

Ukraine has used US weapons to hit inside Russia: Western official

Washington: Ukraine has used US weapons to strike inside Russia in recent days, according to a Western official familiar with the matter. The weapons were used under recently approved guidance from President Joe Biden allowing American arms to be used to strike inside Russia for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. The official was not authorised to comment publicly on the sensitive matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Biden's directive allows for US-supplied weapons to be used to strike Russian forces that are attacking or preparing to attack. It does not change US policy that directs Ukraine not to use American-provided ATACMS or long-range missiles and other munitions to strike offensively inside Russia, US officials have said.

Ukrainian officials had stepped up calls on the US to allow Kyiv's forces to defend themselves against attacks originating from Russian territory. Kharkiv sits just 20km from the Russian border and has come under intensified Russian attack.

On Tuesday, White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters that he could not confirm that Ukraine had used US weapons at targets in Russia. "We're just not in a position on a day-to-day basis of knowing exactly what the Ukrainians are firing at what. It's certainly at a tactical level." AP

Modi elected NDA leader, to be sworn in as PM on June 8

TDP: Should Take Over Reins Without Delay

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New Delhi: Amid speculation of jockeying for portfolios by its constituents, NDA on Wednesday moved swiftly for early formation of a BJP-

► Biden, Putin congratulate PM; Lankan Prez, B'desh PM to attend swearing-in, P 16

led govt, setting the stage for Narendra Modi to be sworn in as PM on Saturday.

Sources said Modi, who was unanimously elected leader of National Democratic Alliance on Wednesday, will be elected leader of the NDA parliamentary party on Friday to fulfil the requirement to stake claim to form govt. Modi is likely to call on President Droupadi Murmu on Friday eve-

Photo: ANI

BUZZ OF TDP DEMAND FOR 2 BERTHS, DY SPEAKER POST

- At NDA huddle, members pass resolution hailing Lok Sabha poll fight **'unitedly under leadership of PM Modi'**
- Say 'under his able leadership, we shall all strive to ensure our country continues to prosper and **emerge as a global leader'**
- **NDA MPs to meet June 7** to formally elect Modi as leader; allies to go to President to submit letters of support. New govt likely to be sworn in over the weekend



PM Modi with (L-R) TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar & Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde on Wednesday

► Chandrababu Naidu's TDP, which has 16 MPs, is learnt to have sought at least 2 berths

► Naidu also said to be bargaining for **post of deputy speaker** of Lok Sabha | P 14

ning to submit letters of support from NDA constituents.

The impetus for early swearing-in came from NDA partners at the meeting of the alliance. "Modi played a major role in our historic Andhra victory, should take over the reins of the govt without delay. He has the full support of all of us," a source quoted TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as saying in the meeting.

JD(U) president and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar articulated the same sentiment and wondered why the matter was being delayed. "Instead of holding discussions, he should have been elected leader straightaway," Kumar said, according to sources.

NCP's Praful Patel also spoke along the same lines.

► **Continued on P 19**

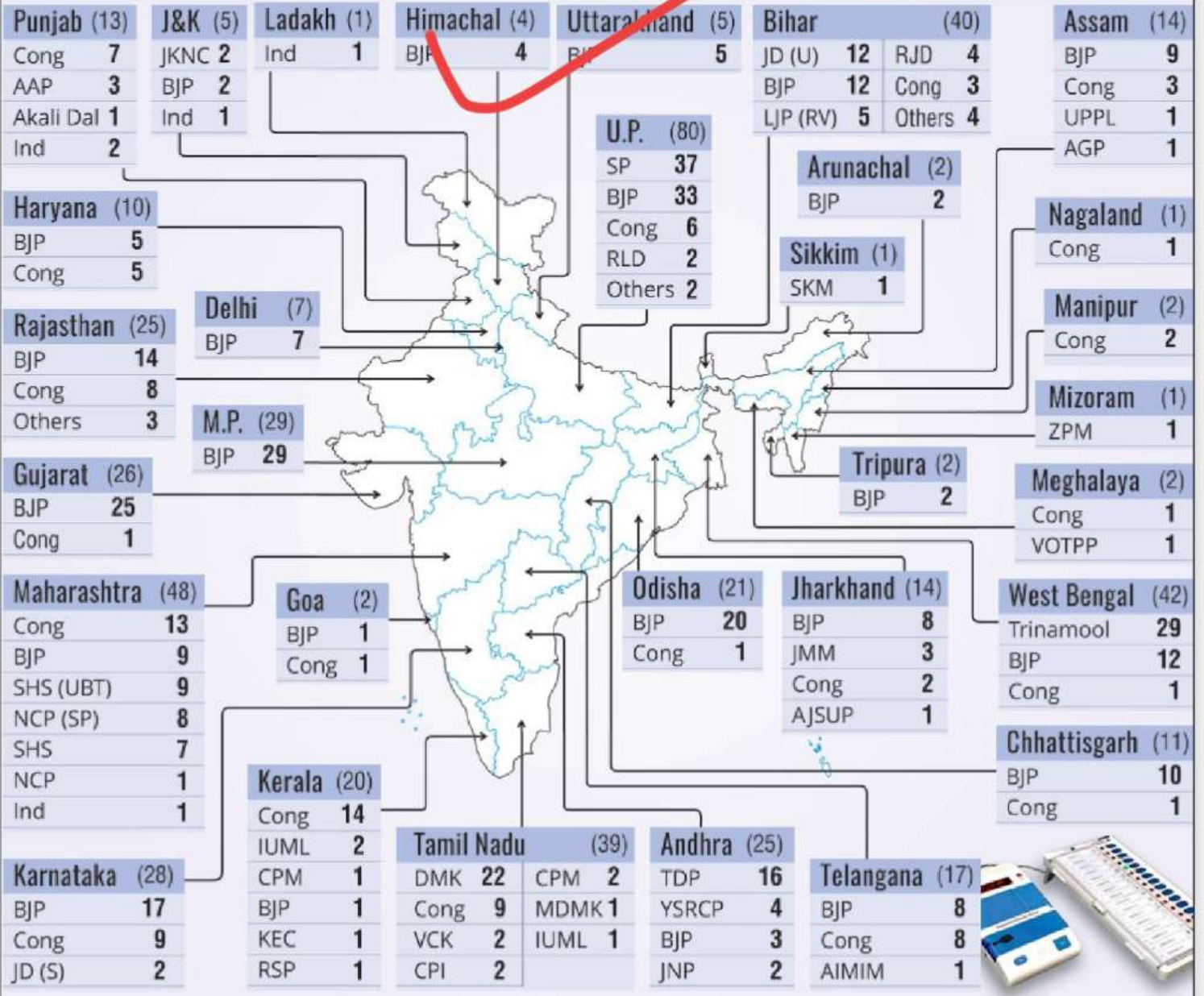
Setbacks should not deter us, Modi tells ministers

