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**T20 WC: 'Virat should open; Rohit bats at No.3', believes Ajay Jadeja**  
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**Hyundai Motor to raise stake in autonomous driving JV Motional in US**  
Hyundai Motor Group said on Friday that it will raise its stake in Motional, the group's autonomous driving joint venture in the United States, through a paid-in capital increase.... **07**



## Telangana HC sets aside BRS MLC's election

**Hyderabad, May 3 (IANS) :** In a setback to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the Telangana High Court on Friday set aside the election of its MLC Dande Vithal. Pronouncing the order on a petition filed by Congress leader P. Rajeshwar Reddy, the court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the BRS leader.

## Rahul Gandhi files nomination from Raebareli

**Raebareli (UP), May 3 (IANS) :** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday filed his nomination papers from the Raebareli Lok Sabha seat. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul's mother and Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, his sister Priyanka Gandhi, brother-in-law Robert Vadra. **Continued on pg 02**



## One more person planted in Raj Bhavan with sinister intent: Bengal Governor

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS) :** West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Friday claimed that one more person has been planted at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata with sinister intent. He said this a day after a complaint was filed at a local police station by a woman staff at Raj Bhavan accusing him of outraging her modesty. In an audio message released on Friday, the Governor claimed that Raj Bhavan received a confidential report that political forces.



## Telangana Congress promises SC Bench in Hyderabad, ITIR revival

**Hyderabad, May 3 (IANS) :** A Bench of the Supreme Court in Hyderabad, reemerging five Andhra Pradesh villages with Telangana and revival of the Information Technology and Investment Region (ITIR) project in Hyderabad, were some of the major promises made by the Congress party in its Telangana-specific manifesto released on Friday. All India Congress Committee (AICC) incharge for Telangana Deepa Dasmunsi released the manifesto along with Minister for Informa-

tion Technology and Industries, D. Sridhar Babu, who is also the Chairman of the Manifesto Committee, Advisor to state government Vem Narender Reddy and other leaders. The ruling party promised to implement the commitments made to Telangana in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act and 23 other promises made in the manifesto. Sridhar Babu said that the manifesto has been released keeping in view the requirements of the state. **Continued on pg 02**



## 'Daro mat, bhaago mat': PM Modi's stinging jibe at 'Shehzada', top Congress leadership

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, hours after he was fielded from Raebareli Lok Sabha constituency, the seat vacated by former Congress President Sonia Gandhi. Addressing a huge public gathering in West Bengal's Bardhaman, PM Modi chose Rahul's own words to taunt him for "dropping" Amethi as his traditional constituency and "switching" to Raebareli seat.

"Daro mat (Don't get afraid), bhaago mat (don't run away)," PM Modi said, in a sneering jibe at the Congress leader, drawing loud cheers from the crowd. He said that Congress' "Shehzada" is so scared that he ran away from Amethi to Raebareli and is now exploring opportunities there. In a further stinging jibe at the Congress top brass, the Prime Minister said that the party's biggest leader is so frightened of contesting elections that she has opted out of Lok Sabha elections and

found her way into Rajya Sabha via Rajasthan. He also claimed to have made a forecast for the same, earlier. "I had said earlier that Shehzada is facing defeat in Wayanad and soon after polling concludes there, he will start looking for third seat," he said. "Even Amethi looked unsafe for him. His associates and loyalists were hopeful of him contesting from there but he got so scared that he abandoned it and moved to Raebareli," he further added.

## SC may consider the question of grant of interim bail to CM Arvind Kejriwal next week

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Friday said that it may consider, on the next date of hearing, the question of grant of interim bail to incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case in view of

the ongoing general elections. Rising for the day and posting the matter for further hearing on Tuesday, a bench, headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, told Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the Enforcement Directorate (ED).



## PM Modi working for few chosen industrialists: Madhu Yashki

**Hyderabad, May 3 (NSS) :** Former MP and Chairman of TPCC Campaign Committee Madhu Yashki Goud has alleged that the Modi Tax is currently running in the country and the tax col-



## Congress and CPI are natural allies, says Uttam

**Hyderabad, May 3 (IANS) :** Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the collaboration between the Congress party and the Communist Party of India (CPI) in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections has garnered significant public support. Speaking at the district CPI meeting on Friday.



## MP elections will change people's future : Harish Rao

**Karimnagar, May 3 (NSS) :** Former minister & BRS party MLA from Siddipet T. Harish Rao today said the upcoming MP elections would change the future and destiny of Telangana. He alleged that people like Chandrababu Naidu were conspiring to make Hyderabad a common capital. "If they don't want their

games to go on, the BRS party should win. The Congress leaders are lying that out of the six guarantees, five were implemented so far," he alleged. Harish Rao made these comments while campaigning in support of Karimnagar BRS party candidate Vinod Kumar at Akkampet in Siddipet district.

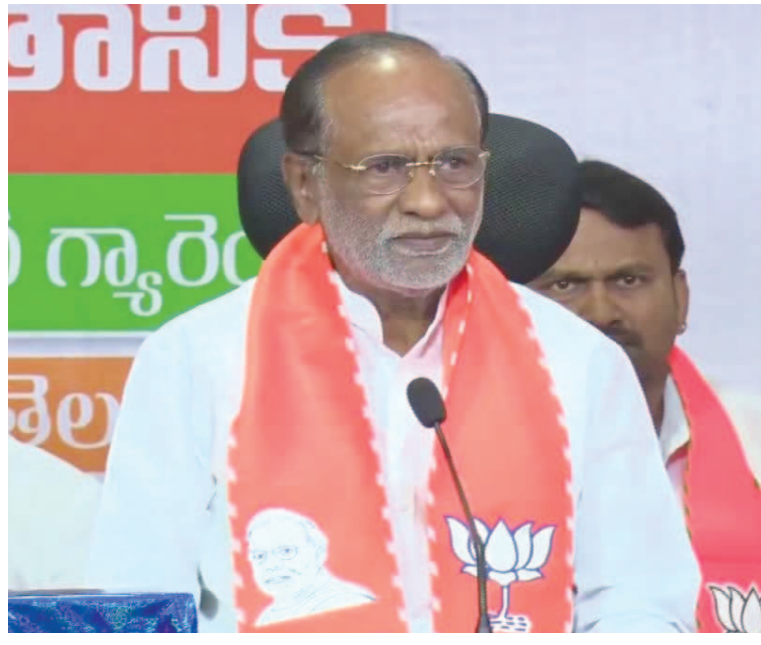




BJP MP Laxman slams CM Revanth

Hyderabad, May 3 (NSS): Targeting CMA. Revanth Reddy for his jibe at the BJP that it would score a donkey's egg in the upcoming MP elections, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Dr Lakshman today told the CM that he should remember about the egg of a snake. He alleged that the CM was lying a lot in order to win the upcoming elections and added that the CM was also creating clashes between the communities to win the MP elections at any cost. He alleged that Revanth Reddy,

who is the Chief Minister of the State, was doing such dirty politics. "The Congress is trying to create an atmosphere of confrontation by forming pro-and-anti-incumbency groups. Even though there will be no change in the matter of reservation, the CM was deliberately misleading the people of the State to win the MP seats. Revanth Reddy has repeatedly put forward the issue of reservation even though Prime Minister Narendra Modi said they would not cancel the reservations.



CM claims are ridiculous: former minister Talasani



Hyderabad, May 3 (NSS) : Former minister and Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav today said it was ridiculous for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress party leaders to announce that they were implementing five of the six guarantees promised to the people of the state. On Friday, he conducted a door-to-door campaign with Padmarao Goud, who is the BRS party candidate from Secunderabad Parliamentary constituency,

in Ameerpet division. Earlier, Talasani inaugurated the party office in Suprabhat Nagar. Later, he visited Ellamma Amma temple in Balkampet. From there, he campaigned extensively in BJR Nagar, Renuka Nagar, Balkampet and other areas. Speaking on the occasion, he said that they have the courage to ask the people for votes by telling them what they had done for the people and asked rival BJP and congress leaders whether they can tell what they did like them?

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -JUII DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, HYERABAD (DRT1) 3rd Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad 500001 DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 23 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 RC/159/2023 03-05-2024 IDBI Versus M S Laxmi Bagles and Ladies Emporium Mudhraganam To: (CD1) M S Laxmi Bagles and Ladies Emporium Mudhraganam Kalyani M Praveen Yadav D.No. 16 11 400 Mosarambath near MCH Ground old Malakpet Hyderabad 500036, D.No.16 11 400 Mosarambath Near MCH Groundold Malakpet, Hyderabad 500036 Hyderabad-0 (CD2) MRS Kalyani Mudhraganam W/o Mr M Praveen Yadav aged 46 years H.No.16 9 831 11 4 Sarojini Nagar Colony near MCH Ground Old Malakpet, Hyderabad 500036 Hyderabad, Telangana-0 (CD3) Mr M Praveen Yadav S/o Sri Mudhraganam Krishna aged 46 years H.No.16 9 831 11 4 Sarojini Nagar Colony near MCH Ground Old Malakpet Hyderabad 500036 Hyderabad, Telangana-0 This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, HYERABAD (DR -1) in OA/178/2022 an amount of Rs.52,86,576.60 (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six and Paise Sixty only) alongwith pendente lite and recovery interest @ (AS PER THE RECOVERY CERTIFICATE) % Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 30/05/2022 till realization and costs of Rs.85000/- (Rupees Eighty Five Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/fully/limited). 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 17/05/2024 at 10.30 a.m. for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, You will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All Costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date 03/05/2024. P.P. Recovery Officer Debits Recovery Tribunal, Hyderabad (DRT1)

Telangana Congress promises SC Bench in Hyderabad, ITIR revival

Continued From pg 01 He said once the Congress comes to power at the Centre, all the promises would be fulfilled. The party promised to set up a rail coach factory at Kazipet, Bayyaram steel plant, mining university, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Hyderabad and a rapid railway system beside the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway as committed in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. Five villages around Bhadrachalam, which were merged with Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation of the state in 2014 will be merged with Telangana state in order to develop Bhadrachalam Sri Rama temple. These villages were part of seven mandals which were transferred to Andhra Pradesh by the BJP-led NDA Government to facilitate construction of the Polavaram project by Andhra Pradesh across Godavari River. The Congress has promised to revive the ITIR project in Hyderabad. The project was approved by the Congress-led UPA Government but was later scrapped by the NDA Government. Sridhar Babu said this project would generate employment for lakhs of youngsters. He believes that the

project would change the face of Telangana with the huge investments that the state would attract. Other major promises include National Project status to Palamuru-Rangareddy, a regional office of the NITI Aayog in Hyderabad, establishment of new airports, Ramagundam-Manuguru railway lane, four new Sainik schools, increasing number of Kendriya Vidyalayas, doubling of Navodaya schools, National Sports University, establishment of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), establishment of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), establishment of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and establishment of the National Aviation University. The manifesto also promised transfer of central funds directly to gram panchayats as per the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Indian Constitution.



Jaggareddy takes out a massive bike rally at Narsapur

Medak, May 3 (NSS): TPCC working president Jaggareddy organised a massive bike rally in Narsapur town in support of Congress Medak Lok Sabha candidate Neelam Madhu. Congress activists and local leaders in large numbers took part in the bike rally. Former MLA Madan Reddy and senior leader Raji Reddy were also present in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Jaggareddy said the Congress government in Telangana was implementing all what it had promised during the Assembly elections and was providing justice to all sections of the people. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Congress government.

Online cricket betting racket busted

Hyderabad, May 3 (NSS): Online cricket betting (IPL-2024) racket busted by SOT, LB nagar zone team along with LB nagar police. On a tip-off, the sleuths busted a cricket betting racket and seized Rs.20 lakh cash from four men, while freezing Rs.3,85,000/- in bank account. A case in Cr. No. 531/2024 U/s. 3 & 4 of TS Gaming Act of LB nagar PS of Rachakonda was registered. The accused were identified as Thondalappally Karthik Reddy, of RKR Colony, Hasthinapuram, Kashireddy. Abhishek Reddy residing at Plot No. 106, Road No 3, Nirmala Nagar Colony, Karmanghat (Punter), Pathakota Yadagiri of Plot No. 2, Jyothi Nagar Colony,

Karmanghat Saroor Nagar, Myaka Rajavardhan Reddy of Vaishali Nagar, Post office street, Champapet, Praveen of Nagole absconding; Chaitanya of Khammam absconding, Manoj of Rajasthan State absconding, Sandeep Reddy of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh absconding. The sleuths seized net cash Rs 20,00,000 (from K. Abhishek Reddy) Account freezing amount Rs 3,85,000 ICICI Bank A/c Kotta Dayanand Reddy, this account used by Karthik Reddy, five Mobile Phones. Total seized amount is Rs 23,85,000. On May 2, acting on a tip-off, the SOT of LB Nagar Zone along with LB Nagar Law & Order police jointly nabbed the sub-bookie.

