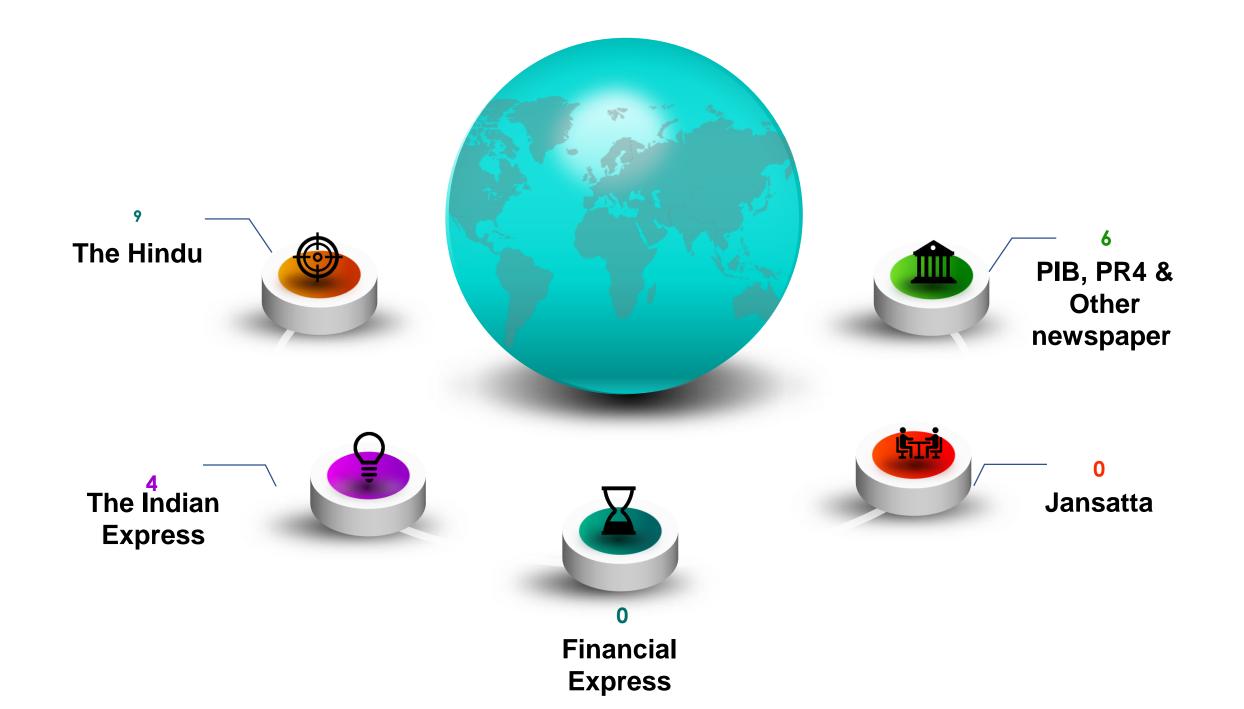
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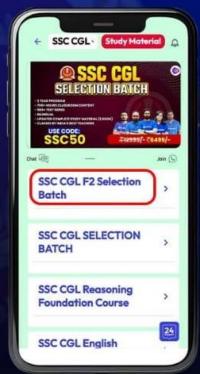








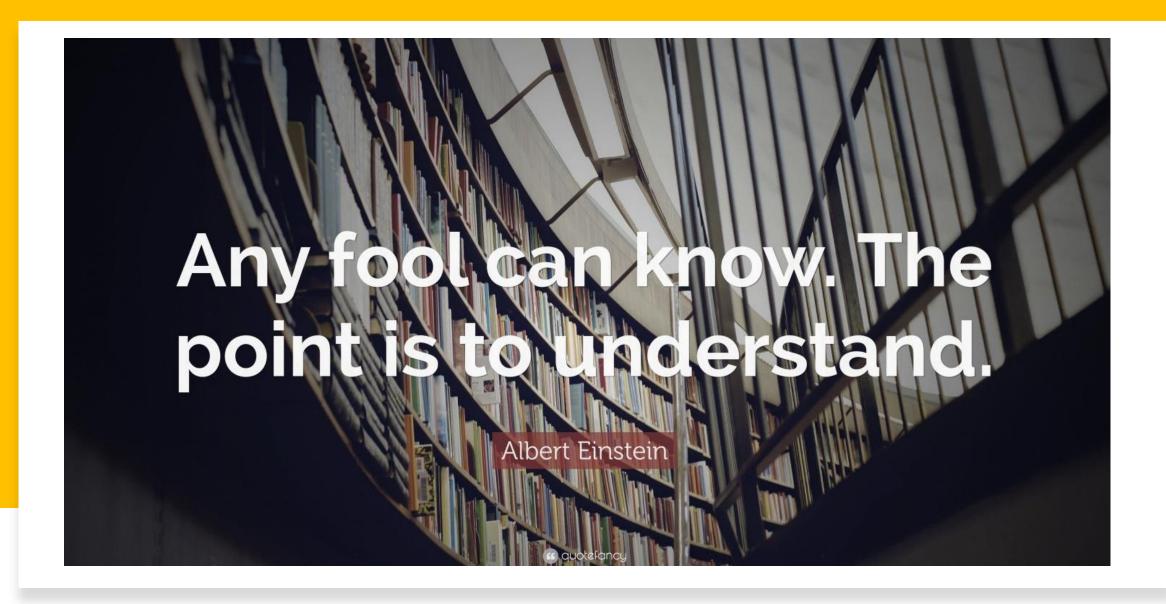








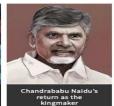




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SPORT > PAGE 13

INSIDE

Houses, police outposts torched in Manipur

NEW DELHI
Suspected militants torched
nearly 30 houses and two
police outposts in Manipur's
Jiribam district on Saturday, A
forest outpost too was set affice
by suspected militants early on
Saturday, said Chief Ministee
N. Biren Singh, p PAGE 6



Crackdown sees dismissal of four govt. staff in J&K

agencies in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday resulted in the termination of services of four government employee and the suspension of a schoolteacher, to PAGE 6



Pakistan, China agree to upgrade trade corridor

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in their meeting have affirmed consensus on the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the second phase, a PAGE 12

CWC asks Rahul to be Leader of Opposition in LS

Rahul Gandhi says he will decide 'very soon, party president Kharge urges him to 'abide' by the resolution and take up the responsibility; panel lauds party's performance in the polls, forms committees to study below-par results in some States; Congress Parliamentary Party meeting held at Samvidhan Sadan re-elects Sonia Gandhi as chairperson

Sandeep Phukan

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mentary Party (CPP) com-prising the newly-elected Lok Sabha members and Rajya Sabha members also met later at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan and re-elected Sonia Gand-

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First step: Congress leaders coming out after attending the CWC meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA.

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In its resolution, the CWC noted that the people of the country had placed the party firmly on the path of revival but chal-lenges still remain. "The people of India have spo-ken. It is now up to us to build on it. We must and

build on it. We must and we will," read the CWC resolution.

The resolution also highlighted Mr. Gandhi's contribution, especially

INDIA bloc should function cohesively'

Sobhana K. Nair

Calling the people's mandate in the Lok Sabha poils a "decisive rejection" of the politics of "divisiveness and hatred", Congress president

how the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra became "historic turning points in our nation's politics and instilled hope and confidence in lakhs of our workers and

lakhs of our workers and crores of our voters". Inside the closed-door meeting of the extended CWC, most members ar-gued that Mr. Gandhi need-ed to take up the LoP posi-tion to build on the

Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday stressed that the INDIA bloc would "function cohesively and collectively both in Parliament and outside".

momentum generated by the results.

Senior leader Digvijaya
Singh was the first to move

a motion but several others joined in to make it a cho-rus. Lok Sabha member rus. Lok Sabha member Gaurav Gogoi said Mr. Gandhi would be a power-ful voice for the 235 Oppo-sition members in the Low-er House. Party leader Partap Singh Bajwa said that as LoP, Mr. Gandhi

could force the govern-ment to deliver on some of the guarantees like scrap-making minimum support price (MSP) for farmers a the government over the provisions of the Constitution by the provisions of the government over the government over the government over the great provisions of the constitution, congress general secretary Priyanko that Mr. Gandhi had un-flinching faith in Con-gress's ability to bounce and the control of the con-gress and the con-pressive and the con-pressive and the con-pressive and the con-pressive ability to bounce and the con-trol of the con-pressive and the con-pressive ability to bounce

Back.
Reflecting on the results, Mr. Gandhi said
those who had to leave have done so and those who remain with the party the real "warriors of dethe real "warriors of de-mocracy". He also praised the party's campaign and communication strategy that allowed the Congress to fight the elections on its own turf instead of react-ing to the BJP.

Modi's coalition Ministry to assume office today

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi is all set to he sworn in with his Coun cil of Ministers for a third successive term – a feat achieved only by India's first Prime Minister Jawharfirst Prime Minister Jawhar-lal Nehru - though as the head of a coalition govern-ment. Massive prepara-reconstruction of the ceremony to be held on ceremony to be held on court. Over 5,000 invites the court. Over 5,000 invites ceremony - from heads of heighbouring states to la-bourers who worked on the Co Mark Vista construction in New Delhi.

FULL REPORT



New chapter: Preparations underway for the swearing-in of the new government, at the Rashtrapati Bhayan in New Delhi on Saturday, PTI

210 Palestinians killed in strikes; 4 hostages rescued

Over 200 Palestinians were killed in airstrikes in Gaza on Saturday, according to Hamas officials, in one of the bloodiest Israeli as-saults of the war. Israeli forces rescued four hostages held by Hamas since Oc-tober in a raid in the same

and the Israeli air assault were part of the same oper-ation but both took place ation but both took place in central Gaza's al-Nusei-rat, a densely built-up and often embattled area in the eight-month-old war bet-ween Israel and Hamas. The Hamas-run govern-ment media office said the



hands after arriving in Ramat Gan, Israel on Saturday, AP

death toll had risen to at least 210 Palestriains with the least 210 Palestriains with the least 210 Palestriains with the least 210 Palestriains with least 210 Palestriains which leads the least 210 Palestriains with least 210 Palestriains which 2 death toll had risen to at how many of the fatalities

li tallies, including at least 40 whom Israeli authori-ties have declared dead in absentia.
"It was like a horror mo-vie but this was a real mas-

sacre. Israeli drones and warplanes fired all night randomly at people's hous-es and at people who tried to flee the area," said Ziad a paramedic and resident of Nuseirat, who gave only his first name. The bombardment focused on a local marketplace and the al-Awda mosque, he said via a
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fire and a deal that would free the remaining hostag-es held by Hamas in ex-change for releases of Pal-estinians imprisoned in Israel.

Media baron Ramoji Rao Deir al-Balah but many bo-dies were still lying in the streets, including around the market district, Ziad and other residents said. Nuseirat, a historic Palpasses away

estinian refugee camp, has been subjected to heavy Is-raeli bombing during the

war and there has also been fierce ground fighting

The Gaza war shows no

signs of slowing even as Is-rael's chief ally the United

States presses for a cease-

fire and a deal that would

in its eastern areas.

of the Eenadu group, Ra-moji Rao passed away on Saturday at a private hospi-tal in Hyderabad while undergoing treatment. The 87-year-old was ad-

mitted due to age-related health issues on Friday night. He passed away at 4.50 a.m. on Saturday. His body was shifted to the Rabody was shifted to the Ra-moji Film City for people to pay respects and his fun-eral will be held there on Sunday.

NTA sets up panel on NEET allegations; rules out a re-test

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has constituted a high-powered committee led by a former Union Puled by a former Union Pu-blic Service (UPSC) Chair-person to look into the grievances around the Na-tional Eligibility-cum-En-trance Test (NEET), 2024, the results of which were announced on June 4. Several students and

announced on June 4.
Several students and
political parties have demanded a re-test alleging a question paper leak in Bi-har and opposing grant of grace marks, "illogically high" scores and an unex-pected number of full marks (720/720), Conc.

leges. The committee will submit its report in a week. Following this, the NTA would take time-bound ac-tion, which would not af-fect the results of other candidates, the admission calendar or counselling



Varanasi on Saturday, PTI

vances. To allay the fears... of the candidates, the NTA has decided that a high-po-wered committee will analyse the recommendations by the grievance redressal

maris (720/720). Concerns were also raised about the presence of eight highlaryama. One centre in
Haryama. One centre in
Haryama. On the high scores of
some students, he said:
There were IT students in
The created to 61 as 44 canditake specific to 64 as 44 canditake specific to 65 as 44 canditake specific to 65 as 44 canditake specific to 67 as 45 canditake specific to 67 as 45 canditake specific to 67 as 45 canditake specific to 67 as 46 canditake specific to 67 as 4 the process to grant grace marks, Mr. Singh said it was based on questions at-tempted by the candidates in a said time frame. "The grace mark was 720, the lowest was -20, it depended on the candidates.

calendar or counselling,
Mr. Singh said at a presconference on Saturday.

Conference on Saturday.

In the NEST exam is period

the NEST exam is

CWC asks Rahul to be Leader of Opposition in LS

Rahul Gandhi says he will decide 'very soon', party president Kharge urges him to 'abide' by the resolution and take up the responsibility; panel lauds party's performance in the polls, forms committees to study below-par results in some States; Congress Parliamentary Party meeting held at Samvidhan Sadan re-elects Sonia Gandhi as chairperson

Sandeep Phukan

NEW DELHI

he Congress Working Committee (CWC) unanimously adopted a resolution on Saturday asking Rahul Gandhi to become the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the 18th Lok Sabha.

Taking note of the sentiments expressed at the party's highest decision-making body, Mr. Gandhi said he would think it over and decide "very soon". Party president Mallikarjun Kharge urged him to "abide" by the CWC's formal resolution and take up the responsibility.

The Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) comprising the newly-elected Lok Sabha members and Rajya Sabha members also met later at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan and re-elected Sonia Gand-

hi as the chairperson after her name was proposed by Mr. Kharge.

The CWC praised the party's Lok Sabha performance under adverse conditions, but the party decided to set up separate committees in States, including party-ruled Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, to find out why the performance was below expectations and what could be done to correct the situation.

Ms. Gandhi said she did not expect to see any change in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "substance and style of governance". "That is why, as members of the CPP, we have a special obligation to be watchful, vigilant and proactive in holding him and his new NDA government accountable."

The main resolution of the CWC congratulated the people for "voting so po-



First step: Congress leaders coming out after attending the CWC meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

werfully to preserve democracy, protect the Constitution and enhance social and economic justice". "The verdict of the people is not just a political loss but a personal and moral defeat for the Prime Minister who sought the mandate in his name and ran a campaign anchored in lies, hate, prejudice, divisiveness and extreme bigotry," the resolution read. In its resolution, the CWC noted that the people of the country had placed the party firmly on the path of revival but challenges still remain. "The people of India have spoken. It is now up to us to build on it. We must and we will," read the CWC resolution.

The resolution also highlighted Mr. Gandhi's contribution, especially

'INDIA bloc should function cohesively'

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

Calling the people's mandate in the Lok Sabha polls a "decisive rejection" of the politics of "divisiveness and hatred", Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday stressed that the INDIA bloc would "function cohesively and collectively both in Parliament and outside".

FULL REPORT

» PAGE 5

how the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra became "historic turning points in our nation's politics and instilled hope and confidence in lakhs of our workers and crores of our voters".

Inside the closed-door meeting of the extended CWC, most members argued that Mr. Gandhi needed to take up the LoP position to build on the momentum generated by the results.

Senior leader Digvijaya Singh was the first to move a motion but several others joined in to make it a chorus. Lok Sabha member Gaurav Gogoi said Mr. Gandhi would be a powerful voice for the 235 Opposition members in the Lower House. Party leader Partap Singh Bajwa said that as LoP, Mr. Gandhi could force the government to deliver on some of the guarantees like scrapping the Agniveer scheme, making minimum support price (MSP) for farmers a legal right and cornering the government over the provisions of the Constitution.

Lauding her brother's determination, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra told the CWC that Mr. Gandhi had unflinching faith in Congress's ability to bounce back.

Reflecting on the results, Mr. Gandhi said those who had to leave have done so and those who remain with the party the real "warriors of democracy". He also praised the party's campaign and communication strategy that allowed the Congress to fight the elections on its own turf instead of reacting to the BJP.

