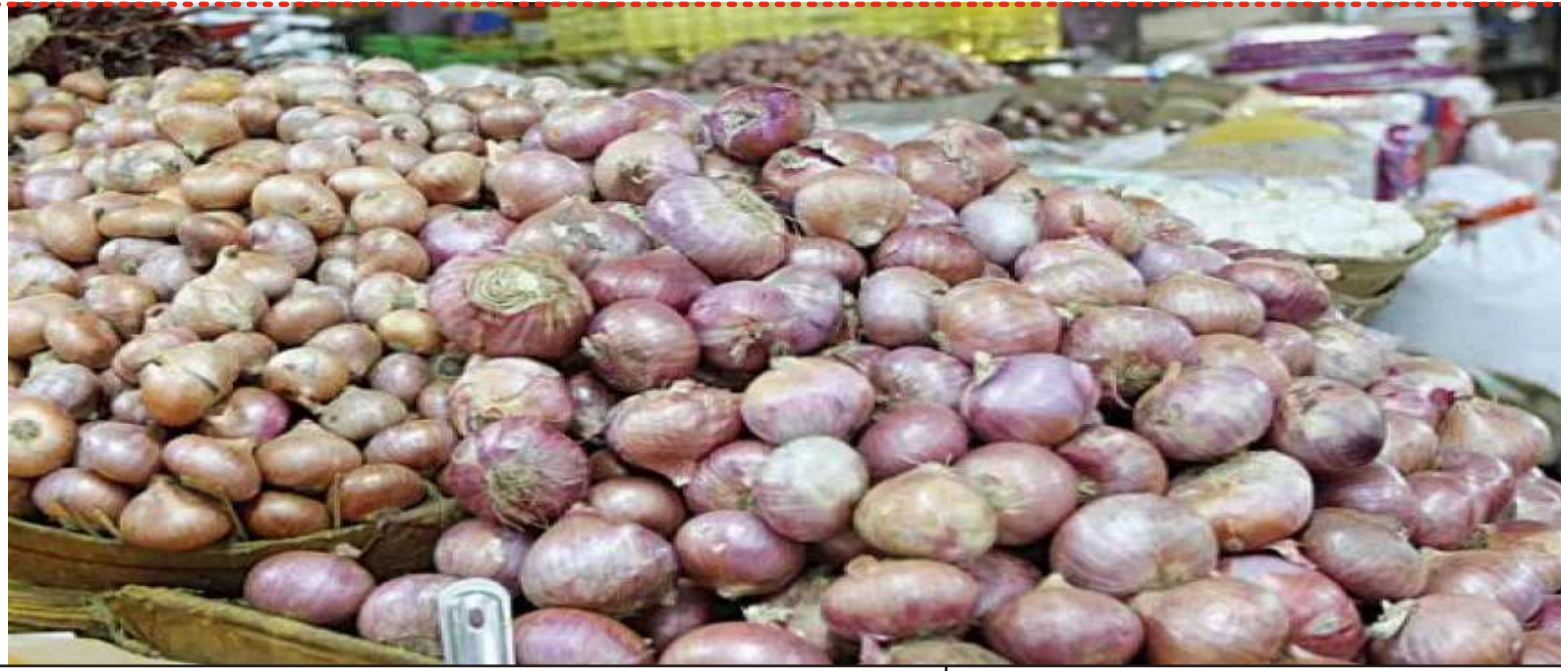


## Criminal move': Al Jazeera condemns decision to ban network in Israel



**The International Press :** Qatar-based network Al Jazeera on Sunday reacted to Israel's decision of banning the broadcaster and its operations in the country. Al Jazeera said that it was a "criminal decision", saying that it violates basic human rights of the people in the country trying to access information. Al Jazeera previously called Israeli efforts to curtail its operations an "escalation" and said in a statement in early April that it "comes as part of a series of systematic Israeli attacks to silence Al Jazeera". Two journalists from Al Jazeera - Samer Abu Daqqa and Hamza AlDahdooh - were killed in the middle of the Gaza conflict during airstrikes by the Israeli military. Al Jazeera said in its statement on social media platform X, "We condemn and denounce this criminal act by Israel that violates the human right to access information." On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his government decided to unilaterally close the channel over its coverage of the Gaza war. This decision comes after months of criticism of Al Jazeera by the Netanyahu government, which

began even before Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza. The official statement from the Israeli government said that the measure to ban Al Jazeera in the country will include closing Al Jazeera's offices in Israel, confiscating broadcast equipment, cutting off the channel from cable and satellite companies and blocking its websites. It did not mention Al Jazeera's Gaza operations. Israel's Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi said he had issued the order to shutter the channel, confiscate equipment and restrict broadcasting to Al Jazeera's websites in a separate joint statement with the Israeli premier. Since the war between Israel and Hamas began after the October 7 attacks, Al Jazeera has been continuously airing its ground reports from Gaza, showing the aftermath in the areas hit by Israel's offence. The network's office in Gaza has been bombed in the conflict and two of its correspondents have been killed. Al Jazeera alleged earlier that Israel has been deliberately targeting and killing its journalists reporting on-ground from Gaza. However, Israel responded that it does not target journalists.



