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EDITOR : ASHVINKUMAR KESHAVLAL RAMI Regd. Office: TF-01, Nanakram Super Market, Ramnagar, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380 005, Gujarat, India.

Phone : 90163 33307 (M) 93283 33307, 98253 33307 • Email : garvigujarat2007@gmail.com • Email : garvigujarat2007@yahoo.com • Website : www.garvigujarat.co.in

## PM Modi, Raj Thackeray Share Stage In Mumbai, MNS Chief Lauds Ram Mandir, Article 370 Decisions

(Gns). Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Friday shared the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election rally in Mumbai and praised the Centre over construction of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and nullification of Article 370.

Addressing the rally at the sprawling Shivaji Park ground in Dadar, Raj Thackeray, who has extended unconditional support to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ruling allies in Maharashtra in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, listed out his expectations from the PM in his third term in office.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena MNS chief Raj Thackeray during a rally. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray during a rally.

The MNS leader justified his decision to support a third term in office for Modi and referred to the Ram temple construction, removal of Article 370 (which provided special sta-

tus to J&K) and banning of instant triple talaq by his government.

"I consider these as courageous decisions. Now, I expect Modiji to accord classical language status to Marathi, include Marathi history in school curricu-

lums in the country and preserve Shivaji-era forts," he said. The ongoing work on the Mumbai-Goa highway also needs to be expedited, said Raj Thackeray.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who was not been seen in public after the May 7 voting in the Baramati Lok Sabha seat in his home turf, was also present at the rally organised in support of Shiv Sena-BJP's Lok Sabha candidates in Mumbai. He castigated the opposition for not speaking about development issues and said only PM Modi can provide a strong leadership to the country.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis slammed Shiv Sena (UBT) president and former CM Uddhav Thackeray, saying he has stopped his earlier practice of using the word "Hindu" while addressing gatherings.

"The Shivaji Park ground used to hear 'my Hindu brothers and sisters' call by (Shiv Sena founder) Balasaheb Thackeray. Now, Uddhav Thackeray has stopped using the word Hindu. When Modi was giving vaccines against COVID-19, the Uddhav Thackeray regime saw khichdi scam...body bags scam," the BJP leader said, hitting out at his former ally.

Sena founder late Bal Thackeray used to address annual Dussehra rallies in the Shivaji Park ground. Fadnavis maintained Uddhav Thackeray's rallies are seeing Pakistan flags and glorification of medieval-era Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan.

"The poor have the first right over country's resources irrespective of their religion," he said. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray, who has allied with the Congress and the NCP (SP), cannot now dare to say "Garve se kaho hum Hindu hai" (say with pride that I am a Hindu).

"Never before anyone has seen a chameleon change colours so fast," he remarked, slamming his political rival without naming him. "Balasaheb had asked his supporters to hit (Congress leader) Mani Shankar Aiyar's photo with chappals when he insulted (Hindutva icon Veer) Savarkar. But Uddhav Thackeray is keeping the Congress's shoes on his head," he opined.

"We are going ahead with his (Balasaheb's) ideology. We don't want his property. True followers of Balasaheb will never vote for the Congress," said Shinde, who revolted against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership in June 2022.

Shinde sought votes for Modi, saying he has kept India secure, improved its economy and leading the country towards becoming a super power. Thirteen Lok Sabha seats, including 6 in Mumbai, will vote on May 20 in the fifth and last phase of Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra.

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## If Pakistan makes any mistake, we will wipe it out with bullets: Amit Shah

(Gns). Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the government has successfully eliminated terrorism in the country.

"If Pakistan makes any mistake now, we will wipe it out with bullets made in Bundelkhand," he asserted. Addressing an election meeting at Tuvan Maidan here on Saturday in support of BJP candidate from Jhansi Anurag Sharma, Shah said that the Bundelas had fought against the British and now they are fighting to make Narendra Modi the PM of the country for the third time.

The Union Home Minister said that while the entire world celebrated Ram Utsav and the Pran Pratistha Mahotsav of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple Yadav, Rahul Baba and his sister Priyanka rejected the invi-

ation. "Rahul Baba is afraid of his vote bank getting alienated, especially due to potential backlash from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir unequivocally belongs to India and will continue to be so," he declared.

Accusing the Congress Shah reminded the public that on the one hand there is a party that opened fire on Ram devotees, while, on the other hand, there is a party that paved the way for the construction of a grand Ram temple. Now, it is up to you to decide with whom you will go, he said.

He sarcastically remarked that Rahul Baba's INDIA bloc is getting swept in the elections. Giving information about the government's development plans, he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked hard to develop the country. Shah said that during the Corona period, the Prime Minister worked to protect 130 crore people of the country by vaccinating them free of cost. When Rahul Baba came to know about it, he also got vaccinated in the night.

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## Swati Maliwal Assault Case: Delhi Police Arrests Kejriwal's PA Bibhav Kumar

(Gns). The Delhi police on Saturday arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Personal Assistant (PA) Bibhav Kumar from CM's residence in connection with alleged physical assault with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. Soon after the arrest, Bibhav Kumar was taken to the police station and later produced in Tis Hazari Court.

According to the reports, Kumar also emailed the Delhi Police today, showing his willingness to cooperate with their investigation. In his email, CM's PA said, "I learned through the media that an FIR has been filed against me. The Delhi Police should also consider my complaint." His lawyer, Karan Sharma, added, "We haven't received any communication from the police yet. We've sent them an email confirming our readiness to cooperate."

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accept it. Consequently, the NCW posted a new notice outside his home. NCW chief Rekha Sharma mentioned that a team had also visited Kumar's residence on Thursday to serve a notice, but he was not present.

This case, which involves serious allegations of assault by Swati Maliwal, is currently under investigation. While Kumar's expressed willingness to cooperate may help resolve the situation, his initial failure to respond to the NCW has complicated matters. Authorities are now taking additional steps to ensure his compliance with the ongoing investigation.

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## AAP MP Raghav Chadha returns from UK, visits Arvind Kejriwal's residence

(Gns). Amid growing speculations over his prolonged absence, AAP MP Raghav Chadha has returned from the UK where he reportedly underwent an eye surgery. Chadha on Saturday visited Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence. The Aam Aadmi Party had earlier informed that Chadha developed an eye ailment that could have led to blindness and he had gone to UK for the treatment.

