

# THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

THURSDAY, 09 May 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 253 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



**IPL 2024: We're making 'few too many' casual mistakes, says Sangakkara after RR's loss to DC**  
After Rajasthan Royals were subjected to their second defeat on the trot in IPL 2024, director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara... **12**



**High possibility of 8 pc GDP growth for India in 2023-24: CEA Nageswaran**  
There is a high possibility of India's economic growth touching 8 per cent in 2023-24, government's Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)... **07**



**Modi in the presence of Vemulawada Rajanna**  
Narendra Modi in the capacity of Prime Minister of the country visited Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy of Vemulawada, Rajanna Sirisilla District, which is famous in Dakshina Kashi. **02**



## Furious over Pitroda's 'racist' comment, PM Modi says it is now clear why Cong opposed Prez Murmu's candidature

**Hyderabad, May 8 (IANS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday slammed the Congress party and its senior leader Sam Pitroda over the latter's alleged racist remarks, warning that he would not tolerate "such insult on the basis of skin colour" and that any such further comments could harm the unity of the nation. Addressing an election rally here,

PM Modi said he is quite angry over the remarks made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "uncle, guide and philosopher" who lives in the United States. He made it clear that the country will not tolerate any insult to the people in the name of their skin colour. "I got to know that there is an uncle in America who is the philo-

sophical guide of 'Shehzada' and just like the third umpire in cricket this 'Shehzada' takes advice from the third umpire. This philosophical uncle said that those who have black skin are from Africa. This means that you are abusing several people in the country on the basis of their skin colour," said PM Modi.

**Continued on pg 02**

## Tough battle for Pawan Kalyan in Pithapuram

**Amaravati, May 8 (IANS) :** In search of his maiden electoral victory, Jana Sena Party leader and actor Pawan Kalyan faces a tough fight against seasoned politician Vanga Geetha of the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Pithapuram Assembly constituency in Andhra Pradesh. The constituency in Kakinada district is expected to see a fierce battle for supremacy as YSRCP is going all out to stop Pawan Kalyan from entering the Assembly. The actor-politician, whose party has an electoral alliance with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is confident of finally making it to the Assembly. The YSRCP has fielded Vanga Geetha, the sitting MP from the Kakinada Lok Sabha constituency.

Pithapuram is one of the Assembly segments under the Kakinada constituency. Power star, as Pawan Kalyan is popularly known, has been campaigning in Pithapuram for more than one-and-a-half months, conducting road shows. His nephew and actor Varun Tej also joined the high-octane campaign late last month by holding a road show. In an apparent move to counter his political rivals, who brand him an outsider for the constituency, Pawan

Kalyan has bought a home in the town and announced that he would actually reside in the town to be close to the people and work for their development. The Jana Sena leader has also promised to promote temple tourism in the constituency at a cost of Rs 300 crore with the development of the ancient Kukkuteswara temple as 'Mini Kashi' along with the Puruhutika temple.

**Continued on pg 02**



## People are supporting us voluntarily

**Hyderabad, May 8 :** BJP State president G. Kishan Reddy today claimed that BJP's election campaign was getting an amazing response and added that people were voluntarily coming forward and saying that they would vote for the BJP. He also claimed that people were condemning the bad propaganda of the Congress party on the issue of social reservations.



## 25 BRS MLAs will join Congress on June 5, says Telangana minister

**Hyderabad, May 8 (IANS) :** Telangana minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Wednesday claimed that 25 MLAs of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will join the ruling Congress on June 5. The Congress leader predicted that the BRS would get not more than two Lok Sabha seats from the state in the elections and the party would get emptied as 25 MLAs will switch loyalties to Congress soon after declaration of results of Lok Sabha polls. The BRS, which lost power to Congress in Assembly elections held in November 2023, has already lost three MLAs to the ruling party.

## People will lose rights if BJP is voted to power: Bhatti

**Nirmal, May 8 (NSS):** If the BJP is voted to power in the Lok Sabha elections, the people will lose their rights and democracy will be in jeopardy, said Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, the Deputy Chief Minister said the election battle was being held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dictatorship and the protection of the Constitution.



## Country needs Congress, says VH



**Hyderabad, May 8 (IANS) :** Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao said in the current situation, the country needs the leadership of Congress party, only then the common people will be safe in the country. Speaking at a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here on Wednesday, former MP V Hanumantha Rao alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had done nothing for the country in 10 years and there would be no use of BJP coming to power for the third term. "If the BJP is voted to power for the third term, Narendra Modi will not do anything for the poor.



## KTR urges people to give 12 MP seats to BRS party

**Kalwakurthy, May 8 (NSS):** BRS party working president KTR today urged the people of the State to ensure victory of their party in the upcoming elections by blessing it with 12 MP seats, including Nagarkurnool MP seat and said CM Revanth Reddy and his party leaders would go home by allowing their party president KCR to rule the politics of the State again. KTR participated in the roadshow organized at Hyderabad Chowrasta in Kalwakurthy town headquarters and spoke in support of Nagarkurnool MP candidate RS Praveen Kumar. He said five months ago, he came to Kalwakurthy and Amangal. He said that al-

though he thought his party leader Jaipal Yadav would win, the Congress party candidate won by betraying people. He alleged that the Congress party had deceived the people by showing paradise in its palm. KTR said the people of the district were cheated by the CM by telling them that he was a child of Palamur district. He mocked that the Congress MLA from Kalwakurthy had put up a hoarding by claiming that their five guarantees had been implemented.

## CPM urges govt to help rain-hit farmers

**Hyderabad, May 8 (NSS) :** CPM State secretary Tammineni Veerabhadram today urged the State government to help those who have suffered losses due to the recent unseasonal rains. In a statement, he said on May 7, seven people were killed due to hailstorms across the State and added that several houses were damaged due to the breakdown of electricity poles and trees. He also said the grains got wet in the markets and the bags were washed away.



Furious over Pitroda's 'racist' comment, PM Modi says it is now clear why Cong opposed Prez Murmu's candidature

Continued From pg 01 "He has abused people of my country in the name of their skin colour... However, as your PM and one among you, I affirm that we are all children of Lord Shri Krishna, and we are all equal, regardless of race or creed," the PM added.

He further said that now it is clear why the Congress party had opposed Droupadi Murmu's candidature as the President of India. "Now I have understood that on the basis of the skin colour, they believed that Droupadi Murmu is also African and since her skin colour is black, she should be de-

feated," he said. He asked if the talent of a person be decided on the basis of the colour of the skin. "I am very angry today. When I am abused, I don't get angry. But, today the prince's philosopher has thrown such a big insult that I am filled with anger."

He remarked those making a hue and cry over the Constitution were insulting the people of India. PM Modi recalled that in 2014, NDA made Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit, the President of India and in 2019, it chose Droupadi Murmu, a tribal daughter, for the top post.

Pitroda, who is the Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, worked closely with Rajiv Gandhi and is now considered to be quite close to Rahul Gandhi. He had earlier created a massive storm with his remarks on 'inheritance tax' in America.



Minister 'Ponnam' birthday celebrations in Sirisilla

Rajanna Sirisilla, May 8 (TIM Bureau) : State Transport Department and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar's birthday celebrations were grandly organized in Sirisilla town. On Wednesday, a cake was cut and sweets were distributed at the local Gandhi Chowk intersection under the aegis of Urban Congress. Town Congress President Choppadandi Prakash, Congress Party District Ex-President Nagula Satyanarayana Goud, Congress Campaign Committee Members Sanjak Srinivas, State Ex-Secretary Gaddam Narasiah, Block Congress President Soora Devaraj, SC Cell District President Akkalluri Balaraju, Sirisilla Urban Padmasali Sangam President Goli Venkataramana. Former councilor Elle Lakshminarayana, leaders Kodam Srinivas, Ma Na Prasad, Mallesham, Devdas Annaldas Bhanu, Rapalli Kalyan, Masam Ratnakar and others participated.

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(G)) Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at: D.No.5-9-22/8/501, 5th Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Hyderabad-500004. Dns: 9-1st Floor, Venkat Laxmi Plaza, Boddapalli, Pezanduguda Municipality, Hyderabad-500020, Telangana-500039 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act").

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale of Immovable Properties Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at: "Door no 47-11-36 1st floor, Eswara Towers, 1st lane, Dwarkanagar, Vishakhapatnam-530016 / 1st Floor, Papireddy plaza, Beside KVB bank, Koda, Suryapet, Telangana- 508267" IIFL Home Finance Ltd. Dns: 20-1-15/1, Sai Swarna Heights, Above Icici Bank, Achanta Vari Street, Near Narendra Center Tanuku, 534211 / D No 2-1-41, First Floor, Ajanta Complex, Opp Talka Office, Kn Road, Tadepalligudem, West Godavari, A.P. 534101 / Door No 4-14-111 A, 1st Floor, Opposite Shivalayam, Anjanepet, Amravati, Dist. - 522134, 2nd Floor, Venkat Laxmi Plaza, Boddapalli, Pezanduguda municipality, Hyderabad-500020, Telangana-500039 / IIFL Home Finance Ltd. Dns: 20-7-2-42, 1st Floor, Main Road, Opp Rajasthan Kirana Stores, Digumarthi Street, Kakinda, Pin Code:533001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act").



Modi in the presence of Vemulawada Rajanna Rajanna Sirisilla (Vemulawada) May 8 (TIM Bureau) : Narendra Modi in the capacity of Prime Minister of the country visited Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy of Vemulawada, Rajanna Sirisilla District, which is famous in Dakshina Kashi. The priests of the temple welcomed him with Purnakumbha, paid the most beloved bull offering to Rajanna and visited Sri Rajarajeshwari, Sri Rajarajeswara Swami and Lakshmi Ganapati. The chief priests of the temple, Appala Bhimashankara Sharma and Sarath Sharma offered the tirthprasada and gave blessings.

KTR throws challenge to Revanth

Hyderabad, May 8 (NSS): BRS working president and Siricilla MLA K T Rama Rao has thrown a challenge to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. "Revanth Reddy, if you really have the guts, come forward. The circular that you have put in place, the circular that our party leader Krishank has put in front of the experts, what is the original? What is forgery.. Let's find out what is duplicate."

Revanth Reddy, if you really have the guts, come forward. The circular that you have put in place, the circular that our party leader Krishank has put in front of the experts, what is the original? What is forgery.. Let's find out what is duplicate." KTR challenged. He said after finding out the veracity of the circular.

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". Name & Address of the Borrower/Loan Account No.: Mrs. Desaraju Vijaya Srawanthi A/c No.6470060002213. Amount Due: Rs.20.79 Lakhs. Together with further interest thereon at contractual rate due + Legal and other expenses. (Less Recovery if any)

Congress respected PV at all times: Niranjan Hyderabad, May 8 (NSS): Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee ( TPCC) senior vice-president Niranjan said that former prime minister PV Narsimha Rao was highly respected by the Congress party and the opportunity was given to his sons to become MPs and ministers. Condemning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that Congress had insulted PV Narsimha Rao even after his death by not allowing his body to be brought into the party office, Niranjan said that no one could break the connection of Congress party with Narasimha Rao and Modi was levelling baseless allegations against the Congress on the matter of PV.

