









ఈసీ తప్పిడుగిర్లయాల.. అవగాహన లేని డిజిపీ, ఎస్పీల వల్లే దాడులు.. మంత్రి అంబటి రాంబాబు



అమరావతి : ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్రంలో ఎన్నికల సమయంలో అవగాహన లేని డిజిపీ,ఎస్పీలను నియమించడం వల్లనే హింస జరిగిందని మంత్రి అంబటి రాంబాబు వ్యాఖ్యానించారు.

తన ప్రత్యక్షిని యధేచ్ఛగా తిరగనిచ్చారని, దీంతో వారు చాలా దుర్భాగ్యులకు దిగారన్నారు. పోలీస్ అధికారులుగా ఉన్నటువంటి వారిని మార్గదర్శనం వల్లనే ఇంత హింస జరిగిందంటూ మంత్రి అంబటి రాంబాబు వ్యాఖ్యానించారు.

సిపిఎ అమలాపాల్ వచ్చాక తాలిసాని 14 మందికి భారత పౌరసత్వ సర్టిఫికేట్లు

న్యూఢిల్లీ: సాంకేతిక ఎన్నికల వేళ కీలక పరిణామం చోటు చేసుకుంది. కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వం పౌరసత్వ సవరణ చట్టం 2019 అమలులోకి వచ్చిన తర్వాత తాలిసాని 14 మందికి భారత పౌరసత్వం మంజూరు చేసింది.



సవరించింది.తాజా చట్టం ప్రకారం పాకిస్తాన్, బంగాదేశ్, ఆఫ్ఘనిస్తాన్ కు చెందిన ముస్లిమేతర శరణార్థులు పౌరసత్వం పొందాలంటే అరేబ్ సామూహ దేశంలో నివసించడం లేదా పనిచేసి ఉండాలి.

ఏపీ ఎన్నికల్లో వారిదే గెలుపు..! కారణాలివే-గానె ప్రకాష్ రావు జోస్యం..!



అమరావతి : ఏపీలో తాజాగా జరిగిన అసెంబ్లీ ఎన్నికల్లో ఎవరు గెలవబోతున్నారనే అంశంపై ఇప్పటికీ వలు విశ్లేషణలు వెలువడుతున్నాయి. ఇప్పటికే పోలింగ్ ప్రక్రియ ముగిసిన నేపథ్యంలో పోలింగ్ సరళి ఆధారంగా ఈ విశ్లేషణలు సాగుతున్నాయి.

అక్రమ మైనింగ్, నాసిరకం మద్యం అమ్మకాలు, పాలనా వైఫల్యాలు, ధరల మోత వంటి ఎన్నో కారణాలు జగన్ ఓటమికి కారణాలుగా నిలవబోతున్నట్లు గోనె ప్రకాష్ తెలిపారు. అందుకే తెలంగాణలో పోలింగ్ ను వదలుకుని ఏపీకి వెళ్లి మరీ ఓటర్ల ఓటికారన్నారు.

ఏపీ ఆధీనంలోని భవనాల స్వాధీనానికి సీఎం రేవంత్ ఆదేశాలు: 18న కేబినెట్ భేటీ

అమరావతి : ధాన్యం కొనుగోళ్లలో వేగం పెంచి వర్షాకాలం ప్రారంభం కాకముందే పూర్తి చేయాలని అధికారులను సీఎం రేవంత్ రెడ్డి ఆదేశించారు. తెలంగాణలో లోక్సభ ఎన్నికలు ముగిసిన తర్వాత బుధవారం తొలిసారిగా ముఖ్యమంత్రి రేవంత్ రెడ్డి సచివాలయంలో వివిధ అంశాలపై కీలక సమీక్ష నిర్వహించారు.



చర్యలు తీసుకోవాలని సీఎం తెలిపారు. తడిసిన ధాన్యం, తేమ విషయంలో రైతులకు ఇబ్బంది కలుగుతూ చర్యలు తీసుకోవాలని సీఎం రేవంత్ సుప్రసంగం చేశారు.