MEGA E-AUCTION 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) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price, the Earnest Money Deposit and Bid Increments are also mentioned hereunder: Date & Time of E-Auction: 29.05.2024 & From 12.00 PM to 05.00 PM (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extensions) 1. BORROWER: 1. Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applliant and Guarantor 1. M/s. Kanakadhara Ventures Pvt Ltd. Represented by liquidator- Mr. Rajesh Chilkote, H.No.8-3-1141/1, Keshav Nagar, Sinagar Colony, Hyderabad-500073. 2. Mr. P Venkateswara Rao, S/o P Venkatappaiah, H.No.6-2-10, Flat No. 402, Temple View Residency, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad-500004. 3. Mr. B.V.Subba Rao, S/o Kollam Setty, H.No.11-5-413, Flat No. 302, Bhavasya Krishna Residency, Red Hills, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad-500004. 4. Mr. A.Ramesh Babu, S/o A.Ramachandrarath Shetty, H.No. 3-4-483/2, Flat No.402, Sri Venkata Anusayasy Apts., Srinikunj, Barkatpura, Hyderabad 500027. 5. Mr. G.Malliah, S/o Late Buchaiiah, H.No.16-2-751/C/4/A/116, Tirumala Hills, Ward 16, Circle 1, Asmangadh, Hyderabad-500036. 6. Mr. N.Anji Reddy, S/o Bangaru Reddy Nalamalapu, H.No.13-1-101/601, Beside E Seva Moti Nagar, Hyderabad-500018. 7. Mr. K.Suresh Babu, S/o K.Subbarayudu, Flat No.401, 8-4-369 Kanakadhara Mayfair Residency, Erragadda, Hyderabad-500018. 8. Mr. T.Srinivas, S/o Subrahmanya Sethu, Flat No. 301, H.No.8-4-369/3, Kanakadhara Mayfair Residency, Erragadda, Hyderabad-500018. 9. Legal heirs of Late Mr. Ch.Krishna, S/o Chinniah, 6-3-831/C, Ameerpet, Shanti Nagar, Hyderabad-500036. 10. Mr. B.Prasad Reddy, S/o Lakshminarayana Reddy, 5-1263, Dorasanihalli Road, Proddutur, Cuddapah, 11. Mr. S.Ramesh Babu, S/o Sri Venkatasubbaiah, 13-1-101/601, Beside E seva Moti Nagar, Hyderabad-500018. 12. Mrs. G.Dhanalakshmi, W/o Malliah, 16-2-751/C/4/A/116, Tirumala Hills, Ward 16, Circle 1, Asmangadh, Hyderabad-500036. 13. Mr. Susheel Kumar Bansal, S/o Satyanarayan Bansal, 2-3-540/13 & 14, DV Colony, Minister Road, Hyderabad-500003. 14. Mr. Ram Nivas Singhal, S/o Shivlal Singhal, 2-3-551/16, DV Colony, Hyderabad-500003. 15. Mrs. P.Naga Lakshmi, W/o Venkateswar Rao, H.No.6-2-10, Flat Bi, 402, Temple View Residency, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad-500004. 16. Mr. Vishnu Agarwal, S/o Late Kishan Agarwal, 1-8-215/30, PG Road, Sindhi Colony, Secunderabad-500003. 17. Mrs. B.Haritha Rao, W/o B.V.Subba Rao, H.No. 11-5-413, Flat No. 302, Bhavasya Krishna Residency, Red Hills, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad-500004. 18. Sri Shyam Sunder Bansal S/o Sathyanarayana, R/o. H.No.2-3-540/13/14, Devi Colony, Minister Road, Secunderabad-500003. Amount Due: Rs.1,60,73,22,211.00 (Rupees One Hundred Sixty Crores Seventy Three Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Eleven Only) as on 31.03.2024 with subsequent interest, charges and costs thereon. (As per demand notice dated 09.07.2014, the outstanding dues Rs.22,64,56,862.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Crores Sixty Four Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two Only) as on 22.05.2019 with subsequent interest, charges and costs thereon). DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Flat No.402, admeasuring 1565.00 Sft plinth area (inclusive of common area) along with 60.0 Sq.Yds. or 50.16 Sq.Meters of undivided share of land out of 2400.00 Sq.Yds. of house bearing No.H.No.6-2-10, (Old: F-10-10) Temple View Residency, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad belonging to Mrs. P.Naga Lakshmi w/o Venkateswara Rao. Bounded by: North: H.No.6-2-12, East: Railway Track, South: H.No.6-2-9, West: H.No.6-2-11 & 40 ft Road. GPS Coordinates: 17.404585 78.462354 Type of Possession: Symbolic Possession (Property description as specified in the 718/99 Deed dated 03.06.1999) Reserve Price: Rs. 1,21,71,000/- EMD: Rs. 12,17,100/- Bid Increment Amount: Rs.150,000.00 2) Borrower: M/s. Haritha Fertilizers Ltd., rep. by its Managing Director Mrs. P.Aruna Kumari, Regd. Office: 8-3-988/34/71, Jain Marble Lane, Near Satyasai Nigamanga, Sinagar Colony, Hyderabad-500073. Plant Address: Unit 1: Sy 146, 147 & 148 at Ankreddyally (Village), Keerasa Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, 501301. Unit 2: Sy.No.744, 750 to 757 at Damarcherla, Village, Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana-508355. Directors/Co-obligants/Guarantors/ Mortgagees: Mrs. Pochimareddy Aruna Kumari, W/o. Mr.P.Ravindranath Reddy, H.No.1/1491-1, Smith Road, Cuddapah, A.P-516001. Mr. Narayula Gangi Reddy, S/o. Gangi Reddy, H.No.7-1-3/BG-7, Daddapah, A.P-516001. Mrs. Navya Teja Rajamreddy, W/o. Mr. P.N.Ram Ramanujula Reddy, H.No.5-157-1B, RV Nagar, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh-516001. Mr. Vennapusa Ram Reddy, S/o. Mr. V.Gangi Reddy, H.No.5/157-1B, RV Nagar, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh-516001. Mr. P.N.Ram Ramanujula Reddy, H.No.5/157-1B, RV Nagar, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh-516001. Mr. Pochimareddy Ravindranath Reddy, S/o. Mr. P.Ramanujula Reddy, H.No. 1/1491-1, Smith Road, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh-516001. Mrs. P.Padmavathy, W/o. Mr. P.Chandra Pratap

The right to vote should be exercised in the postal ballot : Anurag Jayanthi. Rajanna Sirisilla, May 3 (TIM Bureau) : Collector Anurag Jayanthi called upon all the employees attending the Lok Sabha election duties to exercise their right to vote through postal ballot. On this occasion, District Collector and District Election Officer Anurag Jayanthi said that as part of the Lok Sabha elections, facilitation centers have been set up at the new library building in Vemulawada and Zilla Parishad High School in Sirisilla Geeta Nagar for the use of postal ballot. The collector said that 744 election personnel will exercise their right to vote through postal ballot in the district and they will be given an opportunity to exercise their right to vote through postal ballot from 3rd to 8th of this month. Collector Anurag Jayanthi suggested that those exercising the right to vote through postal ballot should bring any one of the 12 types of photo identity cards with them. Collector inspecting Sirisilla felicitated centre. "Collector Anurag Jayanthi on Friday inspected the facilitation center set up at the Zilla Parishad High School in Sirisilla Geeta Nagar for the use of postal ballot as part of the Lok Sabha elections. "Additional Collector, Sirisilla ARO Pujari Gauthami, Sirisilla RDO Ramesh, D.W.O Lakshmirajam, Sirisilla Tehsildar Sharif Mohinuddin and others participated in the field inspection.

VIJAYANAGAR COLONY BRANCH: Vijayanagar Colony, No.10/3/677, Opp. Post Office, Hyderabad-500057. ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE In view of the default committed by the Borrowers mentioned below, Bank has repossessed/ seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation Agreement executed by the parties and same is being auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". Table with columns: Sr., Name & Address of the Borrower/ Loan A/c No., Amount Due, Description of the Vehicle, Reserve Price, EMD. Includes details for Mr. Nadeem Ghor, S/o. Mr. Wajid Ghor, H.No.22-1-691/11B, Noorkhan Bazar, Charminar, Hyderabad. A/C No.: 75540600001136. Reserve Price: Rs.10,41,939/-. Total Dues: Rs.10,41,939/- Together with further interest thereon at contractual rate due from 31-03-2021 + Legal and other expenses. (Less Recovery if any). Reg. No: TS 07 BKTR2079 Chassis No: MALFC81DLLM152296L Engine No: D4FALM110477 Model: VENUE 1.5 CRDI MT S BSVI DIESEL Colour: DEBIN BLUE MFG Month/Year: 09/11/2020 Minimum Bid Increase Amount: Rs.5,000/- (Five Thousand Only). A/C Name: New Intermediary Account, A/C No.: 75540015181219, IFSC Code: BARB0VJCHY (Fifth letter- ZERO), Name of Bank & Branch: BANK OF BARODA, Vijayanagar Colony Branch. Vehicle Auction through Online mode: https://bob.auctiontiger.net/ Date/ Day/ Time of E-Auction: 04.06.2024, Tuesday, 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM Last date of submission of Bid: 03.06.2024, Tuesday, before 4.00 P.M. The intending purchasers' bidders may inspect the Vehicle on 24.05.2024 during the time 10.30 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. (At parking Yard: Sri Sai Ram Parking Yard, Opp. SBI, Beside Amma Hospital, Sagar Road, Hatnapuram, Hyderabad-500068). For online Auction process please contact the Authorized Officer on Tel No.7623886388/ 7981699637. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E AUCTION SALE: 1) Bank of Baroda reserves the right to accept/ reject any or all of the offer(s) or Bid (s) so received without assigning any reason thereof. 2) Bank of Baroda reserves the right to accept/ reject/ Postpone/ Cancel the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof. 3) To the best of knowledge and inform of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the vehicle. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of vehicle & to inspect & satisfy themselves. (FOR DETAILED TERM AND CONDITIONS PLEASE REFER TO https://bob.auctiontiger.net/) Date: 03.05.2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Rahul Gandhi files nomination from Raebareli. Continued From pg 01 former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, AICC general secretary K C Venugopala and a host of Congress leaders from UP, were present on the occasion. Congress workers and Samajwadi Party workers turned out in full force to welcome Rahul to Raebareli. The workers of both parties that are a part of the INDIA bloc, loudly cheered Gandhi and shouted slogans People showered petals on the leaders.



## After quitting Congress, ex-Punjab MLA Dalvir Singh Goldy joins AAP

**Chandigarh, May 3 (IANS) :** A day after quitting the Congress, former legislator Dalvir Singh Goldy, who unsuccessfully contested against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in the 2022 Assembly polls, joined the AAP on Friday. Goldy, who resigned from the Congress after he expressed his "displeasure" over the denial of a party ticket from the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat, joined the AAP in the presence of CM Mann here. Welcoming Goldy into the party fold, CM Mann, who won the Dhuri seat with a margin of 58,206 votes in 2002, called him his "younger brother" and a "hardworking youth". "I have always believed that youngsters should be allowed to come forward in politics and be the harbingers of change. But

Goldy was ignored in the Congress. I am inducting him in the party as my younger brother," the Chief Minister said. AAP has fielded Cabinet Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer from the Sangrur parliamentary seat, while the Congress candidate is Sukhpal Khaira, a legislator and AAP rebel. Responding to Khaira's allegations that Goldy was under pressure from the Vigilance Bureau to join AAP, CM Mann said, "Khaira has already switched parties so many times and has no business to make such baseless allegations. It is the BJP that used government agencies to settle scores or scare opposition leaders." "If there are allegations against Goldy, we would have initiated action and not got him here. There are no allegations against



him," the Chief Minister said, adding, "He was told by party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal that AAP must look for good and promising candidates from other parties, who were feeling ignored, and induct them into AAP". In the 2017 Assembly polls, Goldy defeated AAP's Jasvir Singh Jassi Sekhon by a slender margin of 2,811 votes. The Dhuri Assembly constituency falls in the Sangrur parliamentary seat that commedia-turned-politician Mann is representing.

## Kunal Ghosh attacks Derek O'Brien for issuing statement announcing his removal from key Trinamool post

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS) :** Soon after his removal as the state General Secretary of the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, Kunal Ghosh on Friday launched a scathing attack against the party's national spokesperson Derek O'Brien over a statement issued by the latter announcing the decision to remove Ghosh from the post. Speaking to the media, Ghosh described O'Brien as a "quiz master".



"I have one question for the quiz master. What is the justification of such a statement when it was me who wanted to be relieved from the two posts of General Secretary and spokesperson much earlier," he said, adding that no communication regarding his removal was made to him by the party leadership. Till recently, Ghosh was also the state spokesman of the party. However, he resigned from the post but continued as the state General Secretary.



## On Gujarat Foundation Day, BJP's Kheda candidate slams Cong's legacy, nepotism

**Kheda, May 3 (IANS) :** On the occasion of Gujarat's 64th Foundation Day, Devusinh Chauhan, the Lok Sabha candidate from Kheda, addressed the Enlightened Citizens' Conference and slammed the Congress. Reflecting on the state's journey since its establishment in 1960, Chauhan criticised the "historical governance challenges attributed to the Congress party," which he described as "marred by injustice and nepotism." Chauhan highlighted the "substantial progress Gujarat has made over the decades, despite the struggles and political hindrances that have historically plagued the state." He emphasised the "transformation seen in both Gujarat and the entire nation, particularly pointing out the changes since 2004, with a specific focus on the years of dependency between 2004 and 2014 under previous administrations." The Lok Sabha candidate also discussed the "significance of

Gujarat in the global context, noting the state's role in the recent G20 meetings held in Delhi and the broader implications for India on the world stage." He mentioned the completion of the Lord Ram temple, which he tied to a broader narrative of cultural resurgence and national pride under the current government. As the conversation approached the upcoming elections, Chauhan urged the audience to exercise their right to vote, drawing a symbolic parallel to adorning Lord Ram's forehead with a 'tilak'. He stressed the importance of voting as a pivotal act of civic duty that shapes the nation's future. Chauhan's political journey in this region began with a victory in the 2014 General Election, where he secured the seat as a BJP candidate. His continued success was evident in the 2019 elections, where he won with an overwhelming margin of 367,145 votes, obtaining 714,572 votes, which constituted 65 per cent of the vote share.

## Bomb threat at schools: Delhi L-G seeks report from Police Commissioner

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has sought a report from the Police Commissioner following bomb threat emails to several schools in the national capital. "Spoke to the Police Commissioner and sought a detailed report into the bomb threats at schools in Delhi-NCR. Directed Delhi Police to carry out a thorough search in school premises, identify the culprits & ensure there are no lapses," said Saxena on X. Earlier, Delhi Education Minister Atishi said that so far

nothing has been found in any of the schools. "Some schools have received bomb threats today morning. Students have been evacuated and those premises are being searched by Delhi Police. So far nothing has been found in any of the schools," the minister said on X. "We are in constant touch with the police and the schools. Would request parents and citizens not to panic. School authorities will be in touch with parents wherever needed," Atishi tweeted. Multiple schools in the national capital, including DPS Dwarka, BGS International School,



Sanskriti School, Indian School, St Thomas School and Amity School in Pushp Vihar, faced a chilling bomb threat via email on Wednesday. Following the bomb threat, some of the schools informed parents that the schools would be closed on Wednesday, while others sent children home after receiving the email.



