, and harboured by Afghanistan. Afghan nationals have been carrying out terror attacks in Pakistan. We have killed and captured many terrorists who are Afghans and belong to different areas along

the border, including Spin Boldak, Paktika, and other parts of Afghanistan," he said. "The suicide bomber involved in the attacks on Chinese engineers in Besham, which resulted in the death of at least five Chinese nationals and one Pakistani national, was an Afghan national. The vehicle involved in the attack was also readied and filled with explosives in Afghanistan before being brought into Pakistan." The DG ISPR also said that Afghan nationals and "militants" of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) -- Majeed Brigade were involved in the attacks that took place in Gwadar and other parts of Balochistan. "It is well known that BLA is supported and facilitated by Afghanistan. Families of TTP and BLA are living in Afghanistan in large numbers. This is a fact that cannot be ignored," said DG ISPR.



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

**Ramallah, May 10 (IANS) :** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed on Friday the efforts of Egypt and Qatar to mediate a ceasefire agreement for the Gaza Strip. In a statement published by the Palestinian news agency (WAFA), Abbas expressed hope for Israel's commitment to "ceasefire and complete withdrawal from the Strip". The President urged the international community to pressure Israel to agree to a ceasefire and continue efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, Xinhua news agency reported.

Earlier on Friday, Hamas said that it had informed mediators in Egypt and Qatar that it approved the ceasefire proposal for the Gaza Strip. Hamas said in a statement that Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's political bureau chief, made phone calls with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egyptian Intelligence Chief Abbas Kamel separately to inform them of the decision. Hamas's announcement came hours after the Israeli army demanded around 100,000 residents in the eastern area of Rafah in southern Gaza evacuate to the Al-Mawasi area, southwest of the Strip.

## Hamas calls for US, int'l pressure to stop escalation in Rafah

**Gaza, May 10 (IANS) :** The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Friday called on the US administration and the international community to put pressure on Israel to stop the storming of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. Hamas said in a statement that the attack is "a dangerous escalation against a civilian facility protected by international law, aiming to exacerbate the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, by closing it and preventing the flow of emergency relief aid through it to our besieged people". Hamas added that the escalation threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians in Rafah.



## IDF takes control of Rafah border crossing in Gaza

**Tel Aviv, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** The Israeli military has taken control of the Rafah border crossing in the south of the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) said on Friday. "Following intelligence that indicated that the Rafah crossing in eastern Rafah was being used for terrorist purposes, IDF troops obtained operational control of the Gazan side of the crossing," the Army wrote on its Telegram channel. It followed an overnight operation in which the ground troops together with the Air Force "began a precise counterterrorism operation" to eliminate the Palestinian Islamist militia Hamas and dismantle its infrastructure in eastern Rafah, the IDF said. It added that it eliminated Hamas military structures, underground infrastructures, and other facilities the group operated. The Army said about 20 Hamas fighters were killed in the operation. There were no Israeli injuries reported, the IDF said. On Monday, Israeli forces began evacuating Rafah in southern Gaza as they geared up for an expected military operation there. Israel's allies and other international leaders have been warning against an offensive in the Rafah region. Large numbers of Palestinian civilians



have sought shelter in the city after fleeing Israeli airstrikes and ground operations elsewhere in the Gaza Strip. Israel wants to use the military operation in Rafah to destroy the remaining battalions of Hamas, which it has been fighting in the coastal strip since it attacked Israel on October 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking nearly 250 hostages. More than 100 remaining hostages are reported to be held captive in Rafah. Israel has been threatening to launch a ground offensive into Rafah for months, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has struck an uncompromising stance in recent weeks, vowing to attack the city even if a deal to release the hostages is reached.



