



SAFFRON surge in Odisha

BJP SHORT OF MAGIC MARK



People have placed their faith in NDA, for a third consecutive time! This is a historical feat in India's history. I bow to the Janata Janardan for this affection and assure them that we will continue the good work done in the last decade to keep fulfilling the aspirations of people. I also salute all our Karyakartas for their hard work. Words will never do justice to their exceptional efforts

NARENDRA MODI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was Tuesday poised to form the government for a third consecutive term with the BJP-led NDA getting a majority in the Lok Sabha, notwithstanding crushing losses in three Hindi heartland states after a bitterly fought election that was projected as a referendum on his popularity.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose candidates had contested in the name of Modi, won or was ahead in 241 seats, falling short of the 272 majority mark and needing the support of allies in the party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for government formation, a far cry from the 303 and 282 seats it had won in 2019 and 2014 respectively to have a majority on its own. With support from BJP's key allies

Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which were leading or winning 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar respectively, and other alliance partners, the NDA crossed the halfway mark and appeared to be on course to bag around 290 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha. The TDP also swept the Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh dislodging YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP.

The INDIA lead crossed 231 seats, while the NDA touched 294, defying all exit poll predictions as counting was still underway across all seats.

Preparing to take office for a record-equalling historic third term, Modi pledged to work with all states, regardless of the party in power, to build a developed India. India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru had served three consecutive terms.

In his

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday pulled off a convincing victory in the Assembly elections by winning 78 seats, restricting the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) at 51 as Odisha witnessed the fall of the over two-decade-long uninterrupted rule of Naveen Patnaik.

The Congress too bettered its 2019 performance by winning 14 seats. Independents bagged three seats, while CPI(M) won one.

Stating that he took the massive victory of the party in Odisha with humility, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who also won from the Sambalpur Parliamentary seat, said in a post on X, "This is not just a victory for the BJP, but also for the 4.5 crore people of Odisha. This is a huge victory of Odia Asmita, language and culture."

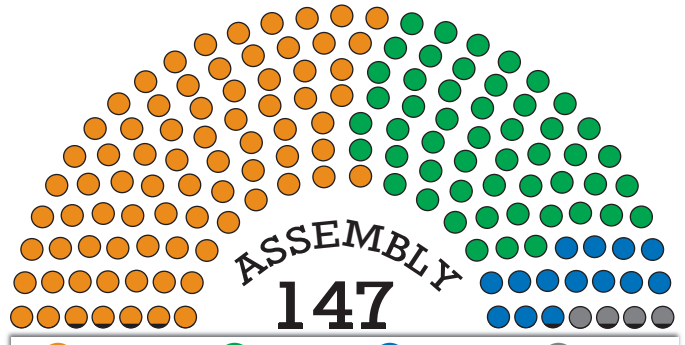
Among the top BJP winners are Prithviraj Hairchandran from the Chilika Assembly constituency who defeated his nearest BJD rival Raghunath Sahu by 4,566 votes.

Party candidate Tankadhar Tripathy won the Jharsuguda Assembly segment by defeating his nearest rival Depali Das of BJD by a margin of 1,333 votes.

Meanwhile, BJD's Sarada Prasad Nayak won the Rourkela Assembly seat by defeating his nearest BJP rival Dilip Kumar Ray by a margin of 3,552 votes.

Congress candidate Mangu Khilla won the Chitraguda Assembly seat by defeating his nearest rival Dambaru Sisa of BJP by 9,151 votes.

Meanwhile, the BJP won 20 out of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in the state, thoroughly trouncing the



TRENDS

Odisha Lok Sabha

BJP	20
Cong	01
BJD	00
Others	00

My best wishes to all the winning candidates irrespective of party affiliation. I express my respect and gratitude for the dedicated efforts and sacrifices of all the workers and leaders of Biju Janata Dal

NAVEEN PATNAIK | BJD SUPREMO

Hikaka by a margin of over 1.47 lakh votes.

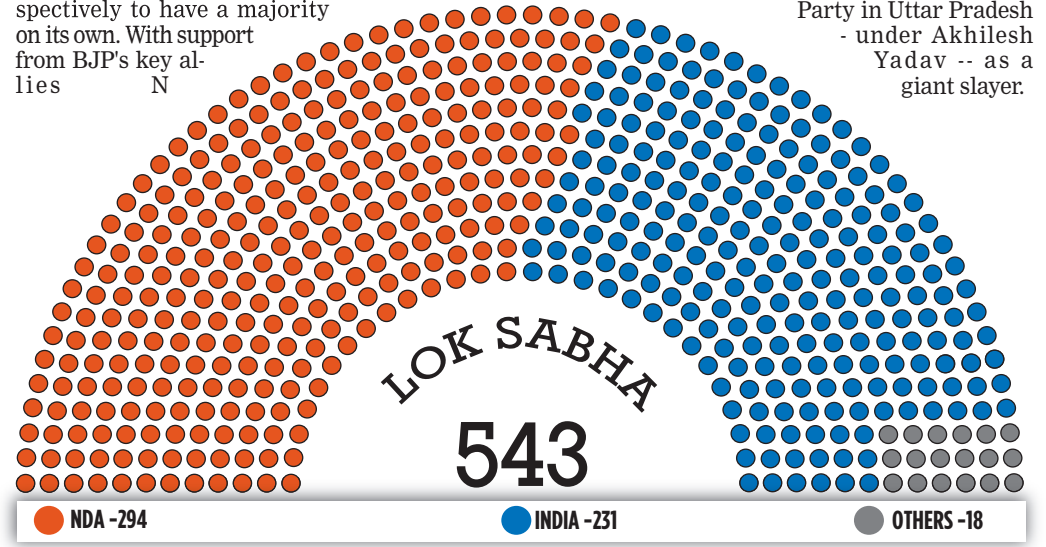
BJD congratulates BJP

The BJD Tuesday congratulated the BJP for its success in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state and thanked the people of Odisha for allowing the regional party to serve them.

BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra, Manas R Mangaraj and MP Sulatra Deo, in a joint press conference, said that the regional party was indebted to the people of Odisha for allowing it to serve the state for uninterrupted 24 years.

"We are grateful to the people of Odisha for blessing us for 24 years to serve them. We are thankful to the people. We are also indebted to the people for having blessed us in this election also. The party has got about 40 per cent vote share though it is less by three per cent from the previous elections," Patra said.

Stating that a slight decline in vote share made a difference in the number of seats, Patra said, "The party has got about 50 seats. We will work as per the wishes of the people in coming days," he said.



BJD supremo loses from Kantabanji

BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik Tuesday lost the Kantabanji Assembly seat to BJP's Laxman Bag by a margin of over 16,000 votes. This is Patnaik's first electoral defeat. He has won every election he has contested since 1998. He has, however, won from the Hinjili Assembly seat defeating Sisir Kumar Mishra of the BJP. The saffron party has won 78 seats and is looking forward to forming the government, ending Patnaik's dreams of becoming the nation's longest-serving CM, a record held by Sikkim's former CM Pawan Kumar Chamling. Naveen Patnaik won his first elections from Aska constituency when he made his foray into politics and became an MP from that constituency twice in 1998 and 1999.

Congress state prez bites dust

Congress state president Sarat Pattanayak Tuesday lost the Nuapada Assembly seat to BJD's Rajendra Dholakia, by over 46,000 votes, according to the Election Commission. The state Congress has won 14 seats. Dholakia polled around 61,822 votes.

BJP state chief loses

BJP state president Manmohan Samal was defeated by BJD's Byomkesh Ray in the Chandbali Assembly seat by 1,916 votes, according to the Election Commission. The saffron party won 78 seats, while the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) 51.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



UP SHOCKER

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 4: Uttar Pradesh gave the most notable gains to the INDIA alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) leading in 38 seats and Congress, 32. The BJP was leading on 32 seats, much lower than the 62 seats it won in 2019.

Akhilesh Yadav's stock rose dramatically with his SP cutting the ruling BJP down to size in the state. The SP was able to increase its vote share from 18.11 per cent in 2019 to 33.53 per cent. For Congress, the vote share rose from 6.36 per cent to 9.53 per cent. BJP's vote share shrank from 49.97 per cent to 41.37 per cent.

The saffron party lost in the crucial Faizabad parliamentary



constituency, home to the Ram Temple which was consecrated in January this year. The party also lost the key seat of Amethi, where Union minister Smriti Irani suffered a defeat. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who contested from neighbouring Rae Bareilly constituency, won the seat by a margin more than twice the size by which PM Narendra Modi won his seat in Varanasi.

Rahul leads Cong's stunning fight back

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: Lampped as 'Shehzada' and dismissed as a serial 'reinventor' constantly looking for an identity, Rahul Gandhi may have just had the last laugh this Lok Sabha election.

He carried out a padyatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, a hybrid one from Manipur to Mumbai and pretty much set the narrative for the Congress, staying the course as the moral compass of the party - and the INDIA bloc - who refused to be deterred by setbacks.

As votes were counted for the Lok Sabha election Tuesday, the former Congress president decided by so many through the



campaign was one of the drivers of his party leading or winning close to 100 seats, almost double the 52 from 2019.

Seen riding a tempo, hugging a child, bending down to comfort a woman who had lost her hus-

band or simply taking on the BJP, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in press conferences, short videos and social media platforms, Rahul Gandhi was the lead in virtually every frame and set-piece of the ruling alliance. Fading out occasionally but returning quickly to centre stage.

The 53-year-old describes himself as the best chess player among Indian politicians. His latest gambit of relying on social justice as the running theme of his campaign seems to have paid off with his party making a surprising comeback in the Hindi belt, making significant gains in Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Mamata stands strong

Kolkata: Defying all exit-poll predictions, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has surged ahead in 29 of West Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats, dealing a blow to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) target of securing 35 seats as they just managed to reach just double digits. The BJP was leading in 12 seats according to the EC website. Three years after putting a halt to the BJP's advances in Bengal, the TMC, led by Mamata Banerjee, again proved its mettle by thwarting the BJP's formidable campaign, spearheaded by PM Modi himself. Despite facing a barrage of challenges including corruption allegations and internal conflicts, the TMC stood strong.

Record as 2.18L choose NOTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, June 4: NOTA created a record with 2.18 lakh voters in Madhya Pradesh's Indore opting for the 'none of the above' option in the Lok Sabha elections, counting for which is underway Tuesday.

Of the total voters, 14.01 per cent opted for none of the above (NOTA), introduced in 2013 following a Supreme Court order.

In the 2019 parliamentary polls, voters in Bihar's Gopalganj had created a record with 51,660 of them, or five per cent, opting for the NOTA option, which is placed as the last option on the electronic voting machine.

In 2014, NOTA polled 46,559 votes in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu by pocketing nearly five per cent of votes.



The tally of NOTA votes in Indore stood at 2,18,674 Tuesday when BJP's sitting MP from Indore, Shankar Lalwani, won by a potentially record margin of 11,75,092 votes, as per the Election Commission of India website.

Lalwani's nearest rival from BSP, Lakshman Solanki, bagged 51,659 votes.

Notably, the NOTA call was given by Congress after its can-

didate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew from the Indore poll fray at the last moment, a move that forced Congress out of the contest from this prestigious seat. Bam later joined the BJP.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Indore recorded a 69 per cent turnout with 5,045 voters opting for NOTA.

Former Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat had recently described NOTA as having a "symbolic" impact and had said if it gets more than 50 per cent votes in a seat, only then making it legally effective on poll results could be considered.

Rawat had also told PTI that if 99 out of 100 votes go in favour of NOTA option and someone gets one vote, even then the candidate will emerge victorious.

SHARES PLUNGE ON POLL JITTERS





RENNER REFUSED TO STAR IN HIS THIRD MI MOVIE

Actor Jeremy Renner has spoken about why he refused to star in *MI - Fallout*. Renner said, "I was offered a role that required shooting for one week so that my character could be killed off and I was like, 'You're not going to drag me over there and just kill my character.'"

PITT UPSET AS DAUGHTER DROPS HER LAST NAME

Actor Brad Pitt is reportedly hurting after his daughter Shiloh Jolie-Pitt filed legal documents to remove her last name. All the kids Pitt was co-parenting with ex-wife Angelina Jolie have been dropping their last name, and the actor is reportedly upset with the situation.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You are uptight about what is yours and today, you are even less keen on sharing. This possessiveness may have to do with a certain 'someone'. Ganesh says matters regarding love are going forward intensely and your marital life will blossom.

TAURUS
Almost as if crafted by Cervantes himself, you might wake up today feeling passionate and quixotic. Make up and make overs may be on the cards as you will have the urge to be groomed. Once you are done without yourself, you will shower others with attention, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic, but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes.

CANCER
The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pressure. Ganesh advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no.

LEO
When it comes to maintaining a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, says Ganesh. You may choose to lose an argument in order to win hearts. Just remember that losing a battle is sometimes the only way to win the war.

VIRGO
Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesh assures that this will work wonders.

LIBRA
Everyone has a dream, but only few have the fortune to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project materialise and take its first steps towards a successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings. What matters is that you had a dream, and dreaming it was the hardest part, reminds Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Ganesh predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesh. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

SAGITTARIUS
Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolving them as soon as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You may have sweated your guts out for an opportunity to pursue higher studies abroad, and met with disappointment. Try again today, advises Ganesh. For those of you engaged in speculation, transaction in stock and shares is likely and may fetch substantial gains. Opportunities galore, but you won't progress until you exploit them to the best of your interest.

