





BJP leaders working overtime to meet their membership targets

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL
Madhya Pradesh assembly and Lok Sabha polls are over, but BJP leaders at all levels of hierarchy are working overtime to make the party largest and most populous in the world.

The party leaders and workers are desperately working to meet the assigned targets even if it means employing all means and methods to achieve the goal

er has been given a target of including new members, like a corporator has to make 5,000 members, legislator has a target of 15,000, while the parliamentarian has to make 25,000 members.

the allegations of that person are baseless. When lakhs of people are taking membership of the party, his allegations can't be believed. Madhya Pradesh Congress Media in-charge Mukesh Nayak said that this is not the only incident.

submitting the code, a complete form is opened where one has to submit personal details including full name, address, state, district, constituency, date of birth and a photograph.



President Droupadi Murmu honours Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday.



Mahila Congress workers stage a protest against the BJP leaders over alleged controversial remarks on their leader Rahul Gandhi, in Bhopal on Thursday.

Only white tigress at Van Vihar National Park dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
The only white tigress of Bhopal's Van Vihar National Park died on Thursday morning. Wildlife doctor Dr. Atul Gupta examined her and she was declared dead.

White tigress Riddhi died on the night of September 18. She was found lying in her house on Thursday morning. Wildlife doctor Dr. Atul Gupta examined her and she was declared dead.

tigress have been collected and sent to the School of Wildlife Forensic Health Jabalpur for testing. After postmortem, the dead tigress was cremated as per rules in Van Vihar National Park in the presence of Forest Conservator Bhopal Circle Bhopal, Director Van Vihar and other officers and employees.

CM to engage with domestic and International industrialists

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is actively engaging with industrialists through roadshows in major industrial cities across the country to boost investment and promote balanced economic development in all regions of Madhya Pradesh.

Kolkata GIS is expected to host around 350 delegates, including over 60 distinguished guests and consulate representatives from more than eight countries. The primary goal of this event is to highlight investment opportunities between West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and to strengthen trade relations.

paign, driving the state's industrial development to new heights. The Chief Minister will hold one-on-one discussions with around 22 industry representatives from India and abroad, including key players from the steel, hosiery, and garment sectors, as well as logistics industrialists and the German Consulate.

highly skilled workforce make it a compelling destination for investment. During the roadshow, the Chief Minister will encourage industrialists to join forces and partner with the state's development initiatives.

Vulgar pics posted on WhatsApp group

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Obscene photos were shared in a WhatsApp group of the village from the mobile number of the Sachiv of a village panchayat in the state capital.

als including Sachiv Antar Singh are also connected. In this group, 6 obscene photos were shared from the mobile number of the Sachiv at 11.56 pm on Wednesday night. In this matter, the matter also reached the Zilla Parishad CEO Rituraj Singh.

2-day cultural event tomorrow

Bhopal: Sahityotsav Jash-e-Adab Cultural Kaarva'n Virasat 2024, a significant cultural event celebrating Indian art, culture, and literature, will be held in Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh. This two-day cultural festival will take place on September 21 and 22, 2024, at the Old Ravindra Bhawan Auditorium, Professors Colony, Raj Bhavan Road.

BoB receives Rajbhasha Kirti award for the third consecutive year

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Bank of Baroda has been awarded 'First Prize' under the Government of India's 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' Scheme for the year 2023-2024 for outstanding performance in Official Language Implementation. The award was received by Bank's Managing Director & CEO, Debadatta Chand, at the hands of Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs & Co-operation, Govt. of India Amit Shah, during the Hindi Divas - 2024 & Fourth Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan held on September 14, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Baroda has received Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar consecutively for the third year in the nationalised Bank category, which includes two 'First Prizes' and one 'Second Prize'. This award also reflects the Bank's responsiveness towards its customers who converse in Hindi and other Indian languages and feel more comfortable receiving banking services in the same.



President Droupadi Murmu goes through an exhibition under 'Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan' at Rudraksh Hotel in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday.

Shukla holds discussion with ADB delegation on various areas

Bhopal: Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla stated that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been providing support for public welfare initiatives for several years. He emphasized that ADB's global experience and assistance would help strengthen healthcare services in Madhya Pradesh. The ADB delegation made a courtesy visit to the Deputy Chief Minister at Vallabh Bhawan. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla discussed various subjects related to cooperation in the healthcare sector with the ADB delegation. The Deputy Chief Minister held discussions with the ADB delegation on various interventions aimed at enhancing healthcare services in Madhya Pradesh. The ADB delegation provided details on their efforts in different countries to control communicable and non-

communicable diseases, eradicate tuberculosis through advanced diagnostics and the latest treatment systems, and to strengthen healthcare policies. Additionally, there was an in-depth discussion on ADB's support in the healthcare sector across various Indian states, as well as potential areas of collaboration in Madhya Pradesh. Notably, over the past 25 years, ADB has supported Madhya Pradesh in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and urban development etc. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla noted that under the strong and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's economy has grown stronger. He highlighted that education and healthcare are among the Prime Minister's top priorities. Welfare schemes are being implemented to provide quality education to children and youth and to ensure acces-

sible healthcare services for all citizens. Efforts are continuously being made to enhance and ensure the availability of these services. Shukla also shared that the expansion of infrastructure and the availability of state-of-the-art medical equipment in the healthcare sector are being ensured. To encourage private sector participation, efforts are being made to establish medical colleges in 12 districts through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. He added that seats in MBBS and specialist courses have been increased to ensure a skilled workforce in the health sector. Over the next two years, more than 25,000 personnel are expected to be recruited in the healthcare sector. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure the availability of specialists in rural areas.