No.	Portrait	Name	Constituency		Tenure		Lok Sabha	Prime Minister	Party
1		Ram Subhag Singh	Buxar	17 December 1969	27 December 1970	1 year, 10 days	4th	Indira Gandhi	Indian National Congress (O)
_	-	Vacant		27 December 1970	30 June 1977		5th		No official opposition
2	No.	Yashwantrao Chavan	Satara	1 July 1977	11 April 1978	284 days			Indian National Congress
3		C. M. Stephen	ldukki	12 April 1978	9 July 1979	1 year, 88 days		Morarji Desai	
(2)	No.	Yashwantrao Chavan	Satara	10 July 1979	28 July 1979	18 days	6th		
4	1	Jagjivan Ram	Sasaram	29 July 1979	22 August 1979	24 days		Charan Singh	Janata Party

		Vacant		22 August 1979	31 December 1984		7th	Indira Gandhi	No official	
_	_	vacam		31 December 1984	18 December 1989		8th	Rajiv Gandhi	opposition ^[2]	
5		Rajiv Gandhi	Amethi	18 December 1989	23 December 1990	1 year, 5 days	9th	VP Singh	Indian National Congress	
			New Delhi	24 December 1990	13 March 1991	2 years,	Chandra Shekhar	Shokh		
6		L. K. Advani	Gandhinagar	21 June 1991	26 July 1993	214 days		Bharatiya Janata	Bharatiya Janata	
7		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Lucknow	21 July 1993	10 May 1996	2 years	10th	P. V. Narasimha Rao	Party	
8		P. V. Narasimha Rao	Berhampur	16 May 1996	31 May 1996	15 days		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Indian National Congress	
(7)		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Lucknow	1 June 1996	4 December 1997	1 year, 186 days	11th	Deve Gowda IK Gujral	Bharatiya Janata Party	

9		Sharad Pawar	Baramati	19 March 1998	26 April 1999	1 year, 38 days	12th		
10		Sonia Gandhi	Amethi	31 October 1999	6 February 2004	4 years, 98 days	13th	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Indian National Congress
(6)		L. K. Advani	Gandhinagar	21 May 2004	18 May 2009	4 years, 362 days	14th	Manmohan	Bharatiya Janata
11		Sushma Swaraj	Vidisha	21 December 2009	19 May 2014	4 years, 149 days	15th	Singh	Party
_	_	Vacant		20 May 2014	29 May 2019		16th		No official
		vacan		30 May 2019	9 June 2024		17th		opposition ^{[2][3]}
12		Rahul Gandhi	Wayanad & Rae Bareli	9 June 2024	Incumbent	0 days	18th	Narendra Modi	Indian National Congress

Maria Alla Sanda

List of leaders of the opposition by length of term

No. ♦	Nome	Dorty		Len	gth of term
No. ♦	Name	Party	♦	Longest continuous term	Total years of opposition-ship
1	Lal Krishna Advani	BJP		4 years, 361 days	7 years, 322 days
2	Sushma Swaraj	BJP		4 years, 148 days	4 years, 148 days
3	Sonia Gandhi	INC		4 years, 116 days	4 years, 116 days
4	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	BJP		2 years, 289 days	3 years, 110 days
5	C. M. Stephen	INC		1 year, 89 days	1 year, 89 days
6	Sharadchandra Pawar	INC		1 year, 38 days	1 year, 38 days
7	Yashwantrao Chavan	INC		1 year, 20 days	1 year, 38 days
8	Ram Subhag Singh	INC(O)		1 year, 10 days	1 year, 10 days
9	Rajiv Gandhi	INC		1 year, 6 days	1 year, 6 days
10	Jagjivan Ram	JP		25 days	25 days
11	P. V. Narasimha Rao	INC		16 days	16 days

INBRIDE



India-China relations must be based on mutual respect: MEA

The Government of India on Saturday thanked China for congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his election victory and said it would continue to make efforts for normalisation of bilateral ties based on 'mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity*. The comments by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal (in photo) came as relations Randari Jaswai (in photo) came as relations between India and fotoin remained frosty in view of the lingering border row along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, Mr. Jaiswal was replying to a congratulatory message to Modi posted by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on X. em

Post elections, EC seeks action against IPS officer in Odisha

The Election Commission has recommended action against Odisha-cadre IPS officer Ashish Kumar Singh for "misrepresentation of fact" about his health condition while revoking the suspension order on another senior police officer D.S. Kutey, In a letter to the Chief Electoral D.S. Kurey. In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer of Odisha, the EC said the report of the special medical board of AIIMS, Bhubanneswar, has declared Mr. Singh, a 2010-batch policeen on leave on health grounds since May 4, Mr. Kurey, the Special Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister, was suspended by the EC on May 28 for unduly interfering in conduct of election¹. m

Trinamool Congress MLA 'assaults' restaurant owner

Trinamool Congress MLA and actor Soham Chakraborty allegedly assaulted a restaurant owner in Kolkata on Friday night. The tiff, which owner in Kolkata on Friday night. The tiff, which rere would be supported by the same of parking of the actor's vehicle and film crew outside the restaurant at New Town. When the restaurant cowner, Anisul Alam, had asked the was inconvenienching other customers, a verbal was inconvenienching other customers, a verbal was inconveniencing other customers, a verbal duel broke out between the two, following which Mr. Chakraborry assaulted Mr. Alam. On Saturday, the MLA said he was "apologetic", adding that as a public representative, he "should not have behaved like that".

Bill to raise women's legal marriage age lapses in LS

With the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha, a Bill With the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha, a Bill that aimed to bring uniformity in the age of of marriage for men and women has lapsed. The marriage for men and women has lapsed. The 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports. The Bill aimed to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to increase the minimum age of marriage of women to 21 years. Under the 2006 Act, a person married below the minimum age may apply for annulment within two years of attaining majority (i.e., before 20 years of age). The Bill increases this to five years (i.e., 23 years of age).

SUDOKU

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30 houses, two police outposts torched in **Manipur's Jiribam**

Militants behind arson and violence, says CM; additional Central security

uspected militants torched nearly 30 houses and two pol-ice outposts in Jiribam dis-trict of Manipur on

Saturday. Chief Minister N. Biren Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said additional pol-ice personnel and Central security forces had been rushed to the district fol-lowing arson and violence. A forest outpost too was set on fire by suspected mili-tants early on Saturday, he said

"The militants torched around 30 houses also. This follows the abduction and killing of a 59-year-old farmer (May 6)," Mr. Singh said. "Around 100 Manipur Police personnel, other Police personnet, other than reinforcements from the Central Reserve Police Force and the Assam Ri-fles, have been sent to Jiri-bam. The district had been bam. The district had been peaceful so far, it never witnessed violence at this scale," he told *The Hindu*. He is in Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony



Sunday. The Manipur Police said in a statement that in the violence that broke out fol-lowing the murder of the farmer, "several houses befarmer, "several houses be-longing to both Meitei and Kuki communities were burnt by unknown mis-creants in Jiribam district". "Further, two police pickets and the Borobekra

pickets and the Borobekra Forest Beat Office were al-so burnt down by mis-creants. Situation is tense but under control at pre-sent. The police are also Alamashyam Sharma.

monitoring social media updates that may incite communal feelings," the police said.

200 people evacuated About 200 people, mostly from the Meitei communi ty and some from the Kuki Zo community, were evac Zo community, were evac-uated from their houses in Jiribam district and moved to a camp over the last two days after violence broke

Jarange-Patil begins | SIT to probe fresh hunger strike for Maratha quota

Abhinay Deshpande MUMBAI

Maratha activist Manoj Ja-range-Patil began an indefi-nite fast on Saturday de-manding the implementation of a draft notification that recognises all blood relatives of Maratha community mem-bers as Kunbis, an agrarian group classified as an Oth-er Backward Class (OBC) community, who are eligi-ble for quota benefits. "I will not give up until

"Marathas were granted reservations by the BJP-led government on both occa sions," Deputy Chief Minis ter Devendra Fadnavi sions," Deputy Chief Minis-ter Devendra Fadnavis said, following a party meeting where State BJP le-gislators passed a resolu-tion reposing faith in him and seeking his conti-muance as party leader. Without naming specific individuals, he added: "It

"I will not give up until
the Maratha reservation is
granted," he said.

The Maratha quota acti.

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The Maratha is particulated and acti.

Marathwada's Jalna district, despite the district, administration and police
authorities denying him OBC status for Marathas,

is surprising that those who opposed reservations since 1980 got maximum votes in Marathwada." and the implementation of the draft notification issued by the State govern Previously Mr. Jarangesued by the State govern-ment earlier this year also Called for a law to be framed for identifying Rum-bis as Marathas, warning that he would field candi-dates for all 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra in the upcoming State election if

Manoj Jarange-Patil

his demands were not met

Previously, Mr. Jarange-Patil had led an agitation over the issue from Febru-ary 10 to 26.

On February 20, the le-gislature passed a bill pro-viding 10% reservation for Marathas in education and government jobs under a separate category.

death of cattle transporters near Raipur

The Hindu Bureau

The police have registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and attempt to murder against unknown persons in a lynching case at Arang in Chhattiggarh. On Priday, Gudu Khan and Chand Miya Khan of Uttar Pradesh were killed in the control of the control of the case of the control of the case of the ca

injured in the Arang area of Raipur. With Mr. Qureshi still not in a condition to police have not been able to identify the suspects, in-vestigators said on Satur-

day.

"A 14-member special team has been formed to ensure a detailed investiga-tion. We have registered an FIR under Section 304 (culpable homicide), 307 (murder attempt) and 34 (act done with common in-Senior Superintendent of Police (Raipur) Santosh

Singh.

The FIR has been registered suo motu by the police based on information provided by Shoaib, a relaprovided by Shoaib, a rela-tive of Chand Miya Khan and Mr. Qureshi, who was privy to two phone calls made by them at the time of a purported attack.

Four J&K government employees dismissed, teacher suspended

A crackdown by security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday re-sulted in the termination of services of four govern-ment employees, the seal-ing of militants' residenc-es, and the suspension of a es, and the suspension of a schoolteacher who criticised the government

nline. The sacked employees The sacked employees are Abdul Rehman Dar, a selection grade police con-stable from Larmooh in Pulwama; Ghulam Rasool Bhat, a constable from Lal-gam in Pulwama; Shabeer Ahmad Wani, a teacher from Buyen in Vulcame. from Bungam in Kulgam; and Anayatullah Shah Pir-zada, assistant lineman in the Jal Shakti Department from Watergam in Bara-mulla. An official said they were dismissed from ser-vice under Article 311 of the Constitution "for their in-volvement in anti-national volvement in anti-national activities", based on the re-ports filed by the security agencies and without a for-mal inquiry. "The activities of these



employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelli-gence agencies, as they found them involved in ac-tivities prejudicial to the in-terests of the state, such as

involvement in terror-relat-ed activities," the govern-ment spokesperson said. In Doda district of the Chenab valley, a teacher was suspended for criticis-ing government policies. Officials said that he had Officials said that he had highlighted the bad road conditions and "shabby ac-commodation" of the Go-vernment Middle School, Draman, in a video that was widely shared across the region.

"Dar was involved in not only carrying illegal arms and ammunition from one place to another for their delivery to the terrorists but also providing camou-flage uniform cloth and other materials to them. other materials to them. Bhat was also involved in carrying illegal arms and ammunition from one place to another for deliv-ery to the terrorists. He ery to the terrorists. He
was linked to the ecosystem through a network of
overground workers
(OGWs), operating at the
behest of terrorists based
in Pakistan," the government order said.
The spokesperson said
Mr. Wani was an active

member of the banned Ja-maat-e-Islami (Jel), "Va-rious FIRs have been regis-tered against him because of his direct involvement in inciting and leading an un-lawful assembly of mob in-stigating riotting and vio-lence in D.H. Pora, during

ment said. The J&K police attached

the 2016 unrest," the spo-kesperson said. The spokesperson said that Mr. Pirzada was a terand worker of the Al-

ground worker of the Al-Badr Mujahldeen. "He had direct association with dreaded terrorists such as Yousuf Baloch and Ta-meem, who were the com-manders of the Al-Badr Mujahldeen," the govern-ment exist.

Kolkata-based filmmaker's Mehroon

wins laurels at KASHISH film festival

The J&K police attached the properties of two mili-tants in north Kashmir's Baramulla. An official said that the properties, includ-ing eight kanals and four marlas of land that bepesh Sonawane from Pune survived the accident that marias of land that be-longed to two terror han-dlers based in Pakistan, were attached. These han-dlers were identified as Ja-leel Ahmad Rather and Mo-hammad Ashraf Mir of Tilgam in Baramulla.

Bodies of 4 students who drowned in Russia recovered

The bodies of four medical students from Maharashtra who drowned in the Volk-hov river in Russia were re-covered on Saturday, the Consul-General of India in Russia, Kumar Gauray,

They were studying at the Yaroslav-the-Wise Nov gorod State University in Veliky Novgorod city in

Veility Novgorod city in Russia.

The deceased are Har-shal Anantras Desale from-trict; siblings Jishan Ash-pak Pirijari and Jia Firoj Pinjari from Amalner in Jai-gaon; and Malik Gulam-gous Mohammad Yakub from Mumbai. Nisha Bhuoccurred during an outing

on June 4.

"The university is in constant communication with the parents of the children. We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The



searching for the victims in

through the Indian embas-sy in Russia is working with Russian authorities to send back the bodies to their fa-milies at the earliest," Mr. Gauray said.

Desale's uncle Rajendra Bhilaji Desale, a farmer, said, "The agent who helped all the children get admission and visa is coordinating with the universi-ty. We will receive the body either on Tuesday or Wed-nesday. We have not been able to perform any funer-al rituals, which should have been done at least on the third day of death, but we do not have a choice." dinating with the universi

₹2.000 hike in annual honorarium paid to farmers in Rajasthan

After the Bharatiya Janata Party's dismal perfor-mance in the Lok Sabha election in Rajasthan, the State government on Satu day announced an in-crease in the annual hono-rarium paid to farmers under the Union govern-ment's Kisan Samman Nid-

hi.

With the BJP-ruled State government now contributing ₹2,000, the amount given to each farm household has been enhanced from ₹6,000 to ₹8,000 per
year. Chief Minister Bhajan
Lal Sharma said the BJP go-

vernment was moving for

vernment was moving for-ward with the resolve of farmers' uplift.

"The State government is committed to ensuring all-round development of farmers," Mr. Sharma said in a post on X (formerly The short film Mehroon, di-rected by Abu Sohel Khon-dekar, has won laurels at the KASISH International Film Festival in Mumbai. After the film's screening at Liberty Cinema in Mumbai on May 19, Khon-dekar, 34, a Kolkata-based

Twitter). Rajasthan Finance Mi-nister Diya Kumari had nister Diya Kumari had stated the government's in-tention to fulfil the pro-mise while presenting the-sembly on February 8. The BP government's an-nouncement was seen as an attempt to molility farm-ers ahead of the upcoming polls in the State. the Riyad Wadia Award for best emerging Indian film maker. She had won the KASHISH QDrishit Film Grant of ₹2.5 lakh in 2023 to make the film. Mehroon was highly ap-preciated by the audience at the screening. The film-

polls in the State



the cracks as there was no

narration, and the au-dience had to figure out the story on their own without verbal cues. However, the movie re-ceived a great response from the audience and the jury. With much praise with Tit was a drawn to see

said, "It was a dream to see my own film on 35 mm and have an audience appre-

have an audience appre-ciate it and clap for it."

She said the thought to title the film, Mehroon, came from Mehroon Nissa, the wife of the Mughal em-peror Jahangir, often de-scribed as the real force that ran his empire. The tit-ular character in the mo-vie, Anirban Mandal at birth, chooses the name

Mehroon, as a symbolic break from the Brahmini break from the Brahmini-cal conservatism to give herself a completely new identity. Her journey is traced through the silent yet impactful frames of the

movie. Khondekar said, "The film's story was born out of the necessity to create so-mething with the bare minimum. I believe we as the trans community can't wait for the larger Indian wait for the larger Indian mass to accept us and then come out." After the suc-cess at KASHISH, Mehroor has been nominated to the Chennai International Queer Film Festival, where it will be screened in a month or two.

Bill to raise women's legal marriage age lapses in LS

With the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha, a Bill that aimed to bring uniformity in the age of marriage for men and women has lapsed. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports. The Bill aimed to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to increase the minimum age of marriage of women to 21 years. Under the 2006 Act, a person married below the minimum age may apply for annulment within two years of attaining majority (i.e., before 20 years of age). The Bill increases this to five years (i.e., 23 years of age). PTI

The Current Laws:

For Hindus, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.

In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

According to the NFHS-5, **23%** (47% in NFHS-3 and 27% in NFHS-4) of women between the age of 20 and 24 were married before 18 years of age.

In India, the practice of child marriage was first legally prohibited through the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (legal age G = 14 years and B = 18 years)

This Act was amended in **1978** to increase the minimum age to 18 years for females, and 21 years for men.

In 2020, the central government set up a task force (Chairperson: **Ms Jaya Jaitly**) to examine the correlation between the age of marriage and the mother, and the child's health.

The Committee suggested increasing the age of marriage for females to 21.

TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS & CUSTOMS

- Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men
- > Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage
- Indian Christian

 Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi

 Marriage and Divorce Act,

 1936; Muslim Personal Law

 (Shariat) Application Act, 1937;

 Special Marriage Act, 1954;

- Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Foreign Marriage Act, 1969
- Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority
 - Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice
- Bill to come into force
 2 years from the date it receives
 President's assent

₹2,000 hike in annual honorarium paid to farmers in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau

JAIPUR

After the Bharatiya Janata Party's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha election in Rajasthan, the State government on Saturday announced an increase in the annual honorarium paid to farmers under the Union government's Kisan Samman Nidhi.

With the BJP-ruled State government now contributing ₹2,000, the amount given to each farm household has been enhanced from ₹6,000 to ₹8,000 per year. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said the BJP go-

vernment was moving forward with the resolve of farmers' uplift.

"The State government is committed to ensuring all-round development of farmers," Mr. Sharma said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari had stated the government's intention to fulfil the promise while presenting the vote-on-account in the Assembly on February 8.

The BJP goverment's announcement was seen as an attempt to mollify farmers ahead of the upcoming local body and panchayat polls in the State.



Pradhan Mantri KIsan SAmman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)





Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a for farmers, effective 01.12.2018



To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer families having cultivable land upto 2 ha

Direct transfer into the bank accounts in three equal instalments



First installment upto 31.03.2019, to be paid this year itself



₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19

PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME

- Central Sector scheme.
- 100% funding from Government of India
- Operational from 1.12.2018.
- Income support of Rs.6000/- per year
- Direct Bank Transfer benefits
- Family of Husband, Wife and a minor Children
- Generate income of the Small and Marginal Farmers
- Established Project Monitoring Unit

Kolkata-based filmmaker's *Mehroon* wins laurels at KASHISH film festival

Shrabana Chatterjee

KOLKATA

The short film *Mehroon*, directed by Abu Sohel Khondekar, has won laurels at the KASISH International Film Festival in Mumbai.

After the film's screening at Liberty Cinema in Mumbai on May 19, Khondekar, 34, a Kolkata-based queer filmmaker, won the Special Jury Mention for the Riyad Wadia Award for best emerging Indian filmmaker. She had won the KASHISH QDrishti Film Grant of ₹2.5 lakh in 2023 to make the film.

Mehroon was highly appreciated by the audience at the screening. The film-



A poster of the silent short film *Mehroon.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

maker remained in anticipation that much of the movie would fall through the cracks as there was no

narration, and the audience had to figure out the story on their own without verbal cues.

However, the movie received a great response from the audience and the jury. With much praise pouring in, Khondekar said, "It was a dream to see my own film on 35 mm and have an audience appreciate it and clap for it."

She said the thought to title the film, *Mehroon*, came from Mehroon Nissa, the wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, often described as the real force that ran his empire. The titular character in the movie, Anirban Mandal at birth, chooses the name

Mehroon, as a symbolic break from the Brahminical conservatism to give herself a completely new identity. Her journey is traced through the silent yet impactful frames of the movie.

Khondekar said, "The film's story was born out of the necessity to create something with the bare minimum. I believe we as the trans community can't wait for the larger Indian mass to accept us and then come out." After the success at KASHISH, Mehroon has been nominated to the Chennai International Queer Film Festival, where it will be screened in a month or two.









TALKS CONTINUE ON

portfolios for allies

Slimbide • Badi Todfod + Deewaar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen Space Saving



Former CMs may get new roles way ahead on party leadership Taking oath today

SHIVRAJ, KHATTAR, BOMMAI, DEB:

Finance to states, depts: Use arbitration only in disputes under ₹10 crore

PURVA VISHWANATH IEW DELHI, JUNE 8

NDERLINING THAT the arbit processes are expensive and e-consuming, and that there perceptions of wrong-doing ors, the Union Finance

uded in procurement contracts nders, especially in large con acts," said a lune 3 office mem ndum by the Department of penditure's Procurement

licy Division.
The memorandum has been culated to all ministries in the



SPARI PESCUES A AIRSTRIKES KILL 210



Stage set, Modi to send Hasina arrives; list of ministers before oath-taking ceremony

LIZMATHEW

Narendra Modi, set to take oath for the third consecutive term Sunday as the head of an NDA government, is expected to hand over the list of Ministers in his council a few hours ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, sched-uled for 7.15 pm at Rashtrapati

Bhavan.

The BJP, 32 seats below the majority mark, will need the Thefinal decision is, of course,

MEET TEAMS NAIDU.

leaders, including Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, along with party national president J P Nadda, have been in consultations with TDP's Chandrababu Naidu, JD-U's Nitish Kumar, and Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, to work out how

Preparations at Rashtrapati Bhavan Saturday for the swearing in of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. Pil

NITISH: THE TWO PILLARS OF NDA

best to accommodate them in

Muizzu confirms visit, says ties in right direction

SHUBHAJITROY

BANGLADESH PRIME Ministe Sheikh Hasina arrived in Delhi Saturday, being the first of the seven foreign leaders to reach India

majority mark, will need the support of its allies, especially support of its allies, especially reliague Desam Party and Janxa Del (United). Indeed, top BJP confuseDownAes 2

The final desissonis, of course, with the Prime Minister-designate but sources said the BJP is obedef forward to working with booked for ward to working with confused to the provided of the

UCC, delimitation and quota: Day before, TDP flags 'discussion' points BJP stand on removing Muslim quota is

if it's on its own, not in coalition: Lokesh

SREENIVAS JANYALA



state, said the community ha



WORKING STYLE HAS TO CHANGE: CM Centre and state are not meeting public expectations, admits Manipur CM Biren

'Central forces must actively help state'

flected in the BJP's defeat there in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections. Accepting responsibilelections. Accepting responsibil-ity for that defeat — Congress won both seats — he said, in an interview to The Indian Express, that it was time for him to work with "even more conviction." This was the first election that Singh and the BJP faced after the ethnic violence broke out in the state a year ago in May 2023. The



Manipur's Jiribam on edge as mob torches houses, govt offices

Over 230 people in district flee homes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ETHNIC TENSIONS escalated in ETHINK, TENSIONS escalated in Manipur's Jiribam district, bor-dering Assam, on Saturday after a mob of armed miscreants torched several houses and some government offices, in-cluding two police outposts and a forest bear office.

Over 230 people from Mongbung, Lamlai Khunou, and ing villages fled their



Parliament will no longer be muzzled and stifled: Sonia



(From left) Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal and Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Saturday. Amit Melva

AS THE Narendra Modi govern-AS THE Narendra Modi govern-ment prepares to begin its third term, senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi Saturday Jausched a strong attackon it, and said has means Parfament will no longer "be muzzled and stilled as it has been over the past 10 years". She asked the newly elected Clark and the stilled as it has been over the past 10 years". She asked the newly elected Clark and proactive inhold-ing the Prime Minister and his new government "accountable".

underline the Congress's re-solve to play the role of an aggressive Opposition, chal-lenging the government every step of the way in Parliament, the composi-tion of which will be com-pletely different this time

Addressing party MPs after ber e-election as the Congress Parliamentary Party chaiperson, Address and the Congress School Parliament be buildozed like it has been for a decade now. No longer will the writ of the rui-ing establishment be permitted to disrupt Parliament, whinnsi-cally mistreat memhers or push through legislation without dis-

BUOYED CONG ASKS RAHUL TO BE LOP, HE SAYS WILL DECIDE

given that the BJP does not have majority on its own.

As Naveen bows out, selfies and a pep talk to leaders: 'Will be around for you'

PAGE 1

sembly polls, a video of Biju nata Dal president Naveen tnaik appeared on social methe video. Patnaik asks BID ingthemnottoget discouraged

Over the last few days since the BJD's loss, Patnaik has been retary Pranab Prakash Das told The Indian Express after his meet-

the BID 3 loss, Pathalk has been meeting a steady stream of party candidates — both winners and those who lost — gamely posing with them for selfies, "motivation of the BID by 10 page 10 pag

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

workers toworthework the BID
w

BJD chief Naveen Patnaik addresses party leaders on Thursday

in 1997, while registering a nar-

in 1997, wine registering a nar-row win in Hinjili.
However, Patnaik's former private secretary and confidant V K Pandian, the Tamil Nadu-born ex-18-5 officer who became the focal point of the BJP's attacks this election, was absent from last couple of years, the former

113 seats it won in 2019. Patnaik CM even when he went to Rai did "excellent work".

CM even when he went to Raj Bhawan on Wednesday to ten-der his resignation.

Amid growing voice of dis-part of the state of the state of the Pandant state of the state of the formed a committee to look into the reasons for the BJD's poll deback.

defended Pandian, calling the criticism against him "unfortu-the recent me

to PTI and ANI that was released by the BJD media cell, Patnaik will decide my successor."

Indian Navy gets first woman helicopter pilot

New Delhi: Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev has become the Navy's first woman helicopter pilot after she received the prestigious "Golden Wings" following completion of training at a naval air station in Tamil Nadu's Arakkonam.

Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first commissioned naval officer from Ladakh, also successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot, according to the Indian Navy.

Sub-Lt Rajeev and Lt Tsewang were among 21 officers awarded the "Golden Wings" following the successful culmination of an intensive 22-week training programme, encompassing rigorous flying and ground training at the Indian Naval Air Squadron 561, the alma mater of all helicopter pilots of the Indian Navy, it said.

- The Indian Navy is currently the world's seventh-strongest maritime force, trailing only the United States, Russia, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, and France. As of June 2019, the force had 150 submarines and ships, 300 aircraft, and 67,252 active and 55,000 reserve personnel.
- The anti-ship cruise missile BrahMos of the Indian Navy is the world's fastest operational system in its class.
- The range of the missile system has recently been increased from 298 km to nearly 450 km by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- The Indian Navy's special operations unit, MARCOS (originally called Marine Commando Force), was established in 1987 and is trained and equipped to conduct operations at sea, on land, and in the air.
- The force has received international acclaim for its professionalism.
- The Indian Navy's 'Sagar Pawan,' founded in 2003, is one of the world's only two naval aerobatic teams, the other being the US Navy's Blue Angels.
- The Indian Navy's first independent operation occurred in 1961 when it successfully fought against the Portuguese navy during the liberation of Goa

Anniversaries	Navy Day: 4 December	
Operational fleet	as of January 2024	[show]
Engagements	Major wars and Operations	[show]
Website	indiannavy.nic.in ♂	
	Commanders	
Commander-in- Chief	President Droupadi Mu	rmu
Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	General Anil Chauhan	
Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)	Admiral Dinesh K Tripa	thi
Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)	: Krishna Swaminathan	
Notable commanders	Admiral S. M. Nanda Admiral Sourendra Nat Admiral Ram Dass Kata	

Consumption inequality in India falls, says report

PRIYANSH VERMA New Delhi, June 8

of consumption across households has declined in the past decade, reveals the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23. As per the report, released by the statistics ministry on Friday, the Gini coefficient – an index to measure inequality – fell in both rural and urban households in 2022-23 from its level in 2011-12.

As per the survey, the Gini coefficient fell to 0.266 in 2022-23 from 0.283 in 2011-12, for rural households; and for urban ones, it fell to 0.314 from 0.363. The index is one of the most widely used measures of income inequality across the world. The Gini coef-

ficient score lies between 0 and 1, where complete equality would result in a score of zero and complete inequality would result in 1.

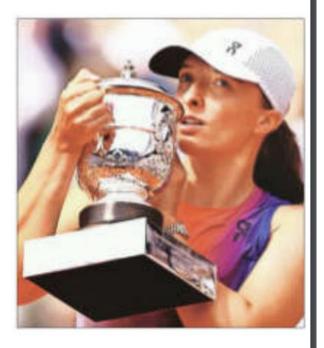
The figure stated above for households, however, depicts the state of consumption inequality, and not income inequality. Therefore, to say that the fall in Gini coefficient in HCES 2022-23, also means a fall in income inequality across households may not be correct, say economists.

"Income and consumption could be the same for the lowest strata of the society. The low wage earners, on a monthly basis, usually use their entire income for consumption, but that's not the case for high wage earners," said NR Bhanumurthy, vice chancellor, Bengaluru's BASE University.

Iga Swiatek wins third title at Ronald Garros in straight sets

IGA SWIATEK WON her third consecutive French Open championship and fourth in five years by defeating Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-1 in the final on Saturday. The top-seeded Swiatek trailed 2-1 early in Court Philippe Chatrier before taking the next 10 games to claim the opening set and go up 5-0 in the second. She stretched her winning streak at Roland Garros to 21 matches and her career record at the place is now 35-2.

The 23-year-old from Poland is the first woman with three trophies in a row in Paris since Justine Henin from 2005 to 2007. Swiatek also won the French Open in 2020 and the US Open in 2022 and is now 5-0 in major finals. The 12th-seeded Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy,



was appearing in a Slam final for the first time. She had never been past the second round at one of the four most important tennis tournaments until getting to the fourth round at the Australian Open in January.

-ASSOCIATED PRESS

A historic first for Alcaraz at Roland Garros

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press PARIS

Carlos Alcaraz came back to defeat Alexander Zverev 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday and win the French Open for his third Grand Slam title.

Alcaraz is a 21-year-old from Spain who grew up watching countryman Rafael Nadal win trophy after trophy at Roland Garros a record 14 in all - and now has eclipsed Nadal as the youngest man to collect Major championships on three surfaces. Nadal was about a year and a half older when he did it.

Sunday's victory - in which he trailed two sets to one, just as he had in the semifinals against Jannik Sinner on Friday – allowed Alcaraz to add the claycourt championship at Ro-

The new king of clay



- Alcaraz is the first man in the Open era to win his first three Majors on three different surfaces (US Open 2022 on hard court, Wimbledon 2023 on grass and French Open 2024 on clay)
- Since 2000, the 21-year-old is only the second man to win the French Open title before turning 22. Rafael Nadal did it from 2005 to 07

3 Alcaraz won his third straight Grand Slam final and extended his record to 3-0

He is the fifth active male player with three or more Slam titles after Novak Djokovic (24), Nadal (22), Andy Murray (3) and Stan Wawrinka (3)

Alcaraz is the seventh man to win a **Grand Slam** on all three surfaces after Nadal, Mats Wilander, Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer, Djokovic and Andre Agassi

The Spaniard is the seventh man in the Open era to win his first three Major finals after Gustavo Kuerten, Stefan Edberg, Biorn Borg, Federer, Connors and Wawrinka

- 8 Alcaraz is the eighth Spanish man to win at Roland Garros after Nadal, Manual Santana (pre-Open era), Andres Gimeno, Sergi Bruguera, Carlos Moya, Albert Costa, Juan Carlos Ferrero (Alcaraz's current coach who won the title in 2003, a month after Alcaraz was born)
- 8 Alcaraz ended French Open's eight-year wait for a firsttime men's champion
- 21 Alcaraz is the youngest man to win Grand Slam man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces at the age of 21
- 21 Alcaraz is also the youngest man to win three different Slams at the age of 21, eclipsing Connors' record (22 years 7 days)

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

THE RESULTS



Finals: Men: 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 4-Zverev (Ger) 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1,

Women: Doubles: 5-Siniakova (Cze) & Gauff (USA) bt 11-Errani & Paolini (Ita) 7-6(5), 6-3.

stands - which he would do on a handful of occasions - and double-faulting, trying a so-so drop shot that led to an easy winner for Zverev, then missing a backhand.

Let's just say they won't be putting those initial 10 minutes in the Louvre. A lot of the 4-hour, 19-minute match was patchy, littered with unforced errors.

Alcaraz managed to come out strong in the fourth set, grabbing 16 of the first 21 points to move out to a 4-0 edge, including one brilliant, sliding, down-the-line forehand passing winner that he ce-

2024 French Open

Date 26 May - 9 June 2024

Edition 123rd

94th Grand Slam Category

Draw 128S / 64D / 32X

Prize money € 53,478,000^[1]

Surface Clay

Paris (XVIe), France Location

Roland Garros Stadium Venue

2023 Champions

Men's singles



Champions

Women's singles



Men's doubles

Marcelo Arévalo / Mate Pavić

Women's doubles





Mixed doubles



Laura Siegemund / Edouard Roger-



Vasselin

48.248 candidates clear JEE (Advanced) NEWS » PAGE 6





NOTA continues to matter in some seats LWE-affected areas, Bihar stick with trend





Delhi is getting more water than its share: Saini

Amid the ongoing water crisis in Delhi, Haryana Chief Minist Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi, accusing it of making baseless remarks. He said that as per the Supreme Court order, Haryans was giving Delhi more water than its share, a PAGE 4

Man accused of Bangladesh MP's killing extradited

The West Bengal Crime The West Bengal Crime Investigation Department began questioning Siam Hussain on Sunday, who was arrested by the Nepal Police and extradited to India, as part of the investigation into the murder of Bangladesh MP Anwarul Acim Anax. » PAGE 4

Pakistan and IMF disagree over income tax rates

ISLAMABAD

Talks between Pakistan and IMF have ended inconclusivel IMF have ended inconclusived due to a disagreement over new income tax rates for salaried and non-salaried persons and the imposition o a standard 18% sales tax on agriculture and health sector goods, according to a report Sunday. » PAGE 14

War Cabinet Minister quits Netanyahu govt.