## Shiv Sena nominates Dr Shinde from Kalyan, Mhaske from Thane

**Mumbai, May 3 (IANS) :** The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has formally announced the nominations of Dr Shrikant Shinde from Kalyan and Naresh Mhaske from Thane constituencies. Dr Shinde's nomination was earlier unilaterally declared by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis but on Friday the formal announcement was made by the Shiv Sena. Dr Shinde, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's son, was elected in 2014 and 2019 elections as the nominee of the Shiv Sena (United), and hopes to score a hat-trick in Kalyan. He has been pitted against the Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Vaishali Darekar who was earlier associated with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). After Dy CM Fadnavis' announcement, Dr Shinde had started his campaign. It was only after intervention by Dy CM Fadnavis and the Public Works Minister Ravindra Chavan that BJP

cadres came on board as they were initially reluctant to work for CM Shinde's son. Further, after unconditional support by MNS chief Raj Thackeray to the Mahayuti, the lone MNS legislator Raju Patil is also now campaigning for Dr Shinde. Patil had earlier raised objections against Dr Shinde's style of functioning. As far as the Thane seat is concerned, Shinde had made it a prestige issue as Thane is his home turf. The Shiv Sena has fielded Naresh Mhaske who is the former Thane Mayor and was among the few who left Uddhav Thackeray and joined Shinde after the split in the party in June 2022. Mhaske will take on Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee and sitting MP Rajan Vichare. The BJP had also staked its claim on the Thane seat as the names of party leaders Sanjay Kelkar, former MP Sanjeev Naik and former MP Vinayak Sahasrabudhe were doing the rounds.

## Delhi: Students stage demonstration against Cong's wealth redistribution pitch

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** A group of students staged demonstration in the national capital on Friday, against Congress' wealth redistribution promise and also its idea on inheritance tax law. Students organised a march outside the Congress office here and lodged a protest against the wealth re-distribution, as proposed by its top leaders. While hundreds of students marched on the streets, they shouted slogans like 'Youth for Viksit Bharat' and 'nahi chlaegi, Congress ki manmani nahin chalegi.' The youths also carried a medley of placards to show their disapproval of Congress' ideas on wealth re-distribution and inheritance tax. One of the woman protesters said, "Wealth redistribution is an oppressive move for women as they will tend to lose in this process", while another called it "Congress diktat to further its ulterior motives". Many voiced strong concern over the "proposed seizure of their hard-earned money and re-distribution to weaker sections" if the inheritance tax was made into a law. Notably, the idea of inheritance tax was introduced by Sam Pitroda, a senior Congressman and close aide of the Gandhi family.



## Resignations of Lovely, Naseeb and Basoya indicate Congress high command's disconnect with ground reality

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** The resignations of two Congress functionaries, Naseeb Singh and Neeraj Basoya, from the primary membership of the party, following closely on the heels of Delhi Congress President Arvinder Singh Lovely's departure over the "humiliating" alliance with Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), come as yet another reminder that the grand old party's central leadership is cut off from the ground realities, and the feelings and sentiments of its hard-core workers. Both Singh and Basoya were Congress elec-

tion observers for the North-West Delhi and West Delhi Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively. Though their resignation letters are addressed to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, it's easy to guess who they are meant for, the actual decision-makers. Their letters express the deep anguish of the ordinary Congress workers and sympathisers, underlining the drift and disconnect of the Gandhi family and those around them calling the shots. Singh and Basoya's letters also provide insight into the humiliation experienced by the Congress workers daily, especially in the context of the alliance with the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The reference to an AAP candidate mocking them as "4 per cent vote party" underscores the indignity and ridicule faced by the Congress workers on multiple counts, almost on a daily basis. This perceived lack of respect and recognition further exacerbates the sense of alienation and disenchantment among the party members. The spate of resignations by important Congress leaders across the country since the time Rahul Gandhi began his long winding "Nafrat ke Bazaar mein Mohabbat Ki Dukan" two-phased Bharat Jodo Yatra, from "east to west" and "south to



north", only proves that there were no takers for 'Dukan' even within his own party's rank and file. Significantly, Rahul Gandhi's attempt to rejuvenate the Congress' electoral prospects through his nationwide tour appears to have fallen short of expectations, as evidenced by the lack of support within his own party's rank and file.

## PM Modi-led govt saved people during pandemic : Union Minister Anurag Thakur

**Basti (Uttar Pradesh), May 3 (IANS) :** Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Thakur, said on Friday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has saved the people of the country from starvation and epidemic while the Congress wants to divide the country into pieces and was making false claims vaccination and spreading rumours. Addressing a public meeting after the nomination of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate and sitting MP Harish Dwivedi, the Union Minister said that

during the pandemic, when the people of the country were in trouble, PM Modi-led government had done the work of serving grains in the plates of the poor, which is continuing till now.





OPINIONmail



Members of the divided YSR family hit campaign trail in Kadapa

The YSR family, which has seen a vertical split along political lines, has hit the campaign trail in the family stronghold of Kadapa. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's wife YS Bharati and his sister YS Sharmila Reddy's husband Anil Kumar joined the campaign for their spouses. While entrepreneur Bharati is reaching out to voters in Pulivendula Assembly constituency, where YSR Congress chief Jagan Mohan Reddy is seeking re-election for a third-consecutive term, Anil Kumar is canvassing in Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency in support of his wife and state Congress President Sharmila Reddy. Sharmila Reddy is taking on her cousin and sitting MP from Kadapa, YS Avinash Reddy of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Unlike in the past, when the entire YSR family used to stand united, the family is split right down the middle now. Sharmila Reddy's campaign is being backed by her cousin YS Suneetha Reddy, daughter of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy, who was murdered just before the 2019 elections. The poll battle centres around allegations against Avinash Reddy over his alleged involvement in Vivekananda Reddy's murder. With the CBI naming Avinash as an accused in the case, Sharmila and Suneetha have vowed to stop him from entering Parliament again.

They are also training their guns on Jagan Mohan Reddy for fielding Avinash once again despite him being an accused in the case. The home district of the YSR family is witnessing a no-holds-barred fight between the siblings. Sharmila Reddy has been accusing her brother of shielding a murder accused and promoting politics of murder. On the other hand, Jagan Mohan Reddy has accused the Opposition of involving his two sisters in orchestrating conspiracies against him. At a rally in Pulivendula, Jagan accused them of playing into the hands of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Certain remarks by Jagan on Sharmila wearing a yellow saree (the colour of the TDP's flag) while meeting Naidu triggered a storm as she questioned if he should have commented on sister's attire in front of thousands of people. One key figure missing from this acrimonious fight between the siblings is their mother YS Vijayamma. She along with Sharmila was active in backing Jagan when he was in jail in a Disproportionate Assets case. Vijayamma as the honorary president of YSRCP had also campaigned actively for the party in 2014 and 2019 elections. She resigned from the post in 2022 to stand with her daughter.

The cracks appeared in the YSR family in 2020 after the CBI took up investigation into the murder of Vivekananda Reddy, following direction of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on a petition by Suneetha Reddy, who raised suspicions about the role of some relatives. Fighting for justice for the last five years, Suneetha is now publicly posing some embarrassing questions to Jagan. She wants to know why he withdrew the petition for a CBI enquiry after becoming the Chief Minister. The CBI claimed that there was a conspiracy to kill Vivekananda Reddy as he was not in favour of YSRCP fielding Avinash Reddy as the candidate from Kadapa Lok Sabha seat. Vivekananda Reddy reportedly wanted Jagan Mohan Reddy to field Sharmila or mother Vijayamma as the party candidate. Avinash Reddy, who was elected from Kadapa in 2014 and 2019, denied his involvement in his uncle's murder. Jagan has given a clean chit to Avinash Reddy. "He has done nothing wrong and that's why I have given him a ticket once again," the Chief Minister told a public meeting in Pulivendula. The YSRCP chief also remarked that God and people of Pulivendula know who orchestrated the murder. "People are witnessing who sent my two sisters to discredit us and who is backing them. What's even more surprising is that the murderer unabashedly confesses to the crime and openly discusses it with the public, with supporters rallying behind him. You all bear witness to this," he said. Though he did not name anybody, it is believed that he is pointing fingers at the TDP, which was ruling the state when Vivekananda Reddy was murdered. With Jagan locked in a tight fight against the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance and campaigning across the state, his wife chipped in to campaign for him in Pulivendula.

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail



Women who excelled in other fields before taking to politics

They are now well entrenched in politics and have even made a name for themselves. However, these women candidates did not begin their careers in politics but joined politics after making a name for themselves in other fields. Smriti Irani, Union minister and one of BJP's strongest women leaders, is contesting the Amethi seat. She hit the headlines in 2019 when she defeated the then Congress president Rahul Gandhi in Amethi, known as a Congress bastion. Smriti Irani, however, came into politics after rising to the top in the entertainment

world where she played the lead in a television blockbuster 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' that ran on TV from 2000 to 2008 and became a national addiction. Kajal Nishad, the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate in Gorakhpur, is also from the entertainment industry. She has acted in a number of TV series and Bhojpuri films but is best known for her character Chameli in the SAB TV comedy soap Lapataganj (2009-2010) and Bhojpuri film 'Shaadi Biyah'. She unsuccessfully contested the mayoral polls in Gorakhpur last year. Kajal Nishad hit a rough patch earlier this month when she suf-

fered a heart attack while campaigning. She was hospitalised but is now back to campaigning. Annu Tandon, the Samajwadi Party candidate from Unnao Lok Sabha seat, comes from a corporate background. She won the Unnao seat in 2009 on a Congress ticket but later moved to the Samajwadi Party. She is known for the social work she has done in her constituency.



Case filed against independent candidate in Rajasthan's Barmer LS seat

A case has been registered against an independent candidate from Barmer Lok Sabha seat, Ravindra Singh Bhati, in Rajasthan for violating section 144, creating hurdles in the government's work and blocking the highway, confirmed officials. Ravindra Singh Bhati is an MLA from Sheo Assembly constituency and is contesting Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate. The case was registered at the Pachpadra police station on Monday. Police inspector Amra Ram Khokhar confirmed that a case has been registered against Bhati and 32 people. CID-CB will investigate the case, he added.

RAFAH BECOMES A BREAK OR MAKE PROPOSITION FOR EMBATTLED NETANYAHU'S FUTURE

An Israeli ground offensive in the southern Gaza enclave of Rafah is a question of when, not if. Not because Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is oblivious to US and international pressure but because it could prove to be make or break for Israel's embattled leader. Netanyahu has promised "total victory" in the Gaza war and to "finish the job" in Rafah. The stakes for Netanyahu could not be higher. The assault on Rafah, home to more than a million Palestinians displaced by the war, could determine whether and to what degree Israel's military achieves Netanyahu's three war goals. Israel suspects that Hamas'

top Gaza-based leaders, including Yahya Sinwar, Israel's most wanted man, are hiding in tunnels under Gaza, shielded by the surviving Hamas-held Israeli and foreign national hostages. Hamas and other Palestinians abducted 250 people during the group's October 7 attack. Hamas released more than 100 of the captives in November in a Qatar-mediated exchange for 240 Palestinians incarcerated in Israel. An unknown number of the remaining hostages were since killed in the fighting. Netanyahu has vowed to prosecute war until Israeli forces have destroyed Hamas, freed Hamas-held Israeli and foreign national hostages, and ensured that Gaza no longer is a launching pad for Palestinian resistance. At first glance, things do not look



good for the Israeli leader. Despite its devastating human and physical cost, Israel's effort to destroy Hamas has a whack-a-mole aspect. Even though Israel asserts it has killed 13,000 of Hamas's estimated 40,000 fighters and wounded or captured thousands more, Hamas retains a presence in swaths of Gaza. It has been able to re-establish itself, to varying degrees, in areas Israel says it has largely cleansed of Hamas militants and other

armed Palestinian groups. Similarly, seven months into the war, Israel has killed only one of Hamas' most senior Gaza-based leaders, Marwan Issa, the deputy head of the group's military wing. Finally, despite Netanyahu's assertions that military force is needed to free hostages, the fact is that the vast majority of released captives were liberated as the result of negotiations and part of a ceasefire. (IPA Service)

BJP'S ELECTION MANIFESTO FOR 2024 LOK SABHA HAS SPECIAL FOCUS ON SOUTH INDIAN STATES

The central leadership of BJP including the party's think tanks spent a lot of days in imparting some new dimensions to the election manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha. The Sankalp Patra moved beyond traditional ideological promises to embrace new objectives like infrastructure development and enhanced service deliveries. There were cultural promises too, including plans to establish centres across the world in the name of Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, promote the classical Tamil languages, and organize Ramayan festival globally. Notably, absent was any mention of the controversial

national register of citizens, though the party reiterated its commitment to implanting a uniform civil code and 'one nation, one poll'. Unlike, the previous two Lok Sabha elections where focus was on north India, the battle hottest this season is in the South. Both the BJP and the Congress want to win more than more 50 of the 130 seats from the region. It is an ideological battle. While the BJP accuses the Congress and its allies of insulting regional and cultural symbols, the opposition says it wants to save the Constitution and accuses the Centre of misusing investigating agencies. To counter this, the BJP chose Ambedkar's birth anniversary to release its manifesto. "Prime Minister Modi has given a commitment that the Constitution is our sacred book and we will safeguard it", said BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh. While BJP manifesto promises to scale up existing schemes and push for infrastructure — a template that resonates more in the South—the Congress has taken a more populist route to woo the electorate.



Muslim cleric accuses SP of selling minority votes, calls for boycott

Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi, National President of the All India Muslim Jamaat, has alleged that SP was "selling minority votes". He called upon the community to "boycott" SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and his party, and vote either for the BSP or press NOTA. The cleric said, "Akhilesh never stood by us and did not give proper respect to our leaders."





### Israel denounces Colombia for breaking diplomatic ties

**Jerusalem, May 3 (IANS) :** Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz has denounced Colombian President Gustavo Petro for deciding to break diplomatic ties with Israel over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Katz accused Petro on Friday on social media platform X of being "a hateful anti-Semite". "Relations between Israel and Colombia have always been warm," Katz wrote, adding that Petro "won't be able to change that". Earlier on Thursday, Petro said in a public speech in Bogota, "Tomorrow we will break diplomatic relations with the state of Israel... for having a government, for having a President who is genocidal."