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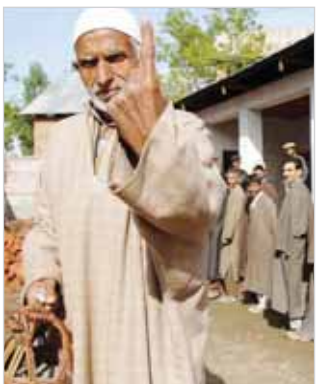
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PAPER WITH PASSION

## India wins in J and K

The large turnout and peaceful voting in phase I of the elections marks a significant victory for the nation

The first phase of polling in Jammu and Kashmir, held on September 18 was not only peaceful but also a thumbs up for democracy as 58 per cent voters cast their vote. Approximately 23.27 lakh voters, including 5.66 lakh youths, were eligible to cast their votes to determine the fate of 219 candidates in Phase 1. Though two more phases are left but morning shows the day. Widespread apprehensions arose following a series of attacks in Jammu, raising serious concerns about the high likelihood of disruption. The successful democratic exercise in itself is a victory for the country. Indeed, it marks a crucial moment in the political landscape of the region. For the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Union Territory is witnessing elections that hold significant weight for both the state and the country at large. This election is not merely a democratic exercise; it is a test of the stability, governance, and the long-term vision for integrating the region more firmly with the rest of India. The elections are being



closely watched, particularly after the transition of Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a Union Territory. For the people of the region, the act of voting is more than just a participation in democracy. The return of democratic process after years of instability, militancy and unrest is expected to reassure the local population that their voices matter in shaping their future. The turnout, especially in rural areas, is a clear indication that people feel secure enough to participate in democratic process.

The election campaign has brought a range of issues to the forefront, which will determine how the political winds blow in the region. Development, unemployment, and security are the most pressing concerns, with local leaders attempting to address the economic stagnation that has plagued Jammu and Kashmir for years. Tourism, once the backbone of the state's economy, has taken a severe hit, and while efforts have been made to revitalise the sector, it remains a sensitive issue in the polls. At the same time, political parties have taken contrasting stances on the abrogation of Article 370. While some align with the central government's move, touting it as a path to progress, others continue to advocate for the restoration of special status. This dichotomy underscores the ongoing divide between different regions of Jammu and Kashmir, which will likely influence the outcome of the elections. A high voter turnout and peaceful elections emboldens the government's stance on its Kashmir policy, reinforcing the narrative that the decision to revoke Article 370 was justified and has led to positive outcomes for the region. For opposition parties, the elections offer an opportunity to challenge the ruling government's narrative and build alliances with local players. As the first phase of polling concludes, Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crossroads. The region's political future hinges on how the rest of the election unfolds and what messages the electorate sends through their vote.

### PICTALK



Pilgrims arrive at the Shri Badrinath Dham in Chamoli district

# Modi@74: A journey of triumphs and challenges



K S TOMAR

Narendra Modi, a man who rose through the ranks, from RSS worker to become a global leader, has undergone a remarkable transformation

As Narendra Modi turns 74, the Prime Minister of India stands at a pivotal point in his political career. Having transformed from a grassroots worker in the RSS to a global leader, Modi's leadership has been marked by several triumphs, while also weathering significant criticism. A closer look at his governance reveals a complex blend of successes and shortcomings, reflecting his unique vision for India and the challenges of implementing sweeping reforms in a diverse, evolving democracy. Successes: Economic Reforms: Modi's tenure has been defined by key economic reforms aimed at spurring growth and investment. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 stands as one of India's most transformative reforms, simplifying the tax system and promoting ease of business.

Another flagship initiative is the "Make in India" program, which sought to position India as a manufacturing hub, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in sectors such as defence, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

**Digital India:** Modi's push for a digital revolution has reshaped India's financial and technological landscape. The Digital India campaign significantly expanded internet connectivity, especially in rural areas. Innovations like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have revolutionized digital transactions, while the Aadhaar system has streamlined welfare distribution, reducing inefficiencies in benefit transfers.

**Foreign Policy:** On the global stage, Modi has strengthened India's relationships with key nations like the U.S., Japan, and Israel. Under his leadership, India has played a more prominent role in global forums such as G20 and BRICS. A major achievement has been the International Solar Alliance (ISA), promoting global cooperation on renewable energy and showcasing India's leadership in sustainable development.

**Nationalism and Identity Politics:** Modi has adeptly tapped into nationalist sentiments, reinforcing the Bharatiya Janata Party



(BJP) as a champion of Hindu pride and Indian sovereignty. His government's initiatives, such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, reflect a blend of cultural and political assertiveness, though the latter move drew international criticism. **Infrastructure Development:** Under Modi's leadership, infrastructure has seen significant growth. Projects like Bharatmala and Sagarmala have expanded transportation networks, while initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana have improved housing and provided cooking gas to millions of households.

**Challenges Before Modi:** As Narendra Modi enters the later stages of his political journey, he faces a series of challenges that will shape his legacy and influence India's future. While his tenure has seen significant achievements, Modi's leadership must now address pressing concerns across various sectors that demand urgent attention and innovative solutions.

**Economic Recovery and Job Creation:** India's economic recovery post-COVID-19 remains fragile. Despite some growth, inflation continues to be a persistent challenge, driven by rising global oil prices and domestic supply chain disruptions. For the average citizen, higher living costs are



ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, MODI HAS STRENGTHENED INDIA'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY NATIONS LIKE THE US, JAPAN, AND ISRAEL. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, INDIA HAS PLAYED A MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN GLOBAL FORUMS SUCH AS G20 AND BRICS

squeezing household budgets, particularly for the poor and middle class. Modi's government must balance inflation control with promoting sustained economic growth. The issue of unemployment, especially among the youth, looms large. Urban and rural areas continue to experience high joblessness, and despite various reforms, the informal sector, which provides most jobs, is still recovering from the effects of demonetization, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and the pandemic. Modi will need to focus on bolstering labour-intensive industries, strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and encouraging entrepreneurship. **Agriculture and Farmers' Discontent:** Even after repealing the controversial farm laws following large-scale protests, rural distress persists. Indian farmers continue to face challenges such as low productivity, insufficient infrastructure, and limited access to credit. To address these problems, Modi will need to prioritize rural development and improve agricultural infrastructure. However, he must tread cautiously with new reforms to avoid reigniting protests. Farmers will require sustained support through initiatives like improving Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and introducing technological innovations to

enhance productivity. **India-China Relations and Regional Security:** India's strained relations with China, particularly after the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes, remain a significant foreign policy challenge. The border standoff continues, the potential for conflict still exists. Managing the delicate balance between regional security and diplomatic efforts with China is critical. Despite these successes, Modi's tenure has not been without shortcomings. The "Make in India" initiative has struggled to create enough manufacturing jobs, and his government's 2016 demonetization policy disrupted the informal economy without yielding long-term benefits. Modi also faced one of the largest protests in Indian history over controversial farm laws, which he ultimately had to repeal. Additionally, his leadership has been criticized for deepening communal divisions, with incidents of religious violence and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sparking social tensions. As Modi continues to lead, his legacy will depend on balancing development with social harmony and democratic governance. (The writer is a strategic affairs columnist and political analyst; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### ONE NATION ONE POLL

Madam — The Cabinet nod for 'One nation - One election' (19-9-24) displays the misplaced priority of the Union government. Except the cost factor there is no other point worth considering to support the decision of the Cabinet. Election is an opportunity for the people to demonstrate their democratic sanction or resentment over the policies and programmes of a government. People exercising this right to ventilate their agreement or disagreement over the governments in the Center or the States should not be curtailed just to avoid expense. The expectations of the people being state specific in assembly elections and nation specific in the Parliament elections there is possibility of either of them getting swayed by the general mood. Possibility of holding elections in a massive way is not practically feasible. We are seeing the inability of the Election Commission to hold elections to a few States at one stroke. The Commission is not able to hold elections to Maharashtra Assembly along with elections in J&K and HP. Even elections to the state assembly are held in multiple slots. We have also seen the Commission rendered helpless to deal properly with the violations reported during the last General elections. The very idea of mandating holding elections to assemblies along with election to the Parliament is against the very Federal structure of the constitution. Proposal to hold elections to local bodies in 100 days after the General elections is also expensive and it is aimed at swaying the polls taking advantage of the outcome of national level elections. The arbitrary decision is undemocratic, anti-federal and strangles the right of the people to decide their choice on local, state and nation specific needs and demands. Above all, the move of government is, as usual, to divert the attention of the people from the basic and burning issues of the nation in many of which the performance of the government is definitely not upto the mark.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

#### Hundred days of achievements



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first 100 days of his third term have demonstrated a clear focus on development and global leadership. The government's investments of 73 lakh crore in infrastructure projects like roads, railways, and ports are vital steps toward boosting the economy and creating jobs. Raising capital expenditure to Rs11.11 lakh crore reflects

#### WORLD BAMBOO DAY

Madam—Bamboo is one of the largest members of the grass family and is the fastest growing woody plant on the planet. Its growth rate varies according to the soil and climate, and is best known as a major food source for pandas. Bamboo is also used for culinary and medicinal purposes in many parts of the world, as well for construction materials, furniture, textiles, musical instruments, bicycles, clothing and more. As a packaging material, bamboo is strong, durable and sustainable. It is one of the more remarkable natural materials available to us. The Economist recently quoted that bamboo is literally, the green equivalent of plastics. This is because it is renewable and low-carbon. It also said bamboo is now part and parcel of our packaging material. Furthermore, bamboo produces up to 35% more oxygen than trees, thus helping to offset carbon-dioxide emissions. It's easy to see why bamboo is a favorite when it comes to sustainable materials.

C.K. Subramani Iyer | Coimbatore

a strong commitment to job creation and overall economic growth. Efforts in agriculture, such as the ₹20,000 crore allocation to farmers and increased MSP, along with the recognition of 1 crore "Lakshpati Didis," are praiseworthy. Foreign policy initiatives, including Modi's engagement with nations like the U.S., Russia, and China, indicate a proactive approach in shaping India's global standing. These accomplishments set a positive tone for the future, even as challenges like inflation and political tensions remain.

In his first 100 days of a third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has focused on development and global leadership, with significant investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and foreign relations. While progress is evident, challenges like inflation and political tensions continue to test his government's future agenda.

Vishesh Shukla | Lucknow

#### CONGRESS PROMISING THE MOON

Madam — The Congress election manifesto in Haryana is a bundle of high cost freebies not at all feasible financially for the State to implement. While the political parties must examine the impact of their pre poll announcements over the health of the State exchequer and present the detailed outline of available revenue which would bear the brunt of the freebies. The poll regulator Election Commission of India should also draft strict rules for manifestos and promises which are not viable.

The cult of freebies must stop if we really wish to progress morally, economically and socially and if Election Commission fails, the Supreme Court of India must take cognizance of the matter and direct the Election Commission to stop this nonsense. The freebies can become a real liability for the exchequer.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Kolkata's protests and the culture of rape: A call for societal change

The tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata underscores the urgent need for a profound societal shift in attitudes toward women

The recent public outcry in Kolkata, sparked by the tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, has transformed into a significant and sustained protest. Junior doctors gathering in front of the Health Department, alongside widespread public engagement, underscores a profound frustration with the pervasive violence against women in India. Reflecting on the August 9 incident, it's evident that the protest is not merely about the individual responsible. Despite the apprehension of the perpetrator, the continuing movement raises crucial questions about why such intense outrage persists.

