**OPINION 6** 

WHY CHINA KEPT

AWAY FROM IMRAN

**WORLD 9** 

SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT READY

TO FORM INTERIM GOVT

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**MARSEILLE CLOSER TO** SEAL CL SPOT

# NEW DELHI, TUESDAY APRIL 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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# Congress to form revival Voice for UCC in panel, mum on PK entry BJP-ruled States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Days after deliberating on a revival plan presented by poll strategist Prashant Kishor, the Congress on Monday said an empowered group will be constituted to address the political challenges ahead and prepare the strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

However, the party remained tightlipped on Kishor's entry even though three days ago it had said that a decision would be announced on the poll strategist's role within the next 72 hours. After Kishor decided to work for the TRS in Telangana, a section of Congress is uncomfortable about doing business with him.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi decided to convene a "Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir", a three-day brainstorming session from May 13 in Udaipur, where party leaders from across the country will discuss internal issues confronting it and come up with solutions to galvanise the organisation.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at the AICC press briefing that Sonia will constitute the empowered group soon to devise a comprehensive strategy for the 2024 general elections. Asked if any decision was



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav leaves the party office after a meeting with party senior

**Cong redundant** 

institution, has

no future, says

Hyderabad: TRS working

president and Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao on

Monday termed the Congress

as "a redundant institution'

and said the party along with

the BIP has let the country

down in the last 75 years while

adding that the grand old party

Speaking to ANI, KTR said, "We do not have any rela-

tion with Congress.

Continued on Page 2

KCR's son

has no future.

made on Kishor's induction into the party, Surjewala said, "Whenever the group is constituted, you will know who is part of it."

Sources within the party, however, said Kishor could join the grand old party soon after Rahul Gandhi's return from abroad and the former JD(U) leader could be part of the Congress empowered group.
With regards to Chintan

Shivir, Sonia constituted six coordination panels for drafting papers and leading discussions on the issues of political and organisational importance, social justice, economy, farmers and youth during the threeday brainstorming conclave.

Continued on Page 2

#### Tejashwi scoffs at Cong pinning hopes on election strategist

PNS NEW DELHI

**p** JD leader Tejashwi Yadav Con Monday called for firming up of an Opposition alliance to take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections, suggesting that the Congress must focus on over 200 seats on which it is in a direct fight with the saffron party while taking a "backseat" in States where regional parties are a formidable force.

Incidentally, poll strategist Prashant Kishor recently sub-mitted a plans for the revival of the Congress and asked the leadership of the grand old party to focus on 370 seats and go alone in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.

On poll strategist Kishor's parleys with the Congress for a plan to revive the grand old party, the 32-year-old RJD leader remarked that if hiring professionals or marketing agencies could make one wir elections then the richest could have formed political parties ruled

Continued on Page 2

# HP, U'Khand, UP CMs say ready for UCC

**DEEPAK K UPRETI** ■ NEW DELHI

The chorus for implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is rising among the BJP-ruled States with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Iai Ram Thakur on Monday saying "we are open to implementing it".

Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers have already expressed their commitment to the UCC, which calls for one law for all religious communities in relation to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.

Asked about the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in his State which is to elect a new Assembly by the year-end, the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister said, "UCC is a good step. It is being examined in the State. We are open to implementing it in Himachal Pradesh."

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Saturday said that his Government was seriously planning to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State.

The statement came soon after Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while addressing a meeting of party leaders at the BJP office in Bhopal on Friday, reportedly said, "Issues like



CAA, Ram Mandir, Article 370 and triple talaq have been resolved. Now, it is time to focus on the Uniform Civil Code.

He also reportedly said it would be implemented in Uttarakhand as a pilot project and a draft was being prepared for the purpose. Echoing the Home

Minister's view, Maurya said, "One law for all in one country is the need of the hour. It is required that we should get out of the system of one law for one person and another for others. We are in favor of a common civil code?

He said the Uttar Pradesh Government was "thinking in this direction seriously". Earlier in March , after returning to power Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh

State has decided to implement the Unform Civil Code. "We have decided to imple-

ment the Uniform Civil Code in the State. The State Cabinet unanimously approved that a committee (of experts) will be constituted at the earliest and it will be implemented in the State. This will be the first State to do so," Dhami had said. It was also part of the election promise of the BJP in Uttarakhand. The Himachal Chief

Minister who spoke to newspersons on the sidelines of an event here reiterated the BJP's commitment to UCC."We need to see best ways to implement UCC in Himachal. We will take a decision soon," he

Continued on Page 2

#### **CAPSULE**

#### **GOVT BLOCKS SIXTEEN** YOUTUBE CHANNELS New Delhi: The Government on

Monday blocked 16 YouTube channels, including six operating from Pakistan, and a Facebook account for spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order, an official statement said.

200 JHUGGIS' DEMOLITION New delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed for a week the proposed demolition of around 200 'jhuggis' (shanties) at Sarojini Nagar in the nationa

SUVENDU ADHIKARI QUITS BJP WHATSAPP GROUP Kolkata: Speculation is high in te BJP as Suvendu Adhikari

become another MLA to leave

#### the party's WhatsApp group. NO-TRUST VOTE AGAINST LANKAN GOVT ON CARDS Colombo: A Sri Lankan dissident lawmaker, fired by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

from the Cabinet for his critical views, claimed on Monday that the Opposition has crossed the 113-mark required to win a notrust motion against the Government in the 225-member Parliament.

#### INDIA'S GDP TO GROW 7.5-8 % IN FY23: CII

New Delhi: India's economy is expected to grow 7.5-8 per cent this fiscal year with exports playing a key role in the country's success story, CII President TV Narendran said on Monday. However, he said the country needs to remain prepared for next Covid wave

# India now 3rd after US, China on defence spend

India has emerged as the third biggest spender on touching 76.6 billion dollars in 2021. The US and China are first and second highest spenders, according to a report released by the prestigious Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Monday.

The report highlighting money spent on defence in 2021 said the expenditure worldwide increased notwithstanding the ongoing corona pandemic.

India's military expenditure went up to 76.6 billion dollars, a hike of 0.9 per cent over the 2020 figures, the SIPRI said. One of the main reasons for this jump was the ongoing stand-off at the Line of Actual

#### Top 10 Military Spenders in the World

In S	billion, 2021			World
Rank			Spending	share
1	USA		801	38%
2	China*		293	14%
3	India	76.6		3.6%
4	UK	68.4		3.2%
5	Russia	65.9		3.1%
6	France	56.6	2006	2.7%
7	Germany	56	10000	2.7%
8 5	audi Arabia*	55.6	The state of the s	2.6%
0	lanan	E/ 1	Acres de	7 504

Control (LAC) in Ladakh between India and China since April 2020. At present more than 50,000 troops each from both sides are in a face-off at some friction points in eastern Ladakh. Talks at the military and diplomatic levels are on to

ease tension. "China, the world's second largest spender, allocated an estimated USD 293 billion to its military in 2021, an increase of 4.7 per cent from 2020 and 72 per cent from 2012," the report said.

Continued on Page 2

#### Mevani rearrested. now for assaulting **Assam policewoman**



Kokrajhar: After a court in Assam's Kokrajhar district granted bail to Gujarat Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani in a case over a twee by him on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, he was rearrested on charges of "assaulting and outraging" the modesty of a woman police

officer four days ago.

Mevani was booked under IPC sections related to voluntarily causing hurt, assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his or her duty after a policewoman filed a complaint against him, police said.

Continued on Page 2

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macular

degeneration

#### house cave-in during building renovation

2 killed in Delhi

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELH

Two labourers died and three 1 others were rescued after a three-storey house that was undergoing renovation collapsed in South Delhi's Satya Niketan area on Monday.

Another labourer, who was outside the dilapidated build ing at the time of the incident, had a narrow escape, they said, adding that an FIR has been registered in the matter.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) also announced a probe into the incident.

Around 1.25 pm, a PCR call was received at South Campus police station about the building collapse in Satya Niketan, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Manoj C said, "One labourer who was outside the building had a narrow escape. He sustained injuries and was admitted to a

hospital for treatment." Detailed report on P3

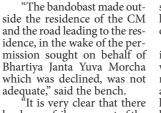
### **Probe, fix lapses on CM's house** security breach: HC to top cop

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to look into and "fix responsibility" for the "serious lapse" with respect to the security arrangement made outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, which was attacked by a "mob" on March 30.

Expressing dissatisfaction at the report filed by the Delhi Police, the court said, "This kind of incident happening at the residence of a constitutional functionary is a very disturbing state of affairs. What kind of bandobast did you have? You need to look into your functioning. It could have been anybody, any Minister, Judge."

The Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla of the Delhi High Court was hearing a petition filed by AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj seeking the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to undertake an independent criminal probe into the incident.



and the road leading to the residence, in the wake of the per mission sought on behalf of Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha which was declined, was not adequate," said the bench. has been a failure on part of the

force to prevent the incident. We want the Commissioner of Police to look into the lapse on part of the police," the court observed. The court noted that as per the status report, certain mis-

creants breached the barri-

cades and reached the gate of

the residence, and said, "In our

view, the aforesaid lapse is a

serious lapse and should be looked at by the Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police". "He (CP) should inquire

into firstly whether bandobast was adequate, secondly the reasons for the failure of the arrangements made and thirdly fix the responsibility for the lapse which admittedly has occurred," it added. The court stated that it was

not satisfied with the police status report, as far as the security arrangement was concerned and granted two weeks to the Police Commissioner to file a further status report, including on the aspect of the review of the CM's security.

Continued on Page 2



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# Capital's day temp reaches 40.6° C

Monday evening brought some respite as city witnessed light rain, drizzle and thunderstorm

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW

The maximum temperature of the national capital on Monday settled at 40.6 Degree Celsius, which is two notches above the normal for this time of year, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

However, later in the night the national Capital witnessed light rain, drizzle and thunderstorm.

The minimum tempera-

22.7 degree Celsius, which is normal for this season, stated the IMD data.

The relative humidity recorded at the Safdarjung observatory, in the morning at 8:30 A.M was 40 per cent and 20 per cent in the evening at 5:30 P.M.

Ayanagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura, Palam and Lodhi Road recorded maximum temperatures of 41.8 degrees Celsius, 42.2 degrees Celsius, 42.2 degrees Čelsius, 41.4 degrees Čelsius, 40.8 degrees Celsius, 39.8 degrees Celsius and 40.6 degrees Celsius respectively, stated the IMD

The IMD predicted, "The Heat wave conditions over Gujarat state & east India commence over central and northwest India from 27th April, 2022

"Rain and Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning, gusty winds are likely to continue over Northeast India," said IMD

5:30 P.M. Delhi will witness main-The weather stations at ly sky on 26th April and the maximum temperature will shoot up to 42 degree Celsius.

The temperature at the end of the month might be a matter of concern for the Delhities as the IMD predicted the heatwave on from April 28th to 1 May. However the maximum temperature will climb up to 44 degree

The maximum power demand in the capital city on Monday was 5589 MW, said

#### Drive against mosquito breeding: SDMC checks 199 construction sites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of rising vector-borne disease cases in the national Capital, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday conducted a massive checking drive in which a total of 199 government as well as private construction sites were checked in zones out of which 99 sites were found with mosquito breeding for which legal notice, prosecutions and spot fine were issued against defaulters, said a senior official.

According to the SDMC , the mosquito breeding was detected at 50 per cent checked construction sites for which legal action was taken against owners, owning agencies and builders of the construction sites. During this special drive, mosquito breeding was found at construction sites of schools and hospitals as well, which should be breeding free

"Construction sites located at Gayanodya school, Nangli Sakrawati; IPO building, Bodhik Samprada Sector-14 Kakrola Najafgarh; Delhi government sites at Guru Govind Singh hos-

pital Raghuvir Nagar; G G S School, JJ colony (Hastsal) and Hastal hospital, T-camp, Krishna colony; Shapoorji Pallonji ITPO, Pragati Maidan; WHO building; Sai hospital, Daryaganj; NBCC sites at Ayurvigyan nagar, Andrewsganj and Dr Karni Singh shooting range sangam Vihar-C ; Hamdard laboratory, Okhla PH-1; Walmi Center near Agra canal, UP Irrigation Department; NCC construction, IIT Delhi; L and T paramilitary hospital, Maidan Garhi; GGSS school DDA Phase-2 where mosquito breeding, mosquitogenic condi-

tion were identified and same has

been destructed after taking legal

### Gujarat cop held for taking ₹2 lakh bribe in Gurugram

**Gurugram:** A station house officer (SHO) of Rajpipla Police Station of District Narmada in Gujarat was caught by a team of the State Vigilance Bureau, Rohtak range from a guest house located in Gurugram's Sector-49 area while allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 2 lakh to manipulate a case in favour of an accused.

DSP Sumit Kumar of state Vigilance Bureau Rohtak range said that they received a complaint from Sandeep Puri a resident of Gurugram's DLF Phase-1.

He informed the vigilance team that his nephew Amrinder Puri - a resident of Amar Nagar of Faridabad - was booked by the Gujarat police in December 2021 under various sections of the IPC at the Rajpipla Police Station of District Narmada in Gujarat.

Amrinder was allegedly involved in making fake degrees and DMC of a univer-



sity of Gujarat, the police said. "In this case, the arrested cop Jagdish Chaudhary (31) had demanded Rs 3 lakh from the complainant in exchange for not implicating his nephew Amrinder Puri in another case and also not give any supplementary charge sheet against

Amrinder," Kumar said. Complainant Sandeep Puri had already handed over Rs 1 lakh as a bribe to Chaudhary on 12.04.22 at Rajpipla (Gujarat) and on Sunday he came to Gurugram by air to receive the remaining Rs 2 lakh amount but a trap was set and the Chaudhary was caught red-handed accepting the bribe amount," Kumar added.

The accused Inspector has been booked under the prevention of corruption act at the state vigilance police station in Sector-47 of Gurugram. PNS

### 35-year-old man hangs himself

Police said that no suicide note has been found from the spot and the reason behind him taking such an extreme step is not known

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

35-year-old man allegedly Ahanged himself to death in north Delhi's Dhobi Ghat Malkaganj on Monday. Police said that no suicide not has been found from the spot and the reason behind taking such an extreme step is not known.

The deceased has been identified as Tarun. According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, a man named Dheeraj, who was making arrangements for a programme in the adjacent park, knocked on Tarun's door

for power connection.
"When the door which was bolted from inside was not opened, he peeped and saw Tarun hanging and informed the police. The police reached the spot and found that Tarun had committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan with the help of a dupatsaid the DCP.

"No apparent injury marks or suicide note has been found. He was an alcoholic and his wife and the two children had left him some days ago," said

A crime team was called and the body removed for post-mortem, police said.

#### PWD to construct 400 flyovers, ROBs to ease road traffic

To ease traffic congestion in Uttar Pradesh, the Public Works Department (PWD) will construct 400 bridges, majority of them over railway

At least three bridges will be constructed in each district to help in reducing jams and make traffic flow much easier.

This direction has been given to the senior officials of PWD Minister Jitin Prasada. After the directions, the PWD has started district-wise surveys to identify the crossings or other congested places where railway over bridges or flyovers are necessary. These bridges will include those railway crossings where about one lakh vehicles move daily. It will

bring great relief to the people in the cities.

The bridges will be constructed at crossings in all 75 districts of the state, including Dilkusha railway crossing on Vikramaditya Marg in Lucknow, Bhitholi railway crossing on Sitapur road, railway crossing near Safedabad and other places.

Wherever bridges will be constructed at railway crossings, cooperation from Railways would be taken. After the no objection certificate (NOC is issued by the railway, the construction of the part just above the track will be done by the engineering department of the railway so there will be no technical or any other kind of problem in the movement of

#### Gorakhnath temple attacker Murtaza sent to 7-day police custody

The perpetrator of Gorakhnath temple attack and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) graduate Murtaza Ahmed Abbasi will be further grilled by sleuths as a Lucknow court has sanctioned another seven-day police custody remand for him on

His earlier police custody remand was completed on April 16, after which he was produced in the court, from where he was sent to judicial custody for 14 days. On Monday, the investigators produced Murtaza in a Special NIA/ATS court in Lucknow to seek his custody remand, which was granted.

The ATS will now quiz him

under charges of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the trial will also be held in the Special NIA/ATS court in Lucknow.

Significantly, the case of attack on Gorakhnath temple in which two PAC personnel were injured by Murtaza Ahmed Ábbasi has been transferred to the special court in Lucknow. He will be lodged in Lucknow district jail after his custody remand ends.

Abbasi was brought from Gorakhpur to Lucknow by an ATS team on Monday morning. Recently, Abbasi underwent a surgery on his hand and he has been insisting on meeting his family members but so far none of his kin have come to meet him in Lucknow

#### Covid: CM for extra vigilance as 210 new cases reported in UP

With 210 new COVID-19 cases being reported in Uttar Pradesh in the figures released on Monday evening, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the officials concerned to be vigilant in those districts where cases have shown an uptick in the last 24 hours and stressed on increasing the vaccination drive.

The chief minister was reviewing the situation of novel corona infection in the state in a meeting of Team-9 called at his official residence in Lucknow on Monday.

Yogi was informed that 120 new cases of novel coronavirus infection were confirmed in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, 49 in Ghaziabad

and 12 in Lucknow.

To this, the chief minister said, "Extra vigilance should be taken in these districts. Also, the requirement of face masks should be made effective. Make people aware of the need to comply with the Covid protocol by making extensive use of the public address system."

Health experts opine that this time the novel coronavirus is weak and its infection is not acute. This variant of the novel coronavirus is similar to the normal virus. For people who have received the Covid vaccine, the likelihood of danger is low. Yogi was informed that

132 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after successful treatment and at present, there were 1,277 active cases of

#### Probe, fix lapses...

From Page 1

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the Delhi Police, stated that the investigation in the matter was ongoing and a been undertaken. He said a failure did not mean that the bandobast was fundamentally flawed. Senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Rahul Mehta, appearing for the petitioner, urged the court to constitute an SIT for an impartial probe into the incident.

### UP ACS issues guidelines for loudspeakers at religious places

Tn the wake of ongoing loud-**▲**speaker controversy across the country, the Uttar Pradesh government has given clear instructions to be strictly followed to avert any untoward incident. (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi issued the guidelines saying that illegal loudspeakers installed at religious places should be removed and a report in this regard be made available to divisional commissioners and commissioners of police by April 30.

In the Home department

their agenda in front of the people and let the people decide "which party is big or small".

"There is no party in the coun-

try today which can call itself a

national party because if you

look at the BJP, it has its pres-

ence in only one state in South

India. If you consider Congress

a national party, its condition is

known in Uttar Pradesh and

other states. Probably we are a

regional party at a small level.

There is no party in India that

is a national party, according to

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me," he said

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directive, top police officers have been instructed to comply with standards set for various areas and apprise the UP Pollution Control Board of its action. The police brass has been ordered to remove illegal loudspeakers on the basis of nation with religious leaders.

Besides, the level of volume of the valid loudspeakers will be ensured as per prescribed standard. Awasthi said the order had been complied with in many districts but there were several other districts where it needed to be strictly followed.