AQUARIUS
Work, work, work! That is what will pay rich dividends. Of course, a pat on the back does matter, and with your commitment record, you may be getting a lot of it! You may back off from taking risks, and yet want change. Ganesh wonders how you will fulfill your wish.

PISCES
Arguments lead nowhere, and why argue when, at the end of the day, you can step back and watch them end up with egg on their faces, break a leg, get crushed under a falling safe, or otherwise suffer the numerous disasters you wish them to, for disagreeing with you.

Swara calls out daily for body-shaming her

Mumbai: Actress Swara Bhasker married politician Fahad Ahmed in January last year, and they welcomed a baby girl named Raabiyaa, September 23, 2023. Tuesday, she took to Instagram Stories to call out an article by a 'leading' newspaper, which body shamed her and claimed she was not getting work in films because of her weight.

Sharing a screenshot of the article's tweet, the *Nil Battey Sannata* actress wrote, "For those who cannot read the Devanagari script, this is a leading Hindi newspaper handle that thinks it is newsworthy that a recent mom, who birthed a child a few months ago, put on weight! Can someone please explain the physiology of childbirth to the geniuses?" The original tweet read, "Due to her weight gain, Swara is not getting work!" Swara, who made her film debut with a supporting role in the 2009 film *Madholal Keep Walking*, has also featured in films such as *Tanu Weds Manu* (2011), *Raanjhanaa* (2013), *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo* (2015), *Anaarkali of Aarah* (2017), and *Veere Di Wedding* (2018).



Ananya lends voice for Inside Out 2

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday, who was recently seen in the streaming movie *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, has lent her voice to the character of Riley in the Hindi version of the upcoming animated film *Inside Out 2*.

The actress took to Instagram stories and announced her association with a fun video. Talking about the association, the actress said: "I have always been such a huge fan of Disney and Pixar animated films, these stories transport you to a world that is so entertaining and yet relatable at the same time." Ananya recalled watching *Inside Out* a few years ago as a teenager and being mesmerised by the world of colourful emotions.

The actress said, "Voicing Riley made me relive so many of my childhood moments, and this is definitely the most fun I've had at work." Produced by Disney and Pixar, *Inside Out 2* is set to arrive in cinemas, June 14 in both English and Hindi.



Samantha gets inspired by professional rivalry

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has emerged as one of the most sought-after actors in the country. Though the actress began her journey in the entertainment industry with South Indian cinema, she has diversified her horizons as an actor by playing versatile roles and establishing her presence in multiple language film industries.

Having secured a spot on an international list of the most-viewed Indian celebrities, the actress reflected on the competition in the field. "I think as human beings we are all competitive, and the brain is just structured that way. We are constantly comparing information. So it's natural to be competitive. I use competition to be inspired. I am inspired by the work of my peers and use their brilliant achievements as a catalyst to work harder and do better. I don't see competition in a negative light," said *The Family Man 2* actress to a newspaper agency.

After having floored fans with her performance in *The Family Man 2*, Samantha will be next seen in the upcoming web series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, alongside Varun Dhawan.



'I am not here to be second RK'

Mumbai: Actor Jaideep Ahlawat opened up about nepotism and why it never bothered him.

The nepotism debate in Bollywood seems eternal, flaring up from time to time. Star kids such as Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt often find themselves dragged into this debate whenever anyone from the industry talks about nepotism.

The *Gangs of Waseypur* actor revealed that nepotism never bothered him. Despite beginning as an outsider with no connections in the industry, he wasn't insecure that he would lose his roles to star kids like Ranbir Kapoor or Varun Dhawan.

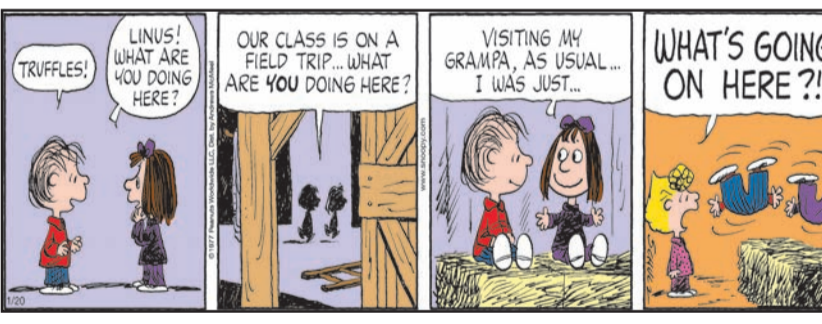
Ahlawat claimed that, if anyone on the virtue of being a star kid believed they could be a good actor, then they were delusional. The actor further added

that it's natural for star kids to reap the rewards of their families, who have been working in the industry for so long. Similarly, if anyone from Ahlawat's family down a decade joins the industry, he would lend a hand.

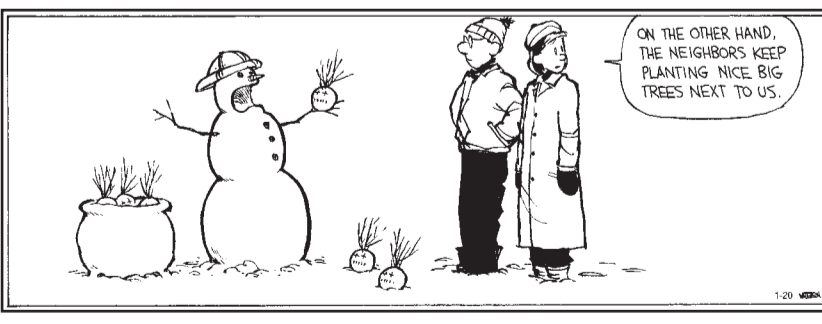
The *Jaane Jaan* actor reiterated that he never came to Bollywood to follow in any star's footsteps. He came to make his name as Jaideep Ahlawat, not as any second Ranbir Kapoor. According to him, everyone should work towards developing their image, and not try to be 'Ranbir Kapoor or Alia Bhatt'. He mentioned industry stalwarts like Irrfan Khan and Manoj Bajpayee who established themselves in their own right.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

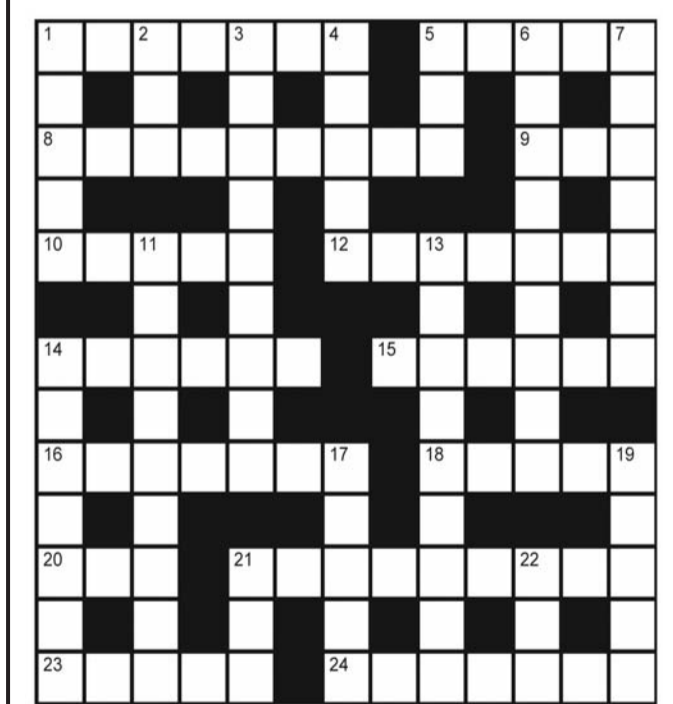


BREVITY



FUN post

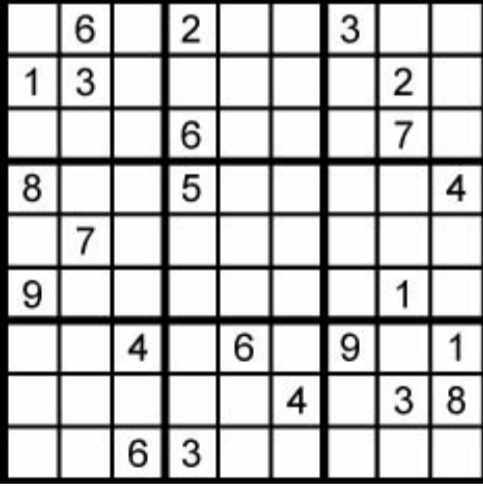
CROSSWORD



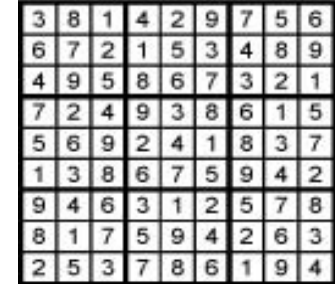
- Across**
- 1 Mexican dishes
 - 5 Stair part
 - 8 Discard
 - 9 Silent assent
 - 10 After lock or gun
 - 12 Reduce by erosion
 - 14 Rancher's stock
 - 15 Spanish capital
 - 16 Form of rummy
 - 18 In a fog
 - 20 Greek letter
 - 21 Superior (3-6)
 - 23 Rendezvous
 - 24 Military group
 - 5 Sci-fi killer
 - 6 Bolivian city (5,4)
 - 7 Lucy was one
 - 11 Heat up
 - 13 Bridge possibility (5,4)
 - 14 Aircraft part
 - 17 Savory jelly
 - 19 Passé
 - 21 Moppet
 - 22 State or tropical bean
- Down**
- 1 Honours with a party
 - 2 Pickle
 - 3 Government buildings (4,5)
 - 4 Stitched

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

AND THE WINNERS ARE..



















































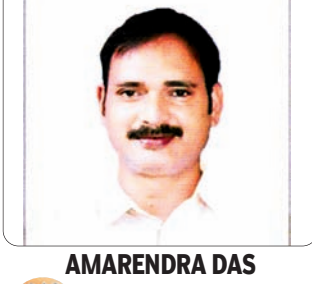





<p>BARGARH</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>PRADEEP PUROHIT 7,16,359</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>PADAMPUR</p>  <p>BARSHA SINGH BARIHA 91,995</p> <p>BIJEPUR</p>  <p>SANAT KUMAR GARTIA 93,161</p> <p>BARGARH</p>  <p>ASHWINI KUMAR SARANGI 77,766</p> <p>ATTABIRA</p>  <p>NIHAR RANJAN MAHANAND 99,487</p> <p>BHATLI</p>  <p>IRASIS ACHARYA 1,07,508</p> <p>BRAJARAJNAGAR</p>  <p>SURESH PUJARI 82,199</p> <p>JHARSUGUDA</p>  <p>TANKADHAR TRIPATHY 91,105</p>	<p>SUNDARGARH</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>JUAL ORAM 4,94,282</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>TALSARA</p>  <p>BHABANI SHANKAR BHOI 68,928</p> <p>SUNDARGARH</p>  <p>JOGESH KUMAR SINGH 86,398</p> <p>BIRAMITRAPUR</p>  <p>ROHIT JOSEPH TIRKEY 84,116</p> <p>RAGHUNATHPALI</p>  <p>DURGA CHARAN TANTI 51,189</p> <p>ROURKELA</p>  <p>SARADA PRASAD NAYAK 64,660</p> <p>RAJGANGPUR</p>  <p>CS RAAZEN EKKA 66,869</p> <p>BONAI</p>  <p>LAXMAN MUNDA 81,008</p>	<p>SAMBALPUR</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>DHARMENDRA PRADHAN 5,92,162</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>RENGALI</p>  <p>SUDARSHAN HARIPAL 73,420</p> <p>KUCHINDA</p>  <p>RABI NARAYAN NAIK 95,716</p> <p>RAIRAKHOL</p>  <p>PRASANNA ACHARYA 61,716</p> <p>SAMBALPUR</p>  <p>JAYANARAYAN MISHRA 87,815</p> <p>DEOGARH</p>  <p>ROMANCHA RANJAN BISWAL 89,074</p> <p>ATHMALLIK</p>  <p>NALINI KANTA PRADHAN 93,957</p> <p>CHHENDIPADA</p>  <p>AGASTI BEHERA 93,629</p>	<p>KEONJHAR</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>ANANTA NAYAK 5,73,923</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>CHAMPUA</p>  <p>SANATAN MAHAKUD 1,03,120</p> <p>PATNA</p>  <p>AKHILA CHANDRA NAIK 97,041</p> <p>TELKOI</p>  <p>FAKIR MOHAN NAIK 83,818</p> <p>KEONJHAR</p>  <p>MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI 87,815</p> <p>GHASIPURA</p>  <p>BADRI NARAYAN PATRA 82,516</p> <p>ANANDAPUR</p>  <p>ABHIMANYU SETHI 71,651</p> <p>KARANJIA</p>  <p>PADMA CHARAN HAIBURU 65,357</p>	<p>MAYURBHANJ</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>NABA CHARAN MAJHI 5,85,971</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>RAIRANGAPUR</p>  <p>JALEN NAIK 62,724</p> <p>JASHIPUR</p>  <p>GANESH RAM SINGKHUNTIA 85,384</p> <p>SARASKANA</p>  <p>BHADAV HANSDAH 59,387</p> <p>UDALA</p>  <p>BHASKAR MADHEI 66,401</p> <p>BARIPADA</p>  <p>PRAKASH SOREN 78,272</p> <p>BANGRIPOSI</p>  <p>SANJALI MURMU 87,801</p> <p>MORADA</p>  <p>KRUSHNA CH MAHAPATRA 77,980</p>	<p>BALASORE</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI 5,63,865</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>BADASAHI</p>  <p>SANATAN BIJULI 83,276</p> <p>NILAGIRI</p>  <p>SANTOSH KHATUA 87,928</p> <p>REMUNA</p>  <p>GOBINDA CHANDRA DAS 92,620</p> <p>BALASORE</p>  <p>MANAS KUMAR DUTTA 89,360</p> <p>BASTA</p>  <p>SUBASINI JENA 83,314</p> <p>JALESWAR</p>  <p>ASWINI KUMAR PATRA 83,105</p> <p>BHOGRAI</p>  <p>GOUTAM BUDDHA DAS 70,198</p>	<p>BHADRAK</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>AVIMANYU SETHI 5,73,319</p> <p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>BHADRAK</p>  <p>SITANSU SEKHAR MOHAPATRA 82,282</p> <p>CHANDABALI</p>  <p>BYOMAKESH RAY 83,063</p> <p>DHAMNAGAR</p>  <p>SURYABANSHI SURAJ 90,555</p> <p>BASUDEVPUR</p>  <p>ASHOK KUMAR DAS 77,843</p> <p>BHANDARIPOKHARI</p>  <p>SANJIB KUMAR MALLICK 72,447</p> <p>SIMULIA</p>  <p>PADMA LOCHAN PANDA 90,676</p> <p>SORO</p>  <p>MADHAB DHADA 63,642</p>
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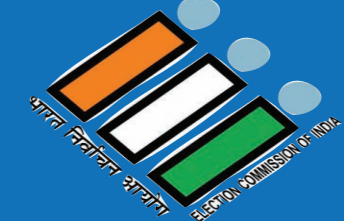
AND THE WINNERS ARE..