DEBUSALEM.

aeli war Cabinet Minister Israeli war Cabinet Minister Benny Gantz said on Sunday that his National Union Party was quitting the government after threatening last month to leave if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not approve a post-war plan for Gaza by June 8. » PAGE 14

72-member NDA Ministry takes oath of office

61 Ministers are from the BJP and 11, including five Cabinet Ministers, are from alliance partners 27 Ministers from the OBCs, 10 from the SCs, five

24 States get representation; 43 Ministers are third-term MPs, and five are former CMs

arendra Modi took the oath of office as Prime Minister for a third successive term on third successive term on Sunday, along with 71 oth-er members of his Council of Ministers, at a ceremony of Ministers, at a ceremony Rashtrapati Bhavan. The new Ministry com-prises 30 Cabinet Minis-ters, five Ministers of State with Independent Charge and 36 Ministers of State.

The team appears to be a mix of old and new. Sixty-one Ministers are from the BJP and II from its partners in the National Democratic nance. Five leaders of the allies

 former Karnataka Chief Minister and Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswaleader H.D. Kumaraswa-my; former Bihar Chief Mi-nister and Hindustan Awam Morcha leader Jitan Ram Manjhi; Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Pas-



wan: Ram Mohan Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP); and Rajeev Ranjan Singh "Lallan" of the Jana-

Singh "Lallan" of the Jana-ta Dal(U) – have been given Cabinet berths. Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal and Pra-tap Rao Jadhav of the Shiv

Sena Shinde faction have been appointed Ministers of State (Independent charge). Anupriya Patel of the Apna Dal, Ram Nath Thakur of the Janata Dal (U), Chandrashekhar Pen-masani of the TDP and Ram Das Athawale of the Sena Shinde faction have Republican Party of India, have been made Ministers of State. The All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) did not receive representation. The Ministers are drawn from 24 States, including the BJP's lone and first-ev-Republican Party of India.

from Kerala, Suresh Gopi. The choices also reflect caste and community re-

Tribes (ST) and five to mi-

Tribes (ST) and five to minority communities.
At least 10 Milasters and the least 10 Milasters are least 10 Milasters and least 10 Milasters are least 10 years have made a repeat entry into the government, including Rajnath Singh, Sitharaman, Pjusah Goyal, Giriraj Singh and Kiren Riji, Lu The NDa, government emphasising continuity and experience, with 43 Ministers being third-term and properties of the least 10 Milasters being third-term Linch Milasters being third-term Linch Milasters before. Union Ministers before. Former Chief Ministers

too found a good represen-tation with Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Madhya Pradesh, Manohar Lai from Haryana and Sarba-nanda Sonowal from As-sam, apart from Mr. Majhi and Mr. Kumaraswamy, be-

and Mr. Kumaraswamy, be-ing sworn in.

Community representa-tion and the upcoming As-sembly polls in Maharash-tra, Haryana and

Jharkhand were also kept in mind. In Haryana, the inclusion of Mr. Khattar, considered a close associate of Prime Minister Na-rendra Modi, six-time Lok Sabha member Rao Inder-Sabha member Rao Inder-jit Singh and senior Gurjar leader Krishan Pal Gurjaris connected to the BJP's fo-cus to retain its grip over-non-jat vote bank in the agrarian State ahead of the Assembly election later this wer.

this year.

No senior OBC leader (the BJP's core vote base in the State) from Maharashtra features in the Ministry. Another big lesson of from the BJP's disappoint-ing performance in the crucial State of Uttar Pradesh. Here, with nine in-clusions, the focus was on continuity and getting the continuity and getting the caste equation right to make up for the losses.

One for the ages



Ajit Pawar-led NCP rejects offer of Minister of State post

While the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was given a ministerial berth in the new Council of Ministers, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction of De-day declined the BIP's offer of a Minister of State (Indeof a Minister of State (Indeendent charge) post. Earlier, BJP leader and

Deputy CM Devendra Fad-navis met Mr. Ajit Pawar Praful Patel and Sunil Six MPs from Maharash-

Six MPs from Maharash-tra have been given minis-terial berths.

However, given the compulsions and the cal-culations that come into play in a coalition, Mr. Fad-navis said, the BJP could



yet. Speaking to pressper-sons later, Mr. Pawar said: "Praful Patel has already regard as a Cabinet Minis-ter at the Centre and we did not feel right in taking the post of MoS with Inde-pendent charge. So, we told the BJP that while we told the BJP that while we are willing to wait for some time, we want a Cabinet berth." Mr. Pawar's faction had performed poorly in the Lok Sabba election, winning just one of the four seats it contested. The NCP leader said he had told the BJP leadership that while his faction had one Lok Sabha (Sunil Tarkare) and one Rajya Sabha kare) and one Rajya Sabha was sure of having three members in the Rajya Sabha in the next two or three months (alluding to the upcoming Rajya Sabha electroning Rajya Rajya

"Given that our total number of MPs in Parliament would rise to four, we had urged the BJP leader-ship including Amit Shah that we should be given at least one Cabinet seat." Mr least one Cabinet sear," Mr. Pawar said. "We informed the BJP about our issues. They have told us to wait for a few days and that they would take remedial mea-sures. This does not mean there is any discord bet-ween us [BJP and NCP]," he

Eight pilgrims killed, 33 injured as bus comes under fire in Jammu

Peerzada Ashiq

At least eight pilgrims were killed and 33 injured after their bus came under fire from gunmen in Jam-

mu on Sunday. The bus was fired upon in the Kanda area in Reasi around 6.10 p.m. Officials said the bodies of the victims, including the bus wounds, adding that there

es on the spot.

"Initial reports suggest
that terrorists fired upon
the passenger bus going
from Shiv Khori to Katra.
The driver lost control of



the bus and fell into a gorge. Thirty-three people were injured," said Mohita Sharma, Senior Superin-tendent of Police in Reasi.

'Deeply pained'
Condemning the incident,
Union Minister Amit Shah
said in a post on X, 'Deeply pained by the incident
of the attack on pilgrims in
Reasi, J&K. Spoke to the
Lieutenant Governor and the DGP, J&K, and inquired about the incident. The culprits of this dasthe violence.

The culprits of this das-tardly attack will not be spared and will face the wrath of the law." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "This shame-ful incident is the true pic-ture of the worrying secur-ity situation in Jammu and Kashmir."

Manipur CM seeks report on Jiribam violence; police feel its 'engineered'

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

As homes and police posts were torched and hun-dreds displaced in Jiribam district of Manipur over the past few days, Chief Mi-nister N. Biren Singh sought a report from the State police on security measures taken to contain Police sources say there

Police sources say there is sufficient security in the region, adding that the recent incidents appear to be "motivated and engineered". The Chief Minister's Office had written letters on January 15, 27 and 31 to the Director-General of Police and the Manipur



The DGP is requested to take all necessary prevent any untoward incident BIREN SINGH

security adviser, apprising The January 15 note adthem of the movement of "200 armed Kuki-Zo milidressed to the DGP, ac-cessed by The Hindu, said, tants" in areas bordering Ji-A State government source said that this week's

"It has been reported that about 200 Kuki-Zo militants have reached Phaltoi Village, Old and New Kaisource said that this week's violence erupted in the dis-trict despite the CMO in-forming the police about the possibility of an attack almost six months ago. Village, Old and New Kai-phundal area of Tamen-glong district bordering Ji-ribam district. In this regard, the DGP is request-ed to take all necessary security measures to prevent any untoward incident." A police source said that Jiribam has an adequate se-curity presence. "The number of security per-sonnel in Jiribam is commensurate with the securi-ty audit. The letters were sent by the CMO in Janu-ary, adequate steps were taken and in the past six months, no incident took place in Jiribam," the police source said. The sou noted that the Central se-

FLEEING FOR SECOND TIME > PAGE 4

72-member NDA Ministry takes oath of office

61 Ministers are from the BJP and 11, including five Cabinet Ministers, are from alliance partners

27 Ministers from the OBCs, 10 from the SCs, five from STs and five from minority communities

24 States get representation; 43 Ministers are third-term MPs, and five are former CMs

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

arendra Modi took the oath of office as Prime Minister for a third successive term on Sunday, along with 71 other members of his Council of Ministers, at a ceremony held at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The new Ministry comprises 30 Cabinet Ministers, five Ministers of State with Independent Charge and 36 Ministers of State.

The team appears to be a mix of old and new. Sixtyone Ministers are from the BJP and 11 from its partners in the National Democratic Alliance.

Five leaders of the allies
– former Karnataka Chief
Minister and Janata Dal(S)
leader H.D. Kumaraswamy; former Bihar Chief Minister and Hindustan
Awam Morcha leader Jitan
Ram Manjhi; Lok Janshakti
Party leader Chirag Pas-



Begin again: President Droupadi Murmu with the newly sworn-in Ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday. R.V. MOORTHY

wan; Ram Mohan Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP); and Rajeev Ranjan Singh "Lallan" of the Janata Dal(U) – have been given Cabinet berths.

Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal and Pratap Rao Jadhav of the Shiv Sena Shinde faction have been appointed Ministers of State (Independent charge). Anupriya Patel of the Apna Dal, Ram Nath Thakur of the Janata Dal (U), Chandrashekhar Pemmasani of the TDP and Ram Das Athawale of the Republican Party of India, have been made Ministers of State. The All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) did not receive any representation.

The Ministers are drawn from 24 States, including the BJP's lone and first-ev-

er Lok Sabha member from Kerala, Suresh Gopi. The choices also reflect caste and community representation with 27 Ministers belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC), 10 to the Scheduled Castes (SC), five to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and five to minority communities.

At least 10 Ministers who have been in the government for the past 10 years have made a repeat entry into the government, including Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, Giriraj Singh and Kiren Rijiju. The NDA government appears to be aiming at emphasising continuity and experience, with 43 Ministers being third-term MPs, and 39 having been Union Ministers before.

Former Chief Ministers too found a good representation with Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Madhya Pradesh, Manohar Lal from Haryana and Sarbananda Sonowal from Assam, apart from Mr. Majhi and Mr. Kumaraswamy, being sworn in.

Community representation and the upcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand were also kept in mind. In Haryana, the inclusion of Mr. Khattar, considered a close associate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, six-time Lok Sabha member Rao Inderjit Singh and senior Gurjar leader Krishan Pal Gurjaris connected to the BJP's focus to retain its grip overnon-Jat vote bank in the agrarian State ahead of the Assembly election later this year.

No senior OBC leader (the BJP's core vote base in the State) from Maharashtra features in the Ministry.

Another big lesson of the mandate was drawn from the BJP's disappointing performance in the crucial State of Uttar Pradesh. Here, with nine inclusions, the focus was on continuity and getting the caste equation right to make up for the losses.

MORE REPORTS

» PAGES 2, 3 & 5

INBRIDE



Munnar grocery shop comes under elephant attack again

A small grocery shop at Chokkanad estate under Kanan Devan Hills Plantation, around 4 km from Munnar town in Kerala's Idukid district, is a major attraction for wild elephants. Wild elephants have raided the shop over twent nes in recent times. On Saturday night a herd of six wild elephants raided the shop on Saturday night, according to the shop owner, K.P. Punayavel. " One of the tuskers destroyed the shop window and took a bundle of soap powder sachets. "The shop had been attacked by wild elephants over 20 times from 2008 onwards." he

Illegal mining: policemen run over by tractor in U.P., Bihar

A constable was run over by a tractor allagedly belonging to the 'sand manfa' in Nasudpagai of U.P., the police said on Sunday. The incident took place when constable Robit Rumar went to Nagfa Chandan area on a tip-off about illegal sand mining. Rumar was rushed to a hospital but died during treatment. In a similar incident in Bihar's Aurangabad district, a constable was mowed down by a tractor illegally transporting sand, police said. The deceased, identified as Deepak Kumar (29), was on duty to check illegal sand mining when the incident took place at Musep Khaira village. A manhunt has been launched to apprehend the driver, police said.

PM roadshow, swearing-in Amid NEET row, ceremony of new govt. in Odisha likely on June 12

500-metre roadshow, aimed at acknowledging massive support for BJP in the State, to be held on Wednesday, shortly before oath-taking ceremony; party remains tight-lipped over the CM choice

rime Minister Na-rendra Modi is like-ly to hold a road-show in Odisha following the Bharativa Janata Party (BIP)'s electoral success in the State. The party won 20 out of 21 Lok Sabha seats. It also secured four more seats than the half-way mark of 74 seats in the way mark of 74 seats in the
147-member Odisha Assembly, as a result of which
the BJP is set to form its
first solo government in
year-long winning streak of
the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).
Mr. Modi is likely to undertake a 500-metre roadshow in Bhubaneswarnata Maidan, the venue of
the swearing in ceremony,

the swearing-in ceremony, said senior BJP leader Jatin

Mohanty.
The roadshow will be followed by the oath-taking ceremony, which was ear-lier scheduled for Monday. While campaigning, Mr. Modi held similar road-shows in the State capital.



seeking support for the party. The Prime Minister has been effusive in his praise for the party's per-formance in the State. In the first National Demo-cratic Alliance (NDA) meeting after the results, he said the change in the regime in Odisha was the high point of the party's electoral bat-tles this year. The roadshow is aimed

at acknowledging people's overwhelming support for

ly elected party leaders are likely to meet in Bhubanes-

Next Chief Minister So far, BJP leaders have re-mained tight-lipped amid speculation over who will be Odisha's next Chief

Minister. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, once the leading contender for the

role, is no longer in the race following his induc-tion into the Union Cabinet.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Mi-nister-designate Narendra Modi on Sunday over the NEET-UG medical entrance row, saying the al-leged "irregularities" in the examination have devastated more than 24 lakh students even before he State BJP suggest that a re-cently elected Member of takes oath for a new term Parliament might be ap-pointed to head the goin office. Mr. Gandhi assured stu-

With HDK in Cabinet, JD(S) gets Central

berth for the first time since its formation

dents in the country that he would become their However, the BJP faces a complex challenge. It has fallen 32 seats short of a majority in the Lok Sabha. voice in Parliament and strongly raise the issues re-lated to their future.

Press Trust of India

lated to their future.

Amid allegations of inflation of marks in the
flation of marks in
flation of marks
flation
flati This shortfall has made it difficult for the party to as-sign one of its MPs for the Dost.
Odisha BJP president
Manmohan Samal is reportedly being considered
as a potential contender.
However, his electoral defeat from the Chandball Assembly constituency mossembly constituency goes against him.

Other potential candi-dates include former State

ken oath vet and the irregularities in the NEET exam has devastated more than 24 lakh students and their families". Six students from a single exam centre

ction reign ve e th

Rahul promises

support to students

many got such marks which is technically impossible, but the government continued to deny the pos-

Dian to deal with leaks Plan to deal with leaks' He said the Congress had made a robust plan to deal with this 'paper leak indus-try' running in connivance with the education mafia and the government machinery.

"We had pledged in our

manifesto to give students 'freedom from paper leak' by making a law," he said. The NTA has denied any

irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scor-ing higher marks.

Assam Rajya Sabha member Margherita a surprise pick in Modi-led NDA govt.

nachal Pradesh's Kiren Riiiu to the NDA governm at the Centre was more or

less expected.
Pabitra Margherita, the third face in the Narendra Modi-led government and Rajya Sabha member rom Assam, has been a

from Assam, has been a surprise package. All are Bharatiya Janata Party parliamentarians. Mr. Sonowal and Mr. Rijiju are among 13 elected from parliamentary seats across the Northeast comprising

eight States and 25 Lok Sabha constituencies Sabha constituencies. The 49-year-old Mr Margherita is from Margh-erita, an industrial town in

eastern Assam's Tinsukia district, a part of the Dibru-garh Lok Sabha seat. His original name is Pabitra Gogoi but he uses the town's name as his surname.

surname.

He was a cultural activist specialising in filmmaking before joining the BJP in 2014, a watershed year for the party in Assam. Elected as a Rajya Sabha member in 2022, Mr. Margherrita is also the political secretary to Chief

It is believed that Mr. Margherita's induction in-to the Modi Ministry is the BJP's strategy to counter the impact of the perceived Congress resurgence in eastern Assam after the victory of Gaurav Gogoi from the Jorhat constituencv. Eastern Assam largely comprises the Dibrugarh, Jorhat, and Kaziranga Lok

Sabha seats.
Like Mr. Gogoi, Mr
Margherita is an Ahom, a
politically potent community in eastern Assam, along
with the Adivasis or "tea
tribes". Together, they dic-

eastern Assam constituen across northern and cen tral Assam.