The root problem, as I see it, lies in the cultural context that enables such violence. It's not just about one person's actions but about a broader cultural environment. The protests highlight a growing recognition that the issue is embedded within a culture that normalizes and perpetuates violence against women. The Kolkata demonstrations have brought to light a critical aspect of this cultural problem: the normalization of rape and the way women are



perceived and treated. In Indian culture, women are often valued primarily for their reproductive roles, linking respect to their capacity as mothers. This perspective reduces women to their biological functions, overlooking their full humanity. The "culture of rape" is evident in societal behaviors and attitudes that tolerate and perpetuate violence against women. This deeply ingrained culture is reflected in everyday interactions and institutional practices, indicating that the issue goes beyond individual acts. The ongoing protests signify a crucial desire for a profound cultural shift. The movement in Bengal represents a broader call for cultural transformation. To address the problem effectively, we need to funda-

mentally change societal norms and practices that contribute to a pervasive culture of violence and exploitation. As long as these cultural attitudes persist, incidents of rape will continue. The troubling normalization of sexual violence in Indian society is evident in various ways. For instance, the fact that the name of the doctor murdered and raped in Bengal was trending on porn websites for an extended period reflects a serious cultural issue. It shows how sexual violence is often sensationalized and dehumanized rather than addressed with the seriousness it deserves.

This critique extends to societal behaviors and attitudes, illustrated by the public reaction to the Ujjain incident. The fact that such a violent act occurred in a busy area, with onlookers observing and recording it, underscores the disturbing normalization of sexual violence. Such incidents are met with alarming indifference. Examining the cultural foundations of this issue reveals how cultural norms perpetuate gender inequality and violence. There are many

subtle signs of rape culture that are often overlooked, such as the objectification of women and the normalization of harmful attitudes and practices. Addressing this issue requires a profound cultural transformation. It's not just about legal measures or punishing offenders; it's about transforming the norms and values instilled from a young age. Culture is nurtured in our homes, and changing how we educate and raise our children is crucial to addressing rape culture.

In conclusion, the protests in Kolkata and similar movements across India are not just reactions to individual cases of violence but a critical response to a deep-seated cultural issue that normalizes and perpetuates sexual violence. This situation underscores the urgent need for a fundamental cultural shift. Until we address the broader culture of rape, incidents of sexual violence will continue to plague our society.

(Acharya Prashant is a Vedanta teacher and an advocate of women rights; views expressed are personal)



ACHARYA PRASHANT



## FIRST COLUMN

### APPLY SPORTS ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

The lessons learned through sports cultivate a healthier and productive work environment



SAKSHI SETHI

Sports have since long been a crucial element of human culture, teaching participants important life skills and values. The discipline, teamwork and perseverance developed in sports can easily be translated into a professional setting, where these qualities often lead to success. Applying sports values to the workplace creates a healthier and more productive environment that benefits individuals and teams alike.

The term 'resilience' is one of the core values in sports, where athletes regularly face challenges, setbacks and failures. Whether it's losing a game, dealing with injuries or facing tough competition, athletes learn to recover, adapt and continue working toward their goals. The similar value is crucial in the workplace, where employees encounter stress, failed projects and unexpected obstacles. Resilience helps employees bounce back from difficulties and maintain a positive attitude despite setbacks. It encourages them to see failure as an opportunity for growth rather than a reason to give up.

There is no denying the fact that athletes exhibit tremendous commitment and passion for their sport, dedicating hours of practice, maintaining a strong mental focus and striving to overcome challenges. At the workplace, too, similar commitment is essential for both personal as well as organizational success. Employees who are passionate about their work are more engaged, motivated and willing to go the extra mile. Just as athletes work toward improving their performance, committed employees consistently seek opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to their team.

When talked about the Paralympics, these athletes provide a powerful



source of inspiration when it comes to work ethics. They demonstrate exceptional dedication, resilience and perseverance—qualities that can directly inspire and shape one's approach to professional life. The lessons learned from their incredible journeys highlight the importance of maintaining a strong work ethic, overcoming adversity and striving for excellence in any field. Passion fuels innovation and creativity, leading to breakthroughs and a sense of fulfillment in one's job encouraging professionals to remain committed to their goals even when facing challenges at the workplace. It teaches us that obstacles, whether personal or professional, can be overcome with time, effort and persistence.

The values learned through sports are not only essential for athletic success but also for professional growth and productivity in the workplace. By embracing these values, individuals and teams can foster a work culture that promotes collaboration, perseverance and a drive for excellence. Recognizing progress, no matter how small reinforces one's belief that effort pays off and celebrating these victories along the way keeps the individual motivated and energized to continue. Instead of shying away from difficulties, one must see them as opportunities to learn and grow. When an individual approaches obstacles with the belief that effort leads to improvement, they build resilience and perseverance.

As stated above, undoubtedly, Paralympians have to cope with significant adversity, whether it's learning to use a prosthetic limb or recovering from a life-altering injury. In the workplace, this means that failures, mistakes or even unexpected challenges are not the end but an opportunity to bounce back stronger. In the workplace, adopting a mindset that welcomes challenges rather than avoiding them is a key part of developing a strong work ethic. It pushes professionals to take on difficult tasks, expand their capabilities and evolve in their careers. Sports values do provide excellent lessons that can be transferred to the workplace, promoting personal growth, team cohesion and overall success. *(The writer is an educator; views expressed are personal)*

# Sri Lanka's pivotal presidential election

With traditional parties in decline and new alliances emerging, this election may spring surprises. The outcome will determine Sri Lanka's capacity to address its urgent challenges



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Sri Lanka faces a pivotal moment in its political history as it prepares for the presidential election this Saturday, 21 September. This election, the ninth for the executive presidency, unfolds amid severe political polarisation, sharply contrasting with the last election in November 2019. The decline of traditional political parties and the rise of various political alliances are prominent features of this election, with three main candidates competing in a manner distinct from the two-horse races of previous presidential contests. The fragmentation of political parties, the absence of anti-defection laws, and the formation of new alliances driven more by personal interests than by cohesive agendas pose significant risks to democratic stability and governance. The 2019 presidential race featured two main candidates and a notable but relatively minor third-party candidate. It saw a record voter registration of 15,992,096 and a turnout of 83.72% (13,387,951), surpassing previous highs of 81.52% in 2015 and 81.06% in 1982. Despite this high turnout, 135,452 votes were invalid, leaving 13,252,499 votes as valid. Gotabaya Rajapaksa of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna won with 52.25% of the valid votes (6,924,255), while his main opponent, Sajith Premadasa of the National Democratic Front, received 41.99% (5,564,239). Anura Kumara Disnayake of the National People's Power secured a mere 3.16% (418,553 votes). In the subsequent general election on 5 August 2020, Premadasa and Disnayake faced off again for parliamentary seats. Premadasa won 305,744 votes, while Disnayake received 49,814 votes.