Referring to the earlier orders of March 10, 2018 and January 4, 2018, the senior official said that the rules should be ensured. The additional chief secretary directed that a police station-wise list of such religious places should be preorders were not being followed. He said it should be reviewed weekly at district level and the first report should be made available to the divisional commissioner and police commissioners (if police com-

missionerate system is in place)

The body of a girl student pursuing bachelor's degree in science was found lying in a roadside drain a few hours after she left her home to attend coaching classes in Firozabad on Monday morning.

Bruises and other injuries on the body suggested that she was dumped in the drain.

However, the police claimed that the victim might have been hit by an unknown speeding vehicle after which she fell into the drain and

As per reports, Sapna (20) of Nehru Nagar area in Thana

#### Body of girl student found in drain North area left home to attend coaching classes on Monday morning. She was a BSc second year student and her examinations were to commence from

The victim's father, Rajbahadur, told the police that a few hours after she left, her body was found in a drain about a kilometer from their

Some passersby noticed the body and intimated the local police. A police team rushed there and brought out the body from the drain. After ascertaining the identity of the victim through her identity card, the police informed her family. She was the only child

of the family. The body was later sent for autopsy.

Meanwhile, in Auraiya, fed

up with poverty, two minor sisters ended their lives by jumping in front of a goods train on Delhi-Howrah rail route in Dibiyapur area on Monday. As per reports, Ashok Nath

of Jogi Dera of Dhikiyapur village panchayat had died of illthe responsibility of running the house fell on his daughters Sapna (17) and Poonam (16). Meanwhile, their mother Neelam Devi also fell ill. The siblings struggled to make ends meet and pay for the treatment of their ailing mother. They had sowed wheat in a bigha of land

too was damaged. Worried about the repayment of loan, running the house and ensuring treatment of their ailing mother, Sapna and Poonam left their house on Monday morning. They reached Kanchausi railway station and jumped before a coming goods train, holding each other's hands as siblings were crushed to

by taking a loan, but the crop

In another tragic incident in Naipura village under Zafarabad police station of Jaunpur, a father threw his two children into a well leading to their death on Sunday evening.

### **Cong redundant...**

From Page 1

It is a redundant institution. The people of India gave them a chance to rule for more than 50 years in the last 75 years. The country has been let down by Congress and the BJP. Congress particularly is a party that has been tried, tested and dusted. I don't see any future in Congress."

The TRS leader denied the Congress and BJP were a "national party" and said that every party should put forward

No.1582 /Date: 22.04.2022

Name of the work

Estimate cost of project

Time for completion

Other details

Chief Construction

OIPR-25082/11/0004/2223

O-123

Tejashwi scoffs.... From Page 1

Amid speculation over

political re-alignment in Bihar after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar attended an RJD-hosted Iftar. Tejashwi also cautioned against imagining any "political twist" to it and asserted that his party would keep fighting forces that remain aligned with the BJP and the RSS. In an interview with PTI, Tejashwi said the RJD has never aligned with the RSS, the BJP and their allies directly or indirectly, and its opinions are not formed on the 'ideology of convenience".

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### **Congress to form....**

From Page 1

While Mallikarjun Kharge will lead the panel on political issues, Bhupinder Singh Hooda will head the committee on agriculture and farmers. Mukul Wasnik will spearhead the coordination panel for organisational matters. Sonia has included many of the G 23 leaders, who have been insisting on an overhaul of the organisation, in these panels.

A section of Congress has reservations over Kishor's entry into the party, particularly after the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), an organisation he founded, signed an agreement with Telangana's ruling TRS for the next Assembly elections. Party MP Manikam Tagore has already reacted sharply to the poll strategist meeting with Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and other TRS leaders on Saturday and Sunday before the deal was announced. "Never trust someone who is friends with your enemy," Tagore tweeted on Sunday. Kishor on his part has been insisting he is no longer associated with the I-PAC.

The decisions by the Congress aimed at reviving the party were taken at a meeting of senior leaders who also discussed the plan presented by Kishor. "The Congress presi-

dent received a report from the eight-member group on April 21. Today, she discussed the report with the group, and based on the discussions, the Congress president has decid-

ed to constitute an 'Empowered Action Group-2024' in order to address the political challenges ahead," Surjewala said. The meeting was held at the 10 Janpath residence of Sonia Gandhi, where senior leaders including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Ambika Soni, KC Venugopal, Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik, Digvijaya Singh, Jairam

Ramesh and P Chidambaram

were present. During the meeting

that lasted for over three hours,

the Congress chief discussed the recommendations of Kishor with the members of the group. These eight leaders comprised the group which explored ways to revive and rejuvenate the party ahead of the Assembly elections in some States and the next Lok Sabha polls, and submitted their report with recommendations to the Congress

The Congress president has decided to convene the 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' of the Indian National Congress in Udaipur on May 13, 14 and 15, 2022, where about 400 Congressmen and women from every state will participate," Surjewala said.

president on April 21.

#### Assam Police holds.....

From Page 1

The alleged incident occurred when she was escorting the Dalit leader from Guwahati airport to Kokrajhar along with Additional Superintendent of Police Surject Singh Panesar and another police official in a government vehicle on April 21, according to the FIR registered on the same day in

Barpeta Road police station. Mevani's lawyer Angshuman Bora told PTI that the allegations against Mevani were "atrocious" and there was no mention of the Barpeta case when he was in police custody for three days or at the time his bail plea was being argued in the Kokrajhar court earlier in the day.

Suddenly, after he was granted bail, he was shown as rearrested, Kokrajhar First Class

Judicial Magistrate Bhavna Kakoty granted him bail on furnishing a bond of Rs 30,000 with two sureties in connection with the case related to his tweet against the prime minis-

The court also directed him not to directly or indirectly make any inducement, public threat or promise to any person acquainted with the case. He was also asked not to leave the station without prior permission from the court.

While being taken away in a van from Kokrajhar to Barpeta district, Mevani alleged that this is a "conspiracy on the part of the BJP and the RSS to tarnish my image and systematically destroy me".

Both Assam and Gujarat, from where he hailed, are BJPruled states.

"They (BJP and RSS) did it Rohit Vemula, with Chandrasekhar Azad and now they are targeting me. They have serious problems with Dalits. We believe in the Indian Constitution. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was targeted by Savarkar and Modi is targeting Jignesh Mevani," he told reporters.

In her FIR, the woman police official alleged that the Gujarat MLA used abusive words inside the vehicle at around 1:30 pm at Simlaguri in Barpeta district.

She claimed that when she asked him to behave, he became very "agitated and used more slang words, tried to frighten me and pushed me on my seat with force. He thus assaulted me during the execution of my duty as a public servant and outraged my modesty by touching me inappropriately while pushing".

# Voice for

From Page 1

"We will not rush into the decision. It's a good step and we are examining it. Its implementation is not ruled out before the November state elections. The matter is under active consideration," he said. The BJP-ruled Goa already

has UCC that it inherited from the time of Portuguese rule. The Goa family law, originally the Portuguese Civil Code, continued to be implemented after its annexation to India in

The BJP has promised to implement the UCC and the issue formed part of its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto.

The Constitution of India under Article 44 of the Directive Principles lays down that the state shall endevour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the country.

The architect of the Indian Constitution B R Ambedkar had maintained that "we cannot call ourselves a modern nation unless the UCC is implemented in the country". The Opposition parties are

wanting wider consultations on the subject and have asked the BJP not to "bulldoze" the issue.

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# 2 die in building collapse; 4 rescued

am receiving information relat-

ed to the incident," Kejriwal

According to Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Services,

the fire department received a

call about a house collapse in

Satya Niketan building number

173, following which six fire

tenders were rushed to the

spot. "Since this building is in

Government to provide world-

class health facilities to the

people of that State," Kejriwal

Last month, Singla had announced that their

Government would set up

16.000 mohalla clinics across

Punjab. Besides, every resident of the State would get a

Kejriwal said 95 per cent of the patients visiting Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics in

Delhi are satisfied with the ser-

vices provided there. "Anybody,

be it from any State, can come

and get free treatment at these

mohalla clinics in Delhi's most

posh area, Greater Kailash,

and a lot of well-off patients

also come to these centres.

"We have opened two

health facilities," he said.

'health card', he had said.

said in a tweet in Hindi.

Police said the Satya Niketan house was undergoing renovation when it collapsed

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Two people died while four sustained injuries after a three-storey building collapsed in South Delhi's Satva Niketan area on Monday. Police said that the house was undergoing renovation when it collapsed.

The deceased have been identified as Bilal (40) and Naseem (35) while the injured have been identified as Mohammad Firdaus, Aslam (17), Sarfaraz (25) and Musahid

One labourer, who was outside the building at the time of the incident, had a narrow escape and only sustained minor injuries for which he was

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{Government's concept of}}^{\text{raising the Delhi}}$ 

mohalla clinics and the school

education system, Punjab Chief

Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said his State will

learn from this model, which

has brought the national

Capital into the limelight globally. Mann and Delhi Chief

Minister and Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) convener Arvind

Kejriwal visited Dr. Ambedkar

Institute of Excellence at

Kalkaji. The two also visited

mohalla clinics in Greater

visit to the national Capital to

learn about the best practices

of the AAP's model of gover-

nance, visited a mohalla clinic,

Mann, who is on a two-day

Kailash and Chirag Enclave.



admitted to hospital. A JCB crane was then deployed to clear the debris. Following the incident, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the collapse of a building in the city's Satya Niketan area is "very sad" and that he is monitoring the situation.

"This accident (building collapse) is very sad. The district administration is engaged

a Government hospital, and schools with Kejriwal. At the

mohalla clinic, Mann interact-

ed with the patients, who told

him that it takes them just 10

minutes to meet the doctor and

Delhi have been praised by the entire world. We, too, will learn from this model for the

betterment of Punjab," Mann said. Punjab Health Minister

Vijay Singla and senior officials

are accompanying Mann on the

Delhi's hospitals and the world-

famous mohalla clinics. He

was very impressed, and

expressed his wish to build sim-

ilar hospitals and clinics in

Punjab too. We will extend all

possible help to the Punjab

Bhagwant Mann visited

The mohalla clinics in

get medicines.

Delhi visit.

Mann praises AAP Government's mohalla clinic concept, school education system

Punjab to emulate Delhi model: Mann

cue vehicles inside. It was a dif-All the five labourers who were trapped under the debris

challenge was to take the res-

have been rescued and rushed to a hospital for treatment. The rescue operation has ended," said Garg.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) pressed its sniffer dogs into service to search for the sur-

"A Police Control Room (PCR) call was received regarding the collapse of an under-construction building at Satya Niketan, following which police teams rushed to the spot," said Manoj C, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South west district.

"On reaching the spot, police team found that six people were stuck inside as per the information given by one of their coworkers. One labourer was outside the building but

They say they do not get such care anywhere else," Kejriwal

Twitter and wrote, "I visited a Mohalla Clinic in Delhi today

with Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal. These clinics are

being praised all over the world

today.

Following in Delhi's foot-

steps, we are committed to providing world-class healthcare in Punjab as well. We will defi-

nitely learn from the immense

progress works which have

taken place in Delhi, and

implement the same in Punjab."

During a visit to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Kejriwal told Mann

that Government hospitals in

Delhi are as modern as private

interacted with the patients at

the hospital. At a Government

school in Chirag Enclave,

Deputy Chief Minister Manish

Sisodia told Mann that after coming to power in Delhi, the

AAP had called a meeting of

school principals and sought

their suggestions to strengthen

the education system in the

for training abroad and the

teachers were trained at Indian

MK Stalin had also visited

Government schools in Delhi

earlier this month. He had

said that his Government

would create a model school in

southern State on lines of Delhi

and invited Kejriwal to visit it.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

Institutes of Management.

Kejriwal told the Punjab officials that the principals of Government schools were sent

Kejriwal and Mann also

Mann also took it to

told Mann.

and was admitted to hospital," said the DCP adding that the other four are undergoing treatment at the hospital while two had died.

A senior fire official said according to preliminary inquiry, it seems that the building was not in a good condition to undergo renovation. "This was an old building and it was not in a good condition to undergo renovation.

We have got to know through local inquiry that the said building was being renovated to convert it into a PG accommodation. So, they must have broken some structure for this purpose which led to the collapse," he said.

Since renovation was underway, no one was living in the building. It has also been found that there was no proper building plan. It was not a planned construction and was also not approved by the authorities concerned," he said.

#### Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal's killer wanted in 6 murder cases held

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 30-year-old man, wanted in six murder cases including of an international kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal in Punjab last month. Police said that he was also on the run after killing Haryana State Congress leader and spokesperson Vikas Chaudhary outside a gym in Haryana's Faridabad in June,

The accused has been identified as Vikas alias Malhey, a resident of Dhanwapur village, Gurugram. Police said that he was also on run for three years and is involved in six murder cases registered in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. According to police, Vikas was part of Lucky Patial - Bambiha Kaushal's criminal alliance and he was held on Sunday.

He along with his associates had killed Chaudhary on the instructions of gangster Kaushal, and a reward of Rs 50,000 was declared for his arrest in the case.

On March 14, he along with his associates murdered a British citizen and NRI, Sandeep Nangal, in full public view during an ongoing Kabbadi game in Nakodar, Punjab, the officer said.

According to Manishi Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, the larger operation code named 3P, which was concluded on March 29 this year, had successfully wiped out 12 criminals who were on the run in one go.

"However, accused Vikas, who was staying totally separate from the remaining gang-members for his own security, managed to escape. Based on specific inputs received on April 23 that Vikas could be found moving towards Delhi using the DND flyover, a trap was laid and in a swift operation, the accused was apprehended," said the DCP.

A sophisticated firearm along with live ammunition was recovered from his possession and a case under Arms Act has been registered against him, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

### **Positivity rate** rises to 6.42%

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI **STAFF REPORTER** NEW

Coronavirus patients in

home quarantine increase

from 447 to 2,812 in city

over the span of 13 days

hospitals also increased from

17 to 80. However, the Delhi

Government has assured peo-

ple that despite the rise in

cases, the hospitalisation rate

nessing a surge in Covid-19

cases over the past few days

with the number of active cases

increasing to 3,975 from 601 on

April 11. The hospitalisation

rate, however, has so far been

low, accounting for less than three per cent of the total

active cases, according to the

Kejriwal has been reiterating

that even though the cases

have risen, the hospitalisation

rate has remained low till now.

home isolation stood at 504 on

April 13 and saw a significant

increase to 574 the next day

and to 685 on April 15. It

breached the 700 mark on

April 16 and rose to 964 on

The number of patients in

Chief Minister Arvind

The national Capital is wit-

has remained low.

The total number of Coronavirus patients in As Coronavirus cases surged in the national Capital, the positivity rate in home isolation increased six times in Delhi over the span of 13 days. According to official Delhi rose to 6.42 per cent on Monday. Delhi reported 1,011 data, while the number of patients in home isolation in new cases and one death in the the city on April 11 was 447 by last 24 hours, according to April 24 it touched 2,812. data shared by the Health During this period, the Department of the Delhi number of patients admitted to Government.

Delhi's home isolation

cases see six-fold rise

According to the health bulletin, the total number of home-isolation cases stands at 3,067. The number of containment zones is 670 as on April 25. "There are 9,379 beds for Covid patients in Delhi hospitals and 121 (1.29 per cent) of them are occupied," it said. Delhi's case

As many as 1,574 patients were recuperating in home isolation on April 20 while the numbers inched close to the

While cases have seen a rapid increase, the number of containment zones has more or less remained constant and has not seen any significant increase, official data shows. The number of such zones has declined from 741 on April 11 to 656 on April 24. The num-

has risen to 26,168. The total tests conducted in the last 24 hours stands at 15,742, stated the data. The Delhi Government had on Friday made masks

count has now increased to

18,75,887 and the death toll

mandatory at public places with immediate effect, and imposed a fine of Rs 500 for any violation as Covid cases rise in the city again. However, those travelling

together in a private fourwheeler are out of the purview of the new rule, according to an order issued by the city's Health and Family Welfare Department. Coronavirus cases and positivity rate have been on the rise for past few days in national Capital.

April 17. The numbers crossed the 1,000 mark on April 18 to settle at 1,188 and to 1,274 the

2,000 mark the next day.

ber of daily Covid cases in Delhi had touched a record high of 28,867 on January 13, during the third wave of the pandemic. The city had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14, the highest during the third wave, which was largely driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant of the Coronavirus.

Experts have attributed the rise in cases to human behaviour and said that there is little reason to worry, as most of the population has immunity either because of vaccinations or previous infections.

#### Day after 'Tiranga Yatra' cops reviewing security measures in Jahangirpuri guns and water cannons have

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Aday after Hindus and Muslims took out a 'Tiranga Yatra' in communal violence-hit Jahangirpuri area, Delhi Police on Monday said they were reviewing the security measures and a decision on further deployment of forces would be taken according to the prevailing situation.

The 'Tiranga Yatra' was facilitated by the Delhi Police, who deployed heavy security in the area. It allowed around 50 people from the two communities to participate in the rally,

According to a senior officer over 500 police personnel and six companies of additional forces have been deployed in the area. A total of 80 tear gas

been deployed. Drones are also being used in sensitive areas for rooftop surveillance.
All senior officers have

been instructed to be at spot to avoid any untoward incident. A day after 'Tiranga Yatra', Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West) Usha Rangnani said, "Security arrangements are being reviewed based on the prevailing situation and accordingly, we would take a decision and the required arrangements would be made. As of now, appropriate, adequate and sufficient security personnel have "A large number of securi-

ty personnel, including those from the anti-riot force, have been deployed in the violencehit areas of Jahangirpuri in northwest Delhi," police said.

#### complaints resolved: Rai STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

94% pollution

ommenting on performance of Green Delhi app, which was launched to combat pollution, the Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said that with help of this App, around 94 per cent of residents pollution related complaints have been resolved till the date.

He also said that the maximum number of complaints have been lodged about Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Public Works Department (PWD).

42,147 complaints are received on app, with over 39,438 of them being resolved. "The most important link in 'Summer Action Plan' is Delhi Green App and Green War Room.

# DERC to hold meeting on tarif revision

To hold virtual public hearings in May to get stakeholders' feedback

Chaddha visit a Government school in the national Capital

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he power regulator Delhi}}_{\text{Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC)}}$ Monday said that it will conduct a virtual public hearing on May 12 and 13 to receive stakeholders' feedback on petitions filed by power companies, including discoms for tariff revision 2022-23. In a public and Pragati Power Corporation notice issued last week, the Limited (PPCL), transmission Commission said considering the current COVID-19 situation, it has been decided that public hearing will be conducted virtually.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia along with Raghav

"The virtual public hearing will be held on May 12 and 13 on Google Meet platform in two shifts -- 11 AM - 1 pm and 2 PM - 5 PM," said the notice. Interested stakeholders, including power consumers, may register for the public hearing on the e-mail id - dercpublichearing@gmail.Com, it said.

On March 31, DERC invitsuggestions from stakeholders on tariff petitions filed by generation companies Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited (IPGCL)

licensee (DTL) and distribution licensees (NDMC, BRPL, BYPL & TPDDL) of Delhi for true-up of expenses of 2020-21 and aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) and tariff for 2022-23.