ఏపీ ఆధీనంలోని భవనాల స్వాధీనానికి సీఎం రేవంత్ ఆదేశాలు ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్, తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రాల మధ్య అవసరమైన అనుబంధం ఉన్న అంశాలపై చర్చించేందుకు మే 18న తెలంగాణ మంత్రి మండలి భేటీ కావాలని నిర్ణయించారు.

హైదరాబాద్ లోక్ సభ స్థానానికి రిపోలింగ్ జరపాలి: మాధవీలత సంచలన డిమాండ్

హైదరాబాద్ : తెలంగాణలో పార్లమెంట్ ఎన్నికల కోలాహలం ముగిసింది. ఈ నెల 13వ తేదీన రాష్ట్రంలోని 17 లోక్ సభ స్థానాలకు ఎన్నికలు జరగగా.. 66.03 శాతం పోలింగ్ పర్సంటేజ్ సాధించినట్లు ఈసీ వెల్లడించింది.



పర్సంటేజీ వల్ల మాధవీలత.. రిపోలింగ్ జరుగుతుందనే అనుమానంతో ఓ ముస్లిం మహిళను బూరా? తీసి ఆమె ముఖాన్ని ఓటర్ స్లీట్లో ఉన్న ఫోటోతో సరిపోల్చి చూశారు. ఈ ఘటన వివాదస్పదంగా మారడంతో కన్నెన్రజేసిన ఈసీ.. ఆమెపై పలు సెక్షన్ల కింద కేసు నమోదు చేయాలని ఆదేశించింది.

ఏపీలో వచ్చేది ఎన్నో ప్రభుత్వమే



దిల్లీ: ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్లో వంద శాతం ఎన్నియేనే ప్రభుత్వం ఏర్పాటు చేస్తుందని కేంద్ర మంత్రి కిషన్ రెడ్డి ధీమా వ్యక్తం చేశారు.

భాగస్వామ్య పార్టీలు గెలవబోతున్నట్లు చాలా స్పష్టంగా చెప్పగలుగుతున్నట్లు తెలిపారు. ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్లో ఎన్నికల అనంతరం జరగగల వ్యూహాలను ముందుగానే ఆలోచించి కార్యాచరణను ప్రారంభించాలన్నారు.

సింగపూర్ ప్రధానిగా లారెన్స్ వాంగ్ ప్రమాణస్వీకారం

సింగపూర్: సింగపూర్ నాలుగో ప్రధానమంత్రిగా ఆర్థికవేత్త లారెన్స్ వాంగ్ (51) బుధవారం ప్రమాణస్వీకారం చేశారు. ఈయనకు ముందు రెండు దశాబ్దాలపాటు లీ సీన్ లాంగ్ (71) ప్రధానిగా వ్యవహరించగా, వాంగ్ ఉప ప్రధాని పదవి నిర్వహించారు.



ఎన్నికల జరిగిన తరువాత మంత్రివర్గంలో మార్పులు చోటు చేసుకుంటాయి.

భారత్లో మొబైల్ ఛార్జీలు పెరగాల్సిందే..!



న్యూఢిల్లీ : ప్రస్తుత సార్వత్రిక ఎన్నికలు ముగియగానే మొబైల్ ఫోన్ రీచార్జ్ ధరలు ఘోరంగా పెంచాలనే వచ్చిన రిపోర్టులకు భారతీ ఎయిర్ టెలికాం సిబిఐ, గోపాల్ విట్టల్ వ్యాఖ్యాలు బలం చేకూర్చాయి భారత్ లో మొబైల్ ఛార్జీలు పెరగాల్సిన అవసరం ఉందని గోపాల్ విట్టల్ అన్నారు.

భవిష్యత్లో ఆ సంస్థకు అంతా మంచి జరగాలని కోరుకుంటున్నానని తెలిపారు. దేశంలో మూడు బలమైన ప్రయత్నాలు టెలికాం ఆపరేటర్లతో సేవలు సరిపోతాయని అన్నారు. దీంతో పరోక్షంగా బిఎస్ఎన్ఎల్లో ఎలకను పెంచడం వల్ల టెలికాం ఇష్టం గమనార్హం.

