



Congress has racist mentality: PM on Pitroda's remark on ethnicity

(Agency) Stepping up his attack on Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the party and its leader Rahul Gandhi of resorting to racism citing the party's overseas leader Sam Pitroda's remark on the diverse ethnic backgrounds of Indians.

Drawing a parallel between South Indians with Africans and North East Indians with Chinese during an exclusive interview with The Statesman, Pitroda triggered a fresh controversy. He had said, "We could hold a country together as diverse as India, where people on the east look like Chinese, people on the West look like Arab, people on the North look like white and may be people on the South look like Africans."

Taking a cue from Pitroda's unsavoury comment on the racial backgrounds of the people of India, Mr Modi said Congress' opposition to Draupadi Murmu's candidature for the post of president stemmed from its racist mentality.

The prime minister, who is on a whirlwind election tour in Telangana, addressed back-to-back two public meetings on Wednesday, one in Karimnagar, and another in Warangal.

Speaking at the election rally in Warangal, Mr Modi took on Rahul Gandhi, who he referred to as

'Shahzade', saying, "I am colour, they thought very angry today... Today, Draupadi Murmu was also



the Shahzada's philosopher resorted to such a huge abuse (of Indians) that it angered me. Tell me, are you going to judge a person on the basis of his calibre or his skin colour? Who permitted the Shahzada to indulge in this game of skin colour?"

He said those who dance with the Constitution on their head "are insulting my countrymen based on their skin colour". "Shahzade, you must reply. My country will not tolerate this kind of insult based on complexion. Neither will Modi," he thundered.

Referring to Pitroda as Rahul's philosopher and guide, Mr Modi said, "He (Pitroda) said those with dark skin are from Africa. That means based on skin colour they have abused so many people in the country. I read it's based on skin

an African. So, they thought she should be defeated as she was dark skinned... Whatever may be the complexion, we are the people who worship Sri Krishna who is just like us."

Accusing Congress of clandestine deals with businessmen like Ambani and Adani, he said, "The moment elections were announced, these people (the Opposition) stopped abusing Ambani-Adani. Now, I would like to ask from the land of Telangana let the Shahzada announce how much (money) they have extorted from Ambani-Adani? How many sacks filled with black money did you get? How many tempos laden with cash did you receive? What deals have you made to stop abusing Ambani-Adani," he asked.

Likening Congress and

the BRS to two sides of a coin, he said since both of them are linked to the same "corruption syndicate" when BRS was in power, it did not investigate the cash-for-vote case just as Congress refrained from probing the Kaleshwaram scam of the BRS.

He also accused Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of extorting money from Telangana and sending it to Delhi. "Double 'R' has left the hit movie 'RRR' far behind in terms of collections. One 'R' loots Telangana, and then passes it on to the other 'R' in Delhi. The game of the double 'R' will soon ruin Telangana," Mr Modi alleged.

Alleging that the BRS and Congress handed over Hyderabad to the AIMIM on a lease, he said Congress should be wiped out from Telangana so that the Ram Mandir could be protected (against their sectarian politics).

The prime minister, who had an overnight stay at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad, met the family of former PV Narasimha Rao. At the rally in Karimnagar, he recounted how the Congress party meted out to the former prime minister with a raw deal. He said the grand old party did so because of its policy of family first.

It is the BJP and NDA that honoured the late prime minister with Bharat Ratna, he added

Opposition defaming BJP with false propaganda on reservations: Shah

(Agency) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday accused the Congress-SP-BSP combine of defaming the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi by advocating false propoganda on reservations.

"They are saying that if you give 400 seats to Modi, reservations will go away. The Congress got a majority in Karnataka, there reservation for backward classes was cut and 5 per cent quota was given to Muslims," he claimed.

Addressing an election rally here, he sought votes in favour of BJP candidate and Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni. Teni had opposed the farmers' agitation against the now-scraped central farm laws.

Targeting the opposition, Shah accused Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ram Gopal Yadav of calling the recently-constructed Ram

temple in Ayodhya "useless".

"If people make even the

Attacking the Congress, he said Rahul Gandhi had professed to eradicate



slightest mistake, they will lock the Ram temple in the name of Babri," he cautioned the voters.

The minister said during the SP regime in Uttar Pradesh, hooliganism was at its peak and land was encroached upon. There was no electricity on Holi and Diwali, but round-the-clock power during Ramzan, he said.

poverty in one stroke.

"Your grandmother (Indira Gandhi) imposed Emergency in one stroke. Father (Rajiv Gandhi) introduced 'triple talaq' in one fell swoop. Your party snatched away the reservation of backward classes in one fell swoop. Is this the way to end poverty?" he asked.

On the opposition

alliance, Shah said they do not even have a candidate for the post of prime minister. "They have neither a leader, mission nor policy. It is just dynastic politics," he said.

The home minister claimed with the completion of three phases of voting in the ongoing general election, Modi has crossed 190 seats.

"Moving forward more strongly in the fourth phase. The SP, Congress and the BSP have been wiped out. This election is to make Modi the prime minister for the third time. This is the election to make 3 crore poor sisters millionaires. The election is to give houses to 4 lakh poor people. It is a choice to make people prosperous," he added.

Shah is slated to address election meetings in Hardoi and Kannauj later in the day.

May Pass Interim Order On Kejriwal's Bail Plea On Friday: SC

(Agency) The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that it may pass an interim order on bail plea in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday.

"As far as interim order etc. is concerned, we may pass that order on Friday," Live Law quoted Justice Khanna as telling ASG SV Raju, who appeared for the Enforcement Directorate.

It comes a day after Kejriwal failed to get any relief from the apex court, with a two-judge bench rising without pronouncing an order granting him interim bail to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

The bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said it doesn't want Arvind Kejriwal to discharge his official duties if he is released on interim bail as it would lead to a conflict of interest.

Delhi LG Recommends NIA Probe Into Alleged Khalistan Funding Of AAP:

Kejriwal Under Scrutiny Delhi LG Recommends NIA Probe Into Alleged Khalistan

ment," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal. Representing the



Funding Of AAP: Kejriwal Under Scrutiny

"Suppose we grant you interim bail on account of elections. Then if you say you will attend office, it may have a cascading effect. If we give you interim bail, we don't want you to perform official duties as somewhere it will lead to conflict of interest. We don't want your interference at all in the working of the govern-

Enforcement Directorate, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta strongly objected to any suggestion of leniency towards Kejriwal due to the Lok Sabha elections. He argued that granting interim bail to the AAP national convenor would establish a distinct category for politicians.

The bench said, "We are not going by whether it is a case of a politician or not a

politician. Every particular individual involved has some special or exceptional case or circumstances. We are only considering whether this case requires an exception or if the person involved is in that exceptional circumstance, given the fact that elections are round the corner, that's all." "Please do not take it that we are saying that there's a different law followed for politicians," it added.