Strategic move

The BIP has been winning most of these Assembly seats since 2016 but Mr. Gogoi's electoral win - des Gogo's electoral win – des-pite Dr. Sarma and his time focusing their energy and party resources on Jorhat – has been interpreted as a sign that the Ahoms and the Adivasis could be disil-lusioned with the BIP ahead of the crucial 2026 Assembly polls.

has found representation in the Union Cabinet for the first time since it was formed in 1999 as a part of a breakaway group from the Janata Dal. The foun-der of the JD(S), H.D. Deve nister in 1996 as part of the undivided Janata Dal. The two-time Chief Mi-

The two-time Chief Mi-nister and JD(S) State presi-dent H.D. Kumaraswamy, who recorded a thumping victory in Mandya in the Vokkaliga heartland, was the ninth person among

the Cabinet Ministers to be sworn in on Sunday, considering his seniority. He was sworn in before many BJP Ministers who had served in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier term. He was the first ng leaders from the

unit presidents K.V. Singh Deo and Suresh Pujari. MLA-elects Mohan Majhi

and Rabi Naik are also seen

to have good chances.

The party might place its trust in one of these seasoned tribal leaders.

BJP's allies to be sworn in. The other Cabinet Minister from Karnataka Pralhad Joshi, who served as er for Coal Law and

Minister for Coal, Law and Parliamentary Affairs in the previous government, was the 17th in the order. The alliance with the JD (S) is credited to have belped the BJP win in at least eight Lok Sabha seats

in the South Karnataka re-gion. Mr. Kumaraswamy has a considerable political influence on the dominant influence on the dominant Vokkaliga community in the Old Mysore region

lan Singh) of the Janata Dal (United), an important and second biggest ally of the BJP with 12 seats in the Lok Sabha, was sworn in the 13th place while Ram Mo-han Naidu of the the TDP. han Naidu of the the TDP, which is the largest ally of the BJP with 16 seats in the Lok Sabha, was 16th in the order. Mr. Kumaraswamy took oath in English and swore "in the name of god". As he

walked to take the oatn, a few in the crowd raised slo-gans hailing him. Mr. Kum-araswamy's family mem-bers and a host of JD(S) leaders and former legisla-tors were also in Delhi to

Mr. Kumaraswamy wa-Ministers. The others are Rajnath Singh (U.P), Sarba nanda Sonowal (Assam). nanda Sonowal (Assam), Shivaraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Mano-har Lal Khattar (Haryana), and Jitan Ram Manjhi (Bi-har). In fact, Mr. Modi is al-so the former Chief Minis-ter of Gujarat.

Congress leader

The Hindu Bureau MADURAI

With the BJP's inherent dif-ferences with its allies Te-lugu Desam Parry and Ja-nata Dal (United) on issues such as reservation for Muslims and caste-based census, the new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre, will not last long, said Con-gress leader EV.K.S. gress lea Elangovan. Interacting with journal-

he said the only issue in which the BJP and the two alliance parties could mu ually agree was on distri-oution of funds.

"On basic ideologies like reservation for Muslims and caste-based census, and caste-based census, TDP leader N. Chandraba-bu Naidu and JDU leader Nitish Kumar cannot afford to strike a compromise with the BJP. Otherwise, the victory which they have tasted din the Lok Sab-a-AP) in their States will soon "disappear". They



vast political experience and are skilful in bargaining effectively," the former TNCC president said. "If Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues with his old ways of handling is-sues, the allies who are

sues, the allies who are supporting the BIP might pall out of the government mentary meeting," he felt. Mr. Elangova said BIP leader Tamilisal Soundara-successfully in Chennal South seat, had not come found to the support of the support to so f Mylapove Hindu Be-nefit Fund, from which "5230 crore has been re-portedly siphoned off."

NDA government will | First-time MP from East not last long, says T.N. Delhi Harsh Malhotra joins Modi govt. as Union MoS

East Delhi Lok Sabha MP liance (NDA) government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Narendra Modi. Mr. Malhotra, 58, a first-time MP, was picked as the BJP candidate from the East Delhi constituency af ter the party dropped its sitting MP Gautam Gamb-hir, He defeated Aam Aadmi Party candidate Kul-deep Kumar. According to BIP sourc-

es, names of West Delhi MP North East Delhi MP Manoi

North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari were also discussed for the control of the control sense of leaders from the sense of leaders from the pradesh and Bihar in the Union Council of Ministers. The name of Bansuri Swardj, a first-time MP and



the daughter of the late BJP leader Sushma Swaraj, wasn't discussed. Ms. Sehrawat's name was recom-mended considering her media-friendly image. She had earlier served as the Mayor of the erstwhile South Delhi Municipal

'Ground connect'
Mr. Malhotra, who had
served as the Mayor of the
erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation in 2015,
was picked because of his
"ground connect" and "organisational mindset", a
party source said.

Mr. Malbotra is present ly the general secretary of the BJP's Delhi unit. He had

the HJP's Delbi unit. He had joined the BJP youth wing in 1984 and was appointed in 1984 and was appointed. Mr. Malhotra was elected as a councillor from Mr. Malhotra was elected as a councillor from Born to nigrant parents from Amritsar and brought up in north-east Delhi's worked his way up from worked his way up from being an Rashtriya you had been to a United Minister to a United M

T.R. Baalu becomes second MP from T.N. to win seven LS polls

N. Sai Charan CHENNAI

By winning from the Sripe By winning from the Sripe-rumbudur constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-tion, DMK treasurer T.R. Baalu has become the se-cond MP to enter the Low-er House of Parliament for the seventh time from Ta-mil Nadu.

Mr. Baalu first entered

Mr. Baalu first entered the Lok Sabha by winning in the Chennai South constituency in 1996, after an the 1991 election while con-testing from the same seat. He won in this constituen cy in the 1998, 1999, and 2004 elections. However, after the delimitation of encies in 2008, he switched to the Srinerum

switched to the Sriperum-budur constituency in the constituency in fifth electoral success in the election that year. Hailing from Mannargu-di (present-day Tiruvarur ed from the Thanjavur seat in 2014 and lost (all DMK candidates lost in 2014). In 2019, he entered the Lok



Sabha again by winning in the Sriperumbudur const tuency. He also served as a ween 1986 and 1992

Congress veteran P. Chiperson to have entered Lok Sabha seven times from Tamil Nadu. His debut was in 1984 when he but was in 1984 when he won in the Sivaganga. His success from this seat considerable of the sea



M.K. Stalin congratulates Modi on third term as PM

The Hindu Bureau

and DMK president M.K. Stalin on Sunday congratulated Narendra Modi on assuming office as the Prime Minister for a third consec utive term.

"Congratulations to Thiru. @narendramodi on being sworn in as Prime Mi-nister for the third nister for the third consecutive time. We hope that, as PM, you will work in the true spirit to uphold the Constitution, maintain the secular nature of our country, promote coopera-tive federalism, respect States' rights, and safe-guard our democracy."

Additioned by Namedia Labshiman at Kasturi Belidiess. 859-860. Arms Salai. Chemia 600002 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVF.LTD. Editor: Suresh Namebath (Responsible for selection of news under the FEP Act).

T.R. Baalu becomes second MP from T.N. to win seven LS polls

N. Sai Charan

CHENNAI

By winning from the Sriperumbudur constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, DMK treasurer T.R. Baalu has become the second MP to enter the Lower House of Parliament for the seventh time from Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Baalu first entered the Lok Sabha by winning in the Chennai South constituency in 1996, after an unsuccessful attempt in the 1991 election while contesting from the same seat. He won in this constituency in the 1998, 1999, and 2004 elections. However, after the delimitation of constituencies in 2008, he switched to the Sriperumbudur constituency in 2009 and registered his fifth electoral success in the election that year.

Hailing from Mannargudi (present-day Tiruvarur district), Mr. Baalu contested from the Thanjavur seat in 2014 and lost (all DMK candidates lost in 2014). In 2019, he entered the Lok



T.R. Baalu

Sabha again by winning in the Sriperumbudur constituency. He also served as a Rajya Sabha member between 1986 and 1992.

Congress veteran P. Chidambaram was the first person to have entered Lok Sabha seven times from Tamil Nadu. His debut was in 1984 when he won in the Sivaganga. His success from this seat continued in the 1989 and 1991 elections as a Congress candidate, and in the 1996 and 1998 elections on a Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar) ticket. After a defeat in the 1999 polls, he bounced back with wins in 2004 and 2009.

♦TheIndian **EXPR**

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MASKED MILITANTS OPEN FIRE

RAJNATH, SHAH, GADKARI,

TDP, JD(U), JD(S), LJP, HAM

NEIGHBOURHOOD LEADERS

Modi's third term begins



he new Union Council of Ministers after being administered the oath of office at a ceremony in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday, Remaker Part

Shivraj, Khattar, Paatil & Nadda new BIP faces in Cabinet

Portfolio allocation expected today, first Cabinet meeting this evening

MANOJCG& VIKAS PATHAK

RENDRA MODI was sworn in ime Minister at Rashtrapati an Sunday, becoming only condafter Jawaharlal Nehru

72-member Union ouncil of Ministers which was Iministered the oath of office President Droupadi Murmu ded 30 Cabinet Ministers Ministers of State (inde-

d 5 Ministers of State (inde-nident charge). The Cabinet will hold its first eeting at 5 pm Monday, ortfolios are likely to be an-unced before that. With the BJP no longer in ma-

ity in Lok Sabha and depend-t on allies including TDP and (U), the NDA Council of nisters signalled both conti-

MINISTRY Provey of it COOPERATION S

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY

Joshi, Virendra Kumar, Sarbananda Sonowal, Giriraj Singh, potiraditya Scindia, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju, Hardeep Singh Puri, Mansukh Mandaviya, Bhupender

Yadav and G Kishan Reddy. New entrants in the Cabinet included J P Nadda, whose term as BJP president ends this month, and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar,

Coalition in Council: 72 sworn in, highest since 2014; allies' share up

LIZ MATHEW & With the support of allies critical to go past the major in the policy of the policy of

With the support of allies Council of Ministers had just 23

Yerran son Ram Mohan & Guntur doctor-MP are Naidu men in Govt

SREENIVAS JANYALA

TWO MEMBERS of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) – NDA's sec-ond largest constituent after the BJP – were sworn in as ministers in the new Union government

(left) and Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani

Parliamentarian was inducted a Minister of State. Ram Mohan, one of the

youngest MPs from Andhra Pradesh, won for the third con-secutive time from Srikakulam, defeating Tilak Perada of the YSR Congress Party by a margin of 3.2 laich votes. He is TDP's national

general secretary and has been its floor leader in the Lok Sabha. His father, the late K Yerran Naidu, a senior party leader and former MLA and MP, was a Union minister in the United Front government between 1996 and 1998, His uncle K continued on PAGE 4

AS PART of its first 100-day agenda, the newly formed NDA government is likely to approve 2 crore additional houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) with higher assistance per benefici-

The bus that plunged into a gorge following the attack in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, pn

9 killed, 33 injured as terror attack sends pilgrim bus into Jammu gorge

Pilgrims were on their way to Katra after visiting a shrine in Reasi district



plunging into a gorge.
"We received reports that to Katra. As a result, the driver lost control and the bus fell into a gorge. Rescue operation has been completed. a gorge. Rescue operation has been completed – nine people are dead, and the 33 injured have been hospitalised. The people (in the bus) are not locals, but their tion government, the Nationalist Congress Party led by Ajir Pawar refused to accept the BJP's office of Minister of State-office of Minister of State-office of Minister of State-office of Minister of State-office of Minister of Minist identities are yet to be con-firmed. So far, we've learnt that they may be from Uttar



on high alert... The Shi

Plane lands as another takes off from Mumbai runway, probe ordered

Incident involved IndiGo, Air India aircraft; ATC officer is de-rostered

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

A PASSENGER aircraft landed at the Mumbal airport just as an-other was taking off from the same runway on Saturday, prompting the aviation safety regulator to announce a probe. Sources aware of the matter said the air traffic control (ATC) officer, who was on duty at the time, has been de-rostered for the time being.



aircraft takes off. Twitter

idely on social media, sparke fears of a safety lapse.
However, the prescribed minimum distance between air craft at high-intensity airports such as Mumbai can be low.

JDU sends Karpoori son Ram Nath, former chief Lalan to Union Council of 2 crore PM Awaas Gramin

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

W DELHI, PATNA, JUNE 9

PALLAVI SMART & MRIDUSMITA DEKA MUMBAL NEW DELHI, JUNE 9



MRIDUSMITA DEKA
MUMBAL NIEW DELIH, JIJNE 0

THE SINGLE-WINDOW test for admission to the Indian institutes of Technology (IITs)—
(IRE) Advance—— saw a rise in pass percentage this year with qualifying cut—offs, too, increase in pass percentage this year with qualifying cut—offs, too, increase in pass percentage this year with qualifying cut—offs, too, increase in the pass percentage this year with qualifying cut—offs, too, increase in the pass percentage in the pass percentage of the pass percentage in the pass percentage i

across categories.

Ved Lahoti from Delhi zone

didates with an overall score of 332. Her all-India rank is 7.

As many as 48,248 candi-dates have qualified for admis-

sion to 17,740 seats available in 23 IITs, as per the results that

Minister of State.

The choice of the two minis-ters reflects deft caste balancing

His party colleague Ram Nath and former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur, was also sworn in as a

Patel and overall topper Lahoti had differing strategies. Lahoti, originally from Madhya Pradesh, prepared for the entrance examination at the coaching hub of Kota in Rajasthan. "A positive pressure,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

On Cabinet table: Approval houses with more assistance

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

up to ₹1.2 lakh in the plains and ₹1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas, and tribal and backward

MP boy tops IIT entrance with highest-ever score; pass percentage up



to the heavy two morths.

The property two morths are the property two morths are the property than the property that th

Ally NCP is first to push

back: Need

SHIBHANGIKHAPPE

IN THE FIRST signs of pulls and pressures that come with a coali-tion government, the Nationalist

nat manused rearus rates name for taking a ministerial position and he had earlier held a Cabinet Minister post. Therefore, he would not be able to hold the post of MoS Independent Charge, "said Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnanis."

Maharashtra Deputy Chie Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Here in Delhi for the swear

ing in of the new Union minis ters, Fadnavis said the NCP de

mand of a Cabinet rank could be accommodated later. "When a government is formed with an

fliance, some criteria need to be CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

After assist to BJP in state,
 H D Kumaraswamy debuts

Meet the new Union

at Centre Oram, Pradhan, Vaishnaw: Trio from Odisha in NDA

Cabinet post, not MoS slot

NCPleader

India merit list of the JEE Advanced Ved and Devigi, too candidates in JEE Advanced 2023 Advanced Ved and Devigi, too candidates in JEE Advanced 2023 Computer Science Engineering branch at IIT Bombay, Most of 187 Computer Science Engineering branch at IIT Bombay Computer Science Engineering branch at IIT Bombay Computer Science Engineering Description of the Science Computer Science Engineering Description of the Science Computer Science Comput

500. Four out of the top 10 are also from the szone.

9,480 are from the IIT Bombay provision. "Candidates can pa 200es. From the IIT Roorkee 200e, 5136 students have qualified, follower than the set allowers starts," it said.

studies. I joined a nearby coaching institute so that I can stay confloratby a thome; she said.