In the 2015 parliamentary elections, Premadasa garnered 112,645 votes from Hambantota, whereas Disnayake, contesting from Colombo, secured 65,966 votes. Ranil Wickremesinghe, one of main three main contenders, in this year's race but absent from the 2019 presidential election, leads the United National Party. His party received 249,435 votes (2.25%) in the general elections, including 30,875 from Colombo and 28,282 from Gampaha. Although his party did not win a parliamentary seat, Wickremesinghe was appointed to a national list position. Amid severe social upheaval caused by economic mismanagement, which resulted in the resignation of both the President and Prime Minister, Wickremesinghe, a seasoned politician and six-time Prime Minister, capitalised on the moment to make his comeback. After Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign, Wickremesinghe was appointed as Prime Minister.

However, protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa led to his dramatic escape, first to Trincomalee by navy ship, then back to Colombo by air force chopper, and finally to the Maldives by air force cargo flight. Rajapaksa officially resigned on 14 July 2022. Subsequently, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe was appointed as President by the constitutional process. Wickremesinghe's appointment highlights the complexities of Sri Lanka's political system.

According to the constitution, the President must appoint a Prime Minister who commands the majority's confidence in Parliament, illustrating the considerable unchecked powers inherent in the executive role. Rajapaksa's assumption that Wickremesinghe, who came to Parliament through the national list, was the candidate who earned the majority's confidence reflects the intricate dynamics of Sri Lanka's



THE FRAGMENTATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE ABSENCE OF ANTI-DEFECTION LAWS, AND THE FORMATION OF NEW ALLIANCES DRIVEN MORE BY PERSONAL INTERESTS THAN BY COHESIVE AGENDAS POSE SIGNIFICANT RISKS TO DEMOCRATIC STABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

politics. However, Wickremesinghe has effectively stabilised the situation after the social upheaval. In this context, Wickremesinghe has emerged as a major candidate, yet the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna has nominated its candidate, Namal Rajapaksa.

Reports suggest that Rajapaksa's ambitions to secure the prime ministership were opposed, leading a faction of his party to break away from Wickremesinghe. Rajapaksa's candidacy appears more focused on maintaining his family's political lineage rather than presenting a genuine bid for leadership. Nonetheless, his endorsement of supporting Sajith Premadasa, where he appeals to supporters to cast their second vote for Premadasa, could be a decisive factor in the election outcome. Meanwhile, the NPP, initially opposed to the public uprising that led to Rajapaksa's removal, has become a significant political entity.

Anura Kumara Disnayake, who ironically led his political party into alliances with traditional parties to secure ministerial positions over the past few decades, has skillfully capitalised on widespread dissatisfaction with corruption and the growing anger towards conventional politicians to bolster his standing. His alliance's emotionally charged propaganda has infiltrated every corner of society, despite its lack of deep ideological substance. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), his original party, has skillfully harnessed this discontent to challenge the status quo.

However, Disnayake's path to victory remains uncertain, especially with three major candidates in the race. Voter statistics reveal additional obstacles: with 17.1 million registered voters and an anticipated 80% turnout (13.7 million), a candidate would need approxi-

mately 7 million votes to secure the presidency in the first count.

The NPP's past performance shows limited success, receiving 418,553 votes (3.16%) in 2019 and 445,950 votes (3.84%) in parliamentary elections in 2020. The party faces challenges in Tamil-majority districts like Nuwara-Eliya, Jaffna, Wannai, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee, and in areas with lower voter counts, such as Polonnaruwa and Matale. To succeed, the NPP must secure substantial votes from Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, and Kurunegala, requiring an estimated 700,000 to 800,000 additional votes.

Given these dynamics and the competition among three candidates, the NPP or JVP may struggle to achieve significant success in this election. However, the election remains crucial in determining the country's social and governance structure. Conversely, Sajith Premadasa appears to have significant potential to garner a majority of the votes, while Wickremesinghe has also gained substantial ground. Therefore, it is unlikely that any candidate will secure over 50% of the vote in the first round of counting, which may necessitate counting the second votes.

This uncertainty could trigger a new wave of political instability if major alliances and key candidates fail to manage the results effectively and refuse to accept the people's verdict. Despite flashy manifestos and hefty campaign budgets, none of the candidates have provided a clear plan to tackle the staggering \$100 billion national debt. They all parrot the same old IMF rhetoric, yet almost none offer a concrete strategy beyond this worn-

The situation in the island nation is dire, and there's no straightfor-

ward path for the incoming leader to steer the country out of its deepening crisis. As of 1 July 2024, about 24.8% of Sri Lanka's population lives in poverty, with rates varying dramatically between districts—3.5% in Colombo versus 44.2% in Nuwara-Eliya.

Poverty in rural areas has surged from 15% to 32%, while urban poverty has tripled from 6% to 18%. A recent survey revealed that 31% of the population is impoverished, with 33% skipping meals and 47% cutting back on meal sizes. Malnutrition affects nearly one-third of children under five, and over 40% of women aged 18-60 are overweight or obese, reflecting severe economic and health issues. Regardless of the election's outcome, Sri Lanka's entrenched political divisions threaten to entrench a fragmented legislative body, where effective governance and decisive action may become increasingly elusive.

