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**In Brief**

**Amarnath Yatra to begin on June 29**

The administration on Sunday announced a 52-day annual Amarnath Yatra from June 29 to August 19. Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), that regulates the annual pilgrimage to the south Kashmir Himalayas, put out the information on its website. The registration shall start at various branches of the designated banks from Monday. "Registration for the annual Shri Amarnath yatra shall start on Monday, for which Punjab National Bank has set up special counters at 316 branches across the country. The pilgrims have to bring a health certificate from authorised hospitals along with their Aadhar Card," a PNB official said. The registration shall be done for the Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and Baital in Ganderbal district.

According to the guidelines, individuals aged between 13 and 70 can register for the pilgrimage. Women with a pregnancy of 6 weeks or more are not allowed to undertake the yatra.

**RSP & Balka Suman meet with Kavitha in Tihar Jail**

New Delhi: MLC Kavitha was met by BRS leaders RS Praveen Kumar and Balka Suman. At 10 am on Friday, both of them met Kavitha in Tihar Jail. Later they returned to Telangana Bhavan in Delhi. Meanwhile, it is known that the ED arrested Kavitha in a money laundering case related to the Delhi liquor scam last March. She was sent to Tihar Jail after the Delhi High Court remanded her to judicial remand. Later, Kavitha was arrested by the CBI while she was still in jail. Kavitha is currently in Tihar Jail in these two cases. The court rejected the bail petition several times. The Delhi High Court will hear Kavitha's bail petition on the 24th of this month.

**CM Revanth Reddy stresses on revenue generation**

**CORRESPONDENT Hyderabad -Telangana Capital:**



Expressing dissatisfaction over the income generated in the State last year, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to review the month-wise revenue generation so as to achieve the annual targets set in the annual budget. The Chief Minister held a meeting with officials from commercial taxes, excise, stamps and registration and other departments here on Thursday. During the meeting, he wanted the officials to lay focus on GST collection, which was one of the key

sources of revenue for the State. Proper field inspections and auditing should be conducted to increase the GST collection, he said, stressing that GST evaders should not be spared and officials should make sure the mistakes committed in the past did not recur. The Chief Minister specifically

sought the reasons for revenue not increasing despite the fact that elections were conducted last year. Strict action against should be taken against illegal transportation of liquor and also against tax evasion, he said. Stating that rates of land and immovable property had increased drastically across the State, the Chief Minister said the income from registrations and stamps had not increased. At many places, there was no correlation between market value of the land and the actual sales rates. As per rules, market value of the land have to be revised annually. Calling for steps to revise these prices, he

said revision of agricultural lands, vacant lots, plots, apartments market values and the locations should be determined scientifically determined. All the regulations of the Registration and Stamps department should be strictly followed, he ordered. "Land market values should be revised to promote the real estate and construction sector in tune with the State government's increasing revenue," Revanth Reddy said, adding that a comparative study of stamp duties prevailing in Telangana and other States should be conducted, besides ascertaining whether to increase or decrease the stamp duties.

**WE ARE GOING TO HIT A HAT TRICK: PM MODI**



New Delhi: Prime Minister Modi said that there is a fight between the NDA, which works for the country in elections, and the India Alliance, which is increasing instability in the country. He said that the people of the country are with the BJP. NDA's victory is certain. Prime Minister Modi participated in a public meeting organized in Uttar Pradesh on Friday as part of the election campaign. On this occasion he said... He said that our government is going to hit a hat trick. He said that many decisions are going to be taken for the poor after winning. It is because of your vote that Ram Mandir was built.

The Prime Minister said that Ram Mandir became possible only because of electing a strong government. He said that if the candidates of the India alliance win, they will make it their job to curse Modi. Do we choose anyone to scold?.. Do things get done by such people?.. We want someone

who does things, said Modi. An atrocity took place in Hyderabad's Ellareddyguda. A wife killed her husband who was infatuated with her boyfriend. She also cremated him so that no one would suspect that he had died of a heart attack. Three months after the incident, the accused surrendered and the truth came out. According to the details disclosed by the Maduranagar police, CCTV camera technician Vijay Kumar (40) who resides in Shikhar Apartment in Jayaprakashnagar, Ellareddy Guda, Hyderabad, has a wife Srilakshmi (33) and two sons (9 and 8 years). Srilakshmi has been having an extra-marital

relationship with Rajesh (30) from Borabanda for some time. Thinking that her husband is an obstacle to their relationship, Sree Lakshmi planned a murder with her boyfriend. Own houses in Medchal and Ellareddyguda in husband's name. She thought let's enjoy killing her husband.

**Case against AIMIM workers for threatening Hyderabad BJP candidate Madhavi Latha**



Hyderabad: The Moghalpura police registered a case against AIMIM party workers for alleged criminal intimidation and unlawfully assembling during elections. On the polling day on Monday, BJP candidate K Madhavi Latha, was in the old city and on reaching Bibi Bazaar junction, she stopped and got down from the car to take videos of a mob. On spotting her on the road, several persons including AIMIM leader Yaser Arafath, who was going that way, stopped and got down from his car. He allegedly

**Amit Shah's "BIG BOTTLES" Swipe At Arvind Kejriwal Campaign**



New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah today took a swipe at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal suggesting that people will only be reminded of the 'liquor scam' when they see him campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections. "As a voter, I believe wherever he will go for the poll campaign, the people will remember the liquor scam, even in Punjab. People will also see big bottles in front of them when they see Kejriwal," Mr Shah said during an interview with ANI. He said that he does not feel the opposition INDIA bloc will benefit from Mr Kejriwal being granted

interim bail to campaign. The Supreme Court granted interim bail to Mr Kejriwal earlier this month in a case related to the Delhi liquor policy. The court has asked the Aam Aadmi Party chief

to surrender on June 2, so that the Enforcement Directorate can continue their probe in the case. Reacting to the verdict, Mr Shah said that it should not be seen as a victory for the AAP and Arvind Kejriwal. "What was their plea before the SC? They said that his arrest was illegal but the apex court dismissed it. Then they modified their plea and asked for bail; the court rejected that too. The Supreme Court said that as per your demand to campaign in elections, we are giving you interim bail and you have to surrender on June 1," Mr Shah said.

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# Delhi Cops, Forensic Team At Arvind Kejriwal's House Amid Swati Maliwal Row

**New Delhi:** Controversy over Swati Maliwal's allegations against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide - Bibhav Kumar - escalated sharply after a police team, accompanied by forensic analysts, visited the Aam Aadmi Party leader's residence, where the alleged assault took place. In addition to collecting CCTV footage from the living room - where Ms Maliwal has claimed she was slapped seven times and kicked in the chest - the police are expected to record witness statements and speak to members of Arvind Kejriwal's security staff, including those seen arguing with the AAP leader in blurry mobile phone footage of the stand-off that was leaked online this morning. In the 52-second video Ms Maliwal, who is seen briefly, seems to be arguing with security staff inside



Mr Kejriwal's home. The guards are heard, repeatedly, asking Ms Maliwal to leave the building. Ms Maliwal refuses to leave and warns the security officers she has called the police. In signs the relationship between the AAP and Ms Maliwal, who is a party MP, seems to have broken down, the party shared the video online with the terse message,

"The truth of Swati Maliwal." Ms Maliwal had earlier slammed the party over the video.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), she referred to a "political hitman" - a remark seen by many as aimed at Mr Kejriwal - and claimed the "hitman" had directed "his people" to share the video in question to build a narrative to "save himself (after) com-

mitting this crime". "Like every time... this political hitman has started efforts to save himself. By getting his people to tweet and play videos without any context, he thinks he can save himself (after) committing this crime," she declared. On Thursday, in her first public comment on this row, Ms Maliwal called for action against those who allegedly attacked her, and wrote on X, "The last few days have been very difficult..." She also hit out at critics who have suggested her actions and claims were being orchestrated by "the other party"; the comment has been seen as referring to the BJP, which has launched multiple severe criticism of Mr Kejriwal and the AAP ahead of the election in Delhi, accusing both of being "anti-women".

# Poll Body Notice To Judge-Turned-BJP Candidate For Mamata Banerjee Remarks

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission has served Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay a show-cause notice for "improper, injudicious and undignified remarks" remarks against Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The poll panel said the remarks, prima facie, violated Model Code of Conduct provisions and its advisory dated March 1. The remarks by the BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from the Tamluk seat were made at a public meeting in Haldia district on Wednesday, and were made public after a video emerged online a day later. The comments - condemned as sexist - prompted the Trinamool to file a complaint with the top poll panel, accusing the former judge - with whom the party has had several run-ins - of making "misogynistic" comments. The BJP, however, has denounced the video as "fake". In a letter



to the EC, the Trinamool hit out at the "very shameful and egregious statement" made by the BJP leader and alleged that comments showed the Tamluk candidate's "misogynistic mindset". "Mr Gangopadhyay's vulgar and uncouth remark(s)/comment(s) are completely beyond the grounds of decency and morality. They not only lack decorum but also exhibit a blatant disregard of the only lady Chief

Minister, Smt. Mamata Banerjee," the letter read. The letter also alleged that BJP candidates were making "indecorous and degrading statements" against women to garner votes.

The Trinamool Congress demanded that the poll body issue orders to initiate criminal proceedings against the Mr Gangopadhyay and ban him from attending public meetings or rallies.

# Notice To Centre, RBI For Alternate Digital KYC Method For Acid Attack Survivors

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court today sought a response from the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India and others on a plea seeking an alternate digital KYC (Know Your Customer) process for acid attack survivors and individuals with permanent eye damage. Termining the petition filed by nine acid attack survivors an "important issue", a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notice to the Union government, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and others on the plea. "We will issue

notice. This is an important issue and we will hear it," the bench said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by acid attack activist Pragya Prasad and others seeking an alternate digital KYC process for acid attack survivors with eye disfigurement. The petition stated that one of the petitioners, with severe eye damage due to an acid attack, went to ICICI Bank in 2023 to open a bank account. The petitioner was unable to do so as she was incapable of completing the Digital KYC/e-KYC process due to the bank's insistence on completing the requirement of capturing a "live photograph" by blinking her

eyes. The plea said numerous acid attack victims with enduring eye disfigurement and those facing similar challenges are impeded from procuring SIM cards or independently opening bank accounts. The petition contended that these accessibility barriers inhibit acid attack survivors from accessing essential goods and services, which are essential to leading a life with dignity, autonomy and equality, and participating in day-to-day life. It said the Centre should expand or clarify the interpretation of "live photograph" to encompass alternative criteria beyond eye blinking, such as facial movements or voice recognition.