RECOVERY DEPARTMENT UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 & RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER 10-11-11992, PTI Building, 2nd Floor, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004. Ph: 040-23322861, 23315574, E-mail: assetrecovery.telangana@bankofindia.co.in E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002 & RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER Notice is hereby given to the public in general, in particular to the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) and to the legal heirs of Borrowers & Guarantors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor and will be sold on "As is where is "As is what is" and whatever there is" basis for recovery of bank dues of secured creditor, as specified in each account which are due and recoverable from under mentioned Borrowers/ Guarantors. The Reserve price and Earnest Money are as mentioned hereunder. The Description of the immovable properties as under with known encumbrances. If any, Date and Time of Sale: 10-06-2024 at Time 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM (With Multiple Extensions till Sale is Concluded)

Tough battle for Pawan Kalyan in Pithapuram Continued From pg 01 one of the 18 Shakti Pithas of the country. He has also assured the fishermen community that he would work to solve their problems. The YSR Congress Party leaders are also running an aggressive door-to-door campaign in the constituency, which has about 3 lakh voters. Vanga Geetha, a seasoned leader of the region, is banking on the popularity.



'Modi Brigade' seeks support from Muslim women voters in UP

Prayagraj, May 8 (IANS) : The 'Modi Brigade', a group of 50 Muslim women activists, are propagating the Centre's policies among Muslim women in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

Prayagraj, May 8 (IANS) : The 'Modi Brigade', a group of 50 Muslim women activists, are propagating the Centre's policies among Muslim women in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

powerment by advocating equal education opportunity for them apart from banning triple talaq." Khan further added, "We are carrying out the campaign in Muslim-dominated urban pockets in Allahabad North, Allahabad West and Allahabad South covering the Allahabad and Phulpur Lok Sabha constituencies."

Ex-SP MLA booked in UP for breach of trust, criminal intimidation

Prayagraj, May 8 (IANS) : A former Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Pervez Ahmed a.k.a. Pervez Tanki

has been booked for breach of 406 (breach of trust), 504 trust by police in Uttar (disrupting peace) and 506 Pradesh's Prayagraj. (criminal intimidation) of He was booked under sections IPC by the Prayagraj police.

Kedarnath Dham set to reopen for devotees on May 10



Ukhimath/Rudraprayag, May 8 (IANS) : The series of special puja rituals performed ahead of the opening of doors of the Kedarnath Dham in Uttarakhand began on Wednesday as the holy shrine is set to reopen for devotees on May 10.

Goa CM hits back at Shashi Tharoor, says people of Goa are 'my astrologer'

Panaji, May 8 (IANS) : Days after Congress leader Shashi Tharoor "suggested" Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to change his astrologer, the latter said that he said that the people of the state are his astrologer.

that the BJP "will rule the state and at the Centre for the next 50 years and hence the dream of Rahul Gandhi to become Prime Minister would never come true".



Bank of Baroda Kukatpally Branch. Bright Securities Management Services Pvt. Ltd., Plot No.484, Road No.5A, Gopal Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072

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 AND AS IT IS" BASIS.

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

## OPINIONmail

INDIA'S ADIVASI COMMUNITIES  
ARE FACING BRUTAL REPRESSION  
FROM MODI GOVT

In the mineral-rich heartland of India's Bastar region in the state of Chhattisgarh, a severe onslaught against indigenous communities, known as Adivasis, is currently unfolding. The Indian government officially recognizes the major Adivasi community in the region, the Madia, as a "particularly vulnerable tribal group." Despite this recognition, the ongoing state-led aggression against them poses a grave threat to their existence, putting thousands of lives at stake.

At the heart of this unfolding tragedy lies the Indian government's steadfast commitment, echoed by the declarations of Home Minister Amit Shah, to eradicate Maoist revolutionaries by the end of 2024. In their pursuit of a "Maoist-free India," state forces have intensified their operations in 2024. Over the past four months, they have killed eighty-two Adivasis and Maoists. On April 16 alone, security forces killed twenty-nine Adivasis and Maoists, fifteen of whom were women.

To carry out this bloodshed, the Indian state has deployed not only thousands of local police operatives but also more than ten thousand troops from border security and paramilitary forces as well as special counterinsurgent units. They have established hundreds of military camps across Adivasi terrain to terrorize and eliminate them.

Military and police camps have been strategically established at intervals of three to five kilometres to saturate Bastar. In Chhattisgarh, there are nearly three hundred such camps, with Bastar alone hosting about a hundred. Each camp accommodates between five hundred and two thousand personnel, armed with heavy weaponry, and supported by drones of various sizes. Additionally, every camp is equipped with two mine-proof vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, and war tanks.

Furthermore, the state is resorting to the use of drones to drop bombs in Adivasi areas. This aggression illustrates how the Indian state is endangering its indigenous people. The question remains: Why? For over five decades, the Maoists, also known as Naxalites, have been waging a relentless struggle against the state, advocating for socioeconomic justice and people's rights over water, forest, land, and self-respect. However, the Indian government views this revolutionary movement as a major "internal security threat" and labels it a "menace" to the nation. In response, it has embarked on a mission to "sanitize" regions under Maoist influence. In the context of Bastar, renowned writer Arundhati Roy has offered valuable insights into the complex dynamics of the conflict by looking at it in terms of three main factors: mineral resources, the Adivasi communities, and the Maoists. At the core of this issue lies the abundant reserves of minerals. The state of Chhattisgarh accounts for a large proportion of India's mineral reserves, including 38 percent of its tin ore, 20 percent of its bauxite, 18 percent of its iron ore, 17 percent of its coal, and 4 percent of its diamonds. Mineral extraction in the state contributes almost 13 percent of India's total mineral production value. The Bastar region alone possesses several minerals that are essential for various industries, including coal, iron ore, bauxite, dolomite, limestone, diamonds, and manganese. It also contains rare-metal and rare-earth (RMRE) pegmatites such as niobium, cerium, yttrium, lithium, and tantalum. The estimated value of these mineral resources is staggering. The Indian state's strategy revolves around privatizing existing public sector mining operations and providing licenses for new mines to corporations. This initiative aims to create designated zones for the extraction of minerals. To achieve this objective, the state has undertaken three major steps. Firstly, it has created a conducive policy environment for privatizing mining operations, paving the way for increased corporate involvement in the sector.

(By Kurusam Shankar)

EDITORIAL  
the indian mailCJI MUST INTERVENE TO ENSURE  
THE SANCTITY OF ELECTORAL PROCESS

No, it is not a simple 'unusual & worrying' case. The allegation levelled by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, that the BJP has hatched a plan to switch EVMs being used in the Lok Sabha polls with the 1.9 million machines went missing in 2019, certainly cannot be outright rejected as a simple case of speculation. Mamata, of course, did not directly name CEC as the BJP's cohort; but her allegation nevertheless made it abundantly clear that this has been done by the EC at the behest of BJP, especially Narendra Modi.

Undeniably, a jump in the final voter turnout by nearly 5.75 percent from what the Election Commission had released right after the voting is worrying. It is also an open secret that manipulations could not have been done without the connivance of Rajeev Kumar's Election Commission. EVMs are stored in the strong rooms under tight security. Obviously no one can breach the security, unless it has blessings of EC. Mamata Banerjee, who has written a letter to CEC Rajeev Kumar expressing her apprehensions, was candid in her

observation that the sudden increase in poll percentage is not just "disturbing", but also raises "serious apprehensions about the credibility of EVMs". Expressing doubt she wrote: "The details of EVM makers should be made public by the Election Commission as the BJP can stoop to any level to win elections."

Rajeev Kumar owes an explanation to the people of the country as to why the EC betrayed the trust of the Supreme Court. His releasing the corrected voter turnout figure makes it explicit that the EVM has been tampered with. Else, how could the earlier figures be changed or amended? Unless the figures are changed, how could EC come out with the so-called correct figure? Being CEC does not empower Rajeev Kumar to oblige his political masters. Doubt expressed by Mamata Banerjee in her letter are serious. Mamata said, "Figures that EC released yesterday show 5.75% more turnout in areas where BJP gets fewer votes. We want to know how this number went up, who makes EVM machines and who manufactures the chips used in these machines. There is a wide suspicion that false data were en-

tered into the missing EVMs and those machines were kept in place of the EVMs being used now."

It is a shame that Rajeev Kumar, hiding behind the façade of the trust bestowed upon the EC and especially on EVM by Supreme Court, allowed this nature of manipulation. Earlier, the Election Commission used to release the final data of voting percentage immediately after the polling, or within 24 hours. It is for the first time that it took ten days to release the same. It certainly does not underline the efficiency of the EC; instead it points to a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched out by BJP and EC. Perceptibly, Rajeev Kumar cannot abdicate his responsibility. This proclamation of EC is virtually a certificate from EC to Modi that he has won the election. The announcement is also a precursor to the voting pattern in the next five phases. If the corrected figures that were released on April 30 by EC are any indicator, it can safely be construed that in most of the 190 seats that went to polls on April 19 and 26, BJP has won. Modification was done with this in view. What a coincidence that the announcement came just a day after top RSS leaders made their

intentions known that they will not support Modi for the office of prime minister for the third consecutive term. Through manipulation of EVMs, Modi, however, sent a deafening message to the RSS leaders that he can accomplish his mission even without them, and that the RSS is not indispensable for him. There is little doubt that Modi has swung into action to ensure victory, irrespective of whether RSS helps him win or not. A desperate Modi is determined to show to his adversaries and friends that he can achieve his success without any one's help.

The EC has come out with the clarification that while the first phase recorded a turnout of 66.14%, the second phase recorded a figure of 66.71%. Both these numbers are higher by 5.5 percent than the original figure. This raises the apprehension that Rajeev Kumar-led EC has subverted the EVM and fed them with incorrect figure. Based on the EVM figures, the EC had given the voting percentage figures on the completion of the 1st and 2nd phase of election. However, the panel did not release the total number of voters in each constituency.

UNTIMELY DEATH OF THE CPI  
LEADER ATUL ANJAN IS A BIG LOSS  
TO LEFT MOVEMENT IN INDIA

The death of the prominent peasants leader of the country Atul Kumar Anjan at the wee hours of Friday, May 3 has come as a big shock to the farmers organisations and the Left movement in the country. Atul, the national secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the general secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha, was only 70 when he breathed his last in a Lucknow hospital. Atul started his political career in his early twenties as a student in Lucknow. He carried the political legacy of his father Dr. A P Singh who, as a veteran freedom fighter.

MARX IS MORE RELEVANT FOR  
INDIA NOW ON  
HIS 207TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Karl Marx was born on May 5, 1818, in a small town called Trier, in Rhine province of Prussia in Germany. Prior to him, in 1776, industrial revolution started with discovery of the strength of steam by James Watt in England. With science and steam, entered modernity and also capitalism. Marx stood witness to the evolution and discovered its dialectics which he called theory, scientifically placed as methodology deciphering the stages of socio-economic formation. These stages were linear, never reversible, preserved old with novelty, hence without repetition.