Also, considering the request from various stake-holders, the last date of submission of comments on the tariff petitions has been extended from April 25 to May 13.

The comments may be submitted personally or by post or through e-mail to the Commission. The comments can also be e-mailed to the DERC secretary at secy-

Delhi discoms in their peti-

tions filed with DERC have sought suitable cost reflective rates and time-bound recovery of regulatory assets.

The petitions uploaded on the DERC website showed that the revenue requirement was ₹9,187 crore for BRPL, ₹4,409 crore for BYPL and ₹7,001 for TPDDL in 2020-21. The standalone revenue gap for the three distribution companies (discoms) has been computed to be around ₹2,968 crore.

The rate of electricity in Delhi has not increased in the last six to seven years, with the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party government providing full subsidy on consumption of 200 units and up to ₹800 on consumption of 201-400 units.

# Govt to hire music teachers for its schools

SAURAV GUPTA NEW DELHI

With an aim to prepare future musicians in Delhi Government schools in the national Capital, the Delhi Government has advertised for the engagement of band and orchestra teachers on a contractual basis under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

(SSA). "A total of 29 band and 15 orchestra teachers are proposed to be engaged in Government schools of the Directorate of Education, Delhi under the scheme of SSA," the Directorate of Education said in an advertisement.

launched a bus equipped with a studio to teach music to students. The Delhi Government has launched its education song "Irada Kar Liya Hai Humne" as a tribute to the vision of the State's education revolution.

While informing about the bands engagement the advertisement stated, "There are three in East zone, three in North East zone, two in North zone, two in North West zone, three in North West B zone, three in West A zone, two in West B zone, two in South West A zone, two in South West B zone, two in South zone, three

Last year, Deputy Chief in Central New Delhi zone, two Minister Manish Sisodia had in South East zone." Meanwhile, the advertise-

ment also given map of the locations where orchestra teachers are required, "one in East district, two in North East district, one in North zone, one in North West zone, two in North West B zone, one in West A zone, one in West B zone, one in South West A zone, two in South West B zone, one in South zone, one in Central New Delhi zone, one in

South East zone. The eligibility criteria is, "Candidates with secondary or senior secondary (10+2) from a recognised Board," it said. "The candidate must have

prior teaching and services Experience to apply for the engagement," the advertisement stated. "The candidate must have the ability and full knowledge to play multiple instruments, " the advertisement said. The terms and conditions

are, "these teachers are proposed to be engaged purely on contract basis till 31.03.2023." "The consolidated salary of

₹38,100 per month will be paid to these teachers and no extra allowance will be admissible," the advertisement said "Age is no bar. Medical fitness from Government hospital will be required at time of joining,"

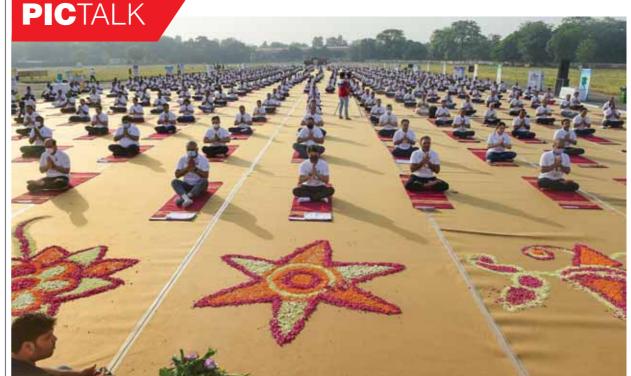
#### SDMC to launch month-long anti-encroachment drive

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

couple of days after the A Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Chief Adesh Gupta wrote to the mayors of South and East corporations seeking the removal encroachments "by Rohingyas, Bangladeshis and anti-social elements" in their areas, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) will launch a month-long antiencroachment drive at a number

of places under its jurisdiction, said a senior official, adding that the dates are yet to be decided. While informing about drive, the SDMC Mayor Mukesh Suryan, the areas where drive is likely to be conducted include Okhla, Tilak Nagar and Shaheen Bagh, among others. Suryan said that regular meetings are being held to "zero in" on the areas where there is heavy encroachment leading to traffic snarls and other issues. "A meeting was held

today (Monday) as well and a month-long plan have been prepared to remove encroachments from roads, footpaths and government land. Encroachments can be seen in many areas such as Okhla, Madanpur Khadar, Tilak Nagar and Shaheen Bagh, among others. Sites are still being identified and a final list will soon be prepared," said mayor adding that dates for anti-encroachment drive are yet to be decided by civic body.



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M Scindia and Union MoS for Civil Aviation Gen. VK Singh (retd) lead the mega Yoga event 'Yog Prabha', at Safdarjung Airport runway, in New Delhi on Monday About 500 people of the Ministry took part in the Yoga event

# Modi to meet Macron | Govt blocks 16 YouTube channels, during visit to Paris

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $P_{\text{Modi is likely to meet newly}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ elected French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit to Paris in the first week of May. Macron was elected as the President for the second term over the weekend.

During his first visit overseas this year, Modi will also travel to Germany for a bilateral summit with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Denmark. The visit is likely to commence from May 2 till 7, sources said here on Monday.

The visit to the European countries comes at a time when the Ukraine war is unabated and several countries imposing sanctions against Russia.

India has, so far, abstained from voting against Russia at the United Nations Security Council(UNSC)and the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA). Modi is also likely to travel to Germany



again in May end to attend the G-7 summit as India is a special invitee, sources said.

Modi had on Monday congratulated Macron on his reelection, and said he looked forward to continue working together with him to deepen the India-France strategic partnership. Macron comfortably

won a second term on Sunday. The second five-year term for the 44-year-old centrist spared France and Europe the seismic upheaval of having firebrand populist Marine Le Pen at the helm.

"Congratulations to my friend Emmanuel Macron on being re-elected as the President of France! I look forward to continue working together to deepen the India-France Strategic Partnership, Modi tweeted

India and France have robust political, strategic and defence ties and France supplying hi tech weapons to India for the last several decades including the Rafale fighter

# 1 FB account for anti-India contents

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $F_{ ext{the Home Ministry, the}}^{ ext{ollowing the directions of}}$ Government on Monday blocked 16 YouTube channels, including six operating from Pakistan, and a Facebook account, for spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order. According to the Ministry

of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), the blocked YouTube channels and the Facebook account had a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore and were spreading "false, unverified information to create panic, incite communal disharmony and disturb public order in India"."None of the digital news publishers had furnished information to the ministry as required under Rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021," it said. The blocked Youtube channels are AjTak Pakistan, Discover Point, Reality Checks, Kaiser Khan, The Voice of Asia, Bol

Media Bol, Saini Education Research, Hindi Mein Dekho, Technical Yogendra, Defence News24x7, Aaj te news, SBB News, The study time, Latest Update, MRF TV LIVE and Tahaffuz-E-Deen India.

'YouTube channels based in Pakistan were found to have been used in a coordinated manner to post fake news about India on various subjects such as the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir, and Índia's foreign relations in the light of the situation in Ukraine, etc. The content of these channels was observed to be completely false, and sensitive from the perspective of national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, and India's friendly relations

with foreign States," it added. The ministry said in its order that the content published by some of the India

based YouTube channels referred to a community as terrorists, and incited hatred among the members of various religious communities. Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony, and disturb public order.

Earlier this month, the Ministry blocked 22 YouTube news channels — 18 Indian and four Pakistani - for spreading disinformation about the country's national security and foreign policies. The YouTube channels had a viewership of over 260 crore, the ministry said.

### SC agrees to consider pleas challenging Art 370 abrogation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider listing the pleas challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir after summer vacation.

A bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justice Hima Kohli took note of the submissions of senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the plea needed an urgent hearing in view of the delimitation exercise being carried out in the State.

"This is the Article 370 matter. The delimitation is also going on," the senior lawyer, appearing for interveners Radha Kumar (one of the Kashmir Interlocutor appointed during UPA regime) and Kapil Kak (retired officer of the Indian Air Force), said.
"Let me see," the CJI said,

adding, "This is a five-judge matter. I will have to reconstitute the bench." The apex court agreed to re-constitute a fivejudge bench to hear pleas after summer vacation

Several petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which splits J-K into two Union Territories -Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh — were referred to a Constitution Bench headed by Justice N V Ramana in 2019 by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi.

Besides Justice Ramana, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, R Subhash Reddy (since retired), B R Gavai, and Surya Kant were part of the bench which, on March 2, 2020, had declined to refer to a larger seven-judge bench the batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

### We see Russia's aggression as direct threat to Europe security: Ursula

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $E^{uropean\ Commission}_{President\ Ursula\ von\ der}$ Leyen on Monday made a scathing attack against Russian military action in Ukraine and said Europe will make sure "unprovoked and unjustified aggression" in Ukraine is a "strategic failure."

Making this direct accusation, she also said in Europe "we see Russia's aggression as a direct threat to our security. Enunciating her position at the Raisina Dialogue, the visiting dignitary also said "doing all we can to help Ukraine fight for its freedom. We imposed effective sanctions."

Delivering the inaugural address in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she touched upon ties between Russia and China.

"If we consider what it means for Europe and Asia, Russia and China have forged seemingly unrestrained pact. They have declared that friendship between them has



opined.

no limits, no forbidden areas of cooperation."

European President said this pact came about in February this year. 'Then, invasion of Ukraine followed. What can we expect from

the new international relations that both have called for? It's a defining moment," she

She also said the decisions by many countries in the coming days will shape decades to come. "Our response to Russia's aggression today will decide the future of both the international system

and global economy" she

Elaborating further, the ropean Commission Leyen also claimed peace and security across the world was at stake adding the images coming from Ukraine have shocked. Narrating her experience after visiting Bucha in Ukraine where civilians reportedly were killed, she said, "I saw bodies lined up on ground, saw mass graves.

"I listened to survivors of atrocious crimes Kremlin soldiers committed. These are severe violations of international law targeting and killing innocent civilians, redrawing borders by force, subjugating will of free people," she said.

On ties with India, the European Commission President said both the countries share the same interests in safe trading routes in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region.

Lauding the democratic system here, she said every five years when Indians cast their vote in Parliamentary elections, the world watches with admiration as the world's largest democracy charts its future path because the outcome of decisions made by 1.3 billion people resonates around the globe.

As vibrant democracies, India and the EU share fundamental values and common interests, she said and stressed upon each country's right to determine its own destiny. We believe in the rule of law and fundamental rights.
We believe that it is

democracy that best delivers for citizens," Leven said.

Earlier in the day, she held bilateral talks with Modi and met President Ram Nath

### **India, European Commission to** launch EU trade, tech council

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

▼ndia and the European Commission on Monday agreed to launch a European Union (EU) trade and technology council to address challenges of ensuring trusted technology and security in the wake of rapid geopolitical changes.

The agreement was reached in a meeting here between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ürsula von der Leyen. She is here on a two-day visit.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on von der Leyen before her talks with "Pleased to call on President of @EU\_Commission vonderleven. Discussed taking forward the #IndiaEU partnership. Also exchanged views on the economic and political implications of the Ukraine conflict," Jaishankar tweeted.

The European Union said the strategic coordination mechanism will allow both partners to tackle challenges "at the nexus



of trade, trusted technology and security, and thus deepen cooperation in these fields

It said both sides agreed that rapid changes in the geopolitical environment highlight the need for joint in-depth strategic engagement.

The Trade and Technology Council will provide the political steer and the necessary structure to operationalise political decisions, coordinate technical work, and report to the political level to ensure implementation and follow-up in areas that are important for the sustainable progress of European and Indian economies," the EU said in a statement.

The EU said shared values and common interests of the EU and India offer a strong basis to intensify mutually beneficial and deeper strategic coopera-

"The European Union and India are bound by decades of close partnership and are determined to increase joint efforts to tackle current challenges and address geopolitical circumstances," it said.

The decision to set up a Trade and Technology Council will be the first for India with any

of its partners and second for the European Union following the first one it has set up with the US, the EU said.

It said establishing the EU-India council is a key step toward a strengthened strategic partnership for the benefit of all peoples in the EU and India.

The European Commission President began a two-day visit to India on Sunday in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine con-

At an event on Sunday, von der Leyen said Russia's war in Ukraine was a stark reminder that the dependency on Russian fossil fuels is not sustainable, and pitched for deeper cooperation between India and the EU to expand the use of clean energy.

In her address at the International Solar Alliance (ISA), she also talked about the need for sustainable ways of doing business using clean energy and also emphasised the need for switching to "homegrown clean energies" in the wake of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

### AI to no longer enjoy priority in allocation of global traffic rights

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ir India, now owned by the ATata Group, will no longer enjoy a priority in the allocation of international traffic rights after privatisation of the national carrier. This comes after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) dropped the clause which gave the former State-owned airline an advantage over other private airlines in its revised guideline issues on April

Air India had preferential access to bilateral rights, which are granted under air services agreements signed between two countries -- as it was a government-owned national carrier.

DGCA's revised guidelines are about an airline's eligibility criteria to apply for traffic rights, procedure for allocation, utilisation and penalties for nonuse. As per the previous rules, "due consideration shall be given to operational plans submitted by Air India before allocation of the traffic rights to other eligible

Clause 3.6 of the previous DGCA circular stated, "Due



consideration shall be given to the operational plans submitted by Air India Limited before allocation of the traffic rights to the other eligible applicants."

"The central government may at its discretion grant or deny allocation of traffic rights to any air transport undertaking having regard to its preparedness to undertake such operations, viability of the operations on a particular route, overall interests of the civil aviation sector etc.," the fresh circular read. For the airlines of a particular country to operate international flights to another country, the two sides have to negotiate and sign a

"bilateral air services agreement", which decides how many flights (or seats) per week can be allowed to fly from one country to the other. Once such an agreement is signed, each country is free to allocate the bilateral rights to its respective airlines. In India, the government holds the entitlements and grants them to an airline upon request. As many as121 countries have signed air service agreements with India. Despite being part of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the civil aviation ministry has inked separate agreements with Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah,

# TN asks Centre for revenue share if it privatises airport in State

PNS NEW DELHI

fter Chhattisgarh and After Chiattisgain and Jharkhand, the Tamil Nadu Government has said whenever the Central Government privatises an airport in a State, the State Government should get a share in the revenue. While the Ministry of Civil Aviation is yet to officially comment on this matter, its officials said the decision regarding the matter will be taken at the higher levels of the government. Both Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have supported the Tamil Nadu government's stance on this matter.

In a policy note issued earlier this month, Tamil Nadu said that if the state government acquires and transfers land to the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost, and if the AAI or the Centre transfers that land to a third party, the value realised or revenue accrued thereby must be proportionately shared with the state government "reflecting the huge investment in land being by the state govern-

September last year gave the approval to privatise 13 airports, including Trichy in Tamil Nadu and Raipur in Chhattisgarh. According to the National Monetisation Pipeline issued last year, 25 AAI-run airports have been earmarked for asset monetisation that include Bhubaneshwar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Trichy, Indore, Raipur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Surat, Ranchi Jodhpur, Chennai, Vijayawada, Vadodara, Bhopal, Tirupati, Hubli, Imphal, Agartala, Udaipur, Dehradun and

Rajahmundry. The Centre had in 2019 privatised airports at Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati for operation, management and development through public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The Adani group won the bids to run all six airports T S Singhdeo, Chhattisgarh's Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare and Commercial

The AAI's board had in Tax, said land is a state resource and when the State and the Central Government come together for developing a project, which is supposed to be an earning project, the State Government's capital is present as a shareholder in terms of the

Now when you are selling it to a third entity which is a private party, then you are selling the assets of the company, which include apart from the infrastructure, the land also. So, the state government should be given the value of the land," Singhdeo said.

Asked about Tamil Nadu's demand, Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon told PTI, "I agree (with the Tamil Nadu Government). Land belongs to the state." "When it is under the central government, we have no issues, we give land, water and other resources. But if the Centre is handing it to private parties, revenue should be shared with the state government. A policy should be framed in this regard for all the states, not just Jharkhand," Oraon added.

#### BSF commandant held in cattle smuggling case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrest-Enforcement ed Satish Kumar (the then Commandant, 36-Battalion, BSF) in a money laundering case related to cattle smuggling Indo-Bangladesh International Border.

"He (Satish Kumar) had received Proceeds of Crime (POC) of Rs 12.8 crore from Md Enamul Haque in the accounts of his wife and his father-in-law.

'This Proceeds of Crime was further laundered by pur-chasing immovable properties and Mutual Funds," the ED said in a statement.

He was produced before a Special PMLA Court here on Saturday 23.04.2022 and was remanded to ED custody for 3 days. This is the second arrest in this matter. Earlier, one accused Md. Enamul Haque was arrested on February 18, 2022 by ED in this case and currently, he is in Judicial Custody.

Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) has also been filed in this case on April 16, 2022 before the court here. The court took cognizance of the said Prosecution

Complaint on April 19. In the said Prosecution Complaint, three persons — Md Enamul Haque, Vinay Mishra and Vikas Mishra and three companies related to these individuals-Hoque

Industries Pvt. Ltd., Hoque Mercantile Pvt. Ltd. and Anant Tradecom Pvt. Ltd. have been arrayed as accused. "The ED had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR dated September 21, 2020 registered

by CBI against Satish Kumar, Md. Enamul Haque, Md. Anarul SK, Md. Golam Mustafa and other officials of BSF and Indian Customs besides unknown others for alleged commission of a cognizable offence under the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The ED had registered a money laundering case on September 25, 2020, based on the CBI FIR. Total proceeds of crime related to the Prosecution Complaint filed are worth Rs 25 crore in this

### People hospitalised during pandemic have higher rate of antibiotic resistant infections: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $P^{\text{eople hospitalised during}}_{\text{the pandemic both for }}$  Covid and other conditions have a higher rate of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections compared to patients hospitalised before the pandemic, according to a study.

Presented at European of

Microbiology and Infectious Bauer of the pharmaceutical Diseases (ECCMID) held in company MSD, a trade name of Portugal, the study evaluated the pandemic's impact on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in 271 hospitals across the US.

An estimated 1.2 million people worldwide died in 2019 from antibiotic-resistant infections, and this number is predicted to increase ten-fold by

Researchers — Dr Karri

Merck & Co and Dr Vikas

Gupta, of the medical technology company Becton Dickinson (BD) and colleagues, also found that drug resistant infections were significantly higher in hospital-onset cases during the pandemic.

They assessed AMR rates er 100 hospital admissions before and during the Covid

pandemic, and examined whether drug-resistant infections were acquired in the community-onset setting (defined as a culture collected less than two days after admission) or in the hospital-onset setting (more than two days after admission).

In total, 1,789,458 patients were admitted to the hospital in the pre-pandemic period and 3,729,208 during the pan-



The number of patients admitted to the hospital with at least one AMR infection was 63,263 in the pre-pandemic period and 129,410 during the Patients who tested positive

or negative for Covid had higher levels of AMR than patients before the pandemic, 4.92 per 100 admissions and 4.11 per 100 admissions, respectively.