ఏపీ ప్రజలకు బిగ్ అల్టర్ ఆ డబ్బులు లిలిజ్?

అమరావతి : ఏపీ ప్రజలకు బిగ్ అల్టర్ పోలింగ్ మోగిస్తుందనే అనుమానం వ్యాపించింది. విద్యా దీపను, ఆనంద్ లాగా ఈ బీసీ సేవను లాంఛి పథకాల డబ్బుల కోసం లబ్ధిదారులు ఎదురుచూస్తున్నారు.

చేయలేదు. జూన్ 4వ తేదీ వరకు ఎన్నికల కోడ్ అమలులో ఉన్నానని విడుదలకు ఈసీ గ్రీన్ సిగ్నల్ ఇచ్చిన సంగతి తెలిసింది. అయితే ఈ డబ్బులను సోమవారం నుంచి రిలీజ్ చేసేందుకు జగన్ మోహన్ రెడ్డి ప్రభుత్వం సిద్ధమైందట తెలుస్తోంది.

# Meet Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Next Chief Justice Of India After CJI DY Chandrachud Retirement

New Delhi: The Chief Justice of India is the head of the Supreme Court and allocates cases and appoints constitutional benches which deal with important matters of law among other major responsibilities. CJI Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud is the current Chief Justice of India; he was appointed on November 9, 2022 and will retire in November, 2024 after a two-year tenure. According to seniority, it is Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who is next-in-line to become the Chief Justice of India, after the retirement of CJI DY Chandrachud. Currently the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, Justice Sanjiv Khanna has recently been in the news for granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi Excise Policy Case, in which he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Know all about Justice Sanjiv Khanna...

## Who Will Be The Next Chief Justice Of India?

As mentioned earlier, CJI DY Chandrachud will be retiring in November this year and as the tradition goes, the senior-most judge of the apex court becomes the Chief Justice

of India. As per seniority, Justice Sanjiv Khanna is set to become the next CJI; according to the Constitution of India, if not removed from position, the Chief Justice retires on reaching the age of 65 and according to this, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, if becomes the CJI, will retire in May, 2025. He may get a tenure of about six months.

## Justice Sanjiv Khanna Educational Qualifications

Justice Sanjiv Khanna was born on May 14, 1960 hails from New Delhi; his father Justice Dev Raj Khanna retired as a judge of Delhi High Court and his mother Mrs Saroj Khanna was a Hindi lecturer at LSR, DU. Justice Sanjiv Khanna did his schooling from Modern School in New Delhi and completed his school education in 1977 and after schooling, the Supreme Court judge did his graduation from St Stephen's College, University of Delhi. Post graduation, Justice Sanjiv Khanna studied law at the Campus Law Centre (CLC) of Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

## Justice Sanjiv Khanna Career Path

Justice Sanjiv Khanna belonged to

a family of lawyers and judges; while is father retired as a Delhi High Court judge, his uncle, Justice Hans Raj Khanna was a former judge of the Supreme Court and famously delivered the lone dissenting judgement in the ADM Jabalpur v. Shiv Kant Shukla Case, more popularly known as the Habeas Corpus Case. He was superseded by Justice MH Beg to the office of CJI and in protest, he resigned in 1977. Coming back to Justice Sanjiv Khanna, he enrolled into the Bar as an advocate in the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983. Justice Sanjiv Khanna became an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in June, 2005 and a permanent judge of the Delhi HC in Feb, 2006. He was elevated to the Supreme Court of India in January, 2019.

## Justice Sanjiv Khanna Milestone Cases

As an advocate, Justice Sanjiv Khanna has practiced in the fields of constitutional law, arbitration and commercial matters, direct taxes, company and land law, pollution laws and medical negligence. According to the official website of the Supreme Court, "He had also argued a number of criminal cases in the Delhi



High Court as an Additional Public Prosecutor, and on appointment by the Court as an amicus curia." As a judge, most recently, Justice Sanjiv Khanna was part of the two-judge bench with Justice Dipankar Datta, which granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had been behind bars for over 50 days in the Delhi Excise Policy Case; the AAP Supremo was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Apart from this case, Justice Khanna also passed a judgement dismissing the plea seeking cross-verification of votes case in EVMs with VVPAT. Justice Sanjiv Khanna has also been part of multiple cases that were taken up by the five-judge Constitution Bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud.