JAJPUR LOK SABHA RABINDRA NARAYAN BEHERA 5,34,239	DHENKANAL LOK SABHA RUDRA NARAYAN PANY 5,98,721	BOLANGIR LOK SABHA SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO 6,17,744	KALAHANDI LOK SABHA MALVIKA DEVI 5,44,303	NABARANGAPUR LOK SABHA BALABHADRA MAJHI 4,81,396	KANDHAMAL LOK SABHA SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI 4,16,415	CUTTACK LOK SABHA BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB 5,31,601
JAJPUR ASSEMBLY SUJATA SAHU 86,049	ANGUL ASSEMBLY PRATAP CHANDRA PRADHAN 88,868	BOLANGIR ASSEMBLY KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO 85,265	BHAWANIPATANA ASSEMBLY SAGAR CHARAN DAS 67,085	NABARANGAPUR ASSEMBLY GOURI SHANKAR MAJHI 90,895	PHULBANI ASSEMBLY UMA CHARAN MALLICK 53,900	BARAMBA ASSEMBLY BIJAYA KUMAR DALABEHERA 86,018
KOREI AKASH DASNAYAK 79,658	TALCHER BRAJA KISHORE PRADHAN 75,621	TITLAGARH NABIN KUMAR JAIN 97,854	NARLA MANORAMA MOHANTY 67,532	JHARIGAM NARSING BHATRA 76,748	G.UDAYAGIRI PRAFULLA CHANDRA PRADHAN 53,530	BANKI DEVI RANJAN TRIPATHY 69,214
BINJHARPUR PRAMILA MALLIK 74,185	PALLAHARA ASHOK MOHANTY 71,560	LOISINGHA MUKESH MAHALING 83,313	LANJIGARH PRADIP KUMAR DISHARI 60,254	DABUGAM MANOHAR RANDHARI 77,511	BALIGUDA CHAKRAMANI KANHAR 43,586	ATHAGARH RANENDRA PRATAP SWAIN 86,006
SUKINDA PRADEEP BAL SAMANTA 86,733	PARJANGA BIBHUTI BHUSAN PRADHAN 1,00,595	PATNAGARH KANAK VARDHAN SINGH DEO 93,823	JUNAGARH DIBYA SHANKAR MISHRA 77,037	UMERKOTE NITYANANDA GOND 70,170	BHANJANAGAR PRADYUMNA KUMAR NAYAK 83,822	BARABATI- CUTTACK SOFIA FIRDOUS 53,339
BARACHANA AMAR KUMAR NAYAK 71,926	KAMAKHYANAGAR SATRUGHAN JENA 84,589	KANTABANJI LAXMAN BAG 90,876	DHARMGARH SUDHIR RANJAN PATTJOSHI 87,890	KOTPAD RUPU BHATRA 75,275	DASPALLA RAMESH CHANDRA BEHERA 62,039	CUTTACK SADAR PRAKASH CHANDRA SETHI 79,542
BARI BISWA RANJAN MALLICK 1,01,966	DHENKANAL KRUSHNA CHANDRA PATRA 1,06,529	BIRMAHARAJPUR RAGHUNATH JAGADALA 85,680	NUAPADA RAJENDRA DHOLAKIA 61,822	MALKANGIRI NARASINGA MADKANI 78,679	KANTAMAL KANHAI CHARAN DANGA 68,356	CHOUDWAR-CUTTACK SOUVIC BISWAL 72,325
DHARMASALA HIMANSHU SEKHAR SAHOO 79,759	HINDOL SIMARANI NAYAK 97,795	SONEPUR NIRANJAN PUJARI 98,202	KHARIAR ADHIRAJ MOHAN PANIGRAHI 93,246	CHITRAKONDA MANGU KHILLA 55,550	BOUDH SAROJ KUMAR PRADHAN 62,494	KHANDAPADA DUSHMANTA KUMAR SWAIN 75,557



AND THE WINNERS ARE..

<p>KENDRAPARA</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>BAIJANT PANDA 6,15,705</p>	<p>JAGTSINGHPUR</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>BIBHU PRASAD TARAI 5,89,093</p>	<p>PURI</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>SAMBIT PATRA 6,29,330</p>	<p>BHUBANESWAR</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>APARAJITA SARANGI 5,12,519</p>	<p>ASKA</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>ANITA SUBHADARSHINI 4,94,226</p>	<p>BERHAMPUR</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY 5,13,102</p>	<p>KORAPUT</p> <p>LOK SABHA</p>  <p>SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA 4,71,393</p>
<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>KENDRAPARA</p>  <p>GANESWAR BEHERA 90,173</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>NIMAPARA</p>  <p>PRAVATI PARIDA 95,430</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>PURI</p>  <p>SUNIL KUMAR MOHANTY 74,709</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>EKAMRA-BHUBANESWAR</p>  <p>BABU SINGH 74,884</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>ASKA</p>  <p>SAROJ KUMAR PADHI 59,083</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>BERHAMPUR</p>  <p>K. ANIL KUMAR 54,997</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <p>JEYPORE</p>  <p>TARA PRASAD BAHINIPATI 69,592</p>
<p>MAHAKALAPARA</p>  <p>DURGA PRASAN NAYAK 1,09,653</p>	<p>KAKATPUR</p>  <p>TUSHARKANTI BEHERA 84,010</p>	<p>BRAHMAGIRI</p>  <p>UPASNA MOHAPATRA 95,783</p>	<p>BHUBANESWAR-CENTRAL</p>  <p>ANANTA NARAYAN JENA 53,759</p>	<p>HINJILI</p>  <p>NAVEEN PATTNAIK 66,459</p>	<p>GOPALPUR</p>  <p>BIBHUTI BHUSHAN JENA 72,071</p>	<p>KORAPUT</p>  <p>RAGHURAM MACHHA 46,805</p>
<p>PATKURA</p>  <p>ARVIND MOHAPATRA 90,905</p>	<p>NIALI</p>  <p>CHHABI MALIK 90,191</p>	<p>SATYABADI</p>  <p>OM PRAKASH MISHRA 87,294</p>	<p>BHUBANESWAR-NORTH</p>  <p>SUSANT KUMAR ROUT 78,179</p>	<p>POLASARA</p>  <p>GOKULANANDA MALLIK 85,737</p>	<p>CHHATRAPUR</p>  <p>KRUSHNA CHANDRA NAYAK 74,983</p>	<p>POTTANGI</p>  <p>RAMA CHANDRA KADAM 52,202</p>
<p>MAHANGA</p>  <p>SARADA PRASAD PADHAN 88,632</p>	<p>PARADEEP</p>  <p>SAMPAD CHANDRA SWAIN 84,518</p>	<p>PIPLI</p>  <p>ASHRIT PATTANAYAK 99,310</p>	<p>JAYADEV</p>  <p>NABA KISHOR MALLIK 76,790</p>	<p>KABISURYANAGAR</p>  <p>PRATAP CHANDRA NAYAK 80,995</p>	<p>CHIKITI</p>  <p>MANORANJAN DYAN SAMANTARA 69,839</p>	<p>LAXMIPUR</p>  <p>PABITRA SAUNTA 59,447</p>
<p>SALIPUR</p>  <p>PRASANTA BEHERA 87,701</p>	<p>BALIKUDA-ERASAMA</p>  <p>SARADA PRASANNA JENA 93,517</p>	<p>CHILIKA</p>  <p>PRITHIVIRAJ HARICHANDAN 83,264</p>	<p>JATANI</p>  <p>BIBHUTI BHUSHAN BALABANTARAY 68,162</p>	<p>SURADA</p>  <p>NILAMANI BISOYI 83,625</p>	<p>DIGAPAHANDI</p>  <p>SIDHANT MOHAPATRA 72,908</p>	<p>RAYAGADA</p>  <p>KADRA APPALA SWAMY 87,482</p>
<p>RAJNAGAR</p>  <p>DHRUBA CHARAN SAHOO 81,237</p>	<p>TIRTOL</p>  <p>RAMAKANTA BHOI 83,740</p>	<p>RANPUR</p>  <p>SURAMA PADHY 81,439</p>	<p>BEGUNIA</p>  <p>PRADIP KUMAR SAHU 90,964</p>	<p>SANAKHEMUNDI</p>  <p>RAMESH CHANDRA JENA 65,867</p>	<p>MOHANA</p>  <p>DASARATHI GOMANGA 62,117</p>	<p>BISSAM-CUTTACK</p>  <p>NILAMADHAB HIKAKA 68,446</p>
<p>AUL</p>  <p>PRATAP KESHARI DEB 73,678</p>	<p>JAGTSINGHPUR</p>  <p>AMARENDRA DAS 92,555</p>	<p>NAYAGARH</p>  <p>ARUNA KUMAR SAHOO 81,959</p>	<p>KHURDA</p>  <p>PRASANTA KUMAR JAGADEV 80,564</p>	<p>KHALIKOTE</p>  <p>PURNA CHANDRA SETHY 80,230</p>	<p>PARALAKHEMUNDI</p>  <p>RUPESH KUMAR PANIGRAHI 56,027</p>	<p>GUNUPUR</p>  <p>SATYAJET GOMANGO 77,637</p>



The people's verdict is out – the BJP has managed to remain the single largest party but is falling way short of the magic figure, while the Opposition INDIA bloc has emerged as a formidable force, more than doubling its 2019 tally. This is in sharp contrast to the exit polls that had predicted a clean sweep by the BJP-led NDA. The major blow to the saffron party came from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh where the party's size has been reduced to almost half. The Samajwadi Party-Congress combine has come out as the biggest winner in the country's largest state. In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee has once again proved that she is a force to be reckoned with, while in Tamil Nadu the DMK-Congress alliance has swept the polls preventing the BJP from opening its account. In Maharashtra the INDIA bloc got more seats than the NDA, while the saffron party made a clean sweep in Odisha

ANDHRA PRADESH TOTAL SEATS 25

BJP + : 21
CONG + : 04
OTHERS : 00*

GOA TOTAL SEATS 02

BJP + : 01
CONG + : 01
OTHERS : 00

ASSAM TOTAL SEATS 14

BJP + : 11
CONG + : 03
OTHERS : 00*

GUJARAT TOTAL SEATS 26

BJP + : 25
CONG + : 01
OTHERS : 00

ARUNACHAL PRADESH TOTAL SEATS 02

BJP + : 02
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00

HARYANA TOTAL SEATS 10

BJP + : 05
CONG + : 05
OTHERS : 00*

BIHAR TOTAL SEATS 40

BJP + : 29
CONG + : 09
OTHERS : 02*

HIMACHAL PRADESH TOTAL SEATS 04

BJP : 04
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00

CHHATTISGARH TOTAL SEATS 11

BJP + : 10
CONG + : 01
OTHERS : 00

JHARKHAND TOTAL SEATS 14

BJP + : 09
CONG + : 05
OTHERS : 00*

KERALA TOTAL SEATS 20

UDF + : 18
BJP + : 01
LDF + : 01

MEGHALAYA TOTAL SEATS 02

CONG + : 01
OTHERS : 01
BJP + : 00

CHANDIGARH TOTAL SEATS 01

CONG + : 01
BJP + : 00
OTHERS : 00

JAMMU & KASHMIR TOTAL SEATS 05

BJP + : 02
JKN : 02
OTHERS : 01

LADAKH TOTAL SEATS 01

OTHERS : 01
CONG + : 00
BJP + : 00

MIZORAM TOTAL SEATS 01

ZPM : 01
CONG + : 00
BJP + : 00

MAHARASHTRA TOTAL SEATS 48

CONG + : 29
BJP + : 18
OTHERS : 01*

DELHI TOTAL SEATS 07

BJP + : 07
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00

KARNATAKA TOTAL SEATS 28

BJP + : 19
CONG + : 09
OTHERS : 00

LAKSHADWEEP TOTAL SEATS 01

CONG + : 01
BJP + : 00
OTHERS : 00

MANIPUR TOTAL SEATS 02

CONG + : 02
BJP + : 00
OTHERS : 00

MADHYA PRADESH TOTAL SEATS 29

BJP + : 29
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00

NAGALAND TOTAL SEATS 01

CONG + : 01
BJP + : 00
OTHERS : 00

TRIPURA TOTAL SEATS 02

BJP + : 02
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00

ODISHA TOTAL SEATS 21

BJP : 20
CONG : 01
BJD : 00*

TELANGANA TOTAL SEATS 17

BJP + : 08
CONG + : 08
OTHERS : 01

PUNJAB TOTAL SEATS 13

CONG + : 07
AAP : 03
OTHERS : 03

UTTAR PRADESH TOTAL SEATS 80

CONG + : 43
BJP + : 36
OTHERS : 01*

PUDUCHERRY TOTAL SEATS 01

CONG + : 01
BJP + : 00
OTHERS : 00

UTTARAKHAND TOTAL SEATS 05

BJP + : 05
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00*

RAJASTHAN TOTAL SEATS 25

BJP + : 14
CONG + : 08
OTHERS : 03

WEST BENGAL TOTAL SEATS 42

AITC : 29
BJP + : 12
CONG : 01*

SIKKIM TOTAL SEATS 01

SKM : 01
BJP + : 00
CONG + : 00

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI, DAMAN & DIU TOTAL SEATS 02

BJP + : 01
OTHERS : 01
CONG + : 00

TAMIL NADU TOTAL SEATS 39

DMK + : 31
OTHERS : 08
BJP + : 00*

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS TOTAL SEATS 01

BJP + : 01
CONG + : 00
OTHERS : 00

By your stumbling, the world is perfected.
SRI AUROBINDO



People Have Spoken

People of India have spoken and given a fractured mandate. It does not simply mean that there is no clear winner. Voters across the country have sent out a loud and clear message that they cannot trust any single leader or party to run the country with a verdict that can be misconstrued as a licence to do whatever they desire. The interests of the common citizens went for a complete toss during the Modi decade. It was indeed a long and tortuous 10 year span that was exasperating for any thinking person.