Like many others in the all-landia merit list of the Jier Standiand contributor of qualitying the studies of the standard contributor of qualitying the cleared JEA dynaced this

on oreigns animones creaming the exam has dropped to seven this year from last year's 13 candi dates. There are 179 candidate with OCLPTO status. According to IIT Madras — the organising IIT — the Joint Sea Allotment Authority counselling process will have a prepaymen consisting of the programment of the process of the programment of programment of



Jaishankar meets visiting dignitaries **NEWS » PAGE 4**





Why India needs a third aircraft carrier Building IAC-2 will fulfil the Navy's requirement PINION » PAGE 9



South Africa pulls off an exciting win SPORT » PAGE 16

Gadkari, Sonowal, and Vaishnaw continue

to head important infrastructure Ministries

INSIDE



Ex-MP Prajwal remanded in judicial custody

BENGALURU

A Bengaluru court on Monday remanded rape accused forme MP Praiwal Revanna in 14-day judicial custody. The SIT did not seek further custody of him. Three separate cases have been registered against Mr. Prajwal. » PAGE 3

Five arrested for stabbing two BJP workers

MANGALURU
Five persons were arrested on
Monday on charges of stabbing
two BJP workers on Sunday
night. The police said the BJP workers raised slogans in from of the Boliyar Masjid, which could have been the trigger fo the attack. » Page 3

ISRO releases images captured by Aditya-L1

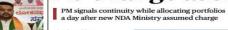
The Indian Space Research released six images of the sun and its activities taken by the sayload aboard India's maiden olar mission, Aditya-L1, during

Sudanese militia loots Darfur's main hospital

CAIRO
A paramilitary group fighting
Sudan's military for over a
year, fired shocks and looked a
main hospital in Darfur,
forcing its closure. It was not
immediately clear if there
were casualties from the attack on South Hospital. » PAGE 14

No change at the helm in key Union Ministries

to push for talks



rime Minister Na-rendra Modi on Monday sent out a message of continuity in governance with Ministers handling key portfolios un-changed from his previous

The four big Ministries that are part of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) – a key body within the Union Cabinet – saw the return of all the Ministhe return of all the Ministers with Amit Shah, Raj-nath Singh, Nirmala Sitha-path Singh, Nirmala Sitha-retaining the portfolios of Home, Defence, Finance, and External Affairs, res-pectively. Amit State of the Sithan Sithan needs the support of allies to lead the National Demo-cratic Alliance (NDA) go-vernment, also left key in-featructure Ministries

largely unchanged. While Nitin Gadkari retained Road Transport and High-ways, Sarbananda Sonowal retained Shipping and Ports, and Ashwini Vaishnaw Railways, along with Information Technology and Information and Broadcasting. Jyotiraditya Scindia seems to have received a leg-up by securing

Mirmala Sithari

■ K. Rammohan Naidu Prethad Joshi: Consum

Amit Shah retains Home, Rajnath Singh Defence,

Nirmala Finance, and Jaishankar External Affairs

Ilitan Ram Manihir Mico

Manohar Lal: Housing and Urban Affairs; and Power # H.D. Kumaraswamy: Heav Jual Oram: Tribal Affairs Industries; and Steel

Plyush Goyal: Commerce

Hardeep Singh Puri:

B.G. Kishan Reddy: m Chirag Paswan: Food

Processing Industries

C.R. Patilt: Jal Shakti Modi government, when Ashok Gajapati Raju had held the Ministry. Former Haryana CM Manohar Lal got the Hous-

ing and Urban Affairs Ministry. Former Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan received charge of the crucial Ministries of Agriculture and Rural De-velopment, a reflection of

in the State. At a time when calls for a caste census are being raised both from outside raised both from outside and within the NDA go-vernment, Virender Ku-mar has been retained with the Social Justice portfolio.

With the Lok Sabba see. With the Lok Sabha see-ing a far bigger contingent of Opposition MPs, Aruna-chal Pradesh MP Kiren Riji-ju has been made Minister for Patiementer Affects ju has been made Minister for Parliamentarry Affairs. Mr. Rijiju, a Buddhist, has been given charge of the Minority Affairs Ministry as well. Even with allies, allo-cations have followed a

Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' holding the portfolio of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry.

and Animal Husbandry.
H.D. Kumaraswamy of
the Janata Dal (S) got the
portfolio of Heavy Industries and Steel. Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan the fact that under his te-nure as CM, wheat produc-tion had broken all records Ram Manjhi is Minister for Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises. Chirag Pas-wan holds the Food Processing Ministry. Among Ministers from the BIP, G.R. Patil got the crucial C.R. Patil got the crucial Ministry of Jal Shakti, a flagship post where close rapport with Mr. Modl is a key factor. Dharmendra Pradhan retained Educa-tion, Arjun Ram Meghwal retained Law and Pralhad Joshi moved to Food, Civil Supplies and Renewable Energy.

Unrelenting heat



Precious drops: Women drink from a tap in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Monday as the country grapples with a severe heatwave. Parts of

Advance security convoy of Manipur CM attacked

The Hindu Bureau

An advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was ambushed by unidentified miscreants in Kangpokpi district on Monday, leaving two police personnel injured, police said.

The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam to assess security situation

to assess security situation ahead of Mr. Singh's visit.

Mr. Singh, who reached Imphal on Monday after attending the swearing in ce-remony of the Union Cabinet in Delhi, termed the incident a "direct attack on the people of the State". "It



highly condemnable. It's an attack on the Chief Minister, which means a di-rect attack on the people of the State. The State govern-ment has to do someth-ing... we will take a deci-

A police official said a combing operation had been launched by joint security forces. Jiribam district has been affected by violence for the

Centrists humbled, far-right surges as 4-day European Union polls end

A four-day election has shaken the foundations of the European Union (EU), with the far-right rocking ruling parties in France and Germany, the bloc's traditional driving forces.

French President Em-manuel Macron called snap national elections af Marine Le Pen's Nation al Rally humbled his pro European centrists in the polls. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Demo-crats also suffered as the me-right Alterna Germany (Al

CM (

Winds of change: Marine Le Pen's National Rally trounced French President Emmanuel Macron's centrists in the election. AFP

Biggest bloc The centre-right EPP is projected to win 191 seats in the EU assembly and re-mains by far the biggest group. The EPP garnered a few more seats, but Parlia-ment is also expanding

vote.

their worst post-Second World War result in a na-tionwide vote, with 13.9%. AfD finished second with around 15.9%. Germany's

Migrant workers in Manipur provided security, says Biren Armed miscreants in the State had gunned

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said his go-vernment was providing security to nearly 4,000 migrant labourers working at various construction sites in the State.

In an interview with The Hindu, Mr. Singh said the security of the labourers from Bihar and Iharkhand was a priority.

The decision follows the

killing of Shriram Hansda

down an Adivasi labourer from Jharkhand on May 18

the Kangleipak Communist Party, one of the seven valley-based Meitei extremist groups that has been rou-tinely banned by the "There was no security

at the place where the la-bourer was killed. We have make it a key player in forming future alliances.

Green and pro-business as time and the proposition of the

that also," the Chief Minis-ter said. Mr. Singh said that it was

mr. Singi said insis is with true that extortions had in-creased in the past year, but the message was clear that the "rule of law" must prevail.
"The cases of extortions have increased but the pol-

ice are doing combing op-erations. Many are being booked under the National Security Act. Nobody will be spared," he said. The Chief Minister said

he hoped the new gove ment at the Centre would consider the implementa-tion of the National Registion of the National Regis-ter of Citizens (NRC) in the State. He said the baseline for the NRC should be 1961 and illegal migrants should be detected and deported. The Manipur government had earlier sent a recom-mendation to the Centre to implement the NRC.

Several take refuge in Assam after fresh violence

The Hindu Bureau

drove some 12,000 people to Mizoram, hundreds of lence have taken refuge in Assam. Officials in southern As-

more than 600 people, in-cluding women and chil-dren, have fled Jiribam dis-Local MLA, Kaushik Rai

Taking CHARGE

Cabinet Ministers and their portfolios



■ NARENDRA MODI: Prime Minister and also in-charge of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; all important policy issues; and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

- Rajnath Singh: Defence
- Amit Shah: Home Affairs; and Cooperation
- Nitin Gadkari: Road Transport and Highways
- J.P. Nadda: Health and Family Welfare; and Chemicals and Fertilizers
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan: Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; and Rural Development
- Nirmala Sitharaman: Finance; and Corporate Affairs
- S. Jaishankar: External Affairs
- Manohar Lal: Housing and Urban Affairs; and Power
- H.D. Kumaraswamy: Heavy Industries; and Steel
- Piyush Goyal: Commerce and Industry
- Dharmendra Pradhan: Education

- **Jitan Ram Manjhi:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Rajiv Ranjan Singh:
 Panchayati Raj; and
 Fisheries, Animal Husbandry
 and Dairying
- Sarbananda Sonowal: Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- Virendra Kumar: Social Justice and Empowerment
- K. Rammohan Naidu: Civil Aviation
- **Pralhad Joshi:** Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and New and Renewable Energy.
- Jual Oram: Tribal Affairs
- Giriraj Singh: Textiles
- Ashwini Vaishnaw:
 Railways; Information and
 Broadcasting; and Electronics
 and Information Technology

- Jyotiraditya Scindia: Communications; and Development of North Eastern Region
- Bhupender Yadav: Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: Culture; Tourism
- Annpurna Devi: Women and Child Development
- Kiren Rijiju: Parliamentary Affairs; and Minority Affairs
- Hardeep Singh Puri:
 Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Mansukh Mandaviya: Labour and Employment; and Youth Affairs and Sports
- G. Kishan Reddy: Coal; and Mines
- Chirag Paswan: Food Processing Industries
- C.R. Patil: Jal Shakti



Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supremo Prem Singh Tamang on Monday took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan State for the second consecutive term. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Eleven other Ministers also took oath along with him. Thousands of SKM supporters turned up to witness the swearing in ceremony. The stadium erupted in loud sounds of firecrackers as Mr. Tamang was sworn in. The bursting of firecrackers is otherwise prohibited in Sikkim.

Court frames charges against 6 in model Divya murder case

A Gurugram city court has framed charges against six out of the seven people accused in the murder case of former model Divya Pahuja, the police said on Monday. According to police, hotel owner Abhljset Singh, the main accused, was charged with murder, criminal conspiracy, hiding evidence and Illegal possession of arms. His bodyguard Prawesh was charged under the Arms bodyguard Prawesh was charged under the Arms A Gurueram city court has framed charges Act as he had given the weapon to Singh which was used to kill Pahuja, they said. The four others, Hemraj, Om Prakash, Balraj and Ravi Banga, were charged with criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence. Pl

Power will be ours after Assembly poll, say Sharad Pawar

'Internal issues need to be addressed,' says Ajit Pawar at NCP's 25th

he Nationalist Con-gress Party's (NCP) 25th founding day was celebrated by Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar factions on Monday with both claiming legitimacy.

Mr. Ajit Pawar's faction,
which holds the original

party name and election symbol, and bagged only one seat in the Lok Sabha one seat in the Lok Sabha elections, celebrated the day in Mumbai. On the other hand, Mr. Sharad Pawar's faction, which secured eight out of 10 seats it contested, held its celebrations first in Pune and followed by a welly in Ab. followed by a rally in Ah-mednagar in the evening. Mr. Ajit Pawar reflected

on the electoral setback and said internal issues needed to be addressed and certain aspects re-quired fixing. He reaf-firmed his party's stance of not settling for any posi-tion learning the pos tion lower than a Cabinet berth in the new government. "We made it clear to the BIP that we will not ac



workers to be ready for the

Assembly elections and claimed that the power of

the State would be in their

hands after the polls. "In

AIADMK loses its sheen across several LS seats

Get ready for elections, says

the Cabinet portfolio," he said and added, "We are still a part of the NDA". Supriya Sule, MP-elect from Baramati and Mr. Sharad Pawar's daughter, reminded her cousin and worked towards spreading the party's ideology; let's work together to take it ahead. In the next three months, the Assembly elections will take place political rival that the Ajit Pawar faction's Election Commission-recognised and it is our collective res ponsibility to work to-wards it," he said after status is 'temporary'. She said she was not surprised that his party did not find a place in PM Narendra Mowards it," he said after hoisting the party flag at the Pune office.

He said the Lok Sabha polls reflected the public's

desire to limit the concen Mr. Sharad Pawar origi-nally founded the NCP on

It is time to reflect, Ajit Pawar

June 10, 1999, in Mumbai's Shivaji Park, after breaking

Leaders of BJP's *Mahavuti* allies dismaved by denial of Cabinet berths at Centre

Barely 24 hours after the swearing-in of the new Council of Ministers at the Centre, leaders of the Bha-Centre, leaders of the Bha-ratiya Janata Party's Ma-hayuti allies, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led National-ist Congress Party, ex-pressed disappointment pressed disappointment on Monday at their parties not getting Cabinet berths while accusing the BJP of being 'partial' towards other NDA constituents.

Both the Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP were gi-Ajit Pawar-led NCP were gl-were a Minister of State (in-dependent charge) post each by the BJP. While the Shinde Sena accepted it (with Buldhana MP Prata-prao Jadhav sworn in on Sunday), Mr. Ajit Pawar turned down the offer say-ing he would not settle for anything less than a Cabianything less than a Cabi-net berth and was willing to wait till the next ministe-rial reshuffle. Shinde Sena leader Shri-

sning barne, MP from Maval Lok Sabha in Pune who re-tained his seat in this election, said his party, despite winning seven of the 15 seats it contested, ought to have been given a Cabinet



"H.D. Kumaraswamy [o the lanata Dal (Secular)1 with two MPs was given a Cabinet berth. Likewise, Cabinet berth. Likewise, despite Jitan Ram Manjhi [Hindustani Awami Mor-cha] being the sole elected MP of his party, he was made a Cabinet Minister. Chirag Paswan [Lok Jan-shakti Party (Ram Vilas)], who got five MPs - less than the Shiv Sena - was made a Cabinet Minister. Consider-Gabinet Minister. Considering our strike rate, we certainly deserved a Cabinet
berth and an MoS post,"
said Mr. Barne.
Likewise, M.L.A. Anna
Bansode of Ajit Pawar's
NCP remarked that both
Mr. Pawar and Mr. Shinde

had taken "a big decision" by breaking away with their original parties and

aligning with the BJP. "We have two MPs in Su-

non was that at least Mr. Patel will be given a Cabi-net berth. The cadre are upset by our parties being excluded," said Mr. Ban-sode, an MLA from Pimpri in Pune.

*Unconditional support CM Shinde's son Shrikan Shinde, reacting to Mr Barne's statement, said his Barne's statement, said his party had already made it clear that it was supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government unconditionally.

meanwhile, the opposi-tion Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) taunted the Mahay-uti allies with Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut saying "The BJP has put this nakl (fake) Shiv Sena in its place. Ajit Pawar's NCP ha

Probe panel formed for Ghatkopar hoarding case

__ The Hindu Bureau

The Maharashtra govern-ment on Monday appoint-ed a judicial committee to probe into the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse case.

The committee, headed by retired Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Dilir Court Chief Justice Dilip Bhosle, will investigate the incident that happened on May 13 this year when a massive hoarding fell on a petrol pump due to a storm in Mumbal's Ghatko-par, killing 17 people and

"The panel will submit a time-bound report after analysing all aspects of the fatal accident," a senior

A close look at the perfor-mance of the AIADMK, the mance of the AIADMK, the principal Opposition party in Tamil Nadu, and its ally, the DMDK, in 14 consti-tuencies during the recent Lok Sabha election reveals that the Dravidian major, whose vote share was around 40% or more 10 years ago, is now a pale shadow of its former self, if its current vote share is an

Only in four out of the 14 constituencies (chosen on the basis of the AIADMK-led front's performance in the 2009 election) could the Drawidian major exceed the 30% mark in terms of vote share. Villupuram, Karur, Salem and Tiruppur were the seats where the Only in four out of the 14



stantiai extent, even though it witnessed a drop in its vote share in these areas, too. In Erode, the party fell short of the 30% mark only marginally.

Vote share down rur, Salem and Tiruppur were the seats where the party was able to retain its original strength to a sub-this time around, the fall is

steeper. The vote share in Tiruvallur, Chennai South, Tiruchi and Theni, where the party used to have a strong presence, has now reduced by half or a third of what it was about a de-

> In fact, in Chennai South and Theni, where the party has won quite a few times, its candidates forfeited

constituency in 2021, the AIADMK-led front came third in the constituency this time. In Tenkasi, Puthi ya Tamilagam founder K. Krishnasamy, who contested in 2019 and 2024 under

numbers. The Nagina con-stituency has around 43% Muslim population. "The

SP didn't want Mr. Azad to

develop a base among back ward Muslims. But the com-

tage points less this time. The question remains as to which party has cut into the votes of the AIADMK in

the votes of the AIADMK in all the 14 seats. The BJP and its allles have only taken away a portion of the Dravi-dian major's vote base. Ho-wever, there are other clai-mants, too. The Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) may be getting a portion of the AIADMK's votes.

Tiruchi example This can be well illustrated

This can be well illustrated in Tiruchi, where the Dravi-dian major won in 2009 and 2014. Ten years ago, the party got a vote share of 46.37%. Now, it has se-cured 21.7%, and the Amma Maikkal Munnetra Kaz-hagam (AMMK), a breakaway group of the AIADMK and an ally of the BJP, has netted 9.54%. The NTK's vote share is 10.18%.

Lucknow under heavy security arrangements

Demolition drive in

The Lucknow Develop-ment Authority (LDA) on Monday, amid heavy security deployment, initiated the demolition of illegal constructions, including shops and houses, in the State capital's Akbar Nagar

locality.

For the demolition drive For the demolition drive that will run in two shifts, the whole area had been barricaded and traffic di-verted, with eight compa-nies of the Uttar Pradesh treatered A word Consets. Provincial Armed Constab-ulary (PAC), and Rapid Action Force (RPF) on watch to maintain law and order. With bulldozers at work

rein the party would raise the voice for the underpri-vileged in all communities

but would not share power with the upper castes. His supporters said that they

not lending its support and keeping the ASP (K) away from the Congress. "We

have realised our strength and now we will contest all the nine Assembly seats

Dalit voters seemed in-clined towards him. A com-mon sentiment in the re-

gion was that they loved him for the way "he took up the case of the Hathras rape

ment's action.