Infosys' Narayana Murthy wants this rule at education institutions to change



Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy said that there is an urgent need to revamp of "archaic rules" which stop the contribution of shares by entrepreneurs to academic institutions. Entrepreneurs have shares rather than ample capital in their startups' early stages, he said on the sidelines of Infosys Science Foundation's media briefing. "We have to change some of the archaic rules. For example, even today, an entrepreneur cannot donate shares," he said as he was asked whether enough is being done by the alumni and the industry for academic institutions. Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan said, "More is needed... Look at the US universities, MIT, Harvard, Stanford, etc. They get endowments in billions of dollars. Today, our institutions primarily depend on government funding, I would like to see equal funding, I want to see more industry participation." Talking about his wife Sudha Murthy's 1995 attempt to donate ₹4.5 crore to the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Narayana Murthy said that the amount could have been valued at ₹3,000 crore as of today if the rules been different. "Lots of innovations are taking place in the corporate world, they are needed even in academic institutions," he said. He also talked about the time when he wanted to donate shares to his alma mater IIT Kanpur in the late 1990s. He said, "That time none of us had any money, only thing we had was shares. They wanted us to give only money, not shares. If only they had accepted shares, if they had kept it."

# The high price Arvind Kejriwal may pay for interim 'campaigning' bail

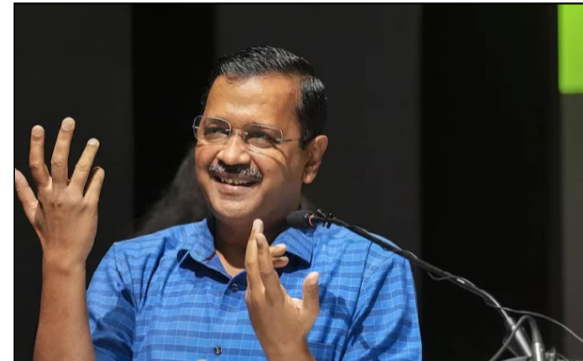
In a recent, rather controversial decision, the Supreme Court of India granted interim bail to Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, so that he could campaign in the Lok Sabha Elections. While this decision may seem like a victory for Kejriwal, it comes with significant costs that could potentially impact his political future, along with the judiciary's reputation.

## Impact on the Judiciary

The cost that the Judiciary might pay for this is somewhat better understood. The apex court's decision has already sparked the debate on the Judiciary's ability to use discretion arbitrarily. In this particular case of Arvind Kejriwal, the Court may set a precedent that politicians are a special class of citizens. The court has defended its decision by stating that interim bail was granted based on the specific facts of Kejriwal's case, emphasizing that such decisions are not that uncommon and should not be seen as establishing a general rule for all politicians. However, the criticism remains that this decision could undermine the perceived neutrality of the judiciary. What is it about Arvind Kejriwal, who himself is not standing in Lok Sabha Elections, that he should get bail for campaigning, and, say, Hemant Soren should not? Even more pertinently, what is it about Arvind Kejriwal that he should get bail for campaigning while 75.8% of total prisoners, a whopping 4,34,302 aam aadmis, remain in jail as undertrials? This unprecedented decision has surely eroded the judiciary's goodwill with the citizenry, and we may see a significant strengthening of the call for judicial reforms.

## The Price Arvind Kejriwal may need to pay

The common man languishing in prison pays the price, and the Supreme Court's reputation suffers. But what about Arvind Kejriwal himself?