For hospital-associated infections, the AMR rate was 0.77 per 100 admissions before

the pandemic and 0.86 per 100 admissions during the pandemic, and highest at 2.19 per 100 admissions in patients with Covid-19.

When looking at community-onset infections, the AMR rate was 2.76 per 100 admissions in the pre-pandemic period, and 2.61 per 100 admis-

sions during the pandemic. "These new data highlight the importance of closely mon-

19 on antimicrobial resistance rates," said Dr Bauer. "It is particularly worrying

itoring the impact of COVID-

that antibiotic resistance has been rising during the pan-demic in both SARS-CoV-2 positive and negative patients. Hospital-acquired infections are a major concern, with antimicrobial resistance rates significantly higher during the pandemic than before.

# **Coal shortage causes** power outage in UP

#### No major crisis, claims **UPPCL**

PNS LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) has curtailed power supply to rural areas, small towns and tehsil headquarters following the rising demand due to soaring temperature.

Officially, supply to rural areas is pegged at 16 hours, to nagar panchayat towns at 21 hours and tehsil headquarters at over 21 hours, while district headquarters, municipal corporations and big cities are exempted from power cuts.

The UPPCL has however claimed that there is no major power crisis in the state.

Official sources admitted that load shedding did happen due to local faults but the same was unavoidable due to heavy

The heat wave and the spurt in demand, leading to overloading of power distribu-tion networks, have triggered the power crisis in Uttar Pradesh. The crisis is more acute in villages and small towns which often face emergency load shedding for three to five hours every day in addition to the frequent power disruptions caused by local

As per data available with the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC), villages are getting power supply on most days for 13-14 hours, nagar panchayats and tehsil headquarters for 18-19 hours against the official schedule of 21 hours and 30 minutes. The district headquarters and big cities are so far exempted from power cuts but are also suffering due to frequent breakdown in power supply due to faults in overloaded transformers and melting of overheated and overburdened underground cables and overhead lines.

l overhead lines. ensure power supply to con-The coal stock position of sumers as per the roster.

# HC refuses to quash FIR against Ranas

Advising them to "behave responsibly" and maintaining that "great power comes with great responsibility", the Bombay High Court refused to quash an FIR for alleged assault of a servant while resisting their threat to recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's Bandra residence.

Hearing a petition filed by the Rana couple seeking to quash the second of the two FIRs filed under section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the IPC, a HC bench of Justices PB Varale and SM Modak refused to entertain the petition on the ground that the two incidents (one leading to the case of sedition and other of assault) were separate and the petition seeking to quash the second FIR deserved to be rejected.

Alluding to the submissions made by Special Public Prosecutor Pradip Gharat with regard to the first FIR relating to threats handed out by Rana couple that they would recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's Bandra ressubmission of the Special Public Prosecutor. He was justified in making reference to the FIR, to the declaration of reciting religious versus in the personal residence of the Chief Minister"

"Such a declaration that a person would recite such religious verses at the residence of another person's place or at a public place is a breach of the personal liberty of the other person. The state government is justified in the apprehension that it could create a law and order problem," the HC bench noted.

"Petitioners who are active politically are expected to behave responsibly. Great power comes with great responsibility. The expectation of responsible conduct of those persons who have an active life, is a reasonable expectation," the HC bench noted in its order. Referring to the observations made by the court in another case that differences in ideologies and political convictions should not come in the way of cordial relationship between political opponents, fell on deaf ears.

"Just two days back, we made observations that even if they are representatives of the

properly with the opposition members as well. Though we have made these observations but those words fell on deaf ears. We thought our observations will be considered, better sense will prevail, but whatever we observed just fell on deaf ears," the HC bench lamented.

However, the HC bench clarified that the Magistrate shall not be influenced by the observations made in its order rejecting the petition seeking quashing of the second FIR (over alleged assault of a servant while resisting their threat to recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of Maharashtra chief minister's private residence "Matoshri" at Bandra in northwest Mumbai) and shall hear the bail plea of the petitioners

The Rana couple were arrested on Sunday evening for offences registered initially against them under sections 153A (causing enmity between different groups), 34 (common intention) and later under section 124A (sedition) of IPC for challenging the Government machinery and making remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

on its own merits.

LS Secretariat seeks details of allegations made by MP Rana

 $T_{on\ Monday\ sought\ details}^{he\ Lok\ Sabha\ Secretariat}$  from the Union Home Ministry and Maharashtra Police within 24 hours following allegations made by independent MP Navneet Rana against the state police after her arrest. Navneet Rana and her

MLA-husband Ravi Rana were arrested on Saturday after they gave a call for the chanting of the Hanuman Chalisa outside Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence Matoshree' in Mumbai, which had triggered angry protests by Shiv Sainiks.

Charged with sedition, Rana in a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that her arrest by the Mumbai Police was illegal and alleged "inhuman treatment" in custody. In

her letter, which was sent to the speaker on Sunday, the Lok Sabha MP from Amravati claimed the action against her and her husband was taken on the directions of Maharashtra Chief Minister Thackeray. She also demanded strict action against Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey.

In response to her letter, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has written to the Maharashtra Government seeking a detailed report within 24 hours on the arrest and allegations made by her against the state police. The MP in her letter also mentioned about being put in a lock-up without due regards to the office held by her and not getting drinking water while in police custody. She also alleged that she was abused on the basis of her caste.

#### Speculation rife as Suvendu leaves BJP WhatsApp group Minister Mamata Banerjee "much is being interpreted of

Speculations ran high after two saffron legislators including Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari and former India pacer-turned-BJP MLA Ashok Dinda on Monday left the Tamluk district party organizational WhattsApp

group.
Though Adhikari only said that the critics were "unnecessarily complicating the issue" insiders said that he was unhappy with the appointment of 42 new Mandal presidents most of who are not his

Adhikari has not appreciated the way his wings were being clipped by the leadership, insiders said. On whether this was a prelude to some new chemistry developing ahead of 2024 general elections as arch rival

Trinamool Congress believes, a strong supporter of Adhikari Saheb Giri who too left the WhattsApp group said a small event ... Suvendu da is a national level leader of the party ... he has no business to be there in the district WhattsApp group?

At least five BJP MLAs have already left the party to join the TMC in the past one year. Some other rebel MLAs have left their respective party WhattsApp groups too.

A senior TMC leader however said "Considering the fact that Suvendu and Mukul Roy had once been very close to each other their fate could also be very close." On whether this meant that Adhikari could join the TMC ahead of 2024 the senior leader refused to comment saying "agey agey dekho hota hei kya (wait and watch)." Adhikari a powerful TMC

satrap — who carries the legacy of his father and former Únion Minister Sisir Adhikari — had left his party to join the BJP ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections and even went on to defeat Chief

from Nandigram seat.

However his party failed to topple the TMC Government which roared back to power cutting short Adhikari's Chief Ministerial dreams and he had Ministerial dreams and he had to remain content with the post of Opposition Leader.

Thermal Power Generation

Corporation remains critical.

The four plants are at Anpara

2,630 MW, Harduagani 1,265

MW, Obra 1,094 and Parichha

As per the fuel management division of Central Electricity Authority, against the normative stock of 1,968 MT, the total availability is

400 MT or 21 per cent. As per

normative standards, thermal plants should have 22.1 days

ating at a plant load factor of 67

per cent, Harduaganj 34.3 per

cent, Obra 54.3 per cent and

that due to early onset of sum-

mer, the state was experiencing

record demand in April, cou-

pled with curtailment in gen-

eration because of technical

issues. They said that the

UPPCL was keeping a constant

watch on the situation and all

efforts were being made to

Parichha 40.5 per cent.

The Anpara plant is oper-

Sources in the UPPCL said

1,140 MW.

stock of coal.

Curiously Adhikari's leaving the WhattsApp group was coupled with a another noticeable development when party strongman and Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh on Monday openly endorsed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on her views against the Central Government's decision on jute prices. The Centre had revoked the Rs 6,500 per quintal price cap on jute, a decision that according to Singh will affect the livelihood of 45 lakh jute

Singh who wrote a strongworded letter to Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal saving his action's economic fallout would be outweighed by the political losses

### HC seeks Speaker's affidavit on 5 BJP MLAs' suspension

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Calcutta High Court on Monday asked Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee to respond in the matter of suspension of five BJP MLAs — including Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari – from the proceedings of the House for one year. The Speaker will have to

file the affidavit by next Monday, the BJP lawyers said adding the matter would be heard on May 5. Five BJP MLAs including

Opposition Leader Shuvendu Adhikari, Opposition Chief Whip Manoj Tigga, Mihir Goswami, Sudip Mukherjee, Deepak Burman, Shankar Ghosh and Narhari Mahato

one year following a skirmish inside the House during the Budget Session.

Apart from this the High Court has also asked the State Government to file an affidavit on the announcement of compensation by Chief Minister post Rampurhat carnage when 10 people were burnt to death in an incident of alleged infighting the ruling Trinamool

Congress. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced a compensation package to the next of kin of the victims. The petitioners pleaded that the announcement tantamount to influencing

### Tamil Nadu's MoU with Lulu Group runs into controversy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by Tamil Nadu Government with a Keralite entrepreneur during Chief Minister M K Stalin's recent visit to West Asia has run into controversy thanks to leaders of various political outfits and trade bodies.

A MoU was signed between Tamil Ňadu Government and Abu Dhabi based M A Yousuf Ali who owns the Lulu Group envisages an investment of Rs 3,500 crore by the latter in Tamil Nadu. The Lulu Group, global leaders in shopping malls would open two mega shopping malls at a cost of Rs 2,500 crore and a food processing unit costing Rs 1,000 crore in the State. The Lulu Group owns many shopping malls across West Asian and African countries besides Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. A release by the Chief

Minister's Office has said that 5,000 Tamil Nadu youths would get employment in these three units. But Arjun Sampath, founder of Hindu Front, an umbrella organisation of Sanatana Dharma believers in Tamil Nadu stated that the malls and the food processing industry would be detrimental to the interests of Hindus and

The Lulu Malls are coming up in Coimbatore and this is being set up with ulterior motives. All retail and wholesale units in the region would be wiped out once the Lulu Group sets up businesses in Coimbatore," said Sampath. He pointed out that former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa had strongly resisted the move by world leaders like Walmart

to open their shopping complexes in the State. "Amma Jayalalithaa was worried about the fate of retail and wholesale traders in the State who would be thrown out of business by enterprises like Walmart which have deep pockets," said

He said that the choice of Coimbatore as destination by Lulu Group is shrouded in mystery. "This is being done to isolate the Hindu traders and throw then out of business," said Sampath.

Tamil Nadu Food Grains Merchants Association has also sounded caution over the development. "Small, medi-um, large traders businesses would be thrown out of business by these retail giants. There is no need for any kind of mega shopping complexes in this State," said S P Jeyapragasam, president.

#### Knitwear units face financial woes due to Ukraine crisis

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■ KOCHI Ukraine war and its fall out has

Nearly 200 small and medium knitwear exporting houses in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, is faced with a bizarre situation, a hitherto unheard phenomenon. Though the units have delivered the consignments in time to the full satisfaction of their European buyers, the former is not in a position to get the cost of the products from

"Though they have exported goods worth Rs 70 crore to Russia during the last three months, they are yet to get at least a part of the payments which alone would help them sustain the units," said S Sakthivel, executive secretary, Tirupur Exporters Association told The Pioneer.

The ongoing Russia-

made it difficult for the units to get the payments due to them for the goods delivered. "The payment in Euro and US Dollar currency has been stopped because of the sanctions

Russia by the consortium of countries.

Russian Banks have been excluded from the SWIFT platform, a mechanism introduced to make frictionless and timely transaction of payment and this has put Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Tirupur in a difficult position. The MSME units are finding operational difficulties and their sustenance in the business," said Raja M Shanmugham. President, TEA in a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala

Embassy of Israel unveils street-art mural to mark 30 yrs of ties with India

PNS NEW DELHI

To mark 30 years of diplo-I matic relations between Israel and India, the Embassy of Israel in India collaborated with Delhi Street Art to conceive and execute a wall art project. The Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon and Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India unveiled a mural at Connaught Place, paying tribute to Indian-Jewish actresses who made a mark in the early years of Indian cinema.

The mural is also a tribute to the deep-rooted cultural relations between Israel and India Through this artwork developed by Delhi Street Art, three prominent Indian-Jewish actresses who made a mark in the Indian

cinematic history - Esther Victoria Abraham- Pramila, Sulochana - Ruby Myers and Nadira-Florence Ézekiel — are highlighted.

At the event, Ambassador Gilon thanked Meenakashi Lekhi, NDMC and Delhi Street Art, for helping them in adding d more color to the colorful city of Delhi.

"Today we are revealing this mural, reminding us of the work of three extraordinary actresses from the Jewish community in India, and in doing so we are also revealing another layer of the unique cultural connection between India and Israel," he said.

"We hope that passersby in this corner will be inspired by these characters; women from a small community who have payed a path for other women

to be bold and fearless, and left a mark on what is today, the largest film industry in the world, Bollywood. This project is one of a series of events to mark 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel, but as you can see, the relations between our communities have been strong, long before," he added. "This project represents the shared history and friendship between India and Israel. I congratulate the people of both nations as together we celebrate 75 years of India's independence and 30 years of our diplomatic relations", said Ms. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India.

The mural was designed by Delhi Street Art's founder Yogesh Saini and his team of



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee poses for photos with a group of Tollywood actors during inauguration of the

### Congress leader Krishnam meets Azam Khan in jail

PNS LUCKNOW

ongress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam met Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan in Sitapur district jail on Monday and presented a copy of Bhagwad Gita to Khan to the incarcerated leader which was accepted.

Krishnan had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Lucknow Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress leader, after his hour-long meeting with Khan in Sitapur jail, told media persons, "Samajwadi Party is not competent to fight the Bharatiya Janata Party. Azam Khan is a senior leader of the Samajwadi Party, he is being humiliated and persecuted by the BJP but the SP has remained a mute spectator."

Krishnam further said that the humiliation of Khan, who

was not in good health, would have a long-term impact on the politics of Uttar Pradesh and İndia. Krishnam is the first Congress leader to have met the jailed SP leader and is considered close to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi On Sunday, Azam Khan

had refused to meet a SP delegation led by party's legislator Ravidas Mehrotra.

Soon after Pramod Krishnan met Azam Khan, chairman of Congress minority cell Shahnawaz Khan issued an appeal to Muslim MLAs of the Samajwadi Party to split their party. He said that the SP had 111 MLAs of which 32 were Muslims and to split the SP, only 37 MLAs were needed. He said that Muslim MLAs of the SP should respect the sentiments and aspirations of the commu-

nity and act accordingly. The Congress leader also urged Muslim clerics to mount pressure on Muslim legislators of the SP to break away from their party.

Pragatisheel Earlier, Samajwadi Party chief Shivpal Singh Yadav had met Khan in Sitapur jail while Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary too had called on the SP leader's family in Rampur. The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has already extended an invitation to Khan to join their party.

Azam Khan, who has spent almost 26 months in jail, has received bail in almost all cases except one and sources close to him said that he could finally walk free before Eid in May.

Khan, who recently won the Rampur assembly seat with a substantial margin, is apparently being seen as a potential leader of anti-BJP forces in Uttar Pradesh

### Yoqi completes 1 month in office, sets tone and tenor of agenda for next five years

PNS LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party government which which assumed office in Uttar Pradesh for a second time in a row, completed 30 days on Monday, setting the tone and tenor of the agenda it aims to follow in the next five years.

"The 30 important decisions that the Yogi Adityanath government 2.0 has taken in the last 30 days reflect the roadmap it has prepared for implementation of development schemes so that their benefits are passed on to the people without any bias," a senior BJP leader said in Lucknow on Monday.

Soon after taking charge for a second time on March 25, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath set a target of 100 days for ministers to define strategies of their respective departments. The focus is to bring something new for the state and its people.
"We have had a series of meetings with ministers where they have explained the strategies for the next 100 days, next six months, next one year, two years, three years, four years and five- year tenure of the government. The ministers now know what is expected of them and are now being asked to deliver," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said.

A series of meetings are being held every day in the evening in which the chief minister gets feedback from ministers and senior officials of various departments.

The demeanour of Yogi in his second regime reflects the confidence he has gained from the first tenure. This is echoed by the way he set the 100-day agenda for the state government, focusing on generating jobs, improving infrastructure and attracting investments for

The chief minister announced the holding of a grand groundbreaking ceremony in the next 100 days with a target to attract investment of Rs 10 lakh crore. The function will be held in Lucknow and is likely to be attended by Prime Narendra Minister

Yogi has set an ambitious target of filling up as many as 10,000 vacant posts in government departments and creating self-employment opportunities for over 50,000 people across the state. All departments have been asked to prepare details of vacant posts and place them before the Chief Minister's Office.

The first month has seen Yogi's commitment to provide a corruption-free government which is reflected in the bull dozers working overtime, razing illegal constructions of unscrupulous elements and

### HP CM downplays AAP's electoral challenge to his party in Himachal

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minter Jai Ram Thakur on Monday downplayed Aam Aadmi Party 's electoral challenge saying the hill state will never accept the "third alternative" as he also dismissed Congress having "no future".

Thakur who was here to inaugurate a media centre said, "Himachal Pradesh is a peaceful state. AAP's style of politics will not work there. The state will not accept any third alternative?

He said the state had 'never accepted the third alternative". They (AAP) can try because in a democracy everyone has the right to try but they won't succeed, Thakur said.

The Chief Minister said AAP was lacking in local

leadership and was "importing leaders from Punjab and Delhi. "You can't ẃin Himachal with imported leadership. This

is not Punjab. The state has

always rejected the third front,"

the CM said. On the November bypoll losses by the BJP in the state, including the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, Thakur said it was a result of sympathy wave for the Congress after the death of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh. He said the Mandi seat

was lost by merely one per cent

On the Congress, the Chief Minister said, the party has "no future in near future". Himachal Pradesh is going to assembly polls by November when another BJP-ruled state of

Gujarat would also elect a new

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

We have to be conscious of our choices to reduce food wastage

he world is running out of food. By 2050, the world population may cross 10 billion people and they may not have enough food for themselves. It is a prediction by an American socio-biologist that goes viral on social media now and then. Some websites have count-down clocks ticking towards the big, bad hunger day. Scientists believe the earth cannot feed more than 10 billion people. We are already 7.7 billion and counting. There are nutritionists, socio-biologists, economists, agricultural and climate scientists trying to figure out how to stave off global hunger. This is not to sound alarmist, but it doespoint to the inevitabilitythat future generationswill face one day. So, finally, everything boils down to food, not sovereignty, stature, or superiority. One day the person who has two square meals a day will be king or queen. But how? When 10 billion of us inhabit the world, there will be little space left - what with all the sea erosions and glacier melts - to raise animals or crops. The animals would be the first to go as meat requires more energy to produce than any other food. If all the people were to become vegetarians, the food produced would be sufficient for not more than 10

> billion people. And if you have the appetite and diet of the average American, it would not feed more than 2.5 billion people.