# "Nonsense": Rajnath Singh On Arvind Kejriwal's Claims On PM's Retirement

**Lucknow:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dubbed as "abstruse and unfortunate" AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "retirement" and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "removal". Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal on Thursday repeated his claim that PM Modi will retire from politics once he attains 75 years of age in 2025, in accordance with the saffron party's rules, and added that the prime minister is seeking votes for Union Home Minister Amit Shah as his successor. He also claimed that the BJP would remove Adityanath as Uttar Pradesh chief minister within two months if it returned to power at the Centre.

Hitting back at Mr Kejriwal during a public meeting in

Rajajipuram, Mr Singh said, "The chief minister of Delhi said that Modi ji will not become the prime minister after the 2024 elections. I am surprised. He has just come out on bail, he has to go to jail again after June 1 and he is talking such nonsense about the prime minister of India." "The entire country wants Modi ji to be the prime minister in 2024 as well as 2029," he added. On May 10, the Supreme Court granted Mr Kejriwal interim bail till June 1, the last day of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections, and directed him to surrender and go back to jail on June 2. The Delhi chief minister was arrested on March 21.

Defence Minister further said, "He (Kejriwal) also spoke nonsense about our chief minister. Modi ji will not remain the

prime minister, Yogi ji will not remain the chief minister ... That means only he (Kejriwal) will remain and no one else." "It is very unfortunate to say such things about such strong and effective leadership. I want to say that politics cannot be done only by telling lies. Meaningful politics can be done only by speaking the truth," the senior BJP leader added.

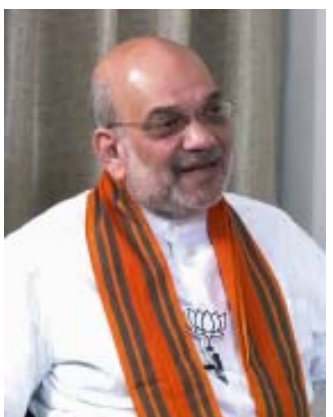
The defence minister also took a jibe at Mr Kejriwal over his claims of development in Delhi. "He (Kejriwal) makes a lot of claims about the development of Delhi. Go and see the condition of Delhi ... what has he done? Whatever development has happened in Delhi, if the maximum credit for it goes to anyone, it goes to Prime Minister Modi ji." Earlier in the day, Mr Kejriwal



said at a press conference that Adityanath would be removed as chief minister if the BJP returned to power. "Prime Minister Modi is going to cross the age of 75 next year and has decided to make Amit Shah the prime minister of the country," Mr Kejriwal said. He claimed that PM Modi has been working to ensure the same.

# Amit Shah Slams Priyanka Gandhi For Calling Amethi, Raebareli "Family Seats"

**Raebareli:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an election rally attacked Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi for calling Raebareli a "family seat", and said it's not a seat of any family but that of the people. Mr Shah made a scathing attack on the Congress for turning down invitations for Ram Mandir's 'Pran Pratishtha' in Ayodhya and said if the Congress came to power, they would put the "Ayodhya lock" in the temple again. Mr Shah held a public meeting in Daultapur of the Unchahar assembly constituency. During the rally, rebel SP MLA from Unchahar, Manoj Kumar Pandey joined the BJP and sat beside Shah on the stage. "Congress says that Ram temple has not been consecrated properly. If the INDI alliance comes, they will put the 'Babri lock' on Ram temple again", he said. Mr Shah also called the INDIA bloc a family-based alliance. "Lalu (Prasad Yadav) wants to



make his son the chief minister, Mamata (Banerjee) wants her nephew to be the chief minister and Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son the prime minister," Mr Shah said. "She (Priyanka Gandhi) says that Raebareli and Amethi are the seats of my family. "I say that this seat does not belong to any family. This is the seat of poor youths of both districts. Whoever the people of Rae Bareli and Amethi want will do to the Parliament. This is de-

mocracy, family has no seat," he said. With Smriti Irani winning in Amethi and Dinesh Pratap Singh in Raebareli, both the seats are going to go to the BJP, Mr Shah said. "The Congress party was sitting on Article 370, (Prime Minister) Modi ended it. Congress says that we will bring back Article 370. Modi ji has ended terrorism from the country," he said. "On one hand, there is Narendra Modi, who is not accused of (scam of) four annas despite being the chief minister and prime minister for 23 years," Mr Shah said. The Union home minister said that PM Modi will put in jail all those who have committed corruption. There was no collector office in the parliamentary constituency which they call the family seat for 70 years, Mr Shah said, adding that the Yogi Adityanath government along with Smriti Irani laid the foundation stone of the collector office in 2018.

# "Congress Will Bulldoze Ram Temple If It Comes To Power": PM Modi In UP

**Barabanki (UP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged that the Congress will run a bulldozer over the Ram temple if the INDIA bloc comes to power. Addressing an election rally, PM Modi said the Congress is planning to challenge the Supreme Court's order on the Ram temple once it comes to power and will eventually demolish the temple. "If Samajwadi Party-Congress comes to power, it will send Ram Lalla once again to a tent, and a bulldozer will be rolled over the temple," he said.

PM Modi also accused the Congress of being responsible for the Partition. He said what used to be thought of as impossible - that the country could ever be divided - was done by the party. "When the freedom struggle was going on and the talk of dividing the country used to come up, ev-

ery person used to wonder: Can the country be divided? Did it happen or not? They did it or not? They can go to any extent. Their track record is such," he said referring to the Congress. "The country does not matter to them. For them, the game is for family and power," he added. The Prime Minister was in Barabanki to seek support for party candidate Rajrani Rawat who is contesting from the Lok Sabha seat.

He thanked the people for voting for him in the previous elections, saying it was their vote which ended the "500-year-long" wait for the Ram Mandir. "People from Barabanki walked on foot to Ayodhya with bricks with 'Ram' inscribed on them. The youngsters, the first-time voters, will not understand the 500 years of wait ... Generation after generation of our ancestors struggled and sacrificed," he said. He alleged that



Congress under its regime sent Ram Lalla to a "tent" and when it, along with the Samajwadi Party, was invited to the temple's consecration ceremony, the party refused to attend. "There is so much poison in their belly... I don't know what enmity they have with Ram," PM Modi said. In Barabanki, there are 13 candidates in the fray with the main contest between Tanuj Punia of the Con-

gress and BJP's Rajrani Rawat. Mr Punia is the son of Congress leader PL Punia, a former MP from Barabanki (SC) Lok Sabha seat. In March, a day after an explicit video allegedly involving him surfaced online, sitting BJP MP Upendra Singh Rawat, who was fielded again by the party, said he would not contest any election until proven innocent.

# "Those Who Used To Loot Booths...": Smriti Irani Jabs Congress On Amethi

**New Delhi:** Launching a scathing attack on the Congress party and the Gandhi family, Union Minister Smriti Irani alleged that the party captured polling booths during elections including in the family bastion seat of Amethi, on multiple occasions in the past to exert its dominance in the region. The Bharatiya Janata Party leader said that the party couldn't digest when an ordinary party worker defeated them and ended their long stint in Amethi. In an

exclusive interview with ANI, Smriti Irani said, "Why it (Amethi) hurts them so much, why they say that Smriti Irani has no 'aukaat' (status) because those who used to loot booths lost to an ordinary party worker."

She alleged that "one of the Gandhi siblings" (Rahul or Priyanka Gandhi) in the late 1990s told a senior journalist by identifying "these (party workers) capture the booths for us." "You can check a New York Times story, which says when

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Rajmohan Gandhi contested against Rajiv Gandhi from Amethi, the Congress party captured 97 booths," Ms Irani further alleged. The BJP leader further stressed that former UP Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav allegedly claimed "transferring 1,00,000 votes" in favour of Rahul Gandhi in the 2014 elections. "Mulayam Singh Yadav on record, said in an interview that Sonia Gandhi in 2014 had requested him to help his son

(Rahul Gandhi) in Amethi by transferring 1,00,000 votes," she alleged. Notably, Smriti Irani in 2019, ended the Gandhi family's stint in the Amethi constituency by defeating Rahul Gandhi from the seat. Seeking re-election from the seat, Ms Irani is pitted against Congress candidate Kishori Lal Sharma, a long-time loyalist of the Gandhi family. The Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) has also fielded Nanhe Singh Chauhan from the seat. Speaking further, the BJP leader

slammed the Congress party over their treatment of Maneka Gandhi, alleging that she was "stripped and assaulted" when she contested against Rajiv Gandhi from Amethi. Maneka Gandhi, the wife of late Congress leader Sanjay Gandhi was reportedly keen on contesting from her husband's seat Amethi after his death. In 1984, she contested from the seat against Rajiv Gandhi in 1984. However, she lost by a huge margin and ended up losing her deposit.



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# EDITORIAL

## Family Furnishings... Hateship... Friendship...

The death of a celebrated writer is an occasion to mourn losses — of her genius, the excellence of her craft, her prodigious intellect, the accolades that she had won over her lifetime, the circumstances of her writing life. But it is also a moment to remember how her words made one feel — a sense of being seen, heard, or perhaps, simply reassured about the universality of emotions, whose surfeit or absence forms the leitmotif of everyday life. In 'Family Furnishings', a story from her collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* (2001), the Canadian writer and Nobel laureate Alice Munro, who died this week, wrote, "There was a danger whenever I was on home ground. It was the danger of seeing my life through eyes other than my own." Munro's gaze was anything but the other's: There was both comprehension of and empathy for the individual battles one fought in the privacy of one's mind. What Munro held back from — most of the time — was omniscience, the writerly, almost patriarchal, tendency to explain the lives of protagonists back to them. Like her friend, the writer Margaret Atwood, she made female gaze a thing long before it gained currency. What could it be about the lives of girls and women that Munro could get to the heart of, that set her apart? That despite their setting in rural Canada, their stories resonated with readers across the world? In the story 'Too Much Happiness' about the mathematician and writer Sophia Kovalevsky, from the eponymous anthology, Munro writes, "Always remember that when a man goes out of the room, he leaves everything in it behind... When a woman goes out she carries everything that happened in the room along with her." Munro mapped this storied baggage without critique — she wrote not so much about her characters but as them, sharing the bitter taste of their disappointments, the sudden flares of resentment, and the illicit thrill of hope. Like her readers, she both discovers and feels her way through relationships — marriage and infidelity, motherhood and daughterhood — but also through loneliness and grief, love and longing, desire and abandonment. It makes reading Munro a visceral experience, like a conversation with an old friend who knows the many versions of the person one has been. In her Nobel Prize interview in 2013, Munro spoke of her affinity to happy endings. One of the first stories she heard as a child was Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. Its sobering coda had made such an impression on her young mind that she was determined to rework its course to give the mermaid the happily ever after she deserved. By the time she began writing though, the spell had broken. Munro realised that happy endings were not the stuff of real life. They belonged in the realm of fantasies, in the hoariness of once-upon-a-times and relied on larger-than-life characters to prop them up. Real life was the work of ordinariness, its tedium broken by the passage of time and messy, erratic chance. There is an interiority to Munro's stories that comes from being an insider. The writer spoke often of drawing from her own life — her troubled relationship with her school-teacher mother who developed Parkinson's when Munro was in her early 40s, the ennui of her first marriage, the solace that books offered, and learning to write amid domestic chores and childcare duties. The sparse economy of her short stories owed a debt to these roles she played in family life, the constraint of time that she battled against like every woman. In the unchanging routine of daily living, as men and women worked and sparred, lived and lost, she traced the unpredictable archaeologies of the human heart. Unlike most of her counterparts, Munro consciously stayed away from an overtly public life, an achievement in itself, given the range of accolades that she garnered, from the Man Booker International Prize to the Nobel Prize. It could have been her characteristic diffidence but for her readers, it spelled confidence: Munro knew the vagaries of human nature like few others. Formal validations are necessary accoutrements of success, but beyond their endorsement, what remained was how Munro made her readers feel — seen and heard.