In Absence Of Arvind Kejriwal, Sunita Kejriwal To Lead AAP's Poll Campaign In Absence Of Arvind Kejriwal, Sunita Kejriwal To Lead AAP's Poll Campaign

The case relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now-scraped excise policy for 2021-22.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was arrested on March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar Jail under judicial custody.

Sam Pitroda Steps Down As Indian Overseas Congress Chairman, Congress Accepts It

The decision for Sam Pitroda to step down as the chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress has been accepted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, as announced by party general secretary Jairam Ramesh, noting that the decision was made voluntarily by Sam Pitroda himself.

The decision to step down came in the wake of a significant political controversy ignited by Sam Pitroda's racist comment about the physical appearance of Indians from different regions during the ongoing Lok Sabha election. This remark drew condemnation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sam Pitroda, who currently resides in the United States, previously served as an advisor to Rajiv

Gandhi during his tenure as prime minister. Following the UPA's victory in the 2004 election, Pitroda was invited by then-Prime



Minister Manmohan Singh to lead the National Knowledge Commission of India. Subsequently, in 2009, he assumed the role of advisor to Manmohan Singh on public information infrastructure.

During an interview,

Sam Pitroda ignited controversy by discussing the unity of Indians over the past 75 years and attributing it to the Congress

Hindustan Times. Following Sam Pitroda's remarks, Congress swiftly condemned his comments as unfortunate and unacceptable. Jairam Ramesh, a prominent party leader, explicitly stated that the analogies used by Pitroda to illustrate India's diversity were inappropriate and did not align with the party's principles. The Congress party distanced itself from Pitroda's statements, emphasizing a commitment to respect all aspects of India's diverse culture and heritage.

Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, Ramesh wrote, "Mr. Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress of his own accord. The Congress President has accepted his decision."

the constituency are once again ready for its leadership. Chief Mallikarjun Kharge Writes To Opposition Leaders On 'Discrepancies' In Polling Data Shared By EC Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge Writes To Opposition Leaders On 'Discrepancies' In Polling Data Shared By EC

As part of the poll campaign, Priyanka Gandhi is scheduled to attend street meetings at Maharajan, Halor, Bhawanigarh, Goodha, Tilenda, Inchauli and Sudauli --all in Bachhrawan assembly constituency of Rae Bareilly. The BJP has fielded its minister Dinesh Pratap Singh from the seat.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Priyanka Gandhi Says Entire BJP Trying To Spread Lies Against Rahul Gandhi

(Agency) Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday charged that the entire BJP machinery is engaged in spreading lies against Rahul Gandhi. Slamming the BJP, she also said that it talks about religion, caste and temple-mosque but not about real issues concerning the people.

Campaigning for her brother Rahul Gandhi from the family bastion, she said the people of Rae Bareilly understand leaders well. "When they did not like some policy of Indiraji (Indira Gandhi) they defeated her also. Indira did not get angry but did introspection. You elected her again. It is a speciality



ing at Thulwasa in the constituency.

She said the BJP wanted to change the Constitution but when it

realised they would have to suffer losses in the election, the prime minister said they had no such plans. Earlier

in a post on X, she said her party's 100-year-old relationship with the people of Rae Bareilly has entered a new era and the people of

allegation regarding the Pune District Central Cooperative Bank (PDCC) in Bhor, urging for a check of CCTV footage and facts.

Amid these accusations, Pune police registered a non-cognisable offence against five individuals linked to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP for allegedly distributing cash to voters in Bhor town ahead of polling. Additionally, a case was registered against the manager of PDCC for keeping the bank open until midnight on Monday, just before polling day, raising suspicions under the model code of conduct.

This electoral controversy has cast a spotlight on Baramati, a constituency with deep political significance due to its association with the Pawar family. With both factions of the NCP trading accusations, the Election Commission and law enforcement agencies are now tasked with investigating these claims to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Over 200 Complaints Filed by NCP (SP) Against Ajit Pawar's Party for Election Malpractices

(Agency) In a significant development amid the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Sharadchandra Pawar has filed over 200 complaints against the faction headed by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. The complaints, lodged in the Baramati constituency, accuse the latter group of engaging in malpractices such as distributing cash to voters and intimidating them. This controversy has erupted in a region that is considered the stronghold of the Pawar family, with Sharad Pawar himself having represented Baramati multiple times and his daughter Supriya Sule currently serving as the MP since 2009.

Rohit Pawar, an MLA from the Sharad Pawar faction, highlighted these allegations through a social media post featuring a video of Indapur MLA Dattatray Bhatne from the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. The video allegedly shows Bhatne verbally

abusing and threatening polling booth workers. The Sharad Pawar faction has taken this matter to the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing



complaints from NCP SP, including allegations of cash distribution and voter intimidation.

In response to these allegations, Ajit Pawar dismissed the claims made by Rohit Pawar's faction. He suggested that Rohit Pawar's adeptness at social media might be influencing these allegations. Ajit Pawar also addressed a specific

plaints related to cash distribution and voter intimidation. Kavita Dwivedi, the returning officer for Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, confirmed receiving several

complaints from NCP SP, including allegations of cash distribution and voter intimidation. Kavita Dwivedi, the returning officer for Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, confirmed receiving several

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Editorial

HIGHER EDUCATION

While the terms 'mass or universal elementary education' and 'higher education' have been in global vogue for about the preceding three centuries, 'mass higher education' is new and certainly a post-WWII idea.

To illustrate: global Gross-Tertiary-Enrolment Ratio was 10.1 per cent in 1972 and now it is much above 40 and increasing by one per cent per year ~ popularly described as its 'massification'. Apparently, this phenomenon appears pretty welcome, and few bother about its origins, evolution or wider ramifications.

But it is high time that these latter questions are systematically investigated and evaluated at least in view of the contemporary phenomenon of declining global standards and quality of higher education/learning. During WWII itself, the UK's (coalition) government planned for an ambitious programme of post-war 'social reconstruction' in which education would play an important part by achieving social equality through a 'better system of education' available equally to all, irrespective of means. This marked an innately contradictory emphasis in favour of wider participation in higher education (HE) for achieving 'social equality', albeit within a fiercely capitalist framework/ system which inherently breeds economic inequality.

During this period, the USA too embarked on a rapid expansion of HE with the aim of augmenting the production of scientific knowledge, skills and personnel, albeit with a strong synergy with private industry/capitalists. Thus, even during WWII there was a 'call' in the capitalist bloc for breaking away from what they sarcastically called the 'elitist' structure of traditional HE/university. And in its immediate aftermath a rapid public-funded expansion of colleges, universities and other research institutes had taken place in these two influential countries purportedly for augmenting the pool of scientific talent as well as social equality within academically 'able' youth of all sections of population, ability being judged in terms of secondary school scores obtained.

