











## False campaigns against Rahul Gandhi should be avoided

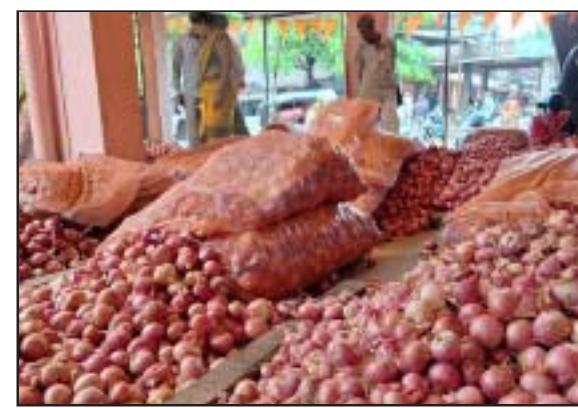


Royal journalism (Rayachoti) July 5 : "Ameer said that the leaders of the district Congress party should avoid spreading false propaganda against Rahul Gandhi by the BJP leaders who emerged from the RSS. Addressing a press conference held at his party office on Friday, he accused Prime Minister Modi of giving false information to the Parliament House. He said that this will tell who is in favor of the constitution and who is against it. He said that the RSS had said in 1950 that there is no Indianess in the constitution, no one can believe the words of BJP leaders who emerged from such an organization, and all the people are on the side of Rahul Gandhi and Rahul. Gandhi proved it in yesterday's election. Is it also a crime to say that those who claim to be Hindus and spread hatred, violence and lies 24 hours a day are not Hindus? He said that false propaganda is being spread among the people and it is better to avoid such propaganda. He said that the slogan given by Rahul Gandhi - "Daromat Daramat" has created a strong consciousness among the common people as well. Congress party leaders Khader Khan, Shaik Ameer Basha, Chan Basha, Shaik Noorullah, Saddam, Amjad Khan, Baba Sardar, Owayz and others participated in this program.

## India, Bangladesh prepare to renew Ganga treaty

As India and Bangladesh prepare to begin negotiations to renew a nearly three-decade-old treaty for sharing the waters of the Ganga river, the impact of the climate crisis on water flows and the role of West Bengal government are emerging as crucial factors in the deal. The Ganga is one of 54 rivers shared by India and Bangladesh and long-standing differences over the sharing of its waters were resolved with the signing of the Ganga Waters Treaty in December 1996 by then Indian premier HD Deve Gowda and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina. The treaty is up for renewal in 2026, and during Hasina's official visit to New Delhi last month Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the two sides had decided to start technical negotiations for renewing it. People familiar with preparatory work done by the two countries said on condition of anonymity that the effect of the climate crisis on the flow of the Ganga is a crucial issue that has to be factored into the negotiations. This is a factor that has had an impact on the flows of numerous cross-border rivers that traverse India, they said. "Studies on the impact of climate change on the Ganga will have to be a key part of the negotiations to ensure the treaty remains relevant and future-proof, covering all possible scenarios and contingencies," said one of the people cited above. The people on both sides acknowledged the crucial role that will be played by the West Bengal government headed by chief minister Mamata Banerjee, given that states through which a cross-border river passes have to sign off on a water-sharing treaty or its renewal. In this context, the people pointed to Banerjee's role in holding up a treaty on the Teesta river, even though India and Bangladesh had agreed on the text as far back as 2011. The signing of the pact had to be put off due to opposition from the West Bengal government, which contended the treaty would leave parts of the state dry. "The role of the West Bengal chief minister will be key to the efforts to renew the treaty, given that we have only about 18 months for negotiations on the renewal," a second person said. Banerjee recently sent a letter to the Prime Minister arguing that the move to renew the Ganga Waters Treaty was "unilateral" and that the West Bengal government was not consulted. However, the people pointed out the Union Jal Shakti ministry set up an internal committee in July 2023 that included representatives of the Bihar and West Bengal governments. West Bengal nominated its representative to the internal committee in August 2023, and participated in three of the panel's four meetings. The West Bengal government also sent a communication to the committee on April 5, 2024, that provided its drinking and industrial water requirements for inclusion in the Ganga Waters Treaty beyond 2026, the people said. The internal committee's final report, submitted on June 14, 2024, is being examined by the Jal Shakti ministry, which has also formed a joint technical committee to begin discussions with Bangladesh.