## India lifts ban on onion export amid polls in Maharashtra

**The International Press :** India yesterday removed the ban on onion exports subject to a minimum export price of \$550 per tonne, a decision that can help boost the income of a large section of farmers and comes amidst Lok Sabha polls in key producing regions, including the state of Maharashtra. The government, in a balancing act to protect the interests of consumers, has imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of \$550 per tonne (around Tk 60 per kg) as well as a 40 percent export duty. Taking duty into account, shipments will not be allowed below \$770 per tonne (around Tk 84 per kg). "The export policy of onions is amended from prohibited to free subject to MEP of \$550 per tonne with immediate effect and until further orders," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification. India imposed the ban on December 8 last year to control surging retail prices of onion in domestic markets. Consumer Affairs Department Secretary Nidhi Khare told reporters that lifting the ban would not lead to any price rises in retail markets. "Prices will remain stable. If there is any increase, it should be very marginal," she said, adding that the government is committed to protecting the interests

**India yesterday removed the ban on onion exports subject to a minimum export price of \$550 per tonne, a decision that can help boost the income of a large section of farmers and comes amidst Lok Sabha polls in key producing regions, including the state of Maharashtra.**

of both consumers and farmers. Onion prices at Lasalgaon market in Nashik district of Maharashtra went up by an average of ₹200 per quintal after the Union Government yesterday lifted the ban on exports. Lasalgaon is the biggest wholesale onion market. Average prices of onions have increased by around ₹200 per quintal, and farmers will benefit from the decision, said Balasaheb Kshirsagar, chairman of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC). Political sources said the main reason for removing the ban is the coming Lok Sabha polls in onion-growing areas of Maharashtra, which is electorally crucial because it has the second-highest number of seats (49) after Uttar Pradesh (80). Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a rare third consecutive term in office since assuming the top post in May 2014. His party's performance in the ongoing elections holds the key to his objective. Onion traders and farmers, especially from Maharashtra, have been demanding the lifting of the ban, contending it would assist farmers in getting better prices. However, the government had remained hesitant, fearing that the export of this crucial kitchen staple could lead to a surge in domestic prices. Last month, the main opposition Congress attacked the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for neglecting Maharashtra's onion farmers affected by the

export ban. They mentioned that their manifesto pledges a predictable import-export policy to avoid sudden and harmful policies being enforced on farmers. In December last year, India clamped the ban on the export of onions till March 31 of this year and allowed their shipments based on permission granted by the central government at the request of other countries. Last month, India extended the export ban on onions until further orders. To check the soaring price of onions, the Indian government imposed a minimum export price of \$800 per tonne from October 28 till December 31, 2023. In August last year, India imposed a 40 percent duty on the export of onions to improve supplies of the staple vegetable in the domestic market until December 31, 2023. On May 3, the government again imposed a 40 percent duty on onion export. India's onion production for 2023-24 (as per the official data of the First Advance Estimates of the Agriculture Ministry) is projected at about 254.73 lakh tonnes, down from about 302.08 lakh tonnes the previous year. This decline is mainly attributed to a fall in production in key onion-growing states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Meanwhile, the price of the local variety of onions has seen a rise to Tk 65-75 a kg from last week's Tk 58-60, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh. Several onion traders blamed the price hike on their suppliers, alleging that they were stockpiling onions ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The ban's lifting had no immediate impact on the Bangladesh market, said Md Abdul Mazed, general secretary of the Shyambazar Onion Wholesalers' Association. "On Friday, onions were sold at Tk 60-62 per kg, which was the same on Saturday [yesterday]."

## Lok Sabha election 2024: PM Narendra Modi to file nomination from Varanasi on May 14



**The International Press :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP candidate from Varanasi, will file his nomination from the Lok Sabha constituency on May 14, BJP's city president Vidyasagar Rai said on Sunday. PM Modi will hold a roadshow in Varanasi on May 13. Modi rahe na rahe desh hamesha rahega. What is the Congress and the SP doing? They are contesting elections for their future and for the future of their children. 'Modi kis ke liye khap raha hai? Maine toh aage piche kuch rakha hi nahin hai. Yogi bhi aise hain aur Modi bhi aise hain'... 'Hum khap rahe hain aapke baccho ke liye'...," said PM Modi. At the rally, PM Modi sought the blessings of the people and said that it had been his Dharma to serve them with all honesty. He said, "Modi is paving the way for the country not just for the coming five years but for the next 25 years..." "The route for the roadshow has been finalised. On May 14, Prime Minister Modi will file his nomination from the Varanasi seat," said Vidyasagar Rai as quoted by news agency PTI. PM Modi's major competitors in the constituency are -- Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai and BSP's candidate Athar Jamal Lari. Voting will be held in Varanasi on June 1 in the seventh and last round of the Lok Sabha election 2024. The results will be declared on June 4. Notably, the ongoing general election 2024 is being held in seven phases. Voting in the first phase took place on April 19 and the second phase

happened on April 26. PM Modi is a two-time MP from Varanasi. He contested from the Lok Sabha constituency for the first time in the 2014 general elections and won by a huge margin of more than three lakh votes against AAP's Arvind Kejriwal who came second. PM Modi was then re-elected as an MP from Varanasi in the Lok Sabha election 2019. Meanwhile, PM Modi addressed a public gathering in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah on Sunday. During the rally, he took a dig at the Congress and Samajwadi party over dynasty and family centred politics. He said that unlike Congress and SP who work for their own family only, Modi and Yogi (Uttar Pradesh CM) were working for the future of the people's children.