# Telangana's annual energy requirement likely to touch 97,547 MU

**Hyderabad:** Energy requirement of Telangana is likely to touch 8,622 million units in December and 10,177 MU in March 2025. The state has witnessed an unusually sharp spike in power consumption in the last few months.

According to the latest report of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Telangana's energy consumption has already touched 9,009 million units in March and is likely to increase in the coming months. As per the CEA report, Telangana ranked sixth in the country with consumption of 9,009 MU in March. Maharashtra (18,795 MU), Gujarat (12,948 MU), Tamil Nadu (11,929 MU), Uttar Pradesh (10,507 MU) and Karnataka (10,018 MU) are in the first five positions respectively. According to data released by the CEA, Telangana's annual peak energy demand is expected to reach 18,501 MW

and the anticipated annual energy requirement is likely to be 97,547 million units during the financial year 2024-25. The peak demand is expected to be as high as 18,501 MW during September, while the energy requirement is likely to reach 8,622 MU in December and 10,177 MU in March 2025. Telangana is behind Tamil Nadu in both power peak demand and energy requirement among the Southern States. The energy requirement forecast for Telangana during April was 7890 mu, May (6207 mu), June(6424 mu), July(7028) August (8,554 mu), September (8,514 mu), October (8,213 mu), November(7362 mu) and December (8622 mu), while it would touch 9,054 mu in January, 9,502 mu in February and 10,177 mu in March 2025. Similarly, the peak demand is likely to touch 16,642 MW in August, 18,501 MW in September, 17,653 MW in October, 14,715 MW in November and 18,242

MW in December. It is likely to touch 17,266 MW in January, 17,732 MW in February and 17,666 MW in March 2025.

As per the National Electricity Plan (NEP) for 2022-2032, the energy demand in Telangana is estimated to grow by 5 per cent to 6 per cent a year till 2030-31. Telangana on March 6 set a new record with the consumption hitting 298 MU in a single day.

The annual energy requirement of Hyderabad is likely to increase to 30,054 mu during the current fiscal and reach 39,267 mu in 2029-30, the report stated. Greater Hyderabad recorded the highest consumption of 89.71 million units on May 4, which was 53.7 percent higher than last year's consumption of 58.34 million units. The city had already recorded the peak demand of 4214 MW this season and that it was likely to go up in the coming days. According to Energy De-



partment officials, the State had consistently recorded its peak demand during the months of April and May. "The escalation in power demand underscores the critical need for infrastructure enhancements and more robust distribution

systems to ensure a reliable and uninterrupted power supply, especially during periods of high demand. It also highlights the importance of proactive measures to meet the growing electricity requirements of the State," power officials stated.

## Delhi liquor policy case: BRS accuses investigative agencies of pressurising K Kavitha



**Hyderabad:** The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has accused the Central investigative agencies of pressurising BRS MLC K Kavitha to implicate certain political leaders in the Delhi excise policy case. The BRS termed the coercive actions of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as illegal, unethical and unconstitutional, stating that these agencies were targeting more

political leaders who were not toeing the BJP line.

BRS leaders RS Praveen Kumar and Balka Suman who called on Kavitha at Tihar Jail on Friday, told mediapersons outside the prison that the Central agencies were exerting severe pressure on Kavitha to name the political leaders in her statements during their interrogations. They pointed out that similar cases were filed against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal, Jharkhand former Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Delhi former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia through such confessions elicited from others arrested in connection with case.

"The ED is indulging in selective action, treating those who joined the BJP differently from those who did not. The BJP is using the CBI and ED to silence opposition voices," Praveen Kumar said. He questioned Kavitha's arrest without serving prior notice to her lawyer, highlighting the dire state of affairs in the country. He also pointed out the sudden change of judge in the case.

He argued that State governments develop policies to boost State revenue, and it is unfair to target the politicians for a State government's policy. "If making policies is wrong and can be perceived to benefit someone, then the Modi government developed numerous policies like the three farm

laws. For whose benefit does these laws were formulated?" he questioned.

Praveen Kumar questioned how the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) could apply to Kavitha when no money was found in her possession, and how the CBI could arrest her under the Prevention of Corruption Act without evidence of bribery. He reiterated that the charges against Kavitha were baseless and politically motivated.

Balka Suman informed that despite the intimidation of the Central agencies, Kavitha remained brave and mentally strong, and has immense faith in the judiciary. He asserted that the BRS will continue to fight against the "fascist regime" at the Centre. He predicted significant losses for the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections and stated that a coalition government would take power at the Centre.

## 'Kodelu' at Vemulawada shrine to be utilized for agriculture



**Rajanna-Sircilla:** Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy, Vemulawada, authorities have decided to give Kodelu (bulls) to farmers free of cost for the purpose of agriculture. Temple authorities, who sent proposals to the endowment department commissioner, are preparing guidelines for the programme. It is likely to be launched after the model code of conduct is lifted. 'Kodemokku' is a famous ritual in the shrine. Devotees strongly believe that their wishes will be fulfilled if a 'kode' (bull) is offered to the presiding deity of the Sri Rajarajeshwara temple in Vemulawada. A majority of the pilgrims, who visit the shrine, will offer 'kode; to the presiding deity.

Devotees also believe that good will happen to them if they donated a bull to the temple. People, who rear bulls in their cattle sheds donate them to the shrine, while others purchase and donate animals. As many devotees donate bulls, the number of animals has gone up and the temple is also maintaining a Goshala in Thippapur to look after them. Though the temple

authorities are maintaining goshala, there were incidents of bulls dying of illness due to lack of fodder, facilities and medical aid, temple sources said. Endowment commissioner Hanumantha Rao, who recently visited goshala, came down heavily on authorities for its poor maintenance and he instructed officials to provide all facilities to bulls. Since 150 bulls

are enough for the purpose of 'Kodemokku' ritual in the temple, the authorities used to give excess animals to other goshalas in the state through the State Goshala Federation. However, the practice was stopped after allegations surfaced over irregularities. However, in view of the demand from farmers, temple officials are now proposing to give away these bulls to ryots free of cost and sent the proposals to the commissioner. Authorities are planning to constitute a committee along with revenue, police, animal husbandry and temple officials to finalise the process of giving bulls to farmers. After accepting applications from farmers, the committee will finalize the eligible ryots after verifying pattadar passbooks and Aadhar cards.

Farmers have to enter an

agreement stating that they will not sell animals to others. Before handing over to ryots, tags will also be fixed to animals to enable the authorities to easily identify them. Speaking to Telangana Today, Temple AEO and goshala in-charge, B Srinivas said that the proposal was pending with the commissioner. After getting the clearance, they would start giving animals to farmers. He hoped that the programme would be launched after the completion of election code. Stating that all facilities were there in goshala, he said that per month, Rs 5 to Rs 6 lakh was being spent to provide fodder to animals. Informing that devotees would provide dry grass, he said they would spend an amount on green grass and other fodder items. Presently, there are 1200 animals in goshala.

## Hyderabad sees highest water supply this year

**Hyderabad:** A total of 580 million gallons per day (MGD) water was supplied to Hyderabad city this summer, the highest so far. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director, Sudarshan Reddy who inspected the emergency pumping at Nagarjuna Sagar on Thursday revealed that this year 20 MGD more water was supplied when compared to last year.

"The pumping process is un-



derway without any issues. If required, a second stage of pumping will also be initiated

and arrangements will be made to supply water through pumps," he added, in a press statement. Reddy also visited the Sunkishala project and inspected the pipeline construction. While the civil work is underway, the tunnels and electric work have reached the final stage. He directed the authorities to complete the project quickly and make it available by this September.

## Postgraduate studies portray dismal picture

**Hyderabad:** The allure of postgraduate education seems to be diminishing among students. Admissions to the postgraduate courses depict a concerning trend with more than 56 per cent of the seats remaining unclaimed during the present academic year i.e., 2023-24. The statistics of the Common Post Graduate Entrance Tests (CPGET) 2023 show that 20,519 seats (43.46 per cent) were filled out of a total intake of 47,211 in 51 programmes offered by eight universities, including Osmania, Kakatiya and Telangana Universities. A large number of students not only from Telangana but also from other States registered, appeared and qualified in exams.

However, several of them shied away from taking admission in the higher educational institutions. The CPGET 2023 had 59,665 candidates appearing and 56,852 qualifying. But when it came to admissions, only 34,954 candidates took part in certificate verification and 20,519 students finally got admissions. Except for a few programmes in sciences, other courses have enrolment less than 50 per cent. For MCom, which usually has high demand among students, a mere 26.18 per cent seats were filled out while only 29.24 per cent seats were claimed by students in MSc mathematics. The statistics paint a grim picture of the postgraduate education in the State universities. This despite universities like Osmania opening up its PG programmes for students from various educational backgrounds. Unlike earlier, the universities have rolled out admissions to social sciences and arts programmes — Telugu and English for any undergraduate degree holder via the CPGET. The higher education department officials attributed low PG admissions to dwindling interest among students to pursue academics in the affiliated colleges. They said most students want to study in the campus and constituent colleges particularly of the Osmania University only. "Some students enrol in PG programmes such as political science, public administration and journalism just to avail facilities in the campus for their competitive examination preparation," an OU official said.

According to officials, students were keen on pursuing MBA and MCA programmes rather than taking up conventional PG programmes in the universities. Those students who completed BCom were opting for jobs rather than going for higher education. "Nearly 25 colleges have been dropped from the admission process as they recorded less than 10 enrolments, which is not viable for colleges," a senior official said.

# Significance Of Army's New Tank Repair Facilities In Ladakh

**New Delhi:** The Indian Army has set up two of the world's highest tank repair facilities in Ladakh close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along China. The repair facilities are located in the north and east of Ladakh in one of the most strategically important areas on the eastern front.