## Onion, potato prices remain high after low output last year



Prices of onion and potato, two basic grocery items, continue to be stubbornly high due to lower output last year, squeezing households. Tomato rates showed a moderation in June from a year ago, but the vegetable was way costlier compared to the previous month, according to official data. Officials are counting on robust kharif or summer planting to calm food inflation. Expanding summer sowing should have a "salutary effect" on market sentiment, which will bring down prices, one official said. A hot, dry summer since April had strained supplies of many commonly consumed vegetables, shifting demand towards potato, onion and tomato and pushing up prices, a second official said. Compared to a year ago, as on June 30, average wholesale onion rates rose 106%, from 1,260.66 a quintal (100kg) to 2,603.55 a quintal. Wholesale potato prices leaped to ₹2,116 a quintal to ₹1,076.14 a quintal, an increase of 96%. On an annual basis, wholesale tomato prices in June declined 40%, from ₹5,680.75 a quintal to ₹3,368.28

a quintal. However, compared to the previous month, wholesale rates climbed 112.39%, from 1,585.84 per 100 kg to 3,368.28, indicating volatility. Vegetables have a weight of 6% in the consumer inflation basket. According to an HT analysis, the three items make up 44% of a household's monthly spending on vegetables. Retail prices have also edged up. The countrywide modal rate (a type of average) of onion on July 2 stood at ₹42.21 a kg, up 81% from a year ago, when the price was ₹23.29 a kg. The retail rate of potatoes has risen 57% from a year ago, from ₹21.91 a kg to ₹34.4 a kg. Consumer prices for tomato on June 2 declined 15%, from ₹64.5 a kg a year ago to ₹54.42. How-

ever, compared to a month ago, the vegetable rose a sharp 71%, from ₹31.74 a kg to ₹54.42 a kg. Last year in August, retail onion prices quadrupled, prompting the government to start selling subsidized onions to the public. Onion output dropped 20% in 2023 due to irregular rainfall. The lingering impacts of a poor monsoon last year then crimped production of rabi or winter-sown onions by another 20% to 19 million tonnes, compared to 23.7 million tonnes in the previous year. Rabi onion is critical because it supplies up to 75% of the country's annual supply. The world's largest onion producer banned export of the item in December last year, which was lifted on May 4. Exports were allowed with a 40% duty. Blistering temperatures and falling reservoir levels since April have impacted output of seasonal vegetables whose stocks are not federally monitored, such as okra, gourds, beans, cabbage and turnips. Heat waves have also led to significant spoilage of fresh vegetables, according to traders, impacting prices.

## PM Finally Acknowledges Manipur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the President in the Rajya Sabha, finally addressed the issue of Manipur. This acknowledgment came only after he refrained from mentioning the state in his earlier speech to the Lok Sabha. Notably, during the 17th Lok Sabha, the Opposition had to resort to a no-confidence motion to compel Modi to comment on Manipur, reflecting his persistent evasion of the issue. During the recent parliamentary elections, Modi campaigned extensively but conspicuously skipped Manipur, a state where the BJP lost both seats. This omission did not go unnoticed, especially since even RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat highlighted the government's failures regarding Manipur. This prompted Home Minister Amit Shah to convene a meeting with key stakeholders, notably excluding Chief Minister Biren Singh. Modi's satisfaction with the decline in violence fails to account for the prolonged period of unrest that

has plagued the state for over a year. While he claims that schools have reopened and examinations are being conducted on time, he omitted crucial details in his speech. Questions remain about whether those displaced from the Valley have been able to return and reclaim their homes and whether those who fled to the hills have been able to rebuild their lives. Furthermore, while Modi cited figures of FIRs registered and arrests made, he did not address the adequacy of compensation for those who lost their homes and property. A glaring omission in Modi's speech is the status of worship places belonging to a particular community that were destroyed. Their restoration, or lack thereof, could indicate whether justice has been served or if those who engaged in violence have succeeded in their unlawful actions. Modi's reference to the Congress imposing President's rule in Manipur in the past appears as a deflection rather than an acknowledgment of current issues. Modi has dem-



onstrated a willingness to replace underperforming chief ministers in states like Gujarat and Haryana. However, his continued support for Biren Singh, despite the latter's failure to effectively address violence in Manipur, is perplexing and undermines his claims of maintaining high standards. The situation requires more than a superficial response. It demands a comprehensive approach to ensure the return of displaced individuals, the rebuilding of communities, and the restoration of law and order. Modi's belated acknowledgment is a step, but it is far from sufficient to address the deep-seated issues that continue to affect the state.