Chadha's return is marred with the controversy surrounding her Rajya Sabha colleague Swati Maliwal, who has accused Kejriwal's PA Bibhav Kumar of assaulting her. However, a purported video released by a news agency also shows Ms Bharadwaj had said in a statement on May 2. Chadha's return is marred with the controversy surrounding her Rajya Sabha colleague Swati Maliwal, who has accused Kejriwal's PA Bibhav Kumar of assaulting her. However, a purported video released by a news agency also shows Ms Bharadwaj had said in a

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## Pakistan's Political Turmoil And Protests: Here Are Some Of The Key Developments

(Gns). Imran Khan and his party, PTI, have dominated the news this week. On May 15, the Islamabad High Court granted Khan bail in the Al-Qadir trust case, as reported by Indian Express.

However, despite this relief, Khan remains incarcerated due to convictions in other cases. Meanwhile, PTI's stance on engaging in talks with other political parties has shifted multiple times. Initially, they refused to negotiate, then expressed willingness to speak with the "real" power, and most recently, demanded the withdrawal of cases against their members and the release of political prisoners.

May 16: Dawn emphasized the need for both sides to engage in dialogue, stating, "In a democracy, negotiations are fundamental for resolving conflicts and reaching consensus.

However, entering talks with rigid preconditions undermines the process... The government, having the upper hand, must take

election the next time around, and lead the country out of the mess it is in right now." Political Instability Continues. Three months after the elections, instability persists as the Supreme Court overturned the Peshawar High Court's decision, which had denied 77 reserved seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and allocated them to other political parties. With the PTI-backed SIC gaining seats, the ruling PPP-PML(N) coalition has lost its two-thirds majority, leading to yet another political crisis.

May 15: Express Tribune condemned the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) role, pointing out that this episode "highlighted the executive highhandedness of the electoral watchdog which was unrelenting in pushing the PTI to the wall, and did not cede to any of the privileges that the PTI-Sunni Ittehad Council nomenclature would have procured by law." May 15: Dawn agreed, noting, "Despite being vested with all the powers it needed to responsibly steer the country through a democratic transition, it could only manage an election that fell far short of the promise of being 'free, fair, impartial and inclusive'."

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## Priyanka Gandhi holds roadshow in Amethi, visits Gurudwara in Rae Bareilly

(Gns). Congress National General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra held a roadshow in Jais on Saturday afternoon in support of Congress candidate Kishori Lal Sharma.

Similarly in Rae Bareilly, she visited Gurudwara and took the blessings of martyrs, freedom fighters for the win of her brother Rahul Gandhi.

Campaigning in both Amethi and Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha ends today evening where polling will be held on May 20.

In Amethi, the roadshow started from Jais Circular Road and ended at the bus stand of Gauriganj. During

this, she appealed to the workers to remain united

and win the elections. During the roadshow, Amethi Congress candidate Kishori Lal Sharma

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was present in the vehicle with Priyanka Gandhi.

a public meeting in Amethi. Rahul Gandhi said that Kishori Lal has been working for Amethi for the last 40 years. If the Indian coalition government is formed at the Centre, then whatever development work they will do for Rae Bareilly, they will also do the same for Amethi.

Priyanka Gandhi continuously addressed public meetings and campaigned in Amethi for the Congress candidate.

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E-Tender Notice (NIT) Nos: (i) SAC/CMG/CPHD/C/02/2024-2025 dated 15.05.2024 (ii) SAC/CMG/CPHD/C/03/2024-2025 dated 15.05.2024

**BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

1. On Behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works.

Sl. No.	Title of work	Estimated cost put to tender (₹)	Period of completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Due date and time of opening of tenders	Earnest money deposit (EMD) (₹)
1.	Construction of Large Component Storage Facility (LCSF) near Building No. 39 at SAC Campus, Ahmedabad - Civil & PH works.	178.28 Lakhs	14 Months	From 22.05.2024 at 10:00 Hrs. to 31.05.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.	05.06.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.	15:00 hrs. on 06.06.2024 (Techno-commercial bid)	Rs. 3,56,560.00
2.	Renovation work of AIT of Gaganyaan, Quantum & Optical Communication for Payload in Building No. 35 at SAC Campus, Ahmedabad - Civil & PH works.	213.51 Lakhs	10 Months				Rs. 4,27,020.00

2. The tender document may be downloaded from e-tendering website [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO) during stipulated period by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed on this website. Tender processing fee is payable to M/s. ITI Ltd. through E-gateway.

3. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on websites [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) or [www.sac.gov.in](http://www.sac.gov.in) as well as from [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO) at tender fee view. Tenderers may contact Mr. Sunil Patel (representative from M/s. ITI Ltd) at Mob. No. 9714881992 / 9624981992 in case of difficulty.

Group Director, CMG/SAC

## Editorial

### LIGHT IN WEALTH

Lately, the debate over wealth taxation has intensified, with proponents arguing for its role in addressing income inequality and funding social programmes.

However, implementing a wealth tax is not without its challenges and drawbacks.

The "Proponents" and "Detractors" were sharply divided even when the debate of retention and abolition of Wealth Tax was at its peak till one fine day when the tax under reference was repealed, through Budget 2016-17 to be precise. Dating back centuries, a tax on accumulated wealth has roots in ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome which imposed taxes on property acquired and inherited. Rome used to levy the Patrimonium tax on the total wealth of its citizens. Feudal societies in medieval Europe relied on wealth taxes to fund wars and support monarchies.

France, as a European monarchy, collected 'the taille,' a direct tax on households based on the amount of land held. In the UK, estate duties were introduced to combat rising wealth inequality during the industrialization of the 18th and 19th centuries. However, it is in the aftermath of World Wars I and II that wealth tax grew to prominence with the introduction of federal estate and gift taxes by the United States in the early 20th century. With the advent of the 21st century, countries scaled back owing to the insignificant contribution to the overall tax revenues, administrative challenges and concerns about the economic impact.

King must collect tax like honeybee, enough to sustain but not too much to destroy, said Chanakya India introduced wealth tax in 1957. Over time, the tax base eroded, compliance became challenging, and inefficient collection led to the abolition of the wealth tax in 2015. The consequential loss to the exchequer was sought to be subrogated through levy of additional surcharge on the "super rich" under the existing tax regime. Taxing property unfairly penalizes only a select few.

This form of tax often leads to double taxation, first when the money is earned and second on the asset acquired with the tax suffered earning. The State should not dictate the virtuous usage of one's own money. India aims to become a \$5 trillion economy in the next three years with a vision to be an 'economic powerhouse' by 2047. The fact that this aspiration can never be translated to reality without the active support of the so called 'ultra-rich' i.e., the businesspeople, industrialists and the like, can hardly be overstated.

High-networth individuals may alter their investment strategies, asset allocation, or even residency to avoid taxes and protect their assets. It could distort economic behavior by disincentivizing investment, entrepreneurship, and wealth accumulation. Such taxes could lead to reduced investment potential, further undermining economic competitiveness and distorting economic decision-making.