## German far-right EU lawmaker's Brussels office raided in spying probe

**Brussels, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** Investigators in Brussels have searched the European Parliament office of far-right German legislator Maximilian Krah in connection with suspected espionage by his former assistant, Jian Guo, German prosecutors said on Friday. The German Police arrested Guo on suspicion of espionage on April 22. Krah, a leading member of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party in Europe, fired Guo following the allegations that the parliamentary aid was spying for China. In a statement on X, Krah said: "Today, my ex-employee's office in Brussels was searched. This was to be expected after his ar-

rest and is therefore not surprising. The only remarkable thing is that it took so long. Neither I nor any other employees are affected." The German Public Prosecutor's statement said that both Krah's and Guo's offices were searched on Friday morning. "The measures are part of the proceedings against Jian Guo on suspicion of acting as an intelligence agent." Meanwhile, the search of Krah's office is according to his status as a witness. Guo's Brussels flat was searched on April 24, the statement added. A spokesman for the Belgian Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed to DPA news agency that authorities had entered the offices at the request of German prosecutors.

## Australian PM boosts funding for drought resilience programmes

**Canberra, May 10 (IANS) :** Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Friday announced half a billion Australian dollars in funding to help farmers and regional communities better prepare for future droughts. Albanese and Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and for

Emergency Management, have committed 519.1 million Australian dollars (\$344 million) for the Future Drought Fund (FDF), Xinhua news agency reported. The FDF was established in 2019 amid a major drought that began in 2017 to provide secure, continuous funding for drought resilience initiatives. As part of the funding

boost, Albanese and Watt said in a joint statement that the FDF and its objectives have been restructured to acknowledge climate change as a driver of longer and more severe droughts. "It's vital that we support Australian farmers and producers to be prepared for more severe weather impacts," Albanese said.



## IAEA chief calls on Iran to implement nuclear monitoring agreement

**Vienna, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has called on Iran to take concrete steps to allow international monitoring of its nuclear programme. Following talks with Iran's Nuclear Chief Mohammed Eslami in the central Iranian city of Isfahan on Friday, Grossi said that an agreement reached in March 2023 on checks on Iranian nuclear facilities was not being implemented fast enough.

Referring to the agreement, the IAEA Chief added that there had been a "slowdown in its implementation". He called for "very concrete, very practical, tangible measures that can be implemented to accelerate the process". Despite the 2023 agreement, Tehran in September withdrew permission for leading IAEA inspectors to work in Iran. In addition, the agency has not been authorised to access data from some of its monitoring devices.

Eslami confirmed on Tuesday that implementation had been slow "due to some issues," blaming sanctions on Tehran. However, Iran's state news agency IRNA said Eslami was hoping for positive developments after the talks with Grossi. Eslami also warned against "hostile measures" against Iran's nuclear programme by Israel. The two sides came to the brink of war in April when Iran launched direct missile and drone attacks on Israel in retaliation for an Israeli strike on the Iranian embassy com-

pound in the Syrian capital Damascus. Israel responded with an attack on a military facility in Isfahan, an important site for Iran's nuclear programme. Iran initially committed to restricting its nuclear activities in a landmark 2015 agreement which saw sanctions on Tehran lifted. The pact was torpedoed by then-US President Donald Trump in 2018. Tehran has in recent years resumed enriching uranium to a level suitable for nuclear weapons.



## Four arrested for trafficking Indians to Russia-Ukraine war zone

**New Delhi May 10 (IANS) :** Four men, including a translator, were arrested on the charges of trafficking Indian nationals to Russia under the guise of better employment and then sending them to the Russia-Ukraine war zone, a CBI official said on Friday. The officials said that Arun and Yesudas Junior a.k.a Priyan, both residents of Trivandrum, Kerala, were arrested on Friday. Two other accused, Nijil Jobi Bensam, a resident of Kanyakumari and Anthony Michael Elangovan, a resident of Mumbai, were nabbed on April 24. A senior Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) official said that on March 6, the agency

had busted a major human trafficking network running across the country targeting gullible youths on the promise of offering lucrative jobs abroad. These traffickers have been operating as an organised network and were luring Indian nationals through social media channels like YouTube etc. and also through their local contacts/agents for highly paid jobs in Russia. "Thereafter, the trafficked Indian Nationals were trained in combat roles and deployed at front bases in the Russia - Ukraine War Zone against their wishes, thus, putting their lives in grave danger," said a senior CBI official.