The verdict, as the trends suggest till evening, means the BJP's balloon of crossing the 400-mark in the Lok Sabha polls has been punctured. Two slogans - 'Aayega toh Modi hi' and 'Ab ki baar, 400 paar' killed the bird before it was born. Modi supporters were so certain of his victory that they were unable to comprehend the essence and beauty of democracy. In democracy, defeat also has an important pedestal which needs to be appreciated and accepted. Modi is now struggling hard to retain power, while the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A bloc is smiling and sitting tight, waiting for the game to be played out.

On Social Media (SocMed), some handles have already started speaking out that Modi will not be able to handle a weak BJP that is now being forced to enter into an alliance to form a government at the Center. Modi's single man style of functioning will, obviously, not be allowed any more. For any administrative decision of any slight consequence, the future Prime Minister, whoever it may be, will need to consult allies and abide by the majority decision, a core principle of democracy.

The results of 4 June once again prove that the average voter of India cannot be underestimated.

Most interesting results have emerged from Uttar Pradesh where BJP has won less number of seats than Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party. In fact, just months after inauguration of Ram Temple, BJP has abysmally lost the Ayodhya seat. This goes to show neither Ram Mandir nor Hindoo Muslim narrative worked in BJP's former bastion UP. It could be Akhilesh's gain or the reported rejection of the list of candidates proposed by Yogi Adityanath, thereby imposing candidates who were not acceptable at the ground level.

Mamata Banerjee, on the other hand, remained unwaveringly anti-Modi and her political stand was vindicated by the outpouring of support for TMC in Bengal. In Odisha, Naveen Patnaik played along with his advisors in such a manner that all political heavyweights were reduced to dust in the party. At the same time, his BJD gave a message of constant support just like Jagan's YSRCP, to Modi's wrongdoings and lost their respective political initiatives in the process. The resultant rout at the polls is for all to see.

A new era of coalition has started once again in India. Whether certain political groups like it or not, the future government and Prime Minister will have to function through consensus. How BJP will evolve to adjust to the changed scenario is to be observed. Coming back to Odisha, with no known faces within the BJP to lead the government, the party will be forced to choose a common politician for leadership. This may be considered a positive change from the past since no one particular individual shall have sweeping powers over the future and fate of the people of Orissa. The coming days may also throw up a new regional outfit wherein some elements of the BJD may find it convenient to join in. Only time will tell.

Finally, the futility of exit polls have been proven once and for all. They have been exposed as paid campaigns, usually by the ruling party, to bolster the confidence of their agents on counting day. They mean nothing more and so should not be encouraged in future. And last, the debate and suspicion created on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) have been laid to rest. No matter how much the Election Commission wants to help or what kind of subservient Commissioners are chosen to head it, no one can thwart the will of the People.

Piate
Tathagata Satpathy

FOCUS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

RESTORING LAND



By 2030, it is projected that the world will lose the natural vitality of a staggering 1.5 billion hectares of land by exposing half of the population to dire food insecurity



Avilash Roul

WE HAVE ALREADY TRANSFORMED MORE THAN 70% OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE AREA FROM ITS NATURAL STATE

Every day Uzbekistan in Central Asia loses more than a hectare of fertile land. In just four years up to 2019, 400 million hectares (mha) of land in the world were degraded. In India, according to the UN Convention on Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 30.51 mha of land, 9.45% of India's landmass (10 times Belgium's landmass), has degraded affecting 251.71 million people between 2015 and 2019. By 2030, it is projected that the world will lose the natural vitality of a staggering 1.5 billion hectares of land by exposing half of the population to dire food insecurity. And, nearly 334 million people around the world, as per the UN, including 14% of the world's children are affected by sand and dust storms. The common denominator is anthropological impact on land. Can we restore the land's health for future generations by halting overharvesting and over-exploiting our natural capital?

Every year, 12 mha of land becomes unproductive due to desertification and drought, threatening the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people. Land resources - soil, water, and biodiversity - are the basis of the wealth and health of societies and nations. The use and management of soil and water resources by humankind have shaped the rise and decline as well as the development and continuation of human civilizations. We know that the first documented land degradation was in 2,400 BC in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), where irrigated agriculture in the Tigris and Euphrates valleys led to salinization.

However, we have already transformed more than 70% of the Earth's surface area from its natural state. Consequently, that has inflicted unparalleled environmental degradation and contributed significantly to climate change. It is no exaggeration that modern agriculture has altered the face of the planet which contributes largely to the Anthropocene. Thus, it's not very far that 90% of the land will bear the human footprint if it continues its unabated mindset. Land degradation, as per the UNCCD, is the result of human-induced actions which

exploit land, causing its utility, biodiversity, soil fertility, and overall health to decline.

Further, land degradation is not confined to only losing fertility of the soil but has cascading effects like disruption of rainfall patterns, amplifying extreme weather, and intensifying further climate change. More so, 40% of the planet's land has already been degraded. Consequently, it directly affects half of the human population and threatens approximately \$44 trillion of the world's Gross National Product (GNP) - its time to measure national economy in Gross Natural Product than Gross National Product. The UN has already pointed out that 1.84 billion people are drought-stricken, out of which 4.7% are exposed to severe or extreme drought. More often than not, we transform the surface of the Earth for greed, not for absolute need. This reminds the profound statement of Mahatma Gandhi that 'the Earth has enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed.'

The Ministry of Agriculture of India prepared the first assessment of land degradation in the mid-1980s. More than half of the geographical area as per the Ministry assessment, approximately 173.6 mha (53%) was subject to moderate to severe form of degradation. In its initial report on desertification in 2000 for UNCCD, India estimated that 107.43 mha, 32.75% of the total geographical area, was affected by various

forms and degrees of desertification. During the period between 2011 and 2013, 96.40 mha of land area, 29.34% of India's land mass was degraded.

In 1994, India joined the UNCCD, which was negotiated at 1992 Earth Summit with other two conventions - climate change and biodiversity, and came into force in 1997. The UNCCD agreed on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization is a multilateral global commitment to mitigate the impact of land degradation and protect and restore the land to ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future. In a voluntary commitment, India pledged to restore 21 mha of degraded and deforested land by 2030. During the 14th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD in New Delhi in 2019, India agreed to increase restoring 26 mha of degraded land by 2030. Meanwhile, India, supplementing its effort of restoring degraded land, has afforested approximately 18.94 mha during the period 2011-12 to 2021-22. Additionally, India's national goal is to increase forest and tree cover up to one-third of the total geographical area. Despite its preparedness and management of drought through Manual for Drought Management (2016) and Crisis Management Plan (CMP) for Drought (2017), India has yet to mainstream desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) in environmental, social and economic policies.

Land restoration is essential and urgently needed. As decision makers hear loud and clear if it's

in economic terms -- each dollar invested in restoring degraded land is estimated to pay back in economic terms \$30 in ecosystem services. Between 765 mha and 1000 mha of land across Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and South America has been earmarked for restoration. Under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030, countries are reviving damaged ecosystems, such as forests, grasslands and wetlands. Many regenerative agriculture practices have the potential to contribute to restoring land while addressing climate change mitigation. Such examples like terrace/contour farming, conserving/restoring watersheds, rainwater harvesting/storage etc are in practice but need scaling up and large-scale endorsement.

Meanwhile, countries are pursuing innovative and integrated approaches to sustainable land management (SLM) through UNCCD's voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target. India's SLM involves agroforestry, beekeeping and fish farming, cross-slope measures, home gardens, forest plantation management, organic agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, minimal soil disturbance, natural and semi-natural forest management, post-harvest measures, crop rotation, fallows, shifting cultivation, water diversion and drainage, wind-break/shelterbelt, waste management and so on.

Land degradation is a global challenge that requires concerted action at all levels. To address land degradation, desertification and drought resilience, the UN has called for global attention through this World Environment Day (5 June), 2024 in 'Generation Restoration'. Growing or regenerating forests, reviving dried ponds and other water resources and restoring soil may be all our environmental responsibilities and duties. With less optimism on the present generation's capacity, it is the strong believe that youth - as the lead in restoration, can make peace with the land.

The writer is an international advisor on climate change risk and transboundary rivers.

WISDOM CORNER

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.
HENRY DAVID THOREAU

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.
ALBERT EINSTEIN

The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.
CARL JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1883: The first Orient Express leaves Paris. The legendary train journey from Paris to Istanbul featured in many works of popular culture, including Bram Stoker's "Dracula" and Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express."

1956: Elvis Presley first performs "Hound Dog" live on TV. Presley's suggestive hip movements during this performance earned him his nickname, "Elvis the Pelvis." "Hound Dog" became his best-selling song with about 10 million sold copies.

1967: The Six-Day War begins in the Middle East. Israeli forces launched a surprise attack against Egypt, prompting other Arab allies to enter the conflict. Egypt had previously blocked the Straits of Tiran to Israeli traffic and amassed its troops at the border between the two countries.

1968: While running for U.S. president, Robert F. Kennedy was fatally shot by Sirhan Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; he died the following day.

LOL PRISONER WITH SKILLS



Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time. After three years, Andy was recognized as one of the best carpenters in the local area. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for the citizens of the community... and he always reported back to prison before

Sunday night was over. The warden was thinking of remodeling his kitchen and in fact had done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him. But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place".

IN JEST THIS

Bad habits keep us from being healthy

If you're like me, you're constantly looking at the scale or mirror and thinking, "I need to lose some weight." But what most of us really need to lose are bad habits. Bad habits keep us from being healthy.

Most people know the difference between a good habit and a bad habit, but find it hard to adopt good habits, because good habits do not reward you instantly. If they did, a muscular guy named Olek would be waiting for you at the gym, greeting you with a smile and saying, "Welcome, Harpreet! For the first month, you make no payment - your membership is free - and I will personally do all the running and lifting for you. Here's a chocolate smoothie. Enjoy it while you watch me sweat."

You would be utterly flabbergasted if this happened (especially if your name is Harpreet). But here's what usually happens when you join a gym: you're

expected to make a payment right away (or commit to a one-year contract) and then do a lot of sweating yourself. After your workout, you drink some water, step on the scale and discover that you've actually gained weight. And Olek is nowhere to be seen.

The next day, all your muscles hurt, including the ones you didn't know you had. Biceps, triceps, even forearms.

Bad habits, on the other hand, reward us right away. They are so pleasurable that we want to keep doing them, at least until someone in our household shouts, "Stop eating the ice cream directly out of the tub! We have bowls!"

Portion control is important when you're trying to be healthy, but it's so easy to overindulge. One reason for this, according to a recent research study, is distraction. If you are eating a meal while watching TV, you are more likely to overeat. That's because you are not enjoying your meal

as much as you would if you were not distracted. When it's over, you're not fully satisfied and feel the urge to get more food.

This is the same thing that happens if you're having sex while listening to a podcast. As soon as it's over, you will feel like listening to another podcast.

The research study, published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, looked at the impact of distraction on "hedonic overconsumption." In one of their experiments, the researchers asked 122 young adults, mostly women, to eat their lunch under three conditions. Some of them ate with no distraction, some ate while watching a video (moderate distraction) and some ate while playing the video game Tetris (high distraction). The researchers found that those who were distracted wanted to eat more and were likely to snack later.

From this research, we can

conclude, of course, that sitting in front of a TV or computer while eating is a bad habit. You are likely to overindulge. This is why I try to keep my dog Lulu's bowl in the dining room, beside the dining table. In the dining room, she has no distractions because no one in our family eats there. But Lulu keeps bringing her bowl to the sitting room, as if to say, "Why should humans have all the bad habits?"

Many of our bad habits are related to the conveniences of modern life. In the old days, if you wanted to have chicken for dinner, you had to go outdoors and catch one.

