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01/06/2024

ENGLISH

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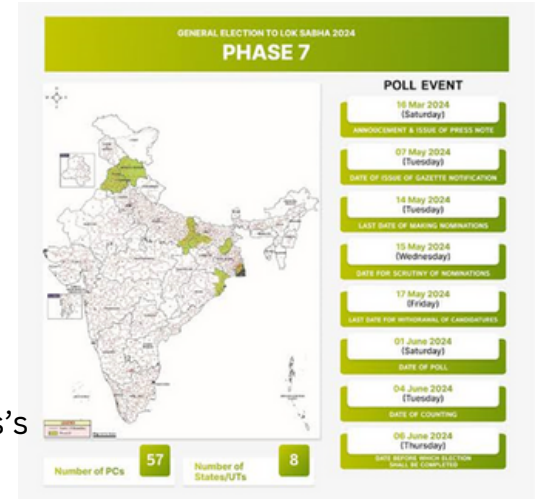


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THE HINDU National

➔ **Marathon polling season ends today in final phase**

- The world's largest polling exercise to elect the 18 th Lok Sabha ends on Saturday after one and a half month .
- 57 constituencies across eight states will go for polls . The number of eligible electors are 10.06 crore.
- In last general elections BJP had won out of 57 , BJP had won 25 , while Congress had won eight , TMC had won nine , Biju Janata Dal had won 4 seats while JD (U) had won 3 seats .
- Polling is scheduled across Bihar , West Bengal , Punjab , UP , Himachal Pradesh , Jharkhand, Odisha and Chandigarh.
- Some key constituencies in the fray is Prime minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi, Congress's Ajai Rai is against PM Modi.
- Voting percentage in first six phases raa ged from 62.2 % to 69.16%



➔ **Hours after arrest , Prajwal sent to SIT custody for 6 days**

- Hasan MP Prajwal Revanna landed in Bangalore where he was arrested by Special Investigation Team (SIT) , and has been sent for remand till June 6 .
- Mr Revanna is charged with raping two women . He left for Germany on April 28 . After completion of election in his constituency on April 26 . Mr Revanna has maintained that his “ trip to Germany was prescheduled “ and no case was registered against him till that date

➔ **Heatwave claims at least 61 lives , 21 polling officials among those dead**

- With heatwaves roiling several parts of country , at least 61 deaths have been confirmed from multiple states .
- 23 of the fatalities are from the polling personnel of the General election.
- In Bihar 14 people have died in 14 hours . 10 of these were part of the electoral process in Bihar .
- In UP's Mirzapur 13 are suspected to have died from heatstroke .
- In Odisha , 26 deaths have been reported .

➔ **Manufacturing sector's growth lifts GDP to 8.2%**

- India's real time Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the fourth quarter of FY 2023-24 was 8.2 % . National Statistical Office (NSO) 's provisional estimates released on Friday show . The GDP growth rate of previous financial year FY 23 was 7%.
- GVA growth is mainly due to significant growth of 9.9 % in the manufacturing sector in FY 24 . Over 2.2% in FY 23

On a growth path



➔ **EC gave nod to 95,000 rallies in West Bengal , highest in the country**

- Election Commission granted permission to 94,975 applications for holding rallies and meetings during election campaigning in West Bengal .
- This is the highest in the country .
- North 24 Pargana district got permission for a maximum , 10245 permissions .
- 852 kg of explosives , 1605 crude bombs , and 707 firearms were also seized during the campaign

➔ **Railways to construct canopy bridges across track in Assam Gibbon habitat**

- Northeastern Railways has been earmarked to allocate funds to construct canopy bridges inside the Hollangapar Gibbon sanctuary in Assam district in Jorhat district.
- Thr gibbon known for its spends most of the time on upper canopy of the trees .
- A 1.65km track set to be doubled and electrified devides Hollongopar Gibbon sanctuary in Jorhat district .



The canopy bridge designed by the Wildlife Institute of India for installation in a gibbon sanctuary in Assam, and, right, a Hoolock gibbon. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

➔ **India eyes Mongolia for key minerals to bypass China route**

- India looks to Mongolia for secure coming coal , critical minerals and copper .
- According to officials a joint working group has been formed to find a road ahead .
- Two ministries of steel and mines have reached the Mongolian authority in this regard . India is looking to transport these through Russia .
- Coking coal is used in the iron industry to make steel . It is critical for steel production .
- India is dependent on coking coal production Australia , US and Russia .

➔ **Karnataka govt sets up SIT to probe multi crore scam in Valmiki Corporation .**

- Karnataka government on Friday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT ,) to investigate the alleged multi-crore scam in Mahrshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation . A official working here had committed suicide alleging the role of senior officials in dicersion of corporation funds.

➔ **Karnataka govt sets up SIT to probe multi crore scam in Valmiki Corporation .**

- Floods and landslides killed 13 people in Assam , Manipur and Meghalaya during the last 48 hours .
- This took rainfall related death toll in North East to 17

WORLD

➔ Trump becomes first former US President to be convicted of felony

- Donald Trump on Thursday was found guilty of paying hush money to Porn star stormy Daniels .
- Donald Trump had falsified business records to pay to pornstar stormy Daniels to remain silent about their sexual relationship . Falsifying business records charges carry up to four years behind bars .
- The New York court jury found him guilty of all 34 charges against him in this case .
- The conviction and even imprisonment cannot bar Trump from pursuing his White House pursuit .
- “ This was a rigged disgraceful trial “ , an angry Mr Trump said .
- “ The real verdict is going to be November 5 by the people . They know what happened , and everyone knows what happened here . “
- Mr Trump said .
- Presidential Elections in USA will be held on November 5

➔ Germany , US let their weapons use to hit targets inside Russia

- Germany joined US to become second country to allow use of its weapon by Ukraine to hit targets on Russian soil .
- German defense minister said that Kyiv had right to defend itself from Russia's attack against international law .
- Ukrainian officials have expressed frustration against restriction by Western countries in use of its weapons.
- Both US and Germany specifically authorized the use of its weapons to defend Kharkiv .
- Kharkiv city is at 20 km from Russian borders .
- Deputy head of Russia's security council Dmitry Medvedev said on Friday that “ Ukraine and its allies will receive such a devastating response that the alliance will not be able to enter the conflict . “
- Currently Russia is pushing through Kharkiv. It has gained large gains in territory in recent times

➔ Blinken dismisses Russia accusations of Trump persecution

- Kremlin Spokesperson “ Dmitry Peskov on Friday commented on the conviction of Donald Trump that President Joe Biden's administration was eliminating its political rivals .
- US secretary of state Antony Blinken in its reply said that it was a classic case of ..
- US secretary of state Antony Blinken on Friday hit back at Russia's

Editorial

➔ Presidential Felony

Trump's legal travails could polarise public discourse ahead of U.S . elections

- The editorial is about conviction of Donald Trump in hush money case .
- The New York judge has found him convicted in all 34 charges . Mr Trump can face maximum imprisonment of four years .
- Mr Trump is also accused in several other cases of handling confidential files , trying to change election results . .
- Even if Mr Trump goes into jail he can administer from Jail , US Constitution allows it .