Such divisions risk entrenching a cycle of delays and inefficiencies, potentially leading to a state of perpetual gridlock that hampers national progress. Antonio Gramsci's notion of passive revolution becomes pertinent here, warning of significant changes that merely preserve existing power structures. Hannah Arendt's insight that "The most radical revolution may become a conservative the day after the revolution" cautions against decisions driven by emotion over reason.

Thus, the question looms: can this election transcend emotional politics to instigate genuine reform, or will it simply entrench the status quo? Regrettably, the candidates' manifestos seem to hint at the lat-

*(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)*

## Chronicles of compliance: The missing case diaries in money laundering probes

Money laundering poses a significant threat to society, undermines democratic institutions, and fosters criminal activities and corruption

The international community established the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through international standards. The FATF's 40 Recommendations provide a comprehensive framework for countries to prevent and address these financial crimes. India enacted the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in 2002, effective from July 1, 2005, in alignment with its international obligations. The PMLA aims to combat the laundering of illicit funds, including those from activities such as drug trafficking, thereby safeguarding the country's financial integrity.



PRAKHAR BAJPAI

Section 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), maintains a chronological record of the investigation process conducted by the police officer. This detailed documentation includes every step taken during the investigation, such as the date and time of receiving information about the crime, the start and finish times of the investigation, locations visited, witness statements recorded, and evi-

dence collected. This comprehensive record ensures continuity and transparency in the investigation, serving as a crucial handover document when different officers handle the case at various stages. The case diary is essential for maintaining continuity and transparency in the investigation process, offering a comprehensive overview of progress to courts and defence lawyers. This transparency is indispensable for maintaining procedural integrity and accountability in the investigative process.

**Concerns Regarding the Absence of a Case Diary under PMLA:** In contrast, the PMLA mandates thorough investigations into money laundering but does not specify the need for a

detailed case diary as in the CrPC. This absence raises concerns about potential misuse by the Enforcement Directorate. Without a mandated case diary, there is no obligation for investigators to maintain a comprehensive, chronological record of their actions. This lack of documentation could reduce accountability and allow for the manipulation or selective presentation of evidence without a transparent trail of how and when it was obtained, compromising the investigation's integrity.

This can lead to biased or unjust conclusions, undermining the integrity of the investigation and in cases where multiple officers are involved in different stages of the investigation, the absence



of a detailed case diary can result in inconsistent handovers. Critical information might be lost or altered, impacting the continuity and coherence of the investigation. This ultimately leads to violations of individual rights and compromise on due process of law.

**Case Diary Maintenance:** It is important to understand that the accused under CrPC does not have an automatic right to

view the case diary. Access to the case diary is at the discretion of the Court or the police officer. However, the significance of maintaining a case diary as noted above lies in its ability to keep investigating agencies diligent and accountable throughout the investigation process.

Furthermore, under the criminal law procedure, it is considered a dereliction of duty if the Magistrate does not request and review the case diary before authorizing any form of custody to the accused which means the perusal of the case diary by the magistrate is essential before any remand, whether judicial or police custody and haphazard maintenance of a case diary discredits those responsible and defeats the very purpose for

which it is required. Therefore, it is suggested that similar practice needs to be followed under the PMLA cases as well. Mandating ED to maintain a case diary ensures that it adheres to the due process of law during investigations and thereafter, the court will become entitled to use the case diary during trials or inquiries as an aid in the inquiry or trial, thereby holding the ED accountable for its investigative procedures, doing this the magistrate will be getting aid and true picture of the detailed record of the investigation proceedings conducted by ED till date in a narrative form, recorded promptly, with sufficient detail, and in chronological order and thus, will be able to objectively decide whether to remand the

accused or not. The Supreme Court is set to review 2 aspects of PMLA in July 2024, firstly, the FIR which is akin to ECIR under PMLA should be supplied to the accused or not. Secondly, the reversal of the presumption of innocence. It is to be noted that giving a case diary a statutory requirement under PMLA and thereby, mandating the ED to maintain one will be crucial in shaping the final judgement, which could fundamentally impact the legal framework for money laundering investigations in India. A ruling in favour of maintaining a case diary would enhance the fairness and transparency of PMLA proceedings, ensuring the accused's right to a fair trial. *(The writer is a law student; views expressed are personal)*









# ASHWIN, JADEJA TANGO SAVES INDIA AFTER HASAN MAHMUD'S EARLY STRIKES

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin sparked on home turf with his sixth Test hundred as he combined with Ravindra Jadeja to steer India out of trouble and post a formidable 339 for six on day one of the first Test against Bangladesh here on Thursday.

Ashwin (102 batting) and Jadeja (86 batting) added 195 runs (174 minutes, 225 balls) for a riveting unbroken seventh wicket stand after young pacer Hasan Mahmud (4/58) reduced India to 144 for six, despite Yashasvi Jaiswal making a solid 56.

The ebb and flow of the day's proceedings was quite remarkable and mostly revolved around Ashwin, Jadeja and Mahmud, who made his Test debut in March this year and was just three games old in the format before this match.

In a stunning first spell of 5-2-6-3, the 24-year-old Mahmud accounted for the cream of Indian top-order -- Rohit Sharma (6), Shubman Gill (0) and Virat Kohli (6) -- before snapping Rishabh Pant's return to Test cricket (39 off 52 balls) in the initial moments of the second session.

KL Rahul, another Indian batter who is re-entering the Indian Test establishment, fell for 16 to off-spinner Mehidy

Hasan Miraz as fortune's pendulum stayed firmly in Bangladesh's quarter. But then came the two gladiators who know Chepauk like the back of their hand -- Ashwin by birth and Jadeja through his long association with the Chennai Super Kings. One more wicket at that stage would have extended the dominance of Bangladesh, but such thoughts hardly disturbed Ashwin and Jadeja.

Ashwin went off the blocks with a flurry of boundaries, a firm validation of his oh-so-smooth timing born out of fluent hand movement through shots and precise footwork.