His 21-day bail, amid an investigation where he allegedly destroyed 170 mobile phones, allows him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections, presenting himself as a future prime ministerial candidate and overshadowing other opposition leaders such as Rahul Gandhi. This interim freedom, visibility, and active participation, all due to the largesse shown by SC, may look like a win-win situation for him. But is it? Not really. Arvind Kejriwal may end up paying a potentially steep price for this 21-day sojourn outside prison. The first of these costs will be related to future judicial challenges. Post-June 2, when Kejriwal is required to surrender, obtaining further bail could prove significantly more difficult. With the decision of SC in favour of interim bail, it is apparent that SC had a softer outlook towards him. If the interim bail had not been given in between, there is a high chance that SC, over a period of time, would have given him regular bail. And as with such regular bails, he would not have to face prison again until a judgment was delivered and he got convicted. In other words, his regular freedom would not have been far. However, now under scrutiny, the SC may not be inclined to consider his regular bail soon and adopt a more cautious approach to avoid accusations of bias. This could mean a prolonged period of incarceration for Kejriwal, similar to his colleague Manish Sisodia, who has been in jail for over a year in the same liquor scam case. With the current bail, Kejriwal also loses the opportu-

nity to demand bail to campaign in the upcoming Delhi State Elections. The SC cannot repeatedly grant bail under similar circumstances. Consequently, Kejriwal may be unable to campaign in his own state election. AAP, being a very Arvind Kerriwal-centric party, may well lose Delhi in the process.

## Delhi Government May be Dismissed on 2nd June

The second cost that Arvind Kejriwal may pay is the dismissal of his government if he insists on retaining CM ship despite being incarcerated. As we all know, during his first arrest, Kejriwal did not resign, maintaining his position as Chief Minister. This led to an unprecedented situation and a paralyzed administration. Given the uniqueness of the situation, neither the court nor the central government could take any decisions on the same. And we had a CM serving from jail. However, this may not be repeated. His upcoming surrender on June 2, which is also post-elections, allows the central government to consider dismissing his government on the grounds of incapacitation due to imprisonment if he did not resign. The central government is likely to take this decision, as a paralyzed government in the capital is untenable. Thus, while Kejriwal's interim bail allows him to campaign significantly, it casts a dark and complex shadow on his and AAP's future. The potential loss of the Delhi government, challenges in securing future bail, and strategic complications suggest that this "victory" comes with significant potential pitfalls. As the judiciary faces criticism for its decision, Kejriwal, too, may not emerge unscathed from the repercussions. The coming months will reveal whether the short-term gains of this campaigning period were worth the long-term costs that Kejriwal and the AAP might incur.

# "Do not know his educational qualifications": BJP Chief JP Nadda asks Rahul Gandhi 'atleast read' Constitution

Patna (Bihar) [India]: Taking potshots at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for moving around with a copy of the Constitution, BJP national president JP Nadda said that he "does not know" about the educational qualifications of the former Congress chief but advised him to "at least read the Constitution." His remarks came in the backdrop of the Congress leader often holding a copy of the Constitution in his public rallies. The former Congress chief has alleged that the BJP if it comes to power after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, will attempt to 'rewrite' the Constitution. "Rahul Gandhi is moving around with a copy of the Constitution. I don't know about his educational qualifications. At least read the Constitution. Baba Saheb Ambedkar has said that there could be no reservation based on religion. And (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji has said, 'As long as he is alive and the BJP party is there, no one can lay hands on the reservation of the Dalits, Adivasis, and others,'" Nadda said. The BJP chief was addressing a public meeting in Bihar's

Motihari. He also hit out at Rashtriya Janata Dal Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav. "Lalu ji ne chara khaya ya nahi...Naukari kai badlai zameen hadpi ya nahi" (was not Lalu involved in the fodder scam? Grabbed land in exchange for jobs). Do you need such jobs in exchange for the lands of the poor?...," the BJP chief asked the gathering. "RJD means 'Rishwatkhori Jungleraj Daldal'... Those (RJD) who say that we will provide jobs are saying it as PM Modi has started the politics of the report card... The Congress party is not a party but a party that does corruption..." he added. Lashing out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is out on interim bail in an excise policy case, Nadda said, "Has Arvind Kejriwal not done a liquor and drug scam? He is out on bail till June 1. Will he not go back to jail on June 2? Isn't Manish Sisodia in jail? They have a relationship between jail and bail." Union Minister and BJP candidate from Begusarai, Giriraj Singh, told reporters in Patna, "Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi



Yadav is nervous... We will not allow 'jungle raj' (lawlessness)... We have leaders like (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Samrat Choudhary, and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party leader Upendra Kushwaha. That's why they are afraid." Earlier in the day, Lok Janshakti Party National President and party candi-

date from Bihar's Hajipur, Chirag Paswan, told reporters that there is "no unity" in the INDI alliance. "If Tejashwi (Yadav) has to use the name of our Chief Minister for electoral gains, it clearly shows that they are so weak without our Chief Minister... By using the name of CM they (RJD) are attempting to improve their position by creating confusion... The public knows how strong our National Democratic Alliance is... There is no unity in the INDI alliance..." Bihar, which has 40 Lok Sabha seats, is witnessing polling in seven phases. In the 2019 general elections, the BJP-led NDA swept the state by winning 39 out of 40 seats, while Congress won just one seat. RJD failed to open its account. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are being held in seven phases in a six-week marathon running from April 19- June 1. Polling for the first four phases was held on April 19, April 26, May 7 and May 13, respectively. The next round of voting will be held on May 20. The counting and results will be declared on June 4.

## ED can't arrest after court takes cognisance

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) cannot make an arrest once a special court takes cognisance of a complaint the federal agency filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday. In a significant judgment that imposes severe restrictions on the detention of an accused booked under money laundering charges, the top court further declared that an accused, who is not arrested by ED during a probe but appears before the special court pursuant to summons issued, does not need to satisfy the stringent twin test for bail under Section 45 of the PMLA. Section 45 of the PMLA stipulates that the public prosecutor must be given an opportunity to oppose the bail application of the accused. Furthermore, it requires the court to be convinced that there are reasonable grounds to believe the accused is not guilty and is not likely to commit any offense while on bail. These conditions generally make it challenging for an accused in a money laundering case to secure bail. "If the accused appears before the special court by summons, it cannot be treated that he is in custody," a bench of justices AS Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan held. Therefore, the court added, such a person does not need to satisfy the twin conditions for bail under Section 45 of the PMLA. The bench further clarified that if ED seeks custody of an accused who appears after being summoned, it must apply to the concerned court. "If the ED wants custody of the accused after the person appears following summons, the ED can get custody after application to the special court. The court will only grant custody with reasons satisfying that custodial interrogation is needed," justice Oka read out from the operative part of the judgment announced in open court. The verdict arose from a case questioning whether an accused in a money laundering case must meet the stringent twin-test for bail when the special court has taken cognisance of the offense. The Supreme Court had reserved its judgment on April 30. The bench examined whether ED can arrest a person under Section 19 of the PMLA after the trial court has taken cognisance of the agency's complaint. It also dealt with the issue of whether an accused not arrested during the investigation period under the PMLA would be required to meet the stringent bail conditions if they appear before the court after the trial court summons them. The court also deliberated on whether the accused could apply for bail under the regular provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) if they appear pursuant to a summons issued by the special court under the PMLA. The legal questions in the case stemmed from a Punjab and Haryana high court order that denied pre-arrest bail to several accused in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam involving revenue officials. The Supreme Court had granted interim protection to the accused in January. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra represented the accused in the case. Additional solicitor general SV Raju appeared for ED. In November 2017, the Supreme Court had struck down Section 45(1) of the PMLA to the extent it imposed two additional conditions for granting bail to money-laundering accused. This provision was later revived by the Centre with amendments to the PMLA.

# Free ration promise need of poor or ploy to lure voters? Experts speak

The Congress on Wednesday promised to double the quantity of free ration provided by the NDA government to the poor if the INDIA bloc is voted to power. Notably, the BJP-led NDA government provides five kilograms of rations to the poor every month under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package. "You are giving 5 kg, if INDIA bloc government is formed, we will give 10 kg of rations to the poor," said Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. The BJP, on the other hand, accused Kharge of making "false promises" to win Lok Sabha elections. "Kharge is lying," senior BJP leader Arjun Ram Meghwal. "They want to come to power by making false promises. The people will not forgive them and believe in what they say." However, will increasing the quantity of free rations help the poor or is it a ploy to lure voters? India Today TV spoke to Reetika Khera, Professor of Economics at IIT Delhi, and Professor Sanjay Kumar, co-director of Lokniti, to throw more light on the issue. Participating in the prime time News Today debate on India Today TV with Consulting Editor Rajdeep Sardesai, Professor Reetika Khera said she was surprised by the promise of an additional 5 kg ration by Kharge. She also said that instead of focusing on quantity, the focus should be on the quality of ration now. "I am not a big fan