Marx had studied deeply the conditions of three great countries in Europe. France was one of them, where socialism was the dream for people. Science and class relations were yet to mature, hence socialism remained just utopia. When on April 14,



1789, revolution started with attack on Bastille, the royal fort in Paris, with slogans of equality, liberty and fraternity, it could not attain the goal. Despite the fact that France was soaked in blood, the royalty was guillotined, the time for equality and justice had not matured yet. Marx offered a scientific analysis of these two expressions that were most relevant for human life, yet he said, transition from feudalism to capitalism was not yet complete.

Industrial revolution was guided by bourgeoisie as well as the working class joined by the peasants, but revolutionary situation was yet to mature.

(IPA Service)

NARENDRA MODI GOVT  
WORKED ONLY FOR CRONY  
CAPITALISTS OF INDIA

Narendra Modi during his campaign for the Prime Ministership in 2013 and early months of 2014 focused mainly on corruption of the UPA-2 government in the last two years of its tenure and promised to the Indian voters a corruption-free government in 2014 Lok Sabha polls. The Congress stuck by the developments related to 2-G telecom spectrum scam suffered the defeat leading to the taking over of the Prime Minister's position by the fighter against corruption Narendra Modi. Ten years after, as the country is going through the polling phases for constituting the 18th Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been focusing on the same corruption issue against the Congress taking advantage of the raids by the central agencies on the opposition leaders and close associates mainly belonging to the Congress party. Many of the opposition leaders are not clean in their business dealings, but this is more true for the BJP leaders and supporters who have been kept out of the purview of the central agencies like the CBI, ED and the income Tax department. Prime Minister's one sided attack on the opposition on the issue of corruption hides the reality that the BJP led government has continued the corrupt



practices at the level of the centre as also the states ruled by the party and the common people have day to day experience about the presence of corrupt practices. The recent pre-Lok Sabha election survey done by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and Lokniti found that 55 percent of respondents said that corruption had increased in the last five years. A look at the history of the functioning of the government of India since independence in 1947 shows that the corruption was present all through, only the method changed with the ruling elite taking more interest in collecting kickbacks from big contracts. In fact, Rajiv Gandhi after his take over as the elected prime minister in 1984-85 mentioned corruption as one of the areas he proposed to do away with, but unfortunately, he got implicated in the so called Bofors controversy which became a major issue in 1989 Lok Sabha elections.

CHHATTISGARH MAY  
DITCH BJPS  
PROGRAMME  
OF WINNING ALL SEATS

Lok Sabha election in Chhattisgarh will conclude with polling in the rest 7 constituencies in the third phase on May 7. Election campaigns are at its peak. The contest is chiefly between the BJP and the Congress, and there seems to be very close contests between their candidates in almost half of the constituencies.

Obviously, the election outcome will be laden with some surprises, since Congress seems to be recovering some of its lost grounds to much frustration of the BJP.

The seven constituencies that are going to polls in the third phase on May 7 are – Bilaspur, Durg, Janjgir-Champa, Korba, Raigarh, Raipur, and Surguja. Elections on Rajnandgaon, Mahasamand, and Kanker seats were held in the second phase.



### After Hamas rocket attack, 16 killed in Israeli airstrikes in Rafah

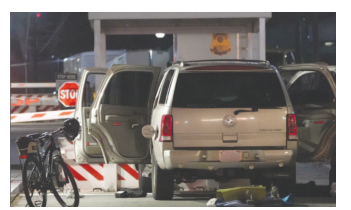
Tel Aviv, May 8 (IANS) : The Hamas health department said that 16 people were killed in an Israeli air attack on Wednesday. Media has reported that nine people from one family and seven members from another family were killed in the air attack. The airstrike was in retaliation to the barrage of rockets fired by Hamas at a ground near Kerem Shalom in Southern Israel killing three Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers and injuring 11 soldiers. The injured included soldiers from the 931 Battalion and one soldier from the Shaked Battalion. The attack, according to IDF, was staged from the Rafah region early morning. Highly placed sources in the Israel Prime Minister's Office (PMO) told IANS that the war cabinet will meet on Wednesday and decide on the ground invasion of Rafah. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Minister without portfolio, Benny Gantz will be participating in the war cabinet to be held later in the day.

### Death toll from Brazil floods rises to 75

Sao Paulo, May 8 (IANS) : At least 75 people have died from severe storms that inundated large swaths of south Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul state since April 29, the Civil Defense agency said in its latest report. Another 155 people have been injured with 103 still missing, while 107,600 people have been evacuated to safety in 334 of the state's 496 cities, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the figures released on Wednesday. The state, which borders Argentina and Uruguay, has been ravaged by record downpours that have devastated numerous towns and led to unprecedented flooding in the state capital of Porto Alegre, where the Guaiba River burst its banks. According to the Civil Defense agency, some 780,000 residents have been affected by flooding, with thousands of people forced to flee their homes by



boats or climb onto rooftops in hope of being rescued by helicopters. Rio Grande do Sul Governor Eduardo Leite described the situation in his state as a "war scene."



### Driver dies after vehicle crashes into White House gate

Washington, May 8 (IANS) : A vehicle travelling at high speed collided with a gate at the White House, leaving the driver dead, the US Secret Service said. "Shortly before 10:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) on May 4th," the vehicle crashed into "an outer perimeter gate on the White House complex," the federal law enforcement agency said Sunday in a statement published on X. Xinhua news agency reported.

### South Korea to take part in US-led cyber exercise amid rising security threats from North Korea

Seoul, May 8 (IANS) : South Korea's Cyber Operations Command will participate in a US-led multinational cyber exercise this week to boost its capabilities to counter malicious cyber activities, Seoul's defence ministry said on Wednesday, amid growing security threats from North Korea. According to the defence ministry, nine personnel from South Korea's military will join the Cyber Flag exercise to be held from Sunday through Saturday (local time) in the US state of Virginia. The online exercise is designed to sharpen skills for multinational cooperation in countering cyber threats and share intelligence against enemies' cyber activities, reports Yonhap news agency. Since 2011.



### Over 1,000 documents wrongly issued from govt portal in S. Korea

Seoul, May 8 (IANS) : In a cyber incident, more than 1,000 civil documents were wrongly issued from the government's online civil service portal called 'Government 24', leading to the leak of personal information, the interior ministry said on Wednesday. The documents -- 646 graduation and other certificates, and 587 corporate tax payment certificates -- were issued under the name of the wrong individual or business representative, exposing sensitive personal information, including names, addresses and resident registration numbers, according to the ministry. The services have been restored to normal, it said, blaming the error on the program developer's mistake, reports Yonhap news agency. The ministry said the wrongly issued documents

have been deleted and those whose personal information was leaked have been informed via phone or mail. It also said the cases were reported to the Personal Information Protection Commission under relevant regulations. "We currently do not know the details of the leak and are looking into how far the leaked information has spread," a commission official said. "It's unclear yet when the results of the investigation will come out."



### Death toll rises to 12 in Congo bombings

Kinshasa, May 8 (IANS) : The death toll into the bombings at three sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has mounted to 12, the United Nations said. The attack on the three IDP sites, located in the Lac Vert, Lushagala, and Mugunga neighbourhoods of Goma, the capital of the eastern province of North Kivu, also damaged shelters and other humanitarian structures, the UN said in a statement late Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported.



### Death toll in Afghanistan rainstorm, floods reaches 10

Kabul, May 8 (IANS) : At least 10 people were killed in western Afghanistan due to a new round of heavy rains and flash floods over the past couple of days, officials said on Wednesday. Heavy rains and flash floods killed seven people in Herat province over the past couple of days, provincial director for the disaster management authority Musa Ashhari confirmed.

### Cannot accept Hamas' demand to withdraw from Gaza, asserts Netanyahu

Tel Aviv, May 8 (IANS) : Amid ongoing talks for a 'pause' and mounting demands for the release of hostages, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday asserted that his country will not accept Hamas's demands to end the Gaza war, reports said. "We are not ready to accept a situation in which the Hamas battalions come out of their bunkers, take control of Gaza again, rebuild their military infrastructure, and return to threatening the citizens of Israel in the surrounding communities, in the cities of the south, in all parts of the country," he said, the BBC reported. "Israel will not agree to Hamas' demands," he reiterated.



### Defence chiefs of US, Australia, Japan decry N. Korea-Russia military cooperation

Washington, May 8 (IANS) : The defence chiefs of the US, Australia, and Japan denounced growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including their weapons transactions, during their trilateral talks in Hawaii this week. US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and his Australian and Japanese counterparts, Richard Marles and Minoru Kihara, held the meeting on Wednesday to discuss a range of regional and global issues, including North Korea, Russia's war in Ukraine, the South China Sea

and the Taiwan Strait, Yonhap news agency reported. "The ministers strongly condemn the increasing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including North Korea's export and Russia's procurement of North Korean ballistic missiles in violation of UNSC resolutions, as well as Russia's use of these missiles against Ukraine," the statement read. Austin, Marles and Kihara also expressed concerns over Pyongyang's unceasing weapon developments.

### Hamas team to consult with leadership on Gaza deal after Cairo talks

Cairo/Tel Aviv, May 8 (IANS/DPA) : Another round of indirect negotiations on the Gaza war came to an end on Wednesday in the Egyptian capital Cairo, with representatives from Hamas set to head to Qatar next for consultation with their leadership, according to the group. The Hamas delegation had delivered a response to the mediators' proposals and discussed them with the representatives of Egypt and Qatar, the organization wrote on its Telegram channel. The delegation planned to leave Cairo on Sunday evening and consult with the organization's leaders in Qatar, it said. The latest round of negotiations to find a solution to the months-long conflict in Gaza had begun on Saturday. Israel had not sent a delegation as the government wanted to wait and see whether Hamas would accept the latest proposal from the mediators, which also includes the US. This envisages a multi-stage agreement between Israel and Hamas, which should



lead to the release of the remaining Israeli hostages held in Gaza, the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons and an end to the war in Gaza. Negotiations for a solution to the conflict have stalled for months, following a brief ceasefire in November, with Israel and Hamas trading blame for the lack of progress. The Gaza war was triggered by the unprecedented massacre of more than 1,200 people killed by militants from Hamas and other groups in Israel on October 7. They also abducted some 250 people to Gaza. Israel responded with massive airstrikes and a ground offensive. As of Friday, the Hamas-con-

trolled Health Ministry said the death toll in Gaza from Israeli attacks stood at more than 34,600. In its statement on Sunday, Hamas emphasized that it was conducting the negotiations "in a positive spirit and responsibly." However, a breakthrough did not appear to be on the horizon. The Palestinian group is insisting on an agreement in which Israel commits from the outset to ending the war and completely withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip. However, Israel denies such a commitment and wants to reserve the right to take further military action.