> The problem is upon us already as we are told the world is fast losing the earth's topsoil that has the highest amount of organic matter and microorganisms to help in germination. A third of the globe's topsoil is already gone. Along with a shortage of water, energy and land and growing demand from the population, all this adds up to a global food crisis. Over 80 million people in Africa and Asia, meanwhile, face famine and depend on

food doles to survive. We cannot look to the forests to forage for food because only 30-odd per cent of the wild forest cover is still left on earth. And in 25 years, much seafood will disappear. There is only one solution. Food conservation. Today, a third of the global food is wasted because of bad storage, transportation, preparation and packaging, and sell-by date issues. Supermarkets sell large portions of packaged food for profit and much of it goes waste. Restaurants, to jack up prices, increase the portions of dishes, again leading to waste. In India, too, nearly 40 per cent of the food produced is wasted every year because of fragmented food systems and unsound supply chains. We also generate food waste in our homes. The Covid pandemic made us a bit more conscious of our food choices and reduced food waste. We must build on that and insist on calculated purchasing and single-use packaging as the shopping norm. The mindset has to change from 'food abundance' mode to 'food scarcity'.



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Union MoS for Civil Aviation Gen. V.K. Singh (retd) lead the mega Yoga event 'Yog Prabha', at Safdarjung Airport runway in New Delhi

# The French Verdict

Macron's return as French President is a victory for everyone who believes in a stable Europe

urope and the world took a sigh of relief on Sunday night when French president Emmanuel Macron retained his chair, albeit with a lower vote share, It was a bitterly contested poll in which his ultra-right rival Le Pen tried to mobilize voters on the promise of introducing prgrammes and policies that the civilized world loathed, to say the least. Macron's victory shows that at a time when the world is



faced with a prolonged war in Ukraine, France has its reasons to give thumbs down to Le Pen whose dislike for NATO, European Union, and his hostility towards the United States is not hidden from anyone. Le Pen would have also disturbed the social fabric of France where no one was discriminated against for belonging to a minority community, especially Islam. Her victory would have given emboldened attempts to fan Islamophobia across the world. Le Pen's victory would have been a big setback for the efforts made by the European Union and the USA to put pressure on Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine. Pen has not made any secret of her endorse-

ment of Putin's policies and even visited him in Kremlin in 2017.

Reflecting the European leaders' concern, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wrote an article in France's largest-selling daily La Monde, making a case for a vote for Macron. This is seen as an unusual step, and some might argue even interference in the politics of another country. But the German chancellor was more concerned about the future of Europe than his own criticism. Scholz and two other diplomates wrote: "It is the choice between a Democratic candidate, who believes that France is stronger in a powerful and autonomous European Union, and a far-right candidate, who openly sides with those who attack our freedom and our democracy." They may have succeeded in persuading the voters to reject Le Pen, but the gutsy woman will continue to mobilize people to drag the French politics towards the extremist fringe. Her success in bagging 42 percent vote share against 32 percent in 2017 is a clear reflection of her growing acceptance. From India's point of view, the return of Macron is welcome development Prime Minister Nagendra Modi and Macron share great chemistry. and France has all along been helpful to India in various fields, including supply of weapons and technology.

# Why China kept away from Imran



it realises that the civilian dis-

pensations can come and go,

but the actual Chinese inter-

Military. Importantly, the

Pakistani Military does not

fall into the electoral tempta-

tion of cozying up to religious

extremists to secure their

vote banks (they do it only for

tactical cross-border terror

purposes), and that is a

Chinese hypersensitivity,

given its tryst with religious

unofficial

#### The Chinese carrot of Belt and Road Initiative or 'debt-traps' undid the Chinese credibility of 'investments' in the Indian neighbourhood

few years ago, when the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) regime ⊾in Kathmandu was imploding with intra-party intrigues between factions of then Prime Minister, KP Sharma Oli and that of PK Dahal 'Prachanda', Chinese Ambassador Hou Yanqui played the 'un-ambassadorial' role of peacemaker to keep the Communist regime in place.

Desperation took Ambassador Hou Yanqui to even meet up with President Bidya Bhandari to avert the party split, but each side held on. Finally, the decidedly pro-China regime collapsed. Similarly in 2018, Chinese excitement with the return of Mahinda Rajapaksa as Sri Lanka's premier Mahinda Rajapaksa as Sri Lankan Premier was linked to the Chinese 'generosity' in pouring investments in his port constituency of Hambantota, where additional infrastructure in the form of an airport and industrial zone were promised. The move paid off, and the Chinese Ambassador Cheng Xueyuan was among the first to meet Prime Minister Rajapaksa. An even more audacious Chinese attempt at U-turning the traditional Maldivian stand of 'India First' to 'India Out' was undertaken with strategic 'investments' with the then Maldivian President, Abdulla Yameen. China made strategic moves, took bold positions, and assiduously worked to get the preferred dispensations in the subcontinental capitals. But the Chinese carrot of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or more realistically 'debt-traps', undid the Chinese credibility of 'investments' in the Indian neighbourhood.

Ironically, China did not interfere in the case of 'allweather-friend' Pakistan in its recent political saga, without a nudge in favour or against Imran Khan's desperate attempt at survival. This is despite Imran Khan ticking all possible boxes in terms of vassalage and servitude to the Chinese. Imran had tined to succeed despite all sung hosannas in favour of odds and Pak Army shall



handed over the Afghan Taliban to the Chinese on a platter, remained steadfast on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and till the last day of Imran's Prime Ministership excoriated Beijing's foremost enemy i.e., the United State of America. Why then, did Beijing disown Imran Khan and openly state, 'China is committed to noninterference policy', when specifically asked about Pakistan? The Pathan from

Mianwali had underestimated the transactional guile of Chinese *realpolitik* and its elephantine institutional memory. In his run-up to his election campaign in 2018, Imran had spoken against the CPEC imperatives, and the Chinese never forget! Perhaps Imran also underestimated the bond between the Chinese and the real 'establishment' in Pakistan i.e., the Pakistani Military. In a telling move that was fatally ignored, the Pakistani Military Chief returning from a visit to China had clarified the Pakistani Military's stand on CPEC by stating, 'BRI with CPEC as its flagship is des China in international forums, ensure the security of CPEC



**NEW PAKISTAN** PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF TOO PERHAPS KNOWS THAT ONLY WITH THE COVERT SUPPORT OF THE **PAKISTANI** MILITARY AND THE CHINESE AS ALSO THE USA, HE MAY BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IMRAN'S **UNDENIABLE** POPULARITY, IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.

extremism. Therefore, Imran's utterly laughable comment in his last days, 'China follows teachings of Prophet', only elicited smirks. China's mouthpiece Global Times was quick to latch to incoming Shehbaz Sharif's lack of elbowroom, 'very limited at all costs. This early contraspace to make major changes in foreign affairs even though diction was made in 2018 (just as the Pakistani Military he wants to ease tensions with the US and India, and Čhief again contradicted Imran on Russia's aggression in Ukraine). The parallel hotline between Rawalpindi GHQ and Beijing was ignored at peril. Curiously, Imran's final survival woes started immediately after the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Pakistan and travelled to Rawalpindi GHQ to have lengthy talks with the Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa. Finally, with Imran Khan surviving by the thread for days even the Pakistani Military postured non-interference, which in the context of Pakistani narrative, is tantamount to disownment! China's ambas-

sador to Sri Lanka, Cheng

Xueyuan, was among the first

diplomats to meet Rajapaksa

For the practical Chinese,

the alternative of a PML-N or a PPP dispensation did not

imply persona non grata emo-

tions, considering the MOU

for CPEC was first inked by

PPP's Asif Zardari in 2013,

and later adopted and imple-

mented by PML-N's Nawaz

Snarif in 2014. The Uninese

Communist Party (CCP) has

'ironclad' ties with the

Pakistani 'establishment', and

the conflicts between Pakistan and India are structural, so it would be difficult for him to make significant policy adjustments in diplomacy after taking office.' The Chinese know it too well, that irrespective of the dispensation in power, Beijing holds all the major levers for Pakistan's socio-economic survival with its routine dole, investments like CPEC, and above all, the side-relations with the all-important, Pakistani Military. New Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is robotically making all the right noises about China, as he too perhaps knows that only with the covert support of the Pakistani military and the Chinese (as also the United States of America, given Imran's rants), the current Government maybe able to survive Imran's undeniable popularity, in the forthcoming elections. (The writer, a military

veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Anaaman e Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

#### LETTERS TO TH

#### **NO PLACE FOR BULLDOZER ROW**

Sir — It started with a jibe, became an election issue, and has now begun spreading its roots across the country. The use of bulldozers to demolish houses and properties of those accused of riots kick-started in Uttar Pradesh, for razing the illegal properties of criminals and promoting it as a stamp of approval of the State Government's policy to maintain law and order. The bulldozer rolled into Madhya Pradesh as the BJP looked to beef up Chief Minister's image. The bulldozer made its way into the national capital as the NDMC was scheduled to carry out an anti-encroachment drive in Jahangirpuri, where clashes broke out during a Hanuman Jayanti procession. However, the Supreme Court has stayed the demolition drive. As per the Gangster Act, the police investigation is mandatory before any such use of a bulldozer, but in most cases, the rule hasn't been

followed. The move seems to have become a quick favorite, with a section of rightwing organizations demanding bulldozer-like action against those involved in the Hubballi violence, where protests demanding strict action against a teen over a social media post turned violent. If it's the bulldozer from one state to another in north India, in Maharashtra, the loudspeaker has given political parties a new tool to rally around. The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navanirman Sena set the cat among the pigeons in Maharashtra as he demanded that loudspeakers at mosques relaying 'Azaan' be removed by May 3 or else his party would play the Hanuman Chalisa at higher volumes to counter them. With this India is witnessing the dirty game of bulldozer and loudspeaker. This is creating unrest, and fear and halting the progress

and development of the country. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

**CAN'T COMPARE RSS WITHY NAZIS** Sir —Prafull Goradia, in his excellent write up, "Salman Khurshid & ..." (April 21), seems to have missed a diabolic

#### Patch up, dear CM and Governor



he cold war between the Telangana Government and the Governor has reached a boiling point with the Governor asking for reports from the State Government on various issues. Incidents like the suicide of a mother and her lone son, the suicide of a BJP worker. the rape of a minor girl, and the blocking of medical PG seats put the KCR Government in a tight spot as some TRS leaders are said to have been involved in some of these issues. For some time now. the confrontation between KCR and the Governor has come out into the open. It is true that in our political system it is not uncommon to see a CM and the Governor locking horns. But the growing differences between the Pragathi Bhavan and the Raj

design by the likes of Salman Khurshid, Mani Shankar Aiyer, Digvijay Singh, etc. The whole world knows that the RSS

BIP are Nationalist social / political organisations, whose hands are never soiled with the innocents' blood. By comparing them with the Nazis, Al Qaida, ISIS, Boko Haram, etc., these characters are actually concocting some satanic potion to promote the latter in the eyes of world community. In other words, they are engaged in whitewashing the blood soaked hands of the Nazis, Al Qaida, ISIS, Boko Haram, etc.

Kamal R Saha | Bhopal

#### IT'S A FISHY AFFAIR

Sir — Fish, being the staple food of many

Bhavan could easily be avoided.

It all started in August 2021 when the Governor didn't clear the name of a person forwarded by the Government for appointment as MLC under the Governor's quota. The Governor had cleared two other names sent by the Government earlier under the Governor's quota. The CM should have discussed the issue with the Governor and explained to her his political compulsions for clearing the file. But, alas, things like not inviting and not attending official programs and functions by both of them as per the protocol, could have been avoided. What held the State Government back from providing a chopper to the Governor for taking the dead body of her mother to her native place? Why KCR couldn't convey at least his condolences to her? People know that the same CM had called on ex-Governor Narashiman when his mother passed away here and he even provided a chopper to him for carrying out the body. Again things like district officials not attending to her during her official visits could be viewed as serious lapses on the part of the

M Somasekhar Prasad | Hyderabad

ous fishing industry. The pressure to feed the growing population has led to dangerous levels of overfishing along the country's coastlines. Catches are falling while the prices are rising. Local fishermen, using country boats, are in danger because of an increase in the number of mechanized fishing boats.

Quality fish like surmai, pomfret, and prawns are sourced to the hotel industry at a premium, and the rest is packed for export. What ultimately comes to our kitchen is the rejected lot, at a price unworthy of its taste and smell. Ordinary people can only watch, as the precious marine resources are siphoned

off by the trawler owners. Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Efforts were on by some people to create an atmosphere conducive for the imposition of the President's Rule in the State



Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil



The ideas we represent have reached new heights... this result itself represents a

brilliant victory,

French nationalist leader



by many

including me

Party would

Azam Khan



— Kangana Ranaut



a few glimpses of MS Dhoni's behind the stumps. He guides well and stays calm on the field

**Indian Cricketer** 

- Kuldip Yadav The Samajwadi

extend all possible legal help to the Rampur MLA

Indians, has today gone out of the reach of the common man due to the overzeal-

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#### A PARADIGM SHIFT IN **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Focus must on improving funding for state universities



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

s envisaged in the National Education Policy2020, the new phase of internalisation of India institutions is ushering in a paradigm shift in higher education. This is apparent from the University Grant Commission (UGC) allowinghigh-ranked Indian universities and colleges to collaborate on imparting Dual, Joint Degrees and Twinning Programmes with top foreign universities, that too without prior approval of the UGC. The approval of statutory councils or bodies will still be needed for professional programmes in engineering, medicine and law. This decision is bound to have a spiralling effect in offering a crosscultural experience and promoting interdisciplinary education at par with the world standards. The arrangement would be to impart education in the conventional mode and not through open, distance or online learn-



ing. These international campuses and tie-ups apart from influx of foreign students in Indian universities would open unlimited avenues for free flow of ideas, new conventions, traditions, markedly different teaching and research methods. However, the biggest challenges in the long runwould be meeting the highest standards of academic excellence and safeguarding against the easing of the rules for academic collaborations in favour of the institutions with vested interests leading to monopolization and commercialisation of education by big sharks operational in the sector and making it out of reach for many deserving students of low income and deprived families. As per the draft regulations circulated in 2021, the eligibility criteria for foreign institutes suggested that the institutions must have a global ranking of less than 500. Any Indian institute accredited with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a minimum score of 3.01 or in the top 100 in the university category of the National institutional RankingFramework (NIRF) or an institution of Eminence can collaborate with any foreign institute in top 1,000 QS or Times Higher Education Ranking for joint degrees. The collaborating institutes will be allowed to offer three kinds of programmes -Twinning degree programmes, Joint degree programmes and Dual degree programmes. If an Indian institution partners with a foreign university to offer a Twinning programme, students would have to complete 30 per cent of the course's credits at the foreign university by means of an exchange programme. The same would be applicable to foreign students enrolling for a similar programme. For Joint degrees, the partner institution will have to sign an MoU. from India would be required to complete more than 30 per cent of their course credit at a foreign institute.

On the completion of the course, the degree would be awarded by the Indian institution along with the certificate of credit recognition. In case of Dual degree also students would have to complete 30 per cent of course credit at foreign institute, but, the degreeawarded by both Indian and Foreign institutes would indicate the credits earned at the respective institutions. The policy looks promising and forward looking on paper, but we have to consider our ground realities. We are losing out our best students who go abroad as our admission to premier institutions is competitive. Then, we follow a rigid system of 'rote' learning with more emphasis on marks scored than on 'grasping' and independent thinking. That is why, we mostly receive students from underdeveloped and developing countries of Africa and Asia. So, the need of the hour is to improve our system of education in accordance with the new NEP. During the past decade, the expanded schooling and greater reservations have redefined the student composition of public universities. The funding and enrolment in state universities are declining and the private universities are open to students who have paying capacity. This needs to change.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

# Bolstering IBC architecture — a joke



UTTAM GUPTA

After withdrawal of RBI powers to navigate NPA accounts for resolution under IBC, and removing banks' compulsion to go to NCLT, the IBC process is dysfunctional

hile, putting on hold its plans to implement the socalled "fresh-start process" for indebted poor people under the (IBC) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (it provides for debt waiver up to ₹35,000 to the poor who don't own houses, earn up to ₹60,000 a year and have assets up to ₹20,000 each),the Government wants to first focus on bolstering the IBC architecture to yield quick resolution of toxic assets while preventing unscrupulous elements from gaming the system.

The reference here is to the delay in completion of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) as well as low amount realized by thecreditors from their non-performing assets (NPAs) - a fancy nomenclature for loans that are difficult to recover or simply put bad loans. To get a sense of the situation on ground zero, let us capture a few basics.

Faced with ballooning NPAs (an asset quality review or AQR initiated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2015 had led to identification of such loans aggregating to around ₹1036,000 crore as on March 31, 2018), in 2016, the Modi government enacted the IBC. This legislation overrides allother subsisting laws and gives a strong handle to the banks for resolving NPAs within a strict time frame. In 2017, it amended the Banking Regulation Act (BRA) giving RBI powers to force banks to act if they don't on

On February 12, 2018, the RBI issued a circular that provided a foundational basis for resolving NPAs. As per this circular, for accounts with aggregate exposure greater than ₹2,000 crore, as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders - singly or jointly - shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing and implementing a resolution plan (RP). This needed to be done within 180 days from the date of default.

In case, the lenders failto meet this deadline, they were required to refer the account to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would initiate proceedings under the IBC. The NCLT would get 180 days to complete the resolution process. A further 90 days is allowed in exceptional circumstances. Thus, the outer limit for consummating the process is 270 days.

The raison d'être behind imposing herd the exercise was to sell the NPA afflicted entity - as a going concern in an 'objective' and 'transparent' and maximize the realization from sale.

But we are far from achieving the intended result. Out of 1,723 firms, that were undergoing resolution until December 2021, around 73 percent had exceeded the 270-day limit, resulting in an erosion of stressed asset value. In fact, the recovery by financial creditors crashed to a record quarterly low of 13.4 percent of the admitted claims during October -



**IBC OVERRIDES** ALL OTHER SUBSISTING LAWS AND GIVES A STRONG HANDLE TO THE BANKS FOR **RESOLVING NPAS** WITHIN A STRICT TIME FRAME. THE **RBI WAS GIVEN** POWERS TO FORCE BANKS TO **ACT IF THEY** DON'T ON THEIR OWN.



is even higher at 95 per cent). Meanwhile, the NPAs position has not shown any significant improvement. According to a statement by the Minister of State for Finance, Bhagwat K Karad, in Parliament, NPAs of banks declined from ₹1036,000 crore as on March 31, 2018, to ₹834,000 crore on March 31, 2021. This excludes the Covid period - March 1, 2020 to March 24, 2021 - when banks were not allowed to recognize NPAs. On their inclusion, we may not see any improvement at all. What explains the delays, woefully low yield from the resolution process and continuing high NPAs?

This has a lot to do with a revised RBI circular dated June 7, 2019 - issued in supersession of February 12, 2018 order - under directions of the Supreme Court (SC).It gives banks 180 days to come up with RP (in addition to 30 days to enter into an inter-lender they are required to make an additional provision of 20 percent. If they don't finalize the plan within 365 days, an additional 15 percent provision has to be made.