After the invention of the notion of 'human capital' in the early 1960s, a newly evolved academic branch named 'Economics of Education' flourished briskly in terms of theoretical and empirical research funded lavishly by massive benefaction of giant corporate funding organisations as well as major multilateral agencies including UNESCO, World Bank and OECD. This research with its seductive elegance redefines HE as a private commodity mainly in the form of skills, information, and knowhow that could be manufactured by both private and public investments in building up educational institutions which thereby constitute a fiercely growing competitive industry.

And it also posits with impeccable precision of exposition that rapid expansion of HE in the contemporary context of vigorous technological innovations not only drives economic prosperity, both at macro and micro levels, but it is absolutely necessary for keeping up national and international competitiveness. Thus, a concertedly touted idea of acute necessity for rapid expansion of HE became a new mantra for achieving heavily popularised bliss called 'economic growth' across the whole world. Indeed, since the early 1970s a mission of mass or universal HE as a matter of human right came to be mooted formally and popularized explicitly with enormous patronage of corporate funding bodies as well as multilateral agencies initially in Western countries followed sooner or later by the entire developing world.

In feeding into this popularly cherished expansion and privatisation of HE reinforced by rights-based campaigns and affirmative actions, society cannot escape paying a heavy price in the form of steady erosion of eligibility criteria for admission to academic programmes along with drastic dilution of academic curriculum/content in diverse forms and guises, so that naturally-ordained larger mass of lower-ability/motivation students are increasingly accommodated towards making an institution/university both commercially viable/profitable and democratically sensitive to the masses' right to HE. For example, overall acceptance of applicants for admission to UK's HE institutions in 1996-2001, as per a major study, is found almost exponentially surpassing the respective estimated/ expected levels calculated by applying the initial rate of acceptance in 1966.

This clearly signifies a rapidly falling standard of entry requirements at UK universities, and thereby a lowering of overall quality/standard/talent of learning. Another significant American study reveals that despite devoting much less effort to activities directly related to learning than their counterparts of the 1960s, the students of the 1990s happen to have scored higher grades than those garnered by the older students, pointing clearly to both 'grade inflation' and increasing readiness on the part of academics for compromises with standard/ quality of higher learning. These worrisome trends are found to be valid across all institutional types ~ private or public.

With UNESCO's initiatives, an International Commission for Development of Education was established in 1970, which in its 1972 report entitled Learning to be: The world of education today and tomorrow for the first time introduced a neverthought-of-before educational paradigm called 'Lifelong Learning'. By the end of the 1970s there had been piles of official reports in many countries with a single common theme, namely 'planning for education throughout a citizen's life'.

While the world has been witnessing technological progress over at least two and half preceding centuries, the need for mass higher education has never been invoked prior to the post-war ascendancy of pro-capitalist neoliberal thinking, which ruthlessly defied the long history and tradition of educational thinking/ philosophy and rushed to radically redefine aims/goals of HE as being, in one scholar's words, "acquisition of spurious and fictitious 'skills' (such as telephone skills, communication skills, information skills and even, I believe, life skills)".

No matter the elegance/ precision of new theoretical arguments, ideas and evidence carefully harnessed in defence of mass or universal HE worldwide since WWII, business dimensions, capitalistic pecuniary interests and private corporate underpinnings of an ever-expansive market for HE degrees and diplomas evidently appear to have been inextricably linked. All this has however eventually brought in a crisis of HE globally, especially in the form of low standard/quality of higher learning resulting thereby in mounting complaints of employers in trying to find truly 'employable' persons amid plenty of degree-holders.

About Western pots and Indian kettles

Experienced diplomats and intelligence officials know that when several powerful countries target a developing country by making allegations one after the other, they are often merely trying to weaken the resistance of the country trying to act in independent ways in international affairs.

Some allegations are made directly, and some through media leaks. India has been at the receiving end of such experiences in recent times. So many charges have been made against Indian diplomats in quick succession by countries whose intelligence agencies are known to work in close collusion with each other that all signs of a coordinated effort to create problems for India and Indian diplomacy are evident.

These allegations coming from Canada, the USA, the UK and Australia suggest a concerted effort to push back Indian diplomacy at a time when India has been asserting its independent foreign policy bold-

ly. While rightly emphasizing India's many-sided strong relationship with the western world, India has kept open its options on important issues to pursue its national interests, and this has not gone down well with those Western leaders who wanted a more compliant role for India.

Hence there have been attempts in recent times by Western powers to try to put Indian diplomacy on the back foot by making allegations of an assassination today, an assassination attempt yesterday, stealing secrets the day before that, and of interference in their internal affairs earlier. India has denied these allegations, although at varying levels. In the context of one such allegation, India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar responded with a Hindi idiom 'ultra chor kotal ko daante' (the thief rebuking the police official). Experienced diplomats and intelligence officials of all countries know that clandestine work is sometimes taken up in hostile countries.

The ethical mark is set not by avoiding such work, but by ensuring that this does not harm public wel-



fare in any significant way. In fact, this may be a good time to ask leading Western powers to look inwards at their own record as in their case allegations of killing prominent leaders of other countries and subverting democratic functioning are well documented. To give just one example, the first Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Patrice Lumumba was killed by a conspiracy

hatched by Belgium and the USA, and there has been a public apology by the government of Belgium for this.

Lumumba was a leader committed to justice and unity, someone who would have prevented the plunder of vast mineral wealth of his country by Western powers and their collaborators.

So, he had to be removed. Together with killing the most popular leader from whom his people had high hopes, secessionist forces and processes were also encouraged by his killers in a country

which had just attained freedom, around 1960, after highly exploitative colonial rule. This led to a new cycle of violence, resulting in many deaths, also paving the way for the very long dictatorship of Mobutu who plundered his own country and allowed Western powers to do so, setting new records of human rights abuses and cruelty. In the 1980s, the Sandinista government in Nicaragua was attracting wide attention by achieving significant improvements in health, education, and small peasant-based farming cooperatives. Some of the development achievements it recorded could not be achieved by the Somoza dictatorship, a US client, in the previous four decades.

While the people of Nicaragua were happy and hopeful about the achievements of the new government, US agencies launched a huge campaign to harm not just the Sandinista government but also the symbols of its success such as health centres, hospitals, schools, and cooperatives. For this purpose, various right-wing groups called contras (counter revolutionaries) were mobilized, armed and trained in an operation costing several million dollars. In addition, explosions at ports, refineries and pipelines were arranged. America Watch, which subsequently became part of Human Rights Watch, accused the contras of targeting health care clinics and assassination of almost a dozen foreign leaders by US intelligence agencies like the CIA. Books on this subject have mentioned close to 40 prominent foreign leaders who are likely to have been targeted with assassination or grave harm. In the case of Fidel Castro, the most popular leader and former President of Cuba, dozens of assassination attempts were made but he survived them all. In addition, there have been several other terrorist aggressions aimed at Cuba causing immense harm.