of putting more resources into providing more food grain alone. It made a lot of sense during the Covid lockdown when there was very widespread distress. But right now, I feel the push should be towards more nutritious foods. And therefore, I think the promise of dal and oil is quite important," Professor Khera said. She said she found the Congress manifesto "much stronger than the BJP's on issues of social policy." "We were not very happy with the Food Security Act that the UPA government brought in 2013, because they did not provide for dal and oil. Whereas now in their manifesto, they've promised dal and oil. And another big gap in the Food Security Act was the lack of community kitchens, like Amma Canteens in Tamil Nadu and Indira Canteens in Karnataka. That has been included in the 2024 manifesto. So just those two things alone, I think, are very noteworthy manifesto promises," she said. When asked whether voters will be swayed by the free ration promises, Professor Sanjay Kumar said the BJP's scheme did have an impact during the last elections. "When we talk about the free ration, we do get a sense from the studies which we have done that it has made a huge impact on how the poor and the lower class voters have voted in the recent past. We see the BJP making huge inroads among the poor voters. If we



look at the voters in terms of different classes, if we look at how poor sections of voters voted for BJP in 2014 and 2019, and the pre-poll surveys which we did just before the election, it has made a huge impact," said Professor Kumar. "The BJP has been able to make huge inroads among the poor sections of the society. So that the free ration scheme is appealing to one section of the people," he added. When asked if the voters are swayed more by promises such as free rations or by Hindu-Muslim politics, Professor Kumar said there are takers for both. "It (Hindu-Muslim) has little appeal among the poor sections of the people, but when you talk about the educated urban middle class, this is a very appealing factor for them. So it's a twin issue which appeals to two different sections of voters," he said.

# 'How did Amit Shah get to know?': Priyanka Gandhi on mother-daughter meet in Thailand

Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday dismissed BJP's allegations that the Gandhi family visits Amethi and Raebareli only during elections, saying there was not an iota of truth in the claim. On Sunday, Union home minister Amit Shah launched a blistering attack on the Congress party accusing them of neglecting the two high-profile constituencies after securing victory in previous elections. "After winning, how many times did Sonia Gandhi and her family come to see you? Sonia Gandhi usually has health issues but what about Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi? There have been several unfortunate incidents in the constituency in the past few years but did the Gandhi family ever turn up?" Shah said at a rally in Raebareli. "There is not an iota of truth in this," Priyanka Gandhi said in a strong rebuttal, accusing Union



home minister Amit Shah of monitoring the activities of women, reported The Times of India. "Amit Shah is known for keeping an eye on who does what, when and where, especially women. A few days ago I went to see my daughter in Thailand and he made a reference to this in an election meeting," TOI quoted Priyanka as saying. "Yes, I did go to Thailand, but will he tell how he got to know of this? And when he keeps all the information, why does he have to lie?" she added. Earlier she had

listed several projects completed by the Congress, including the rail coach factory and AIIMS in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli. "Congress gave Ganga bridge, a rail coach factory, AIIMS, NIFT, FDDI, a 4-lane from Lucknow to Raebareli, ring road, five National Highways. We opened a motor driving school, they closed it, we opened spice park, they closed it, we started AIIMS, they closed it, 8 flyovers, help through MPLADS during Covid pandemic, railway washing line, modification of railway stations, 10 railway underpass, road construction using central funds from Raebareli to Dalmau among others. What did they do for Raebareli?" the Congress leader said. Priyanka Gandhi has been spearheading Congress's election campaign in Amethi and Raebareli. Raebareli constituency goes to the polls on May 20 in the fifth phase.