Have you ever tried to catch a chicken? Trust me, you would burn 1,000 times more calories than getting a KFC delivery.

You'd be so tired after chasing and processing a chicken that you wouldn't want to have another one for the rest of the year. Fruits and vegetables are much easier to catch.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Collective responsibility

Sir, The theme "Our Land. Our Future. We are Generation Restoration" signifies the importance attached to the World Environment Day, 2024. Land, ecosystem, biodiversity and climate change are collective responsibilities. Human beings, who share the planet with plants and animals, have the onerous responsibility of maintaining a caring attitude towards them as well. The United Nations is keen on fostering a sense of eco-friendly measures among the people through their active participation on the World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June every year. Clean water, pure air, soil maintenance, climate regulation, are all offshoots of protection of environment. From the Stockholm Declaration of 1972 to the active incorporation of the day from 1974 to the choosing of annual themes, the WED has come a long way. Saudi Arabia will be hosting the day this year. India has hosted the WED twice.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Exit Vs Exact

Sir, Most of the exit polls predicted a clear majority for the BJP in parliamentary elections. When it comes to the Andhra Pradesh state elections there was a divided opinion poll as some have predicted YSRCP landslide victory and others pointed at NDA's victory. But as per votes polled in EVMs, there is a slight majority for NDA. When it comes to Andhra Pradesh, TDP-led NDA swept the polls. In Telangana it was a neck-to-neck race for BJP and Congress and BRS fell way behind in securing parliamentary seats. The BJP has got the upper hand over the ruling BJD in Odisha, where as it failed to make a mark in Tamil Nadu.

Nagendra Kumar Vempally, HYDERABAD

Matter of concern

Sir, Kidnapping a young government doctor of the Kalimela community health centre from his government residential headquarters in Malkanagiri district is a matter of great concern. Measures need to be taken to rescue Dr. Bhoi immediately. Such incidents will have an impact on the health sector seriously; the government employees will be scared to perform their duties in Maoist-affected districts.

Nabnit Panigrahi, RAYAGADA



PROMINENT WINNERS



Narendra Modi
Lucknow
6,12,970



Amit Shah
Gandhinagar
10,10,972



Rahul Gandhi
Raebareilly & Wayanad
6,47,445 6,87,649



Akhilesh Yadav
Kannauj
6,42,292



Giriraj Singh
Begusarai
6,49,331



Rajnath Singh
Lucknow
6,12,709



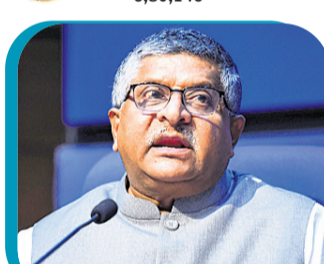
Kangana Ranaut
Mandi
5,37,022



Piyush Goyal
Mumbai North
6,80,146



Nitin Gadkari
Nagpur
6,55,027



Ravishankar Prasad
Patna Sahib
5,88,270



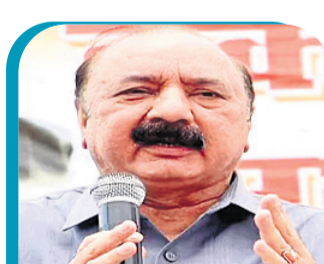
Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Vidisha
11,16,460



Hema Malini
Mathura
5,10,064



Anurag Singh Thakur
Hamirpur
6,07,068



Kishori Lal Sharma
Amethi
5,39,228

ECSTASY AND AGONY

Elections, in any format, always are heart-breaking for some and elation for others. The 2024 Lok Sabha election results turned out to be a huge surprise for everyone, but may be not for the 64.2 crore voters, who knew which button they had pressed. The results probably were the most shocking for the BJP as the saffron party had entered the fray with the slogan 'Abki baar, 400 paar'. It did not happen and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his saffron brigade will have to look for partners to stay in power. The results brought jubilation to the INDIA bloc as its constituents were on a roll in a number of states. The Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, the Maha Vikash Agadi and the NCP(SP) did enough to stop the BJP juggernaut. They won a number of crucial seats, places where the saffron party had expected the LOTUS to bloom. No, it did not happen and 'Janata Janardan' once more demonstrated who the boss is.



Shashi Tharoor
Thiruvananthapuram
3,58,155



KC Venugopal
Alappuzha
4,04,560



Abhishek Banerjee
Diamond Harbour
10,48,230



Mahua Moitra
Krishnanagar
6,28,789



Yusuf Pathan
Baharampur
5,24,516



Dimple Yadav
Manipuri
5,98,526



Jyotiraditya Scindia
Guna
9,23,302



Kanimozhi Karunanidhi
Thoothukudi
5,40,729



Supriya Sule
Baramati
7,31,572



Awadhesh Prasad
Faizabad
5,54,289



Om Birla
Kota
7,50,496



Shatrughan Sinha
Asansol
6,05,645



Lalu Singh
Faizabad
4,99,722



K Annamali
Coimbatore
4,50,132



Omar Abdullah
Baramulla
2,68,339



Mehbooba Mufti
Anantnag-Rajouri
2,40,042



Bhupesh Baghel
Rajnandgaon
6,67,646

MAJOR LOSERS



Smriti Irani
Amethi
3,72,032



Rekha Patra
Basirhat
4,70,215



Dilip Ghosh
Bardhaman-Durgapur
5,82,686



Ajay Mishra Teni
Kheri
5,23,036



Arjun Munda
Khunti
3,61,972



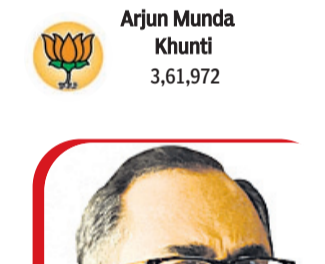
Adhir Choudhury
Baharampur
4,39,494



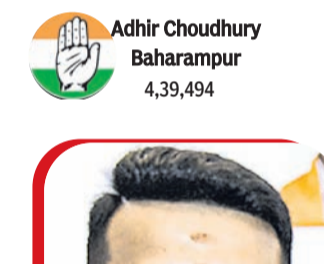
Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Thiruvananthapuram
3,42,078



Prajwal Revanna
Hassan
6,30,339



Nakul Nath
Chhindwara
5,31,120



Maneka Gandhi
Sultanpur
4,01,156

Mixed fortunes for Odia actors

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Political parties including the BJP, BJD and the Congress had fielded a number of Odia actors as contestants in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. BJP had nominated actors Sidhanth Mohapatra, Akash Das Nayak and Arindam Roy from Digapahandi, Korei and Salipur Assembly constituencies respectively. Similarly BJD had fielded actress Varsha Priyadarshini from Barachana Assembly constituency and Congress had nominated Manoj Mishra from Balasore.



contested from the Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency and emerged victorious as a BJD candidate. This time Sidhanth defeated BJD's Biplab Patro by a margin of 16,000 votes.

Among them, both Sidhanth and Akash won from their respective constituencies. However, lady luck did not shine on the others. It should be stated here that in 2009 and 2014, Sidhanth had

Both Sidhanth and Akash proved that they have the ability to win while contesting in a different parties other than the BJD. Only Prashant Nanda had achieved the feat before. He had won the Assembly elections in 2000 on a BJP ticket and in 2009 he emerged victorious representing the NCP.

However, Roy, who also had left the BJD and joined the BJP was not so lucky. He lost from the Salipur Assembly constituency to BJD's Prashanta Behera by a margin of a little over 7,000 votes. Varsha who was nominated by the BJD was beaten by BJP's Amar Kumar Nayak by a margin of 6,310 votes. Mishra, on the other hand finished third behind BJP's Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo and BJD's Surendra Singh Bhoi from the Bolangir Lok Sabha seat.

Firebrand fighter

SAKYASEN MITTRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Other than being a vociferous protester against the BJP and most of its policies, there is another side to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. She is a passionate artist, moody poet and a good cook and she is quick to try her hand at any roadside dhaba. Her impulsive tea-making in various stalls has definitely contributed in building the brand that 'Mamata' is.

Since 2016, the BJP has been gunning for her in their efforts to dethrone her and engulf West Bengal in the saffron wave. Except for a brief period in 2019, when BJP won 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies, the BJP has always finished way behind. In fact, during the 2021 Assembly elections in

West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) achieved its best-ever result with over 210 seats.

The BJP had launched all its big guns then and now in the build-up and during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. They targeted her and her party over corruption, mis-utilisation of funds, her fondness for the minority community and even went to the extent of calling her 'anti-Indian' for her staunch objection to the CAA.

Mamata fought back the only way she can... she is the perfect example of a street fighter, who anyone will love to have on their side. She targeted the BJP over non-payment of dues, blamed them for atrocities in the state and it worked wonders. When most exit polls predicted a rise in BJP numbers June 1, a day later Mamata trashed them. And she again turned out to be right.



A one-woman army against the BJP's heavyweights, Mamata is also very clear on her vehement opposition to the Congress and the Left parties in Bengal. Her masterstroke to nominate former cricketer Yusuf Pathan from the Baharampur Lok Sabha seat (a bastion of five-time MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury turned out to be the perfect riposte for the barrage of criticism she had to face from the Congress leader. In the end, Yusuf smoked

Chowdhury out of the ground for a 'six'. Mamata is an enigma that the BJP is yet to decipher. They have tried everything... threats, pressure tactics, closure of funds... nothing worked. Against all odds, Mamata has always risen like a Phoenix to fly away from their clutches and return to haunt them again and again. TMC-29, BJP-12, Congress-1: The Phoenix has again soared high above the saffron clouds in the sky.

national



I spoke to Mallikarjun Kharge and Sitaram Yechury. The INDIA alliance meeting is likely to be held in Delhi tomorrow. Final decision is expected to be taken by this evening. Accordingly, I will be in Delhi

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN TO BE SHUT FOR VISITORS

The Rashtrapati Bhavan will remain closed to the general public from Wednesday to Sunday due to the preparations for the forthcoming swearing-in ceremony of the council of ministers, an official statement said Tuesday.



of the day quote

Respecting the verdict of the people I thank my PDP workers & leaders for their hard work & support despite all the odds. My deepest gratitude to the people who voted for me. Winning & losing is part of the game & won't deter us from our path

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | CHIEF, PDP

They brought Agniveer (Agnipath scheme), which faced opposition from the youth. They did not redress farmers' issues. And everyone knows the treatment that was meted to our wrestler daughters, who had to protest (at Delhi's Jantar Mantar)

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER CM, HARYANA

The opposition parties ran relentless propaganda that we would change the Constitution. We failed to clear the doubts among voters. Our losses are also due to vote bank politics

EKNATH SHINDE | CM, MAHARASHTRA

EXCISE POLICY CASES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: In a setback to former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, the Supreme Court Tuesday refused to entertain his bail pleas in the cases lodged by the CBI and the ED in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

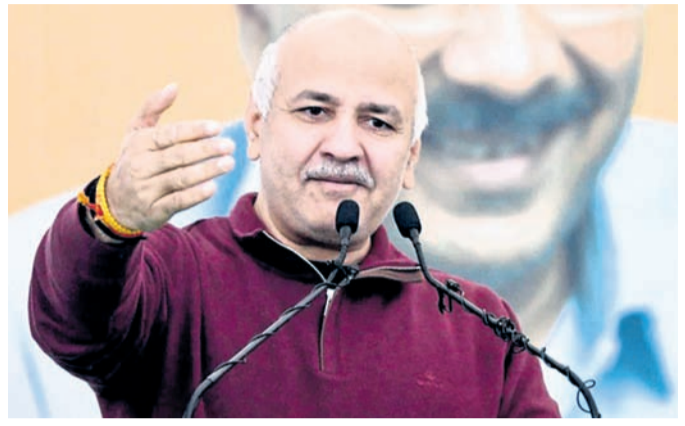
The apex court, however, said Sisodia can revive his petitions for bail after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) file their final prosecution complaint and charge sheet, respectively, in the cases involving alleged corruption and money laundering.

A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet.

The top court had October 30 last year dismissed Sisodia's regular bail pleas in the cases but given him liberty to approach courts for relief if there was a change in the circumstances or trial got protracted.

A vacation bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta noted the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED and the CBI, that the central probe agencies would file their final prosecution complaint and charge

SC junks Sisodia's bail pleas



sheet by July 3.

"In the light of the said submissions made and having regard to the fact that the period of '6-8 months' fixed by this court by order dated October 30, 2023 having not come to an end, it would suffice to dispose of these petitions with liberty to the petitioner to revive his prayer afresh after filing of the final complaint/charge-sheet as assured by Solicitor General," the bench said in its order.

It added in the event of such a bail application being filed, the same would be considered on its own merits as already observed by this court in the October 30, 2023 order.

A Delhi court is likely to pass July 9 its order on whether to take cognisance of a supplementary charge sheet filed by the ED against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy-linked money laundering case

The CBI has cited 294 witnesses and filed 31,000 pages of documents in the case.

"The Supreme Court in its October 30, 2023 order has said that he can apply for bail if the trial is protracted and proceeds at a snail's pace. Looking at the number of witnesses cited by both the agencies and the voluminous documents filed by them, the trial is not likely to commence or conclude in the near future," he submitted.

Solicitor general Mehta told the court that the list of prosecution witnesses will be pruned to ensure speedy conclusion of trial.

Justice Mehta asked the solicitor general whether he can make a statement on instruc-

tion that final charge sheet or complaint in both the cases will be filed in two-three weeks.