## Kerala CM Vijayan, family leave for private trip to UAE

**Kochi, May 8 (IANS) :** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his wife left for the UAE on a private visit in the wee hours of Wednesday. According to sources, as the trip is a private one, hence there was no official announcement of it. CM Vijayan is accompanied by his wife Kamala, daughter Veena and her husband and State Tourism Minister PA Mohammed Riyas. CM Vijayan's son is based out of

UAE and works in a multinational bank. The visit comes at a time when the Vigilance Court is to give its verdict on a case seeking a court-monitored probe into the allegations of corruption leveled by Congress Legislator Mathew Kuzhalsadan. Incidentally this visit also comes at a time when the Enforcement Directorate, in a case registered against Veena's IT company, is getting ready to question her.

## BJP hopeful of reclaiming all 14 K'taka LS seats, Cong confident of good show

**Bengaluru, May 8 (IANS) :** Campaigning for 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka going to polls in the third phase of elections on May 8 will come to an end on Wednesday. The 14 seats located in the north Karnataka region are considered BJP's bastion and in 2019 it won all the seats. However, this time Congress is aiming for a good show. The plethora of issues, including the sensational murder case of MCA student Neha Hiremath, the obscene video scandal involving former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's grandson, JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna and arrested son H.D. Revanna, Muslim reservation in OBC quota, Congress' inheritance law and redistribution of wealth plans, drought, promises of guarantees, are likely to impact the mind-set of the voters. A total of 227 candidates, including

21 women and 117 independents, are contesting the 14 Lok Sabha seats. The total number of voters is 2.59 crore (2,59,17,493). The political heavyweights such as former Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai & Jagadish Shettar, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for State Bhagwanth Khuba, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani, former CM B.S. Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Raghavendra, former DyCM & ex-Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri and expelled BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa are contesting. The results are crucial for the political careers of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad), Jagdish Shettar (Belagavi), Eshwarappa (Shivamogga), Radhakrishna Doddamani (Kalaburagi). It is a matter of prestige also for Kharge and Yediyurappa to ensure the victories of their son-in-law and son



respectively. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DyCM D.K. Shivakumar, BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra, Yediyurappa, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka and other prominent leaders are carrying out the last leg of the campaign. The 14 Lok Sabha seats are Chikkodi, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Haveri, Davanagere, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Koppal, Bidar, Ballary, Dharwad in north Karnataka, the hilly district of Shivamogga and the coastal district of Uttara Kannada. The sitting ministers in the state have fielded their kin in the election and want to launch them into national politics. Karnataka Minister for Women

and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar's son Mrinal Hebbalkar is fielded from Belagavi and is taking on former CM and BJP candidate Shettar. Priyanka Jarkiholi, daughter of Minister for PWD Satish Jarkiholi is taking on BJP's Anna Saheb Jolle in the Chikkodi seat. Sagar Khadre, son of Minister for Forest Eshwar Khandre is pitched against Union Minister of State Khuba from Bidar. Samyukta Patil, daughter of state Minister for Agricultural Marketing Shivanand Patil is contesting against BJP's senior leader P.C. Gaddigoudar from Bagalkot.

## FIR filed against former Calcutta HC judge-turned-BJP candidate, Gangopadhyay unfazed

**Kolkata, May 8 (IANS) :** An FIR was filed against BJP candidate from Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency and former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay and some party workers in West Bengal's East Midnapore on Wednesday for allegedly attacking sacked school employees at their protest site. The FIR at Tamluk police station has been registered under various non-bailable sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, on a complaint

filed by a section of the 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff, who lost their jobs following a high court order and are reportedly close to the ruling Trinamool Congress. The root of the complaint was a procession by BJP supporters at Tamluk while Gangopadhyay was going to file his nomination as a candidate on May 4. Tension started as the procession passed through the area where some dismissed school staff were holding demonstrations against the Calcutta High Court order. According to Maidul Islam,

President of the West Bengal Primary Teachers' Association - which is considered close to the Trinamool, there was an unprovoked attack on the protestors by members of Gangopadhyay's procession. He also cautioned that if those involved in the attack on the hunger strike are not quickly arrested, there will be a larger agitation across the state. Reacting to the FIR, Gangopadhyay said that such FIRs based on fake allegations are quite common and



he is ready to face its outcome. "I want to see how long those who are resorting to such fake allegations can escape the clutches of law," he added.

## Karnataka's economy worse than Pakistan's, even MLAs not getting salaries regularly: BJP MLA

**Gadag (Karnataka), May 8 (IANS) :** Karnataka BJP MLA and former Minister C.C. Patil on Wednesday alleged the status of the state's economy is worse than that of Pakistan's, and the government is not even giving salaries of legislators regularly. Talking to media persons, Patil, the MLA from Nargund, claimed that salaries are not given to roadways' drivers and conductors and even the salary of legislators is being given once every two or three months. "The treasury is empty under the government led by the Congress. Let Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who talks very highly about the state bring out the white paper on the status of the economy of the state," he said.



## This Lok Sabha election is the 'second freedom struggle', says Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

**Belagavi (Karnataka), May 8 (IANS) :** Terming the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as the "second freedom struggle", Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday claimed that if the BJP gets 400 seats, the Constitution will be changed. Addressing a joint press conference here with Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, he said that Dr B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution gives equal opportunity to all and the BJP is going against it. "Ambedkar said that mere

political freedom is not enough for a country. Everyone should get economic and social freedom. The Congress government has implemented guarantees to empower the weaker section," he said. "We have fulfilled our promises in the past eight months after coming to power in the state, we have fulfilled five guarantees and the people have gained confidence," he said. Siddaramaiah recalled that the BJP said that if the guarantees were implemented, the state would become financially bankrupt and the development works

would stop. "We were accused of providing guarantees only until the Lok Sabha elections and then stopping them. We have earmarked Rs 52,009 crore for guarantees in the budget. We have earmarked a total of Rs 1.20 lakh crores in 2024-25, including Rs 68,000 crore for development works. Our government's budget size is Rs 3.71 lakh crore, (former CM Basavaraj) Bommai's budget was Rs 3.09 lakh crore in 2023-24," he said.

## AIADMK to protest against draft elephant corridor plan of TN govt

**Chennai, May 8 (IANS) :** The principal Opposition party of Tamil Nadu, AIADMK is gearing up for a protest against the draft elephant corridor plan released by the Tamil Nadu government. AIADMK leader and Gudalur MLA Pon Jayaseelan, while speaking to IANS, said that the draft plan was released hurriedly without taking the opinion of the stakeholders involved -- farmers and those living in the area earmarked as elephant corridors. The AIADMK leader also said that there are discrepancies in the draft plan as Project Elephant, in its study, identifies 20 proposed elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu, while the final report identifies 42 elephant corridors in the state. The principal Opposition

party is concerned that the elephant corridors identified in the draft plan have several human habitations and that by declaring the elephant corridors, several human settlements will have to be demolished and people rehabilitated. This will affect the lives of several people. Pon Jayaseelan said: "People should be given proper opportunities to air their views and opinion regarding the constitution of elephant corridors. If the new corridors affect the livelihood of people, there will be unrest. A responsible political party like AIADMK will have to make strong protest against this." AIADMK is planning a series of agitations in many parts of the state bordering the forest regions against the hurried issuance of the elephant corridor plan.



## Delhi man stabbed multiple times by unidentified assailants, dies

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** A 35-year-old man was brutally stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in east Delhi on Wednesday, sustaining multiple wounds on his forehead, neck, and abdomen, police said. The deceased was identified as Nazir aka Nanhe, a resident of Chauhan Bangar in the Jafrabad area. The officials said that he was a 'Bad Character' of Jafrabad police station and had numerous criminal cases including robbery and attempt to murder registered against him. A

police control room (PCR) call regarding the incident was received at around 7 p.m. and a police team reached the spot. "At about 6.45 p.m., Nazir was travelling on his scooter when some boys attacked him with knives near Mangla Hospital Wali Gali, Chauhan Bangar, Jafrabad," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northeast, Joy Tirkey said.



## Google launches its Wallet app in India

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** Google on Wednesday launched its Wallet app in India, which will offer fast and secure access to everyday essentials, enabling people to conveniently store and retrieve important digital documents like boarding passes, loyalty cards, movie tickets, etc. The app is now available for download from the Play Store for all Android users in the country. "We are delighted to partner with many of India's top

brands to offer a comprehensive solution that helps you securely access and manage your everyday essentials. From boarding passes to loyalty cards, and event tickets to public transport passes -- they're there when you need them," Ram Papatla, General Manager and India Engineering Lead, Android at Google, said in a statement. According to the company, the Wallet app complements Google Pay, which will continue to serve the payment needs of users across the country. The tech giant also partnered with 20 of the country's top brands to

enable the Google Wallet experience, including PVR & INOX, Air India, Indigo, Flipkart, Pine Labs, Kochi Metro, Abhibus, and many others. Additionally, the company mentioned that it will be adding more partners in the coming months. "We are glad to be the first airline from India to make our boarding passes available directly on the Google Wallet," said Satya Ramaswamy, Chief Digital and Technology Officer, Air India.



## Four automakers to recall over 7,783 vehicles for faulty parts

**Seoul, May 8 (IANS) :** Hyundai Motor, Kia and two other carmakers will recall over 7,700 vehicles due to faulty components, the transport ministry here said on Wednesday. The four companies, including Jaguar Land-Rover Korea and Volkswagen Group Korea, are voluntarily recalling 7,783 units of 11 different models, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and

Transport said in a statement. The problems that prompted the recall included a manufacturing defect in the exhaust gas recirculation valve power unit, which may cause the engine to stall while driving, in 4,118 units of five different Hyundai models and 2,668 units of Kia models, reports Yonhap news agency. Another problem was the poor fixation of the rear right illumina-

tion device in 329 units of two different Jaguar Land-Rover models, including the new Range Rover Sport P360. Also, 623 units of Volkswagen's Touareg 3 3.0 TDI model were subject to a corrective action due to a software error in the vehicles' mobile app, which could lead to a vehicle malfunction during remote automated parking.



## Sensex falls 300 points as equities selloff continues

**Mumbai, May 8 (IANS) :** Sensex fell by 300 points on Wednesday as the selloff in equities continues. Indian equities continued to sell off for the fourth consecutive session on Wednesday. BSE Sensex was trading at 73,201 points, down by 309 points. Benchmark indices have closed in the red for three sessions in a row. Indian markets are in a downward spiral on account of massive FII selling and rising volatility. FIIs sold equities worth Rs 3668 crore on Tuesday. India's volatility index has spiked in the last few days. Consumer stocks are leading the Sensex fall, with Asian Paints and Hindustan Unilever down by more than 2 per cent. Private sector banks are also weak, with HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, and ICICI Bank down by more than 1 per cent. Among other stocks, HCL Tech, Ultratech Cement, and L&T are down by more than 1 per cent.