### Hamas not for temporary ceasefire, wants permanent end to war

**Tel Aviv, May 3 (IANS) :** As the indirect mediatory talks between Hamas and Israel are progressing in Cairo, Hamas has expressed concern at temporary ceasefire and have informed the mediators that it wants a permanent end to the war. According to Egyptian sources, Hamas have informed them that they want a total end to the war and rehabilitation of Palestinians who are displaced from north Gaza to southern Gaza region after the war broke out. Sources in Israel's

Prime Minister's Office told IANS that they have received information that Hamas is not inclined for a temporary ceasefire. Mediators had pushed for a six-week ceasefire and releasing a minimum of 33 Israeli hostages in exchange of around 600 Palestinian prisoners in Israel's jails. The Israeli officials said that they came down from their demands based on the request from the mediating nations including Qatar and Egypt. Prime Minister of Israel.



### US imposes further sanctions against Russia

**Washington, May 3 (IANS/DPA) :** The US government is targeting Russia's weapons production with new sanctions, the US Treasury Department said. Nearly 200 companies and 80 individuals in third countries such as China, Belgium, and Slovakia, which allegedly support Russia in the procurement of materials for its weapons programme, are affected, it added on Friday.

The sanctions are also aimed at Russia's production of chemical and biological weapons. "Today's actions will further disrupt and degrade Russia's war efforts by going after its military-industrial base and the evasion networks that help supply it," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said. On Friday, the US State Department accused Moscow of using various irritant gases during its all-out war against Ukraine, which

violates the United Nations' Chemical Weapons Convention. Three people who are reportedly linked to the death of Alexei Navalny are also being sanctioned. The Kremlin critic died in Russian custody in February. Navalny, a long-standing and staunch opponent of Putin, died in a prison camp in the Arctic Circle in Siberia in February. It has not been independently established whether the 47-year-old died naturally, as his death certificate says. However, his supporters say he was murdered. As a result of the new sanctions, any assets of those affected in the US will be frozen. US citizens or people who are in the US are prohibited from doing business with sanctioned companies and individuals. The sanctions also make international business much more difficult for those affected.

### Egyptian, French FMs discuss Gaza developments, truce proposal

**Cairo, May 3 (IANS) :** Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and visiting French counterpart Stephane Sejourne met here to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip and an Egypt-brokered ceasefire proposed for the enclave. The two Ministers briefed each other on the indirect truce talks between the Gaza-ruling Palestinian faction Hamas and Israel over reaching a ceasefire in Gaza and swap of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Friday in a statement.

Shoukry said that Egypt has put forward "implementable" truce proposals to both parties, who are expected to show "necessary flexibility" to realise an agreement that would spare Palestinians bloodshed, Xinhua news agency reported. For his part, Sejourne said France is willing to support Arab efforts for settling the Palestinian issue, according to the statement. He highlighted France's efforts to contain escalation between Israel and Lebanon on their borders, stressing that the potential truce in Gaza has to be accompanied by a similar truce in Lebanon, according to the Ministry's



statement. Shoukry and Sejourne reaffirmed their absolute rejection of any Israeli attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause by displacing Palestinians outside the Gaza Strip. The two Ministers agreed to completely reject any ground mili-

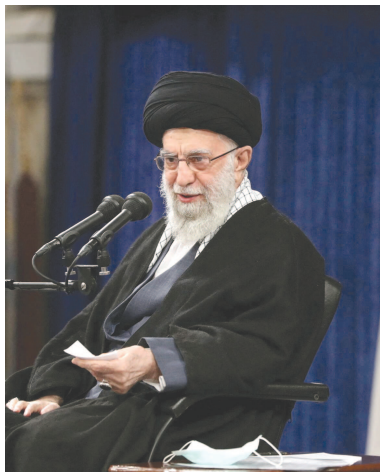
tary operation in the city of Rafah, now the only haven for millions of people in Gaza, due to high humanitarian concerns and the risk of regional spillover, said the statement.



### UN General Assembly to resume emergency special session on Middle East

**United Nations, May 3 (IANS) :** The UN General Assembly will resume its 10th emergency special session (ESS) on May 10, after Palestine's UN membership bid was blocked by the US at the Security Council in April. UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis has informed member states that he will convene a plenary meeting of the ESS on May 10, said Monica Grayley, his spokeswoman, on Friday. In a letter dated April 26, Francis told member states that the resumption of the ESS was requested by Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, and Uganda, in their respective capacities as chair of the Arab Group, chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Group, and chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, Xinhua

news agency reported. The US on April 18 vetoed a Security Council draft resolution that would have recommended to the General Assembly Palestine's full UN membership. Riyadh Mansour, the permanent observer of Palestine to the United Nations, expressed the hope that the General Assembly would ask the Security Council to reconsider the issue at the ESS. "We will now bring the matter for consideration by the General Assembly on May 10 in a resumed 10th emergency special session and trust that this body representing the international community will unequivocally support the admission of Palestine to the UN and call on the Security Council to reconsider our application for admission favourably," he told a General Assembly meeting on Wednesday on the use of the veto by the US.



### Iran's Supreme leader condemns US Police's violence against pro-Palestinian protesters

**Tehran, May 3 (IANS) :** Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has reaffirmed the condemnation of US support for Israel's "crimes" in the Gaza Strip while commenting on the US Police's violent behaviour against pro-Palestinian protesters on college campuses. He made the remarks in a meeting with a group of teachers and academics in the capital Tehran on the occasion of National Teachers' Day, according to a statement published on Friday on his website. Khamenei said the US behaviour was indicative of its "partnership and complicity" with Israel in the latter's "horrific crimes and unforgivable sin". He highlighted the Gaza conflict as "the world's first issue."



### Pakistani workers play central role in national progress, prosperity: PM

**Islamabad, May 3 (IANS) :** Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that workers play a central role in national progress and prosperity, highlighting that every worker in the South Asian country is valued, respected, and empowered to thrive. "Workers work day and night in the fields, factories and elsewhere. They not only work hard to feed their families but also are the driving force behind Pakistan's progress," the Prime Minister said on Friday in his message on International Work-

ers' Day. He added that the country is committed to bolstering labour welfare and harmonising domestic labour legislation with global standards, stressing that the enhancement of occupational safety and health across various sectors remains a top priority for the incumbent government, Xinhua news agency reported. "We will soon be convening the inaugural National Tripartite Labour Conference with a special focus on safety and health... We will also continue endeavours to improve the working and living conditions of

our workers by further promoting their welfare through better housing, education, healthcare and social security benefits," Sharif said. Highlighting that new job opportunities in Pakistan and abroad now demand a skilled labour force, he noted that the country has initiated vocational training and skills development programs to empower workers and enable them to secure employment opportunities. Commenting on the historic inflation in the country.

### Lebanon reports outbreak of hepatitis A in eastern region

**Beirut, May 3 (IANS) :** The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health has reported the outbreak of viral hepatitis in West Bekaa region, eastern Lebanon, according to media reports. The Ministry said on Thurs-

day that hospitals, health centres, and laboratories have recorded 40 cases of hepatitis A, Xinhua news agency reported. "We remind citizens that the hepatitis A virus is transmitted to humans through contaminated water.





## Mayor-KSRTC driver tiff : Crucial memory card missing, say Kerala Police

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 3 (IANS) :** The police said on Friday that the memory card of the CCTV inside the KSRTC bus has gone missing, the driver of which was involved in an altercation with the city mayor Arya Rajendran, her husband Sachin Dev, a CPI(M) MLA, and other members of her family. "We checked the DVR, but the 64 GB memory card is missing. This means we will not be able to retrieve the visuals from the three CCTV cameras placed inside the bus," said the Kerala Police official who came to take the memory card. Meanwhile, the driver of the bus, Yadu, a daily wages employee of the KSRTC said, "Now it is very clear who is right and who is wrong." "They (Mayor and her family) know they are on the wrong side and hence the pro-party workers (attached to the party) might have

taken it. After being released after almost 12 hours in the police station on Monday morning I reached the bus depot. I checked the CCTV and DVR, and everything was functional and now if it has gone missing, then all can comprehend who is behind this foul play," said Yadu. M. Vincent, the Congress MLA and office-bearer of the Congress-backed TDF (trade union of KSRTC) said, "This incident happened on Sunday night and despite this issue snowballing into a controversy, the police came only on Wednesday to retrieve the memory card. When they came, it had disappeared. We also heard the news that one of the passengers inside the bus was threatened when he was recording the spat that was taking place and those with the Mayor forcibly deleted the recording.



## From child artiste to BJP's newest member, Rupali Ganguly's 'long journey'

**Mumbai, May 3 (IANS) :** Best known for her portrayal of soap characters such as 'Monisha Sarabhai' and 'Anupamaa', popular TV actress Rupali Ganguly became the latest entertainment world celebrity to take the plunge into politics. Daughter of a successful filmmaker who started acting as a child artiste, the 47-year-old TV star's entry into the BJP on Wednesday is a new milestone in her crowded life. Ganguly, who was born and raised in Mumbai, started her acting career with her father's 1985 film 'Saaheb'. The film featured Anil Kapoor, Amrita Singh and Raakhee in the lead roles. She made her TV debut with the show 'Sukanya', which

was aired in the year 2000, but Ganguly got her big break when she played Dr Simran Chopra in the 2003 medical drama 'Sanjivani: A Medical Boon'. She then gained wider recognition with her portrayal of Monisha in the 2004 sitcom 'Sarabhai vs Sarabhai'. Thereafter, she has been cast in 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii', 'Kkavyanjali', 'Ek Packet Umeed', 'Sapna Babul Ka...Bidaai', and 'Baa Bahoo Aur Baby'. The actress also participated in the first season of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss', which was won by actor Rahul Roy. Ganguly has also acted in the Telugu film 'Premante Inte' and the Bengali movie 'Eti'. The soap star owes her huge popularity today to the titular character in the long-running family drama 'Anupamaa', who she's been

playing since 2020. The show, which is now in its episode No. 1,272, also stars Sudhanshu Pandey as Vanraj, Madalsa Sharma and Gaurav Khanna. She is married to the insurance executive-turned-businessman and filmmaker Ashwin Verma, who moved from New York to become her life partner. The couple tied the knot in February 2013 and have a son named Rudransh. On Friday, after joining the BJP in the presence of the party's national general secretary Vinod Tawde, Ganguly shared her excitement and said: "I cannot express how I am feeling sitting on this stage. I am feeling like it was destined to happen, and that's why I have taken that long journey of art and came here." She added: "We are fans of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I am grateful that I meet a lot of new people because of my acting career. I now want to move on the path of Mr Modi, and do service of the nation." Ganguly's fans will be watching her next moves closely, even as those in the entertainment world will be seeing what course 'Anupamaa', the soap, now takes.



## Harassed by loan sharks, Ahmedabad trader commits suicide

**Ahmedabad, May 3 (IANS) :** A trader died by suicide after facing harassment from loan sharks over exorbitant interest rates. Gajendrasinh Jadeja had been entangled in a cycle of debt that began in 2001 with a seemingly small loan of Rs 10,000. Despite repaying a substantial Rs 80,000 over the years by selling his land, the relentless demands continued, with creditors most recently demanding an additional Rs 5 lakh, officials shared. Driven to despair, Jadeja resorted to self-harm, using a sharp-edged weapon to inflict fatal injuries upon himself. Officials added that this action reflects the extreme pressures faced by individuals dealing with unregulated financial lenders. Following the incident, Odhav Police registered a complaint against three individuals who were associated with predatory lending. Two of the accused have been arrested, while the third is reportedly undergoing treatment in a hospital for an illness.

## Telangana's richest candidates battling it out in Chevella

**Hyderabad, May 3 (IANS) :** The richest candidates of the three main political parties are locked in an interesting contest in Chevella Lok Sabha constituency. With family assets of Rs.4,568 crore, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy of the BJP is the richest among all candidates for the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state. The second-richest candidate, G Ranjith Reddy of the Congress is also contesting from

Chevella. He has family assets of Rs.435.49 crore. The assets of Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, who contested unsuccessfully on a Congress ticket, jumped by 410 per cent in five years, shows the affidavit he filed along with his nomination. In 2019 Konda Vishweshwar Reddy had declared assets of Rs.895 crore. Elected to the Lok Sabha from Chevella on a BRS ticket in 2014, the tech entrepreneur had family assets of Rs.528 crore. His wife K. Sangita Reddy,

Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospital, owns majority of the assets. G Ranjith Reddy, who was elected from Chevella in 2019 on a BRS ticket but is now contesting as a Congress candidate, had declared assets of Rs.163.50 crore five years ago. Interestingly, the third-richest candidate Kasani Gyaneshwar of the BRS is also testing his electoral fortunes from Chevella, a constituency comprising parts of Hyderabad city and the rural ar-

reas of adjacent Ranga Reddy District. Kasani Gyaneshwar has family assets of Rs.228.47 crore. Eight candidates have assets of more than Rs.100 crore. Four of them are from the BJP and three from the BRS. G Ranjith Reddy is the only Congress candidate in the state to have assets of over Rs.100 crore. K. Madhavi Latha of the BJP, who is contesting from Hyderabad, is the fourth-richest candidate in the fray with assets of Rs.221.40



crore. Nama Nageswara Rao of BRS, who is seeking re-election from Khammam, owns assets of Rs.155.90 crore. BB Patil, who was elected from Zahirbad on a BRS ticket but recently joined the BJP, is worth

Rs.151.69 crore. His assets in 2019 were to the tune of Rs.128.78 crore. Kyama Mallesh, the BRS candidate from Bhongir, has assets of 145.34 crore. Arvind Dharampuri of BJP.