## Bad weather affects last day campaign for Phase 3 polling in Assam



**The International Press :** Inclement weather affected the last day of campaigning for political parties for the third phase of polling in Assam on Sunday. Voting will take place in four Lok Saha seats in the state—Guwahati, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Barpeta—on Tuesday. Forty-seven candidates are in the fray in the four seats to go to polls on Tuesday. In Guwahati, of the 8 candidates, the main contest is between BJP's Bijuli Kalita Medhi and the Congress's Mira Borthakur Goswami. In Barpeta, among the 14 candidates in fray, a triangular contest is taking place among the Congress's Deep Bayan, the AGP's Phani Bhushan Choudhury and the CPI(M)'s Manoranjan Talukdar. Dhubri, which has 13 candidates, is also witnessing a triangular contest among the AIUDF's Badruddin Ajmal, the Congress' Rakibul Hussain and AGP candidate Javed Islam. In Kokrajhar, of the 12 candidates in fray, the main contest is expected between the UPPL's Joyanta Basumatary and the Bodoland Peoples Front's Khampa Borgoyari. Several parts of Assam witnessed rain and heavy winds on Sunday. According to the Guwahati meteorological office, most parts of the state are expected to witness light to moderate rain, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds for five days beginning Sunday. Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had to cancel a public meeting at Mancachar in Dhubri seat as his helicopter failed to take off from Guwahati. The CM took part in a motorcycle rally in Guwahati in the morning and ended his campaign with a road show in Sualkuchi, which is part of Barpeta seat. Of the four seats, the BJP is contesting from Guwahati, while its ruling partner, Asom Gana Parishad, is contesting the Barpeta and Dhubri seats. Another ruling partner, United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) is contesting the Kokrajhar seat. Today's showers are a sign of blessing from heaven. On the polling day, I urge you all to come out in large numbers even if there's rain, storm or sunshine and vote for the AGP candidate from Barpeta," Sarma said at a road show at Sualkuchi. In 2019, the BJP's Queen Oja had won Guwahati, the Congress's Abdul Khaleque had bagged Barpeta, All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) president Badruddin Ajmal had won from Dhubri for a third term and Independent Naba Sarania won from Kokrajhar for the second time. "This time the Congress will form government at Centre. I have been hearing rumours that Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma is looking at rejoining our party, once that happens. But I want to make it clear that the Congress will not allow him into our party," said Congress working committee member Ajoy Kumar in Guwahati on Sunday during an interaction with journalists.

## Trudeau, Jaishankar's first reactions to 3 Indians' arrest over Nijjar murder



**The International Press :** Canada is a rule-of-law country with a strong and independent justice system, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in his first reaction to the arrest of three Indian nationals in connection with the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June last year. "This is important because Canada is a rule-of-law country with a strong and independent justice system, as well as a fundamental commitment to protecting all its citizens," Justin Trudeau was quoted as saying by CBS on Saturday. "As the RCMP stated, the investigation remains ongoing, as does a separate and distinct investigation not limited to the involvement of the three people arrested yesterday," the Canadian

prime minister added. His remarks came hours after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said that authorities in the Integrated Homicide Investigative Team (IHIT) and the Federal Policing Program Pacific Region had arrested three Indians in connection with the Nijjar killing. In a statement, the RCMP said, "The work doesn't end here and, as the investigation continues, I will underscore that there are separate and distinct investigations ongoing." The arrested Indian nationals have allegedly played different roles as shooters, drivers and spotters on the day Nijjar was killed at the parking lot of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, *Contd. to P/2*

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Trust reposed by people in results every time after election is a testament to robust democratic processes in India

In keeping with the tradition of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to foster a culture of transparency and reiterate its commitment to high standards of electoral practices amidst the democratic nations, 75 delegates representing 23 countries are in India to



REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' (dated May 3, 2024) from the Reserve Bank of India, for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in



Editorial

Campaigning for third phase of Lok Sabha Elections in West Bengal has come to an end this evening

Campaigning for third phase of Lok Sabha Elections in West Bengal has come to an end this evening. Elections will be held at four Parliamentary constituencies Maldah Uttar, Maldah Dakshin, Jangipur and Murshidabad on 7th of May 2024. The bye-elections in Bhagawangola Assembly seat will also be held on this day. Altogether 57 candidates are in the fray in four constituencies. Out of this 15 are in Maldah Uttar while total number of candidates are 17 in Maldah Dakshin. In Murshidabad 11 candidates are contesting while 14 are fighting rom Jangipur Parliamentary seats. Total number of electorate in Maldah Uttar seat are 18 lakhs 62 thousands 35 while in Maldah Dakshin total number of voters are 17 lakhs 82 thousands 159. In Jangipur 18 lakhs 4 thousands 360 voters are eligible to cast their franchise. The total number of

electorates in Murshidabad are 18 lakhs 88 thousands 97. The total number of voters in Bhagawangola Assembly seat are 2 lakhs 77 thousands 310. Total number of over 85 years of voters in four Parliamentary constituencies are 34 thousands 553. Electors aged between 18-19 years are 1 lakh 57 thousands 763. Altogether 7 thousands 360 polling stations will be set up of which 227 are women managed polling stations. Election Commission has taken elaborate security arrangements to ensure free and fair voting. Various arrangements are also being made to protect the voters from scorching heat at Polling Stations.