## Google launches Pixel 8a with industry-first AI features in India

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** Google on Wednesday launched its latest A-series smartphone called 'Pixel 8a' that is available for pre-order in India on the e-commerce platform Flipkart. The device comes with Tensor G3 chip and features several new AI features, including Gemini and Circle to Search. Pixel 8a is priced at Rs 52,999 for the 128GB version and Rs 59,999 for the 256GB variant. The phone has a dual rear camera system with a 64-megapixel main lens and a 13-megapixel ultrawide lens, as well as a 13-megapixel front-facing camera, said the company. Pixel 8a also includes Super Res Zoom up to 8x and features like Magic Eraser, Night Sight and Photo Unblur. It includes Real Tone to "accurately represent everyone's skin tone in photos and videos". Gemini, Google's built-in AI assistant, allows users to type, talk, and add images for various tasks.

Additionally, Circle to Search enables users to quickly find information without switching apps. Pixel 8a comes in two new colours: the limited edition Aloe and Bay. "Also available are the classic Obsidian and Porcelain options," said the company. The phone will receive seven years of software support, including security updates and Android OS upgrades.

## Samsung's affiliate acquires French AI medtech startup Sonio

**Seoul, May 8 (IANS) :** Samsung Electronics said on Wednesday that its medical equipment unit Samsung Medison has acquired the French artificial intelligence (AI) medtech startup Sonio, as part of its effort to expand its AI-powered healthcare solution business. Samsung Medison entered into a share purchase agreement to acquire Sonio, which specialises in AI development for diagnostic reporting in obstetrics and gynaecology ultrasound, reports Yonhap news agency. Through the acquisition of Sonio, Samsung Medison will gain access to the AI development talent in Europe.



## Voltas Q4 net profit dips 19 per cent, declares dividend of Rs 5.50 per share

**Mumbai, May 8 (IANS) :** Tata Group AC manufacturer Voltas Ltd on Wednesday reported a 19 per cent decline in consolidated net profit, at Rs 116 crore, for the January-March quarter of 2023-24, compared to Rs 144 crore in the same period of the previous year. The Mumbai-based company's consolidated revenue from operations rose 42 per cent to Rs 4,203 crore in Q4FY24, as compared to Rs 2,957 crore in Q4FY23. "The directors have recommended dividend of Rs 5.50 per share on face value of Re 1 per share (550 per cent) for the year 2023-24 which shall be paid/despached on or after fifth day from conclusion of ensuing 70th Annual General Meeting, subject to approval of shareholders of the company," Voltas said in a BSE filing.

## Will NPCI implement or extend the 30 pc cap on market share of UPI players?

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** As digital payment platforms, PhonePe and Google Pay, continue to have a duopoly in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) market, the deadline by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to implement a 30 per cent market share cap on UPI services providers inches closer. Will NPCI implement or extend the deadline?

For the month of April, PhonePe led the UPI market with close to 49 per cent share across P2M (person to merchant) and P2P (person to person) transactions. The company has maintained



## High possibility of 8 pc GDP growth for India in 2023-24: CEA Nageswaran

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** There is a high possibility of India's economic growth touching 8 per cent in 2023-24, government's Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday. Speaking at an event here, the CEA said that he expected a 7 per cent GDP growth rate for 2024-25 and it was important to maintain it. He also said that inflation was expected to remain under control and the country was in a position to pursue a stable "non-inflationary" growth path. "We don't see, at the moment, scope for nasty upside surprises on inflation. There can always be scenarios in geopolitics that can cause inflation to be more than we expect, but at this point the baseline scenario is that inflation gradually converges to the mid-point of the target range," Nageswaran said. He was referring to the 4 per cent mid-point target range set by the Monetary Policy Committee before the central bank starts to reduce key interest rates to spur growth. The inflation rate came down



to a five-month low of 4.85 per cent in March. However, the RBI is still focused on controlling inflation before it goes in for a cut in interest rates. India's GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7 per cent while the forecast for

inflation for the year has been retained at 4.5 per cent, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said recently. The RBI Governor said, "Headline inflation has eased to 5.1 per cent during both January and February.

## SC cancels bail of UP Police SHO accused of raping minor inside police station

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court has cancelled the bail of a Station House Officer (SHO) accused of raping a 13-year-old girl inside a police station in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur district. The minor girl was lured to neighbouring Madhya Pradesh by four boys of her village, where she was gang-raped and then left back to her village. When the survivor went to the Pali police station to lodge a complaint against the boys, she was detained and raped by SHO Tilakdhari Saroj.

A bench, headed by Justice A.S. Bopanna, said that the apex court had occasion to consider the issue of granting bail to a police official in a situation where he is alleged to have abused his office in the case of State of Jharkhand vs Sandeep Kumar and held against any lenience being shown, by treating such an accused policeman on par with a common man accused of such an offence.

"Notably, that (Sandeep Kumar judgment) was not even a case involving a heinous offence. In the present case, the situation is far worse as respondent No 1, being the Station House Officer of the Police Station, where the minor victim girl was brought for securing her justice, is alleged to have resorted to committing



the same heinous crime of raping her," said the bench, also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar. In March last year, the Allahabad High Court had granted conditional bail to the accused police official saying that the prosecution's allegations do not inspire confidence. A bench of Justice Siddharth had observed that the electronic data and call details showed that the victim was not in the police station on the alleged date of the incident.

Allowing the appeal filed by the victim's mother, the apex court said that it did not find any reasons worth the name justifying the grant of bail to the accused police official at this stage and ordered him to surrender forthwith.

"The appeal is accordingly allowed.... (Accused SHO) shall surrender forthwith, failing which the state shall take necessary steps to apprehend him and send him to judicial custody," it ordered.

## Police constable arrested in Tamil Nadu for sexually assaulting daughter

**Chennai, May 8 (IANS) :** A police constable with the Tamil Nadu Armed Reserve Force has been arrested for sexually assaulting his 14-year-old daughter, an official said on Wednesday. The alleged incident happened in Cuddalore district of the state. The 14-year-old girl in her complaint lodged with the Cuddalore Superintendent of Police said that her father had been sexually assaulting her for the last one year. Cuddalore Superintendent of Police, R. Rajaraman then ordered the Cuddalore All Women Police Station Inspector Rathika to investigate the case.



## Punjab CM campaigns in Kharar for Anandpur Sahib candidate

**Chandigarh, May 8 (IANS):** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday campaigned for his AAP's Anandpur Sahib Lok Sabha candidate Malvinder Singh Kang in Kharar town near here. Mann took out a roadshow where he was accompanied by Kang and MLAs of Anandpur Sahib constituency -- Cabinet Minister Anmol Gagan Maan and Charanjit Singh.

Addressing the gathering, he said he "is so happy to witness the enthusiasm of the people of the holy land of Sri Anandpur Sahib and it looks like the mandate of

the people is already obvious, just the formal announcement is pending". Mann said: "I never shy away from hard work, after they (BJP) put Arvind Kejriwal in jail, my work and responsibilities are doubled. But I have you people, you've got our (AAP's) back and those who have the support of Punjabis can never fail." The Chief Minister said he gave 43,000 government jobs, free electricity to everyone, canal water to every field - even to tail-ends, more than 850 Aam Aadmi clinics, 13 schools of eminence and electricity to the farmers during the day, and all that in just two years.



## 11 Bangladeshi nationals including 2 children held in Tripura

**Agartala, May 8 (IANS) :** A total of 11 Bangladeshi nationals including three children and two women have been arrested at a village in Tripura's mountainous Dhalai district which shares a border with the neighbouring nation of

Bangladesh, the police said on Wednesday. A police officer said that the Bangladeshi nationals were arrested while on the way back to their homes at Bagerhat District in Bangladesh's Khulna Division.

## Raj Babbar says no division in Congress, rues lack of major development in Gurugram in last 10 years

**Gurugram, May 8 (IANS) :** Actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar, who has been fielded by the Congress from the Gurgaon Lok Sabha constituency, on Wednesday denied reports of infighting, asserting that the party is fighting the ongoing Lok Sabha election with full strength and will again come to power. Addressing a press conference here, he said fellow Congress leaders Captain Ajay Singh Yadav (retd) and Rewari MLA Chiranjeevi Rao are in contact with him

and providing full support. On BJP's Gurgaon candidate Rao Inderjit Singh's comments lampooning him, he said: "I am thankful to him... at least he said I can entertain that means I am talented because you have to work hard to entertain someone."

Asking about his election campaign issues, Babbar said: "Gurugram is generating huge revenue for the state government but despite this, people are forced to clear garbage on their own. There is no foolproof plan to deal with the monsoon, no infrastructure, no accountability of the civic bod-

ies." Attacking Rao Inderjit Singh, he said simply constructing the six-lane Dwarka Expressway cannot be termed development. "It was the Centre's plan... The BJP government here failed to connect Nuh district to the railway network, they failed to start the Rapid Metro project here and even failed to develop better infrastructure during the past many years." Babbar said that the people of Gurugram and Haryana have decided to vote for the Congress in the



Lok Sabha elections and also bring in a Congress government in the next Assembly polls under former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Asked about being an outsider in Gurugram, he said: "I am not an outsider. I have a lot of experience in politics. Yes from Mumbai, one cannot consider people's problems.

## BJP releases manifesto for Odisha Assembly polls

**Bhubaneswar, May 8 (IANS) :** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday released its manifesto during a programme here ahead of the Odisha Assembly polls. Releasing the manifesto, BJP national president JP Nadda said: "We will move from commitment to perfection and fulfill all our commitments. This is not a document only. It is our implementation programme for the next five years."

JP Nadda said wherever the BJP government comes to power, manifesto subcommittees are constituted, and its implementation is monitored every month so that the promises made in the manifesto can be completed in five years. He said the BJP is not fighting elections in Odisha to be in opposition but to form a government in the state. The party in its manifesto has promised that it will make a top-performing economy and create 3.5 lakh jobs by 2029. The BJP promises to fill 1.5 lakh vacant government posts while 65,000 posts will be completed within two years. Aiming to woo the women voters, the party has made the commitment to provide a cash voucher of Rs 50,000 to each woman resident of the state under the 'Subhadra Jojana'. The beneficiaries can encash the voucher over a two-year period

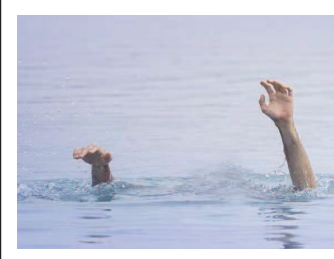


The BJP has further promised to create 25 Lakhpati Didis in Odisha by 2027 through industrial clusters for every 500 SHGs. Samrudh Krushak Niti will be started in Odisha under which the rate of paddy procurement would be Rs 3,100 per quintal and the payment will be transferred to farmers within 48 hours through DBT. The party also promised to end the practice of 'katni-chhatni' by procuring the paddy through electronic weighing machines in all mandis. The BJP also promised to return the money looted through Chit fund scams within 18 months of coming to power in the state. The party aims to install 36,000 beds in the CHCs & PHCs at grass root level under 'Mission Swasthya Odisha'. The Community Health Centers will be modernised by 2027 with ICUs, dialysis units and operation

theatres and upgrade 100 CHCs into Sub-Divisional Hospitals. The party promised to establish a nursing college, a medical college, and a super-speciality hospital in every district. Tribal students will be provided with Rs 5,000 annually as Madho Singh Haath-Kharcha to reduce dropout rates. All elderly persons, divyans, widows, and destitutes in the state will get Rs 3,000 per month under the 'Mukhyamantri Sahayata Jojana'. Those elderly above 80 years of age and divyang with 80 per cent disability will get a pension of Rs 3,500 under the scheme. Odia Samudaya Bhawan will be established in every Metro city across the country if the BJP government comes to power in Odisha. Fishermen in the state will be provided with Rs 10,000 annually as lean period allowance. Three textile parks will be established in western Odisha that would generate 51,000 job opportunities in the state. The BJP also mentioned that IT parks in Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, Berhampur and Balasore will be established if it comes to power. The party has promised to open all the doors of Shree Jagannath Temple and expedite a probe into the missing key of Ratna Bhandar of the temple.