A policy flip-flop environment takes a toll on the trust and confidence with enduring economic development being the casualty. It discourages work, savings, capital formation, potentially hindering innovation and productivity. Advocates push forward the need to redistribute resources to reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth under the cover of the ability-to-pay principle but with alternative options available and working, taxing the wealthy may be counter intuitive. Normatively, the tax policies across jurisdictions are guided by Taxation Doctrines in relation to source, residency, holding, recipient etc. However the essential features peculiar to a State are influenced by the economic model of the day.

Tax as an instrument is used by the state depending on the chosen governance model, which brings the conversation of Capitalism v/s. Socialism to the fore. Capitalism emphasises on 'Increased Production' whereas Socialism focuses on 'Fairer Distribution.' It is a matter of fact that India embraced the socialist model for its economic governance till the beginning of the last decade of the 20th century when LPG reforms were rolled out and empirical evidence suggests that in the first four decades after independence more poverty was created than wealth.

The shift from the Socialist model to a near Capitalist model (Hybrid system) continues to exert its profound implications on almost all segments of the economy including taxation. When we adopted a new economic belief as a nation that rejects most of the old model's principles and favors the opposite framework, it is fair and wise to create policies that align with the new programme. Specifically, under this renewed model, solely using tactics to discourage or single out the wealthy as a primary fiscal tool to pursue a socialist agenda could disrupt the current situation and also be subject to ethical and moral objections.

Any deviation even if an aberration would be a negation of the model-in-vogue. As a corollary, holding a few responsible for the inequalities that exist could legitimize Marxism's assertion that Capitalism inherently breeds severe economic disparities, justifying the criminal actions of the disadvantaged as a response. Small wonder, such ideologies have failed to elicit acceptance even in jurisdictions where welfare remains a formidable article of faith.

Besides these two universally acknowledged models, there exists a third model by the name of "Restrained Consumption" that was introduced by late Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya as part of his seminal treatise titled "Integral Humanism". The text opposes Unbridled Consumerism by drawing inspiration from Indian culture. In hindsight the concept resonates well with all the aspects that are actively debated under the overarching Climate/Environment Protection. While the goals of wealth taxation are laudable, its re-entry is likely to bring significant challenges and risks. It could undermine economic efficiency, exacerbate capital flight, and tax evasion. Policymakers must carefully weigh these considerations and explore alternative approaches to address income inequality and promote fiscal sustainability.

As the sun sets over the rolling hills of the Terai and the Dooars plains, casting long shadows over the verdant tea gardens, a silent crisis unfolds beneath the surface.

The tea industry, once a thriving cornerstone of the region's economy, now faces unprecedented challenges due to adverse weather conditions.

The prolonged dry spell since early October 2023, coupled with poor rainfall distribution, has cast a shadow of uncertainty over the future of tea cultivation in the Dooars and Terai regions, halving production, and threatening viability of the gardens. Nailing them further are lower auction prices reflecting a fall in quality of whatever they are producing. At the heart of this crisis lies a crucial yet often overlooked solution:

irrigation. While the tea gardens of North Bengal boast vast expanses of lush greenery, their dependence on rainfall, which is often erratic, leaves them vulnerable to the whims of nature. It is time for tea garden owners and managements to recognise the urgent need for investment in irrigation infrastructure, not as a luxury, but as a lifeline for their gardens.

Despite the existence of irrigation infrastructure in the gardens, the capacity to irrigate the entire garden remains limited. With irrigation equipment capable of covering only a fraction of the total area in a single day, the

efforts to water the tea bushes often come to

reluctance of managements to invest in irrigation

crore is required to purchase the necessary equipment to irrigate 1,000 acres during dry spells or periods of insufficient rainfall. However, as the adage goes, "short-term pain for long-term gain." The initial investment may seem daunting, but the long-term benefits far outweigh the costs. Imagine a future where tea gardens are no longer at the mercy of unpredictable weather patterns. With robust irrigation infrastructure in place, tea growers can ensure a steady supply of water to nourish crops, even during the driest of spells. The reliance on rainfall becomes a thing of the

past, replaced by a sense of security and resilience in the face of adversity.

But the benefits of irrigation extend beyond mere water supply. By maintaining optimal soil moisture levels, irrigation can enhance the overall health and productivity of bushes, leading to higher yields and improved quality of tea leaves. Moreover, irrigation can mitigate the risk of pest infestations, reducing the need for costly pest control measures and safeguarding the sustainability of cultivation in the long run. As we confront the challenges of the present, let us not lose sight of the promise of a brighter future. In the fertile soil of North Bengal, let us sow the seeds of change, and reap the harvest of a thriving and sustainable tea industry. (Gns).

## Tea Crisis



naught. By the time the last section is irrigated, the earlier irrigated areas have long dried up, leaving the entire effort futile. The

equipment adequate to irrigate vast stretches, if not an entire garden, stems from the costs involved. An investment of about Rs 2

crore is required to purchase the necessary equipment to irrigate 1,000 acres during dry spells or periods of insufficient rainfall. However, as the adage goes, "short-term pain for long-term gain." The initial investment may seem daunting, but the long-term benefits far outweigh the costs. Imagine a future where tea gardens are no longer at the mercy of unpredictable weather patterns. With robust irrigation infrastructure in place, tea growers can ensure a steady supply of water to nourish crops, even during the driest of spells. The reliance on rainfall becomes a thing of the

## Assassination Bid

The assassination attempt on Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is a stark reminder of the fragility of political stability, even in nations where political violence is rare.

The incident not only casts a long shadow over Slovakia but also sends ripples across Europe, challenging the often complacent view of security and the nature of political dissent in contemporary democracies.

The fact that the assailant was a 71-year-old former security guard and a writer, not typically profiled as a threat, underscores a troubling reality: societal divisions and political frustrations can drive individuals toward extreme actions. It forces us to question the depth of these divisions and the avenues available

for legitimate political expression. Prime Minister Fico, a figure who has dominated Slovak politics for over two decades, has been a polarising leader.

His recent policies, marked by a shift towards a pro-Russian stance amid the Ukraine conflict, and attempts to scale back on anti-corruption measures, have not only intensified domestic debate but have also alarmed Slovakia's EU and NATO partners. This political climate, where significant policy shifts occur amidst intense public scrutiny and opposition, sets the stage for heightened tensions. The shooting must be seen not just as an attack on an individual but as an assault on the democratic fabric of Slovakia. When political leaders are targeted, it

shakes the very foundations of democratic governance, instilling fear and uncertainty. It disrupts the normal process of political discourse and decision-

making, as seen by the immediate suspension of parliamentary debate and the postponement of public protests.