Trust reposed by people in results every time after election is a testament to robust democratic processes in India

The International Press : In keeping with the tradition of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to foster a culture of transparency and reiterate its commitment to high standards of electoral practices amidst the democratic nations, 75 delegates representing 23 countries are in India to witness the Indian General Elections as part of the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP). The event today was inaugurated in the presence of CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar and ECs Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Shri Sukhbir Singh Sandhu at New Delhi. Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar while addressing the delegates, remarked that the contribution of the Indian electoral space and work done by the Election Commission of India, holds a significant portion of the world democratic space. In terms of process and capacity it generates, what can be legitimately called, 'democratic surpluses' is of a huge significance in the otherwise growing concerns of shrinkage of or decline of democratic

spaces worldwide. Shri Kumar further said that the Indian elections space is unique, as neither electoral registration is compulsory nor voting is mandatory. Therefore, the ECI is required to operate in an entirely persuasive space, inviting the citizens to volunteer to become part of electoral roll and, thereafter, through systematic voter awareness programme, to motivate them to exercise their franchise. He said "It would be axiomatic to say that the credibility of the processes that we undertake is validated through the sheer turnout at elections and the near saturation of electoral rolls in terms of Elector-population ratio." Commenting on the scale of the electoral exercise in India, he said that a 970 million strong electorate will be welcomed by over 15 million polling personnel at over 1 million Polling Stations spread across the country. Shri Kumar added that diversity of the nation's electorate can be witnessed in its full expression by the visiting delegates at the Polling Stations. He added that

India is a country of festivals and invited the delegates to experience the festival of democracy first-hand. On the sidelines of the event, the Commission also held bilateral interactions with the Chief Election Commissioners of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Nepal along with their delegation. Earlier, in the day delegates were briefed on various aspects of Indian General Elections 2024 including EVM-VVPAT, IT initiatives, role of media and social media. The briefing session chaired by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Sh. Dharmendra Sharma included an overview of Elections by Sh. R.K. Gupta, Deputy Election Commissioner followed by a presentation on EVM-VVPAT by Sh. Nitesh Kumar, Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner. A presentation on the IT Initiatives of the ECI by Ms. Neeta Verma, Director General (IT) and Media and social media by Sh. Anuj Chandak, Joint Director (Media) was part of the session. The delegates will split into

groups to visit six states—Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh to observe polls and related preparedness in various constituencies. The programme will end on the 9th of May, 2024. The program will familiarise foreign EMB delegates with the nuances of India's electoral system as well as the best practices in Indian election. This year, commensurate to the scale and stature of the on-going Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the largest ever delegation representing various Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and organisations from 23 countries namely - Bhutan, Mongolia, Australia, Madagascar, Fiji, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Moldova, Tunisia, Seychelles, Cambodia, Nepal, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Chile, Uzbekistan, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Namibia are taking part in the event. Members from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and media teams from Bhutan and Israel are also participating.

REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat



The International Press : REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' (dated May 3, 2024) from the Reserve Bank of India, for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ("GIFT"), Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The decision to expand operations into GIFT, a burgeoning hub for financial services in India, comes as REC continues to diversify its portfolio and explore new avenues for growth. The proposed subsidiary will engage in a range of financial activities as a finance company within GIFT, including lending, investment, and other

financial services. Speaking on the development, CMD, REC Limited, Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan said: "The GIFT City platform offers a conducive environment for international lending activities, coupled with world-class infrastructure. We are confident that REC will harness these advantages to carve a niche for itself in the global market. The entity at GIFT City will not only present new business opportunities for REC but will also contribute significantly to the growth of the country's energy sector. We look forward to leveraging this strategic move to further propel REC's mission of fostering growth in India's power and infra sector while expanding our footprint on the global stage."

News Continue

Trudeau, Jaishankar's first reactions to 3 Indians' arrest over Nijjar murder

British Columbia. The Canadian media identified the arrested persons as Kamalpreet Singh, Karanpreet Singh and Karan Brar. The police have charged them with first-degree murder and conspiracy in the Nijjar case but the charges have not been tested in the court. Reacting to the arrests, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the suspects apparently are "Indians of some kind of gang background" but added New Delhi will wait for the police to share details in this regard. "We'll have to wait for the police to tell us," Dr Jaishankar said, according to Reuters. "But, as I said, one of our concerns which we have been telling them is that, you know, they have allowed organised crime from India, specifically from Punjab, to operate in Canada," the minister added. The murder of the Khalistani terrorist had become a major flashpoint in the diplomatic relations between India and Canada last year after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged the Indian government's hand in it. Trudeau told the country's Parliament that Ottawa has "credible allegations" of the involvement of Indian government agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi vehemently rejected his allegations, terming them "absurd" and "politically motivated". India also demanded evidence from Canada to back Trudeau's claim, but they failed to provide any.

The "door to door" campaign in Delhi heated up the atmosphere.