The development is crucial as friction continues in Demchok in Eastern Ladakh and Dopsang in the north. These points have witnessed intrusions in the past as well even before the 2020 India-China standoff.

"To help sustain the armoured vehicle operations in the region, we have set up these Medium Maintenance (Reset) Facilities at Nyoma and near KM-148 on the DS-DBO Road in the DBO sector. These are the two main areas where tank and ICV operations are focussed in the eastern Ladakh sector," the Army officials told ANI.

"The tanks and infantry combat vehicles have been deployed in the area with over 500 of its tanks and infantry combat vehicles deployed in Eastern Ladakh," ANI reported.

Indian Army tank regiments prepare for operations at high-altitude areas, in Nyoma

**'Strategically Important Areas'**

Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) lies south of the Karakoram Pass, with Siachen on its west and China's illegally occupied Aksai Chin on its east. The Daulat Beg Oldie Advanced Landing Ground (DBOALG) is the highest airstrip and was re-activated in 2013 after the landing of the Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules. The entire region of DBO, Dopsang Plains make the Sub Sector North (SSN).

The region of Dopsang Plains, a flat land that stretches



for miles, is located at an altitude of approximately 16,000 feet. The area has witnessed the deployment of T-90s, T-72s and BMP II Armoured Vehicles. In 2013, Chinese troops entered 19 kilometres into Indian territory and set up camps in DBO. Both sides agreed to pull forces back to positions held before the confrontation, ending the 21-day stand-off.

In 2020, tanks were deployed not just for muscle-flexing, but these heavy platforms provide manoeuvrability and firepower cover to infantry. Lt General Amit Sharma (Retired), former chief of India's nuclear command, says, "Tank is the only piece of equipment that will enable the infantry to move and capture the objective. Tanks provide staying part to the enemy to defend it."

The temperature at those heights can plummet to -40 degrees Celsius, and climate conditions can heavily impact the performance of such platforms. The impact exponentially increases with rarefied air (air with low oxygen level), affecting the performance of tanks like their firing system, hydraulics, and engines.

The dusty, rocky terrain is suited for light tanks. The Chi-

nese deployed ZTQ-15 Light Tanks to ensure manoeuvrability and quick transportation at high altitudes. The Indian Army will soon deploy the Zorawar light tanks in Ladakh. The repair facilities could cater to platforms developed for such altitudes.

The repair workshops will ensure rapid maintenance of tanks at high altitudes to allow sustenance of forward deployments. Tanks are airlifted to forward areas in heavy transport carriers like C-17, C-130 and IL-76. The repair facility on DS-DBO road will cater to tank operations in the area.

The Darbuk-Shyok Daulat Beg Oldie (DS-DBO) road runs parallel to the LAC and was reportedly a point of contestation during the 2020 standoff. It took the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) almost 20 years to complete it, connecting Leh to DBO by road. The Colonel Chewang Renchen Setu on the DBO road is the highest altitude all-weather permanent bridge just 45 km from LAC and can allow the movement of tanks.

**'One In Nyoma'**

India will upgrade the Nyoma airfield in eastern Ladakh, just 50 km from the Line of Actual Control, to operate fighter jets.

The second tank repair facility is located in Nyoma. The repair facilities are close to strategically important airfields and may allow quick transportation, repair and re-deployment.

Demchok, the easternmost region in Ladakh, remains a flash point after 21 rounds of border talks between the two sides. In 2020, videos surfaced, showing the the army's T-72, T-90 and BMP II armoured vehicles deployed in Demchok.

The mechanised units of the army have set up a robust infrastructure in the Ladakh sector for the repair and maintenance of tanks, but facilities very close to the LAC will ensure rapid deployment in the event of a conflict.

Recently, Army chief General Manoj Pande also visited the Medium Maintenance (Reset) Facility for Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) established at a high-altitude area in Ladakh. The army said the unique maintenance facility promotes enhanced serviceability and mission reliability of Armoured Fighting Vehicles and keeps the combat fleet operationally ready even in rugged terrain and challenging weather, with the temperature dipping down to minus 40 degrees Celsius.

## "Congress Fielded Lawyers Against Ram Temple Construction": Union Minister



**Bilaspur (HP):** Hitting out at the Congress, Union minister Anurag Thakur claimed it had deputed a battery of lawyers to ensure that the Ram temple in Ayodhya could not be constructed. Addressing a public rally in Bilaspur district, Mr Thakur also attacked the INDIA bloc and alleged that members of the opposition alliance sent lawyers who contested cases of terrorists like Ajmal Kasab and Dawood Ibrahim to the Rajya Sabha. "What kind of character is this of the Congress and the opposition

parties...they fielded a battery of lawyers against the construction of Ram temple and at the same time they sent lawyers to fight cases of the terrorists," he said. "These are the same people who knocked the door of the court at 2:30 in the night to stop Afzal Guru's hanging," the senior BJP leader added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is engaged in securing the borders of the country while Congress leaders are giving slogans to break the country into pieces, he said. PM Modi considers Himachal as his

second home and gave big projects worth thousands of crores of rupees to the state, Thakur said and added that today the entire country including Himachal has only one choice -- Modi. "If you go to any corner of the country, people are saying 'My Choice Modi'. After four phases, it has become clear that the public has cast their vote for a stable and honest government -- the Modi government," he said. He said PM Modi is going to become the PM for the third time, and only an official announcement is to be made on June 4.

## "No One Has Any Policy, Intention, Ambition": Chirag Paswan Jabs INDIA Bloc



**Patna:** Amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the country, LJP (Ram Vilas) chief and candidate from Hajipur Lok Sabha seat Chirag Paswan launched a scathing attack against the INDIA bloc and said that they are unclear about their policy. "The policy of the INDI alliance is not clear. AAP is fighting elections in Delhi with Congress and in Punjab it is fighting against them. If this is not Bhanumati's family, then what is it?" Mr Paswan said. "No one has any policy, intention or ambition... We (NDA) are crossing the target of 400 very easily... It is also certain that we

have achieved the majority in these four phases," he added. He further stated that the NDA has already registered a majority after the four phases of the election. Adding to that, he said, "Now in the upcoming voting phases, we will get to know how further the NDA's seat graph will rise." Notably, the 40 seats in Bihar are undergoing polls in all seven phases. In 2019, the BJP-led NDA swept the state by winning 39 out of 40 seats, while Congress won just one seat. RJD, a formidable force in the state, failed to open its account. The Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alli-

ance), the opposition coalition in Bihar, including Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Congress, and Left parties, recently announced that the RJD, its largest constituent, will contest 26 out of the state's 40 Lok Sabha seats. As part of the NDA, BJP and JD(U) will contest for 17 and 16 seats, respectively.

Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will contest five seats, and Jitan Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) will contest one seat each. The counting of votes will be held on June 4.

## Swati Maliwal assault allegation: NCW summons Kejriwal aide Bibhav Kumar

**New Delhi:** Days after she approached the police alleging assault at the hands of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, the National Commission for Women (NCW) summoned him for a hearing in the matter. The NCW said it had taken suo motu cognizance of a media post captioned 'DCW chief Swati Maliwal accuses Arvind Kejriwal's personal secretary of assaulting her'. The post, according to the NCW, had reported that Maliwal, a Rajya Sabha MP from Delhi and former chief of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), had alleged that the private secretary of the Delhi chief minister had brutally assaulted her at the chief minister's residence. "In view of the above, the Commission has scheduled a hearing in this matter on May 17, 2024, at 11 AM. All concerned parties are required to appear before the Commission in-person," the notice stated. The police had said that Maliwal had called the police control room (PCR) in the morning alleging that she had been as-



saulted by Kumar at Kejriwal's residence. While the police had said that Maliwal went to the Civil Lines police station, she had not filed an official complaint. Police records showed two daily diary entries made in regard to the PCR call in which Maliwal alleged that she was assaulted on Kejriwal's instructions. Both Maliwal and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had declined to comment on the incident on Monday but a day later, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh had addressed the media stating that the party would take "strict action" against Kumar. On

Thursday morning, Kumar was seen alongside Singh and Kejriwal, both of whom were scheduled to address a press conference with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, at the Lucknow airport, triggering yet another row over the matter. While Kejriwal chose not to respond to queries regarding the matter, Singh recalled how she was "dragged" and ill-treated by police personnel while she was sitting in solidarity with women wrestlers who had accused BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of molestation at Jantar Mantar.

## Raebareli Barber Shop Staff Talks Of Big Change After Rahul Gandhi's Visit

**Raebareli (UP):** A barber shop in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli, where Congress leader Rahul Gandhi stopped for a haircut and beard trim, has seen a jump in the number of visitors after the celebrity visit. Mithun Kumar, owner of the New Mumba Devi Hair Cutting Saloon in Raebareli's Lalganj, was in for a surprise on Monday when Mr Gandhi casually walked in and asked for a trim. "I had not even imagined that such a big leader will come to my shop," Mr Kumar has told mediapersons flocking to his shop after the Congress leader's visit.

Aman Kumar, who works in the shop, said, "The number of customers has gone up. If 10 people came earlier, now we get 15. We are getting lots of calls since that day." Asked if the Congress leader spoke about the ongoing Lok Sabha election, Aman Kumar said, "Not really, he just told us to vote for the party we like." He also said the Agniveer recruitment scheme for defence forces came up during the chat. Mr Gandhi, he said, assured that the scheme will be removed when the Congress comes to power.

Videos that have now gone viral show Mr Gandhi asking shopowner Mithun Kumar about the hairstyles displayed in the shop. "Who cuts your hair," the Congress leader asks. To this, Mr Kumar replies that his staff does it.

Mr Gandhi is also heard asking Mithun Kumar about his working hours and where he picked up the skills. Mr Kumar, while trimming the Congress leader's beard, tells him about the years he worked in Mumbai before moving to Raebareli. Mr Gandhi also asked how much rent he pays for the shop. He also asked Mr Kumar about vi-



ral videos that show stylists putting hair on fire.

Mr Gandhi then asks him how much he makes daily and mentions the Mahatma Yojana -- a scheme promised by the Congress in its manifesto in which each poor family will get Rs.1 lakh annually. When Mr Gandhi asks Mr Kumar

about what's needed the most to develop Raebareli, the hairstylist talks about employment and says the Agniveer scheme must be junked. To this, Mr Gandhi replies, "We will stop it when our government comes."

The grooming session over, Mr Gandhi thanks Mr Kumar and hands him and his staff

Congress 'guarantee cards'. He is also seen posing for a photograph with them. Raebareli, a Congress family stronghold earlier represented by Sonia Gandhi, goes to the polls on May 20. This time, Congress has fielded Mr Gandhi and he is up against BJP's Dinesh Pratap Singh.