## 3 SPOs dismissed from service in J&K

**Jammu, May 10 (IANS) :** J&K Police on Friday dismissed three Special Police Officers (SPOs) from service for dereliction of duty. A police spokesman said that SPOs Daljeet Singh, Bali Ram and Deepak Singh have been disengaged from service after they were found involved in dereliction of duty and criminal activities. "SPOs Daljeet Singh and Bali Ram were arrested in a murder case registered in Ramgarh police station. They later escaped from custody. "SPO Deepak Singh has been disengaged from service for his involvement in a case registered under relevant sections of the NDPS Act at the Samba police station," police said. The SPOs are engaged by J&K Police on a fixed monthly remuneration.

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

**Thane (Maharashtra), May 10 (IANS) :** The Shiv Sena (UBT) has claimed that Shiv Sena leader and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was "scared of going to jail" and wanted to ally with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in June 2022, but the undivided party did not respond to his plea. Launching a blistering attack on CM Shinde in his hometown Thane, SS(UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and candidate for Lok Sabha elections Rajan Vichare made the revelations at a major INDIA-MVA combined election rally late last night, here. "On June 14, 2022, Shinde spoke with me, saying that 'it would be better to join the BJP and PM Narendra

Modi'. He said he was not keen on going to jail," claimed Raut. When Raut sought details from him, CM Shinde said that he was being probed by the CBI-ED, and when asked to elaborate, he appeared perturbed and did not reveal more, but barely a fortnight later, he broke the Shiv Sena and subsequently became the CM. "When I said that the ED-CBI will not just start probing unless they have something in hand, he did not specify...; and all the political developments followed," pointed out Raut, referring to the vertical split in the Shiv Sena in June 2022 which toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi's then CM, Uddhav Thackeray. Vichare said that much earlier in 2013, CM Shinde along with four (undivided) Shiv Sena



MLAs was planning to switch over to the Congress ahead of the 2014 Assembly elections. "However, at the last minute, the four SS legislators reneged and the plan collapsed. Look at his track record as a destroyer and party-breaker... Shinde has earlier broken up the party units in Thane, then the Shiv Sena, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, etc.," said Vichare. He claimed that even in 2013, CM

Shinde's sole aim was to break the Shiv Sena but he failed and finally did it after another 10 years. Present at the huge rally were SS(UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi, Jyoti Thackeray, Anand Dubey, the party's Uttar Pradesh leader Brijesh Tiwari, Congress' Amin Qureshi, Vikrant Chavan, NCP(SP)'s Suhas Desai, AAP's Dhananjay Shinde, Dharmaraj Party's Rajan Rajee and others.



## TMC candidate fears being implicated in murder case by political rival

**Kolkata, May 10 (IANS) :** Deepak Adhikari a.k.a. Dev, the actor-turned-politician and Trinamool Congress sitting MP and candidate from Ghatal Lok Sabha constituency in West Midnapore District of West Bengal, on Friday expressed fears, that his political rival might implicate him in a murder case in days to come. According to him, there might be a murder of a BJP worker at Keshpur.

## Stop providing safe haven to criminal & secessionist elements : India tells Canada

**New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) :** India on Friday reacted strongly to pro-Khalistani elements taking the centre stage, raising anti-India slogans, and displaying objectionable posters against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a 'Nagar Kirtan' organised at Malton in Canada, urging the government led by Justin Trudeau to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements a safe haven and political space in the country. The parade organised on Monday from Malton to Rexdale in Ontario witnessed not just the raising of anti-India slogans, but also floats threatening India's top leaders. "As you are aware, we have repeatedly raised our strong concerns regarding the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against our political leader-



ship. Last year, a float depicting the assassination of our former Prime Minister was used in a procession. "Display of posters of Indian diplomats have also been put out across Canada threatening violence against them," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement. Insisting that celebration and glorification of violence should not be a part of any civilised society, the MEA official made it clear that democratic countries "which respect the rule of law" should not allow intimidation by radical elements in the name of freedom of expression.