Dr. Samrendra Pathak Senior journalist. New Delhi, May 5, 2024 (Agency). The International Press : After the nomination for all the seven Lok Sabha seats of Delhi, the atmosphere has started heating up with the launch of intensive

"door to door" campaign of the candidates. A total of 141 candidates are reported to have filed their nominations till Saturday, including all the candidates of both the alliances except Congress's Kanhaiya

Kumar. There is a possibility of crowd on Monday as it is the last day for filing nominations. Voting will be held on May 25 in the sixth phase of voting on all seven seats of the national capital Delhi. The total number of

voters in Delhi is one crore 52 lakh, 2 thousand 161. This time 2 lakh 34 thousand voters will be able to cast their vote for the first time. There will be 13 thousand 713 polling stations for voting. This door to door public relations campaign of the candidates starts at 10 am in the morning and continues till late evening. They are also accompanied by supporters, who appeal to the people to vote in support of their candidate. Many times they face questions from the people. He also tries to convince them with his logic. During this period sometimes heat is also seen. This time BJP workers

are seen raising slogans exceeding 400, while AAP workers raise slogans of taking revenge of jail by voting. This time Congress workers raise slogans of change the government. During this time also on issues of inflation, unemployment and corruption. Slogans are raised. Congressmen also do not fail to raise slogans like Chowkidar Chor Hai. Before filing nomination, the candidates of major parties also took out rallies in their support. During this, a crowd of their supporters was also seen, but there was no special enthusiasm among the common people. The candidates came to file

nomination with drums and drums. The largest crowd was AAP. K Mahabal Mishra and his rival Kamaljeet of BJP were seen in the nomination rally. Both the candidates have special recognition in their area. The special thing in this election is that BJP is contesting on its own, whereas for the first time as a part of the Indian Alliance, AAP is contesting jointly on 4 seats and Congress on 3 seats. Due to this, there will be face to face elections on all the seats this time. There is competition ahead. However, small parties and independent candidates from Delhi are also in the field on a large scale to register their presence.

This time, BJP has fielded all the new faces except outgoing MP Manoj Tiwari from North Eastern parliamentary constituency. AAP's Somnath Bharti is against BJP's Bansuri Swaraj from New Delhi, Congress's Udit Raj is against BJP's Yogendra Chandolia from North Western. Former Congress MP Jai Prakash Aggarwal against BJP's Praveen Khandalwal from Chandni Chowk, AAP's Sahi Ram Pehalwan against BJP's Ramveer Vidhuri from South, AAP's Kuldeep Kumar against BJP's Harsh Malhotra from East and AAP's Kuldeep Kumar from West Delhi. Mahabal Mishra is contesting against BJP's Kamaljeet.L.S.

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ঠাকুর শ্রীশ্রী সমীর ব্রহ্মচারী বিশ্ব সেবাশ্রম সঙ্ঘ

১৯৯ বিশ্ব সেবাশ্রম সঙ্ঘ রোড, তালপুকুর, ১৮ নং ওয়ার্ড নিউ ব্যারাকপুর, কলকাতা-৭০০ ১৩১১

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**CMD emphasizes Ease of Doing Business and Digitisation; borrowers commend IREDA for Navratna Status and streamlined Loan Process**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) organized its 16th Stakeholders' Interaction Meet at the India International Centre in New Delhi today, May 4, 2024. The



**Taapsee Pannu reveals why her wedding suit was not from a big fashion designer**

Taapsee Pannu married longtime boyfriend and badminton player Mathias Boe in Udaipur in March this year. In a new interview with HT City, the actor dished out all the details about her recent wedding. Speaking about why unlike recent celebrity brides, she



**CMD emphasizes Ease of Doing Business and Digitisation; borrowers commend IREDA for Navratna Status and streamlined Loan Process**



**The International Press :** Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) organized its 16th Stakeholders' Interaction Meet at the India International Centre in New Delhi today, May 4, 2024. The Stakeholders' Meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from business partners spanning the renewable energy spectrum, including Solar, Wind, Hydro, Bio Energy, and New & Emerging technologies. Notably, this was the second in-person meeting out of 16, with 14 meetings having been conducted virtually. The event featured a presentation highlighting IREDA's recent achievements, emphasizing its historic annual performance in FY 2023-24. The discussion covered major initiatives undertaken for renewable energy development, execution of suggestions from previous interaction meets, and future plans aligned with the targets set by the Government of India. A group of people sitting at a table

stability. Borrowers congratulated IREDA for its streamlined loan sanction process and faceless transactions, underscoring the agency's commitment to facilitating Ease of Doing Business. Stakeholders also commended IREDA for achieving "Navratna" status recently and for being the first NBFC to publish audited financial results in a period of just 19 days. Addressing the stakeholders, Chairperson & Managing Director of IREDA, Shri Pradip Kumar Das underscored the importance of facilitating Ease of Doing Business and optimizing IT Infrastructure. The CMD reaffirmed IREDA's commitment to sustainable corporate governance, transparency, and accountability. He emphasized the company's dedication to tailoring financial products to sector requirements and its readiness to introduce new products based on partners' feedback. Aligning with the vision outlined at COP26 by the Govt. of India, IREDA aims to play a pivotal role in achieving the ambitious target of 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030, he said. The meet had an interactive session where stakeholders got to engage directly with the CMD and team. Director (Finance), Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty and other senior officials of IREDA also attended the interaction. One of the most memorable parts of the event was the Hasya Kavi Sammelan, where renowned poet and satirist Shri Surender Sharma, along with Shri Ved Prakash Ved, Smt. Manisha Shukla, and Shri Govind Rathi, delivered moments of joy and laughter to the audience.