## Woman, 20, Found Dead In Bengaluru Home With Slit Marks On Neck, Wrist

A 20-year-old woman was found dead inside the bathroom of her home in Bengaluru yesterday. She was found dead with slit marks on her neck and wrist of her left hand, said police. Yesterday evening, the woman's brother kept knocking on the bathroom door but there was no response. The door was then struck down only to find the woman lying dead on the bathroom floor. The police says a suicide note has been discovered, however, the woman's mother denies that she killed her-

self. "At around 7.30 pm yesterday, a 20-year-old woman was found dead under suspicious circumstances. Prima facie, according to the information available, her hand and neck were cut, and she died of blood loss," said the police. DCP South S. Lokesh Jagalsar said that they are investigating the case from all angles and are waiting for the post-mortem report to determine whether this was a suicide or murder. "We are expecting the post-mortem report. We will investigate the case from all

angles," he said. The woman's mother, who is a social activist, said that she wants justice for her daughter. Devastated by the loss, she said, "I have raised her with so much love. No matter what, she would face everything with courage. She always used to tell me everything. I don't know what happened this time. I am an activist. I have rescued and questioned so many people. If someone had a grudge, they may have caused this. I don't know what happened to her. I want justice. She was a courageous girl."

## Swati Maliwal 'Assault' Case: Delhi Police Leaves AAP MP's Residence After 4-Hour-Long Interrogation

**New Delhi:** Trouble mounts for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as the Swati Maliwal Assault Case intensifies. Now, Delhi Police team has arrived at the residence of AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. Earlier, National Commission for Women (NCW) has summoned the ruling AAP chief's private secretary Bibhav Kumar to appear on Friday in connection with the alleged assault on Rajya Sabha MP and former DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal. Bibhav Kumar has been accused of assaulting AAP MP Swati Maliwal at the CM's residence in Delhi. A Delhi Police Special Cell team, including senior officers, has now left AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal's home after a four-hour long interrogation. Maliwal was allegedly assaulted at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence. Additional Commissioner of Police, Pramod Kumar Kushwaha, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, and other officers visited Maliwal's residence. "The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo moto cognizance of a media post captioned 'DCW chief Swati Maliwal accuses Arvind Kejriwal's personal secretary of assaulting her. The post reported that Ms. Swati Maliwal, RS MP and former DCW chief, has alleged that the Private Secretary of (the) Chief Minister of Delhi had brutally assaulted her at the Chief Minister's residence," read the notice issued by the NCW on Thursday. "In view of the above, the Commission has scheduled a hearing in this matter on May 17, 2024, at 11 AM. All concerned parties are required to appear before the Commission in person," it added.



### Arvind Kejriwal's Silence

Earlier in the day, as Chief Minister Kejriwal entered the venue for his joint press conference with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, reporters tried questioning him on the alleged assault on the AAP Rajya Sabha member. However, the AAP supremo evaded all queries on Maliwal. As the issue was raised at the joint presser, Akhilesh brushed aside the query saying "There are other issues that are more important than this."

### AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's Reaction

Coming to his party's defence thereafter, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh accused the BJP of playing 'political games' on the issue, alleging that the ruling party at the Centre was behind an earlier incident in which Maliwal was 'dragged and manhandled' by Delhi Police personnel during the wrestlers' protest near Jantar Mantar.

### BJP Slams AAP

Earlier in the day, the BJP's national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala claimed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

was shielding his personal assistant Bibhav Kumar, the accused in the case. Sharing an image of AAP leaders at the Lucknow airport in which party boss Kejriwal, along with Sanjay Singh and Bibhav Kumar are seen, Poonawala posted from his official X handle on Thursday, "72 hours No FIR on Bibhav Kumar instead Kejriwal is protecting him! Roaming around with him..." The BJP spokesperson claimed that the assault on Maliwal was done at the behest of Kejriwal and she was subjected to violence. "It is clear: attack on Swati Maliwal was done at (the) behest of Kejriwal himself Sheesh Mahal is Apradh Mahal & just like Draupadi cheerharan--a woman Rajya Sabha MP was subjected to violence, assault," Poonawala added.

### What Is The Allegation?

The alleged assault by the former chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has triggered a major political slugfest between the BJP and the AAP, with the former accusing the CM of shielding his accused aide.

## "Slapped 7-8 Times, Kicked In Chest, Stomach": Swati Maliwal In FIR

**New Delhi:** Slapped, dragged and kicked in the chest - AAP leader Swati Maliwal's complaint against Bibhav Kumar, an aide of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, raises serious charges of assault. Ms Maliwal claims that on Monday morning, she was assaulted by Mr Kumar in the drawing room of the Chief Minister's official residence, with Mr Kejriwal present in the house at the time.

In the FIR filed last night, Ms Maliwal said she arrived at Arvind Kejriwal's home at 6, Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines and attempted to contact the chief minister's aide but received no response. She said she informed the staff of her presence and was asked to wait in the drawing room.

She alleged that while she was waiting, Bibhav Kumar burst into the room and started verbally abusing her. Ms Maliwal gave harrowing details, accusing Mr Kumar of slapping her seven-eight times on the face and hitting her chest, stomach, and sensitive parts. "Bibhav came and started abusing and kept slapping without provocation," Ms Maliwal claimed in her complaint. "I made noise and said 'Let me go', but he kept beating me continuously and abusing me in Hindi. He threatened, 'We will see, we will deal with it'. I informed him that I was menstruating and in considerable pain, begging him to leave me alone." "I felt absolutely shocked and was screaming for help over and over again. In order to protect myself, I pushed him away with my legs. At that time, he pounced on me, brutally dragged and deliberately pulled my shirt up," the FIR reads. "Bibhav Kumar did not relent and attacked me by kicking me in my chest, stomach and pelvis area with his legs." Ms Maliwal added in her complaint that she managed to run out of the house and call the police. "I was in a terrible state of shock at this attack. I was deeply traumatised and



called the 112 number and reported the incident," Mr Maliwal stated in the FIR.

When the security personnel arrived, instead of assisting Ms Maliwal, they allegedly followed Mr Kumar's instruction to throw her out. Despite her condition, she was forced to leave and wait outside the Chief Minister's residence until the police arrived.

"Bibhav came back with the security personnel working at the main gate. I kept telling them that I was brutally beaten up and they should look at my condition and wait until the police comes but they asked me to leave the premises," Ms Maliwal's statement reads.

Late last night, Delhi Police escorted Ms Maliwal to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for a medical checkup. When the police reached Mr Kumar's residence in the Chandrawal Nagar area of the national capital, he was missing. Teams from the Crime Branch and Special Cell are looking for Mr Kumar, aiming to bring him into custody.

The Delhi Police registered an FIR under multiple sections

of the Indian Penal Code, including assault or criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty, criminal intimidation, insulting modesty, and assault. The FIR was filed after Ms Maliwal's statement was recorded by a police team led by Additional Commissioner PS Kushwaha.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has stepped into the controversy, summoning Mr Kumar for a hearing today.

Following the police visit, Ms Maliwal posted on social media about the distressing experience and appealed against politicising the issue. "What happened to me was very bad. I have given my statement to the police on the incident that happened to me. I hope that appropriate action will be taken. The last few days have been very difficult for me. I thank those who prayed for me. Those who tried to do character assassination said that I was doing it on the instructions of a party. May God keep them happy too. An important election is underway in the country.

## What was SC's Pankaj Bansal ruling in 2023, which paved the way for release of NewsClick editor Prabir Purkayastha?

In finding the arrest of NewsClick founder editor Prabir Purkayastha invalid and ordering his release on Wednesday (May 15), the Supreme Court Bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta relied on the 2023 ruling of the top court in Pankaj Bansal vs. Union of India. What was this case and what did the court rule?

### The Pankaj Bansal ruling

On October 3, 2023, a Bench of Justices A S Bopanna and Sanjay Kumar held that "to give true meaning and purpose to the constitutional and the statutory mandate of Section 19(1) of the [Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)] of 2002 of informing the arrested person of the grounds of arrest, ... it would be necessary, henceforth, that a copy of such written grounds of arrest is furnished to the arrested person as a matter of course and without exception". (More on Section 19(1) below) The court directed the release

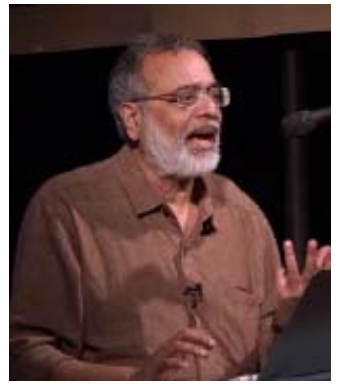
of Pankaj Bansal and Basant Bansal, directors of the Gurgaon-based realty group M3M, who were arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 14, 2023 in a money-laundering investigation linked to a bribery case against a former special judge.

### Safeguards against arrest

The ruling allowed for safeguards against arrests made under the stringent PMLA. The ED's record on providing the grounds of arrest to the accused in writing had been inconsistent. These grounds were often conveyed orally, or the accused were allowed to read the grounds only in the presence of officials. This hampered the ability of the accused to come up with an adequate or informed defence, especially in cases where these grounds were extensive. Criticising the ED's style in this case, the SC said, "Being a premier investigating agency charged with the onerous responsibility of curb-

ing the debilitating economic offence of money laundering... every action of the ED... is expected to be transparent, above board and conforming to pristine standards of fair play in action." The court said the ED is "mantled with far-reaching powers under the stringent Act of 2002", and it is "not expected to be vindictive in its conduct and must be seen to be acting with utmost probity and with the highest degree of dispassion and fairness". It observed that "the facts [of the case] demonstrate[d] that the ED failed to discharge its functions and exercise its powers as per these parameters".

Section 19 deals with the ED's power to arrest. Under Section 19(1), if an ED official has "reason to believe... that any person has been guilty of an offence punishable under this Act, he may arrest such person". However, this Section also says that the "reason for such belief [must] be recorded in writing",



and the arrested person "shall, as soon as may be", informed "of the grounds for such arrest". Section 19(3) says that "Every person arrested under sub-section (1) shall, within twenty-four hours, be taken to a Special Court or Judicial Magistrate or a Metropolitan Magistrate with jurisdiction. In Purkayastha's case, the court went a step further and said the mandate to supply the accused with the grounds of arrest will also apply to persons arrested under the UAPA.

## ED can't arrest accused under PMLA after special court takes cognizance of complaint: SC

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) cannot directly arrest a person under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, once a special court takes cognizance of the complaint but will have to approach the special court if it wants his or her custody.