## Cong-Left Front unity in true spirit felt only in Murshidabad District

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS) :** Despite an official seat-sharing arrangement in West Bengal, barring a couple of seats where the All India Forward Bloc has fielded candidates against the Congress despite the Left Front's objections, the Left Front-Congress unity in the true spirit is reflected in three out of 42 constituencies, all of which are in Murshidabad District. These three constituencies, namely Baharampur, Murshidabad and Jangipur are under focus because of the presence of heavyweight candidates from the Congress and the CPI(M). While state Congress President and five-time Lok Sabha candidate from Baharampur, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is contesting this time as well, at Murshidabad the important candidate is the CPI(M)'s politburo member and the party's state Secretary Mohd Salim. Mortoza Hossain is the Left Front-supported candidate from the third constituency in Murshidabad District,

Jangipur. Both Chowdhury and Salim have been trying to ensure a smooth transfer of their dedicated votes to the other party. Political observers say that this smooth transfer of votes between the two camps is especially crucial for the Left Front, since in the past elections it was evident that while dedicated Left Front voters opted for Congress candidates wherever applicable, it was not reciprocated from the other side. Chowdhury seems to have realised that and has taken out time from his busy schedule at Baharampur to campaign for Salim at Murshidabad. He accompanied Salim when the latter went to file his nomination recently.

Outside the nomination venue Chowdhury received a cordial welcome from the CPI(M) workers who put a stole with the party symbol of 'Hammer-sickle-star' around his neck, which he accepted with a smile. "Congress workers have to ensure the victory of Salim from Murshidabad even at the risk of their own lives," Chowdhury gave a call to the party workers from there. Apart from that, a couple of days ago Salim and Chowdhury conducted a joint rally at Domkal in Murshidabad District where both the leaders.



## Home Minister doctored video: Notices sent to Jharkhand Congress chief, others

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** In its ongoing probe into Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video, the Delhi Police have issued notice under section 91 of CrPC to some more people, including Jharkhand Congress president Rajesh Thakur, sources said on Friday. "They, including Thakur, have been asked to appear before the IFSO unit of Special Cell on May 2," said the sources. Meanwhile, the investigators are yet to receive any response from social media giants X and Meta in connection with a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a source in the Delhi Police's Special Cell told IANS on Tuesday. Three persons have been arrested by the police for circulating the fake video so far.

## Congress veteran Anand Sharma faces tricky challenge in battleground Kangra

**Shimla, May 3 (IANS) :** Seeking votes with folded hands can be tough for Congress veteran and four-time Rajya Sabha MP Anand Sharma in his new battleground Kangra, the largest Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh in terms of voters which plays a crucial role in state politics. The ruling Congress in the state has pitted former Union Minister Sharma, known to be a 'mentor' to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, against Rajiv Bhardwaj of the BJP, which ignored the sitting MP, Kishan Kapoor. For Sharma, who belongs to Shimla, this would be his first electoral battle for the Lok Sabha. With a political career

spanning over four decades, Sharma, who first entered the Rajya Sabha in 1984, is a surprise pick by the party. The reason: The constituency with 17 Assembly seats in Kangra and some parts of Chamba district with a base of 12.58 lakh voters, the highest in the state, has a large number of ex-servicemen and a big chunk of Brahmin voters, a community to which both the candidates belong. Kangra, an erstwhile princely state once ruled by Katoch ruler Sansar Chand, has never repeated a sitting MP in the past five decades with four-time MP Shanta Kumar being the only exception. Kumar was elected for two consecutive terms in 1998 and 1999.







### Hyundai Motor to raise stake in autonomous driving JV Motional in US

**Seoul, May 3 (IANS) :** Hyundai Motor Group said on Friday that it will raise its stake in Motional, the group's autonomous driving joint venture in the United States, through a paid-in capital increase, as well as invest in the local venture partner Aptiv. Hyundai Motor Group said the decision for the paid-in capital increase and the acquisition of an 11 per cent stake in the U.S. mobility startup Aptiv was reached to secure stable management authority in Motional to actively develop autonomous driving technology and internalise core technologies. The South Korean automaker group's capital increase in Motional will be worth 663 billion won, reports Yonhap news

agency. Together with the acquisition of the 11 per cent stake in Aptiv, Hyundai Motor Group's stake in the joint venture will increase from the existing 50 per cent to 55.8 per cent. Hyundai Motor Group said it aims to accelerate autonomous driving technology development through its participation in the capital increase while also pursuing stable revenue generation strategies. "By establishing the direction of Motional's technology development, we expect to enhance our technological competitiveness and lay the groundwork for expanding synergies between autonomous driving divisions within the group," a group official said.

### Sensex down 300 points on selling in heavyweights

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** BSE Sensex fell 300 points on Friday, amid selling in heavy-weight stocks. BSE Sensex was trading at 74,310 points, down 300 points. Bharti Airtel is down more than 1 per cent. L&T, Tech Mahindra, Nestle India, Maruti, Infosys were also trading in the red. Bajaj Finance is up more than 4 per cent after RBI lifted restrictions on some of its products. Several sectoral indices including technology, private banks, capital goods, real estate are trading in the red. IT stock Coforge is down more

than 8 per cent. Coforge also announced acquisition of Cigniti Tech, an assurance (testing) company. Management believes Cigniti complements Coforge's verticals, geo footprint and client relationships, JM Financial Institutional Securities said in a report. Coforge has done comprehensive audit (financial and forensic) of the target and finds comfort in scaled relationships and in-place contracts. "We estimate that at current price, the acquisition will be EPS accretive. Synergies are difficult to realise, especially in large acquisitions. But we are willing to give the benefit of doubt to



Coforge's clinical execution track-record," the brokerage said. V. K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that global and domestic cues are positive for the markets. The decline in dollar index to 105.3, correction in the US 10-year bond yield to around 4.5 per cent and Brent crude below \$84 will further strengthen the bulls. The strong pillar of support for this market is the strong buying by DIIs facilitated by the sustained flow of funds. This trend is unlikely to change anytime soon. "RBI lifting restrictions on some of Bajaj Finance's products is highly positive for the stock. Short covering in the stock has the potential to trigger a surge in the stock. Bank Nifty has further room to move up. Delivery-based buying in this segment is likely to continue," he said.



### Adani Green secures \$400 million from international banks for 750 MW solar projects

**Ahmedabad, May 3 (IANS) :** Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) on Friday secured \$400 million from a consortium of five leading international banks for its under-construction 750 MW solar projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The financing will aid 750 MW of solar generation capacity in Rajasthan and Gujarat that are expected to be operational from November onwards, said AGEL, India's largest renewable energy (RE) company. One of the projects is being developed in Rajasthan with 500 MW ca-

capacity and has a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). "The second one, with 250 MW capacity, is a standalone merchant power project being implemented at the world's largest RE cluster at Khavda in Gujarat," the company said. The consortium of lenders -- Cooperative Rabobank U.A., DBS Bank Ltd., Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A., MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation -- paves the way for AGEL's ambitious growth plans.



### Zomato receives GST demand, penalty order of over Rs 2 crore

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Online food delivery platform Zomato has received a fresh goods and services tax (GST) demand and penalty order of more than Rs 2 crore from Delhi's sales tax officer. The order consists of Rs 2,22,91,376 in GST demand with interest of Rs 2,08,98,164 and a penalty of Rs 22,29,136 for the April 2018 to March 2019 period. "The Company has received an order for the period April 2018 to March 2019 passed by the Sales Tax Officer, Ward 300, Delhi confirming the demand of GST of Rs 2,22,91,376 with interest of Rs 2,08,98,164 and penalty of Rs 22,29,136," Zomato said in a stock exchange regulatory filing. The foodtech major said that it will be filing an appeal against the order before the appropriate authority.



### BMW launches new M4 Competition M xDrive in India at Rs 1.53 cr

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Luxury car maker BMW on Friday launched the new 'M4 Competition M xDrive' in India at an ex-showroom price of Rs 1,53,00,000. The car will be available in the country as a Completely Built-Up (CBU) model and can be booked at the BMW dealership network and through the company's online shop. "The new BMW M4 Competition M xDrive truly embodies the best of BMW M - unstoppable power, incredible handling, and sporty styling," Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said in a statement. "The car radiates superior dynamism and premium appeal, underlining its independent, performance-oriented personality. It is indeed an elite sporting icon," he added. The new car comes available in metallic paintworks -- Skyscraper grey, Portimao Blue, Black Sapphire, Sao Paulo Yellow, Toronto Red, Brooklyn Grey, Isle of Man Green, Aventurine Red and Alpine White in non-metallic.

Optional BMW Individual metallic paint finishes available are -- Tanzanite Blue and Dravite Grey. The new car comes powered by the BMW M TwinPower Turbo S58 six-cylinder in-line petrol engine. This 3.0-litre powerplant offers dynamic power delivery and a rich, signature M sound. It is also combined with intelligent four-wheel drive M xDrive, the company said. The engine produces a maximum output of 530 hp (horsepower) and peak torque of 650 Nm (Newton metres) with an acceleration of 0-100 kmph in just 3.5 seconds. For safety, the new BMW M4 Competition comes with head and side airbags for the driver and front passenger as well as head airbags for the rear seats as standard.

### Apple making significant investments in GenAI, to share 'very exciting things' soon

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Apple is making "significant investments" in generative AI, and that has some "very exciting things" to share with customers soon, its CEO Tim Cook has said. He said that Apple continues to feel very "bullish about our opportunity in Generative AI". "We believe we have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software and services integration, groundbreaking Apple's silicon, with our industry-leading neural engines and our unwavering focus on privacy, which underpins everything we create," he told analysts during the quarterly

earnings call. Reports claim that Apple will integrate OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini into future iPhone models. Replying to a question, Cook said "we believe that we have advantages that set us apart there. And we'll be talking more about it in as we go through the weeks ahead". "I think there are numerous ways there that are great for us. And we think that we're well-positioned," said Cook.



### 6 years of realme: A story of innovation, dedication, and customer-centricity

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Early this year, in the spirit of the New Year, realme unveiled the brand's current slogan -- 'Make it real'. This new slogan, while retaining the essence of its predecessor, 'Dare to leap', expands the narrative of its brand story. It reflects a greater emphasis on young users and embodies the brand's aim to bring tangible, clear, and real benefits to their lives. The introduction of 'Make it real' marked a significant milestone in realme's journey.



### iPhone sales down 10 pc in March quarter, Apple stock up after \$110 billion buyback

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Apple has reported a 10 per cent decline in iPhone sales for its March quarter, from \$51.33 billion to \$45.96 billion (year-over-year), primarily driven by a slowdown in China market. However, Apple managed to beat the Wall Street expectations and its stock went up more than 6 per cent after hours on Thursday, as the company

set an all-time revenue record in Services with \$23.9 billion, up 14 per cent (on-year). Apple also announced a massive \$110 billion stock buyback from last year's \$90 billion. "Keep in mind, as we described on the last call in the March quarter a year ago, we were able to replenish iPhone channel inventory and fulfill significant pent up demand from the December quarter

COVID-related supply disruptions on the iPhone 14 pro and 14 Pro Max," said Apple CEO Tim Cook. This one-time impact added close to \$5 billion to the March quarter revenue last year. "If we removed this from last year's results, our March quarter total company revenue this year would have grown," Cook told analysts during the earnings call.



## Yadav family faces turbulent weather in 'safe' seats

**Mainpuri/Kannauj (UP), May 3 (IANS)** : Lok Sabha constituencies like Mainpuri, Kannauj, Firozabad and Azamgarh have always been considered safe seats for late Mulayam Singh Yadav's family, mainly because of the large Yadav population there. However, this time candidates from the Yadav family on these seats are facing turbulent weather and aggressive campaigning by the BJP, coupled with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma, is making them increasingly uncomfortable. Moreover, since its inception in 1992, the SP will be contesting a Lok Sabha election for the first time without its founder, Mulayam Singh Yadav. The responsibility of retaining the family seats now rests on the shoulders of Akhilesh Yadav. Mainpuri, known as a Samajwadi bastion, has Dimple Yadav seeking re-

election and she is pitted against UP Minister Jaiveer Singh. Dimple Yadav has suffered shock defeats in Firozabad bypolls in 2009 when Raj Babbar of the Congress defeated her and then again in 2019 from Kannauj when Subrat Pathak of the BJP trounced her. Dimple knows that Mainpuri, this time will not be a cakewalk and she has been campaigning vigorously. Her elder daughter Aditi Yadav is also seeking votes for her mother. While the BJP is making concerted effort to wrest the seat from the SP, the BSP is playing spoiler by fielding Shiv Prasad Yadav as its candidate. Yadav is bound to bite into the four lakh Yadav votes. In Kannauj, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav recently announced his own candidature at the last minute. The SP has won from Kannauj seven times, including two bypolls. A major exception was in 2019 when Dimple Yadav suffered a defeat at the hands of

BJP's Subrat Pathak. The BJP has retained Pathak, and Akhilesh will now hope to avenge his wife's defeat. The Congress, meanwhile, can offer little support to Akhilesh in Kannauj because the party has minimal presence in the constituency. The SP faces its biggest challenge in Budaun Lok Sabha constituency where Aditya Yadav, son of Shivpal Yadav, is making his electoral debut. The party first named Dharmendra Yadav as its candidate from Budaun, then changed over to Shivpal Yadav and finally named Aditya Yadav. Shivpal has had major differences with his nephew Akhilesh in the past and since other family members are busy with their own elections, Shivpal alone, is managing his son's campaign. "Budaun has been a SP stronghold. Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav), Professor Ram Gopal Yadav and Dharmendra had been MPs. This time also we are going to retain the seat," he said rather



confidently. In 2019, Sanghmitra Maurya had won the seat for the BJP which has replaced her with Durvijay Shakya this time. The BSP has again made things difficult for the SP by fielding Muslim Khan from Budaun as the constituency has 400,000 Muslim voters. As Budaun prepares to vote in the third phase of elections on May 7, a controversy has erupted for Aditya Yadav with his old student life photographs at a pool party having gone viral on social media. In the pictures that surfaced on the Internet, Yadav was seen posing in a swimming pool with some girls.

"These photographs are of my student life. Some of the girls shown in the pictures are my friends and some are sisters, who tie Rakhi on my hand," he told reporters. Akshay Yadav, son of Prof Ram Gopal Yadav, is contesting from Firozabad for the third-consecutive Lok Sabha polls. During the Yadav family feud, Prof Ram Gopal Yadav had stood firmly with Akhilesh. Akshay will take on the BJP's Vishwadeep Singh in Firozabad, replacing its sitting MP Chandrasen Jadon.