The US War on Terror in this century has resulted, according to Brown University estimates of a peace award winning US project, in 900,000 deaths directly, and in a total of 4.5 million deaths indirectly. At the same time terrorism has become worse in several regions and several new terror groups have been formed. In fact, some of the deadliest new terrorist groups based on sectarian and fundamentalist ideologies were created because of the hostile actions of the USA and its allies in Iraq and Syria. Earlier the USA had mobilized sectarian, fanatic militants from many Islamic countries and armed them heavily with the help of Pakistan to fight the Soviet army and the communist regime in Afghanistan. Over 15,000 of these armed militants later spread violent conflict in many other countries as well, while also attacking several US and western targets.

In Libya in 2011, the USA, Britain and France armed and used such militants for regime change in very violent ways, supported by thousands of air bombing raids. These militants again later troubled and destabilized several neighboring countries. Hence it is evident that the most powerful Western countries have time and again intervened in other countries to disrupt democracies and to cause enormous human distress in other ways. It is such behavior by them that needs to be corrected. In addition, of course, ethical norms must be satisfied by all countries.

Joao Goulart. This led to a dictatorship characterized by death squads, torture, and human rights violations. Mohammad Mossadegh was a popular leader and Prime Minister of Iran, elected democratically in elections, keen to get more resources for helping his people by curbing the profits of oil multinationals.

This led to a coup by the combined agents of the USA and Britain in 1953, so that the unpopular Shah of Iran could be brought in, again for monarchical rule, suppressing the democratic aspirations of the people. While Mossadegh was jailed and many of his supporters were jailed or executed, a secret police force called SAVAK was set up and became notorious for its gruesome torture and repressive activities. In Guatemala, around the same time, a CIA-assisted coup led to the ouster of the democratically elected government of President Jacobo Arbenz that was known to be devoted to the welfare of people. This was followed by nearly four decades of military rule with its death squads, disappearances, torture, and mass executions, claiming over 150,000 victims.

The Church Committee of the US Senate had investigated the allegations relating to the assassination and attempted assassination of almost a dozen foreign leaders by US intelligence agencies like the CIA. Books on this subject have mentioned close to 40 prominent foreign leaders who are likely to have been targeted with assassination or grave harm. In the case of Fidel Castro, the most popular leader and former President of Cuba, dozens of assassination attempts were made but he survived them all. In addition, there have been several other terrorist aggressions aimed at Cuba causing immense harm.

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Western Bias

The West has never been too comfortable with India's rise. Indeed, at independence, nobody expected India to survive as a democracy.

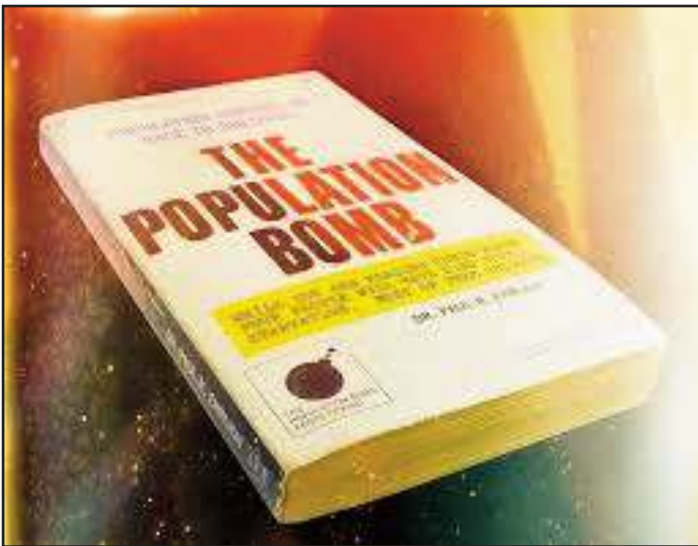
"Power will go to the hands of rascals, rogues, freebooters", the imperialist Prime Minister of Britain Winston Churchill is supposed to have remarked on the independence of India, adding "all Indian leaders will be of low calibre and men of straw." Now after leaders like Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, it is perhaps their leaders who deserve to be called "people of low calibre".

In his 1968 book "Population Bomb", the Nobel laureate Paul Ehrlich, and before him in 1967, the Paddock brothers, William and Paul, had predicted that India would splinter into anarchy and chaos over famine and food riots. The Paddock brothers in fact argued that there was no point in giving food aid to India as it would be a sheer waste ~ Indians should rather be left to their own fate. After India's third Parliamentary election, Aldous Huxley wrote, "When Nehru goes, the government will become a military dictatorship ~ as in so many of the newly independent states, for the army seems to be the only highly organised centre of power." On the eve of the 1967 elections, the Times of London ran a series of articles titled "India's disintegrating democracy".

Its Delhi correspondent, Neville Maxwell, wrote that "the great experiment of developing India within a democratic framework has failed" and that Indians would soon vote in the "fourth ~ and surely last ~ general election." India has not only survived all these dismal predictions, but has thrived and prospered. No one today calls us a "third world country or the 'Sick Man of Asia'". The West has grudgingly ceded space to India's growing heft in international affairs as champion of the global south and its economic rise within a short period of a decade under the NDA rule, which has seen India overtaking its erstwhile colonial master. India is comfortably poised to become the third largest global economy before the end of this decade.

While the West has taken note of India's achievements in space and technology benefiting millions of poor, it never misses a chance to denigrate India's rise by highlighting contrary views, especially of Indian academics positioned in American universi-

ty campuses who, for some strange reason, are also not comfortable with India's rise. Now the Western



media is turning its ire towards the Indian polity, focusing especially on the current parliamentary elections. A country practices and manages its democracy according to its own culture, values and ethos, which need not necessarily be Western.

The Western media overlooks the fact that despite its many flaws, India's democracy remains a most vibrant one, evidenced by the high participation of citizens in the electoral process which dwarfs the low participation rate in their own democracies. Some time back, the Sweden-based V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024 termed India's democracy as an "electoral autocracy". Now, in an editorial titled "The mother of democracy is not in good shape", UK's Financial Times has said that the "gap between pro-democratic rhetoric and reality is widening in India".