"After cognizance is taken of the offence punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA based on a complaint under Section 44, the ED and its officers are powerless to exercise powers under Section 19 to arrest a person shown as accused in the complaint. If the ED wants custody of the accused who appears after service of summons for conducting further investigation in the same offence, ED will have to seek custody of the accused by applying to the special court," a bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said.

The Supreme Court added that the special court "after hearing the accused... must

pass an order on the application after recording brief reasons. While hearing such application, the court may permit custody only if it is satisfied that custodial interrogation at that stage is required even though accused was never arrested under Section 19".

"However, when ED wants to conduct further investigation concerning the same offence, it may arrest a person not shown as an accused in the complaint already filed, provided the requirements of Section 19 are fulfilled," the court further said. The bench said, "If the accused was not arrested by the ED till the filing of the complaint by taking cognizance on a complaint under Section 44 as a normal rule, the court should issue a summons to the accused and not a warrant. Even in the case where the accused is on bail, a summons must be issued." It added, "After summons is issued under Section 204... If the accused appears before the special

court pursuant to a summons, he shall not be treated as if he is in custody. Therefore, it is not necessary for him to apply for bail. However, the special court can direct the accused to furnish bonds in terms of Section 88 of the Code of Criminal Procedure [CrPC]."

The Supreme Court said that special courts can even grant exemption from appearance in a case where the accused shows sufficient cause. "If the accused does not appear, the special court can issue a warrant in terms of Section 70 CrPC. The special court must issue first a bailable warrant. If it is not possible to effect service of bailable warrant, then the recourse can be taken to non-bailable warrants," the bench explained.

The bench said that "a bond furnished according to Section 88 CrPC is only an undertaking by an accused who is not in custody to appear before the court on the date fixed". Therefore, an order accepting bonds

under Section 88 from the accused does not amount to a grant of bail, it added.

If a warrant is issued on account of non-appearance, the court has the power to cancel the warrant and it is not necessary to apply for bail, the Supreme Court clarified. The top court was dealing with the question of whether the execution of bond by an accused under Section 88 of CrPC would amount to applying for bail so as to make the twin conditions of bail under Section 45 of PMLA applicable.

Section 45 says that a person shall not be granted bail in PMLA offences till the public prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release; and where the public prosecutor opposes the application, the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.

## Arvind Kejriwal Dodges Questions On Swati Maliwal Row, AAP Leader Replies

**New Delhi:** After days of speculation, Arvind Kejriwal today faced questions on the BJP's charge that his aide assaulted Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Swati Maliwal. As the AAP chief, addressing a joint press conference with INDIA ally Akhilesh Yadav, remained silent, his colleague Sanjay Singh took the mic and threw a counter. What about the tribal women paraded naked in Manipur and the sex assault allegations against BJP ally Prajwal Revanna, questioned Sanjay Singh, an AAP MP. "When our wrestler daughters were fighting for justice at Jantar Mantar, it was Swati Maliwal, the then Chairperson of the Women's Commission, who went to support them and was dragged and beaten by the police," Sanjay Singh said, listing what he said



were examples of the ruling party's silence on crimes against women.

"The Aam Aadmi Party is a family. The party has made its stance clear, and I want the Prime Minister and the BJP to respond to all the issues I have



raised. Please don't play political games on this," he added.

The BJP has accused Mr Kejriwal - released from jail last Friday to campaign for the Lok Sabha polls - of shielding his personal assistant Bibhav Kumar, who allegedly "misbe-

haved with" Swati Maliwal on Monday. The incident allegedly took place at the Delhi Chief Minister's home. Swati Maliwal, former chief of the Delhi Commission for Women, has not spoken about the incident, which has exploded into a political back-and-forth in the middle of national elections. Amid escalating BJP attacks, Sanjay Singh had said on Tuesday that the Chief Minister had taken note of the incident and would take action. The BJP, however, launched protests in Delhi demanding an FIR against Mr Kejriwal's aide and "justice for Swati Maliwal". BJP leaders also claimed that Mr Kejriwal and other AAP leaders were seen at the Lucknow airport with the man accused of assaulting the MP. At the same time, they alleged, Swati Maliwal was incommunicado.

## Adani Foundation To Fund Treatment Of UP Girl With Physical Disability

**New Delhi:** A young girl in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, a student of class 5, lives with her elderly grandparents after her mother died and her father married someone else. Lovely suffers from physical disabilities and the story of the hardships she faces was shared on the social media platform X. Adani Group Founder and Chairman, Gautam Adani, has announced that the Adani Foundation, the community engagement arm of the Adani Group, will support the girl and provide her with better treat-

ment. Mr Adani reacted to the social media post and praised the efforts her grandparents are making toward her education and said, "It is sad that a daughter's childhood is taken away like this. The struggle of Lovely and her grandparents at such a young age shows that a typical Indian family never gives up." "The Adani Foundation This will ensure that Lovely gets better treatment and can progress like other children. We all are with Lovely," Mr Adani added. Lovely lives with her grandpar-

ents in the Kandharapur village of Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh. Since 1996, the Adani Foundation, the community engagement arm of the Adani Group, has remained deeply committed to making strategic social investments for sustainable outcomes throughout India. The Foundation has been active in the core areas of education, health, sustainable livelihood, skill development and community infrastructure. Its strategies are rooted in national priorities and global Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). It makes strategic social investments to achieve sustainable outcomes across India. The foundation operates in 5,753 villages across 19 states.



## Janhvi Kapoor On Her "Support System" Shikhar Pahariya: "We Have Raised Each Other"

Janhvi Kapoor is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film *Mr And Mrs Mahi* and is busy with its promotions. In a recent interview with *Mirchi Plus*, Janhvi Kapoor opened up about her relationship with Shikhar Pahariya. Reflecting on the people who have stood by her, Janhvi Kapoor mentioned her parents, the late actor Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor, and then spoke about Shikhar. Janhvi revealed that Shikhar has been a significant presence in her life since her teenage years. She spoke about their mutual support for each other, describing how they share and nurture each other's dreams.

Janhvi Kapoor said, "He has been in my life since I was 15 or 16. I think my dreams have always been his dreams, and his dreams have always been my dreams. We've been very close. We've been each other's support system, almost as if we've raised each other." A few days ago, Janhvi Kapoor dropped a

new poster on social media. Janhvi delighted fans with a sneak peek of her and Rajkummar's characters in the latest poster. The poster features Janhvi, dressed in a pink jacket and black joggers, seated on the cricket field. She is seen wearing batting pads and wicket-keeping gloves. Rajkummar Rao, sporting a black tracksuit, can be seen sitting in front of her. Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao are seen flashing their biggest smiles. The text on the poster reads, "A googly of a love story." Captioning the photo on Instagram, Janhvi Kapoor wrote, "An imperfectly perfect partnership built on dreams! Get ready to cheer for #MrAndMrsMahi as they chase their dreams on the pitch. #MrAndMrsMahi trailer hits the field tomorrow. In cinemas on 31st May, 2024." Directed by Sharan Shamma, acclaimed for his directorial debut *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*, *Mr And Mrs Mahi* marks the second collaboration between



Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao following their successful venture in *Roohi*. Originally scheduled for an April release, the sports drama is now slated to hit theatres on May 31, 2024.

## Team NTR denies land dispute claims

Media outlets reported that NTR has approached the Telangana High Court over a land dispute. According to reports, one of his Jubilee Hills properties is under dispute.

However, team NTR responded to the report and rejected it. According to the team, NTR no longer owns the land, having sold it a decade ago.

The statement reads: "In response to the news which is published today with respect to Mr. NTR, we would like to clarify that the said property has been sold by Mr. NTR in the year 2013. We request you to avoid using Mr. NTR's name in any reporting with respect to the said property."

NTR is currently on vacation. He will celebrate his birthday on May 20 with his family at this vacation resort.



## Rashmika Mandanna's Atal Setu video gets trolls and praise

Rashmika Mandanna posted a video praising Atal Setu, a 6-lane elevated highway sea bridge, which connects Mumbai with Navi Mumbai. She mentioned that India began dreaming big and all this work happened in last 7 years.

Reacting to her video, Prime Minister Narendra Modi commented that nothing more satisfying than connecting people and improving lives.

Going by Rashmika's video message, it looks like she is unofficially became a part of Bharatiya Janata Party's political campaign for this election season. So, naturally, BJP followers praised her for such a positive video message and supporters of opposition parties are trolling her for being a part of BJP's paid batch. Some say, she did this under pressure from the ruling BJP government. Despite dividing opinions, Rashmika Mandanna has now become a trending topic on social media. She is cur-



rently filming for "Pushpa 2", "The Girlfriend", "Chhava" and "Kubera". After the massive success of her Bollywood film "Animal", Rashmika Mandanna emerged as one of the biggest female stars in Indian cinema.

## Kajal Aggarwal plays significant part in 'Kannappa'

"Kannappa" is shaping up to be one of the biggest multi-starrer films, thanks to several top stars agreeing to participate in some capacity. Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar, and Prabhas have already finished their filming part. They play small but important roles in the film. Now the team has revealed Kajal Aggarwal's name. She plays an important role as well. She will shortly join the shoot. Vishnu Manchu and Kajal Aggarwal played brother and sister in the film "Mosagallu". They are now collaborating on this devotional film. "Kannappa," directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh and produced by Mohan Babu, is nearing its finish. Vishnu Manchu plays the title role. The teaser will be shown at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival on May 20th, at 6 p.m.



## Pooja Hegde gets Suriya's 44th film!

Pooja Hegde has been saying for a long time that she has signed a big Tamil project, but she hasn't revealed any details. Finally, it has been mentioned that the actress will be pairing up with Suriya. According to reports, Pooja Hegde will play the female lead in director Karthick Subbaraj's next film, which stars Suriya. Suriya, who recently completed work on "Kanguva," will begin work on his 44th film (#Suriya44). He is said to be romancing Pooja Hegde in this mega film after working with Bollywood diva Disha Patani in "Kanguva". For Pooja Hegde, this is a critical project. She has recently struggled to receive offers. She hasn't signed a single Telugu film in the past two years. So, landing a role opposite a top star like Suriya will undoubtedly give her a much-needed boost.



## SSMB29: Producer clarifies the casting process

Mahesh Babu and top director Rajamouli have teamed up for the first time, and their first collaboration project will begin in a few months. The untitled film, known as #SSMB29, is currently in the final stages of casting. While Mahesh Babu plays the main hero, the heroine and other actors have not yet been officially signed. However, a news paper reported that a casting director named Viren Swami has joined the team to finalize the cast members for this project. Producer Dr. Lakshmi Narayana Kaza, also known as KL Narayana, issued a statement stating that the casting director is not involved in the project. The producer is returning to film production after a 20-year hiatus. He will fund this mega project under the Sri Durga Arts banner. Mahesh Babu portrays an adventurer in this film. Rajamouli is currently in pre-production.