## Atul Verma is new DGP of Himachal Pradesh

**Shimla, May 3 (IANS)** : The 1991-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Atul Verma, posted as the Director General of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Friday was appointed the new Himachal Pradesh Director General of Police. He replaced Sanjay Kundu, who retired from service on Friday. Atul Verma, who recently returned from the Central deputation, was given the charge of the all-important CID wing after the state government's fiasco in the Rajya Sabha election when six Congress MLAs cross-voted for the BJP. He superseded IPS officers Tapan Kumar Deka from the 1988 batch, S.R. Ojha from the 1989 batch, and Shyam Bhagat Negi from the 1990 batch. Deka and Negi are currently on central deputation while Ojha is the director general (prisons).



## Mamata Banerjee targets ECI over latest polling percentage released for first two phases of LS elections

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS)** : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday expressed doubts on the latest figures released by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on polling percentage in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections on April 19 and April 26. "The commission gave a figure on polling percentage immediately after the elections. Yesterday, I heard that the figure increased 5.75 percentage points. I doubt the percentage has increased in places where polling in favour of BJP was less. I request the commission to eliminate doubts in the

minds of the people about the increased percentage. The commission should be unbiased," the Chief Minister said while addressing an election meet at Malda on Wednesday afternoon. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the Union government especially neglects West Bengal since the percentages of minority and Backward Class populations in the state are comparatively higher. "They deprive West Bengal of central funds. Our population is much higher than that of Gujarat," the Chief Minister said.

## BSF seizes over 1 kg gold along Indo-Bangladesh border; April's haul reaches 9.4 kg

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS)** : In its continuing effort to thwart cross-border smuggling, the Border Security Force (BSF) seized over a kilogram of gold that was being smuggled from Bangladesh to India close to the Natna Border Outpost in the Nadia district of West Bengal on Friday. This was the 13th seizure of gold by the South Bengal Frontier of the BSF in April. The total quantity of gold seized during the month was 9.4 kg and its value is estimated to be Rs 6.4 crore, a BSF spokesperson said. The gold seized on Tuesday is valued at Rs 84,70,130. The seizure took place when BSF troops of the 84 Battalion, acting on specific information, frisked an Indian national returning

from his farmland across the border fence. Eight pieces of gold of various dimensions were recovered from him. The smuggler has been identified as Fidel Sk from the Nabinagar village in Nadia. "During interrogation, Fidel Sk confessed that while tending to his crops, he met a Bangladeshi associate and a plan was hatched. Soon after he left his farmland and crossed the fence gate (where there is possibility of frisking) to the border road, the Bangladeshi threw a packet across the fence at a designated spot. Fidel picked it up and was walking towards Nabinagar when he was apprehended by the troopers," A K Arya, DIG, BSF and spokesperson of the South Bengal Frontier, said.



According to the plan, Fidel was to take the gold to the Dum Dum railway station in Kolkata (about 130 km away) and hand it over to an unknown person on a Royal Enfield motorcycle after exchanging the code -- '786-92 The Royal Bengal Tiger/Same to You'. After preliminary questioning, he was handed over with the gold to the Customs department in Chapra for necessary legal action. "Our troops are doing a wonderful job. We shall continue to take strict action against border criminals. Those who wish for border crime to come to an end, may contact the BSF's Seema Sathi helpline number 14419 if they get any information related to gold smuggling.

## Priest beaten to death in UP's Deoria

**Deoria (UP), May 3 (IANS)** : The priest of a temple in a village here was beaten to death with sticks following an altercation with some people over the playing of loud music, police said on Friday. The incident happened on Tuesday night in Tenuba Chaubey village and three persons have been detained over it. Superintendent of Police (SP), Sankalp Sharma, said that the deceased, identified as Ashok Chaubey (60) was beaten with sticks by some persons with whom he had an altercation over the playing of DJ (music).

## Maneka Gandhi files nomination from Sultanpur

**Sultanpur (UP), May 3 (IANS)** : BJP candidate and sitting MP Maneka Gandhi filed her nomination papers from the Sultanpur Lok Sabha seat here on Friday. She took out a roadshow to reach the collectorate and then filed her nomination papers before the District Election Officer. Nishad Party President and Minister Dr Sanjay Nishad and Apna Dal leader and cabinet minister

Ashish Patel accompanied her at the time of the nomination filing. Talking to reporters after filing her nomination, Maneka Gandhi said she would do more work in the next five years than she had done in the last five years. She said she wanted to provide more houses to the people under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana here.



## Constituency Watch: 12th gen Chhatrapati fights with 2nd gen MP for Kolhapur's 'raj-tilak'

**Kolhapur (Maharashtra), May 3 (IANS)** : The erstwhile royal kingdom of Kolhapur is witnessing a war of political supremacy between Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj who is the MVA-Congress nominee for the Lok Sabha elections, and the ruling Mahayuti alliance partner Shiv Sena's MP, Professor Sanjay S Mandlik. While Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj is the 12th direct descendent of the legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sanjay S Mandlik is the son of the four-time (undivided) NCP MP, the late Sadashivrao D Mandlik. In the heat and dust of the campaign for the May 7 elections, Mandlik seemed to have lost his bearings momentarily when he questioned the 'credentials' of his illustrious rival's royal lineage. Not surprisingly, Mandlik, 60, was greeted with howls of protests from

all political parties and locals alike, with many demanding an apology for insulting the Chhatrapati, but the Shiv Sena nominee refused to oblige. On his part, the soft-spoken Chhatrapati, 76, popular as 'Maharaj Saheb' among his constituents, gently raked up the issue of the 'legitimacy' of Mandlik's party, the Shiv Sena-headed by CM Eknath Shinde — which was enough to rattle the ruling Mahayuti alliance. It may be recalled that in June 2022, Shinde had rebelled against the Shiv Sena founded (in 1966) by the late Balasaheb Thackeray, and in July 2023 ally NCP chief Ajit Pawar had broken up the party established by his uncle Sharad Pawar in 1999. The two splinters, part of the Mahayuti government, were recognised as the 'real' parties this year, and the Chhatrapati's mild plea for 'a politically-stable Maharashtra' or 'fight against a totalitarian regime' or 'political reforms', etc. shook the powers-that-be. Quivering un-



der the Chhatrapati's feather-touch salvos, Mandlik attempted to salvage the situation by claiming how he sought votes based on his work, that the people are the real 'heirs' of Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and merely belonging to the family doesn't grant anybody the status, and the poll battle was for the dignity of the Kolhapur people. Two months ago, when it became clear that Chhatrapati Shrimant Shahu Maharaj would be contesting the Lok Sabha polls, his son, Yuvraj Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati quietly made a royal sacrifice and instantly opted out of the elections (IANS — March 6) as he wanted to fight from the same seat. This mark of respect to his 'revered father' went down well with the Kolhapur masses. In one of

those rare situations, Kolhapur witnessed a scenario in which a distinguished candidate was available, but he had no direct party affiliations, and the MVA allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) rushed to offer him a ticket. Finally, they left it to the sagely Chhatrapati to pick the symbol he would prefer to contest on, and he chose the Congress' 'Hand' — with no heartburns among the MVA partners. Mandlik had his share of woes, but given the changed political equations after the Shiv Sena and NCP splits, the Mahayuti allies buried their differences and offered him a second chance. Kolhapur comprises 6 Assembly segments of which 3 are with the Congress, 2 with NCP, and one with Shiv Sena.



## Clash of kin: Estranged family members fight in high-stakes battle in Maha's Dharashiv

**Mumbai, May 3 (IANS) :** The Dharashiv constituency situated in the water scarcity-hit Marathwada region of Maharashtra witnesses a fight between estranged family members. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has re-nominated the sitting MP Omraje Nimbalkar who is pitted against his estranged cousin and BJP legislator Rana Jagjit Singh Patil's wife and NCP nominee Archana Patil. What has added colour to the ongoing campaign is NCP's move to 'import' the candidate from BJP which has come in handy for Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maha Vikas Aghadi in general to flag it off aggressively. Despite a direct fight between Omraje Nimbalkar and Archana Patil, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi nominee

Bhasuhaben Andhalkar is carrying out a campaign to lure disgruntled elements from both Maha Vikas Aghadi and MahaYuti. The polling in the Dharashiv constituency is slated on May 7. NCP inducted Archana Patil into the party fold at a time when Omraje Nimbalkar had already completed several rounds in the constituency through his outreach to the voters. Patil's induction led to discontent in the NCP but party chief Ajit Pawar intervened to quell the possible rebellion directing all local leaders to work wholeheartedly for the victory of the party's nominee. Incidentally, NCP legislators Satish Chavan and Vikram Kale and the district unit chief Suresh Birajdar were asked to be ready for a fight but after Patil's nomination, they now have to take care of her campaigning. The family feud over the

death of Omraje Nimbalkar's father continues to figure during the campaigning. Omraje makes it repeatedly clear that he would like to go with his father's legacy and also on the work that he did to transform the constituency during his five-year term. On the other hand, Patil along with BJP and Shiv Sena are targeting Omraje Nimbalkar over the present state of water shortage, lack of substantial progress in the development of Tuljapur railway corridor and rising unemployment. Omraje Nimbalkar has succeeded in projecting himself as a "people's representative" who is available 24x7 and one who is committed to fulfil promises. More importantly, his move to remain loyal to Uddhav Thackeray after the split in Shiv Sena in June 2022 is coming to his aid as the traditional Shiv Sainiks are work-



ing hard for his victory. The Congress and NCP (SP) cadres, who have perfect tuning with Omraje Nimbalkar, are focusing on reaching up to booth level and bringing voters to polling stations on the voting day. On the other hand, even though NCP after the split in the party in July 2023 lacks a strong and vibrant party network in the constituency, the well-oiled poll machinery created by Archana Patil's husband and BJP legislator Rana

Jagjit Singh Patil has been positive for NCP nominee. This is not all, Patil is banking on strong support from two legislators each from BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and one Independent. The campaign has now picked up especially after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally held on Tuesday. BJP insiders claim that the rally will help to add at least one lakh votes in favour of Archana Patil. PM Modi in a bid

to lure the farmers from Dharashiv blamed NCP (SP) Sharad Pawar and also Omraje Nimbalkar for the water shortage and lack of completion of a slew of irrigation projects. He also cornered the MVA government for putting a break on the water grid project and Jalyukt Shivar Yojana (water conservation scheme) that was initiated by the BJP-led government during its tenure between 2014 and 2019. However, Shiv Sena (UBT) has also organised a campaign rally by party chief Uddhav Thackeray as it hopes to cash in on the undercurrent against the BJP. The NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leaders have held meetings to mobilise their cadres for Omraje Nimbalkar's support. Thackeray and Pawar have been at the forefront to counter charges made by PM Modi and MahaYuti by projecting the failures of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

## Hours after praising BJP nominee, Kunal Ghosh removed as Trinamool state General Secretary

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS) :** Hours after Trinamool Congress' state General Secretary Kunal Ghosh showered praises on Tapas Roy, the BJP candidate from Kolkata Uttar Lok Sabha constituency, the ruling party on Friday removed Ghosh from the post. A statement issued by Trinamool's national spokesman Derek O'Brien said that since he has been removed from the post of General Secretary, the media outlets should not treat his views as that of the party in the future. "Recently, Kunal

Ghosh expressed views that do not align with the party's viewpoint. It is important to clarify that these are his personal opinions and should not be attributed to the party. Only the statements issued from the Trinamool Congress headquarters should be considered as the party's official position," the statement read. Till recently, Ghosh was also the state spokesman of the party. However, he resigned from that post but continued as the state General Secretary.



## After Delhi, now Lucknow school gets bomb threat

**Lucknow, May 3 (IANS) :** After multiple schools in Delhi, the Amity School in Lucknow's Vrindavan area also received an email with a bomb threat on Friday afternoon. The police were informed immediately and the school evacuated. Extensive searches were conducted on the school premises after the children were sent home. ACP Pankaj Singh said that proper checking was done in the school and no suspicious object was found, adding that the cyber team is investigating the email while the ATS and the STF are also probing the matter.

## Deve Gowda sent his grandson Prajwal Revanna abroad, says K'taka CM

**Yadgir (Karnataka), May 3 (IANS) :** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday that former Prime Minister Deve Gowda had sent his accused grandson abroad. Speaking to reporters in Yadgir while seeking votes for the Congress candidate G. Kumar Naik for Raichur Lok Sabha seat, the CM said that Deve Gowda had planned the exit from the country after the scandal broke out. CM Siddaramaiah refuted the allegations that there was an involvement of Deputy CM and Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar in bringing the scandal to the forefront. "There was a car driver named Karthik of Prajwal Revanna. Karthik had himself claimed that he had

given the pen drive to a BJP leader. Former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy is making allegations for political reasons against Shivakumar," CM Siddaramaiah stated. "Why Prajwal was given a ticket as everything about him was known. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been formed to investigate the matter. The SIT officers will probe the matter transparently. There is no question of protecting anyone," the CM said. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar had alleged that Prajwal Revanna had unleashed brutality on 300 to 400 women. "It is not feasible to have a count. The victims belong to the age group of 16



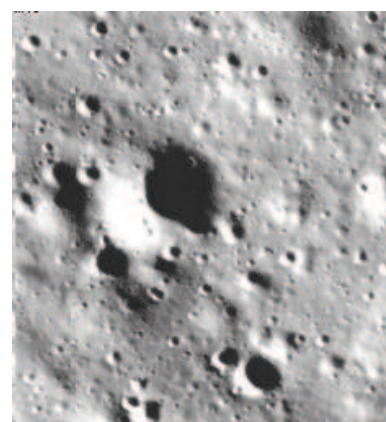
years to 50 years. Maids and police officers are the victims. It is not known whether the atrocity was committed on the victims after issuing threats. The accused is a pervert sexual offender," she said. The SIT on Tuesday issued a notice to Prajwal Revanna to appear before the agency within 24 hours. State Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara stated that the notice has been issued under CRPC Section 41A and as per the provision, the accused will have to appear within 24 hours. Otherwise, the officers will initiate further proceedings. Prajwal is expected to land in Bengaluru on Friday and SIT is likely to take him into custody, according to sources.