## Two youths drown in Kerala's Kollam

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 8 (IANS) :** In a tragic incident, two youths drowned to death in the Kallada river in Kerala's Kollam district on Wednesday, police said. The deceased were identified as Nithin, 21, of Kulanada and Sujin, 20, of Manchaloor. The incident occurred at the Manakkatu Kadavu near Manchaloor Matam in Pathanapuram of Kollam. Pathanapuram police told IANS that it was Sujin who began drowning while swimming, and Nithin tried to save him but also fell prey to the strong undercurrents in the Kallada river. Manchaloor Matom resident Mathew told IANS that the Kallada was dangerous as there were several pits in the riverbed and those not familiar with the river's course had chances of getting drowned.



## Rains, with hailstorm and strong winds, wreak havoc in parts of Manipur

**Imphal, May 8 (IANS) :** After a heat wave for over three weeks, heavy rains, accompanied by gusty winds and hail, lashed several parts of Manipur on Wednesday, damaging a large number of houses and other buildings, vehicles and leaving trees and power poles uprooted, officials said. Officials said that a large number of houses were damaged in different parts of the state with the heavy hailstones leaving holes in tin roofs while the strong winds blew away hutments in different districts, leaving many people homeless. The hailstorm was so powerful that parts of the valley areas of Imphal East and Imphal West Districts were blanketed with 4-5 inches of ice, resembling a landscape covered in thick snow.

Vehicles parked in the open either developed cracks or were badly damaged. A huge number of trees and electric poles were also uprooted in many areas by the winds. Traffic in various places, including Imphal, was also disrupted due to the hailstorms and debris, caused by the rains and gusty winds. Officials said that the damages to houses and properties are being assessed. The Meteorological Department issued an orange alert and predicted heavy to very heavy rains in several northeastern states, including Manipur, till Tuesday. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the state government would provide compensation for the damages to houses and other properties as well as crops.





## Pak forms new cyber crime agency that experts reckon will also target Imran Khan supporters

**Islamabad, May 8 (IANS) :** Pakistan government's decision to form a national agency called the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has raised concerns in the country with several experts citing that the move would not only gravely affect citizens' right to privacy but is also aimed at targeting the massive social media presence of jailed ex-PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The Establishment Division of the Pakistan government announced the formation of NCCIA with the prime focus on countering propaganda and rumours on social media and safeguarding the digital rights of people.

"There must be an end to harassment, including online," said Federal Minister for Information and Broadcast Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday. He added that there was an "immediate and dire need" of an authority like NCCIA to address the issue of online harassment and also to protect the digital rights of consumers. However, security experts do not agree with the government and have expressed serious concerns over the negative effects on the citizen's right to privacy. "It raises concerns that go beyond the duplication of efforts and resources, the move may also gravely affect citizen's right to privacy which seems to have been overlooked in the rush to bolster cyber defences," said Khawaja Khalid Farooq, former Inspector

General of Police and ex-head of National Counter-Terrorism Authority. Another view states that the military establishment wants to have a strong strategy and authority in place to tackle the anti-establishment campaigns run by PTI through its large presence on social media. "PTI is the only political party in Pakistan with a very strong social media presence. Its campaigns and social media teams have the strongest influence on the masses through social media engagements," says senior political analyst Javed Siddique. "The anti-military sentiments have prevailed and broadly expressed on social media platforms by PTI and Imran Khan's supporters. NCCIA may be designated and directed to work with prime focus on tackling the dissemination of PTI-led anti-establishment campaigns on social media under the legal cover of the controversial PECA act," he adds. It is pertinent to note that formation of NCCIA would render the already-existing Cyber Crime wing of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) as defunct.

## Indian Americans caution US university on demand to display 'flag of Kashmir'

**Washington, May 8 (IANS) :** Indian Americans are calling upon a US university not to implement a portion of one of the demands it conceded to protesting students to display on campus the flags of "occupied people", which listed Kashmiris along with Palestinians and the Kurds. "This is a dangerous territory for Rutgers to get involved (sic)," Thomas Abraham, chairman of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), wrote in a letter to Jonathan Holloway President, Rutgers University-New Brunswick in New Jersey state. "By even considering this demand, you are questioning the integrity of India. Kashmir is very much part of India. There is no separate flag for Kashmir. Kashmir residents are not displaced people. In fact, the displaced people are the Hindu minorities who had to leave Kashmir because of violence against them. If Rutgers displays such a flag of Kashmir, that will be the beginning of more sit-ins by students who are opposed to such flags," Abraham wrote. The university has not implemented this demand.



## Amid Cairo peace talks, Israel steps up efforts to hit Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar

**Tel Aviv, May 8 (IANS) :** Amid the ongoing peace talks in Cairo to reach a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, the former has stepped up its efforts to assassinate Hamas military commander Yahya Sinwar, widely believed to be the man behind the October 7 massacre. Sources in Israel's defence ministry told IANS that a high-level meeting called by Defence Minister Yoav Gallant discussed Sinwar and whether to catch him dead or alive. According to the information available, the Defence Minister, considered a hawk, has told the top Army and intelligence officers that killing Sinwar has to be a top priority. Sinwar and Mohammed Deif are reportedly hiding in the Rafah region of Gaza surrounded by Israeli hostages.

## India holds talks for closer ties on critical minerals, shrimp farming with Australia

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** India has discussed the issues of pharmaceutical pricing control in generic drugs and the need for closer cooperation in critical minerals with Australia, the Union Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday. The need for closer collaboration for establishing disease-free zones for shrimps and prawns in India also came up for discussion at the first Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Canberra under the India-Aus-

tralia Economic Co-operation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA), the ministry said. Besides, the JCM meeting also addressed certain critical services issues, including the consideration of India's request for facilitation of cross-border e-payments and mutual recognition of qualifications in professions like nursing and dentistry. India and Australia are looking at joint investments to build new supply chains underpinned by critical minerals processed in Australia that will help

India's plans to lower emissions from its electricity network and become a global manufacturing hub, for electric vehicles and smartphones. Critical minerals are a key raw material in these hi-tech products. Currently, China has a near-monopoly on critical minerals. India and Australia are both keen to set up a strong alternative supply chain to break China's dominance of the market. "The two sides have decided to work closely on timely resolution of market access issues, deepen

people-to-people contacts, and create an institutional mechanism for sharing of preferential import data," according to the ministry statement. India and Australia have already signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) that came into effect on December 29, 2022. "Both sides while acknowledging the smooth implementation of the ECTA, briefly elaborated on ECTA implementation issues including MRAs (mutual recognition agreements) on organic prod-

ucts, market access issues related to products like okra, pomegranate, grapes, cottage cheese, pharmaceutical pricing control in Australia particularly on generics, progress made by the working group on whisky and wine," the ministry said. The meeting also touched upon the WTO issues wherein both sides appreciated the Commerce Secretary's stand on



the importance of the support of Australia for early resolution of the long pending issue of a permanent solution to public stock holding (PSH). Australia sought the support of India for the plurilateral arrangement for domestic support for services. Both sides agreed to discuss these matters intersessionally if required.



## CMFRI holds awareness campaign on climate change for fishing communities

**Kochi, May 8 (IANS) :** In response to the impact of climate change on fishing communities, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) launched an initiative to create awareness among the fisher folk in Kerala's Ernakulam district. As part of the awareness campaign under the National Innovation in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project, scientists of the institute explained the science behind climate change, its effects on fishery and the adaptation strategies to reduce its impacts on the livelihood of the fisher community of two major fishing villages in the district. According to scientists, increasing sea surface temperature results in the migration of many economically harvestable fish stocks to relatively cooler waters.

## Sadiq Khan re-elected as London Mayor despite criticism over rising crime rate

**London, May 8 (IANS) :** Incumbent Sadiq Khan of the Labour Party was re-elected as the Mayor of London for a record third time on Wednesday, defeating Conservative Party candidate Susan Hall by over a million votes. Voting was held on May 2 across the 14 London Assembly constituencies, and the results were declared at the City Hall. London's mayoral election generated quite a bit of interest considering that Khan has been accused of going soft on crime - from thefts, shoplifting, and robberies to attacks involving knives - and also widening the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) which imposes a daily charge of 12.50 pound on non-compliant polluting vehicles operating in a selected territory of the capital city. Hall, who promised to "get a grip" on crime in London, accused Khan of closing 36 police stations and failing to hire more than 1,000 police officers. She also repeatedly listed stats showing how the crime rate has surged since Khan took over as the London Mayor in 2016.



## South Korean govt appears to shelve punitive measures against mass walkout by doctors

**Seoul, May 8 (IANS) :** The South Korean government appears to have shelved a plan to take punitive measures against a prolonged walkout by trainee doctors and have pulled back slightly from its plan to increase medical school admission quotas amid a standoff with major doctors' associations, according to officials on Wednesday. Still, the doctors' associa-

tions remained adamant over the issue and renewed their call for the government to revisit the medical reform from scratch, despite some signs of an internal split, reports Yonhap News Agency. During a media briefing last week, Second Vice Health Minister Park Min-soo said the government has decided to grant local universities autonomy in deciding their medical school quota by a range of 50 to 100

per cent for the 2025 academic year in a bid to break the monthslong deadlock, the officials said. Additionally, the government has delayed the suspension of licenses for doctors who have been inactive for months under its "flexible disposition" policy since late March. No executive order has been issued for medical school professors who have resigned alongside their students.



### BJP forms legal cell in Bengal to help genuine candidates among 25,753 job losers

**Kolkata, May 8 (IANS) :** The West Bengal unit of BJP on Wednesday announced the formation of a five-member legal cell to provide assistance to the genuine candidates among the 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff in state-run schools whose jobs were cancelled recently on Calcutta High Court's order. The formation of the legal-cum-social media cell was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing an election rally in

Burdwan on May 3 when he said that he had advised his party's unit to open such a cell to provide legal support to the genuine candidates who have proper documents to prove they got their jobs honestly. "Those who secured jobs through unfair means will have to suffer. But our party will be beside those who got their jobs honestly," the Prime Minister said.