In this light, it is critical to advocate for a renewed

course and to vehemently reject violence as a form of political expression. Political disagreements, no matter how profound, must be navigated through dialogue and within the frameworks of law and democracy. The Slovak government and its leaders, irrespective of party lines, must come together to reassure the public and ensure that comprehensive measures are taken to safeguard all political figures without stifling public interaction and accessibility. This incident should also serve as a catalyst for addressing broader issues within Slovak society, including the erosion of trust in public institutions and the need for robust mechanisms to tackle corruption and uphold media freedoms. Rebuilding trust is cru-

cial, and this cannot be achieved through divisive or authoritarian measures but through transparency, accountability, and genuine reform. Internationally, the outpouring of support for Fico and condemnation of the attack reflects the universal respect for democratic norms and the collective responsibility to uphold them. It is heartening to see global leaders unite in their stance against violence, reinforcing the need for solidarity in defending democratic values. As Slovakia navigates through this challenging period, it is imperative that all stakeholders work together to foster an environment where political engagement is safe, respected, and constructive.



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## Museum Stories

On 28 November 1913, Justice Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, Chairman of the Trustees of the Indian Museum in Calcutta, delivered the inaugural address marking the first centenary of the Museum.

His address forms the first chapter of 'Indian Museum 1814-1914', a commemorative volume published for an institution which is a landmark among museums of India.

On 18 May, International Museum Day, it is only befitting to pay homage to several generations of men like Sir Asutosh who lived to preserve heritage, while making history themselves during their lifetimes. "To appreciate the history of the origin and growth of the Indian Museum," explained Sir Asutosh, "we must travel back to the last quarter of the eighteenth century when, after the establishment of British supremacy in this Province, Sir William Jones, one of the profoundest scholars, who have devoted their life to the service of India, founded the Asiatic Society in 1784, and with the boldness which characterized his genius, stated that the bounds of its investigations would be the geographical limits of Asia, and that within these limits, its enquiries would be extended to whatever is performed by Man or produced by Nature."

By 1808, the Asiatic Society was looking for permanent premises for its accumulations were growing. Land was granted by the Governor at the corner of Park Street. Sir Asutosh brings alive the fascinating Dr Henry Wallich, a Danish botanist taken prisoner at the siege of Serampur but released in recognition of his scientific attainments. In 1814, Dr Wallich wrote to the Asiatic Society advocating the formation of a museum and "offered not

only to act as a Honorary Curator but also to supply duplicates from his own valuable collection to form a nucleus.

The proposal found ready acceptance with the Society and it was determined to establish a



Museum to be divided into two sections: one which would now be called archaeological, ethnological and technical, and the other geological and zoological." Dr Wallich inspired collectors like Col. Stuart, Dr Tytler, General Mackenzie, Brian Hodgson, Capt. Dillon and Babu Ramkamal Sen who readily placed at the disposal of the Society interesting and curious objects collected from various parts of the country.

In 1836, there were a host of financial problems and the Society wrote to the Government for funds. Sir Edward Ryan, president of the Society, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court took the lead in galvanizing support for the Museum, its maintenance and salaries for the Curators and Keepers. What transpired in their correspondence remains relevant and true till date. "A Museum could not be established by voluntary subscriptions nor maintained in the creditable and useful condition necessary for the attainment of the

object desired, unless aided liberally by the Government, in like manner as similar institutions in Europe were supported from the public treasury."

Dr J.T. Pearson, Dr McClelland, Edward Blyth: the roll call of names con-

tinues through the 19th century as the Asiatic Society grew with collections that also reflected the needs of colonial times. A Museum of Economic Geology was founded and large valuable collections of specimens were deposited from 1840 onwards. It is a paradox of the colonial State that while it was ruthlessly subjugating, exploiting the provinces through trade, commerce, and brutal wars, it was also empowering these men of great learning and dedication to establish institutions. Long before the 1857 Mutiny and India's first war of independence, the Society was appealing for the establishment of an Imperial Museum; it took almost a decade, by 1866 the Indian Museum Act was promulgated.

"The valuable collections of the Society, accumulated during half a century by a long succession of enthusiastic members were formally transferred to a Board of Trustees of which Sir Barnes Peacock, then Chief Justice of Bengal, was appointed President,"

said Sir Asutosh in his address. It was by 1875 that the Museum ceased to be the property of Asiatic Society of Bengal and was transformed into an Imperial Institution and the Museum building became one of the largest in the city. Through the 1880s and early 1900s the Museum was led by Dr John Anderson, Mr James Wood-Mason, Sir Thomas Holland, Mr Thurston, Dr Watt and Sir Herbert Risley. New galleries were opened and the Museum was divided into zoological and ethnological, geological, art, industrial and archaeology. The archaeological collection soon occupied centre stage with General Alexander Cunningham gaining pre-eminence, leaving his mark on 20th century developments. "To him we owe the removal and preservation of the Bharat Stupa Rail, now one of the finest and most interesting existing relics of early Indian architecture," said Sir Asutosh paying his homage. The extensive invaluable collection of coins lent by the Asiatic Society, catalogues produced by Mr C.J. Rodgers, Mr Vincent Smith and Mr Nelson Wright were acknowledged. Raja Sir Sourindra Mohun Tagore's collection of Indian musical instruments was presented to the Museum.

Going ahead Sir Asutosh underlined a significant achievement, "namely, the distinguished part taken by the Indian Museum in the noble cause of the advancement of knowledge. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of the biological and geological research strenuously carried out by our officers, though it was by no means easy to assign, except in the case of zoology, the precise share of credit for

such work to the Indian Museum as distinct from the related scientific departments of Government.

It may be maintained, without risk of contradiction that all the research work not only in zoology and geology but also in meteorology and archaeology, now undertaken by different Government Departments owes its origin in activities of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The study and investigation of Applied Science, more particularly, Botany and Chemistry, also had a similar origin." In Sir Asutosh's address what comes alive is how a century ago a small band of scholars, engaged in the study of the history, languages and antiquities laid the foundation for a Museum in Calcutta, entirely with limited private means at their disposal; how it took the ruling authorities thirty years to realize their responsibilities in this direction. Has the Indian Museum fulfilled its mission? Sir Asutosh searched for answers. "It is now generally recognised that a museum is an institution for the preservation of those objects which best illustrate the phenomena of Nature and the works of Man, for the utilization of these in the increase of knowledge, and for the culture and enlightenment of the people.