"This is a very pertinent question and you (SG Tushar Mehta) please take instruction on this. Whether you are done with the investigation in these cases and you will not file any more supplementary chargesheets in these matters. Can you make a statement that qua all the accused and qua all aspects, you will file a final chargesheet/complaint," Justice Mehta said.

He added that filing of supplementary chargesheets delays the commencement of trial, and unless the prosecution files final chargesheet/complaint, the trial cannot commence.

On October 30 last year, the top court had denied him bail in the corruption and money laundering cases related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, saying the accusation of "windfall gains" of ₹338 crore to wholesale liquor dealers was "tentatively supported" by evidence.

Sisodia was arrested by the CBI February 26, 2023 for his alleged role in the liquor policy case. The ED arrested him in the money laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR March 9, 2023. He resigned from the Delhi cabinet February 28, 2023.

DoT defers spectrum auction to June 25



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The Department of Telecom (DoT) Tuesday postponed the spectrum auction by 19 days to June 25, as per information available on its website.

According to amendments made in the notice inviting applications for bids Tuesday, the new date for "start of the live auction" has been changed to June 25 from June 6.

The government will auction eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of about ₹96,317 crore.

All the available spectrum in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1,800 MHz, 2,100 MHz, 2,300 MHz, 2,500 MHz, 3,300 MHz, and 26 GHz bands are part of the auction.

Reliance Jio has deposited the highest earnest money of ₹3,000 crore for the spectrum auction, which gives the company the potential to bid for maximum radiowaves.

According to pre-qualified bidder details released by the DoT, Bharti Airtel has submitted the earnest money deposit (EMD) of ₹1,050 crore and Vodafone Idea (VIL) of ₹300 crore.

Companies get points based on the EMD amount they have deposited, which enables them to bid for the number of circles and quantity of spectrum they want. Higher points mean a higher capability to place bids.

The spectrum will be assigned for a period of 20 years and successful bidders will be allowed to make payments in 20 equal annual instalments.

The DoT has provided an option to surrender the spectrum acquired through the upcoming auction after a minimum period of 10 years.

Assam flood: 7 dead, over 4.23L affected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 4: The flood situation in Assam remained critical Tuesday with seven more people losing their lives due to drowning, while more than 4.23 lakh people are reeling under the deluge across nine districts, an official bulletin said.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), four people at Sonai and one person at Silchar revenue circles of Cachar district died due to flood. Besides, one person each died in Raha circle of Nagaon district and Dispur of Kamrup Metropolitan due to the deluge, it added.

With this, the total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood, landslide and storm increased to 30.

The report said that more than 4.23,000 people were hit due to the floods in Cachar; Dhemaji, Dima Hasao, Hailakandi, Hojai, West Karbi Anglong, Karimganj, Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

Nagaon is the worst hit with over 2.13 lakh people suffering, followed by Cachar with more

than 1.19 lakh people and Hojai with around 60,500 people suffering, it added.

Till Monday, over 6.25 lakh people were suffering in flood waters across 10 districts of the state. The administration has been operating 167 relief camps in six districts, where 32,872 persons have taken shelter, and running 73 relief distribution centres in four districts.

The authority has distributed 1,221.69 quintals of rice, 225.29 quintals of dal, 67.58 quintals of salt and 1,073.59 litres of mustard oil among the flood victims of the state. At present, 459 villages are under water and 7,866.08 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA said.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in Morigaon, Nagaon and Cachar.

At present, Kopili and Kushiyara rivers are flowing above the danger marks at different places in Assam, ASDMA said.

On account of widespread flooding, nearly 46,000 domestic animals and poultry are affected across the state, it added.



©JAIRAM_RAMESH

X POST OF THE DAY



Financial markets that were given an artificial booster dose by the exit polls are turbulent today. In this context, it is wise to recall the words of Dr Manmohan Singh on May 17th 2004, the last occasion on which the markets were faced with prospect of such regime change - "There is absolutely no need for panic in the market. Very soon the alliance will unveil its CMP. The CMP will demonstrate the commitment of the United Progressive Alliance to fiscal discipline, realistic growth-oriented tax policies, control of unproductive and wasteful public expenditure and increased emphasis on agricultural growth, education, health, food security and social security in the context of a fast-growing economy that is integrating with the world as well. Congress is committed to the orderly and healthy development of the financial markets that reflect the fundamentals of the economy. Our tax policies and foreign direct investment regime will be pro-growth and will create an environment favourable for both Indian and foreign enterprises." Thereafter followed a fear-free and intimidation-free decade for the private sector - a decade of the highest GDP growth India has ever seen, along with the highest private investment as a share of GDP.

SHORT TAKES

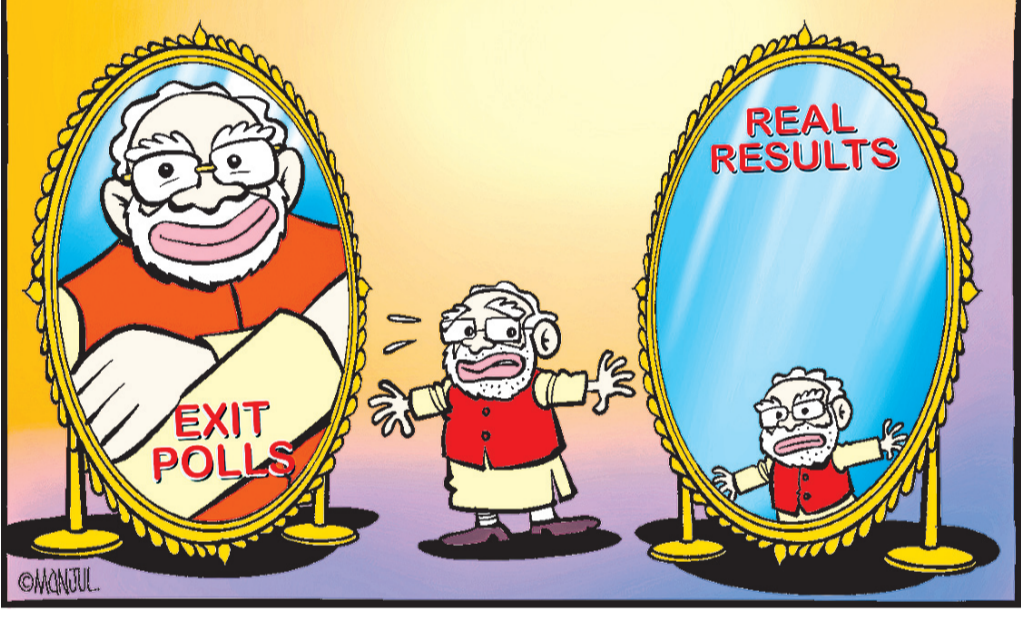
Sukhoi fighter jet crashes in Nashik

Mumbai: A Sukhoi fighter plane of the Indian Air Force crashed in Nashik district of Maharashtra Tuesday, police said, adding the pilot and co-pilot ejected safely. They have been taken to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) hospital for further treatment, Special Inspector General of Nashik Range D R Karale told PTI. The Su-30 MKI plane crashed in a field near Shirasgaon village of Nifad tehsil, the IPS officer said.

Woman injured in accidental firing

Srinagar: A woman was injured after a CRPF personnel accidentally discharged his firearm in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Tuesday. The incident took place during patrolling by CRPF and police at Syedabad Pastoona in Tral area of the south Kashmir district. The injured woman has been identified as Shaheena (40), a resident of Syedabad Pastoona Tral.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



67 candidates share top rank in NEET-UG

Of these 67 candidates, maximum 11 are from Rajasthan, followed by eight from Tamil Nadu and seven from Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: Sixty-seven candidates have bagged the top rank in medical entrance exam NEET-UG, a majority of them from Rajasthan, the National Testing Agency announced Tuesday. The top rankers in the National

Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) also include 14 girls, the agency said.

It said the 56.4 per cent of the candidates have qualified the exam, which was conducted May 5 at centres across the country and also abroad.

"Sixty-seven candidates scored the same 99.997129 percentile score, therefore, they shared the all India rank one. The merit list will be prepared using a tie-breaking formula with those getting higher marks or percentile score in Biology will be given preference followed by Chemistry and Physics," a senior NTA official said.



"Subsequently, candidates with less proportion of the number of attempted incorrect answers and correct answers in all the subjects in the test, or Biology, followed by Chemistry and Physics, will be given preference," the official added.

Of these 67 candidates, maximum 11 are from Rajasthan, followed by eight from Tamil Nadu and seven from Maharashtra.

A record 24.06 lakh candidates had registered for NEET this year. The passing percentage is almost the same as last year at 56.2 per cent.

Among those who have qualified the country's biggest entrance exam for admission to MBBS and BDS courses at the undergraduate level, 5,47,036 are male, 7,69,222 are female and 10 are transgender persons, the NTA said.

ELECTION 2024

On counting day, social media erupts with quirky memes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: With a quip about the market's tumble here and a pun about the exit poll results there, social media memesters went into overdrive on the day of counting for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections Tuesday.

Many netizens gave a comic tinge to the dramatic election results through memes based on popular TV show "Panchayat", and films like "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Hera Pheri", and "Chup Chup Ke" on X.

As the initial trends belied the exit poll results, the Indian stock market tumbled, with both Sensex and Nifty taking a massive hit. People found solace in sharing memes apt for the situation.

While one X user RJDixita shared two chubby panda cubs

tumbling down a grassy slope with a caption that read "Nifty-Sensex today!", another posted a screengrab from Shahid Kapoor-starrer "Chup Chup Ke", with a caption "Investors seeing their portfolio today be like".

The meme by whoisut showed Om Puri, a businessman in that film, asking his accountant Shakti Kapoor - "35 lakh ka hamara investment hai, toh 36 lakh ka ghatta kaise ho gaya?" (Our investment is of ₹35 lakh, then how did we lose ₹36 lakh?).

Some X users also took on TV news channels, which had telecast exit polls that largely fell far from their predictions.

Qid Memez wrote in a post, "Me on my way to find exit pollsters" with a screengrab from the popular gangster drama "Gangs of Wasseypur" in which Manoj Bajpayee's gun-toting Sardar Khan is going to attack a rival.



In another meme, be_mewadi shared a clip from "Panchayat" in which the character of MLA Chandrakishore Singh, played by Pankaj Jha, tagged as "Election Commission" is seen packing up people tagged as "News Channels" onto a trolley. When people ask Singh to join

them, he replies, "Hum ayenge, zarur ayenge. Hum antim me ayenge" (I'll join, I'll join you in the end).

The TVF show on Amazon Prime became a fodder for most of the quirky memes through different shots and screengrabs. A few users also found India's

love for chai a suitable companion in gripping moments such as election results.

Desi_bhoy88 shared a screengrab from "Panchayat" season 3 with caption "Mein aur mere Pitaji election results dekhte hue", where Bhushan, aka Banrakas, asks Binod "Ek-ek chai aur bola jaye?" (Shall we have another cup of tea?).

As the trends started turning into solid gains for candidates across party lines, memes reflected the growing suspense.

X user profblackk shared a shot from Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Paresh Rawal's comedy riot "Hera Pheri".

As the trio hatch another plan to make some quick money, Rawal's Babu Bhaiya shares his trepidations and says, "Mera to aisa dhak dhak ho rha hai" (My heart is beating too fast). Some also quipped on the way

voters have used their franchise, giving scattered mandate in states like Maharashtra where the seats got divided among as many as six major parties, as per the trends.

Social media users also took dig at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who became a butt of joke after switching his allegiance from INDIA to NDA in February.

At the time, Kumar had jokingly said, "I have already told you that we (BJP-JDU) were together earlier. Twice in the middle, I went 'idhar udhar.' But now, once again I have come 'udhar' (to the NDA)," he said.

His political ambivalence has gained him the moniker "Paltu Ram". One user, manogyaolwal, shared a photo of a hoarding that reads "Nitish Sabke Hain" (Nitish belongs to everyone) to the caption "One more time... Switching sides on cards @nitishkumar?"

business/international

NETHERLANDS: INDIA'S 3RD LARGEST EXPORT DESTINATION

The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the US and UAE during 2023-24, even as the country's merchandise shipments dipped by over 3 per cent, according to the commerce ministry data. India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has increased to \$17.4 billion in the last fiscal from \$13 billion in 2022-23. The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany



of the day quote

The future trajectory of the market depends on the new government's economic policies, with factors like GDP growth, inflation, and global conditions playing a key role

We expect the government to implement policy reforms and incentives to support the growth and sustainability of the real estate sector. These reforms could include financial incentives for sustainable building practices and subsidies or tax breaks for developers who focus on affordable housing projects

SUMAN BANNERJEE | CIO, HEDONOVA

SHORT TAKES

Wheat output raised to record in FY24

New Delhi: The government has revised upwards wheat production at record 112.92 million tonne for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) in its third estimate. The output, which has been revised upwards by 0.91 million tonne from the second estimate, is also higher than the previous record high of 110.55 million tonne achieved in the 2022-23 crop year, the agriculture ministry said Tuesday. Wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, has been harvested and over 26 million tonne has already been procured by the central government at minimum support price. In its third estimate, the agriculture ministry has projected increase in rice output to 136.7 million tonne for 2023-24 from 135.75 million tonne in the previous crop year. However, the total foodgrain output is estimated slightly lower at 328.85 million tonne as compared to the level achieved in 2022-23 but higher by 21.1 million tonne from the last five years' average of 307.75 million tonne. In case of oilseeds, soybean production is estimated at 13.05 million tonne and rapemustard seed at 13.16 million tonne.