### Gang involved in forced religious conversions busted in Noida; 6 held

**Noida, May 8 (IANS) :** With the arrest of six persons, including women, the Gautam Budh Nagar police on Wednesday claimed to have busted a gang allegedly involved in religious conversions and forcing people to read Bible after inducing them. The arrested individuals were identified as T. Ruth, Ishu a.k.a. Aishwarya, Abhirayana, B. Shawn, Rishabh Nayar, and Ravi Teja. According to the police, on Sunday, based on the complaint filed by a complainant at Expressway Noida police station, Ishu and Ruth enticed his daughter and his brother-in-law's daughter by offering inducements.



### MP: Jyotiraditya Scindia, Shivraj & Digvijaya in fray in 3rd phase of LS polls

**Bhopal, May 8 (IANS) :** The campaigning for the third phase of Lok Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh in which voting will be held on May 8 in nine Parliamentary constituencies in the state ended on Wednesday. Several heavyweight candidates are in the fray in the

third phase of polling. Among them, two are former chief ministers -- Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Raghograh), and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia (Guna). In the third phase, polling will be held in Bhopal, Guna, Raghogarh, Vidisha, Morena, Bhind (SC), Gwalior, Sagar, and Betul (SC)

Lok Sabha constituencies. As per the original schedule, the election in Betul was to be held in the Lok Polls' second phase on April 26. However, the sudden death of a BSP candidate prompted the Election Commission to reschedule the polling in the seat in the third phase.

### Congress changes candidates in five assembly seats in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar, May 8 (IANS) :** Congress on Wednesday changed its candidates in five assembly constituencies in Odisha. The party has also declared the candidate for one assembly seat. The constituencies where the party has changed candidates are -- Athagarh (Cuttack district), Athamallik (Angul district), Bari (Jajpur district), Jaleswar (Balasore district)

and Puri. Disgruntled senior leader Sudarshan Das has been nominated for the Jaleswar Assembly seat in place of Debi Prasanna Chand while Uma Ballav Rath has been fielded in the Puri assembly segment replacing Sujit Mahapatra. Former BJP leader Debasish Nayak was nominated for the Bari assembly seat hours after he joined the Congress party on Saturday. Earlier, the party had nomi-

nated Arati Deo for the Bari seat. Nayak had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party after quitting ruling Biju Janata Dal just two months back. The Congress has given the ticket to Himanshu Chaulia for the Athmallik constituency in place of his brother Bijayananda Chaulia who is reportedly suffering from some health-related problems. The party also replaced its Athagarh candidate Maheboob Ahemad Khan and fielded

Sudarshan Sahoo in his place. Meanwhile, Akshaya Acharya has been nominated for the Nilgiri assembly seat. Congress and the INDIA bloc have so far declared candidates for all the 147 assembly seats in the state. Notably, the party has fielded Jay Narayan Patnaik from Puri Lok Sabha seat after Sucharita Mohanty returned her ticket citing zero funding by the party for campaigning.



### Cong manifesto reflects the needs of our women, youth and farmers: Supriya Shrinete

**Ahmedabad, May 8 (IANS) :** Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete on Wednesday highlighted key issues, stressing the need for an issue-based politics. While addressing a press conference in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, Shrinete also urged for a shift away from divisive rhetoric and towards addressing crucial concerns like employment, education, and healthcare. Highlighting the Congress manifesto, Shrinete emphasised, "Our manifesto re-

flects the needs of our women, youth, farmers, and soldiers. It's a revolutionary manifesto. Where are the jobs for our youth? Simply suggesting selling pakodas is not enough, especially considering the rising oil and gas prices.



### Fresh Jolt to Congress: National media co-ordinator Radhika Kherra quits party

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** There is no let-up in the series of known faces and top leaders snapping their ties with Congress party, over their alleged ignorance and insulting treatment by the top brass.

### 'Jungle raj' will return in Bodoland if BPF wins Kokrajhar LS seat: Assam minister

**Guwahati, May 8 (IANS) :** Assam Cabinet minister Pijush Hazarika on Wednesday targeted the Bodoland People's Front (BPF), saying that if the party bags the Kokrajhar Lok Sabha seat this time, 'jungle raj' will return to the Bodoland region of the state. Hazarika said this on Wednesday while campaigning for the BJP's ally United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) candidate Jayanta Basumatary in

Chirang district. He told reporters: "During the period of BPF rule, Bodoland area witnessed a number of communal riots. In 2009 and 2012, the workers of BPF were involved in communal violence." The minister has asserted that the situation has changed drastically after the BPF was ousted from power in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). "People can now roam freely here even at night which was not possible 10 years ago. The



voters should keep this in mind on the poll day. If they choose the wrong candidate, Bodoland area will again face the jungle raj," he said. Meanwhile, Hazarika who is believed to be a close aide of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, said that the Chief Minister has extreme energy, and he is devoted to the welfare of the people of Assam.

### PoK, an integral part of India, is back in national consciousness : EAM Jaishankar

**Cuttack, May 8 (IANS) :** Emphasising that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has always been a part of India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, on Wednesday, said that the "very sorry state of affairs" has continued because the earlier governments did not pursue Pakistan's vacation from the region after Independence. "PoK has never been out of this country. It has always been a part of this country. There is a resolution of the Indian Parliament that PoK is

very much a part of India. Now, how did other people get control? Ab ho jaata hai (it happens) when you have someone who is not a responsible custodian of a house, an outsider will come and steal something," Jaishankar said during an interactive session in Odisha's Cuttack. "Here you have allowed another country... It was because we did not pursue the vacation of Pakistan from these territories in the early years of Independence that this very sorry state of affairs has continued. What will happen in

the future is very difficult to tell. But, I always tell people one thing that today PoK is in the consciousness once again of the people of India. We had forgotten about it, we were made to forget about it but it is back now, definitely," he added. It is not for the first time that the EAM has blamed the previous Congress governments for several problems that had emerged on the foreign policy front, post Independence. Last week in Hyderabad, Jaishankar told a gathering that Sardar Patel had opposed India



approaching the UN on the Kashmir issue, but India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru disregarded it. "Today, there is a lot of interest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), but we should not forget how the problem originated. The doors of international pressure opened in 1947 and continued all the way till Article 370 was repealed (in 2019).

### BSF seize two Chinese drones along Pakistan border in Amritsar

**Chandigarh, May 8 (IANS) :** Two Chinese drones were recovered on Wednesday from two locations in the border area of Punjab's Amritsar district in search operations launched on information by the Border Security Force's (BSF) intelligence wing. The operations resulted in the recovery of a China-made DJI Matrice 300 RTK drone from the courtyard of an abandoned house of Hardeo Ratan village in Amritsar, the BSF said. Another Chinese-made DJI Mavic 3 Classic drone was recovered from a

harvested field adjacent to Nestha village. Reliable information and alertness of BSF troopers successfully helped to foil the desperate attempts of drone handlers and drug smugglers from across the border, it added.





## Over 600 rescued from flooded areas in Texas

**Houston, May 8 (IANS) :** More than 600 people have been rescued from flooded areas around Houston, the fourth largest US city, as a flood watch continues through Sunday afternoon in eastern Texas. More rainfall was forecast, raising the risk of major flooding. "The next round of heavy rain-

fall is expected late (Tuesday) into Wednesday," the National Weather Service posted on social media, Xinhua news agency reported. More than 21 inches (53 centimetres) of rain fell in the past five days near Splendora, about 30 miles (50 km) northeast of Houston, said the service. Lina Hidalgo, judge of Harris County, said at a news conference on Saturday that nearly 180 people and 122 pets had been rescued from murky water across multiple areas in the county.

## Annual anti-Semitism report finds worst outbreak since World War II

**Tel Aviv, May 8 (IANS/DPA) :** In the seven months following Hamas' shocking attack on Israel, the world has seen the worst outbreak of anti-Semitism since World War II, an annual report released on Wednesday said.

If this trend continues, Jews in many countries will no longer be able to live their identity in safety and freedom, according to the report by the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in the US.

Last year, for example, there was an average of around three bomb threats per day against synagogues and Jewish institutions in the US.

"The year is not 1938, not even 1933," said Professor Uriya Shavit.

"Yet if current trends continue, the curtain will descend on the ability to lead Jewish lives in the West - to wear a Star of David, attend synagogues and community centres, send kids to Jewish schools, frequent a Jewish club on campus, or speak Hebrew."

Anti-Semitism had been steadily increasing in the months and years leading up to the massacres by Hamas and other Palestinian extremist groups, the report notes, but "October 7 helped



spread a fire that was already out of control."

In the US, for example, where some 6 million Jews live, a total of around 3,500 anti-Semitic incidents were counted between January and September 2023, but almost 4,000 in the last three months of the year.

The picture is similar in other countries, such as Germany, where 1,365 anti-Semitic incidents were tallied from January to September last year and 2,249 from October to December.

Other countries with large Jewish minorities - including France, Britain, Australia, Italy, Brazil and

Mexico - also saw increases.

The report entitled "Concern for the Future of Jewish Life in the West" warns against explaining the trend as a reaction to the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.

That is because some of the most vile anti-Jewish statements in connection with the conflict were made in the first days after October 7, it said.

The authors wrote that anti-Semitism rears its head on both the extreme right and extreme left - and spreads to the centre of society, often via social media.



## South Korea: 40 flights cancelled on Jeju Island due to bad weather

**Jeju, South Korea, May 8 (IANS) :** At least 40 flights have been cancelled on the southern resort island of Jeju due to adverse weather conditions, officials said on Wednesday. According to officials from Jeju International Airport, 20 arrivals and 20 departures had been cancelled as of noon, Yonhap news agency reported. Strong wind warnings have been issued for the island, with an advisory for wind shear also in effect at the airport. The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) asked air passengers to check their flight schedules in advance as the bad weather is expected to affect Jeju Island until Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, rain was falling across much of the country as of 2 p.m., with gusty wind, thunder and lightning in some places, according to the weather agency. In the mountainous areas of Jeju Island and some regions of South Jeolla Province, heavy rain warnings were issued, while heavy rain advisories were posted for other regions of South Jeolla and the Gyeongsang provinces. Due to the rain, most outdoor festive events for Children's Day were cancelled, with five professional baseball games postponed. The KMA said an accumulated 30 to 80 millimetres of rain is forecast to fall in most of the country, including regions of Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi Province, until Tuesday, with 50 to 150 mm on Jeju Island.

## Chinese embassy in Canada refutes foreign interference accusations

**Ottawa, May 8 (IANS) :** The Chinese embassy in Canada expressed "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition" to the "baseless accusation of China's interference in Canada's internal affairs," according to its spokesperson. The initial report released by Canada's Foreign Interference Commission on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on countries including China, Russia and India, accusing them of interfering in Canada's 2019 and 2021 general elections.