A National or Imperial Museum must, consequently, be equipped adequately for the fulfillment of three principal functions: first, for the accumulation and preservation of specimens such as form the material basis of knowledge in the Arts and Sciences; secondly for the elucidation and investigation of the specimens so collected and for the diffusion of knowledge required

thereby; and third, to make suitable arrangements calculated to arouse the interest of the public and to promote their instruction." With a degree of satisfaction, he stated, "As regards the first two of these functions, the Indian Museum has no reason to reproach itself. But I regret to confess, with a feeling of disappointment, that when I examine the history of Indian Museum from the point of view of its third function as a possible powerful instrument for the instruction of the public, I cannot say that the fullest measure of success has been achieved.

The Museum may be regarded, first, as an adjunct to the class room and the lecture room; secondly as a bureau of information; and thirdly as an institution for the culture of the people." Sir Asutosh's speech, a clarion call for all generations, noted, "If we desire to furnish to the advanced or professional student, materials, and opportunity for laboratory training; if we desire to aid the teacher of elementary, secondary or technological knowledge in expounding to his pupils the principles of Art, Nature and History; our scientific staff must be materially strengthened... through the display of attractive exhibition-series, wellplanned, complete and accurately labelled and thus to stimulate and broaden the minds of those who are not engaged in scholarly research. I desire consequently to emphasize the urgent need for the improvement of our public galleries." Sir Asutosh's words of timeless wisdom are an appropriate occasion to also commemorate the centenary, on 25 May, of the passing away of this educationist-jurist extraordinaire.

## Jammu and Kashmir Agency Charges Two Terrorists for Rajouri Attacks

By Krishna Kripa  
Updated: Saturday, May 18, 2024, 0:33 [IST]

Google OneIndia News  
The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir took a significant step forward in its ongoing efforts against terrorism by filing a supplementary charge-sheet on Friday. This legal document was submitted to a special court in Jammu, targeting two individuals linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist organization for their involvement in a series of violent acts within the Rajouri district.

The charge-sheet specifically names Mohd Qasim, also known by aliases Salman and Waseem, an operative who had moved to Pakistan in 1990 for arms training. Alongside him, Talib Hussain Shah, who was captured earlier with

advanced weaponry in Reasi district, has been implicated. The duo is accused of engaging in terrorism through killings, grenade attacks, and the placement of improvised



explosive devices (IEDs) in populated areas, causing considerable harm to government infrastructure.

Shah, originating from Rajouri, along with Faisal Ahmad Dar from Pulwama, was detained by villagers in Reasi district in July 2022 and subsequently handed over to the police.

The authorities confiscated two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades, and a substantial quantity of ammunition from their possession. According to the SIA spokesperson, these

had been filed by the SIA on December 29 of the previous year. Continued investigations have resulted in the arrest of two more associates of LeT who admitted their involvement in terror activities and the movement of arms and ammunition from Lamberi to Kandi Budhal in collaboration with Shah. These associates reportedly joined LeT voluntarily and were influenced by Pakistani handlers.

This legal action underscores the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir as they combat terrorism. The detailed investigation and subsequent charge-sheeting of these individuals highlight the intricate network of terror operations extending across borders and the efforts made by law enforcement agencies to dismantle these networks.

## Delhi Police Nab Man for Impersonating Ex-Lava International MD

(Gns).

In a surprising turn of events, the Delhi Police apprehended an individual at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for impersonating Hari Om Rai, the former Managing Director of Lava International Ltd., who is embroiled in a money laundering case. The arrest, made on Friday, came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) urged the Delhi Police to file an FIR against Rai, his son Pranay Rai, the impersonator Naval Kishor Ram, and others on Thursday.

Ram was caught during a cardiac examination at AIIMS, where he attempted to pass off as Hari Om Rai using court-issued documents. This arrest sheds light on the intricate layers of the case against Chinese smartphone-maker vivo-India, involving allegations of money laundering.

Hari Om Rai had been

arrested by the ED in October of the previous year on charges related to this case. He managed to secure a three-month bail



on medical grounds from the Delhi High Court in February. Recently, Rai sought an extension for his medical bail, citing cardiac issues. The court mandated a cardiac examination at AIIMS and expected a report on Thursday.

ED officials, who were supervising Rai's medical

examination at AIIMS, were met with evasion as Rai did not show up for his appointment. Upon investigation, they discovered Ram

treatment using the latter's court documents and medical records. This revelation led to his detention along with his nephew by the ED at AIIMS.

The police FIR filed against Ram and others includes charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating by impersonation, making false documents, forgery, and using forged documents as genuine. Following this incident, Hari Om Rai's request for bail extension was denied by the high court, resulting in his incarceration at Tihar Jail under judicial custody.

This case not only highlights issues of identity fraud but also underscores the ongoing investigation into the money laundering allegations against prominent figures in the tech industry. The Delhi Police and ED's swift action in this matter signals their commitment to upholding justice and deterring fraudulent activities.

## India's Armed Forces to Play Bigger Role in National Growth, Says Gen Pande

(Gns).

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande emphasised the importance of the armed forces' role in India's growth and security during the second Lt Gen P S Bhagat Memorial Lecture at Manekshaw Centre. He highlighted the need for the armed forces to contribute to India's development while ensuring national security. Gen Pande also discussed the ongoing transformation of the Indian Army, focusing on force restructuring, modernisation, technology infusion, human resource management, and jointness and integration.

Gen Pande praised Lt Gen Bhagat as a visionary who foresaw China's strategy against India. He cited Bhagat's writings on the

Chinese Mind and his accurate prognosis of



India's northern adversary. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt Gen (retd) K T Parnaik, spoke about the challenges faced by India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and called for new agreements that can be implemented with clarity.

Lt Gen Bhagat was the first Indian officer to win the

Gen Pande acknowledged India's remarkable journey of progress and development, with rising aspirations of its citizens. He stressed that as India's interests expand across strategic horizons, it is crucial for the armed forces to be responsible not only in the security domain but also in contributing to national growth.

The Arunachal Pradesh governor also emphasised the need for modernisation of the armed forces and developing military strengths and capabilities. He highlighted new domains such as space, cyber, electromagnetic spectrum, and information systems that are transforming warfare with increased lethality.

## Haryana: Bus Carrying 64 Devotees Catches Fire At Kundali-Manesar-Palwal Expressway; 8 Burnt To Death

(Gns).

In a shocking and sad incident, a bus carrying more than 64 pilgrims caught fire at Haryana's Kundali-Manesar-Palwal Expressway on Saturday evening. The reports said more than devotees lost their lives and dozens were injured. When the bus caught fire, these devotees were

returning from a pilgrimage to Mathura and Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh.

A survivor told the media that a by-passer motorcycle rider noticed flames at the back of the bus and followed the bus to be aware of people sitting inside the bus and the driver.

The driver immediately took the bus aside and



stopped it, to cross-check. "We had hired the bus to go on a pilgrimage to holy sites for 10 days. We were returning home on

Friday night. We smelled smoke while we were sleeping. The bus stopped after the motorcycle rider alerted the driver," a survivor said.