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
SENSEX	72079.05	↓ 4389.7	-5.9%
NIFTY	21884.50	↓ 1379.4	-5.7%
DOLLAR	83.54	↑ ₹0.44	+0.5%
EURO	90.86	↑ ₹0.26	+0.3%
GOLD	₹71,617	↓ ₹113	-0.2%
SILVER	₹89,845	↓ ₹2,188	-2.4%

TEMP	BHUB	CTK
MAX	38.4°C	38.2°C
MIN	27.6°C	26.5°C
Humidity	82%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit No.-1168 dated 01.05.2024, I, Biranchi Narayan Dash, S/o- Late Gour Charan Dash (old name), At-Mishrapada, P.O./P.S./Dist.- Angul, PIN- 759122 have changed my name to Biranchi Narayana Dash, S/o- Late Gour Charan Das (new name). Henceforth, I shall be known as Biranchi Narayana Dash, S/o- Late Gour Charan Das for all purpose.

BLOODBATH ON D-STREET

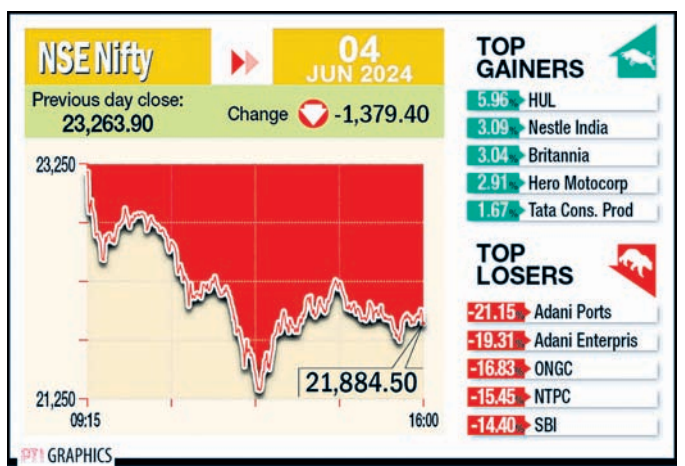
On vote counting day, Sensex suffers worst single-day retreat in 4 years

Mumbai, June 4: In the biggest single-day fall in four years, benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty plunged by nearly 6 per cent Tuesday as vote counting trends showed the BJP may not have a clear majority in the Lok Sabha polls.

Reversing its Monday's sharp gains of over 3 per cent, the 30-share BSE Sensex nosedived 4,389.73 points or 5.74 per cent to close at a more than two-month low of 72,079.05. In the day trade, the barometer tanked 6,234.35 points or 8.15 per cent to hit a nearly five-month low level of 70,234.43.

The NSE Nifty tumbled 1,982.45 points or 8.52 per cent to 21,884.50 during the day. Later, it ended at 21,884.50, a sharp decline of 1,379.40 points or 5.93 per cent. Sensex and Nifty had previously declined by around 13 per cent March 23, 2020 when lockdown was imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Heavy profit booking in PSUs, public banks, power, utilities, energy, oil and gas, and capital goods shares dragged the markets into the deep negative. "The unexpected outcome of the general election sparked a wave of fear selling in the domestic market, reversing the recent substantial rally. Despite



With the NDA still looking to form a government, though with the important support of coalition partners, markets look jittery about the prospects of strong decision making.

MANISH CHOWDHURY | HEAD OF RESEARCH, STOXBOX

have a positive effect on the rural economy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Vote counting trends showed that the BJP was poised to be the single largest party but could be well short of an absolute majority, leaving it dependent on its NDA partners to form government.

When the Narendra Modi government came to power May 16, 2014, Sensex had rallied 261.14 points or 0.90 per cent to settle at 24,121.74, and Nifty jumped 79.85 points or 1.12 per cent to 7,203. The BSE benchmark had hit the 25,000-mark in intra-day trade on that day.

On May 23, 2019, the Sensex declined 298.82 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 38,811.39, while the Nifty ended 80.85 points or 0.69 per cent lower at 11,657.05. The BSE benchmark had hit the 40,000-mark for the first time ever, while the Nifty breached the 12,000-level on that day.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, NTPC plunged over 15 per cent, while State Bank of India tanked more than 14 per cent, Larsen & Toubro tumbled over 12 per cent and Power Grid dived more than 12 per cent. Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel,

SENSEX DIPS 4,389.73 POINTS OR 5.74% TO END AT OVER 2-MONTH LOW OF 72,079.05

NIFTY TUMBLES 1,379.40 POINTS OR 5.93% TO CLOSE SESSION AT 21,884.50

ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries and JSW Steel were the other big laggards.

All the sectoral indices, except for FMCG, closed in the red. Adani group shares also declined. Adani Ports & SEZ tanked over 21 per cent, Adani Enterprises by nearly 20 per cent, Adani Power by 17 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions by 20 per cent and Adani Green Energy by over 19 per cent.

Markets jumped sharply Monday after exit polls predicted a massive win for the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha polls. The BSE benchmark soared by 2,507.47 points or 3.39 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,468.78 Monday, marking its biggest single-day gain in three years. The NSE Nifty climbed 733.20 points or 3.25 per cent to finish at 23,263.90.

POINTS	PERCENTAGE
331.40	-15.45
775.20	-14.42
3,402.85	-12.69
295.90	-12.38
158.80	-8.87
1,408.80	-7.81
1,131.80	-7.54
2,793.60	-7.53
1,073.20	-7.51
85.00	-6.52

₹ plunges 37 paise to settle at 83.51 against \$

Mumbai, June 4: The rupee tumbled 37 paise to close at 83.51 against the US dollar Tuesday as the ruling BJP fell short of the absolute majority in the Lok Sabha elections.

Besides, a massive sell-off in domestic equities and a strong greenback against major currencies overseas added to the gloom, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.25 and oscillated between a high of 83.23 and a low of 83.65 against the greenback during the session.

The domestic currency finally closed at 83.51 against the dollar, registering a fall of 37 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee closed at 83.14 against the US dollar. "The rupee depreciated...today as domestic markets fell sharply amid uncertainty over election results outcome. This may have also led to some sell-off by foreign investors. The US dollar recovered from yesterday's losses on the weak Euro, which fell on disappointing employment data. The US dollar fell on Monday on weaker than expected ISM manufacturing PMI and construction spending," Anuj

Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.17 per cent higher at 104.25.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.88 per cent to \$76.89 per barrel.



Foreign investors were net sellers of Indian equities Monday as they offloaded shares worth ₹12,436.22 crore on a net basis. FIIs bought shares worth ₹26,776.17 crore and sold equities worth ₹39,212.39 crore in the cash segment.

"This uncertainty triggered a panic sell-off across various asset classes, impacting economic growth. The dollar-rupee exchange rate may continue to rise, potentially reaching 83.90, with 83.40 serving as the immediate support level," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

Bear attack makes investors poorer by ₹31 lakh crore

Equity investors suffered a massive loss of ₹31 lakh crore Tuesday as markets went into a tailspin with the BSE Sensex tumbling nearly 6 per cent as vote counting trends showed the BJP may not have a clear majority in the Lok Sabha polls. In line with weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by ₹31,07,806.27 crore to ₹3,94,83,705.27 crore (\$4.73 trillion) Tuesday. Following the huge rally in equities Monday, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had climbed ₹13,78,630.4 crore to hit an all-time peak of ₹4,25,91,511.54 crore (\$5.13 trillion).

Iran allies join Middle East war

IRAN'S ALLIES IN IRAQ ARE FIRING AT ISRAEL TRIGGERING A WIDER WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Baghdad, June 4: Iran-backed Shi'ite armed groups in Iraq have ramped up rocket and missile attacks on Israel in recent weeks, raising concerns in Washington and among some Iranian allies of potential Israeli retaliation and regional escalation should they draw blood.



he tracks the attacks. "It complicates the Israeli task and is an increased financial cost," he said.

Reuters spoke to more than a dozen people, including sources in Iraqi armed groups and other factions in Iran's network of regional allies known as the Axis of Resistance, alongside US and other regional officials, most of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to give candid assessments of a sensitive issue.

They said the attacks by Iraqi factions, including Kataib Hezbollah and Nujaba, were a cause for rising concern for Washington and also viewed with unease among some in Iran and its powerful Axis ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has carefully calibrated its own engagements with Israel to prevent all-out regional conflict.

"They could get the Axis involved in something it does not currently want," a senior figure in the Axis of Resistance said, describing the view among pro-Iran groups on condition he not be identified.

Iran and Hezbollah, the most organised members of the network, have in the past struggled to rein in Iraqi factions. Hussein al-Mousawi, a spokesperson for Nujaba, one of the main armed Shi'ite factions in Iraq participating in strikes on Israel, told Reuters the strikes were a natural evolution of the role of Iraqi groups and aimed to increase the cost of the war in Gaza. They intend to strike from anywhere, for as long as is necessary.

The Iraqi government, which carefully balances its alliances with both Washington and Tehran, does not officially approve of the strikes but has been unable or unwilling to stop them.

Iraq does not recognise Israel and a 2022 law punishes those trying to normalise ties with death or life in prison. Israel views Iraq as an Iranian vassal state and main corridor for weapons from Iran to other armed groups including Hezbollah.

Global public debt hits record \$97tn, says UN

Geneva: The United Nations said Tuesday that global public debt rose to a record \$97 trillion last year, with developing countries owing roughly one-third of that - crimping their ability to pay for basic government services like health care, education and climate action. UN Trade and Development, formerly known as UNCTAD, said the value of money owed by governments rose by \$5.6 trillion from 2022.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. ET-MCD-BBS-CCTV-AMC-09-24

Contract of Closed Circuit Surveillance System Provided in LHB Coaches of Coaching Depot, Bhubaneswar, for a period of one year.

Advised Value: ₹70,34,834.32, EMD: ₹1,40,700/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹5,900/-, Completion Period: 12 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 04.06.2024, Date & time of Tender Closing: 18.06.2024, 1530 hrs.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>

Sr. Coaching Depot Officer/ Bhubaneswar

PR-175/P/24-25

CDAC Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India
Anusandhan Bhawan, C-56/1, Sector-62, Noida - 201309

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a premier research organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, carrying out R&D across a wide spectrum of ICT thematic areas, looking for the following IT/Computer professional, for project based positions for appointment of purely contract basis, for its Noida Centre in different areas like Project Management & Implementation of Design Linked Incentive Scheme/Electronics/VLSI/Chip Design/Software Application Development/DevOps Engineer/UI/UX Designer/Microservices Architecture:-

Name of the Post	Domain	No. of Positions
Program Manager (9-15 years experience)	Project Management & Implementation of DLI Scheme/ Electronics/ VLSI/ Microelectronics	2
Project Manager (9-15 years experience)	Software Design & Development/JAVA, J2EE/ Project Management and Implementation	2
Senior Project Engineer (3-7 years experience)	Electronics/ VLSI/Microelectronics	2
Senior Project Engineer (3-7 years experience)	JAVA, J2EE Software/ Web Application Development, DevOps, Microservices Architecture	17
Project Engineer (1-4 years experience)	JAVA, J2EE Software/ Web Application Development, UI/UX Design	36

Interested and eligible candidates may visit www.cdac.in for detailed notification of different domains and divisions, eligibility, remuneration and other terms and conditions and applying online from 05.06.2024 onwards.

Commencement of on-line registration of application by candidates: 05.06.2024 (Wednesday)

Last date for on-line registration of application by candidates: 19.06.2024 (Wednesday)

CBC 06130/12/0002/2425

35th anniv of Tiananmen crackdown

Beijing, June 4: Checkpoints and rows of police vehicles lined a major road leading to Beijing's Tiananmen Square Tuesday as China heightened security on the 35th anniversary of a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests.



The crackdown became a turning point in modern Chinese history, ending a crisis in favour of Communist Party hardliners who advocated for control instead of political reforms.

The economy boomed in the ensuing decades, turning a once impoverished country into the world's second largest economy, but societal controls have been tightened since party leader Xi Jinping came to power in 2012.

Across China, the event remains a sensitive and taboo subject that is heavily censored, and any mention or reference on social media is erased.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)
1st Floor, G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SARABAHAL ROAD BRANCH, JHARSUGUDA / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrowers: M/s. Maa Tarini Refrigeration, Prop: Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Sri Dukhbandhu Sahu / Guarantor: Mrs. Biswajeeta Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu, Both are residing at: Sarbahal, Near Nice Computer Center, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Odisha, PIN-768021	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land having Khata No.: 1212/6127, Plot No.: 5797/11587, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Jharsuguda Town Unit-5, Tahasil/P.S.: Jharsuguda, Tahasil No.: 212, P.S. No.: 15, Dist.: Jharsuguda, in the name of Mrs. Biswajeeta Pradhan and Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 5797, South: 20ft wide Road, East: Plot No.: 5797, West: 16 ft wide Road	30.12.2023 / 30.05.2024	₹8,50,223.87 as on 29.05.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Sambalpur
Date: 04.06.2024

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

Ireland challenge awaits India

MEN IN BLUE LOOK TO END ICC TITLE DROUGHT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE

AGENCIES

New York, June 4: Critics may call them 'old wine in new bottle' keeping in mind that the Indian cricket team have failed to win a single ICC tournament in over a decade. The players will certainly want to end that dry run when they begin their campaign in the T20 World Cup here Wednesday at the Nassau County stadium here.

The team know that they are a touch undercooked with a lot of confusion still persisting about what could be the best combination on a drop-in virgin strip. As is clear from the games so far played at the venue, scoring won't be a walk in the park like it was during the Indian Premier League (IPL) the last couple of months.