## There is more ice on moon subsurface in exploitable depths : Study

**Chennai, May 3 (IANS) :** A study by the scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and others has revealed there is a higher quantity of ice on the moon within exploitable depths. As per the study, the amount of subsurface ice in the first couple of meters is about 5 to 8 times larger than the one at the surface in both poles on the moon. According to ISRO,

the study was done by its scientists at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) in collaboration with researchers at IIT Kanpur, University of Southern California, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The Indian space agency said, drilling on the moon to sample or excavate that ice will be primordial for future missions and long-term human presence. "Moreover, the study also suggests that the

extent of water ice in the northern polar region is twice that in the southern polar region. As for the origin of this ice, the study confirms the hypothesis that the primary source of subsurface water ice in the lunar poles is outgassing during volcanism in the Imbrian period. The results also conclude that the distribution of water ice is likely governed by Mare volcanism and preferential im-



compact cratering," the ISRO said. Continuing further, it said that the research team used seven instruments comprising radar, laser, optical, neutron spectrometer.

## Trinamool leader praises BJP's LS candidate in Bengal, shares dais

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS) :** In a major embarrassment to the Trinamool Congress, the party's state General Secretary Kunal Ghosh shared the dais with BJP candidate from Kolkata-Uttar Lok Sabha constituency, Tapas Roy, on Friday and described him as an "ideal" politician and candidate. The occasion was a blood donation camp in North Kolkata where both Tapas Roy and Kunal Ghosh were present. When the turn for Ghosh to deliver his lecture came, he praised Tapas Roy, who re-

signed from the Trinamool Congress before joining BJP earlier this year. Roy was the Trinamool MLA. "I have nothing new to say about Roy as an elected public representative. He had always been in public service when he was an elected representative. His doors were always open for the people. We wanted to retain him in our family. But unfortunately, we could not. Today he is a candidate from the opposing party. We will work for our party candidate, while the activists of Roy's party will work for him."



## Vice Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as Vice Chief of Indian Navy

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Friday assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. On assuming charge, the Flag Officer paid homage to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation by placing a floral wreath at the National War Memorial here.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan, who was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987, is a specialist in communication and electronic warfare. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune, the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, the UK, the College of Naval Warfare, Karanja, Maharashtra, and the United

States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. A recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal, Vice Admiral Swaminathan has held several key operational, staff and training appointments in his naval career, including the Command of missile vessels INS Vidut and INS Vinash.





## 'Another powerful name added to world of news', Maha CM hails launch of NDTV Marathi

**Mumbai, May 3 (IANS) :** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday congratulated NDTV for the launch of its Marathi channel on the occasion of Maharashtra Day, saying another powerful name has now been added to the world of news. Speaking at the launch event, the Chief Minister said that NDTV starting its Marathi channel on this important day is a matter of happiness and satisfaction. "If we look at Maharashtra over the past two years, the Atal Setu

has been a game-changer project. The Mumbai Coastal Road has also been started from one side. We gave momentum to many projects. We are also enjoying the benefits of having a double-engine government," CM Shinde said, referring to the NDA governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra. The Chief Minister also spoke about Maoism, saying that it has to be finished to increase employment in the areas affected by the Left-wing extremism.



## Assam CM best example of BJP's 'washing machine' tactic: Priyanka Gandhi

**Guwahati, May 3 (IANS) :** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed an election rally in Assam's Dhubri on Friday where she launched a sharp attack against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, calling him the best example of BJP's 'washing machine' tactic. Priyanka Gandhi campaigned in the Balijan area under the Dhubri Lok Sabha constituency in support of Congress candidate Rakibul Hussain. "There were serious allegations against the Chief Minister of Assam before he switched sides to the BJP.

However, once he joined the BJP, everything was forgotten. The Assam CM is the best example of BJP's washing machine tactic which began from here. Later, the BJP used the same formula in other places as well," she told the gathering. According to Priyanka Gandhi, the BJP is using the washing machine strategy to fool the people. "First, they speak about corruption and later they welcome the corrupt politicians into their party and all the allegations suddenly vanish," she said.

## Sex scandal: Prajwal Revanna's issue will not impact my party, says BJP's Goa chief

**Panaji, May 3 (IANS) :** Goa BJP President Sadanand Tanavade on Friday said there would be no impact of the obscene video case against sitting JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna on his party. "Prajwal Revanna's issue will not affect the BJP. He is not from my party. He may be our alliance partner, but it will not make an impact on us. His party has suspended him," Tanavade said. According to him, there could be an impact in the constituency rep-

resented by Revanna, but not on other constituencies. "I don't justify that issue. Such things should not happen. It is a matter of concern," Tanavade said, reiterating that it will not impact the BJP. Tanavade said that the BJP was committed to women empowerment in the state. "We are firm on women empowerment and have given maximum schemes. We have empowered women in the last ten years.



## BJP should call Trump and Putin for Bihar campaign too: Tejashwi

**Patna, May 3 (IANS) :** RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Friday took a dig at the BJP, whose top leaders keep coming to Bihar in a bid to ensure a repeat of their 2019 performance, saying that they should bring former US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin for the election campaign in Bihar too. Asked about BJP national President J.P. Nadda and De-

fence Minister Rajnath Singh coming to Bihar again to campaign, he said: "Why are they (the BJP) not calling former US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin for the election campaign? It will help them." Tejashwi Yadav also accused the BJP of opposing former Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur's ideologies. "Whatever PM Narendra Modi is saying on the reservation issue is



false. Karpoori Thakur had given reservations to the backward caste people of Bihar. They have re-

cently given the Bharat Ratna to Karpoori Thakur but are opposing his principles," he said.



## PDP unhappy at EC deferring Anantnag-Rajouri poll

**Srinagar, May 3 (IANS) :** The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday termed the Election Commission's decision to postpone elections in J&K's Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, from May 7 to May 25, "interference with free exercise of franchise by the voters". Addressing a media conference here, former PDP minister Naem Akhtar said: "We are disappointed at the way the people's right to exercise franchise is being interfered with." In a post on X earlier, he wrote: "J&K has lost

generations in pursuit of democratic rights. This decision to pander to the bonsai parties planted post-August 2019 is fraught with immense dangers. It is a repeat of the disastrous 1987 election fraud". Sharing a video on her X account, PDP President and Anantnag-Rajouri constituency candidate Mehbooba Mufti wrote: "Is this why BJP wants to defer the Anantnag-Rajouri election so that its leaders can openly threaten violence against Paharis to force them to vote for Apni party or else they will create communal tensions reminiscent of the 1947 partition? @ECISVEEP should take note & ensure peaceful and timely elections. The attempted deferment should be viewed in the context of threatening". She asked the EC to take note of the alleged BJP threat to Paharis and ensure a free poll in the constituency.



## Sajad Lone, 5 others file nomination papers for J&K's Baramulla LS seat

**Srinagar, May 3 (IANS) :** Six more candidates, including People's Conference chief Sajad Gani Lone, filed their nomination papers for the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency on Friday. Imran Raza Ansari of the People's Conference, Peerzada Mudaris Rashid Shah from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party, and Independent candidates Suhail Ahmad Khan, Nazir Ahmad Sofi, and Mushtaq Ahmad Mir filed their nomination papers before the Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla who is the returning officer of the constituency. Engineer Rashid, founder of Awami Itihad Party and presently in Tihar Jail, has also filed papers for the same seat, and so has NC Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The constituency goes to vote on May 20.

## India to host 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting this month

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** The Ministry of Earth Sciences, through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30 at Kochi in Kerala.

building, India remains committed to upholding the principles of the Antarctic Treaty and contributing to the sustainable management of one of Earth's last pristine wilderness areas," said M. Ravichandran, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The key items on the 46th ATCM agenda include strategic planning for sustainable management of Antarctica and its resources; policy, legal, and institutional operations; biodiversity prospecting; inspections and exchange of information and data; research, collaboration, capacity building and cooperation; addressing climate change impacts; development of



tourism framework; and promoting awareness. The 26th CEP agenda focuses on Antarctic environment evaluation, impact assessment, management, and reporting; climate change response; area protection and management plans including marine spatial protection; and conservation of Antarctic

biodiversity. Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the ATCM and CEP meetings which are pivotal in the international community's ongoing efforts to safeguard Antarctica's fragile ecosystem and promote scientific research in the region.

## Rahul Gandhi planted doctored video of Amit Shah, claims Tamil Nadu BJP

**Chennai, May 3 (IANS) :** The Tamil Nadu BJP on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of planting the doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah that went viral on social media recently. State BJP spokesman A.N.S. Prasad said in a statement issued on Friday that without the knowledge of Rahul Gandhi, Telangana Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy would not have dared to "commit such an act" (of circulating the doctored video of Amit Shah). The BJP leader also said that after realising that the Congress will suffer a crushing defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, the party is resorting to short-cuts to defame the BJP. "But the people of the country would give a fitting reply to

the Congress and its INDI Alliance partners in these elections," he said. Unlike the canards spread by the Congress and DMK, the stand of the BJP has always been to continue with reservations for the OBC, SC, and ST communities, Prasad said. He also said that during the BJP-backed government's regime at the Centre in 1989, 27 per cent reservation was given



to the OBCs based on the Mandal Commission's recommendations, which was delayed by the past Congress governments.





## Calcutta HC orders second post-mortem of BJP youth leader found hanging on April 26

**Kolkata, May 3 (IANS) :** The Calcutta High Court on Friday ordered to conduct a second post-mortem on youth BJP leader Dinobondhu Midya, whose body was found hanging at Moyna in East Midnapore district on April 26. While passing the order, the single-judge bench of Justice Jay Sengupta noted that Midya's body was found hanging in a betel leaf storehouse at quite some distance from the floor, which was surprising. Justice Sengupta said the second post-mortem should be con-

ducted at the state-run S.S.K.M. Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata and the entire process should be video recorded. He said the investigation should be conducted under the direct supervision of the East Midnapore DSP. Justice Sengupta also directed the investigating team to submit a progress report before his bench on May 7. The district unit of the BJP has been saying all through that Midya's death was a clear case of murder, claiming that he was first killed and then his body was hung to make it look like suicide. The family members of the victim claimed that Midya left this home on the evening of April 25. However, when he did not return till late at night, his family members tried to contact him but his mobile phone was switched off.

## Bihar RJD chief's son Ajit Singh steps down from JD-U

**Patna, May 3 (IANS) :** Bihar RJD President Jagdanand Singh's younger son Ajit Singh resigned from the primary membership of the JD-U on Friday. Ajit Singh alleged that the top JD-U leadership took big decisions without taking the party workers into confidence. As a result, the workers are now facing an awkward situation on the ground which is adversely affecting the party organisation, hence he resigned from the primary membership of JD-U, said Ajit Singh. He also wrote to JD-U state President Umesh Kushwaha requesting him to accept his resignation with immediate effect. "We thought the Chief Minister (Nitish Kumar) would take decisions concerning the state, but even after two phases of Lok Sabha elections, no announcement has been made by the NDA with regard to Bihar."



## Cong doesn't have courage to declare Rahul Gandhi as PM candidate: Pralhad Joshi

**Hubballi, (Karnataka) May 3 (IANS) :** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday targeted the Gandhi family and stated that after ruling the country for 60 years, the family is still in search of a candidate for the Prime Minister's post. "The Congress does not have the courage to declare Rahul Gandhi as the prime ministerial candidate," he alleged. Addressing a gathering in Dharwad, Joshi claimed that if Rahul Gandhi was declared the prime ministerial candidate, the party won't get votes. "There is a huge difference between the earlier Gandhis and the present Gandhis. In the present day 'Gandhi company', there is no prime ministerial candidate," he alleged. "The Congress does not care about the protection of the country."



## Iraqi PM vows to diversify national economy

**Baghdad, May 3 (IANS) :** Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani has said that his government is committed to bolstering the industry, agriculture, trade, and tourism sectors, to reduce the country's reliance on oil and transition to a diversified economy. The Prime Minister made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of the first phase of a continuous casting plant in the Taji area, nearly 20 km north of Baghdad, according to a statement by his media office on Friday. "We have no choice but to support industry, agriculture, trade, and tourism to achieve the transition from a country dependent on oil revenues to a diversified economy," the statement quoted al-Sudani as saying. "We have targeted industry as a major goal in economic reform ... as Iraq is an industrial country as much as it is an oil and agricultural country," the Prime Minister added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.



## Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 34,568: Ministry

**Gaza, May 3 (IANS) :** The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 34,568, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said in a press statement. During the past 24 hours, the Israeli army killed 33 Palestinians and wounded 57 others, bringing the total death toll since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict to 34,568 and injuries to 77,765, Xinhua news agency re-

ported. Some victims remain under the rubble amid persistent Israeli attacks and a lack of rescue crews, said the statement on Friday. Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 were taken hostage.

## Pakistani infiltrator shot dead by BSF in J&K's Samba

**Jammu, May 3 (IANS) :** A Pakistan infiltrator was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) troopers in the Samba sector of the international border in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said. BSF sources said that the incident occurred near the border outpost in the Regal area of Samba district.

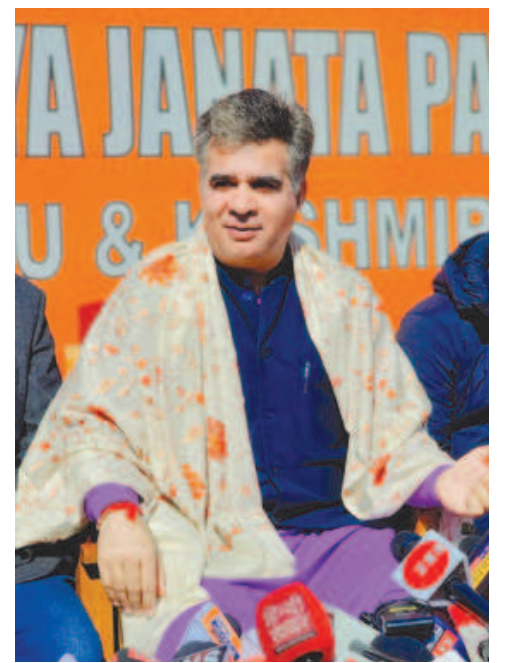
"The infiltrator was killed when he was trying to cross over to the Indian side near the border fence."