Noticing the massive fire, locals also gathered around and informed the police and firefighters immediately. They also tried to rescue people and

## Climate Change Likely To Impact People With Brain Conditions, Study Finds

(Gns).

Climate change is likely to negatively affect the health of people suffering from brain conditions such as migraine and Alzheimer's, new research published in The Lancet Neurology journal has found. Extreme temperatures, both low and high, and greater changes over the course of the day -- driven by climate change -- were shown to have an impact on brain diseases, explained lead researcher Sanjay Sisodiya from the University of College London's Institute of Neurology, UK.

"Night-time temperatures may be particularly important as higher temperatures through the night can disrupt sleep. Poor sleep is known to aggravate a number of brain conditions," he said.

The study, reviewing 332 papers published from around the world between 1968 and 2023, looked at 19 different nervous sys-

tem conditions, including stroke, changes. The team also examined how climate



tem conditions, including stroke, changes. The team also examined how climate

Alzheimer's, meningitis, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis. The researchers found an increased number of admissions, disabilities or deaths resulting from a stroke due to higher temperatures or heat-waves.

They also said that people having dementia are vulnerable to damage from extreme temperatures and extreme weather events such as floods and wildfires as cognitive impairment can limit their ability to adapt to environmental

tem conditions, including stroke, changes. The team also examined how climate

change impacted several serious yet common psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, depression and schizophrenia. Sisodiya said that climate anxiety was "an added, potentially weighty influence". "Many brain conditions are associated with a higher risk of psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, and such multimorbidities can further complicate impacts of climate change and the adaptations necessary to preserve health," he said.

change impacted several serious yet common psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, depression and schizophrenia.

Sisodiya said that climate anxiety was "an added, potentially weighty influence". "Many brain conditions are associated with a higher risk of psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, and such multimorbidities can further complicate impacts of climate change and the adaptations necessary to preserve health," he said.

With extreme weather events becoming more severe and global temperatures rising, the researchers acknowledged that people are being exposed to worsening environmental factors that may not have been severe enough to affect brain conditions in some of the earlier studies they reviewed as part of the analysis.

Therefore, they said, it was important to ensure that research is up to date and looks at not only the present state of climate change but also the future.

"This work is taking place against a worrying worsening of climatic conditions and it will need to remain agile and dynamic if it is to generate information that is of use to both individuals and organisations," said Sisodiya.

Forward planning is made more challenging as few studies estimate the consequences for brain diseases under future climate scenarios, he said.

## SC Questions EC Over Post-Poll Rise in Voting Percentage

(Gns).

The Supreme Court on Friday called for the Election's (EC) response to a plea by the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). ADR voiced concerns over the potential swapping of electronic voting machines (EVMs) after noting a significant jump in the final voting percentages days post-polling. The Court, led by CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, set May 24 as the date for a hearing. This session will occur during the court's summer recess starting Monday. ADR's plea includes a request for the EC to release voting data within two days after polls close.

The Supreme Court previously dismissed ADR's appeal for reverting to paper ballots on April 26, dispelling suspicions about EVM reliability. Despite this, ADR has brought forth new

doubts concerning the electoral process's integrity. EC's counsel, senior advocate Maninder Singh, defended the Commission, stating senior officials had comprehensively addressed these concerns. The Court rebuffed claims



of biased treatment towards ADR's counsel Prashant Bhushan, stressing impartiality in addressing issues brought before it. Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta had

earlier affirmed the trustworthiness of EVMs, highlighting their simplicity, security, and the addition of the VVPAT system, which strengthens vote verification. They detailed the Form 17C process, crucial for confirming votes cast,

ensuring transparency to polling agents. ADR's application was spurred by letters from Congress, TMC, and CPM to the EC, lamenting the delayed release of final

voter turnout data for the first two phases of the ongoing elections. The data, when finally released, showed a notable increase of about 5-6% from initial estimates provided on polling day. ADR criticized the delay and the significant revision in voter turnout figures, arguing it bred suspicion and concern over the data's accuracy. They have urged the EC to publish the authenticated figures for votes polled at each station within 48 hours of polling, to maintain voter confidence and ensure transparency.

Addressing the delay in data release, the EC counsel mentioned the need to gather extensive data as the reason for the time taken. The controversy over the accuracy and timing of voter turnout data underscores the importance of transparency in the electoral process to maintain public trust.

## What Is The ADR Plea In Supreme Court Regarding Voter Turnout Data?

(Gns).

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) had moved the top court for directions to the poll panel to disclose final authenticated data of voter turnout in all polling stations, including the number of votes polled in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections within 48 hours of the polling.

In a plea filed with the Supreme Court, the ADR has urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure the immediate release of vital voter turnout data and related documents during ongoing elections.

What Is the ADR Plea In Supreme Court Regarding Voter Turnout Data

At the heart of the ADR's plea lies a fundamental concern for transparency and public trust in the electoral system. The timely disclosure of accu-

rate voter turnout figures is crucial not only for ensuring the integrity of elections but also for empowering citi-



zens with information vital to democratic participation.

Release of Form 17C Part-I Scans:

The ADR's plea emphasizes the necessity of disclosing legible scans of Form 17C Part-I from all polling stations. This form contains authenticated figures for votes cast and is essential for verifying the

accuracy of voter turnout data. The plea urges the ECI to upload these scans on its website within 48



hours of polling's conclusion.

Tabulated Polling Station-wise Data:

Another critical aspect of the plea is the request for tabulated polling station-wise data in absolute figures. This data, recorded in Form 17C Part-I, provides a detailed account of the number of votes polled at each polling station. By making this information accessible to the public, the ADR aims to enhance scrutiny and accountability in the electoral process.

Constituency-wise Figures of Voter Turnout:

The plea further seeks constituency-wise figures of voter turnout in absolute numbers. This data is essential for understanding voter participation patterns and trends at the constituency level, contributing to a more informed analysis of electoral dynamics.

Scanned Copies of Form 17C Part-II:

Additionally, the ADR requests the ECI to upload scanned copies of Form 17C Part-II post the compilation of election results. This form contains candidate-wise Result of Counting and is crucial for verifying the accuracy of election results and ensuring transparency in the

## Beef party host Engineer Rashid might play spoilsport in Baramulla LS seat

Independent candidate Abdul Rashid Sheikh, commonly known as Engineer Rashid, gained prominence after being thrashed by BJP legislators in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in October 2015 for hosting a beef party in Srinagar's MLA Hostel.