Unlike the February 12, 2018, which mandates the bank to refer the account to NCLT at the end of 180 days, under the revised circular, there is no such compulsion on it. Even if the RP is not ready within 365 days, all that it requires the bank is to make an additional provision of 35 percent (15 percent for first 180 days plus 20 percent for upto 365 days). With this, the bank will sit pretty complacent.

That the bank has no incentive to take it to NCLT, see it from another angle. If, RP is not implemented within one year from the default date, the bank has to make provision of 50 percent - 15 percent normal ageing provision and 35 per cent additional. At the end of 15 months, with normal ageing provision increasing to 40 percent plus 35 percent additional provision, the total provisioning requirement will be a steep 75 percent.

Having adjusted a major chunk, i.e., 75 percent of the loan amount in the profit and loss account, where is the incentive for the bank to recover the money by initiating proceedings under the IBC?

In short, by taking away powers from the RBI to navigate the NPA account for resolution under IBC, giving too much of leeway to the banks in preparing the RP and removing the compulsion on them to make reference to NCLT, the the IBC process dysfunctional.

Besides, there is a long list of interventions by the government as well as by the courts which mock at the resolution under IBC.

During the last five years or so, the government has infused Rs 300,000 crore in public sector banks (PSBs) to recoup the erosion in their capital (courtesy, NPAs). In the budget for 2021-22, it announced setting up of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) whose security receipts (SRs) will be backed by sovereign guarantee. NPAs worth ₹200,000 crore will be handled through this route.

Other benevolences showered on banks and delinquent promoters are the so-called pre-pack insolvency resolution (it envisages a direct agreement between secured creditors and the existing owners or outside investors, instead of a public bidding process); keeping the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) away from bank fraud cases unless it is an 'extraordinary' case such as IDBI Bank-Kingfisher Airlines. When, such bail outs are given

either by direct funding from the budget or sovereign guarantee - or direct settlements allowed between lenders and defaulting promoter (read: pre-pack stuff) and stakeholders are shielded from the CBI, why would they come to the straight route offered by the IBC.

Asfor courts, in most cases involving large sums, they have been promptly entertaining moters and competing suitors (those whose bids get rejected) against award handed out by the NCLT. All of this has the inevitable effect of delaying the proceedings which hits at the very foundation of the IBC process-sharply eroding the realizable value.

Ironically, the constitutional validity of the IBC itself has been challenged. In this backdrop, any talk of bolstering the IBC architecture looks like a cruel joke.

"MANY IN THIS COUNTRY VOTED FOR ME NOT BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT MY IDEAS BUT TO KEEP OUT THOSE OF THE FAR-RIGHT." — PRESIDENT OF FRANCE **EMMANUEL MACRON** 





"IN THIS DEFEAT, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A FORM OF HOPE. I WILL NEVER ABANDON THE FRENCH."

— DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

# Ayush: Unhindered access to traditional medicine

(The writer is a policy

analyst. The views

expressed are personal.)

The Indian transformation can change the way the world uses medicine and make India an international competitor with its healing concepts

ndia is leading a global healthcare radical transformation by reimagining critical, unhindered access traditional medicine by setting up a WHO centre likely to generate billions of dollars of business.

It generates hope for a crisis-ridden economy having over 14 per cent wholesale inflation. Gujarat will not be known only for visit of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson but also for establishing a new kind of medicinal, healthcare and yoga Ayush excellence business. The potential in the sector is immense. According to a US Global Industry Analysis on Herbal Medicines - Global Herbal Market Trajectory and Analytics - the business could

grow to \$430 billion by 2028. The healthcare may be different by 2030 as the World



Health Organisation and India usher in a change for a peoplecentric system of traditional medicine (or grandma's prescriptions). It may revolutionise the pharmaceutical industry and the way the world uses medicine. It can make India an international competitor with a surge in its medicinal exports and healing concepts. There was also the Global

Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It witnessed letters of intent (LoI) worth more than Rs 9000 crore in major categories like FMCG, medical value travel (Heal in India), pharma, technology and diagnostic and farmers and agriculture. Five significant MoUs were signed with Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, The Philippines for



and one with Ministry of Defence for promoting Ayush in cantonments.

Modi on the occasion said hoe Rosemary Odinga, daughter of former Kenyan prime minister Raola Odinga, regained her vision she lost in 2017 thanks to ayurveda, which has created an \$18 billion export market during the last few years. The new Ayush visa introduced for Heal in India will create a concept of wellness that encompasses healing through not only just medicine. It gives a holistic approach of different

the body and mind as appropriate food prepares one for a preventive care through healthy lifestyle. Start-ups, entrepreneurs,

unicorns and industry and integrative medicine will increase investment for innovations in Ayush. This success can create 5.5 lakh jobs, and help farmers enter into high-earning propositions, according to Minister for Ayush Sarbanand Sonowal.

It is a WHO concern which found that the traditionally used herbal plants or leaves like that of Giloi, Tulsi, halditurmeric, dalchini-cardamom or honey could counter the severity of the pandemic. Herbal tea, coriander, turmeric, cumin and garlic were extensively used to counter 100 to 700 per cent rise in medicine demands. The

foods and yogic practices to heal WHO observes that the alternate medicine people used created a curative system beyond

its imagination The world is now rediscovering the importance of India's traditional medicinal systems in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowarigpa, Homoeopathy and yoga. The effort is to making this relevant, even fashionable use today. In the process, it is even gaining the confidence to project and export these around the world. As the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is supposed to coordinate world activities in such medicines and therapy it may promote studies in Latin America, Africa, elsewhere in Asia and rest of the world. This facility is intended to be a global repository of traditional healthcare knowledge.

Ayush Minister Sonowal

in India stood at Rs. 4.2 billion (\$ 56.6 million) in 2019 and is expected to increase to Rs. 14 billion (US\$ 188.6 million) by 2030. The export value of ayurvedic and herbal products amounted to about \$ 539 million from India in 2021. The total world herbal trade is currently assessed at \$ 120 billion. Overall, Ayush exports have reached \$18 billion from \$3 billion before 2014. The cultivation of the medicinal herbs such as shankhapushpi, atis, kuth, kutki, kapikachhu and karanja are changing the Indian agrarian

ayurvedic scenes and would

says that this will change not

only the healthcare but also alter

the approach to India's role in

world's traditional medicine

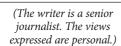
business. Between 2019 and 20

exports surged 45 per cent.

The market for medical plants

empower the farmers with high incomes. There is a huge gap between

the supply and demand of medicinal plants to manufacture Ayurvedic medicines in India. According to the 'All India Trade Survey of Prioritised Medicinal Plants, 2019', demand for high-value medicinal plants increased by 50 percent, while the availability declined by 26 per cent. This led to increased habitat degradation and levels of over-exploitation by pharmaceutical industries. The construction of roads and destruction of flora and fauna in the Himalayas and remote regions is also endangering 65 species. The GCTM would study ways to improve the situation and train farmers adopt technology and possibly a new development protocol.



# **'RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN UKRAINE SLOW'**

### **US says Moscow 'is failing'**

 $T_{pledged\ Monday\ to\ help}^{op\ American\ officials}$  ensure Ukraine wins its fight against Russia following face-toface talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, while Britain said Moscow has yet to achieve a significant breakthrough in its offensive in the eastern industrial heart-

land of the country.
In meetings with Zelenskyy,
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the United States had approved a USD 165 million sale of ammunition for Ukraine's war effort, along with more than USD 300 million in foreign military financing.

"The strategy that we've put in place - massive support for Ukraine, massive pressure against Russia, solidarity with more than 30 countries engaged in these efforts - is having real results," Blinken told reporters in Poland the day after meeting with Zelenskyy and other Ukrainian officials.

"When it comes to Russia's war aims, Russia is failing. Ukraine is succeeding. Russia has sought as its principal aim to totally subjugate Ukraine, to take away its sovereignty, to take away its independence. That has failed." For his part, Zelenskyy in the meeting said he was "very thankful" for the American aid and particularly praised President Joe Biden for his "personal support." "The prior-



#### 17 dead in Russian military research facility fire last week

Moscow: At least 17 people have died in last week's fire at Russian military research facility, authorities said Monday. The regional government in Tver, a city about 180 kilometers (112 miles) northwest of Moscow, said that so far only five of the victims had been identified. The blaze at the Central Research Institute for Air and Space Defense of the Russian Defense Ministry in Tver erupted Thursday and it took authorities a day to put it out. Officials previously said 27 people were injured and 13 of them were hospitalised. The cause of the fire wasn't immediately clear. The research institute was involved in the devel opment of some of the state-of-the-art Russian weapons systems reportedly including the Iskander missile.

ities are weapons and support from the United States of America and our partners, European leaders, in terms of our army's strength and support in certain areas," the Ukrainian president said.

"The second issue is the sanctions policy against the Russian Federation because of the full-scale invasion and all the terror they have committed in Ukraine." The three-hour meeting came Sunday, the 60th day since the start of the invasion, as Ukraine pressed the West for more powerful weapons against Russia's campaign in the

### Ukraine: Civilians in steelworks beg for aid

newly released video shows Anewly released video and Ukrainian children in an underground bunker receiving

Easter presents.

The video was released Sunday by the far-right Azov Battalion, which is among Ukrainian forces at the Azovstal steelworks where soldiers and civilians have been holed up under a Russian

The group's deputy commander, Sviatoslav Palamar, says the video was shot Sunday at the plant.

One toddler is seen wearing homemade diapers made of

People are hanging laundry on makeshift hangers. One of the women in the video begs for help from world leaders and says she and others stuck under the plant are tired of the bombing and are desperate for their freedom.

"We want to live in our city, in our country. We are tired of

Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, where Moscow's forces sought to dislodge the last Ukrainian troops in the battered port city of Mariupol. Britain's Ministry of Defence said Monday that Ukrainian troops holed up in a steel plant in the strategic city were tying down



these bombings, constant airstrikes on our land. How much longer will this continue?" she says through tears.

"The children are constantly crying here — they want to play and live," she adds. "Stop this aggression. I ask everyone, help please, free us!" Another woman says there are 600 civilians sheltering under the plant, without food and water.

Russian forces, and keeping them from being added to the offensive elsewhere in the

"Many Russian units remain fixed in the city and cannot be redeployed," the ministry said in a statement posted on Twitter. "Ukraine's defense of Mariupol

### Russia hits rail, fuel facilities in attacks deep in Ukraine

pressure against Russia, soli-

tries engaged in these efforts -

told reporters in Poland the

day after the meeting.
"When it comes to Russia's

war aims, Russia is failing.

Ukraine is succeeding," he

added. Speaking Monday to top officials at the Prosecutor

General's office, Russian

President Vladimir Putin said

that the U.S. And its allies have

tried and failed to "split

Russian society and to destroy

Feb, 24, its apparent goal was

a lightning offensive that would quickly take the capital

When Russia invaded on

Russia from within."

Russia unleashed a string of attacks against Ukrainian rail and fuel facilities Monday, striking crucial infrastructure far from the front line of its eastern offensive, which Britain said has yet to achieve a significant breakthrough.

Meanwhile, two fires were reported at oil facilities in western Russia. It was not clear what caused the blazes.

As both sides in the 2month-old war brace for what could be a grinding battle of attrition in the country's eastern industrial heartland, top American officials pledged more help to ensure Ukraine

In meetings with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Sunday, the American secretaries of state and defense said Washington had approved a \$165 million sale of ammunition for Ukraine's war effort, along with more than \$300 million in foreign military financing."The strategy that we've put in place - massive

logistical and combat support

has also exhausted many Russian units and reduced their combat effectiveness." The ministry added that, so far, Russia has only made "minor advances in some areas since shifting its focus to fully occupying the Donbas." "Without sufficient

government in Kyiv. But the Ukrainians, aided by Western weapons, bogged Putin's troops down and thwarted their push to Kyiv. Moscow now says its focus in the eastern region of the Donbas, but one senior military official says it also wants to control southern Ukraine. While both support for Ukraine, massive sides said the campaign in the east has begun, it has yet to darity with more than 30 coungather steam.

A small group of Ukrainian troops holed up in is having real results," Blinken a steel plant in the strategic city of Mariupol are tying down Russian forces, and keeping them from being added to the offensive elsewhere in the Donbas, Britain's Ministry of Defence said Monday.

Over the weekend, Russian forces launched fresh airstrikes on the steel plant in an attempt to dislodge the estimated 2,000 fighters inside. An estimated 1,000 civilians are also sheltering in the steelworks, and the Russian military pledged to open a humanitarian corridor Monday for them to leave.

and perhaps even topple the enablers in place, Russia has yet to achieve a significant break-through," the ministry said. With Russia's shift in focus, Austin said Ukraine's military needs are changing, and Zelenskyy is now focused on more tanks, artillery and other munitions. "The nature of the

fight has evolved, because the terrain they're now focused on is a different type of terrain, so they need long-range fires," Austin said. Asked about what the U.S. Sees as success, Austin said that "we want to see Ukraine remain a sovereign

#### कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी जिला–राजनांदगांव (छत्तीसगढ़)

– वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू

जिला खनिज संस्थान न्यास मद अंतर्गत जिला एवं विकासखण्ड

#### दरभाष क्रमांक 07744 224084 राजनांदगााव, दिनांक 18 04 22

स्तर के स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को सुदृढ़ करने के लिये स्त्रीरोग विशेषज्ञ—३, मेडिसिन विशेषज्ञ—१, रेडियोलॉजिस्ट—1, पैथॉलाजिस्ट–1, अस्थिरोग विशेषज्ञ–1, चिकित्सा अधिकारी–2 के स्वीकृत पदों संविदा आधार पर पूर्ति हेतु योग्यता रखने वाले पात्र एवं इच्छुक उम्मीद्वारों हेत् वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू का आयोजन कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, जिला–राजनांदगांव, गुरूद्वारा के सामने कार्यालयीन समय (शासकीय अवकाश को छोड़कर) में प्रतिदिन पदों की पूर्ति होने तक किया जावेगा। नियम-शर्ती, शैक्षणिक अर्हताऐं, आवेदन पत्र एवं अन्य विवरण कार्यालय के सूचना पटल एवं राजनांदगांव जिले के वेबसाइट www.rajnandgaon.nic.in में अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

RONO: 90539/5	मुख्य ।चाकत्सा एव स्वास्थ्य आधकारा
Date : 25/4/22	जीला राजनांदगांव (छ,ग,)
NORTI	HERN RAILWAY
	FENDER NOTICE rough e-tendering)
	D 11 6 T 1 6 70 6

& 3rd Floor (Room No 315 to 334) excluding War Room in Rail Bhawan New Delhi App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 80,34,118.51/- only Earnest Money Deposit (₹) ₹ 1,60,700/- only Address of the office Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Enginee C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-

DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender Tender uploading/closing date & time 10.05.2022 up to 15.00 hrs Website particular & notice

See the Northern Railway website board location where complete www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi -110001, for and o

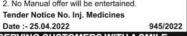
behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:



No. No.

NOTE :- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website .e. www.ireps.gov.in for details

2. No Manual offer will be entertained Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines



Rajat Goval, Nikita Goval @ Nikita Grove

& Aahana Goyal Because of ill/cruel treatments and wrong intentions of Rajat

Goval, Nikita Goval @ Nikita Grover &

Aaahana Goyal, My client Rajiv Goyal & Ruchi Goyal, do hereby disinherit/

isown/give Fargati/disentitled to Raiat

Goyal, Nikita Goyal @ Nikita Grover 8

Aahana Goyal being son, daughter in law

& Grand Daughter in law from all of their movable and immovable properties/ Assets. Said Rajat Goyal, Nikita Goyal @

Nikita Grover & Aahana Goyal shall have no right/claims whatsoever in the movable

or immovable properties of my said clien Rajiv Goyal & Ruchi Goyal. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of omission or commission of said Rajat

Goyal, Nikita Goyal @ Nikita Grover &

Aahana Goyal in any manner whatsoever

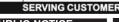
and they shall be personally liable for all

Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110018

Sajal Dhamija (Advocate),

S-265, L.G.F.





PUBLIC NOTICE

Re:-PUBLIC NOTICE DEBARING

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### In Re:- PUBLIC NOTICE DEBARING KASHISH BUDHIRAJA, SAKSHI CHAWLA BUDHIRAJA & SAHIRA BUDHIRAJA My client Mahinder Kumai Budhiraja & Namrata Budhiraja do hereby Budhiraja from all of his movable and

disinherit/disown/give Fargati to their son, daughter in law Kashish Budhiraja, Sakshi Chawla Budhiraja & Sahira immovable properties. Law Kashish Budhiraja, Sakshi Chawla Budhiraja & Sahira Budhiraja (including their legal heirs) shall have no right/claims whatsoever in the movable or immovable properties of my said client Mahinder Kumar Budhiraja & Namrata Budhiraja as they are married and they had made my clients life miserable by beating them. M client shall not be responsible for any acts of omission or commission of said law Kashish Budhiraja, Sakshi Chawla Kashish Budhiraja, Sakshi Chawla Budhiraja & Sahira Budhiraja in any manner whatsoever and they shall be personally liable for all there acts. Sajal Dhamija (Advocate

Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110018

by Publication O.A. No. 306/2020 work of Hon'ble MOSR(J) Room No 242 & 245

read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

SACHIN SHARMA & OTHERS

1. MR. SACHIN SHARMA

Flat No. T1-Pf06, 6th floor Tower-A-1 Unnati The Aranya Height, Podium Floors, Plot No. Gh-02, Also At:

A-1 Unnati The Aranya Height, Podium Floors, Plot No. Gh-02, Sec-119, Noida Gautam Buddha

2. MRS. NIDHI BHARDWAJ Kh-30,Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad-

A-1 Unnati The Aranya Height Podium Floors, Plot No. Gh-02, Sec-119, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301. Also At:

Sec-119, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301

T-07, LL-02, Common Wealth Games Village, New Delhi-110092 Corporate Office at B-117, Sector-67 Noida, U.P. In the above noted application, you

are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 05/08/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

### Sri Lankan President ready to form interim Government, claims senior Buddhist monk

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Raman Vihar Coop.Group Housing Society Ltd. Plot No.5A,Sec-11,Dwarka,New Delhi-110075 n pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules 2007, it is to inform publicly that Smt. Preeti Tomar (Nominee of Late Jaiveer Singh) has submitted resignation against the member ship No.222 from the membership of Ramar Vihar CGHS Ltd.(Regd.No.872-GH). Further payment has been made through account avee cheques for his deposited amount. I anyone has any objections he/she may file nis/her objection in the office of the RCS Parliament street. New Delhi or at Societ office i.e, Plot No.5A, Sector-11, Dwarka New Delhi-110075 within 15 days from the date of publication of the public notice

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007

(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) Summons for filing & Appearance

(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993

Original Application
No. 306 of 2020
ICICI BANK LTD. ...App ...Applicant

Kh-30, 201002. Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad-

Sec-119, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301 Flat No T1-Pf05, 5th Floor Tower

Also At: Flat No. T1-Pf06, 6th floor Tower

Flat No T1-Pf05, 5th Floor Tower-A-1 Unnati The Aranya Height, Podium Floors, Plot No. Gh-02,

3. M/S UNNATI FORTUNE HOLDINGS LTD. Registered Office at:

Registrar

President Rajapaksa has agreed to form an interim government to tackle the unprecedented economic crisis, a senior Buddhist monk claimed on Monday, as the debt-ridden country stepped up efforts to keep the economy afloat.