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

**Lucknow, May 10 (IANS) :** The Lucknow police have solved a three-month-old murder mystery with the detention of a 13-year-old girl and her boyfriend. The minor girl and her 19-year-old boyfriend are guilty of killing her landlord, who had been harassing her for a long time in the Wazirganj area. "The accused were identified as Bunty Kashyap and his minor girlfriend. They will be presented before the court. A case of murder under Indian Penal Code (IPC) 302 was already registered in the matter," said ADCP West Zone, Vishwajeet Srivastava.

## Congress manifesto 'Anyay Patra' for SC, ST, OBC & Sanatan Dharm: CM Yogi Adityanath



**Gorakhpur, May 10 (IANS) :** UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that the Congress manifesto was not a 'Nyay Patra', but 'Anyay Patra' for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Castes, and Sanatan Dharm. "This is a new version of the Muslim League. Nothing can be more shameful than the manifesto of the country's oldest political party, Congress, representing the Muslim League," he told reporters in Gorakhpur. When asked about the accusation made by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi that the BJP was promoting politics of hatred, CM Adityanath said

that instead of telling lies, she should at least develop a habit of speaking the truth. "During the elections, these people won't be able to deceive the public anymore because under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire nation has come together in the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'," he added. CM Adityanath said, "Everyone knows that Congress has inherited the policy of 'divide and rule'. In 1947, Congress allowed the tactics of the British to succeed and divided the country. After independence, Congress fuelled class struggles within the country based on caste, region, and language due to political selfishness.

## Odisha Crime Branch arrests four cyber fraudsters from Gujarat

**Bhubaneswar, May 10 (IANS) :** The Crime Branch of Odisha Police has arrested four cyber fraudsters from Gujarat on the charges of duping a person from Bhubaneswar of Rs 60 lakh through online trading scam, said a crime branch official on Friday. The accused persons were identified as Fakir Alfazsha Bismillasha (20), Ahmad Khan Sardar Khan Baloch (38), Shaikh Huma Parvin Rafiq (27), and her husband Rafiq Abdul Majeed Shaikh. All the accused persons hail from the Fatehwadi area of Ahmedabad district in Gujarat.



"On November 4, 2023, the complainant who is from Bhubaneswar, fell prey to a Cyber Crime syndicate who enticed him on the pretext of investment in Online Trading and in that process, within a span of about 20 days.



## US soldier arrested in Russia on theft charges : Report

**Washington, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** A US soldier has been arrested in Russia on charges of theft, the media reported. The soldier had been stationed in South Korea and had travelled to Russia on his own initiative, the US media reported, including broadcasters NBC News, CNN and ABC News, citing US government representatives.

There was initially no direct confirmation from the White House. When asked about the case, US National Security Council Communications Director John Kirby said: "We are aware of this case." He gave no further details and referred further questions to the US Department of Defence. US Army Spokesperson Cynthia

Smith was quoted by broadcasters, including NBC News, which first reported the arrest, that the soldier was apprehended in Vladivostok, near Russia's borders with China and North Korea, "on charges of criminal misconduct." "The Russian Federation notified the US Department of State of the criminal detention in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations," Smith was quoted as saying in a statement.

"The Army notified his family, and the US Department of State is providing appropriate consular support to the soldier in Russia. Given the sensitivity of this matter, we are unable to provide additional details at this time."

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

**London, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been the target of a large-scale data breach, the Ministry said. Sky News reported that China was behind the cyber attack.

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

of addresses may also have been accessed.