## BJP expels J&K leader for hate speech made in Poonch

**Jammu, May 3 (IANS) :** The BJP on Friday expelled a leader of its J&K unit for making a hate speech during the election campaign in Poonch district. Satish Bhargav has been expelled from the primary membership of the party for 6 years. The BJP came after a video clip went viral showing Bhargav making a hate speech and using unparliamentary language in a meeting at the Mendhar area of Poonch. BJP's J&K President Ravinder Raina, in a statement, said that based on a recommendation made by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, Satish Bhargav, district spokesperson, Poonch, has been expelled from the party for a period of six years for gross indiscipline and for using unparliamentary language and hate speech, which is video recorded". He cited the letter from the Disciplinary

Committee Chairman Sunil Sethi, saying that the senior leader's "deplorable behaviour by a senior leader is gross indiscipline and can't be tolerated in a disciplined party like the BJP, and recommending his immediate expulsion as an enquiry is not needed in this matter as his conduct is recorded and spread in the masses". PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who is a candidate



from the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, also accused the BJP leader of threatening the Pahari community to vote for BJP-supported candidate or else it would cause a communal flare-up like 1947.

## During Covid, no hike in taxes was PM Modi's clear message : FM Nirmala Sitharaman

**New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) :** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday took to X to inform that the Goods and Services (GST) collections have crossed Rs 2 lakh crore benchmark for the year, on the back of strong momentum in the economy. This year, the GST collection stands at about 12.4 per cent higher than last year. In April 2023, GST collection was 1.87 lakh crore, while this April, it reached a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore. Meanwhile, the social media is abuzz with a video of Nirmala Sitharaman, where she recalls Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exemplary leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic and also his clear

no to tax hikes during the period. The Finance Minister, in a video shared by 'Modi Story', a popular X handle, recollected series of steps taken by PM Modi in fighting the pandemic and keeping up the morale of citizens. She said that there were two-things which she clearly remembers, till today. "You will not take money from people to attend to Covid needs -- was the clear instruction from Prime Minister," the Finance Minister revealed. "When Covid was setting in, there were five mini-budgets. If you put it together, it would have been equivalent to one full budget. The readiness and alacrity, the speed with he would sit with you and work out things, because that time demanded like that. You had to come up with relief measures, re-



assuring words, schemes that were necessary for people," Nirmala Sitharaman said. "PM Modi said that even if we were short of money, we will never raise taxes to meet Covid expenses. We did not have much resources to spend on so many things. We were wondering about raising the taxes but PM was clear that there shall be no hike in taxes," she said. The Finance Minister said that the second major step was focus on giving relief to people. Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan

Yojana, money was credited into people's accounts. "Thirdly, PM Modi made all the ministers sit and talk to the district collectors everyday. This ensured the delivery of PPE kits, masks and oxygen generators. If hospitals did not have it, it would be up to us to get it from wherever and then pass it on to them," she said, recalling the Central government's vigorous fight against the pandemic.

## LS polls: Shiv Sena renominates Hemant Godse against SS (UBT) candidate Rajabhau Waje

**Mumbai, May 3 (IANS) :** The Shiv Sena has renominated sitting MP Hemant Godse from the Nashik Lok Sabha constituency, thus ending the suspense. Godse had already started his campaign though Ajit Pawar-led NCP and BJP had also staked their claims over the Nashik Lok Sabha seat. Godse, who was elected in the 2014 and 2019 elections, will file his nomination on Friday. He is pitted against the Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Rajabhau Waje. Incidentally, both Godse and Waje hail from the politically influential Maratha community. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the party has announced Godse's candidature from

Nashik and he will win the elections. Godse, who had made a strong case for his renomination by putting up a show of strength recently at the CM's Thane residence, has thanked Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde saying that he will score a hat-trick. The delay in arriving at a seat-sharing arrangement over the Nashik constituency hogged the headlines as NCP minister.



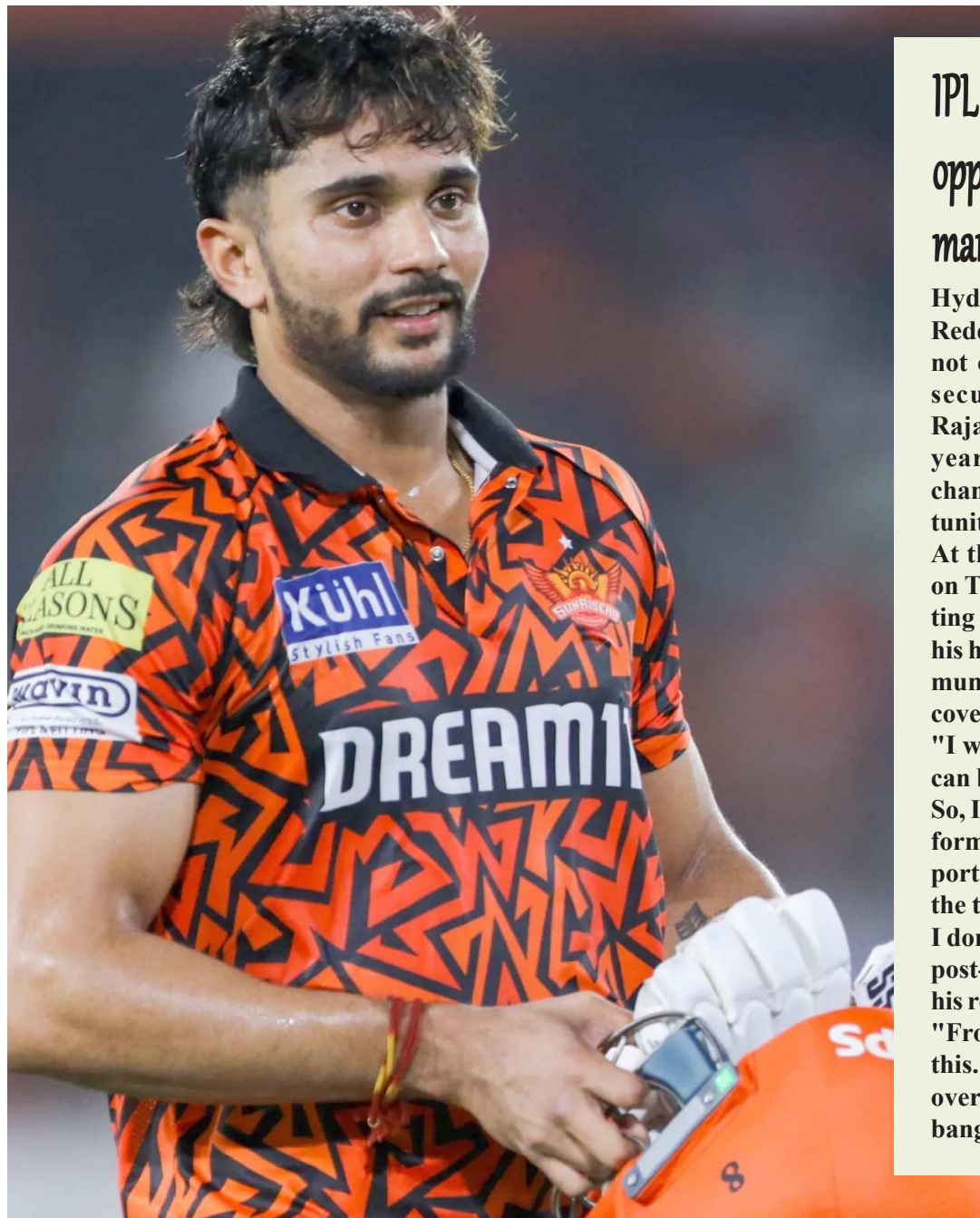




## Smith, Kemp picked; Dunkley, Beaumont left out from England's T20s vs Pakistan

London, May 3 (IANS) : Left-arm spinner Linsey Smith and fast-bowling all-rounder Freya Kemp have been picked for England's T20I series against Pakistan, starting on May 11 at Edgbaston. Notable omissions include batters Sophia Dunkley and Tammy Beaumont, who had an underwhelming time with the bat in T20Is against New Zealand earlier this year. Tammy, the right-handed opener, finds a place in the ODI series squad, so as seam-bowling all-rounder Kate

Cross. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said all-rounder Kemp will be available as a batter during the T20I series against Pakistan, in continuation of her recovery from a long-standing back injury. Linsey retains her place in the T20I set-up after making a return to England colours on the New Zealand tour. Leg-spinner Sarah Glenn returns after missing the ODI series against New Zealand due to a concussion suffered during the T20I series.



## IPL 2024: Didn't want to waste the opportunity given by team management, says Nitish Reddy

Hyderabad, May 3 (IANS) Nitish Kumar Reddy, who made an outstanding 42-ball 76 not out for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in securing a thrilling one-run win over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in IPL 2024, said this year, the team management gave him a chance to be in the playing eleven, an opportunity he never wanted to throw away.

At the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Thursday evening, Reddy dazzled by hitting three fours and eight sixes in what is also his highest T20 knock, with some of his maximums hit straight down the ground and over cover enthralled the home fans.

"I would say I'm a genuine all-rounder who can bowl, who can bat, who can field as well. So, I'm looking forward to the all-round performance. I was waiting for this batting opportunity actually from last year. This year the team management gave me a chance and I don't want to throw it away," he said in the post-match press conference. Reflecting on his role in the SRH middle-order, Reddy said, "From the last two matches, it has been like this. My role is to carry until the 14th or 13th over to give Heinrich Klaasen a license to bang.

## Hardik stands 'head and shoulders above' anyone as fast-bowling all-rounder in T20 WC : Tom Moody

New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) : Tom Moody, the former Australia men's all-rounder, believes Hardik Pandya currently stands head and shoulders above other contenders for the fast-bowling all-rounder slot in the Indian team going to participate in the Men's T20

World Cup next month. Pandya's inclusion, as the deputy to skipper Rohit Sharma in the 15-member India squad came as a surprise to many, considering he has been unable to leave a huge impact with bat and ball while captaining Mumbai Indians in IPL 2024.

But with many players in India not having the skillsets he has; Pandya is now on the verge of playing his fourth T20 World Cup for India when they open their campaign against Ireland at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on June 5.



## SA to host Sri Lanka and Pakistan men, England women for 2024/25 home summer

Johannesburg, May 3 (IANS) : Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced that the men's team will take on Sri Lanka in two Tests and Pakistan in an all-format tour, while the women's team will play host to England for a multi-format tour in the 2024/25 home summer happening between November and January.

After South Africa 'A' hosts Sri Lanka 'A' from three 50-over matches (August 31- September 4) and two four-day matches (September 8- 18), the Proteas senior men's team will open the international home summer in the first Test against Sri Lanka at Kingsmead Stadium in Durban from November 27-December 1, followed by second game at St George's Park in Gqeberha from December 5-9.

Women's all-format series against England will run concurrently, starting with a three-match T20I series from November 24 - 30. The three-match ODI series will follow at multiple venues across the country from December 4-11, with the annual Black Day.

## T20 WC: 'It's got to do with the balance of the team', says Moody on Rinku's omission from India squad



New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) : On Rinku Singh's surprising omission from India's 15-member squad for the Men's T20 World Cup, Tom Moody, the former Australia all-rounder, thinks it happened mainly due to the balance of the team, where they needed another spin-bowling all-rounder in Axar Patel. Rinku has played 15 T20Is for India since his debut last year. He has majorly excelled as a finisher, by scoring 356 runs at a strike rate of 176.23. But in IPL 2024, he hasn't got ample batting opportunities for Kolkata Knight Riders - making 123 runs off 82 balls in eight innings coming in the lower middle-order at a strike rate of 150. Rinku, though, is included in India's traveling reserves for the T20 World Cup. "With Rinku Singh, I don't think it matters how many runs he gets for the rest of the IPL. It's got to do with the balance of the Indian side, and Ajit Agarkar was actually really clear in the way he explained it. It's just got to do with the balance of the sides.



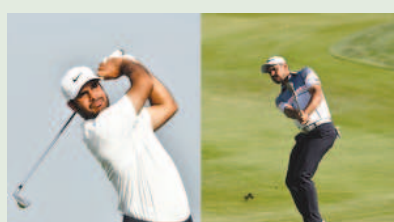
## India retain top spot in ODIs, T20Is rankings after annual update

Dubai, May 3 (IANS) : India have retained their top spot in men's ODIs and T20Is rankings after the annual update released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday. In the Test rankings, India are in second place as Australia have taken the pole position. For the Test rankings, ICC said the annual update drops results from the 2020-21 season and reflects all series completed since May 2021. Australia, the current World Test Championship winners, now lead the table with 124 rating points.

## Shubhankar Sharma, Gaganjeet Bhullar seek golfing bromance on Paris Olympics debut

New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) : Leading Indian golfers Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar are set to make their Olympic debut in Paris 2024. Shubhankar and Gaganjeet are ranked 47 and 52, respectively, on the Olympic Golf Rankings (OGR) as of April 29 and are expected to be among the 60 professionals teeing off on August 1 at the Le Golf National.

Talking about his preparation, Shubhankar said he has been following a well-planned



schedule for the Olympics. "I am happy with myself and where I stand today. It's work in the right direction. More than the challenges now, it's just about getting that week right. I am very positive," Shubhankar told SAI Media. Shubhankar has immense respect for Bhullar, his senior on the professional circuit.

## T20 WC: 'Virat should open; Rohit bats at No.3', believes Ajay Jadeja

New Delhi, May 3 (IANS) : Former India all-rounder Ajay Jadeja believes skipper Rohit Sharma should make himself bat at number three and promote Virat Kohli to open the batting for the Men's T20 World Cup, set to begin from June 1 in the West Indies and the USA.

Rohit and Kohli are India's top-order batters in their 15-member World Cup squad alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal and Suryakumar Yadav. India are placed in

Group A of the competition alongside arch-rivals Pakistan, Ireland, Canada and co-hosts USA.

They will begin their campaign on June 5 against Ireland at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York. "For me, Virat Kohli opens. Who goes back? Rohit Sharma bats at three.