Citing "an intensifying clampdown on opposition parties", in particular the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal, it said "this matriarch of representative government is in ill health, with worrying implications for the coming polls and what may follow." Most Western media have highlighted Mr. Kejriwal's arrest. Only the courts will decide whether the arrest was justified or not. But the Western media has universally highlighted the arrest as a sure indicator of India's regression from democratic principles, while the string of cases filed against Donald Trump in US courts in its election year are just upholding the "rule of law" and letting the law take its own course in a proper democracy! "A desire to woo India has often led western democracies to hold their tongue over democratic backsliding", the Financial Times continued and advised Western governments to be more robust

in criticizing India, since "preserving political freedoms is in the best interests of Indian growth and pro-

public will. This may be the tyranny of the majority, but it's also something that enjoys a public mandate." Aijaz Hussain and Sheikh Saaliq wrote in the Washington Post, "A decade into power, and on the cusp of securing five more years, the Modi government is reversing India's decadeslong commitment to multiparty democracy and secularism." All of India's institutions are suspect in their eyes, "civil liberties are under attack. Peaceful protests have been crushed with force. A once-free and diverse press is threatened. Violence is on the rise against the Muslim minority. And the country's judiciary increasingly aligns with the executive branch." Every democracy has its flaws. But one wonders whether the Western media would have been so critical of India's democracy and its electoral process if the opinion polls did not predict such an emphatic victory for the BJP alliance. They are apparently buying the Opposition campaign about 'democracy in danger'. After the collapse of the Soviet empire, when Francis Fukuyama wrote his essay "End of History" claiming that the Western political, economic, and social systems constituted the culmination of humanity's sociocultural evolution, the West expected all countries to follow their unique model.

To measure this convergence, they then started devising a series of arbitrary indexes on liberty, human rights, freedom of religion and even human happiness, styled on their values. That is how they wanted to keep their control in a multipolar, post-colonial world. When countries like China and India started charting their own independent paths by defying their values, they started vilifying them. Now with low population, low productivity and the prospect of a wider economic recession, the West is facing an uncertain future, while India is rising. A rising India, like a rising China, refuses to buy the Western model of development and Western values. It is now becoming increasingly assertive, if not confrontational and combative, almost adopting China's wolf-warrior diplomatic approach. The West wants India's democracy to be under its continuous vigilance and control, and whichever alliance comes to power after the elections will be most unlikely to allow it.

(Agency)

RAILWAYS WITHDRAWS THE OUTER LIMIT OF GEO-FENCING RESTRICTIONS ON UTS MOBILE APP

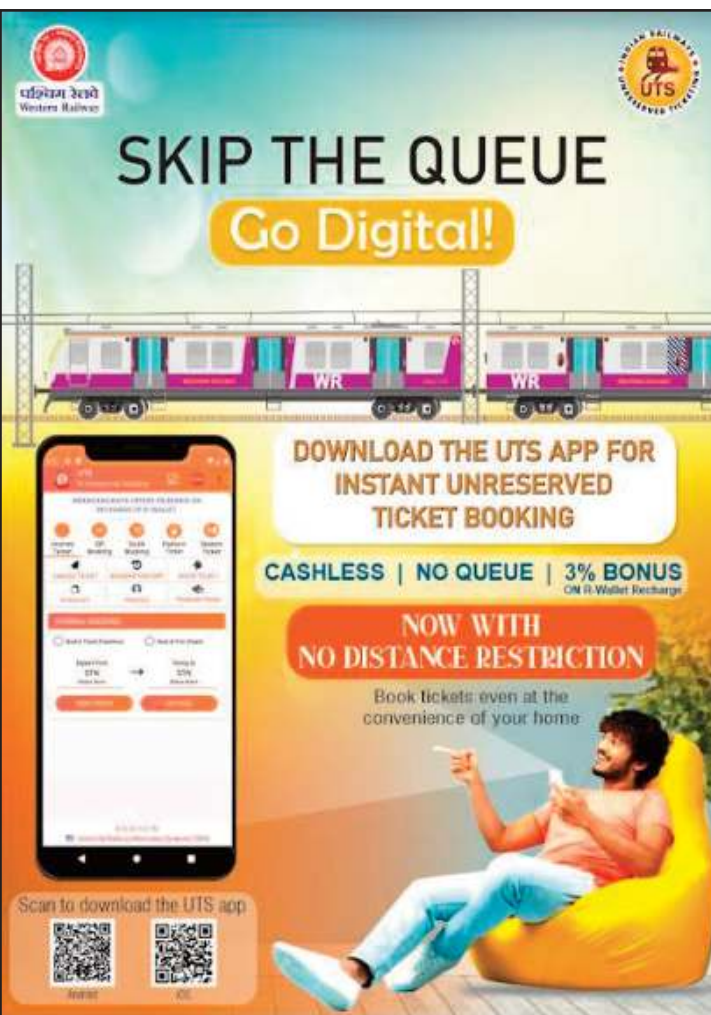
Now book UTS Tickets from the convenience of Home

A major boost & impetus to 'Digital India' Initiative

Mumbai, The UTS on Mobile App is available across non-suburban as well as suburban section of Western Railway. This mode of ticketing has become a hit amongst the rail passengers with more & more people switching to Mobile App which is reflected in the impressive increase in the ticket sales from the App. In a bid to further enhance passenger convenience and make the process of booking tickets easier for the passengers, Indian Railways has now withdrawn outer limit of geo-fencing restrictions on UTS on Mobile App. This is part of the digitalization initiative with a view to promote three C's - Contact less ticketing, Cashless transaction and Customer convenience & experience while booking tickets.

According to a press release issued by Shri Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the main objective of introducing UTS on Mobile App is to encourage digital ticketing

mode, to promote self-ticketing and to ensure that fencing restrictions on UTS on Mobile App. After the commuters need to board train at suburban source station within one hour of booking tickets and in case of non-suburban trains within three hours. Commuters will be unable to book tickets via the app inside the station. One of the additional advantages of using the UTS on Mobile App is that, passengers will receive a 3% bonus on R-Wallet recharge.



passengers can buy tickets without facing the ordeal of queues. Recently, Railways have modified the distance restriction and now withdrawn outer limit of geo-

fencing, commuters can now book tickets from any location to any destination, from the convenience of their home. However,

Although the Congress has the backing of three independents now, it cannot form the government as it still falls short of 13 MLAs.

BJP Govt In Haryana Faces Trouble As 3 MLAs Withdraw Support: How Numbers Stack Up

(Agency) The BJP government in Haryana is in trouble after three independent MLAs withdrew their support to the ruling party. They have now extended support to the Congress, reducing the

Nayab Singh Saini government to a minority in the state assembly.

Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan from Dadri, Randhir Singh Gollen from Pundri, and Dharampal Gonder from Nilokheri declared their stance at a press briefing in Rohtak. This announcement was made in the presence of Leader of the Opposition Bhopinder Singh Hooda and State Congress Chief Uday Bhan.

Chief Minister of Haryana Nayab Singh Saini said, "The government should resign. President's rule should be imposed in the state and elections held. This is an anti-people government," Hooda said.

JJP Calls For Haryana Government Shake-Up

Amid BJP Alliance Challenges JJP Calls For Haryana Government Shake-Up Amid BJP Alliance Challenges Why the three MLAs



have withdrawn the support?

Gonder said this decision was made due to various issues, including those concerning farmers, inflation, and unemployment.

How do numbers stack up?