## 150 Advocates Demand Inquiry Into Delhi HC Judge's Conduct In Kejriwal Case

A representation to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) has raised serious concerns regarding the conduct of judges in the Delhi High Court and the trial court during Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail hearing in the liquor scam case. The representation, signed by around 150 advocates including the head of the Aam Aadmi Party's legal cell, alleges procedural irregularities and potential conflicts of interest. The representation questions the actions of the Delhi High Court judge who stayed the execution of Kejriwal's bail bond before the bail order was even uploaded. The document states, "Something like this has never been seen in the history of Indian judiciary." The advocates argue



that the High Court judge improperly allowed the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) challenge to Kejriwal's bail to be mentioned and listed, and subsequently stayed the execution of the bail bonds despite the bail order not being officially recorded. Additionally, the represen-

tation highlights a potential conflict of interest, pointing out that the judge who heard the ED's appeal is the brother of the counsel representing the ED. The letter asserts, "The judge should have recused himself as this is a conflict of interest." Concerns were also raised about the district judiciary. The letter notes that after a vacation court judge granted bail to Kejriwal, an internal administrative order was issued, stating that vacation courts should not pass final orders and should instead defer to regular courts for consideration. The representation calls for an inquiry into these matters, emphasising the need for judicial integrity and transparency in high-profile cases like this one.

# Doval's supporting hands are seasoned spymasters-Rajinder Khanna, Pankaj Singh and Ravichandran

National Security Advisor Ajit Kumar Doval's third term as advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come with a sharp focus-counter-terrorism, counter radicalisation, guarding the borders and cyber space and a continued attempt to craft a foreign policy driven by national security interests. The focus is reflected in the choice of spymasters in the National Security Council Secretariat at Sardar Patel Bhawan in the national capital with the elevation of Rajinder Khanna from deputy NSA to additional NSA and appointment of Intelligence Bureau special director T.V. Ravichandran as deputy NSA, making him the second to hold the post next to deputy NSA Pankaj Singh. Vikram Misri, who served as deputy NSA, is now foreign secretary. While Doval shaped the national security policy for Modi merging national security interests with every policy decision whether it is health, science, telecom, power or communication, Khanna, who is now a more supporting hand of NSA,

## S Jaishankar On Indian Nationals Being Recruited By Russian Army For Ukraine War



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that Indian citizens being recruited by the Russian Army amid its war with Ukraine is 'unacceptable' and emphasised that New Delhi has raised the issue with Moscow. During a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Kazakhstan's capital Astana, Jaishankar said that he "very clearly and strongly" raised the issue of Indians being stranded in the war zone. "Very clearly and strongly... several Indians have been pressed into service with the Russian Army. Only when they come back will we know the full circumstances. But whatever the circumstances are, to us it is unacceptable that Indian citizens find themselves in the army of another country in a warzone. I told him that we seek their cooperation and that they are our friend and partners. We have to find a way so that these people can return to India as quickly and effectively as possible," Jaishankar was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. The minister's statement in the backdrop of at least three Indians being killed amid the conflict so far. Earlier on June 11, the External Affairs Ministry stated that the two Indians who had been recruited by the Russian Army had been killed in the conflict zone. Amid strained relations between Russia and Ukraine, dozens of Indians stranded in Russia have sought the government's help for returning home. The Russia-Ukraine war that began on February 24, 2022, triggered deadly conflict in Europe since World War II. During the SCO Summit, Jaishankar also took a veiled jibe at China and its all-weather ally, Pakistan and asked the international community to "isolate and expose" those countries that harbour terrorists, provide safe havens and condone terrorism, underlining that if left unchecked, terrorism can become a major threat to regional and global peace.

brought some dynamic changes focussing on technology and innovation in the last few years. "He is a new ideas man like Doval," says an officer. "He would walk into a juniors room and talk to them freely. Another thing about him is his phenomenal memory. Known as a Pakistan expert who specialised in counter terror operations as the chief of R&AW, the external intelligence agency, Khanna has kept a hawk's eye on activities by Pakistan and China with a rare combination of scholarship and field experience. "Doval has been able to identify right kind of officers who have expertise in diverse fields as he expanded the NSCS," said another security official. With New Delhi's renewed focus on threats facing north-east-growing instability in Myanmar and the need for more work to go into the Act East policy-Khanna's expertise will come in handy to manage China's growing footprints in the Indo-Pacific. During his stint as deputy NSA, Khanna saw the crea-



tion of one of the big pillars of cyber security architecture in NSCS-the office of the National Cybersecurity Coordinator first held by Dr Gulshan Rai followed by Lt Gen Rajesh Pant, who worked closely with Khanna on critical cyber security issues from thwarting threats, assisting law enforcement agencies in countering cyber attacks and crimes and building a national malware repository to analyse and prepare for future threats. Presently, Lt Gen M.U. Nair is the national cyber security coordinator in the NSCS spearheading efforts to create a national cyber security strategy that is yet to see the light of day. The bolstering of security on borders with Pakistan and China and integrating it