The department took immediate action when it discovered the breach, taking the external network -- operated by a contractor -- offline. It is understood that initial investigations have found no evidence that data has been removed. However, affected Armed personnel will be alerted as a precaution and provided with specialist advice. They will be able to use a personal data protection service

to check whether their information is being used or an attempt is being made to use it. All salaries were paid at the last payday, with no issues expected at the next one at the end of this month, although there may be a slight delay in the payment of expenses in a small number of cases. The UK government will inform lawmakers of the breach when Parliament returns on Friday.



## 73 killed in lightning strikes across Myanmar in 2023-24 fiscal year

**Yangon, May 10 (IANS) :** A total of 73 people have been killed in lightning strikes across Myanmar in the 2023-24 fiscal year (FY), the media said, citing the country's Department of Disaster Management report released on Friday. Throughout the fiscal year, from April 1 last year to March 31 this year, Myanmar experienced a total of 67 incidents of lightning strikes across the country, with 27 people also injured due to these strikes, the official television channel MRTV report said.

The number of casualties attributed to lightning strikes across the country surpassed those caused by strong winds during the period, it added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

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

**Cairo, May 10 (IANS) :** Egypt is hosting delegations from Hamas, Israel, Qatar and the US in Cairo with the aim of reaching a "comprehensive truce" in the Gaza Strip.

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

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had instructed the delegation to "continue to stand firm on the conditions necessary for the release of our hostages, continue to stand firm on the essential requirements to ensure Israel's security." However, he noted that the ceasefire proposal, brokered by Egyptian and Qatari mediators and approved by Hamas on Monday, fell short of Israel's essential requirements. Egypt is "making every effort to reach a comprehensive truce,"

state-affiliated Al-Qahera News quoted an unnamed high-ranking source as saying. The source added that Egypt was engaged in communication with various parties in order to contain the crisis. The Israeli army on Tuesday launched a military operation in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where more than 1 million internally displaced Palestinians have sought refuge since Israel's offensive began on October 7 last year. At least 20 people have been killed in Israel's attacks on Rafah

since Friday morning, Palestinian official news agency Wafa reported. On Friday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on both Israel and Hamas to end the ongoing conflict. "We are at a decisive moment for the Palestinian and Israeli people and for the fate of the entire region," said the UN chief. "An agreement between the government of Israel and the leadership of Hamas is essential to stop the unbearable suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and of the hostages and their families," Guterres



added. Cairo, Doha and Washington mediated a week-long truce between Israel and Hamas that ended in late November 2023, which in-

cluded a swap between Palestinian prisoners and Israeli hostages and more humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza.



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

**Cairo, May 10 (IANS) :** The Rafah crossing, the only link between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, is closed for aid and individual passage indefinitely after an Israeli military operation close by from the Palestinian side early Friday, a top security source told the media. Bombing and strikes have not stopped in the eastern area of the Palestinian city Rafah that accommodates the crossing, and all workers in the crossing have left amid direct targeting by the Israeli forces, the source said on condition of anonymity as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. "The movement of passengers and delivery of aid completely stopped to the Gaza Strip since Friday evening," the source added. He said that the Israeli operation in search of Hamas tunnels and Israeli hostages might take a few days. However, another security

source confirmed to Xinhua news agency that "Egypt has inquired about the Israeli incursion in the vicinity of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, and Israel responded that the operation will end on Friday morning," he said, adding that Israel will not break into the crossing or control it. Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV channel reported that Israeli tanks stood at a close distance from the crossing in southern Gaza.

"Three Israeli tanks are positioned 200 metres far from the crossing and bombarded the crossing wall. Meanwhile, sounds of firing and strikes were heard near the crossing." Egypt will host a new round of talks with Hamas and Israel on Tuesday over the implementation of a three-stage ceasefire deal based on an Egyptian proposal that was agreed upon by Hamas.



## German Defence Minister to hold security policy talks in US, Canada

**Berlin, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius will discuss security policy with the US and Canada on Friday. He is first expected to visit New York, where he will address the representatives of the American-Jewish Committee, an organisation representing interests of the Jewish community.

Pistorius is scheduled to meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday. A visit to the defence company Boeing is also on the German Defence Minister's agenda. During his visit, Pistorius plans to meet his US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington.