In the 90-member assembly, the BJP has 40 MLAs and the magic number is 46. However, the current strength of the assembly

bly is 88. So, the BJP requires two more MLAs to rule the state for six more months as the state polls are scheduled to be held in October.

3 Independent MLAs Withdraw Support To Nayab Saini Govt In Haryana

Despite the Congress gaining support from the three Independent MLAs, their total reaches 33, still falling short by 9 MLAs to independently form a government.

BJP: 40 Congress: 30 JJP: 10 Independents: 9

In this scenario, it becomes the governor's duty to invite the leader of the largest single party, presently the BJP, to form a government within a 10-day timeframe. If the ruling party fails to secure a majority, the governor will dissolve the government, triggering new elections.

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan Faces Assault Charges After Petrol Pump Dispute

(Agency) Noida Police have initiated legal action against Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi MLA Amanatullah Khan and his son, following allegations of assault and criminal intimidation. This incident reportedly occurred at a filling station in Sector 95, Noida, where Khan's son is accused of assaulting and threatening the station's employees after a dispute over queue jumping.

The First Information Report (FIR) was filed based on a complaint from a filling station employee. The complaint details that Khan's son, Anas Ahmed, demanded to be served out of turn, leading to a physical altercation. Despite Khan's claims of being unfairly targeted by the police and asserting that the incident has been misrepresented, the FIR includes charges against

him, his son, and unidentified individuals. Additional DCP of Noida, Manish Kumar Mishra, confirmed that the FIR was



registered at the Phase 1 police station. The charges laid out in the FIR encompass voluntarily causing hurt, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, criminal intimidation, and mischief under various sections of the Indian Penal

Code (IPC). Khan defended his son by stating that he was on his way to an examination and was mistreated by the

The complainant, Vinod Kumar Singh, provided a detailed account of the events leading to the altercation. According to Singh, Khan's son arrived at the station at 9:27 am, demanding priority service. The situation escalated when he began to physically assault a salesman and vandalize property, including breaking a card machine.

Following the incident, it is alleged that Khan's son returned to the scene to further threaten the employees and boasted about his ability to shut down their operation. Khan himself is accused of arriving later and intimidating the station manager with threats of violence.

As investigations continue, authorities are examining CCTV footage and gathering evidence to proceed with legal actions based on the serious allegations made in the FIR.

AstraZeneca Initiates Covid-19 Vaccine Withdrawal Worldwide

(Agency) Days after AstraZeneca accepted in court that it's COVID-19 vaccine has some adverse effects, the British pharmaceutical company has started the global withdrawal.

Using the formula of developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, the Serum Institute of India (SII) produced the vaccine in India naming it as the Covishield. According to the reports, the company has initiated to revoke the marketing authorizations for the vaccine Vaxzevria across Europe citing that "updated vaccines" options now available.

"As multiple, variant COVID-19 vaccines have since been developed there is a surplus of available updated vaccines," the Telegraph quoted the com-

pany. The company noted a decline in demand for Vaxzevria, after which, it stopped manufacturing or supplying of the vaccine.

document recognizes that in extremely rare instances, the vaccine may result in a condition known as TTS (Thrombosis with

AstraZeneca Reaffirms Commitment To Patient Safety Amid Covid-19 Vaccine Concerns

Concerns AstraZeneca Reaffirms Commitment To Patient Safety Amid Covid-19 Vaccine Concerns

"It is admitted that the AZ vaccine can, in very rare cases, cause TTS. The causal mechanism is not known...Further, TTS can also occur in the absence of the AZ vaccine (or any vaccine). Causation in any individual case will be a matter for expert evidence," AstraZeneca said.

The company acknowledged the possibility of a rare side effect linked to its COVID-19 vaccine in its statement, which hit the panic button worldwide, as the recent information was contradicting to company's 2023 statement related to Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).



AstraZeneca Initiates Covid-19 Vaccine Withdrawal Worldwide

As per media reports, the Anglo-Swedish pharmaceutical company has acknowledged in court documents that its vaccine can lead to side effects. The

Thrombocytopenia Syndrome). This serious condition involves the formation of blood clots along with a decrease in platelet levels. These blood clots can manifest in various parts of the body, including the brain and abdomen.

Madhya Pradesh Fire: Bus Carrying EVMs Catches Fire, 4 Machines Damaged, Election Officials Escape Safely

Madhya Pradesh Fire: In a shocking incident in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, a bus carrying election officials and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) caught fire, according to the reports. Fortunately, all election officials escaped the bus timely and no one got injured. However, some EVMs that recorded responses from people of many polling booths were damaged in the fire incident.

Narendra Suryavanshi, District Collector, Betul, confirmed the reports and told the media that the incident happened near Gola village on May 7 at around 11 pm. He added that EVMs from booth

number 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, and 280 were being carried by the election

consideration and re-polling is likely to take place at the booths affected.



officers, and out of six, four were damaged in the fire incident.

The collector added that he will forward the report to the state Election Commission for

A spark inside the electric panel of the bus has been discovered as the reason behind the fire.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Phase 3 Polling In the third phase of

polling on May 7, Betul Lok Sabha seat saw a significant turnout of 72.65%. Across the nine Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh, provisional figures indicate a combined turnout of 66.05%, according to the Election Commission.

Among the 127 candidates contesting were notable figures such as Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with former chief ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan of BJP and Digvijaya Singh of Congress. The polling took place across Morena, Bhind (SC-reserved), Gwalior, Guna, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal, Rajgarh, and Betul (ST-reserved) constituencies.

Air India Flights Status: 70 Flights Canceled After Crew Members Go On 'Mass Sick Leave'

(Agency) Air India Flights Status: Air India Express announced last-minute cancellation of more than 70 international and domestic flights after its crew members decided to go on a mass 'sick leave', according to the news agency ANI. The reports said that Air India flights scheduled from Tuesday late night to Wednesday have been canceled following the shortage of staff, which led to inconvenience to hundreds of passengers.

The matter was also raised by commuters on social media platforms, after which, the Ministry of Civil Aviation took cognizance of the matter and are investigating the situa-

tion. Air India Pic Credit X Ashoke Raj Air India (Pic Credit: X/Ashoke_Raj)

last minute, which led to chaos and flight schedule disturbance. Several flights have been canceled or delayed resulting in incon-

with the crew to understand the reasons behind these occurrences, our teams are actively addressing this issue to minimise any



inconvenience caused to our guests as a result. We sincerely apologise to our guests for this unexpected disruption and emphasise that this situation does not reflect the standard of service we strive to provide. Guests impacted by cancellations will be offered a full refund or complimentary rescheduling to another date. Guests flying with us today are requested to check if their flight is affected, before heading to the airport," ANI quoted the Air India Express spokesperson.