There was this ramp shot off Mahmud, who tried to rattle Ashwin with a short-pitched delivery that climbed onto his body. But the veteran player arched himself back ever so slightly to gain space to execute the ramp over the slip -- fabulous in conceptualisation and execution.

At times, he scored at a strike rate in excess of 100 and was not hesitant to travel the more uncultured way. A slog sweep that went for six over mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Shakib Al-Hasan testified that. Jadeja was a tad different in his approach. Sensing that Ashwin was in good touch, the left-hander had the simple job of keeping his end going and he



did that with minimum fuss. A past master in operating from behind the giant shadows of superstars, Jadeja looked extremely comfortable doing that once more, providing the assurance Ashwin needed.

But there were moments, the showman in Jadeja came forth and Shakib was the aggrieved party, getting hammered for three fours.

Bangladesh's star of the day Mahmud, too was not spared as Jadeja, who raised his fifty off 73 balls, played a drag-pull off the pacer to send him for a six.

Other times, he wing-heeled across the pitch for those ones and twos to keep the Bangladesh bowlers frustrated. The spectators eventually witnessed the moment that they had been waiting for when Ashwin reached the hundred with a single off Shakib, and they welcomed it with applause, cheers and loud bugling. It was his second consecutive hundred at his home ground after going past the three-figure mark here against England in 2021. And it could not have come at a better time as well.

But before the epic fightback, the Indian innings resembled a crumbling rampart. It's not often that a team winning the toss would elect to bowl first here as that translates into a fourth-innings chase. But Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto bit the bullet while going against the trend, and was rewarded for it too. Rohit, who was saved by DRS when he was on 1, was the first to depart.

The Indian skipper had little choice other than playing a wobble seam delivery that came at him on a tight angle as he edged to Shanto at second slip.

Gill lasted just eight balls but he would count himself unlucky, feathering Mahmud's down the leg side delivery to stumper Litton Das.

Kohli walked into the Chepauk amid loud cheers and looked confident. But an old failing resurfaced to haunt him. Mahmud pitched one just short of the length outside the off-stump, and the length was not suitable for a drive. But the star batter chose to play an expansive one with the ball nestling in Litton's gloves after taking a healthy edge off his bat.

Jaiswal and Pant added 62 runs for the fourth wicket to temporarily check the free fall before both perished in close succession in the middle session.

Bangladesh might have thought the effort was good enough to keep the home side flat on the ropes, but Ashwin and Jadeja made them wiser as to why it is so tough to keep India on the back-foot at home for long.

# Kevin de Bruyne injury scare as Man City is held 0-0 by Inter Milan in the Champions League

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City faces a new injury concern for Kevin de Bruyne ahead of a showdown with Premier League title rival Arsenal after the playmaker was substituted at halftime of Champions League match against Inter Milan. The Belgium international looked in discomfort after making a run late in the first half. After receiving treatment, De Bruyne didn't return for the second half and was replaced by Ilkay Gundogan. The

game ended 0-0. City hosts title rival Arsenal at Etihad Stadium on Sunday. City manager Pep Guardiola said he didn't know the extent of De Bruyne's injury, but was informed by the club doctor the playmaker could not carry on in the second half.

"I didn't speak with the doctors yet," Guardiola said about De Bruyne's availability for the weekend. "(He will be) Assessed tonight, maybe tomorrow. We will have more info tomorrow." De Bruyne endured an injury-

disrupted campaign last season when he was sidelined from August to January with a hamstring problem. He returned to help the club secure a record fourth straight English title. He has started every game this season and scored in City's 4-1 win against Ipswich last month. City held off challenges from Arsenal in each of the last two seasons to lift the title. The north London club is expected to be City's main rival again this term. Arsenal has its own injury problems ahead of the game after



captain Martin Odegaard was ruled out with ankle ligament damage. Without De Bruyne, City failed to find a breakthrough against Inter and was shut out at home in the Champions League for the first time since a 0-0 draw with Sporting Lisbon in March 2022. It was only the second time in all competitions since then that Guardiola's team failed to score at home - the other coming in a 0-0 with Arsenal in the league in March. City extended its unbeaten home run in European

games to 32, dating back to a 2-1 loss to Lyon in 2018. **HAALAND LOCKED ON 99:** Erling Haaland has looked unstoppable this season with nine goals in his first four games of the campaign before Wednesday match. But that run was snapped by Inter with the Norway striker stuck on 99 goals for City. Haaland also failed to score against the Italians when the teams met in the Champions League final in 2023, which City won 1-0 to lift the trophy for the

first time in its history. "They are masters of defending," Guardiola said. **GUARDIOLA'S FUTURE:** With his contract expiring at the end of the season, Guardiola sounds like he's still loving life at City. Asked by an Italian journalist if he could see himself working in Italy in the future, Guardiola said: "I really enjoy being here. I love English football, it is fantastic, really enjoyable. They leave you alone to get on with the job. That doesn't happen anywhere else."



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Uttarakhand Government

# Uttarakhand: A Divine Tourist Destination



**Pushkar Singh Dhama**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

*Sankalp*  
NAYE UTTARAKHAND KA



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

## HOMESTAY SCHEME IN UTTARAKHAND

A Chance to Be Immersed in the State's Culture for Real

Due to the double-engine government, new tourism schemes in Uttarakhand have been launched, which has generated employment for the people. The initiative has also played an important role in developing the state's economy.