## Saindhavi: My divorce is not due to external forces

Singer Saindhavi and music director GV Prakash Kumar have decided to end their marriage. They have recently announced their separation. Both Saindhavi and GV Prakash announced the news on their respective social media accounts. Since then, they have been subject to merciless trolling. Some YouTube channels posted nasty videos speculating that their separation was caused by an outside force. Saindhavi has now released a statement claiming that their decision to live separate lives was mutual. She wrote, "It's disheartening to see numerous YouTube videos fabricating stories about the news they've received, especially after we requested privacy. To clarify, our divorce is not due



to any external force, and randomly assassinating some one's character baselessly is unacceptable. This decision was mutually made by both of us for our betterment." She

also mentioned that GV Prakash Kumar was her friend before he became her husband. Saindhavi stated that they will maintain their friendship even after divorce.

## Is this title fixed for NTR-Neel film?

An announcement with a poster of NTR in a black painted face was made some time ago, announcing the project involving the actor and top director Prashanth Neel. However, Neel continued to film "Salaar" and later announced a sequel. Thus, #NTR31, the film featuring NTR and Neel, was delayed. Though Neel will start "Salaar 2" later this month, his project with NTR will begin in the last month of 2024 or early 2025. An announcement in this regard will be made on May 20, NTR's birthday. There is also speculation that "Dragon" is the title being considered for this film. It is unclear whether the team will reveal the title on May 20. However, NTR fans are overjoyed with the update and have made the title a social media trend.



# SPORT

**Max Verstappen Seeks To Restore Order At Imola As F1 Remembers Ayrton Senna**

Max Verstappen will aim to recover and put his friend Lando Norris back in his place among the chasing pack this weekend as Formula One returns to Europe for the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix. The three-time world champion, who leads this year's title race for Red Bull, knows however that after suffering two defeats in six season-opening races he may be vulnerable and McLaren's Norris will be armed with upgrades as he seeks to add to his popular maiden triumph in Miami. Most if not all teams will bring revised cars for the seventh race of the season with Ferrari and Mercedes both hoping to reduce Verstappen's advantage at the cramped and atmospheric circuit set in the rolling vineyards of Ferrari's Italian heartland.

## "Can't See India Winning T20 World Cup Unless...": Ex-Australia Captain's 'Virat Kohli' Warning



Former Australian cricket team captain Tim Paine expressed his concern for Team India ahead of the T20 World Cup 2024 and even served them a warning concerning star batter Virat Kohli. India are one of the firm favourites ahead of the competition but Paine believes that the campaign will depend heavily on how Kohli ends up performing. Paine, in conversation with fellow countrymen Aaron Finch and Michael Clarke on the 'Around the Wicket' podcast, compared Kohli to Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell and said that if the India star fails to perform, Rohit and Co will not be able to win the title. "I can't see India winning the World Cup unless Virat Kohli has a really strong World Cup - bit similar to Glenn Maxwell's form. I know he hasn't been red-hot as of late but I can't see Australia winning the World Cup unless Maxwell has a blinder," Paine said on the podcast. Recently, Kohli opened up about his retirement plans. "I think as a sportsman, we do have an end-

date to our careers. So I am just working backwards. I don't want to finish my career thinking 'oh, what if I have done this on that particular day' because I can't keep going on and on forever. So it's just about not leaving any undone business behind and not have any regrets later, which I am sure I won't," said Kohli at RCB's Royal Gala Dinner. "Once I am

done, I will be gone, you won't see me for a while (smiles). So I want to give it everything I have till the time I play, and that's the only thing that keeps me going," he added. Kohli is currently the run-scorer in the ongoing IPL 2024 and will be looking to guide Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the playoff with a win over five-time champions Chennai Super Kings.

## Hardik Pandya's T20 World Cup Selection Done Under Pressure? Jay Shah's Remark A 'Hint'

India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad saw some bold decisions being taken by selectors as an out-of-form Hardik Pandya earned the nod while players like Shubman Gill and Rinku Singh were snubbed. Though the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief selector Ajit Agarkar revealed in a press conference that Hardik's selection was down to a lack of alternatives, a report later revealed that the selection committee was under pressure to pick the Mumbai Indians all-rounder. BCCI secretary Jay Shah has now opened up on the T20 World Cup squad selection, saying players can't be picked purely on the basis of IPL form.

In a chat with the Times of India, Shah asserted the need to put overseas experience also into account as selectors pick squads for a tournament of the stature of the T20 World Cup. "It has a good balance between form and experience. The selectors cannot choose on the basis of IPL performance alone, as overseas experience is also necessary," he said. A report in Dainik Jagran had claimed that neither Rohit nor the selection committee, led by former India pacer Ajit



Agarkar, was in favour of selecting Hardik.

The report added that Hardik was picked in the team under 'pressure'. The report did not mention whether it was a situational pressure (as he is India's top fast bowling allrounder) or a pressure from some quarters. The report also

attributed sources as saying that captain Rohit Sharma, BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar, and some selectors were against Pandya's selection in the T20 World Cup team, during the selection meeting in Ahmedabad.

The Indian team, at present, doesn't have a pace bowling

all-rounder with similar skillset as Hardik. Shivam Dube is the only alternative to Hardik, though his skills with the ball don't come close to the Mumbai Indians star. It would be interesting to see how Rohit, the India captain, picks his playing XI in the T20 World Cup.

## MS Dhoni's Surprise Visit To RCB Dressing Room Ahead Of Do-Or-Die IPL 2024 Match

Royal Challengers Bengaluru are set to face Chennai Super Kings in a do-or-die game at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on May 18. Both the teams are still in race for the playoffs and the match between them is going to decide the fate of both the teams. CSK have already reached the venue to prepare for the game. Ahead of the crucial encounter, a heartwarming video was shared on social media in which CSK's MS Dhoni was seen inside the dressing room of RCB.

RCB not only need to beat CSK to make it to the playoffs but that margin also needs to be either 20 runs or 11 balls to spare, assuming that the first innings score in the game is 200. Meanwhile, for CSK, they can secure a spot despite a loss if RCB fail to maintain the margin of victory. SunRisers Hyderabad became the third team following Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals to qualify for IPL 2024 playoffs. SRH made it to the final



four after their match against Gujarat Titans at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium was washed out due to rain. The toss for the game was delayed due to consistent rain and the contest was eventually abandoned without a ball being bowled. SRH now have 15 points to their credit with a game in hand. The Pat Cummins-led side thus eliminated Delhi Capitals from the

playoff race and also made the RCB vs CSK contest a do-or-die game. It is worth noting that the Lucknow Super Giants are practically out because of their extremely poor net run rate but are mathematically alive in the playoff race. To turn the tables, LSG will be needing to win their final league match, which is against Mumbai Indians, by an extremely huge margin.

## AB De Villiers Believes KKR Skipper Shreyas Iyer Has Been "Absolutely Incredible" In IPL 2024

Former South Africa skipper AB de Villiers showered praise on Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) skipper Shreyas Iyer and said he has been "absolutely incredible" in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. In the IPL 2024, Iyer played 12 matches in the 17th season where he scored 287 runs at a strike rate of 135.38. The 29-year-old also became the first KKR skipper to finish at the top of the IPL points table. Speaking on his official YouTube channel, De Villiers called Iyer a "wise guy" and a "smart cricketer". The former cricketer also praised the KKR skipper for not panicking in tough situations.

"Shreyas Iyer has been absolutely incredible. There have been a lot of doubts and talks about him as captain. I punted him from the start of the tournament. He is a wise guy, a smart cricketer and I love the way he is calm and composed as a captain. He never seems to get rushed, never seems to panic even



though you know deep down that you feel some panic, especially playing at the Eden Gardens," De Villiers said. He added that it is not easy to captain a squad with senior players like Sunil Narine and Andre Russell. "It's not easy to captain senior players who have been around

for ages, especially Narine and Russell. We know that the West Indies have got different personalities, they are outgoing and can be outspoken sometimes. It must be sometimes difficult with a difference in culture to communicate properly with some of these experienced players," he added.

## IPL 2024 Playoffs Scenario: RCB Might Not Qualify Even If They Beat CSK. Here's How

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 has entered an intriguing stage where there's just one spot left for the playoffs, with three teams competing. Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants are the three sides who are still in contention, though the KL Rahul-led side is only mathematically in the race, with their Net Run Rate making it nearly impossible for them to go through. However, the opportunity is quite realistic for both CSK and RCB, who are set to square off on Saturday.

The Super Kings, already sitting on 14 points, have a slightly better chance of going through, courtesy of their points tally and a superior Net Run Rate of +0.528. The Royal Challengers, on the other hand, have 12 points in their kitty ahead of the final league match of the campaign. While the weather has also painted a

glooming picture for the match, it would be CSK who go through if the match gets abandoned. But, even if the match goes on and RCB beat CSK, they aren't guaranteed progression:

RCB and CSK IPL 2024 Playoffs Scenario:

The Faf du Plessis-led side need to beat CSK by a margin of at least 18 runs, in a case where they bat first and put 200 runs on the board. If RCB win by 17 runs or less, in the same scenario, they would be knocked out on the basis on an inferior Net Run Rate.

In the case where RCB are batting second, they would need to reach the target with 11 balls to spare, in a case where they are chasing a target of 201 runs.

Hence, the qualification scenario isn't as simple and straightforward for RCB, with the current situation giving CSK a slightly better chance of



sealing a top 4 berth. For the Super Kings to qualify, they can afford a narrow defeat even if they fail to win the match.

IPL 2024 Playoffs Scenario Where Neither RCB, Nor CSK Go Through

There's another scenario, though quite unrealistic, that would see neither RCB, nor CSK qualify for the playoffs. If Lucknow Super Giants win their

last league match of the season, against Mumbai Indians, by an incredibly big margin and take their NRR above RCB's, they will stand a chance to go through. If the KL Rahul-led side does get the win and take their NRR above RCB's, then they would need to see the Bengaluru vs Chennai match end in the favour of Virat Kohli's team, but with the narrowest of margins.

## Curtly Ambrose Believes West Indies Could Win T20 World Cup 2024 With "Consistent And Smart Cricket"

Legendary fast-bowler Curtly Ambrose believes the Rovman Powell-led co-hosts West Indies have enough talent to win an unmatched third ICC Men's T20 World Cup title when the competition begins from June 1. West Indies have won the Men's T20 World Cup twice in 2012 and 2016 respectively. But they have had an underwhelming run in the last two editions of the showpiece event. In 2021, Kieron Pollard-led West Indies failed to enter the knockouts after winning just one game in the group phase.