The Hindu reached ou to Indra Mani Tripathi LDA Vice Chairman, but n response was received till the time of going to press. 1,679 people from Akbai Nagar, who are affected by Nagar, who are affected by the action, have been allo-cated housing at Hardol Road, Lucknow, with the LDA deputing staff and offi-cials to facilitate quick possession of the apartments

On May 10, a Supreme Court Bench upheld the Al lahabad High Court's rul ing on demolition against

Azad's victory in Nagina has stirred the pot of Bahujan politics in Uttar Pradesh

1 0

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anui Kumar

From a street fighter to a parliamentarian, Chan-drashekhar Azad has come a long way in a decade-long career. His victory in the Nagina Lok Sabha seat has stirred the pot of Dalit politics in Uttar Pradesh, a State with around 21% Scheduled Caste population that has Caste population that has been ruled by a Dalit Chief Minister four times. Howev-er, despite winning the re-served seat by a handsome margin, the Bhim Army chief and co-founder of the Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram), how remained, him tional Developmental, In clusive Alliance (INDIA) and the National Democratic Al-

liance (NDA). liance (NDA).

Unperturbed, Mr. Azad has said he would maintain equal distance from both the alliances and continue to raise his voice if there is now insuring done to the prived sections in the Bha-ratiya Janata Party (BJP)- or Opposition-ruled States. Refusing to be bracketed just as a Dalit face, he ex-pects the media to address

pects the media to address him like any other parliamentarian.

The BJP and its allies had won 15 out of 17 reserved seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2019. This time, the num-ber has come down to such to with the Senginud. eight, with the Samajwadi Party (SP) securing seven and the Congress register and the Congress register-ing a victory in Barabanki. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) won two seats, in-cluding Nagina, in 2019. This time, its candidate fin-ished fourth and lost his de-posit. In three Assembly segments of Nagina, where the SP won in the 2022 Assembly poll, ASP (K) was

Party sources said they Party sources said they fought the election against the BJP but were surprised by the cold attitude of the INDIA bloc. "It seems they fear Azad's popularity among Dalits and backward Muslims," said a party leader. The same attitude, he



MP, at the Parliament House Annexe, in New Delhi. ANI

Pappu Yadav (Rajesh Ran-

Pappu Yadav (Rajesh Ran-jan) in Bibar. A section of the SP sees Mr. Azad as a plant of the Security Just at March-end this year after he could not garner the support of the INDIA bloc. "He is the Dalit equivalent of [Asaduddin] Owaisi. The BJP doesn't take action against them and a section of media pre-sents them as the sole resents them as the sole re-presentatives of their res-pective communities to polarise the society be-cause both make provoca-tive statements that make headlines," said an SP leader.

But unlike Mr. Owaisi who is based in Hyderabad. who is based in Hyderabad, it is hard to malign Mr. Azad because the Bhim Army, with its countrywide mem-bership of one crore, is pre-sent in each U.P. village and Mission 78, its ideological arm, has teachers and re-tired geographics officials. tired government officials, many of whom have the training of BAMCEF (The All India Backward (SC, ST, and OBC) and Minority Communities Employees Federation) that enriched the BSP over the years. Kanishka Singh, a leader of ASP (K), said had Mr. Azad been a BJP stooge, Macline would not been

ward Muslims. But the com-munity knows that he took to the streets during anti-NRC protests while Akhi-lesh Yadav didn't come out," he said. According to SP sources, Mr. Azad was offered the Agra seat, the Debt control but the DNDA Dalit capital, by the INDIA bloc but he had his eyes on Nagina, which has more Muslim population than that of SCs. Long-term plans
Mr. Azad's long-term plan
also overlaps with the SP's
caste calculus in this poll
that bacculus in this poll

that has paid rich divi-dends. This time, according to political observers, the to political observers, the SP has followed Kanshi Ram's formula of Bahujan politics wherein the politic state of Bahujan politics wherein the politic state of the political po lims. Among the Dalits, the SP has focused on non-Jatav SCs with five Pasi candidates making the cut. Notably, Mayawati had moved away from the Ba-

moved away from the Ba-hujan matrix to the Sarva-jan formula wherein, ideo-logically, the pie of power is shared with all but practi-cally it worked as a pact-between the Dalits and the

This attitude miffed the backward classes, and the way Mayawati let OBCs way Mayawati let UBLS leaders like Sonelal Patel, Om Prakash Rajbhar, Swami Prasad Maurya, and Dara Singh Chauhan drift away from the party, it eroded the OBC base of the BSP and impacted its electoral prospects. "It also toral prospects. "It also created an impression that the upper castes are funding the party. And when so-meone brings in large sums of money, his commitment or money, his commitment to the mission gets diluted," said a BSP leader from western U.P. who is con-templating shifting to the ASP (R).

Mr. Azad believes in the Kanshi Ram formula whe-

the case of the Hathras Fape victim and stood up for the family of the teen who was shot down by the police in Rampur in February". The elders talked of days when Mayawari made Dalits con-fident enough to enter pol-

ice stations and have their say. Mr. Azad, they said, is showing the same courage at a time when the BSP is losing its hold on power. However, many of them supporters said that they fought the Nagina election on one note, one vote' slogan and it could be applied when the party will contest a large chunk of seats in the State. Mr. Singh said the SP had done them a favour by not loading its current and as her successor," Surinder a young Dalit student in Chhutmalpur, Mr. Azad hometown, said.

Future leader

Future leader
Bareilly-based BAMCEF
member Ghamandi Singa
said Dalit youth are looking
said Dalit youth are looking
future leader. "Akhilesh has
to walk the talk. Otherwise,
the shift is temporary," he
said. For now, the Bahujan
bail is in the SP's court, and
its Muslim leadership is worried whether the nev flock will stick to the party. "This is the first time that so many non-Yadav OBCs and Dalits have made it to the Lok Sabha on the SP ticket. They need to be guarded from the BJP's overtures," said a Muslim SP strategist from central Uttar Pradesh.

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Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supremo Prem Singh Tamang on Monday took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan State for the second consecutive term. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Eleven other Ministers also took oath along with him. Thousands of SKM supporters turned up to witness the swearing-in ceremony. The stadium erupted in loud sounds of firecrackers as Mr. Tamang was sworn in. The bursting of firecrackers is otherwise prohibited in Sikkim.

Before was	Kingdom of Sikkim	Language
Admission to union	16 May 1975	Official
Capital	Gangtok	
and largest city Districts	6	Additional official
Government		Additional official
· Body	Government of Sikkim	
Governor	Lakshman Acharya	GDP
· Chief minister	Prem Singh Tamang (SKM)	• Total (2023-24)
State Legislature	Unicameral	• Rank
· Assembly	Sikkim Legislative	· Per capita
National Parliament	Assembly (32 seats) Parliament of India	Time zone
· Rajya Sabha	1 seat	ISO 3166 code
 Lok Sabha 	1 seat	Vehicle registration
High Court	Sikkim High Court	
Area		HDI (2019)
∙ Total	7,096 km ² (2,740 sq mi)	Literacy (2011)
• Rank	27th	Sex ratio (2011)
Dimensions		Website
· Length · Width	116 km (72 mi) 65 km (40 mi)	Sym
Elevation Highest elevation (Kangchenjunga ^[1])	1,650 m (5,410 ft) 8,586 m (28,169 ft)	of the second
Lowest elevation (border with West Bengal ^[2])	280 m (920 ft)	Eml
Population (2011) ^[3]		Bird
• Total	▲ 610,577	Fish
RankDensity	32nd 86/km ² (220/sq mi)	Flower
· Urban	25.15%	Mammal
· Rural	74.85%	Tree

Russian troops claim capture of village in southeastern Ukraine



the eastern Donetsk region. The Defence Ministry said its troops "continued to advance into the depths of the enemy's defence and

Military plane carrying Malawi's Vice-President goes missing



A military plane carrying Malawi's Vice-President and nine othe went missing on Monday and a search is under way. The plane carrying \$1-year-old Saulos Chilima left the nation's capital, Lilongwe, at 9.17 a.m. but failed to land as scheduled around 45 minutes later at Mzuzu Airport, about \$70 km to the north. AP

Tighter rules for deporting failed asylum seekers take effect in Japan



Japanese laws making it easier for the country to deport failed asylum seekers took effect on Monday. The world's fourth largest economy has long been criticised for the low number of asylum applications it accepts. Last year refugee status was granted to a record 303 people, mostly from Afghanistan. APP

Militants aligned to Islamic State kill dozens in eastern Congo



Militants allied with the IS group in eastern Congo killed at least 41 people in North Kivu province, the national government said on Monday, as residents wondered why security forces were mortalic protecting them. The attacks were carried out by Allied Democratic Forces militants in the villages of Masala, Mahhir and Keme. AP

more balloons as Kim's sister issues warning

Agence France-Presse

North Korea has sent hundreds more trash-carrying balloons toward South Ko-rea, Seoul's military said on Monday, after Kim Jong-un's powerful sister warned of further responses if the South keeps up its "psychological warfare". Mr. Kim's sister Kim Yo

Jong said South Korea would "suffer a bitter embarrassment of picking up waste paper without rest and it will be its daily

She slammed the Pyon-

Blinken in West Asia to push for Gaza ceasefire as Israeli troops advance

Both Israel and Hamas doubled down on hardline positions that have scuppered all previous attempts to end the fighting in Gaza Strip; Prime Minister Netanyahu says not ready to stop the war without achieving the goal of 'eliminating' Hamas

State Antony Blin-ken arrived in West Asia on Monday hoping to deliver the ceasefire that President Joe Biden pro-posed last month, in an all-

out push by Washington to secure an end to the Gaza war.

Meeting with Sisi
The top U.S. diplomat met
Egypt's President Abdel
Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo and
resident and the Sisi in Cairo and
sister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defence chief in
Israel later in the day,
Ahead of his trip, Israel
and Hamas both doubled

calls seeking comment

The facility had been hit

by mortar shells and bul-lets three times between

May 25 and June 3, killing

two persons and wounding 14 patients, Doctors With-

The paramilitary group also rampaged through a village in the east-central



down on hardline posi-

southern Gaza, among the bloodiest of the war. "We are committed to total victory," Mr. Netanya-hu said in a statement re-leased by his office, quot-

Sunday to relatives of Israe-lis killed in Gaza. "What is the main dis-

pute? It is over Hamas' demand ... that we commit to stopping the war without achieving our goals of elim-inating Hamas.... I am not prepared to do so."

Hamas's message Hamas, for its part, said Washington must push its ally Israel to halt the fighting.
"We call upon the U.S.

"We call upon the U.S. administration to put pres-sure on the occupation to stop the war on Gaza, and the Hamas movement is ready to deal positively with any initiative that se-cures an end to the war,"

Abu Zuhri said ahead of Mr. Blinken's arrival.

Ninth month of war The war has now entered its ninth month, since Hamas-led fighters killed 1,200 people and took some 250 others hostage in some 250 others hostage in a rampage through south-ern Israel. In response, Is-rael launched an assault on the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians and reduced most of the enclave to most of the enclave to wasteland. Palestinian officials said

Macron calls snap legislative election. after far-right gains

Sriram Lakshman

French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the country's National As-sembly and ordered fresh polls following gains Franc-e's far right made in the Eu-ropean Parliamentary

The centre-right Presiwinning a provisional 15.2% of the vote for French seats, against the far right Rassemblement National's (RN) provisional 31.5%.

31.5%.
Far right parties together won 40% of the available seats.
Mr. Macron, who has three years left in office and cannot seek a third term, said he had heard the people's concerns and would answer them, noting that he was not in the race for the presidency in 2027.

Elections will be held on June 30 with a run-off round on July 7.

Need of the hour

Need of the hour
"France needs a clear majority to act in serenity and
harmony," Mr. Macron said
in a video address as he anis a huge gamble for the
President.

Currently, Mr. Macron's
party, which has 169 members in the \$577-8648 lowerstonal Assembly, governs
as part of a centrist coalias part of a centrist coali-tion of 249. RN has 88

"Demagogues and na-tionalists on the rise is bad for our nation, it's bad for Europe, and it is bad for the place of France in Eu-rope and in the world," he said.



like "nothing had hap-pened" [in the European elections] and that there was a "feverish tone" to the national discourse in recent times. Some French politicians welcomed Mr. Macron's decisions and other decisions and other

decision, while others were dismayed, and many were surprised. RN's par-liamentary leader Marline Le Pen welcomed Mr. Ma-cron's decision and said her party would take power if the French voted for

them.
The stock market in Paris fell at opening on Mon-day morning, with the CAC 40 index dropping 2.4%. "This is a very danger-

ous game to play with de mocracy and the institu-tions. I am flabbergasted," Raphaël Glucksmann, a politician from the Socialst Party said, as per news

Bardella's role

Bardella's role
Ms. Le Pen's deputy, Jordan Bardella, a 28-year-old
with over a milion 'lik'lok
with over a milion 'lik'lok
by Ms. Le Pen to be Prime
Minister if RN wins the Assembly elections. Part of
his role is to try and move
the party away from its racist, anti-Muslim and anticist, anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic roots under Ms. Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie Le

mother comes from Italy, continues to warn that French culture is under at-The pro-Europe President said he could not act merged" by migrants tack as it is being "sub

Sudan paramilitary group loots a main hospital in Darfur

Associated Press

group said.

Most patients and the medical team, including Doctors Without Borders staff, managed to flee the shooting. It was not clear whether there were casualties from the attack, according to the aid group. The notorious Rapid Sup-port Forces paramilitary group, fighting Sudan's military for over a year, main hospital in the west-ern region of Darfur, forc-ing its closure, an interna-tional aid group said. The RSF, attacked Tab-er, the capital city of North Darfur province on Sun-

Darfur province on Sun-day, opening fire on medi-cal staff and patients, Doc-tors Without Borders said

in a statement.
Images published by lo-cal media showed abandoned wards and corridors cal equipment damaged and blood stains on the floor. Local news outlets also reported that the military managed to kick RSF fighters out of the hospital.

10 patients present At the time of the attack. there were 10 patients and a reduced medical crew as the aid group and the Su-danese Health Ministry



'Slow-burn'



them as an ear again a military soldier.

The attack came as the RSF intensified its offensive to try and wrest control of the city, the military's last stronghold in the sprawling Darfur region. Two weeks of fighting last month in and around al-A view of the eruption site of the volcano near Grindavik in Iceland on Monday. A volcano in sout spewing red lava close to the coastal town of Grindavik. AP month in and around al-Fasher has killed more than 120 people.

A spokesman for the RSF did not return phone

Australia PM calls for calm after attack on U.S. consulate office

Associated Press SYDNEY

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged activists on both sides of activists on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian de-bate to "turn the heat down" after the U.S. Con-sulate in Sydney was van-dalised on Monday.

Smashing holes Surveillance video showed a person wearing a dark hoodie using a small sled-gehammer to smash nine holes in the reinforced glass windows of the build-ing in North Sydney after 3 a.m., a police statement

He urged activists on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian

gles, seen by some as a symbol of Palestinian resis-tance but by others as sup-porting Hamas, were also painted on the front of the

India welcomes Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining BRICS

Press Trust of India

India on Monday wei-comed Egypt, fran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethlopia I Person of the grouping of the groupin India on Monday wel-

Smashing holes
Surveillance video showed
a person wearing a dark
hoodie using a small side
gehammer to smash nine
glass windows of the build
ing in North Sydney after 3
a.m., a police statement
said.

Two inverted red trian-



The meeting on Monday
water meeting following BRICS
meeting following BRICS
expansion in 2023 when
Egopt, Ethlopia, Iran, SauEgopt, Ethlopia, Iran, SauJoined Brazil, Russia, India,
China, and South Africa as
full-fledged BRICS

tilateralism and upholding the international law, including the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indisp sable cornerstone, and central role of the UN in ar central role of the UN in an international system in which sowereign states cooperate to maintain in-ternational peace and se-curity, advance sustainable development, ensure the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. They wired their support for a voiced their support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democrat-ic, representative, effective and efficient.

India welcomes Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining BRICS

Press Trust of India

MOSCOW

India on Monday welcomed Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining the BRICS as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping hosted by Russia.

Senior diplomat Dammu Ravi led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, in western Russia.

"A significant meeting in the format of expanded BRICS family. India wholeheartedly welcomes the new membership," the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal said.



United front: India's BRICS Sherpa Dammu Ravi, left, and Foreign Ministers of member countries at the meeting in Russia. REUTERS

The meeting on Monday was the first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion in 2023 when Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE joined Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as full-fledged BRICS

members.

Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) in MEA, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, it said.

The ministers reiterated their commitment to mul-

the international law, including the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain international peace and security, advance sustainable development, ensure the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. They voiced their support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient.

tilateralism and upholding



Member states

Abbreviation BRICS

Named after Founder member states'

initials (in English)

Predecessor BRIC (informal)

Formation 16 June 2009; 14 years ago

Founded at Yekaterinburg, Russia

(1st BRIC summit)

Type Intergovernmental

organization

Purpose Political and economical

Fields International politics

Membership 9 member states [hide]

Brazil

Diazi

Russia
India

China

South Africa

Iran

Egypt

Ethiopia

United Arab Emirates

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Jas too good

PM says security and

peace key as Nawaz

sends hope message

& Slower Ones!

GOYAL, PURI, VAISHNAW, PRADHAN retain their portfolios

AVIATION TO MSMETO INDUSTRY for allies TDP, JDU, JDS, HAM, LJP proposals for rural housing, farms

FIRST CABINET MEET APPROVES

THE CABINET, NDA III

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi

CARINET MINISTERS Rajnath Singh, Defence

Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport and Highway

J P Nadda, Health & Family Welfare; Chemicals & Fertikan

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Agriculture and Fermers Welf lirmala Sitharaman,

S Jaishankar, External Affairs

Manohar Lal, HDKumaraswamy,

Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan.

Jitan Ram Manihi, Micro, Sma

Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Panchayati Raj, Plahates, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Sarbananda Sonowal, Ports. Shipping & Waterways

Virendra Kumar, Social Justice and Empowerment

K Rammohan Naidu,
Civil Aviation

Praihad Joshi, Consumer Affair

Jual Oram, Tribal Affairs Giriraj Singh, Textiles

Jvotiraditva Scindia

Bhupender Yadav, Environment, Forest and

Annpurna Devi Kiren Rijiju, Padiamentary Affairs

Hardeep Singh Puri Mansukh Mandaviya, Labour

Chirag Paswan, Food Processin CR Paatil, Jai Shakti



Big 4 of Cabinet Committee on Security among 15 in Council who retain portfolios

CONTINUENCE THE work demonstrates the second term with a refless that the second term with a reflect and the secon CONTINUING THE work done in

non on whether coalition com-pulsions would have a role to play in the composition of the CCS. Keeping the CCS unchanged, Modi leveraged the experience and domain expertise of former

LIZMATHEW & MANOJCG True sevak never arrogant, In Shivraj, decorum not kept in polls.

causing any hurt to others.

Among allies, TDP gets Among allies, TDP gets Awaiting a Branch Minister, So was Amits Sahah as Home Minister, So was Amits Aviation, Chirag Food Processing, JDU Fisheries The Bijr's biggest ally in the Top of the T Among allies, TDP gets

This also put to rest specula-tion on whether coalition comistries of Steel, Civil Aviation, Food Processing Industries, MSME, and Fisheries, Animal Rodally, in Printe Minister

Rodally, in Prin

The BJP's biggest ally in the NDA, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), was allocated the Ministry of Civil Aviation. K Ram Mohan Naidu, son of veteran TDP leader Yerran Naidu, and the youngest Cabinet minister in the govern-

gets wealth of his MP work experience



As CM, he changed the face of MP

IN SHIVRAJ Singh Chouhan, agriculture has finally a heavy-weight minister in the new Modi The 65-year-old is widely

Pretended to be dead until militants In Andhra Pradesh, a left: Survivors recount Reasi horror regime change brings a

ARUNSHARMA

oss of their children to people who laystill and pretended to be sead to escape the gunmen's fire, the survivors of Sunday's terror strack on abus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district were struggling to re-over from the shock.

over from the shock.

They were from different itates, including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, and after risiting the Mata Vaishno Devi thrine near Katra town, they



of Lord Shiva near Ransoo in Pouni tehsil. It was on their way back from Shiv Khouri to Katra that their bus was targeted by

took a bus Sunday morning to Shiv Khouri – a revered shrine ghost city back to life SREENIVAS JANYALA

THE HUM of buildozers and the

Nine species industing seven that the construction wearborn belief and 38 people were injured in the attack on the bas near flatason.

Santosh Kumar Verma from Santosh Kum



epaper.indianexpress.com





onfidence of the people in your leadership."
"Let us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia," he posted on X.

SHUBHAJITROY

posted on X.

Modi replied in about two
hours, saying that "the people of
India have always stood for peace,
security and progressive ideas",



CONTINUED ON PAGE





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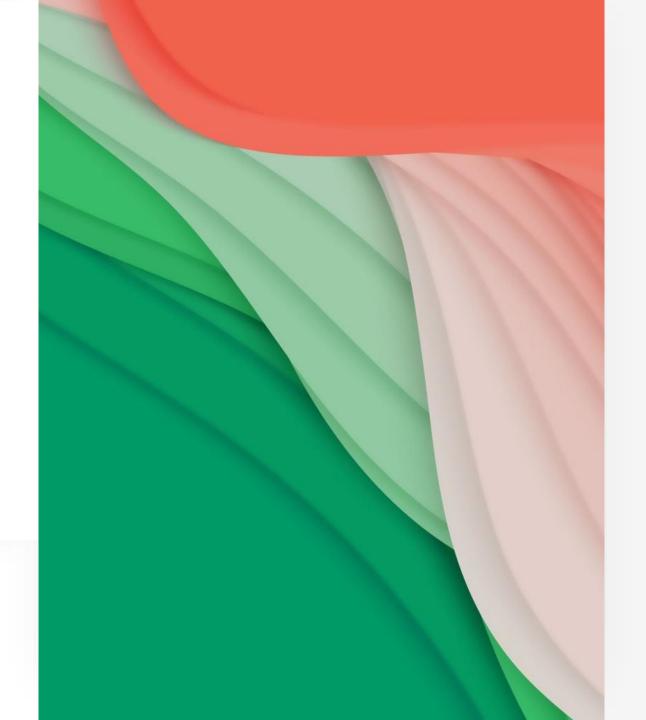
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Mahatma Gandhi and Satyagraha



 On June 7, 1893 MK Gandhi was thrown off a train's firstclass compartment at the Pietermaritzburg railway station in South Africa that triggered Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience, or satyagraha.



Birth of Satyagraha

- The term 'Satyagraha' was coined by Gandhi during his time in South Africa to distinguish his movement from others under the name 'passive resistance'.
 - Derived from 'satya' (truth) and 'agraha' (insistence), Satyagraha translates to 'truth-force' or 'soul-force'.
 - Unlike passive resistance, which could include violence and was seen as a
 weapon of the weak, Satyagraha was a method of nonviolent protest that
 could be pursued only by the strongest and completely excluded violence.

Global Impact of Satyagraha

The principles of Satyagraha were central to India's struggle for freedom, from the Non-Cooperation Movement (1919-22) to the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34), to the Quit India Movement (1942).

These principles then went on to influence other movements for justice globally, from Martin Luther King Jr's Civil Rights Movement in the United States, to Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid.

TRISHNA Mission

 Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) provided details on the Indo-French Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA) Mission.

About the TRISHNA Mission

It is a collaborative endeavour between the ISRO and the French National Space Agency CNES.

It is engineered to deliver high spatial and high temporal resolution monitoring of Earth's surface temperature, emissivity, biophysical and radiation variables for surface energy budgeting at regional to global scale.

- Objectives of the Mission
- Detailed monitoring of the energy and water budgets of the continental biosphere for quantifying terrestrial water stress and water use and high-resolution observation of water quality and dynamics in coastal and inland waters.
- It addresses critical water and food security challenges, focusing on the impacts of human-induced climate change and efficient water resource management through evapotranspiration monitoring.

It also aims to help in a comprehensive assessment of urban heat islands, detection of thermal anomalies linked to volcanic activity and geothermal resources, and precise monitoring of snow-melt runoff and glacier dynamics.

It aims to provide valuable data on aerosol optical depth, atmospheric water vapour, and cloud cover.

For climate monitoring, it aims to track key indicators such as droughts, permafrost changes, and evapotranspiration rates.



- The UNESCO State of Ocean Report 2024, initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) during the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, serves as a comprehensive overview of the ocean's current condition.
- Its primary aim is to track the progress of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021– 2030) and inspire efforts towards ensuring a sustainable future for our oceans.

Initially <u>introduced in 2022</u>, the report enlisted insights from over <u>100 marine science experts</u>, <u>covering critical</u> <u>topics</u> such as ocean acidification, pollution, and tsunami warnings.

Released <u>annually on World Oceans Day (June 8)</u>, each edition of the report aligns with the <u>seven goals of the UN Ocean Decade</u>, aiming to foster global collaboration and action for the protection and preservation of our oceans.

- Key Findings of the Report:
- **1.Ocean Warming**: Rate doubled in 20 years; 2023 saw a significant increase; Hotspots above 2°C in the Mediterranean, Tropical Atlantic Ocean, and Southern Oceans
- 2. Rising sea level: Sea levels rising, with ocean heat absorption contributing 40%; Accelerated ice mass loss from Greenland and West Antarctica
- 3. <u>Declining Oxygen Levels</u>: The Ocean lost 2% oxygen since the 1960s; coastal areas are heavily impacted.; Rising acidity threatens coastal species' survival.

<u>Blue Carbon and MPAs:</u> Marine forests are crucial for carbon absorption; Marine Protected Areas protect biodiversity; However, many countries lack marine forest conservation in their plans.

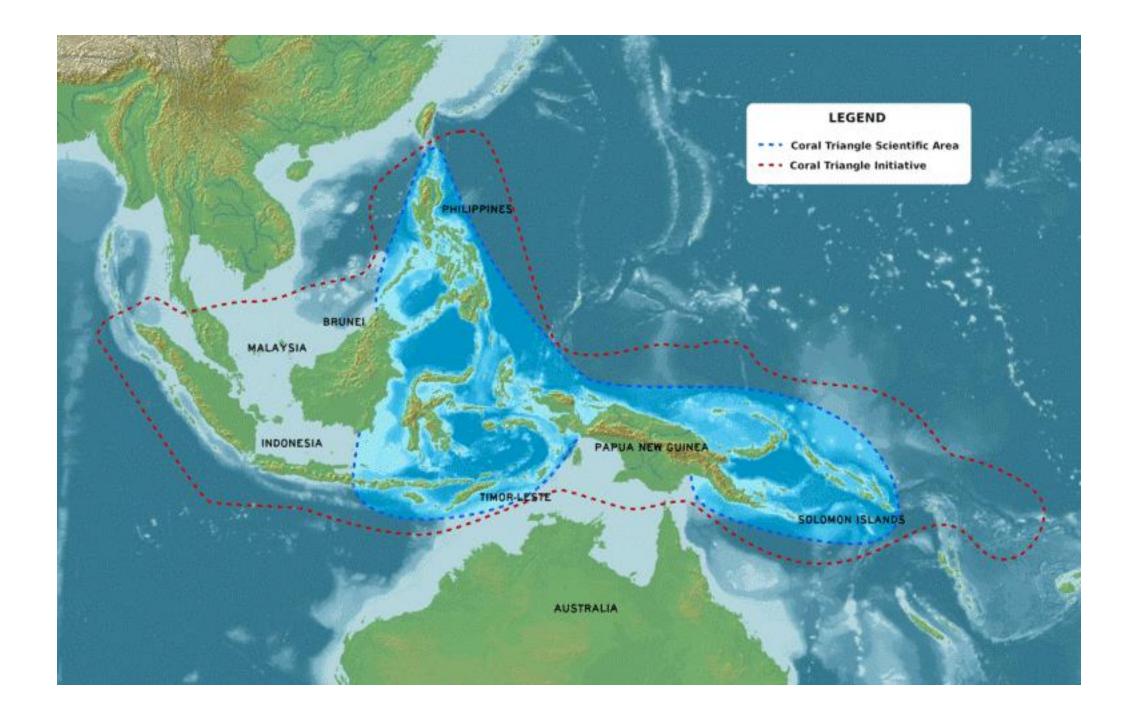
Acidification: Ocean absorbs 25% of annual anthropogenic CO2; Reduces seawater pH (ocean acidification); Expected to increase by over 100% by the century's end.

- Initiatives for Ocean Protection:
- **1.BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Treaty (2023):** Also known as the Treaty of the High Seas, aims to conserve and sustainably use marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction.
- 2. Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) Technologies: Capture CO2 from the air and store it durably.
- **3.Marine Biodiversity: The** UN 2030 Agenda emphasizes marine biodiversity protection for sustainable food security.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aims to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA):

50% of catalogued marine species are found in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), covering 9% of the ocean.



Non-Permanent Members of the UNSC

Pakistan, Panama, Somalia, Denmark, and Greece have been elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two-year term starting in 2025.

This marks Pakistan's 8th term as a non-permanent member India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council 8 times, the last being 2021-2022.

WHATISTHE UNSC?

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

It is
One
of the six main
organs of
the United

Nations



Permanent headquarter

At the UN
Headquarters in
New York
City





Primary responsibility

To maintain international peace and security



Location

Church House, Westminster, London





First session

Held on 17 Jan, 1946



Cabinet Committees

Once the Union Cabinet is sworn in and ministerial portfolios are allocated, the next step would be the formation of the high-profile Cabinet committees.

About Cabinet committees

The Prime Minister sets up Cabinet committees with selected members of the Cabinet and assigns specific functions to these committees.

The Prime Minister may change the numbers of committees, and modify the functions assigned to them.

Composition : The membership of each committee varies from three to eight. Usually, only Cabinet ministers are members of these committees.

Types: There are eight Cabinet committees at present—the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development, and Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

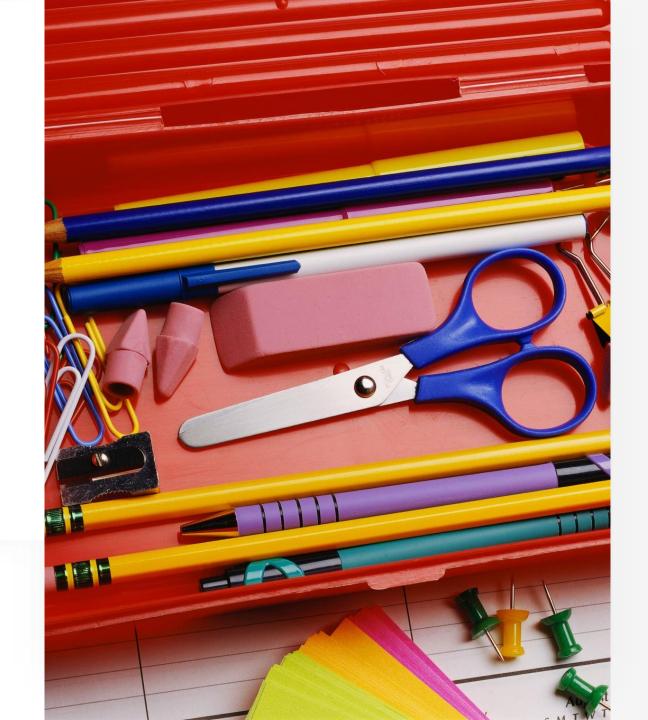
- The committees on investment and employment were innovations introduced by the Modi government in 2019.
- All committees except the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the PM.
- Functions: The committees resolve issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet and take decisions on matters assigned to them.
 - The Cabinet is empowered to review such decisions.



- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments of the Government.
 - This Secretariat provides Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and its
 Committees.



UNESCO's New Tools for Greening Education





 UNESCO has launched the Greening Curriculum Guidance (GCG) and Green School Quality Standards (GSQS) under the Greening Education Partnership.

•

- More about the initiative:
- 1. <u>Goal</u>: Greening at least 50% of schools globally by 2030 through the Greening Education Partnership.
- 2. <u>Target Audience</u>: Policy-makers, education ministries, educators, learners, and communities.

Launched a New GCG: A practical manual outlining climate education, detailing learning outcomes, and guiding countries to integrate environmental topics into curricula.

Launched a New GSQS: Sets minimum requirements for creating green schools through an action-oriented approach.

Pillars of Green Education:

Greening Schools: Ensure schools achieve green accreditation.

Greening Curriculum: Integrate climate education into all levels of education.

Greening Teacher Training: Build school capacities for climate education.

Greening Communities: Enhance community resilience through learning centres.

What is the Greening Education Partnership?

The Greening Education Partnership is a **global initiative comprising 80 member states**, aiming to tackle the **climate crisis through education**.

It focuses on equipping learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

The partnership emphasizes greening schools, integrating climate education into curricula, enhancing teacher training, and strengthening community resilience

Issues with the School Greening?

50% of countries surveyed by UNESCO lack climate change in their curricula.

70% of young people cannot explain climate disruption.



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