Uttarakhand is called the 'Land of Gods'. The state not only boasts of breathtaking natural beauty, but also provides a unique opportunity for travelers to experience local culture and traditions through homestays. In such a situation, the homestays running under the 'Deendayal Upadhyay Griha Awaz Yojana' have not only provided self-employment to the local people, but it is also making a significant contribution to the economy of the state. 'Deendayal Upadhyay Griha Awaz Yojana' started by the Uttarakhand government. The homestay system has gained momentum under the 'Aawas Yojana'. The aim of this scheme is to uplift

the economic condition of the local people by providing them a permanent source of income. Under the scheme, local people get an opportunity to host domestic and foreign tourists in their own homes. In this way, tourists get an opportunity to understand the indigenous cuisine, local culture, historical heritage, traditional hill lifestyle and art of Uttarakhand. Through this, they are reaching such places, which they had not heard about earlier. Currently, there are about 5000 registered homestays listed with the Uttarakhand Tourism Department. These homestays range from cozy cottages nestled in the lap of the Himalayas to traditional wooden houses, which reflect the architecture of the region. Every homestay provides a comfortable and hospitable environment to the tourists, allowing them to connect with the local community. The development of homestays in Uttarakhand has had a positive impact on the economy of the state. These accommodations not only provide unique and personalized experiences to the tourists, but are also promoting local businesses by creating employment opportunities. As a result, their contribution strengthens the local economy. Homestay owners often collaborate with nearby artisans, restaurants and service providers. This promotes local supply chains and sustainable development. Homestays have played an important role in preventing migration from the state. It must be said that this scheme has provided a solid basis for local people to avoid migration and promote and develop their communities along with increasing income. This has helped in preserving the cultural heritage and traditions of the state. The generations to come will remain connected to their roots.

The popularity of homestays in Uttarakhand is a proof that this scheme is touching the hearts of the travellers. Tourists are not only looking for comfortable accommodation, but they are also liking to strengthen their relationship with new destinations and people. The homestay scheme is actually presenting a new image of the state in the minds of tourists along with connecting them with the local customs of the state. They are going back with happy memories after staying here



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that rural areas are becoming centers of tourism. Also, every tourist destination can develop its own revenue model. We need to promote businesses like homestays and small hotels to boost the rural economy of new Uttarakhand**

To book homestays in Uttarakhand, the Tourism Department has started an online booking portal [www.uttarastays.com](http://www.uttarastays.com). Homestays located in the state can list their homestays free of cost on this booking portal. The Tourism Department is trying to increase the income of all the homestays of the state by connecting them through this portal and providing online booking facility.

## UTTARAKHAND TOURISM POLICY 2030:

A transformational initiative to promote sustainable development

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, tourism in Uttarakhand is developing as a thriving industry and is attracting tourists from all over the world by setting new standards of development.



Nestled in the lap of the snow-clad Himalayan mountain range, Uttarakhand has been known for its spiritual and natural beauty since ancient times. Now, as per Uttarakhand Tourism Policy-2030, the state is all set to become a 'global tourism hub' to provide new experiences to tourists. This visionary policy aims to not only expand the state's potential for tourism but also to give a boost to its sustainable development. The main objective of this policy is to empower all the stakeholders

involved in tourism sector so that they can benefit from the development of Uttarakhand. The goals and objectives of various stakeholders are discussed in detail. While fulfilling the interests, the policy provides an integrated framework, which paves the way for tourism development. Leaving behind the traditional image of Uttarakhand as a religious destination, the new tourism policy of the state is making tourism even more attractive. There is a big step towards making it a part of tourism. Heritage, religion, nature, wildlife, health and welfare schemes are being made a part of tourism. The Uttarakhand government wants to provide an unforgettable experience to the tourists coming here. Through this policy, through this policy uttrakhand in the coming future, will have the capacity to attract tourists all year round. In such a situation, it is logical to call this policy a policy to promote Uttarakhand tourism. The main objective of this policy is to focus on the construction and development of tourism related things, which will mesmerize the tourists. The unique heritage of the state, such as its cultural heritage and natural beauty, is to be kept at the center and the aim of the tourism policy is to develop it as a tourist cluster and circuit. This initiative will promote the linking of new tourist destinations. Through this, emphasis will also be laid on meeting the needs of tourists so that they can have a new experience in Devbhoomi. The policy also gives importance to the preservation of the environment and cultural heritage of Uttarakhand with full focus on the environment. The effort to preserve the natural beauty, wildlife and timeless heritage is an integral part of the state's tourism development. The policy emphasizes on ensuring the revival of lost natural and cultural heritage so that Uttarakhand remains a safe and tourist-friendly destination for years to come. The policy gives priority to reaching tourists in the comfort of their homes by leveraging technology. This includes using online platforms for promotion, marketing, booking, reservations and information dissemination. By using digital tools, the Uttarakhand government aims to provide comfort and confidence to tourists, allowing them to have a better experience during their trip. Recognising the role of the private sector in tourism development, this policy encourages private sector investment in hospitality and tourism projects. The State Government aims to reduce its role in areas where private sector participation can be encouraged. This collaborative approach between the public and private sectors is expected to bring new opportunities in the industry. It will promote rapid development and innovation. This policy lays special emphasis on improving tourism and ensuring that Uttarakhand's tourism sector becomes sustainable and there's minimal impact on culture and environmental status. This includes benefiting local communities through this policy while promoting inclusive strategies. Infrastructure such as parking facilities, toilets, signage, ATMs and health services will be improved to enhance the overall tourist experience. The state government is committed to providing the necessary infrastructure and connectivity, reducing travel time and ensuring that tourism projects are resilient to natural disasters. Tourism Policy-2030 has a lot of importance in the area, With the strategic target of contributing USD 10 billion annually to the economy and attracting private sector investment, the state aims to establish a 'sustainable tourism ecosystem'. The policy also includes generating employment opportunities with a focus on skill development and inclusiveness. The state government wants tourists to stay longer in the state. The key objective is to give a global boost to tourism by increasing the average duration of stays and increasing the number of foreign tourists visiting the state.



Under the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state is set to witness a paradigm shift in the tourism sector. By adopting innovation, sustainability and comprehensiveness, Uttarakhand is ready to emerge in a new form on the Indian tourism scene

State government's initiative  
for online booking  
**Uttarastays.com**