Now, he is all set to play spoilsport in north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency that goes to polls in the fifth phase on 20 May. The former chief minister and vice president of the National Conference (NC), Omar Abdullah, and former separatist and chairman of the Peoples Conference (PC), Sajjad Gani Lone, are the main contenders for the seat. However, they face competition from a total of 22 candidates vying for the position. The Baramulla Lok Sabha seat has been a stronghold of the NC and Congress. With the Congress being a partner in the INDIA bloc, it is supporting Omar Abdullah.

# Israel's Army Recovers Bodies Of Three Hostages From Gaza

(Gns). In an official statement, the IDF confirmed that the bodies had been recovered during an overnight operation, based on intelligence obtained from the interro-



The bodies of three hostages from Gaza have been recovered by Israeli forces, according to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The recovered bodies were identified as those of Shani Louk, Amit Buskila, and Itzhak Gelerenter. Local media reported that the bodies were discovered in a Hamas tunnel. The unprecedented attack on Israel by Hamas gunmen on October 7 resulted in the deaths of about 1,200 people, and 252 individuals were taken back to Gaza as hostages. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the news as "heartbreaking," and emphasized Israel's commitment to recovering all hostages, both living and deceased, as reported by BBC.

Approximately 125 hostages remain unaccounted for, with others having been released or rescued. The Hostages Family Forum, a group of relatives of those being held, expressed their profound sorrow following the announcement of the murders of Shani Louk, Itzik Gelerenter, and Amit Buskila by Hamas terrorists, wish-

ing their memories to be a blessing, as reported by BBC. In November, a deal was agreed upon, resulting in Hamas releasing 105 hostages in exchange for a week-long ceasefire and the release of approximately 240 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. It remains unclear how many of the unaccounted-for hostages are still alive. Following the October 7 attacks, Israel launched an offensive in Gaza, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 35,000 people, primarily civilians, according to the health ministry run by Hamas, as per media reports. The United Nations reports that approximately 2.2 million Palestinians are experiencing severe food shortages and are in urgent need of shelter and other assistance.

gations of detained terrorists in Gaza. The IDF stated that the three victims had been killed near an intersection close to the site of the Nova festival massacre in southern Israel before their bodies were taken to Gaza. More

## Divisional Commissioner reviewed the works of Mathura-Vrindavan Development Authority and Municipal Corporation.

Mathura. A review meeting of the works of Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority and Municipal Corporation was held in the auditorium of TFC located in Vrindavan under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Mrs. Ritu Maheshwari. Under the Urban Infrastructure Fund, the works completed and in progress in the financial year 2023-24 were reviewed. In which Model Road from Chhatikara to Rukmani Vihar Multilevel Car Parking in Vrindavan, divider repair and reconstruction work on Chhatikara Road in Mathura Vrindavan, street lighting on trees on Chhatikara Road, lighting work with pre-installed poles from Chhatikara Tiraha to multilevel parking. Mathura Vrindavan reviewed the work of wall painting at various places, installation of sculptures at various important places in Mathura Vrindavan etc. Divisional Commissioner directed that lighting should be done immediately with pre-installed poles from Chhatikara Tiraha to multilevel parking and peacock feather design should be installed on all the poles. Special attention should be paid to quality in wall painting works at various places in Mathura Vrindavan. Giving time the work should be completed. He said that

will painting based on the theme of Shri Krishna should be done on the parikrama route. Regarding the work of installing sculptures at various important

work of Fasad lighting at Kesighat should be completed soon. Reviewed the progress of construction of bus stop shed along the busway for urban bus stop-

kiosks, holding areas, benches, gazebos, barriers, toilets etc. should be made on the route leading from Jaipur Temple to Shri Radharani Temple. Everyone's proposals should be made quickly. Tricolor lighting should be done in the shed area. Fans, water ATMs and places to sit should be made at various places on the route leading to Shri Radharani Temple via stairs. Wall painting should be done in Barsana area to attract devotees and good lighting should be ensured in the entire area. He said that the roads and drains should be repaired. Regarding the Govardhan Parikrama Marg, the Divisional Commissioner directed that the rough Parikrama Marg should be resurfaced, so that the devotees can get convenience in Parikrama on foot. The problem of waterlogging in other places should be resolved. All the street lights on Parikrama Marg should be repaired by the concerned firm. Instructed the Vice President of MVDA that the work of walling in the proposed housing schemes should be completed soon. After the elections, the process of registration should be started by giving public notice for allotment of the above two housing schemes by about 15th June.



Divisional Commissioner Ritu Maheshwari holding a meeting in the auditorium of Vrindavan TFC.

places in Mathura Vrindavan, instructions were given that there should be visibility at all 06 places, from where the sculpture can be easily seen by the people. Lighting should be arranged on all the sculptures and good plants should be planted nearby. For the convenience of the devotees in Vrindavan, 60 golf carts were to be purchased, out of which 58 golf carts are operational and the remaining 02 golf carts will arrive by the end of May. Regarding the works of Fasad/Decorative lighting at various places in Mathura Vrindavan, instructions were given that the

page service in Mathura city. On which Secretary MVDA said that out of 17 selected bus stops, the construction work of 10 has been completed and the remaining 07 construction works are in the final stage. The Divisional Commissioner directed that it should be ensured that the buses stop at the said bus stops. In the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed various proposed works in Barsana, in which mainly water ATMs, toilets, lighting, benches, roads etc. on the small and big parikrama route were discussed. The Divisional Commissioner directed that arrangements for sheds, lighting, water

# David DePape Receives 30-Year Sentence for Assault on Pelosi's Husband

(Gns). In a significant legal proceeding, David DePape, 44, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for his attempt to kidnap former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and for assaulting her husband, Paul Pelosi, with a hammer. This sentence was delivered by Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley after jurors found DePape guilty of attempted kidnapping of a federal official and assault on the immediate family member of a federal official last November. The prosecution had initially sought a 40-year term for these grave offenses.

nature of DePape's actions, emphasizing the severity of breaking into a public official's home with malicious intent. The attack not only targeted Paul Pelosi but

did not comply with his demands. The incident, which occurred just days before the midterm elections, was captured on police body

Nancy Pelosi were among the peculiar details that emerged during the trial. Prosecutors also noted that he was equipped with rope, zip ties, body cameras, a computer, and a tablet at the time of the attack.



Paul Pelosi's testimony provided a harrowing account of being awakened by DePape and facing imminent danger. The physical toll on Paul Pelosi included two head wounds, a skull fracture requiring surgical intervention with plates and screws, and injuries to his right arm and hand.

Aside from federal charges, DePape faces additional charges in state court including assault with a deadly weapon and elder abuse among others. Jury selection for this trial is anticipated to commence shortly.