Thousands of demon-strators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

Rajapaksa expressed his intention to form the interim powerful Buddhist clergy on Sunday. Rajapaksa had responded to a letter from the chief monks of the four Buddhist chapters dated April



4 in which they had asked Rajapaksa to dissolve the Cabinet to set up an interim government. Madagoda Dhammananda, Chief Registrar of one of the chapters, said. A few days ago high-ranking Buddhist monks, who oversee and regulate the Buddhist clergy, have urged the President, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and all MPs to take try in order and also said that they will be forced to issue a Sangha Convention if they fail to do so, Daily Mirror newspa-

#### Analysis: Loss is victory for far-right in France's election

 $T^{
m he}$  far-right has gone mainstream in France. That's the headline from the landmark showing by Marine Le Pen in the French presidential election. The fierce nationalist didn't win Sunday. But she edged another step closer - snatching a victory of sorts from her defeat to reelected President Emmanuel Macron.

With 41.5 per cent of the vote, unprecedented for her, Le Pen's anti-foreigner, anti-system politics of disgruntlement are now more entrenched than ever in the psyche, thinking and political landscape of France. Since the Le Pen dynasty - first her dad, Jeandaughter - first started contesting presidential elections in 1974, never have so many French voters bought into their doctrine that multicultural and



multiracial France, a country with the words "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" inscribed on its public buildings, would be richer, safer and somehow more French if it was less open to foreigners and the outside

Had she become France's first woman president, her plan for fighting Islamic terrorism would have included stripping women who are Muslims - of some of their liberty. She wanted to ban them from wearing headscarves in public - hardly very equal or fraternal.

#### Hunter Biden is prime target if Republicans win Congress

**AP** WASHINGTON

ntelligence officials had gathlered to brief select members of Congress on future threats to US elections when a key lawmaker in the room, No 3 House Republican Elise Stefanik of New York, tried to move the discussion to a new topic: Hunter Biden's laptop.

Stefanik, who serves on the House Intelligence Committee, asked the officials during the April 1 briefing whether they had any evidence of Russian involvement in the release of media in the fall of 2020 - a possibility floated by highranking former government officials in weeks before presidential election.

#### Taliban moving away terrorists from Pak-Afghan border: Report

PTI ISLAMABAD

Taliban-led The Government in Afghanistan has started taking steps to shift terrorist groups away from the regions bordering Pakistan following a series of recent cross-border attacks that killed nearly a dozen Pakistani soldiers and prompted a strong reaction from Islamabad, a media

report said on Monday.

Pakistan, in recent months, has been increasingly frustrated by the Taliban government's reluctance to eliminate the terrorist groups, including the banned Tehreeke-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Taliban leadership is

not ready to take action partly because these groups fought alongside Taliban against the US-led foreign forces and also share the same ideology. A

senior Pakistani official famil iar with the development told The Express Tribune on Sunday that after the recent spate of cross-border attacks. Pakistan conveved in clear terms to the Taliban leadership to take action against the terrorist groups or face the consequences.

"Some of the groups have already been moved out of our border regions," said the senior official, who deals with the issue. Pakistan though does not agree with the approach, it accepts the Taliban's decision to at least stop the immediate cross-border attacks, said the official who did not want to be identified.

"Our demand is clear that these groups must be eliminated or dealt with in a manner that they never pose threat to us again," the report quoted the official as saying.

#### Shehbaz to visit Saudi this week on maiden visit abroad

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's newly-appointed Prime Minister Shehbaz

The Prime Minister,

Sharif would travel to Saudi Arabia this week on his maiden official visit abroad after assuming office. Shehbaz, 70, was sworn in as Pakistan's 23rd prime minister on April 11 after his predecessor Imran Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote.

accompanied by a high level delegation, will be undertaking an official visit to Saudi Arabia later during the week," Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed said at his press briefing on Monday. This would be his first ever foreign trip as prime minister of Pakistan. On sidelines of visit, Shehbaz would also visit Mecca to perform Umrah pilgrimage.

#### Israel strikes southern Lebanon in response to rocket fire

**AP** ■ JERUSALEM

rsraeli tanks fired into southern Lebanon early on Monday in response to a rocket fired from the country, the Israeli military said. The incident along Israel's northern border comes at a time of heightened tensions between Israelis Palestinians. Recent weeks have seen a

string of deadly attacks inside Israel, lethal arrest raids by Israel in occupied West Bank and rocket attacks into Israel launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, as well as clashes in a key Jerusalem holy

It has been worst violence to shake region since an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants last year. In a statement, the Israeli military said rocket landed in an open area in northern Israel early Monday, causing no

damage or injuries. Shortly after, the military said it struck "the sources of the projectile launched and an infrastructure target in southern Lebanon." It said "routine activity" in northern Israel was continuing and there were no special precautions being asked of civilians in

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the rocket fire, but Brig. Gen. Ran Kochav, the military spokesman, told Israeli Army Radio that he assumed the rocket was launched by Palestinian militants in Lebanon spurred on by recent events in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. He said Israel's response was meant "to make clear to all who are on other side, whether it is Palestinian factions, Hamas, the government of Lebanon or Hezbollah that we won't allow Israeli sovereignty to be violated," he said.

#### China pact Japan to send envoy to Solomons amid worry over

Japan is sending a vice foreign minister to the Solomon Íslands on Monday amid worry over a recent security agreement that the South Pacific nation struck with China that could increase Beijing's military influence in the region. Vice Foreign Minister Kentaro Uesugi's three-day trip to Solomon Islands comes on the heels of a visit by a senior US. Delegation, who warned

that Washington would take

unspecified action against the



a threat to US Or allied inter-The security pact, which

alarmed neighbouring countries and Western allies, including Japan, that fear a military

security of the entire Asia-Pacific region and we are watching the development with concern," Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said Friday. Uesugi, during his visit to the Solomon Islands, is

buildup in the region. "We believe the deal could affect the

expected to convey Japan's concern about the security pact and discuss bilateral and regional issues. Japan sees China's increasingly assertive military activity in the East and South China seas as a threat in some of the world's

especially concerned about Chinese military and coast guard activity in East China Sea near the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu. Tokyo has in recent years significantly stepped up securi-

busiest sea lanes. Japan is

ty cooperation and expanded joint drills with the United States and other Western partners, including Australia, Índia, France, Britain and Germany, that share its concerns about China's growing influence.

# **India's GDP likely to** grow by 7.5-8%: CII

India's economy is expected to grow 7.5-8 per cent this fiscal year with exports playing a key role in the country's success story, CII President TV Narendran said on Monday.

However, he said the country needs to remain prepared for any fallout of next wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

"We are confident that the economy can retain a high growth trajectory this year. So, we are very optimistic on the export front. Exports will be a key component of India's success story going forward," Narendran said.

In an interview to PTI, the President of the industry body said the resurgence of COVID globally will have an impact on the global supply chain and CII's India economic growth estimate of 7.5-8 per cent in the current fiscal factors these developments.

"The experience with COVID shows that every time there is a fresh wave globally, it does hit India as well. Therefore, we must be prepared for the future waves," he

According to him, the industry has in place well defined safety protocols and has really moved up the learning curve in managing COVID and in its ability to continue to operate safely even as infec-



"Therefore, in our view we are much better prepared to deal with the next wave. In terms of immediate action, administration of precautionary dose and the vaccination of below 18 years could be expe-

need to be reminded of the importance of COVID appropriate behaviour and hence reminder campaigns are important," the CII President said.He said in the past the strategy of micro-containment has worked well for India, adding that the industry body does not anticipate a scenario of re-imposition of major lockdowns."The widely accepted principle of managing COVID globally is to learn to live with it, rather than go in for strict lockdowns," said Narendran.

Observing that the rise in oil and other commodity prices has impacted margins of industries and purchasing power of consumers, the CII President, however, said there is no call for using a term like stagflation in the Indian con-

"Growth for the current fiscal remains within the 7.5-8 per cent range. The IMF is looking at 8.2 per cent growth for India and expects it to continue to remain the fastest growing major economy in the world. Average inflation for the year is expected to remain within the RBI's target range," Narendran said.

He opined that consumption demand has been recovering strongly as the pandemic-related restrictions have been lifted, especially in contact-intensive sectors.

"Once the external situation stabilizes, we are likely to see a rise in pent up demand. Rural consumption is likely to remain strong as terms of trade improve and India exports its agricultural produce to newer markets in the Middle East and Africa,

### Markets tumble for 2nd day, investors lose over ₹6.47L cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tnvestors' wealth tumbled over Rs 6.47 lakh crore in two days of market crash amid weak cues from global markets.

On Monday, BSE benchmark Sensex dived 617.26 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 56,579.89. During the day, it plummeted 840.28 points or 1.46 per cent to 56,356.87.

On Friday, the Sensex

tanked 714.53 points or 1.23 per cent to settle at 57,197.15.

The two-day fall in equities wiped out Rs 6,47,484.72 crore, bringing the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms to Rs 2,65,29,671.65 crore.

"Indian markets extended losses after taking cues from its Asian peers. Nifty opened

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on Monday said the central bank will have to raise

interest rates to tame inflation and the hikes need

not be considered as some "anti-national" activi-

Known for his frank views, Rajan said that it was important to remember that "war against infla-

tion" is never over. "Inflation is up in India. At some

point, the RBI will have to raise rates, like the rest

of the world is doing," he said in a Linkedin post.

to a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent in March,

much above the upper tolerance level of the RBI

while the wholesale price-based inflation rose to

a four-month high of 14.55 per cent in March,

mainly due to hardening of crude oil and com-

Costlier food items pushed the retail inflation

ty by politicians and bureaucrats.



lower and remained under selling pressure throughout the said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

"We expect markets to remain volatile amid worries about inflation and its impact on corporate earnings, while also fuelling concerns over aggressive US Fed rate hikes in the near term," he added.

On Monday, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Titan, Reliance Industries, ITC,

Hiking interest rates to tame inflation need not be

considered as anti-national activity: Raghuram

Larsen & Toubro and Sun Pharma were among the major laggards in the Sensex pack, shedding as much as 4.47 per

In contrast, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nestle, Maruti Suzuki, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank finished up to 0.75 per cent higher.

In the broader markets, the BSE smallcap gauge lost 1.88 per cent while the midcap index dropped 1.86 per cent.

'Global markets were painted red due to below-par earnings results, adding fresh concerns to elevated inflation, oil prices, war uncertainties and supply issue. Fear of waning demand due to prolonged Covid lockdown

Politicians and bureau-

crats will have to under-

stand that the rise in pol-

cy rates is not some anti-

national activity benefit-

ing foreign investor, but is

an investment in eco-

nomic stability, whose

greatest beneficiary is the

Indian state," he emphasised. Rajan is currently a

Professor at the University of Chicago Booth

(RBI) kept borrowing costs unchanged at a

record low for the 11th time in a row in a bid to

continue supporting economic growth despite

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India

### Govt purchases 136.9L tonnes of wheat till April 24 for ₹27,592 cr

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has procured 136.93 lakh tonnes of wheat till April 24 of the 2022-23 rabi marketing year at the minimum support price (MSP) for Rs 27,592 crore.

In the 2022-23 Rabi marketing season that started this month, 136.93 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured from 11 states till April 24, an official statement said on Monday.

"Till April 24, a quantity of 136.93 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured, benefiting over 11.99 lakh farmers with an MSP value of Rs 27,592.10 crore," it added. The comparative figure of wheat procurement was not mentioned in the statement.

Wheat procurement under the central pool is progressing in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh,



Uttrakhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Gujarat, Bihar, and Rajasthan. Paddy procurement under the central pool is progressing smoothly in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2021-22, in various procuring States/ UTs. The kharif marketing season runs from October to September.

"Up to April 24, a quanti-ty of 757.27 lakh tonnes of paddy (includes Kharif Crop 751.39 LMT and Rabi Crop 5.87 LMT) has been procured, benefiting 109.33 Lakh farmers with an MSP value of Rs.1,48,424.78 crore," the state-

#### **Zomato's founder Goyal** ioins Urban Company board PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online food delivery firm Zomato's founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal along with three other industry leaders have joined the board of home service marketplace Urban Company as independent direc-

Former partner at McKinsey & Co. Ireena Vittal, Helion co-founder Ashish Gupta and former chairman and senior partner of PwC India

Shyamal Mukherjee have also joined the board."We are humbled to have esteemed industry leaders join our board as independent directors, as we step into our next phase of growth.

"They bring in a lot of experience and industry expertise that will guide us in our company building journey. We look forward to their mentorship in the years to come," Urban Company co-founder and CEO Abhiraj Singh Bhal said in a

## Coal shortage: Industry bodies seek PM's intervention

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of short supply of coal to non-regulated sector, industry bodies have sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in the matter, stating that industries are compelled to purchase power from exchanges at higher rates due to increased demand.

The development assumes significance in the wake of country's power plants facing coal shortages.

Reeling under the crisis on account of continued coal shortage, a major segment of MSMEs and captive power plant-based industry have jointly submitted a representation to the prime minister through a group of 10 indus-

Scarce supply of fuel for a



prolonged period has led to severe consequences for many industries such as aluminium, cement, steel including their captive power plants, the industries stated in the repre-

... Under the current sitcontinuous process plants are compelled to purchase power from exchange, causing power demand to increase and inflate exchange rate of power significantly," the representation

Further, keeping captive power plants idle and compelling CPP integrated industries to buy power from market is creating overall system inefficiency in the form of unnecessary coal transportation and higher specific consumption in CPP units due to low-capacity utilisation.

All these factors are causing higher cost of production of finished goods from different industries.

According to the representation, dispatches of coal to sectors like captive power plants, steel, cement and sponge iron have been reduced 32 per cent in the current

The situation has aggravated to such a level that may compel many industries to cut down on production or force closure. Such impediments in coal procurement may adversely impact the manufacturing sector which would in turn tickle down to the common people of the country. If an equitable supply of

coal between power and nonpower sectors had been achieved during the January-March period, the coal stock situation at the power-end across sectors would have been much improved ahead of the summer and load on power utilities could have been reduced by generation from CPP units, the representation pointed out. Non-pithead thermal power stations are also facing low coal stocks as the (CEA) data showed that stocks were 26 per cent of the normative levels at 155 non pithead plants with total generation capacity of about 163 GW during the April 18-21

### **CMPDIL** will continue to be Coal India arm

inflation edging higher.

School of Business.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Processing the said it is contemplating the he Government on Monday merger of CMPDIL with Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd (MECL) and stressed that

India arm CMPDIL with MECL and will prepare a Cabinet note

Ltd) is a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd that provides exploration and consultancy services primarily to the coal sector. Keeping in view the scope for its business expansion in other minerals, the government has

plans for its strengthening, for which it is being considered to merge MECL into CMPDIL," the coal ministry said in a statement.MECL has domain expertise in non-coal mineral exploration and consultancy. As a result, such merger and creation of one integrated exploration and consultancy organisation with requisite expertise for coal and non-coal sector would result in growth and value addition.

At the same time, CMPDIL will continue to be a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd," the planning and design arm of

#### **Apparel unit in tribal area to** boost women employment An agreement will be signed

**PTI** ■ SAMBALPUR

An apparel manufacturing unit will be set up in the tribal-dominated Kuchinda subdivision of Odisha's Sambalpur district to provide employment to women throughout the year and also to augment their livelihood, an official said.

The clothing plant will come up at Ardabahal under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

It will be the first apparel industry under the scheme in the state and Rs 2.79 crore will be spent on the project. The Union government will bear 90 will be provided by the state gov-

Wednesday between the Khadi and Village Industry Commission and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS). "As many as 250 industrial

sewing machines will be installed at the unit," said Srimanta Hota, the deputy chief executive officer of ORMAS in Sambalpur. The project will provide

employment to more than 500 women from 50 women self-help groups (WSHGs). The women, who will be provided training in sewing, will earn not less than Rs 8,000 per month, Hota said.Sambalpur District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida and Kuchinda sub-collector tiated the process and a land for the project has been identified.

# SRF

#### SRF LIMITED Reg. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor,

Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091 Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana- 122 003 Tel. No (Regd office): (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900 E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

#### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Certificates pertaining to Shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the

No.		Heir (Claimant)			Shares
1	SRF0118838	RAJIV PURI	425158-9	18250007-31	25
		SARLA KALRA (SARLA PURI)	574158-9	26269799-823	25
		ASHIVINI PURI	1124418	307931594-793	200
		SANGEETA PURI (SANGEETA KALRA)			
2	SRF0132180	JAYALAKSHMY VENKATACHALAM	385996-7	17318157-256	100
		INDIRA VENKATESWARAN	534996-7	25337949-8048	100
			592882	17318257-81	25
			592882	25338049-73	25
			90200587-9	15333530-654	125
			90253046-7	9904070-169	100
3	SRF0120250	CHANDRAHAS KOLHATKAR	438939-46	23489278-475	198
		SHARAD KOLHATKAR	587939-46	31509070-267	198
		SULABHA KOLHATKAR	1127826	309137042-8625	1584
4	SRF0025259	K SOMA SUNDARAM	1130345	310168706-905	200
		SM SOUNDARAN	90185345	14551295-344	50
5	SRF0041365	SUNIL YESHWANT BORKAR	1128917	309630554-753	200
	l.	SHARADA Y BORKAR	90127706	9556126-175	50
6	SRF0140004	NISHA SAWHNEY	795233	17906426-43	18
			795233	17926565-93	29
			795233-4	17927138-66	29
			795234	25926228-35	8
			795234	25946357-72	16
			795235	13085955-62	8
			795235	25946373-85	13
			795235	25946930-58	29
			795236	13085963-84	22
			1124029	307812658-3345	688
7	SRF0135950	MOHINDER BAJAJ	640798	24675664	1
		JAMNA DASS BAJAJ	1124896	308112382-5	4
8	SRF0025736	G NAGALAKSHMI	360441	16901912-21	10
		G LAKSHMI	509441	24921704-13	10
		and a section of selection of presents	1129065	309683966-4125	160
			90056893	8427666-85	20

with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates

for SRF LIMITED RAJAT LAKHANPAL VP (Corporate Compliance)

### ICICI Bank stock jumps nearly 1% after earnings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of ICICI Bank on Monday gained nearly 1 per cent after the company reported 59 per cent jump in standalone net profit for the fourth quarter of 2021-22.