## Australia police shot dead teenager who stabbed man

**Sydney, May 8 (IANS) :** Western Australian (WA) Police Force announced on Wednesday that a 16-year-old boy who stabbed another man with a kitchen knife in Perth was shot dead by police. WA Police Commissioner Col Blanch said at a press conference that police received a call at about 10.10 p.m. local time from a male that indicated he was going to commit acts of violence. But he didn't provide his name or a location, Xinhua news agency reported.

Some minutes later, police received another call from a person stating that a male with a knife was running around a car park. Police immediately responded to that call, and three officers attended that location. When they exited their vehicle, the officers were confronted

by a male alone, with a large kitchen knife on Saturday night. Blanch said that the officers challenged the male to put down the knife, but he did not comply and rushed one of the officers. Two officers deployed their tasers but both of them didn't have the full desired effect. The male continued to advance on the third officer with a firearm, who fired a single shot and fatally wounded the male. The deceased male was a 16-year-old Caucasian man. He was taken to hospital and declared deceased at approximately 11.00 p.m., the police commissioner added.



"There was a report and we didn't know that until after the shooting, that a male had been stabbed in the back in the car park where police did respond," Blanch said. "That male is currently in hospital with a stab wound to the back.

He's in a serious but stable condition." State media Australian Broadcasting Corporation quoted WA Premier Roger Cook as saying that there were indications that the boy had been radicalised online.

## The Third Eye: A new Cold War with a difference

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** The Middle East is in a situation of flux because of the recent exchange of drone and missile attacks between Iran and Israel, an important visit to Pakistan made by the Iranian President following these events, and the fallout of Israel-Hamas conflict that produced pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the US and elsewhere in the Muslim world.

This is opening up the question as to what impact are the religious divides in the region making on the ideologically delineated Cold War that was already on the horizon involving the US-led West on one hand and the China-Russia axis, on the other.

The old political rivalry between the two strong players in the region, Israel and Iran, took a violent turn when Israel -- opposed to the rule of Bashar Al Assad, the Alawite President of Syria -- made a missile attack on Damascus on April 1 in which Iran's diplomatic mission was hit and seven officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp were killed.

Iran retaliated on April 13 by firing missiles at Israel that were mostly shot down by the Iron Dome Defence system of the latter and a few days later on April 18 Israel responded by making a drone attack on Isfahan that reportedly did not cause any significant casualties.

There was an element of restraint on both sides which stemmed from a combination of factors -- Iran weighing in the US support for Israel and Israel sensing the limitations on American backing put by the international criticism of the loss of civilian lives in Gaza at the hands of Israeli Defence Forces.

In fact, in the Joe Biden administration, the



White House was contemplating measures to balance its support to Israel with an effort to counter any Islamophobic trends that the Israel-Hamas conflict could produce following the October 7 'terror' attack of Hamas on Israel. The US is also at the same time, having to deal with pro-Palestinian demonstrations held in the country, particularly on the university campuses there.

Iran and Pakistan, the two neighbouring Islamic countries -- though inherently prone to the repercussions of the historical Shia-Sunni divide, have maintained a cautious line of peaceful relationship that could even overcome the incidents of exchange of missile attacks between them in January this year.

The Sunni Islamic radical outfit Jaish Al Adl based in Baluchistan intruded into the adjoining Sistan area of Iran whereupon Iran fired missiles on the outfit's base in Baluchistan -- inviting in return, a retaliatory military strike from Pakistan that seemed somewhat symbolic.

In the background of the Israel-

Hamas conflict, Iran was getting politically drawn to the China-Russia combine -- it had already extended military help to Russia by way of supply of drones to the latter during the Ukraine-Russia 'war'. Pakistan on its part, has historically been opposed to the creation of a Zionist state and maintains no diplomatic relations with Israel even today. Pakistan has a strong strategic alliance with China but has managed to be on the right side of the US after playing the role of a mediator in the talks between the Taliban and the US at Doha that resulted in the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan and the reinstatement of the Taliban Emirate at Kabul in 2021. Pakistan is also a key member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and has been extremely close to Saudi Arabia, the Chairman of this block of 57 Islamic countries.

## French President Macron criticises blockades at university Gaza protests

**Paris, May 8 (IANS/DPA) :** French President Emmanuel Macron has criticised blockades at pro-Palestinian demonstrations at French universities, saying that the tactics went beyond legitimate means of debate and protest. Macron said he understands that the events in the Gaza Strip, in particular, are upsetting people, "but preventing a debate has never helped resolve the conflict," according to an interview published on Wednesday in the newspapers La Provence and La Tribune Dimanche.

"It is perfectly legitimate and even reasonable and reassuring that our youth can say that international events affect them and discuss them. But using violence and blockades to force an institution to adopt this or that policy, to prevent other students from entering a lecture hall on the pretext that they are Jewish - that is not the Republic," Macron said. He said such behaviour does not reflect mutual respect, pluralism and a condemnation of racism and anti-Semitism.



## First Serve, AITA Partner to empower athletes through Wheelchair Tennis Championship

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** First Serve, an NGO founded by Reyaan Punj, recently organised the second edition of AITA Wheelchair Tennis Championship at the DLTA Stadium, here, signifying a significant step towards promoting the game of tennis in India. Under the leadership of Reyaan Punj, First Serve has been at the forefront of

advocating for accessible sports for people with disabilities. The organisation's mission to break down barriers and create opportunities for athletes has resonated across the country, with the AITA Wheelchair Tennis Championship emerging as a premier event in the Indian tennis landscape. The championship featured a generous prize purse of Rs 3.5 lakh, attracting top-ranked

wheelchair tennis players from across India. Renowned athletes such as Karthik K and Shilpa KP participated, showcasing their exceptional skill and determination as they competed for national glory. The championship was inaugurated by Member of Rajya Sabha Sudhanshu Trivedi. Doordarshan-DD Sports provided live coverage of the cham-

pionship finals, allowing audiences nationwide to witness the excitement and skill on display. "I'm honored to collaborate with the AITA Wheelchair Tennis Championship, advancing accessibility and empowerment in sports," said Reyaan Punj. "Through tennis, we aim to inspire a new generation of leaders who will drive positive change in their communities."



## Football: Atletico Mineiro stay perfect in Copa Libertadores

**Rosario, May 8 (IANS) :** Former Bayer Leverkusen forward Paulinho Sampaio struck late as Atletico Mineiro kept their perfect record intact with a 1-0 win at Rosario Central in their Copa Libertadores group match.



## IPL 2024: We're making 'few too many' casual mistakes, says Sangakkara after RR's loss to DC

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** After Rajasthan Royals were subjected to their second defeat on the trot in IPL 2024, director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara thinks his team has been making a 'few too many'

casual mistakes in their back-to-back losses in the competition. Not so long ago, RR were at the top of the points table and looked all set to be the first team to enter IPL 2024 playoffs. But the inability to close out chases

in their one-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad and now a 20-run loss to DC means RR have ended up on the losing side consecutively. Moreover, they missed the services of Dhruv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer due to niggles in Delhi.

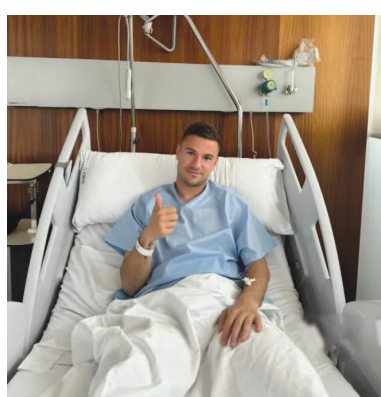


## Longtime coach, Jwala Singh reveals which position Yashasvi should bat in T20 WC

**New Delhi, May 8 (IANS) :** The 2024 ICC T20 World Cup is just around the corner as the shortest format of the game travels to the West Indies and USA for this year's edition. The two host countries are unknown territories for a majority of players travelling for the tournament, which raises questions regarding the changes required to play at such wickets.

In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Yashasvi Jaiswal's coach, father figure and mentor, Jwala Singh explained why he believes the young Indian prodigy "will be opening the innings," for the Indian side. The West Indies may not be the most frequent destination for tours and tournaments but is the country where young Jaiswal broke onto the scene for India.

The 22-year-old made his debut at the Windsor Park in Rosea, Dominica where he played a stellar 171 runs in a Test match that they won by an innings and 141 runs. He also boasts a superb record in T20Is, a format in which he has only ever opened as a batsman.



**Football: Appendix operation deprives Athletic Bilbao of striker Guruzeta for rest of season**

**Madrid, May 7 (IANS) :** Athletic Bilbao will be without top-scorer Gorka Guruzeta for the rest of the season after confirming that he has had an operation for acute appendicitis. The striker, who has scored 14 goals in La Liga and two more in the club's triumphant Copa del Rey campaign, was operated on in a clinic in Bilbao on Monday and with just four games and less than three weeks left this season.

## Athapaththu's ton helps Sri Lanka seal Women's T20 WC qualifier



**Abu Dhabi, May 8 (IANS) :** Chamari Athapaththu's sensational 102-run knock helped Sri Lanka to post a match-winning total in the final of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2024 against Scotland, here at Sheikh Zayed Stadium. The skipper hit 13 fours and four sixes en route

to 102 off 63 as Sri Lanka posted 169/5 in 20 overs after being invited to bat first. In response, Scotland managed to 101/7 in 20 overs. Being finalists of the qualifier, both Sri Lanka and Scotland had already qualified for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 in Bangladesh.

**Chief Electoral Officer  
Telangana**

**Your vote can create history and ensure the future!**

# VOTE

**LET'S VOTE WITH PRIDE**

4

**DAYS TO GO FOR  
LOK SABHA  
ELECTIONS  
13th May, 2024**

**Priyadarshi  
Cine Actor**

**To Know Your Polling Station details-SMS for**

Number: **ECI <SPACE> EPIC\_NO**

Address: **ECIPS <SPACE> EPIC\_NO**

or Scan here

**Voter Helpline App** [electoralsearch.eci.gov.in](http://electoralsearch.eci.gov.in)

or visit

Website: [www.ceotelangana.nic.in](http://www.ceotelangana.nic.in)

**"Voter Sahaya Mithra"**

Chatbot on CEO, Telangana

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

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

1 <b>EPIC</b>	2 <b>Aadhaar Card</b>	3 <b>MNREGA Job Card</b>
4 <b>Passbook</b> <small>(Issued by Bank/Post Office with photo)</small>	5 <b>Health Insurance Smart Card</b> <small>Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour</small>	6 <b>Driving License</b>
7 <b>Pan Card</b>	8 <b>Smart Card</b> <small>(Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour)</small>	9 <b>Passport</b>
10 <b>Pension Document</b> <small>With photo</small>	11 <b>Service Identity Card</b> <small>Issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies</small>	12 <b>Official Identity Card</b> <small>Issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs</small>
13 <b>Unique Disability ID (UDID)</b>		

Please Note : Voter Information Slip and e-EPIC cannot be used as Identity Proof at Polling Station. They are only for guidance. Cell phones and Electronic gadgets will not be allowed in the polling booth.

Call **1950**  
Toll Free