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A person speaking into a microphone in front of a group of people  
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The meet highlighted notable financial achievements, with IREDA's Tier-1 Capital reaching Rs. 8,265.20 crores as of March 31, 2024. This substantial capital base enables larger exposure in project financing, with the company capable of financing up to Rs. 2,480 crores to a single borrower and Rs. 4,133 crores to a group of borrowers. IREDA's net worth has witnessed significant growth from Rs. 2,995 crores in FY 2020-21 to Rs. 8,559 crores in FY 2023-24, demonstrating its financial strength and



**BJP will win more than 30 seats in Bengal: Khagen Murmu**



**Navesh Kumar Sr. Journalist**  
**Malda, May 5, 2024 (Agency)The International Press :** . BJP will win more than 30 seats in Bengal under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP candidate from Malda North Lok Sabha in West Bengal, Khagen Murmu has claimed this during an interview.

increased in the state. Therefore, this time the people of Bengal have resolved to vote for BJP for the safety of their family and better future. On the question of development of Malda North, he said that I worked on many schemes for this area and also made many other efforts, but did not

get any cooperation from the state government. I have raised the demand for airport and Navodaya school in the Parliament so that all Dalit, tribal students can get better education. It is worth noting that in the third phase, voting is scheduled on May 7 on a total of 4 seats including Malda North. BJP leader Khagen Murmu represents Malda North parliamentary constituency, he is contesting against TMC's Prasun Banerjee and Congress' Mustaq Alam. (L.S)

Murmu said that there was a wave for PM Modi in 2019 and people saw BJP as an alternative to Trinamool and we won 18 seats. This time too, with the immense support received in all parts of the state, BJP's victory seems certain on about 30 Lok Sabha seats. The senior BJP leader said that Trinamool has not done anything in the name of development in the state. Hooliganism, loot and murders have been so far

with Deepika the film will also star Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar and Kareena Kapoor. On the personal front, Deepika announced her pregnancy in February and shared an adorable poster with September 2024 written on it. She will also be seen in Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan in Kalki 2989 AD. Deepika and Ranveer have been married for five years now.

**The International Press :** Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone who is a mom-to-be soon recently received a sweet surprise. The actress will be seen playing a lady cop in Rohit Shetty's Singham 3 aka Singham Again. Deepika who is expecting her first baby with Ranveer Singh on cloud nine these days. The diva who is currently shooting for the film took to her Instagram account on Tuesday and shared a post as she she received flowers along with a

handwritten note. The Padmaavat star received an assortment of flowers with a note that said, 'To our hero, lady Singham'. Deepika did not post any caption with the picture. Fans took to the comments section and filled it with their love. One fan said, 'Missing you badly', while another commented saying, 'Lady Singham making a baby Singham'.  
**Take a look at Deepika Padukone's post** In Singham Again, along

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**CINEMA**

**Singham Again star Deepika Padukone receives a cute handwritten note; Lady Singham fans react**

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with Deepika the film will also star Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar and Kareena Kapoor. On the personal front, Deepika announced her pregnancy in February and shared an adorable poster with September 2024 written on it. She will also be seen in Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan in Kalki 2989 AD. Deepika and Ranveer have been married for five years now.



**Ramayana: Lara Dutta not playing Kaikeyi in Ranbir Kapoor film? Actress statement creates confusion**

**The International Press :** Nitesh Tiwari's adaptation of Ramayana will feature Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi as Lord Rama and Sita maa. Fans are eagerly waiting for the film to be released. Well, the Ramayana film has yet again sparked excitement among Bollywood fans with rumours of a change in cast. Among the speculations, Lara Dutta has now been in the news for the alleged portrayal of Kaikeyi in the upcoming film. Addressing the rumors, actress Lara was quoted by Indian Express as she broke her silence on the heard the reports. She said 'Who wouldn't want to be a part of Ramayana?' Lara expressed her excitement about the same and said that she would embrace other challenging roles like Surpanakha and

Mandodari if she gets offered. There are reports that South Indian actor Vijay Sethupathi will come onboard as Vibhishana.

KGF actor Yash will reportedly play the role of Ravana in Ramayana. A report in Pinkvilla suggests that Sunny Deol will play

the role of Lord Hanuman. Recently, Ranbir and Sai's pictures from the sets of Ramayana went viral on the social media.



**Taapsee Pannu reveals why her wedding suit was not from a big fashion designer**



and it didn't feel real wedding vibe to me to imagine myself dressing up in pastel hued lehengas." She added, "Also because when you have some big name on board, then the chances of the news getting leaked out are very high, and I wanted to keep it very private. So, my college friend, Mani Bhatia designed all my outfits, and that's how I wanted. I didn't have any lehenga in my entire wedding because I wanted to dance a lot on all functions." Further speaking about her other outfits from the wedding festivities, Taapsee said that for the haldi ceremony she wore a "very vintage Punjabi style of lungi teamed up with a kurta, similar to what you saw in DDLJ (Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge)". For the sangeet, the actor opted for bellbottom-styled pants with bling work on the top and jacket and diamond solitaires as the only accessory. For the wedding, she wore a traditional Punjabi saggi phull, which is a hair accessory, along with a very light necklace and earrings that her grandmother gave to her mother at her wedding.