Reacting to the incident, Air India Express spokesperson said some crew members applied for sick leave together at the

venience to commuters. The Airways also apologised for the unexpected disruption. "While we are engaging

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Voting Booth Set Up Deep In Gir Forest For One Vote From A Priest

(Agency) A lone voter walked this year to cast his vote for the Lok Sabha 2024 elections.

Mahant Haridas is a temple priest in Banej, in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district. Since the temple is located deep within the Gir forest, it is hard for him to visit any polling booths during election season.

The government mandates that every person should have a polling booth within 2 kilometres of them to vote. So, the local poll booth officer, along with the election commission, set up a booth within the forest for a single voter.

According to IndiaTimes, a team of 10 people travelled 25 kilometres in the forest to set up the polling booth. This, however, is not unusual for the district.

Till 2019, another priest of the temple, a man by the name of Mahant Bharatdas

walk in the morning to give his vote every single time. Lok Sabha Elections



Darshandas, was given the same facilities for almost two decades. A polling booth would be set up near his temple, and he would

2024: Priyanka Gandhi Says Entire BJP Trying To Spread Lies Against Rahul Gandhi Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Priyanka

Gandhi Says Entire BJP Trying To Spread Lies Against Rahul Gandhi

It was in late 2019 that the priest eventually died. At the age of 69, he succumbed to complications related to his kidney in a hospital, as reported by IndianExpress.

Mahant Haridas is the successor to Darshandas, as said in a book 'Leap of Faith'. This is, however, not the only instance of polling officers setting up a booth for a single voter.

On 18 April, another team of polling officers trekked around 40 kilometres in order to set up a voting booth on the borders of Arunachal Pradesh. All for a single voter, a 44-year-old woman by the name of Sokela Tayang, reported NDTV.

Third Phase Lok Sabha Elections: 65% Turnout, Clashes in West Bengal

(Agency) The third phase of Lok Sabha elections in India saw a voter turnout of nearly 65% across 93 constituencies in 11 states and Union Territories. Assam recorded the highest turnout at 81.71%, followed by West Bengal at 76.52% and Goa at 75.20%. Uttar Pradesh had the lowest turnout at 57.34%, with Bihar at 58.18%, Gujarat at 59.51% and Maharashtra at 61.44%. The overall voting percentage was 64.58%. The Election Commission (EC) stated that these figures are approximate trends and may rise as data is collected. Voting has now been completed in 20 states/UTs and 282 Lok Sabha seats out of 543. The overall voting percentage in the first and second phases was

66.14% and 66.71%, respectively. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were among those who



exercised their franchise in Gujarat, where elections were held in 25 seats. The stakes are high for the BJP in this round, as it had won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Karnataka and

Madhya Pradesh, in the last election. Both the BJP and the INDIA bloc claimed that they had the upper hand after the third seats. The EC received 182 complaints by 9 am, most of which were from Murshidabad and Jangipur constituencies. In Uttar Pradesh, Agra witnessed 53.99% polling, Aonla 57.08%, Budaun 54.05%, Bareilly 57.88%, Etah 59.17%, Fatehpur Sikri 57.09%, Firozabad 58.22%, Hathras 55.36%, Mainpuri 58.59% and Sambhal 62.81%. In Mainpuri, BJP people are trying to loot booths, according to SP chief Yadav. In Karnataka, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Bhagwanth Khuba, and Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge were among those who came in early to cast their votes. The next four phases will be on May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1, with the counting of votes taking place on June 4.

Farah Police caught two peddlers, more than 1.25 lakh cash recovered

Mathura. Farah police station has arrested two peddlers with Rs 1,39,640/- goods and illegal pistol/cartridge used in the incident. As part of the special campaign being run against the criminals who indulge in groping, on Wednesday, under the leadership of Inspector-in-Charge Farh, outpost in-charge Town/Raipuraj registered FIR No. 162/2024, Section 382/420 IPC related to groping Mukesh alias Manoj, son of Vijendra Singh, at Police Station



Accused in police custody

Kumher police station, Deeng has been caught by the police, a total of Rs 1,39,640 worth of paraphernalia and 01 illegal pistol of 315 bore with 01 live cartridge of .315 bore. And used by the accused in manipulation was brought. On the information of informer along with two motorcycles, they were arrested at a distance of about 500 meters from Garhi Pachauri on the Parkham Canal road. On the basis of recovery, legal action is being taken under Section 411 IPC and 3/25 Arms Act

Madbhagwat Katha will start in KM University from May 10 amid various events, Gyananand Maharaj will inaugurate it

Shri Krishna Chandra Shastri Ji Maharaj will deliver the story from Vyaspeeth Vishal Bhandara will be held on 18th, Kavi Sammelan will be held on 16th May Mathura. Shrimad Bhagwat Katha is being organized in the campus of KM University from 10th May. Which will be inaugurated by His Holiness Mahamandaleshwar Geeta Manishi Shri Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj Shrikar Kamals of Vrindavan. Shri Krishna Chandra Shastri Maharaj will give Shrimad Bhagwat Kathamrit Paan to the devotees through his nectar-filled voice. This information was given by the District Panchayat President and the Chancellor of the University during the press conference today. KM University Chancellor Kishan Chaudhary said that with the blessings of Giriraj Ji

Maharaj, Shrimad Bhagwat Katha is being organized in the sports ground of the university. In which Bhagwat Mahatmya and Mangalacharan program will be held on 10th May and Shri Raasleela will be organized by world famous Swami Natwar Lal Purohit every day from 7 pm to 10 pm. In which medical students will participate. Kavi Sammelan will be organized on 16th May from 7 pm to 10 pm. In which poets Hari Om Panwar, Anamika Amber, Vishnu Saxena, Sudeep Bholia, Swayam Srivastava, Manveer will entertain everyone with sweet humor and poetry. Apart from this, on May 11 in Bhagwat Katha, Bhagwat spokesperson Shri Krishna Chandra Shastri Maharaj will narrate the stories of Kapil character, Dhruv character, Jadbharat Katha, Ajamil character. After this, special programs of Pralhad Charitra, Vaman Avatar on 12th May, Shri Ram Janmotsav, Shri



District Panchayat President Kishan Chaudhary giving information about the organization of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha.