## Two killed, 21 injured in knife attack at hospital in China

**Beijing, May 10 (IANS/DPA) :** Two persons were killed while 21 others were injured in a knife attack at a hospital in China. The police in Zhenxiang County in Yunnan province said on Friday that a man from a local village carried out the attack with a knife shortly before noon (local time). No further information was available on the possible motive behind the attack or the identities of the victims. China's state news agency Xinhua had previously reported 10 victims without specifying the number of deceased and wounded persons.



## Sri Lanka renews visa-free entry for Indians

**Colombo, May 10 (IANS) :** To promote tourist arrivals to the Island nation, Sri Lanka renewed visa-free entry for visitors from India and several other select countries. The Sri Lankan government's move will open exciting possibilities for seamless travel between the two nations. The country's Cabinet on Friday decided to award free visa entry to nationals

from India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia who are on a 30-day visit to the island nation. The scheme was launched in October as a pilot project to rebuild the tourism industry in the country.

According to the Department of Immigration and Emigration which handles visa-free entry, foreigners from the above-mentioned countries should apply visa via website www.srilankaevisa.lk before arriving in Sri Lanka and the validity period of this free visa is 30 days. Meanwhile, amid recent controversy over high charges under a private company, the cabinet has decided to maintain \$50 fee for visitors who enter the country on arrival visa for 30 days.

**Endrick shines as  
Palmeiras rout  
Liverpool Montevideo**

Rio de Janeiro, May 10 (IANS) : Real Madrid-bound teenager Endrick scored one goal and set up another as Palmeiras romped to a 5-0 away win over Liverpool Montevideo in their Copa Libertadores Group F match. Raphael Veiga put the hosts ahead on the stroke of halftime by running onto Marcos Rocha's through ball and blasting a 12-yard shot that rebounded in off the underside of the crossbar. The reigning Brazilian Serie A champions doubled their lead when Endrick dribbled the ball from inside his own half before laying off a pass to Veiga, whose low finish into the far corner left goalkeeper Sebastian Lentinelny with no chance.



**Olympic Selection Trials 3 & 4  
Rifle/Pistol to begin from  
May 11 in Bhopal**

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) : The 37 selected Rifle and Pistol shooters are set to resume their quest for a spot in the Indian Shooting squad for the upcoming Paris Olympics, when they take aim in the Olympic Selection Trials (OST) 3 & 4 Rifle/Pistol, at the M.P State Shooting Academy range in Bhopal. Competitions begin in earnest on Saturday with the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) and women's 25m pistol T3 qualification rounds scheduled on the day. A total of 16 matches across the eight Olympic rifle and pistol individual events will be held over a nine-day detail, concluding with the men's and women's 10m air rifle T4 finals May 19. The finals of both the competitions are slotted for Sunday, as per the Paris Olympic schedule of having the finals a day after the qualifications.

**Andy Murray set for comeback  
at ATP Challenger Tour in Bordeaux**

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) : Former world No.1 tennis player Andy Murray will make his comeback from an ankle injury at a second-tier Challenger event in Bordeaux next week. Murray has been out since late March after rupturing ankle ligaments in a third-round match against Tomas Machac at the Miami Open. After marking his comeback on the Bordeaux clay, Murray will return to the main ATP Tour at the Geneva Open, where he has been given a wildcard. It was announced on Wednesday that Murray has been given a wildcard for the ATP tournament on clay in Geneva.