India have again got the 'favourite' tag along with Australia and England. The bigger question however, is whether they will be able to live up to that tag and make it count.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have individually laid their hands on global silverware but an assortment of 'some other' 'once in generation' cricketers, including Jasprit Bumrah and



Indian players warm-up ahead of their training session Tuesday PTI PHOTO

Ravindra Jadeja, have not and they would be eager to finally lift one.

The most poignant sight of last year's ODI World Cup was a forlorn Rohit, after the final, desperately trying to hide his welled-up eyes from the TV cameras as he quietly climbed the steps of the Narendra Modi Stadium dressing room. The whole nation probably cried with him.

"The first match is always difficult, so we are aware of that. We cannot take any opponent lightly"

ROHIT SHARMA

There was also Kohli, who after scoring those 765 invaluable runs, could only get a fleeting blank gaze towards the podium where the trophy was kept.

The best players sometimes don't add up to become the best team. While India have put faith in their most experienced lot, it can't be simply forgotten that this current batch have faltered at the final two hurdles way too many times.

A very gutsy Irish team with some quality T20 players like Paul Stirling, Josh Little, Harry Tector and Andy Balbirnie await India in the lung-opener. The T20 format gives them the chance to challenge, something they couldn't have done so in the other formats of the game. The slow track will favour their bowlers, especially left-arm spinner George Dockrell, against Indian batters who like the ball coming on to the bat.

Where India hold the advantage is their spinners who are way better compared to what the Irish team have though the pace attack, aside from Bumrah, looks a bit weak in absence of the redoubtable Mohammed Shami.

Rishabh Pant's batting at No.3 in the practice game was like a breath of fresh air and Hardik Pandya's bowling form will indicate how India fare in this competition.

At the Cantiague Park nets Monday, Pandya spent considerable time bowling to Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav and Rohit. If he can bowl at least three overs every day, the Indian team can also look to play Shivam Dube and include an extra spinner in the line-up.

Enjoyed every moment: Dravid

Indian head coach looks back and praises team for consistency

AGENCIES

New York, June 3: India head coach Rahul Dravid defended Monday the performances of the Indian team for their consistency during his tenure and once more asserted that the T20 World Cup will definitely be his last with the national side. India lost the World Test Championships (WTC) final and ODI World Cup final to Australia last year, extending their title drought on the global stage. India's last ICC title came in 2013.

"To be very honest with you, I think we've actually played really well in these World Cup tournaments. We've been very consistent," said Dravid when asked if the past defeats have made the players better prepared for this event.

"We made the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in 2022 in Australia. We played consistently well in the whole cycle to reach the WTC final. In the 50-over World Cup we had a great run and only had a bad day in the final. In terms of our consistency and quality of cricket that we have played in these big tournaments, we've been right up there with some of the best teams. Hopefully we can maintain the same level of consistency and go all the way this time," Dravid stated.



"I don't think we have played badly, we have been consistent to reach the finals of a number of tournaments,"
RAHUL DRAVID

"The important thing is when you start these tournaments is not to think about those. One has to think about getting into winning positions as a group and then push for glory," Dravid added.

Dravid, who took charge of the team in November 2021, also stated he enjoyed every bit of his coaching tenure.

"Every tournament, every game that I've coached India has been very important for me. So for me this is no different just because it is going to be the last one that I'm in charge of," Dravid said.

"I love doing the job. I've really enjoyed coaching India and I think it's a truly special job to do. I enjoyed working with this team

and it's a great bunch of boys to work with, but unfortunately just the kind of schedules and where I find myself in the stage in my life, I don't think I'll be able to reapply," Dravid added.

The head coach also kept his cards close to his chest when asked about India's opening combination for the tournament opener against Ireland. Rohit Sharma is expected to open alongside Virat Kohli but Yashasvi Jaiswal is also an option.

"We've got options, so we are obviously not going to reveal our cards just yet. We have Rohit and Jaiswal and Virat opened in the IPL as well. We picked the team keeping in mind that we have three options and we could pick and choose what we wanted depending on the conditions," said Dravid.

Players ready to give 100% in tie for Chhetri: Sahal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 4: The Indian team are confident they can give 'more than 100 per cent' in Sunil Chhetri's farewell match against Kuwait here Thursday, attacking midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad said Tuesday.

"We are looking forward to the game. We have that feeling we will fight for him (Chhetri), like we always do. He's also ready to give his 100 per cent and we should also do the same," Sahal told the media on the sidelines of their training session at the National Centre of Excellence.

The match will mark the end of a glittering 19-year-old international career of India's football torchbearer Chhetri who, with 94 goals from 150 matches, is the third leading active goalscorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

"From day one, he (Chhetri) has been my inspiration. It's been great to play with him and share the dressing room with him," said the 31-year-old Sahal.

"On my first day with the national team, he put his hand on my back and said, 'This is a jersey everyone desires to wear'. I still vividly remember and cherish the moment," recalled Sahal.

The mercurial midfielder, rated highly by coach Igor Stimac, has had an injury-ridden season, first an ankle issue against Odisha FC and then a pulled hamstring that had ruled him out of the home-and-away fixtures against Afghanistan.

"I am very excited to be back, fully fit, and can't wait to play in front of the fans. It's always an honour to play for the national team," he said.

Injured Djokovic pulls out of French Open

SERBIAN ALL SET TO LOSE WORLD NO.1 RANKING NEXT WEEK



A physical trainer attends to Novak Djokovic after he injured his knee at Roland Garros Monday AP PHOTO

AGENCIES

Paris, June 4: Novak Djokovic withdrew from the French Open with an injured knee Tuesday, ending his title defence. It will also mean that he will lose his No.1 ranking next week.

Organisers of the tournament announced the news. They said Djokovic has a torn medial meniscus in his right knee. The extent of the injury was found during an MRI exam a day after Djokovic was hurt during a fourth round victory against No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo in a match that lasted five sets spread across more than 4 1/2 hours.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion

was supposed to face No. 7 Casper Ruud, the runner-up each of the past two years at Roland Garros, in the quarterfinals Wednesday. Instead, Ruud gets a walkover into the semifinals, where he will face No. 4 Alexander Zverev or No. 11 Alex de Minaur.

With Djokovic, the owner of three French Open titles, gone from the bracket, and Rafael Nadal — owner of a record 14 — eliminated in the first round, someone else will be holding the French Open men's trophy for the first time Sunday.

The group of remaining contenders includes current No. 2 Jannik Sinner, a 22-year-old

Italian who defeated No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) Tuesday to reach the semifinals and now is assured of replacing Djokovic atop the ATP rankings next week. Sinner won the Australian Open in January and is the first man from his country to reach No. 1.

"Seeing Novak (injured) is, for everyone, disappointing," Sinner said. "I wish him a speedy recovery, the Italian added.

Amid a season in which Djokovic is only 18-6 and has not reached a final at any tournament, let alone winning one, he needed to get back to the title match at the French Open to continue to add to his record for most weeks at No. 1.

Mixed day for Indian shuttlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 4: Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen and compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat entered the men's singles second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament with straight-game wins over their respective rivals here Tuesday. While Lakshya took just 40 minutes to get the better of Japan's Kenta Tsuneyama 21-12, 21-17 in an opening-round clash, Rajawat beat former World No.1 HS Prannoy 21-17, 21-12 in an all-Indian contest.

Lakshya will next be up against Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, who stunned seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia 17-21, 21-11, 21-8 in another opening-round match. Rajawat will take on eighth seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand next.

However, it was curtains for Kiran George in the men's singles event, but not before giving a tough fight to Hong Yang Weng of China 21-11, 10-21, 20-22.

The Indian women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand tasted success in the opening round, beating Chinese Taipei's Yu-Pei Cheng and Yu Hsing Sun 21-15, 21-11.

In mixed doubles the pair of B Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy had to battle hard before prevailing 18-21, 21-16, 21-17 over the American pair of Vinson Chiu and Jennie Gai in the opening round.

But a Herculean task awaits the Indian pair as they will take on the winners of the match between top seeds Si Wei Zheng and Ya Qiong Huang of China and Indonesian combination of Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati in the next round.

Afghans decimate Uganda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Providence (Guyana), June 4: Afghanistan pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi (5/9) produced a fiery spell after Rahmanullah Gurbaz (76, 45b, 4x4, 4x6) and Ibrahim Zadran's (70, 46b, 9x4, 1x6) solid opening partnership to begin their T20 World Cup campaign with a comprehensive 125-run victory over debutants Uganda here.

Gurbaz and his partner Zadran struck fluent half centuries to register the second highest opening partnership (154) in the men's T20 World Cup as Afghanistan posted a challenging 183/5 after being asked to bat. Left-arm pacer Farooqi then knocked the wind out of the Ugandan batting line up with his maiden five-wicket haul as the debutants were shot out for 58 in 16 overs.

"The kind of start we wanted as a team. Does not matter who

we play, it is about the mindset. The hard work we have done in the last few weeks, the way the openers started and the way our bowlers bowled — it was a great overall team effort," skipper and the country's biggest cricket icon Rashid Khan said after the match.

The skipper (2/12), who himself polished off the tail, expressed his excitement of leading the country at a global event. He was well-supported by Naveen-ul-Huq (2/4).

"I am super excited; it is a proud feeling to be leading the team in the World Cup. Enjoying it so far, and have some tough games coming up. That is the beauty of this team. We have so many options and that makes it easy as a captain," Khan stated.

Brief scores: Afghanistan 183 for 5 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 76, Ibrahim Zadran 70) beat Uganda 58 in 16 overs (Fazalhaq Farooqi 5/9) by 125 runs.



Afghanistan players congratulate Fazalhaq Farooqi (centre) after the dismissal of an Ugandan batter

Contrasting results for sportspersons

Cricketers and footballer win, but disappointment for other stars in 'Dance of Democracy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: Cricket stars Kirti Azad and Yusuf Pathan turned out to be giant-slayers, while football great Prasun Banerjee held on to his political turf but a couple of others fell by the wayside on a mixed day for India's sporting heroes who tried their luck in the general elections.

Para-athlete Devendra Jhajhariya (BJP), who has two Paralympic gold medals in javelin throw, and legendary former hockey captain Dilip Tirkey (BJD) conceded defeats in their respective seats of Churu (Rajasthan) and Sundargarh (Odisha).

But Azad and Yusuf, both fighting on Trinamool Congress (TMC) tickets, stamped their authority in the political battleground by registering upset wins.

Another sporting stalwart fighting on a TMC ticket was former football captain Banerjee, who won by 1.69 lakh votes from Howrah (West Bengal). It would



Kirti Azad (left) and Yusuf Pathan

be his third consecutive term representing the constituency in the Lok Sabha.

Azad, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning 'Kapil's Devils', made a strong political comeback beating West Bengal BJP heavyweight Dilip Ghosh from Bardhaman-Durgapur constituency. Azad defeated Ghosh by a margin of 1,37,981 votes.

Yusuf, who originally hails from Gujarat, also caused a major upset as he beat five-time Congress MP and incumbent

leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in West Bengal's Baharampur constituency by over 85,000 votes. Azad, son of former Bihar Chief Minister Bhagwat Jha Azad, played seven Test matches and 25 ODIs for India between 1980 and 1986.

Azad is no novice to Indian politics. He was elected to Parliament for the first time from Darbhanga in Bihar in 1999. He again represented the constituency in 2009 and 2014.

Boppana selects Balaji as partner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: World No. 4 Rohan Boppana has picked N Sriram Balaji, who impressed with his performance at the French Open, as his partner for the Paris Olympics and the All India Tennis Association (AITA) is unlikely to have any objection to the choice made by the veteran player.

The 44-year-old Boppana wrote Tuesday to the AITA and also marked 'TOPS' in the mail, conveying his decision. This development was confirmed by the national federation.

Balaji and his Mexican partner MA Reyes-Varela Martinez had tested the formidable combo of Boppana and Australia's Matthew Ebden before losing the men's doubles third round Monday.

"I have sent an email to AITA," Boppana told this agency from Paris. He added that he will comment on his choice only after hearing back from the national federation.

Gauff sets up Swiatek date

AGENCIES

Paris, June 4: Coco Gauff made a strong comeback to defeat Ons Jabeur 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 at the French Open tennis tournament here Tuesday to reach the semifinals at a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament. She will meet top seed Iga Swiatek who cruised past Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-2 in a match that just less than an hour. The 20-year-old American Gauff is seeded No. 3 at Roland Garros, where she was the runner-up to Iga Swiatek in 2022.

Jabeur's mix of speeds and spins gave Gauff fits at times. And as well-known as Gauff is for her ability to cover the court and play defence, Jabeur managed to keep coming up with winners, finishing with 30 in all.

"She was playing really well the whole match. She was hitting a lot of winners, which is something I'm not used to against anybody," Gauff said in an on-court interview after the match. "I was just trying to just be ag-



Coco Gauff is all pumped up after her win over Ons Jabeur at the French Open Tuesday

gressive toward the end," she added. Gauff pulled away to a 5-

2 lead in the last set, then needed a trio of match points to close things out. In a late night match played Monday, Alexander Zverev battled into a fifth set to survive and advance to the quarterfinals. The match which started Monday night turned Tuesday morning on Court Philippe-Chatrier as the German came from behind for a 4-6, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 victory against Holger Rune. This is the sixth time that Zverev reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros.

While Zverev executed a gameplan anchored by his heavy and consistent ground game, Rune mixed up his tactics throughout the match. The Dane flummoxed his German opponent at times with varied shot selection. However, in the end it was not enough.

Next up for Zverev is Alex de Minaur who upset fifth seed Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 earlier Monday. Zverev leads their head-to-head 7-2, including a three-set win in Indian Wells earlier this season.