A year later, under Nicholas Pooran's leadership in Australia, they couldn't enter the Super ten stage. West Indies also missed out on qualifying for the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup in India after failing to be the top two teams in the qualifying tournament



in Zimbabwe. But in T20Is, West Indies recent form has

been encouraging, by registering series wins over South

Africa, India, and England in the last 14 months at home. "We have a very, very good team. As we speak they (West Indies players) are in Antigua at a camp preparing themselves for the start of the T20 World Cup which is a couple of weeks away.

"I believe once the guys start playing consistent cricket and smart cricket, I believe we can take the trophy. It is not going to be easy, but we are one of only two nations to have won it twice so we are going to try and make it three. And no other nation has ever won it on home soil, so all that is motivation for the guys to do well and I am hoping they can do it," Ambrose was quoted as saying by ICC at the launch of the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York earlier this week.

# Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List Out. These Indians Made It



Forbes released its 9th edition of the "30 Under 30 Asia" list, celebrating young entrepreneurs, leaders, and trailblazers under 30, driving innovation and transforming industries across the Asia-Pacific region.

The prestigious list also features several Indian entrepreneurs from diverse sectors – from technology and sustainability to logistics and fashion.

Indians on Forbes 30 under 30 list

**Pavithra Chari**  
Pavithra Chari, a trained singer-composer, gained recognition as half of the duo Shadow and Light with Anindo Bose. Their collaboration with the Berklee Indian Ensemble earned a Grammy nomination in 2023. She is also part of the Anirudh Varma Collective, touring the US, and is skilled in Bharatnatyam dance. Ms Chari is also known for covering film hits.

**Arpan Kumar Chandel (King)**  
Indian rapper Arpan Kumar Chandel, also known as King, became known worldwide when Nick Jonas remixed his hit song 'Maan Meri Jaan'. Mr King got famous on MTV Hustle in 2019 and has released many albums since. His latest, 'New Life', features artists like Nikhita Gandhi and Gucci Mane. He's also Sony Audio's ambassador and launched his fragrance, Blanko.

**CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY**

**Kush Jain**  
Kush Jain discovered the challenges faced by the visually impaired during a volun-

teering stint at a Bangalore school in 2018. Motivated to help, he co-founded ORama AI. Their innovative solution, a smart glove, helps the blind and those with reduced vision to learn Braille. The glove features an embedded camera and speaker, tracking finger movements and audibly identifying touched Braille dots.

**Arth Chowdhary, Deyvant Bhardwaj and Oshi Kumari**  
Arth Chowdhary, Deyvant Bhardwaj and Oshi Kumari co-founded InsideFPV, an Indian drone startup, in 2020. Their main product is an easy-to-use "plug-and-fly" drone, unlike others that require a complex setup. Based in Surat, the company also sells drones and parts online.

**Pranav Manpuria (Flux Auto)**  
Autonomous driving startup Flux Auto was co-founded by Pranav Manpuria in 2017. The company is working on creating self-driving software for forklifts and warehouse robots. They claim their technology can easily fit into existing systems of infrastructure.

**Arun Sreyas and Gautham Maheswaran (RACE Energy)**  
In 2018, university friends Arun Sreyas and Gautham Maheswaran created RACE Energy. Headquartered in Hyderabad, the startup specialises in creating swappable battery packs tailored for the popular three-wheeled auto-rickshaws in India.

**Harshit Jain and Abhik Saha**  
Harshit Jain and Abhik Saha co-founded OnePlay, a cloud

gaming startup in Mumbai in 2019. OnePlay allows users to play popular games like Baldur's Gate 3 and Palworld across multiple platforms without needing expensive hardware.

**ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY**

**Kunal Aggarwal**  
Kunal Aggarwal launched Credflow in 2019, offering cashflow management software for small and medium-sized enterprises. The platform analyses business data, sends automated payment reminders, and extends credit lines to eligible users.

**Gaurav Piyush, Mayank Varshney and Yash Sharma**  
Gaurav Piyush, Mayank Varshney and Yash Sharma came together to establish Blitz, a logistics startup, in 2020. Based in Gurugram, the company, formerly known as Grow Simplee, specialises in offering same- or next-day delivery services by using a network of warehouses and fulfilment centres.

**Aditya Dadia**  
Aditya Dadia founded AIwrite in 2022, providing new digital software for India's insurance sector. Based in Mumbai, the startup uses machine learning to help insurance companies analyze risks and develop products faster.

**FINANCE AND VENTURE CAPITAL**

**Aalesh Avlani (CWC)**  
Aalesh Avlani, a Boston University graduate, co-founded Credit Wise Capital (CWC), a finance company specialising in providing loans for motor-

cycles. Founded in 2019, CWC received \$6 million in startup funding the following year. They use technology like a WhatsApp bot to quickly assess creditworthiness, making it easier for people with no credit history to apply for loans.

**Srinivas Sarkar and Kushagra Manglik (Coupl)**  
Srinivas Sarkar and Kushagra Manglik co-founded Coupl, India's bank designed for couples of all types. Launched in early 2022, the startup helps couples, irrespective of marital status or sexual orientation, effectively manage their finances with joint accounts and linked ATM cards.

**Aniket Damle**  
Aniket Damle works with Blackstone's private equity investment team in Asia, focusing on investments in India's healthcare, consumer, and industrial sectors. At just 23 years old, he made his first deal when Blackstone collaborated with Sona BLW to establish Sona Comstar, a technology platform company focused on electric vehicles, in 2018.

**Yashvardhan Kanoi (Alter Global)**

Yashvardhan Kanoi heads investments at Alter Global, a venture capital firm linking Silicon Valley with startups in emerging markets. Since 2019, he led investments in companies across Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Latin America like Ula, BukuKas, and CoLearn.

**Manish Maryada (Fello)**  
Manish Maryada co-founded Fello, a fintech startup based in India. Fello offers rewards to users to make investing enjoyable. When users invest a certain amount through the app, they receive a ticket to play in-house games and win rewards and prizes. Founded in 2021, Fello has been downloaded over a million times and has raised over \$5 million in funding.

**Anuj Srivastava and Priyesh Srivastava (OnFinance AI)**

Anuj Srivastava and Priyesh Srivastava (not related) co-founded OnFinance AI, a Bengaluru-based startup. They developed NeoGPT, a ChatGPT-like service tailored for the finance industry, which helps analyse data, generate forecasts, and conduct financial market research.

## Amid Swati Maliwal Row, New Video From Arvind Kejriwal's Residence Goes Viral

**New Delhi:** AAP leader Swati Maliwal - who has accused party boss Arvind Kejriwal's aide, Bibhav Kumar, of assaulting her inside the Delhi Chief Minister's home in the city's Civil Lines - has responded sharply to a 52-second mobile phone video shared Friday afternoon, in which she is seen (briefly) and heard arguing with, and shouting at, security officials who told her to leave the building. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Ms Maliwal also referred to a "political hitman" - a remark seen by many as aimed at Mr Kejriwal - and claimed the "hitman" had directed "his people" to share the video in question to build a narrative to defend the party and "save himself (after) committing this crime". "Like every time... this political hitman has started efforts to save himself. By getting his people to tweet and play videos without any context, he thinks he can save himself (after) committing this crime." "Who makes a video of someone being beaten up? The truth will be revealed when CCTV footage of the house and room is checked," Ms Maliwal declared. "Fall to whatever level you want... God is watching. One day, the truth will be revealed." In a sign of the relationship between the AAP and Ms Maliwal has broken down, the party shared a news report of the video with the terse message, "The truth of Swati Maliwal."

**Swati Maliwal vs Kejriwal Security Guards Video**

In the video - which begins in the middle of the argument, and only briefly shows Ms Maliwal, seated on a couch - the security officials ask her to get up (and leave the premises). To this Ms Maliwal responds, angrily, "... I will not. I will do it. I will do it. Today, I will tell these people everything." One of the guards responds, "Yes, you can... that is your headache..." and is then interrupted by Ms Maliwal, who says, "You will let me talk to the DCP (Deputy Commissioner of Police)... right now." The guard says, "Yes... we will inform the DCP right away. Till then, you please come with us." A defiant Ms Maliwal then says she will complain to cops at the Civil Lines Police Station, which has jurisdiction over the area in which Mr Kejriwal lives. "That cannot happen here... you please come with us," the guard says again, to which Ms Maliwal



says fiercely, "No. Now this will happen here..." "This will happen here..." she says again, adding, "And I will eat your if job you touch me." All this time the video pans between the officer arguing with Ms Maliwal and the ground, but then shows the AAP leader for the first time; she is wearing a pink top and is sitting on the couch. "We humbly request you to move..." the security guard is then heard saying. At this point Ms Maliwal declares she has made an emergency call to the police (on the 112 helpline for women in distress) and responds, "Let the police come..." and argues again with the guard. On Monday Delhi Police - which has filed a case against Bibhav Kumar based on a statement provided by Ms Maliwal - said it had received two calls from within Mr Kejriwal's residence. The cops said the phone number was registered to Ms Maliwal but the caller did not identify themselves. In the final seconds of the video Ms Maliwal - off the grid till late last evening, when she met a police team at her residence to record her statement - also dares the guards to physically eject her. She also seems to curse one of the officers, triggering a rebuke. "Madam, you cannot speak like this," the guard responds, to which Ms Maliwal says, "Just because you have a CCTV camera..." The video ends at this point. The AAP has yet to respond - both to the video and Ms Maliwal's tweet outburst.

**"What Happened To Me Was Very Bad..."**

In her first public comment on this row, Ms Maliwal called for action against those who allegedly attacked her, and

wrote on X, "The last few days have been very difficult..." She also hit out at critics who have suggested her actions and claims were being orchestrated by "the other party"; the comment has been seen as referring to the BJP, which has launched multiple severe criticism of Mr Kejriwal and the AAP ahead of the election in Delhi, accusing both of being "anti-women". Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman led the attack this morning, calling Mr Kejriwal "shameless" for continuing to associate with Bibhav Kumar and demanding the Chief Minister apologise.

**Swati Maliwal Assault Row**

Mr Kumar - whom Ms Maliwal has accused of slapping her seven times and kicking her in the chest and stomach - faces multiple charges, including assault, criminal intimidation, and outraging a woman's modesty. He also received a summons from the National Commission of Women. On Tuesday - 24 hours after the alleged assault - party MP Sanjay Singh told reporters Ms Maliwal had done "great work for the people and the country, and is one of AAP's senior-most leaders..." "We stand with her and will deal with the issue seriously, as per Mr Kejriwal's order. The AAP does not support such behaviour," he said. The BJP countered swiftly, demanding to know why it had taken the party over a day to respond to an assault that took place inside the Chief Minister's home. Meanwhile, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the only major opposition leader to have commented so far, said, "I always stand with women, irrespective of which party they belong to."

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