Krishna Janmotsav and Nandotsav will be organized on 13th May. District Panchayat President Kishan Choudhary has appealed to all the Braj residents to bless themselves by reaching Bhagwat Katha and Prasadi Bhandara in maximum numbers. University staff including University Chancellor Dr. DD Gupta were present during the press conference

District Magistrate held a meeting regarding preparations of flood steering group

Mathura. A meeting regarding the preparations for the flood steering group was held under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Shailendra Kumar Singh. The District Magistrate took information from the Executive Engineer Canal, Deputy District Magistrate Mant, Mahavan, Sadar and Chhata about the maximum and minimum water level of Yamuna in view of the floods of the past years and took information about the preparations made in the past years and the affected area. The Chief Development Officer instructed the Executive Engineer to ensure that all the drains are cleaned before the rains. Ensure that no payment is made without the permission of the District Magistrate and Chief

Development Officer. The District Magistrate reviewed various points related to the



District Magistrate giving instructions after consulting subordinates

security of the banks of Yamuna river including Devraha Baba, Kesighat, Vishram Ghat. The District Magistrate instructed the Executive Engineer Canal to keep in

touch with all the officials in view of the possibility of flood in Yamuna. Instructing

material etc. at the local level. The place around the flood area should also be selected. To ensure that all the necessary arrangements related to floods operate smoothly, arrangements for summer sable pumps, water tankers etc. should be made at the local level. There should be a good road from the place where the boat is stationed to the city or village. If it is not right then it should be rectified so that traffic is not disrupted. In alternative arrangements, first ensure the arrangement of building generator and solar lights etc. There should be a list of boat operators, so that boats can be arranged if needed. Flood control room divers should also be identified.

the Deputy District Magistrates, he said that there should be no shortcomings of any kind in controlling the flood system. Make sure to complete arrangements for relief

JJP's Chautala Urges Hooda to Begin Process of Ousting BJP Government in Haryana

(Agency) In a significant political development in Haryana, three Independent Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have withdrawn their support from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, casting a shadow over its stability. This move has prompted Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) leader Digvijay Singh Chautala to call upon Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the Leader of Opposition, to take decisive steps towards dismantling the government, which he claims has lost the confidence of the public. Chautala urged Hooda to promptly consult with the governor and inform him about the current political scenario. The withdrawal of support by Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri), and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) was announced

in a press conference held in Rohtak, alongside Hooda and state Congress chief Udai Bhan. This development reduces the

major concern is addressing a government that has ostensibly lost public trust. Chautala also highlighted the importance of initiating

his party ranks, suggesting that such moves would not deter their overall stance. In addition to Chautala's statements, Haryana AAP president Sushil Gupta voiced similar concerns regarding the BJP government's legitimacy. Gupta, who is contesting Lok Sabha polls from Kurukshetra with Congress backing called for immediate dismissal of the government by the governor. He also confidently claimed that the INDIA bloc is poised to win all



10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana. This political turmoil follows after JJP's withdrawal from the coalition government with BJP in March. Currently, the BJP holds 40 seats, Congress has 30, and JJP has 10 in the state assembly. Despite recent indications of support for BJP from some JJP MLAs, this latest shift underscores a volatile political landscape in Haryana.

dialogue with the JJP, which commands 10 seats in the assembly, as part of these efforts. Furthermore, Chautala criticized Hooda for not taking immediate action by engaging with both the governor and potential allies like the JJP. He insinuated that any delay might allow the BJP to consolidate its position. The JJP leader also dismissed concerns about potential support for the BJP from within

government, which also has the backing of two other Independents, below the majority threshold in the 90-member assembly, now effectively an 88-member house due to vacancies. Despite these developments, Chautala clarified that the JJP's stance on supporting Congress to form a government remains non-committal. He emphasized that regardless of who forms the government or receives support, the pri-

Cabinet Minister inaugurating the ceremony by cutting the ribbon

Mathura. SR Speech and Hearing Clinic near the Gurudwara located in Krishna Nagar was inaugurated by Cabinet Minister Lakshmi Narayan by cutting the ribbon. Giving information, he said that with the opening of the hearing clinic, people will no longer have to go out of the district. Expressed happiness over the opening of the first clinic in the city. Dr. Ishwar Dey told that the children who are born unable to hear will

be treated with new technology. People of the city used to go to Delhi Mumbai due to this disease, now they will not have to go anywhere else. On this occasion, Dr. Monu Goyal, Rahul Sharma, Rohit Kumar, Amit Chaudhary, Dushyant Chaudhary, Rahul Chaudhary, Virendra Chaudhary, Vijaypal Chaudhary, Shyam Veer Chaudhary, Ravi Chaudhary, Satendra Chaudhary, Devendra



The first hearing clinic opened in the city, the cabinet minister inaugurated it by cutting the ribbon. Kumar, Gaurav Kumar, were present. Councilor Rajveer Singh

Food Safety Department inspected the District Hospital and Children's Home

Mathura Surprise inspection of the kitchen of District Hospital and Bal Shishu Graha by the Food Safety Department - Assistant Dr. Gauri Shankar of Fertilizer Safety and Drug Administration Department and the team of Food Safety Department along with District Provisional Officer Vikas Chandra were fed in Bal Shishu Graha and Kishor Sudhar Graha. There are food and food preparation. The quality of food items used in the kitchen was checked during the inspection and the cleanliness in the kitchen and store room was found to be adequate. Samples of gram flour, arhar dal, wheat

flour were collected to check the quality and cooks were instructed to increase hygiene while preparing food. The team inspected the canteen of the District Women's Hospital and the canteen of the District Hospital, Mathura. To check the quality, samples of roti, wheat flour and pulses prepared for feeding the patients were collected for testing. Besides, the concerned in-charge were instructed to pay special attention to the expiry date while purchasing milk and food items. In connection with the complaint of food poisoning in Birla Mandir Dharamshala, samples of Khichdi and Jalebi prepared there have been col-



during inspection lected by the team for testing. Team Chief Food Safety Officer SP Tiwari and Dalveer Singh, Devraj

Imran Khan's Wife Bushra Bibi To Be Transferred To The Same Jail As Him; Pakistan Court Orders

(Agency) In a major legal victory for Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, a high court here on Wednesday ordered the former first lady's transfer from her private residence, designated as a sub-jail, to the Adiala jail where the ex-premier is incarcerated.

Bushra Bibi, 49, had been incarcerated at Banigala, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's mansion in the suburbs of Islamabad, after conviction in two cases while Khan, 71, was kept at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. She had petitioned the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the decision to keep her at Banigala while seeking repatriation to Adiala jail.



Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb had last week reserved his verdict in the

case. In its order, the court announced the notification to declare Banigala, a sub-jail, "null and void" and ordered the former first lady be shifted to the Adiala Jail. Bibi was taken to the Adiala Jail on Wednesday for a hearing in another case but it was unclear when she will be shifted. Bibi was arrested on January 31 this year after an Islamabad accountability court sentenced her and Khan to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana corruption case. While their sentences in the Toshakhana corruption case were suspended by the IHC, Bushra Bibi remains in custody in the

while Khan also remains incarcerated in other cases. Ex-PM Imran Khan Vows To Serve Prison Term Instead Of Striking Deal To Enslave Pakistan Ex-PM Imran Khan Vows To Serve Prison Term Instead Of Striking Deal To Enslave Pakistan The verdict comes as a victory for Bibi and her

lenged various cases against them in the higher courts of Pakistan. Since his removal from power in a no-confidence motion in April 2022, the cricketer-turned-politician has been convicted in at least four cases, including the cipher (secret diplomatic communication) case.