**The International Press :** Taapsee Pannu married longtime boyfriend and badminton player Mathias Boe in Udaipur in March this year. In a new interview with HT City, the actor dished out all the details about her recent wedding. Speaking about why unlike recent celebrity brides, she ditched the lehenga and opted for a traditional salwar kameez and juttis for her D-day, the actor revealed it was actually a friend of hers who designed all her bridal outfits. Taapsee Pannu said, "I've grown up seeing Sikh, Gurudwara weddings, so for me, the vintage idea, the classic idea of getting married was always in a proper red salwar kameez paired with a dupatta with kinari on the border. That's the only way I know a bride looks like a bride,



## Babar Azam closes in on SKY

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has closed the gap on India dynamo Suryakumar Yadav at the top of the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings following an excellent end to his side's series against New Zealand.



## Champions League: Antonio Rudiger wishes to 'smash' Kylian Mbappe

Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger has jokingly stated that he will 'smash' Kylian Mbappe if Los Blancos come up against Paris Saint Germain (PSG) in the Champions League final. The 31-year-old made this remark ahead of the



## Madrid stars keen on Kroos stay after Munich masterclass

**The International Press :** Toni Kroos has not decided where his future lies but his teammates are hoping he chooses to stay at Real Madrid after his Champions League masterclass against Bayern Munich. The experienced 34-year-old German midfielder shone for Real in their 2-2 semi-final first leg draw at his former stomping ground in Bavaria on a gripping Tuesday night. Kroos's contract expires in the summer after a decade with the record 14-time Champions League winners. "I want to win as much as possible this season - I don't think about the future," he said after the game. Looking beyond obvious standout Vinicius Junior, who netted both of Madrid's goals against Bayern, Kroos was Madrid's finest player in a match where Los Blancos could have been beaten. Thomas Tuchel's Bayern created more chances and Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said they were at their best, compared to his side which only showed their top level in flashes. Kroos was by contrast supremely consistent and his superb ball for Vinicius helped Madrid take the lead.



The former Germany international was a step ahead of everyone else on the pitch, pointing to Vinicius where he planned to play the ball, a pass which didn't seem to be on. Vinicius, closely acquainted with Kroos's quality, made the right run and the veteran threaded the needle with his slide-rule pass. "We train together so much, I know Kroos very well and he knows me very well," explained the Brazilian forward. Vinicius' strike-partner Rodrygo said he would love Kroos to stay.

"We always tell him (Kroos) to stay, not just one but many years more, age doesn't matter," Rodrygo told Movistar. "He's so masterful, with such class, I love playing with him, I hope he keeps going." "No words" Kroos made some vital interceptions in midfield, was a threat from set pieces and in the first half hour did not misplace a single pass. By half-time only one of his 49 had gone astray and by the end 79 out of 82 found their target. The midfielder showed

his experience as well as his class, having a word with Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, telling him to stay calm after a hurried clearance. It was Kroos charging up the outside early in the second half, with Manuel Neuer beating his effort to safety at full stretch after a slick move. He was booked for a tactical foul on Bayern striker Harry Kane and took the armband after Nacho Fernandez was substituted. The Bayern match is Kroos' 10th semi-final tie and the only player who

has lifted the trophy more is former Madrid winger Paco Gento, a six-time winner. Kroos and several other players are tied on five. The German did not look happy to be replaced in the final stages, given the calibre of his performance. "(It was) just for more energy, Kroos played a very good game," explained Ancelotti. "There are no words to define him. He is a top player, crucial for our game, for the way he controls the speed (of the game), and for his passes."

## Babar Azam closes in on SKY



**The International Press :** Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has closed the gap on India dynamo Suryakumar Yadav at the top of the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings following an excellent end to his side's series against New Zealand. Babar was Pakistan's leading run-scorer during an enthralling series that ended tied at 2-2, with the right-hander scoring a half-century in a victory in the fifth T20I of the series to finish with a total of 125 runs from four innings at the top of his side's batting order. It helped Babar improve one spot to fourth on the updated list of T20I rankings for batters and boost his rating by a total of 10 points to 763, with Suryakumar now just 98 rating points ahead of the Pakistan skipper just one month out from the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Babar's Pakistan teammate Fakhar Zaman also made good ground on the latest rankings update, with the attacking

left-hander improving 10 places to 62nd place on the back of his 104 runs for the series. New Zealand's biggest eye-catcher was Tim Seifert, with the experienced right-hander jumping seven places to equal seventh after compiling 85 runs for the series at a decent strike rate of 144.06. There was also a boost for Pakistan and New Zealand players on the updated list for T20I bowlers, with pace spearhead Shaheen Afridi jumping three places to equal 14th following his eight scalps across four matches against the Kiwis. New Zealand duo Michael Bracewell (up 13 spots to 55th) and Ben Sears (up 29 places to 60th) also make some ground on the list for T20I bowlers, while Pakistan's Imad Wasim up is the biggest mover on the T20I all-rounder rankings as he rises 10 rungs to 22nd following a pair of decent effort against the Black Caps.