This case underscores the alarming potential for political rhetoric and conspiracy theories to fuel violent actions against public officials. The sentencing marks a pivotal moment in addressing threats against government officials while highlighting the ongoing challenges in safeguarding democratic institutions.

During the sentencing, DePape received 20 years for one count and 30 years for another, with both sentences to run concurrently. Additionally, he was credited for the 18 months already spent in custody. Throughout the hearing, DePape remained silent, occasionally looking down as the judge announced his sentence. His defense team had advocated for a lighter sentence of 14 years, citing his lack of prior criminal history and personal struggles at the time of the crime.

also aimed to disrupt the functioning of a key federal official through intimidation and violence.

Christine Pelosi, speaking on behalf of her parents, shared victim statements that detailed the profound impact of the violent attack on their lives. DePape had admitted during his trial testimony to breaking into the Pelosi residence on October 28, 2022, with intentions to capture Nancy Pelosi and inflict harm if she

## Police caught the criminal who stole from wedding ceremony, Rs 17 lakh 85 thousand recovered

Mathura. A month ago, a vicious thief who had arrived from the marriage home as a guest at a wedding ceremony had stolen a bag containing lakhs of

where he has been sent to jail.

Twinkle Jain, teams were deployed to quickly uncover the above incident. To identify the accused, the police had examined the CCTV footage installed

recovered Rs 17,85,000 in cash which was stolen during a wedding ceremony held at Brijrani Marriage Home. Monu is absconding



Giving information in the auditorium, Additional Superintendent of Police City Dr. Arvind and Refinery IPS station in-charge Twinkle Jain Refinery CO.



rupees. On Saturday, the police arrested the vicious thief near a CNG petrol pump and exposed the theft. Out of the stolen money, Rs 17 lakh 85 thousand have been recovered. The arrested accused has also confessed to the theft in State Bank of India. The police have produced the accused in the court, from

April 20, a case was registered in the Refinery police station in the case of an unknown thief posing as a guest at a wedding ceremony in village Badar Brijrani Marriage Home of the Refinery area and stole a bag full of money and jewelry and ran away. Under the leadership of police station in-charge

around the marriage home and at major intersections. Meanwhile, based on the information, the police arrested a thief involved in the incident in the township ahead of the CNG petrol pump. He has been identified as Vijay Singh alias Pappu, resident of Kadiya Sasi, Madhya Pradesh. He confessed to his crime and

with him in this incident and the police is trying to arrest him. The arrested accused Vijay has also confessed to the theft of Rs 1 lakh from the State Bank of India in the police station area. SSP Shailesh Kumar Pandey has announced a reward of Rs 25 thousand to the Refinery Police team for this success

## Cleanliness campaign run by NTPC Vindhyaachal CSR under Swachhta Pakhwada-2024

Vindhyanagar (Singrauli): Under the ambitious scheme of the Government of India, Swachhta Pakhwada is being run throughout India from 16 May 2024 to 31 May 2024. On this occasion, a cleanliness campaign was run by NTPC Vindhyaachal CSR in the Navjeevan Bihar Sabzi Mandi and Stadium of the project in which everyone took an oath by doing shramdaan that we

will neither litter ourselves nor let anyone litter. Everyone took a pledge to keep the area around them clean and everyone was made aware.



In this campaign, Deputy General Manager (CSR & R&R) Mr. Mehtab Alam, Executive (CSR) Nikhil Jaiswal along with CSR team, ward councillor as well as a large number of villagers were also present.

## Swachhta Pakhwada-2024 launched at NTPC Rihand

Bijpur (Sonebhadra): NTPC Rihand has started Swachhta Pakhwada-2024 today on Thursday. Swachhta Pakhwada-2024 was inaugurated by project head Mr. Pankaj Mediratta. During this, he administered the oath of cleanliness to the entire NTPC family in a program organized at Sonashakti Stadium. In which officers and employees of all departments related to NTPC Rihand were included. Cleanliness Fortnight: A continuous cleanliness



campaign will be conducted in the plant and residential premises of the project from 16th May to 31st May 2024.

## Mexican and Guatemalan Leaders Convene to Strengthen Border Relations

(Gns). In a significant meeting held in a Mexican border city, Presidents Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico and Bernardo Arévalo of Guatemala convened to address critical issues of mutual interest, with immigration being at the forefront. This encounter marks the first official discussion between López Obrador and Arévalo, who assumed office earlier this year. The choice of location for this meeting holds historical significance, echoing a similar diplomatic engagement that took place in 1946 between their predecessors.



dominance in the region, affecting the flow of drugs, migrants, and weapons.

has proposed issuing more temporary work visas for Guatemalan laborers and extending a cargo train line to the Guatemalan border. President López Obrador also reiterated his interest in expanding his Maya Train project into Guatemala's Peten jungle, a proposal previously declined by Arévalo's predecessor.

acknowledged the challenges of managing mass deportations due to high costs and logistical complexities.

Mexico's stance on its shared borders with Guatemala and Belize was made clear by Bárcena, who advocated for creating an exemplary border space without walls, offering opportunities to migrants. However, migrants' experiences traversing Mexico have often been marred by robbery, kidnapping by organized crime groups, and extortion by authorities.

During their talks, President Arévalo expressed a vision for a border that fosters unity and development between the two nations, emphasizing the importance of reciprocal benefits and collaboration. However, the backdrop to this meeting is the increasing pressure from the United States on both countries to enhance control over their shared border. This comes amid concerns over security issues fueled by conflicts between Mexican cartels vying for

The discussions also occur at a time when diplomatic activities between the United States, Mexico, and other regional countries are intensifying. This is partly due to efforts by U.S. President Joe Biden's administration to manage migration levels to the U.S.-Mexico border, which have surged to record highs in late 2023. In response to these challenges, Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretary Alicia Bárcena announced plans to direct more resources towards the Mexico-Guatemala border and accelerate development programs aimed at job creation and commerce.

Furthermore, Mexico

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**VARIOUS WORKS**  
 Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Surat-395 006 invites e-tender No.: Dy.CE(C)ST/172. Name of work: Carrying out Feasibility Study, Topographical Survey, Geotech Investigation, Preparation and Submission of Concept Plan, General Arrangement Drawing (GAD), Detailed Design, Drawing, Structural design, Detailed Estimates and Tender document for Complete ROB With both Approaches for the construction of 6 (Six) Nos. Road Over Bridges in the Western Railway under the jurisdiction under Dy. Chief Engineer (C) Surat. NIT Value: ₹ 83,38,236.77. EMD: ₹ 1,66,800/-. e-Bid closing date: till 29.05.2024, 11.00 hrs. e-Bid opening date: on 29.05.2024 at 11.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website [www.wreps.gov.in](http://www.wreps.gov.in). 0158  
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