Referring to the dip in numbers for BJP and NDA, PM Modi told cabinet colleagues that "success and setbacks are part of the game and if we are in politics, we should take set-

Lok Sabha Poll Outcome 2024

HOW THE STATES VOTED

Total seats **543**



■ A&N Islands: BJP ■ Chandigarh: Cong ■ DNH and Daman & Diu (2): BJP and Ind ■ Lakshadweep: Cong
 ■ Puducherry: Cong

(Figures in brackets indicate total seats in the state)

KBK Pollgraphics

'IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi among top 150 universities in world'

NEW DELHI, June 5 (PTI)

THE Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Bombay and Delhi are among the top 150 universities in the world, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the top rank globally for the 13th time, according to the QS World University Ranking, 2025 announced on Wednesday.

While IIT Bombay has climbed from 149 last year to 118, up by 31 ranks, IIT Delhi improved its rank by 47 points to bag the 150th position globally.

According to the coveted ranking published by the London-based higher education analyst, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Delhi University stood out for the employability of its graduates and has been ranked 44th globally in the category of "employment outcomes."

Boasting 46 universities in this edition of the rankings, the Indian Higher Education system is the seventh most represented globally and the third in Asia, trailing only Japan (49 universities) and China (Mainland) (71 universities). India has one more university within the top 150 rankings, IIT Delhi (150th) and two more entries in the world's top 400 with the University of Delhi (ranked 328th) and Anna University (ranked 383rd) making their debut in this tier.

President dissolves 17th Lok Sabha

Modi tenders resignation



3rd Modi oath may be on 8th

■ Delhi Bureau & Agencies
NEW DELHI, June 5

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu dissolved the 17th Lok Sabha on Wednesday on the advice of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet, according to the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The Cabinet, in its meeting held on Wednesday, advised the President to dissolve the current Lok Sabha with immediate effect, it said.

"The President has accepted the advice of the Cabinet on 05.06.2024 and signed the Order dissolving the 17th Lok Sabha in exercise of the powers conferred upon her by Sub-clause

(b) of Clause (2) of Article 85 of the Constitution," a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhawan read.

The term of the current Lok Sabha was to end on June 16.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tendered his resigna-

tion to President Droupadi Murmu, who accepted it and asked him to continue till the new Government assumes office, a Rashtrapati Bhawan communique said.

According to the sources, as the

(Contd on page 3)

NDA elects Modi again

NEW DELHI, June 5 (PTI)

Syrian opens fire on US mission in Lebanon, arrested

Beirut: An attacker opened fire on the US Embassy in Lebanon Wednesday and was shot and captured by Lebanese security forces, adding to mounting tensions in a crisis-hit nation already on edge over months of cross-border strikes between Israel and the armed militant group Hezbollah. The embassy said a security guard had been wounded during the attack, without specifying how or whether the injuries were serious.

The motive of the shooter, whom the Lebanese army identified as a Syrian citizen and said was being treated at a hospital, was not immediately clear. Lebanese security forces later detained a second man on suspicion of involvement in the attack, Lebanon's state-run news agency said. NYT