## Champions League: Antonio Rudiger wishes to 'smash' Kylian Mbappe



**The International Press :** Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger has jokingly stated that he will 'smash' Kylian Mbappe if Los Blancos come up against Paris Saint Germain (PSG) in the Champions League final. The 31-year-old made this remark ahead of the semi-finals, where both Real Madrid and PSG aim to secure spots at Wembley. Rudiger will be eager to assist Real Madrid in overcoming Bayern Munich, while Mbappe and PSG confront another German opponent Borussia Dortmund. When questioned by Le Media Carre about the possibility of facing Mbappe at Wembley in the final on June 1, the Real Madrid defender responded with a humorous remark. "If we face him in the final we'll beat him, Rudiger replied, before joking "And if he dribbles past me I'll smash him." The German international received acclaim for his performance against Mbappe in the national team's 2-0 victory over France during the international break. Rudiger rebuked assertions that Mbappe was 'in his pocket' as being 'disrespectful'. The 31-year-old instead suggested that Mbappe could emerge as the finest player in France's history, whilst expressing his backing for the forward's possible transfer to Real Madrid this "The best players in history have always come to Real Madrid," he said. "He's one of the best players in the world, so it would be a good match," he added. When asked about reports of Mbappe's likely arrival, Rudiger responded "Who says that he's coming, it's not official." Real Madrid came close to securing their target in 2022, as Mbappe made a last-minute change of heart before committing to a fresh contract with the Ligue 1 side. In February, Mbappe informed PSG that he would be leaving the club when his contract ends this summer.

## Cricket World Cup 'stepping stone' to building US fanbase for Olympics



**The International Press :** Next month's T20 World Cup will help build cricket's profile and popularity in the United States ahead of its appearance at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, the sport's world body said. The showpiece 20-over event will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States in June with New York, Florida and Dallas as venues. The International Cricket Council (ICC) said it was confident the tournament would help the sport leave a mark in a land where baseball rules. "The fact that a World Cup has come to the US -- the largest sports market in the world -- that in itself has generated a lot of interest," Chris Tetley, the ICC's head of events, told reporters in a media roundtable on Tuesday. "This is a key stepping stone for the promotion of the game towards 2028 and beyond in terms of providing world-class cricket for the

massive existing fanbase that the sport already has in the US," he added. "We are trying to give them something they haven't had on their doorstep before and maybe pique the interest of the American sports community by telling them that cricket's actually an older sport in the US than baseball." T20 Cricket will feature as one of five new sports at the Los Angeles Olympics. Cricket's only previous appearance at an Olympics was in 1900 in Paris, where a team from Great Britain defeated France. **'Exceeded expectations'** Nassau County's Eisenhower Park, near New York, has seen a 34,000-seater temporary stadium, with a drop-in cricket pitch, constructed. It will host the hotly-anticipated India-Pakistan clash on June 9 among its eight scheduled World Cup games.

"We are really happy with the pitch," said stadium manager Damian Hough. "Everything that we have done has exceeded expectations. I can't predict scores, that's for the batters. "We hope that we have got a typical T20 pitch where there is good bounce, good pace and value for shots. Obviously you want batters to play shots all around the ground." Hough and his team introduced drop-in pitches more than a decade ago at Adelaide Oval, where he is head curator. But creating the stadium in Nassau County has seen different challenges, including growing the pitch in the sub-tropics of Florida before transporting it 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles) north through multiple climatic zones. Tetley said the stadium would be dismantled after the T20 extravaganza, but the "world-class facilities" would leave a lasting legacy for cricket in the United States.

## Smith, Fraser-McGurk miss Australia's T20 World Cup squad



**The International Press :** Australia selectors have dropped veteran campaigner Steve Smith from their squad for the T20 World Cup and ignored calls to include Jake Fraser-McGurk despite the young batsman's sensational form in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Smith, a member of Australia's title-winning squad at the 2021 tournament in the United Arab Emirates, played T20s against New Zealand in February but was unable to push his claims further after missing out on an IPL contract. Though uncapped in T20 internationals, 22-year-old Fraser-McGurk had made a strong case for inclusion, scoring 247 runs in five matches for the Delhi Capitals at an astonishing strike rate of 237.50.

Fraser-McGurk was part of "long conversations" for the June 1-29 showpiece in the United States and the Caribbean, chief selector George Bailey said in a statement. "Being constrained to a squad of 15 for World Cups is always a challenge given the different scenarios and options we'd like to cover," added Bailey. "Ultimately the balance of the final 15 needs to provide the best chance of being successful in this campaign." Selectors opted for a second spinner in Ashton Agar and picked Cameron Green as a back-up all-rounder while remaining loyal to the core of players who helped Australia win an unprecedented sixth 50-over World Cup in India last November. Mitchell Marsh was confirmed as captain of

the 15-man squad which includes Josh Inglis as a reserve wicketkeeper. "We have had some strong success in recent times and I am hopeful that will continue in what looks like a wide-open tournament," said Marsh, part of a strong top order featuring openers David Warner and Travis Head. Australia start their World Cup campaign against cricketing minnow Oman in Barbados on June 5 and have also been grouped with defending champions England along with Namibia and Scotland. The Australians will bid to hold all three major global titles, having also won the World Test Championship last year. **Australia squad:** David Warner, Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh (capt), Glenn Maxwell, Tim David, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade,

Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Adam Zampa, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Ashton Agar, Cameron Green, Nathan Ellis. Australia's Group B fixtures: June 6: v Oman, Kensington Oval, Barbados, 10.30am AEST; June 9: v England, Kensington Oval, Barbados, 3am AEST; June 12: v Namibia, Sir Viv Richards Stadium, Antigua, 10.30am AEST; June 16: v Scotland, Daren Sammy Stadium, St Lucia, 10.30am AEST; Super Eight fixtures: TBC; 27 June: Semi-final 1, Brian Lara Academy, Trinidad, 10.30am AEST; 28 June: Semi-final 2, Providence Stadium, Guyana, 12.30am AEST; 30 June: Final, Kensington Oval, Barbados, 12.30am AEST.