with a civilian security approach by focussing on border villages and infrastructure is being handled by domain expert Pankaj Singh, former chief of BSF, who handles all internal security matters in NSCS. Now, Ravichandran, a 1990 batch Tamil Nadu cadre officer, brings with him the domain knowledge of handling LTTE and Islamic terror threats in the South. Doval himself has helmed the security brass with achievements under his sleeve like Balakot strike in PoK, containing the naxal threat, Chinese PLA withdrawal from finger heights at Pangong, ban on Chinese apps, engagements with Russia and Middle East and faster deployments on borders. With the domain experts at the helm, Doval's next challenge in what he describes as the fourth generation war might get a shot in the arm as the best brains come together to counter attempts to subvert, divide and manipulate civil society turning information warfare into a key aspect of national security.

## Grieving families of Hathras stampede victims say Rahul Gandhi promised he'd push for higher ex gratia, other aid



The grieving families of the 'satsang' stampede victims who met Rahul Gandhi in Hathras and Aligarh on Friday said the Congress leader has assured them he will make efforts to get their compensation enhanced. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also assured that he would raise the stampede issue in Parliament in a bid to prevent such incidents in the future, they said. Gandhi met with some families first in Aligarh's Pilkhana village around 7.30 am and then in Hathras' Vibhav Nagar area around 9 am, hours after he began his pre-dawn journey from Delhi, accompanied by some party leaders, to console the families of those killed in the Tuesday incident. His meetings with the families in the two neighbouring districts in western Uttar Pradesh took

place amid deployment of large number of security personnel by the state police. Hari Mohan, a resident of Nai ka Nagla locality in Hathras, lost his paternal aunt Omvati, 55, in the stampede. "Rahul Gandhi interacted with us, extended his sympathies. He said he would make effort to get the compensation amount for victims enhanced," Mohan told PTI. Mrityunjay Bharti, 22, lost her maternal grandmother Asha Devi, around 55, in the tragedy. Bharti, who lives in Aligarh, has come to Hathras to be with her relatives who live in the city's Navipur area. "He (Gandhi) spoke to us and tried to understand our issues. He said he would raise the issue in Parliament so that such incidents do not happen in future," Bharti told PTI. In Aligarh's Pilkhana village, Monu, a family member of the deceased, when asked about's Gandhi visit, said, "He also said that he will try his best to help (us), and will talk to the government as his party is not in power." Khusboo, who lost her mother, said she was assured of help during the interaction with the former Congress president. Another woman, who lost her sister-in-law in the stampede, told reporters, "He (Rahul

Gandhi) told us that the (Congress) party will help us, and assured us help. He also inquired from us how it (the incident) took place." According to police, of the 121 people who died due to the stampede on July 2, 17 were from Aligarh and 19 were from Hathras. The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday formed a three-member judicial commission headed by a retired high court judge to probe the Hathras tragedy, looking also into the possibility that a conspiracy was behind the stampede. The government has also announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the kind of those killed and Rs 50,000 for the injured. The police are investigating the matter and have so far arrested six volunteers who were members of the organising committee of the satsang of Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari alias Bhole Baba on July 2 in Fulrai village of Hathras. The godman is not named in the police FIR as accused but a senior officer told media on Thursday that he would be questioned if required for investigation. Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

## Never Take A World Cup Final Away From Mumbai

Shiv Sena Uddhav Bal Thackeray leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray has slammed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for hosting ICC ODI World Cup 2023 at Narendra Modi Stadium in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. Aaditya in a social media post on Friday, wrote, "Yesterday's celebration in Mumbai is also a strong message to the BCCI... Never take away a World Cup final from Mumbai!" Aaditya's attack on national governing body of cricket in India comes a day after enormous crowd of Mumbaikars welcomed Indian cricket team as the champions of ICC Cricket World Cup 2024 enthralled them in the victory parade on Thurs-

day (July 4). The crowds remained at Wankhede Stadium for hours to welcome the T20 Indian cricket team. Wankhede has been witness to numerous historic cricketing events, including India's first T-20 World Cup victory celebration in 2007 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy, the triumphant 2011 Cricket World Cup win on home soil, and the emotional farewell of Sachin Tendulkar, the Master-Blaster, in 2013. Aaditya Thackeray previously criticised the BJP for relocating opportunities and events from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. In an interview with the Hindustan Times during the May Lok Sabha elections this year, Aaditya stated, "Maharashtra has suffered significant



losses with industries and projects being shifted to Gujarat, including the International Finance Center, Vedanta Foxconn, bulk drugs park, and medical devices park. Even the World Cup final match was moved to Ahmedabad instead of Mumbai, which we had anticipated."