**Bajrang reiterates 'he didnt refused to give  
dope test', says NADA failed to respond to his query**

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) : Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist freestyle wrestler Bajrang Punia reiterated that he didn't refused to give dope test and it was NADA which failed to give answers to his query on sending expired kits for dope test. Punia has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for failing to provide a urine sample during the trials held in Sonipat on March 10. Following reports of his provisional suspension order, the wrestler clarified that he never "refused to give his sample" and requested NADA officials for a response about the expired kit which they had sent to collect my sample. The freestyle wrestler, who competes in the 65-kg weight category, on Friday reiterated his stance in a long post on 'X', and said NADA did not provide an answer to any of his communications, demanding an explanation on sending an expired testing kits, adding that he informed officials he would give his sample upon "receiving such explanation from them." "This is to clarify that, I have at no stage refused to give my sample for doping control. On 10 March

2024, when I was approached by alleged doping control officials, I merely reminded them that the last two times they came to collect my sample, they had gotten expired kits once and on the other instance, they had approached me with a single testing kit as opposed to the three testing kits," the post read. "I then sought an answer from them as the NADA did not provide an answer to any of my communications demanding an explanation for the same and informed them that I would give my sample upon receiving such explanation from them.

**'Chess training may look easy and  
cheap but it's expensive',  
Praggnanandhaa opens up about  
need for corporate support**

Ahmedabad, 10 May (IANS) : Indian chess Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa, who recently competed at the FIDE Candidates in Canada for the first time, stressed on the need for corporate sponsors in an sport of Chess where training may seem "easy and cheap" but in reality its "very expensive". Praggnanandhaa, who enter a long term sponsorship agreement with Adani Group earlier this year, is currently in Poland participating in the Rapid and Blitz tournament. Talking about his time in Canada, he said, "The experience was very good. It is a big tournament where the pressure is huge. In terms of the result, I played better than I scored. I must learn from what went wrong and focus on future tournaments." This preceded his maiden Grand Chess Tour, in what kickstarts a packed schedule for the Grandmaster.



**'If Dravid wants to re-apply, he can': BCCI to invite  
application for men's head coach position**

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) : The appointment process for the head coach of India's men's cricket team is set to begin in the coming week, confirmed Jay Shah, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary. Shah also said that current head coach Rahul Dravid can re-apply for the position if he wants to extend his tenure. "We will call for applications in the next few days. Rahul Dravid's tenure is coming to an

end in June. If he wants to reapply, he can," Shah said during an interaction at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai. "Other members of the coaching staff, such as batting, bowling, and fielding coaches, will be decided after consultation with the new coach." Dravid was handed a short-term extension till the T20 World Cup after his two-year contract expired at the end of India's loss in the final of the ODI World Cup last November. Shah also confirmed the new head coach will be offered to take charge till the ODI World Cup in 2027.

**'I had the intuition something good  
would happen': Khaleel on India comeback**

Bengaluru, May 10 (IANS) : Delhi Capitals (DC) pacer Khaleel Ahmed is delighted to be included in the Indian reserve list of the T20 World Cup squad 2024 after a splendid run in the IPL 2024, having picked up 14 wickets in 12 matches thus far. The left-arm pacer, who last played for India in December 2019, has made a well-deserved return to the national team.



**IPL 2024: 'For India's sake, you'd want  
Kohli's form to continue in T20 WC', says Kumble**

Dharamshala, May 10 (IANS) : Former India cricketer Anil Kumble heaped praise on Virat Kohli and expects the star Indian batter to continue his prime IPL form in the T20 World Cup as well. Kohli's scintillating 92 off 47 balls followed by a collective bowling effort helped RCB recorded a 60-run win over PBKS, their fifth win of the IPL 2024 after losing six games in a row.

Batting first, Bengaluru posted 241/7 before bowling Punjab out for 181 runs, earning their fourth win in a row. Kohli slammed seven fours and six sixes at a strike-rate of 195.74 in his vintage knock, which also took him past the 600-run mark in IPL 2024. "He's been in outstanding form. He had a break coming into this IPL and since then, he's been relentless in his pursuit of excellence. You could see that.



**'Contributing to the team's success  
gave immense satisfaction',  
says Haryana forward Shashi Khasa**

Ranchi, May 10 (IANS) : With four wins in regulation time and two wins in shootouts in their seven games, Haryana finished on top of the table in the National Women's Hockey League 2024 (Phase 1) with 16 points.