The stock went up by 0.73 per cent to settle at Rs 752.80 on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 1.98 per cent to Rs 762.20. At the NSE, it gained 0.97

per cent to settle at Rs 754.95. In traded volume terms, 8.54 lakh shares were traded at BSE and over 3.54 crore shares at the NSE during the The private sector lender

cent jump in standalone net profit to Rs 7,019 crore for the fourth quarter of 2021-22. The bank had earned a profit of Rs 4,403 crore in the corresponding January-March

Total income of the bank rose to Rs 27,412 crore in January-March from Rs 23,953 crore in the year-ago quarter, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing. Net interest income (NII)

increased 21 per cent to Rs 12,605 crore from Rs 10,431 crore in the same quarter a year ago, it said. On a consolidated basis ICICI Bank Group's net profit jumped 58 per cent to Rs

7,719 crore in March quarter from Rs 4,886 crore in the year-ago period. The bank's asset quality improved as gross non-performing assets fell to 3.60 per cent of gross advances as of

#### on Saturday reported 59 per March 31, 2022, from 4.96 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago. Net NPAs also declined to

0.76 per cent from 1.14 per cent at the end of the fourth quarter of the previous finan-

#### **County group to invest ₹850 cr** on dev of commercial project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

period a year ago.

land estate development Acounty group will invest Rs 850 crore on the development of national capital.



Netaji Subhash Place in Pitampura in north Delhi.

FORM NO. 5 **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL** 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance
by Publication

O.A. No. 311/2020 (Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application No. 311 of 2020 ICICI BANK LTD. Versus MR. RAJEEV GUPTA & OTHERS

1. MR. RAJEEV GUPTA, 407. Gulmohar Garden, Shashtr Nagar Kanpur-208002

Flat No.901, 9th Floor, Block-05 Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida Noida-201306 2. MR. MANISH GUPTA

407, Gumohar Garden, Nagar Kanpur- 208002 Also At: Flat No.901, 9th Floor, Block-05 Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida, Noida-201306

3. M/S UNITECHLTD. Registered Office: 6, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi-11017

P-7, Sector-18, Noida-201301

Corporate Office:

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after oublication authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 22/07/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near

Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication O.A. No.288/2020

(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application No. 288 of 2020

ICICI BANK LTD. Versus SANJEEV BHANOT & OTHERS

1. SANJEEV BHANOT R/O Flat No.-E56 2nd Floor Suncity, Sec-54, Gurgaon- 122002 R/O Flat No. 207 2nd Floor Tower, T3 The Aranya Gh, Sec 119-Noida

201301 2. MRS. ANSHU BAHL Flat No. E56 2nd floor Suncity, Sec-54, Gurgaon-122002

Flat No. 207 2nd Floor Tower, T3 The Aranya Gh, Sec 119- Noida 201301 M/S. UNNATI FORTUNE HOLDINGS LTD.

Registered Office:

T-07, LL-02, Common Wealth Games Village, New Delhi- 110092 Corporate Office: B-117 Sector-67, Noida, U.P. In the above noted application, you

are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 25/07/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

#### CMPDIL will continue to be the subsidiary of Coal India. The statement comes soon after reports emerged that the government is moving ahead with a proposal to merge Coal

"CMPDIL (Central Mine

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007

(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) mons for filing & Appearance by Publication O.A. No. 121/2022

Date 08.04.2022 (Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application No. 121 of 2022

ICICI BANK LTD. Versus ASHISH KUMAR SARDANA &

1. ASHISH KUMAR SARDANA S/O. VINAY KUMAR SARDANA House No. C16-435, Milan Vihar Plot No.72, IP Extn. Pratapganj Delhi-110092 Also at: Flat No. 1/1201 A, 13th

Floor Block A-1 Gh-11, Ahinsa Khand-2 Indira puram, Ghaziabad 2. VINAY KUMAR SARDANA S/O JAGAN NATH SARDANA House No. C16-435, Milan Vihar Plot No.72, IP Extn. Pratapganj

Delhi- 110092 Also at: Flat No. 1/1201 A, 13th Floor Block A-1 Gh-11, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indira puram, Ghaziabad 201010.

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 26/07/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence

Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

#### Name of the Share Holder / Legal Cert-No.

		SANGEETA PURI (SANGEETA KALRA)			
2	SRF0132180	JAYALAKSHMY VENKATACHALAM	385996-7	17318157-256	100
		INDIRA VENKATESWARAN	534996-7	25337949-8048	100
			592882	17318257-81	25
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3	SRF0120250	CHANDRAHAS KOLHATKAR	438939-46	23489278-475	198
		SHARAD KOLHATKAR	587939-46	31509070-267	198
		SULABHA KOLHATKAR	1127826	309137042-8625	1584
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6	SRF0140004	NISHA SAWHNEY	795233	17906426-43	18
			795233	17926565-93	29
			795233-4	17927138-66	29
			795234	25926228-35	8
			795234	25946357-72	16
			795235	13085955-62	8
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			795236	13085963-84	22
			1124029	307812658-3345	688
7	SRF0135950	MOHINDER BAJAJ	640798	24675664	1
		JAMNA DASS BAJAJ	1124896	308112382-5	4
8	SRF0025736	G NAGALAKSHMI	360441	16901912-21	10
		G LAKSHMI	509441	24921704-13	10
		Here's the register of 12 SAN	1129065	309683966-4125	160
			90056893	8427666-85	20

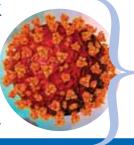
company will consider to give effect to the above requests

& Company Secretary

Place : Gurugram Date: 25-04-2022

#### Covidcheck

A drug used to treat asthma and allergies can bind to and block a crucial protein produced by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and reduce viral replication in human immune cells, says researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)



# Need to harness innovation to combat malaria



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva releasing a 'Manual on Integrated Vector Management 2022' at an event to mark 'World Malaria Dav' on Monday in Delhi

s the World Malaria Day was observed on April 25, India hopes to battle the vector-borne disease by strengthening the healthcare delivery system and improving multisectoral coordination and collaboration to meet its goal of eliminating the disease from the country by 2030.

In fact, India has made remarkable progress in controlling malaria with 86.45 per cent decline in cases of the vector- borne disease and 79.16 per cent reduction in deaths in 2021 as compared to 2015 as also has been stated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday at an event in Delhi.

"Not only diagnosis and treatment, 'swachhta' in our per-

sonal and community surroundings and social awareness regarding malaria control and prevention are equally important in our collective fight against it and for meeting our goal of elimination of malaria from the country by 2030," Mandaviya said.

This year's theme is "Harness innovation to reduce the global malaria disease burden and save lives."

With Malaria being a major public health problem in India with at least 80% of malaria reported in the country is confined to areas consisting 20% of population residing in tribal, hilly, difficult and inaccessible areas, States on their parts have kicked off dedicated schemes to eradicate the vector-borne

A programme called DaMan- Duragama Anchala Re Malaria Nirakaran was launched by the Odisha Government in 2017 wherein mass

347,860in 2017 (41% of national cases that year) to 25525 in

Government aims to help the State become malaria-free by

2030. ASHA and Anganwadi workers have been given the

responsibility to inform people about the scheme while ini-

tiatives taken by Telangana to fight Malaria has ensured an

intersectoral collaboration involving municipalities, public

health care facilities, and panchayat departments which has

by Chhattisgarh since January 2020 to combat the issue. After

the success of the campaign in Bastar, the state government further extended the programme to the rest of the state.

al award to be conferred by the Health Ministry to mark World

Dryday initiative in collaboration with Panchayat Raj,

Municipal Administration, and Rural Water Supply at the vil-

lage and ward secretariat level. They also helped in bringing

Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, former Director, National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC) said that, "Despite

disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, overall, malaria cases in the country continued to decline between 2019 and

Chhattisgarh has launched Malaria Mukt Bastar Abhiyaan

In 2022, Chhattisgarh has also been selected for a nation-

Andhra Pradesh Government has come up with Friday-

led to the decline of malaria cases in Telangana.

Malaria Day for excelling in battling malaria.

down the number of malaria cases in the State.

Kiwi: Kiwis have an equal

amount of Vitamin C as com-

pared to oranges. Since, they

come in the category of exotic

fruits, kiwis are a delight to the

taste buds. They are one of the

best fruits for summer as they

have a unique cooling

effect on the body and

packed with Vitamin E, potassi-

um, and fibre as

well. The fruit is

also rich in other

nutrients. These

may help reduce

blood pressure,

boost wound heal-

ing, help maintain

Similarly, Dastak Abhiyan by the Uttar Pradesh

screenings have been

organized twice a year

at malaria camps in April-June and September-October in

remote locations of the

State. Under DaMan,

the indoor residual

spray method is used

and the entire popula-

tion undergoes a

malaria test. The

malaria intervention

programme in Odisha

number of cases in the

state. In the period

between 2016 and

2021 cases have reduced by 94%.

According to the

NCVBDC, cases in the

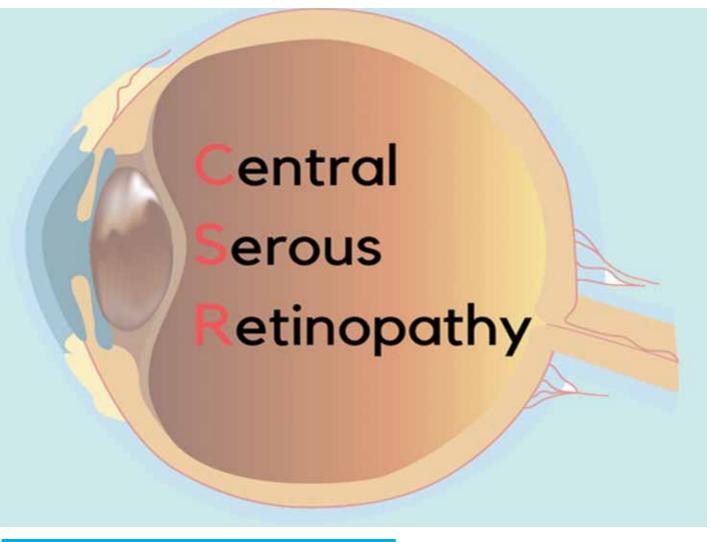
state fell from

elped in bringing down a significant

#### **VULNERABLE GROUPS**

- INFANTS
- CHILDREN <5 YEARS</p>
- PATIENTS WITH **HIV/AIDS**
- PEOPLE WITH LOW **IMMUNITY WHO MOVE INTO AREAS** WITH INTENSE MALARIA **TRANSMISSION**

2021(16% of total cases that year).



# Stress can kill your vision

Those with stress, irregular sleep patterns, types A personalities, sleep apnea, or systemic hypertension are more susceptible to CSR. The condition takes several weeks or months to heal. But yes, it can also be chronic. The PIONEER HEALTH talks to doctors.

orty-five-year-old Ramesh Verma, a journalist by profession, was taken aback one fine day when he woke up to find he had a blurry vision. Splashing water on his eyes didn't help matters. He could see a patch in the right eye and wavy lines whenever he tried focusing on a set

Verma was, subsequently, diagnosed with Central Serous Retinopathy (CSR), a condition wherein a small amount of fluid collects beneath a tiny region of eye's the back of the eye), causing it to temporarily detach.

Atul Ophthalmologist and Head of AK Institute of Ophthalmologist, Delhi who diagnosed Verma, says that people with high-level stress, irregular sleep patterns, types A personalities (refers to a pattern of behaviour and personality associated with high achievement, competitiveness, and impatience), sleep apnea, or systemic hypertension are more susceptible to CSR.

Stress taxes the body so much that the retina starts leaking blisterforming fluid, points out Dr Kumar, who is a former Chief of the RP Centre, AIIMS Delhi.

Verma can't help but agree with

his doctor. These last two years since the Covid-19 pandemic have been extremely grueling. "There were lots of issues-professional and personal. Too much mental and emotional stress was leading to less sleep. As I was sleep deprived, watching the screen seemed like my favourite pastime," he said.

Usually, in this case, people have blurry vision or see wavy lines when trying to focus on a set point. However, the good news is that in most cases, CSR can heal itself i.e. can be alleviated by cutting down tion such as physical activity, exercise and proper sleep is a remedy," assures Dr Kumar.

With stress becoming a way of life for many due to job insecurity or may be due to other reasons, lifestyle disorder and poor sleep timings, CSR is becoming very common, say the health experts.

"Most of the patients we are getting are those working in night shifts, say in Railways or Call Centres," Dr Kumar points out.

While not much is known about CSR, in Verma's condition, there is a buildup of fluid under the retina. This occurs in a layer known as the retinal pigment epithelium.

"If fluid builds up here, it can cause visual distortion and even a detachment," explains Dr Rohan Chawla, Associate Professor and Retinal Specialist at RP Centre, AIIMS, Delhi.

He informs that this condition tends to occur in men between the ages of 30 and 50. Besides stress, additional factors that tend to lead to this condition include those using steroids, having an autoimmune disorder, infected with helicobacter pylori (something that's associated with ulcers), having insomnia, sleep apnea, or another sleep-related disorder, having high ly competitive or aggressive by

In most cases, treatment for this isn't necessary, and people retain good vision, though, perhaps, not as good as before. CSR tends to clear up on its own. However, if this doesn't happen and fluid leakage persists, the doctor may prescribe oral medication, as per reports.

Having a regular comprehensive eye examination can catch early signs of eye conditions that can risk your sight. Additionally, many people do not realize they have diabetes or high blood pressure. A regular medical check-up can help you control these conditions so they do not raise your health risks from many serious conditions.

It often will go away on its own after a couple of months. Sometimes, an eye doctor may decide to treat CSR if it is severe or recurring. "If lifestyle is not modified, CSR can make one a visually handicapped for life," Dr Kumar cautions.

There's usually no treatment for CSR, other than trying to manage your stress (meditating, exercising, eating healthy, getting enough sleep, breaking away from stressors), Dr Chawla says.

Although laser and laser-assisted treatments are more commonly sometimes use prescription medications. Your eye doctor may be more likely to consider treatments if your CSR does not resolve after more than two months -surgeries and specialist-driven procedures are then

The most common treatment for CSR is called photodynamic therapy. "This uses a special laser called a cold laser to treat the fluid build-up under the retina when central serous retinopathy occurs or recurs," says Dr Chawla.

The doctors advise that it is best to get your eyes checked at regular intervals to ensure even the minor of problems, if any, are detected in time and a proper line of treatment is undertaken.

#### New Therapy aims to cut invasive cancer risk among 70+

new study published in Frontiers in Aging found that a combination of high-dose vitamin D, omega-3s, and a simple home strength exercise program (SHEP) showed a cumulative reduction by 61% in cancer risk in healthy adults aged 70 or older. It is the first study to test the combined benefit of three affordable public health interventions for the prevention of invasive cancers. Following future studies, the results may impact the future of cancer prevention in older adults.

Cancer is considered a major age-related disease across the world. It is the second leading cause of mortality in older adults and the chances of getting most cancers increases with age.

Apart from preventative recommendations such as not smoking and sun protection, public health efforts that focus on cancer prevention are limited, according to Dr Heike Bischoff-Ferrari of the University Hospital Zurich: "Preventive efforts in middle-aged and older adults today are largely limited to screening and vaccination

Mechanistic studies have shown that vitamin D inhibits the growth of cancer cells. Similarly, omega-3 may inhibit the transformation of normal cells into cancer cells, and exercise has been shown to improve immune function and decrease inflammation, which may help in the prevention of cancer.

However, there was a lack of robust clinical studies proving the effectiveness of these three simple interventions, alone or com-

Bischoff-Ferrari and her colleagues wanted to fill these knowledge gaps by testing the effect of daily high-dose vitamin D3 (one form of vitamin D supplements), daily supplemental omega-3s, and a simple home exercise program, alone and in combination, on the risk of invasive cancer among adults aged 70 or older.

To do so, the researchers conducted the DO-HEALTH trial: a three-year trial in five European countries (Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, and Portugal) with 2,157 participants. "In DO-HEALTH, our aim was to test

promising combined interventions for cancer prevention taking advantage of poten-tially small additive benefits from several public health strategies," explained Bischoff-Ferrari. "In fact, novel cancer treatments aim to block multiple pathways for cancer development by combining several agents. We translated this concept into cancer prevention.

#### NPPA Fixes Retail Price of 15 Key **Formulations Including Diabetes**

he National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the retail price of 15 key drug formulations for diseases, including diabetes. Companies producing these medicines will now have to follow the new prices.
"NPPA has fixed retail prices of 15 for-

mulations under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 based on the decision of 96th Authority meeting dated March 24," the regulator said in its order.

The price of Metformin (extended-release) + Teneligliptin tablet, manufactured and marketed by Associated Biotech, Dales Laboratories, has been fixed at Rs 7.14 per tablet. Similarly, the retail price of Dapagliflozin + Metformin Hydrochloride extended release tablet has been fixed at Rs 10.7 per tablet.

Both these tablets are used for treating diabetes.

The NPPA has also fixed retail price of Human Normal Immunoglobulin for intravenous use, meant for the treatment of certain diseases caused due to lack of antibodies in blood, at Rs 177.85 for a 10

Besides, retail price of a single Medroxyprogesterone Acetate sustained release tablet, a hormone that helps regulate ovulation, has been fixed at Rs 14.04. The NPPA said the manufacturers shall issue a price list to the regulator through the Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System (IPDMS) and submit a copy to state drug controllers and deal-

According to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, every retailer and dealer shall display a price list as furnished by the manufacturer, where he carries on business in a manner so as to be easily accessible to any person wishing to consult the same, it added. The NPPA is mandated to fix/revise the prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations and enforce prices and availability of the medicines in the country. It also monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs in order to keep them at reasonable levels.

# Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby

A healthy diet is an important part of a healthy lifestyle at any time, but especially necessary if you're pregnant or planning a pregnancy. UNICEF gives a tip

#### How do I follow a balanced diet during pregnancy?

A: nutritious diet is one that includes a variety of healthy foods from each food group: Fruits, Vegetables, Grains, Protein, Dairy,

you should make sure you're getting throughout your pregnancy are: Calcium, Iron, Iodine, Choline, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B12, Folic

folic acid from food alone, you should take a daily prenatal vitamin or folic acid supplement with at least 400 mcg to make sure you are getting everything you need. If you are planning a pregnancy, start taking these as soon as possible or as soon as your pregnan-

cy is confirmed. Speak to your healthcare provider to learn more about the

right supplement for you.



What foods should I avoid when pregnant?

Pregnant women may be more susceptible to certain food-borne illnesses, which can result in pregnancy complications. During your pregnancy, foods to avoid include:

Raw, unpasteurized milk and soft cheeses made from unpasteurized milk. These may contain Listeria, a bacteria that can cause an illness called listeriosis.

■ Food past its expiration date, as they can contain bacteria.

Raw and undercooked meat products such as sausages and cold cuts. These can contain parasites like Toxoplasma gondii or bacteria te Salmonella or Listeria. ■ Uncooked fish and seafood

as it can contain high levels of bac-

Some varieties of fish are high in mercury and should be avoided. This includes most predatory fish such as shark, swordfish,

teria and parasites.

marlin and king mackerel. ■ Smoked but uncooked fish such as smoked salmon. ■ Uncooked sprouted seeds,

grains and beans. Raw sprouts (such as bean, alfalfa and radish sprouts, as well as ready-to-eat salads) can contain harmful bacteria such as Listeria, Salmonella and

Raw or undercooked eggs, which can carry the Salmonella bacteria.

■ Liver and other organ meats. Although the liver is very rich in iron, it is not recommended for a pregnant woman to consume because of its very high content of vitamin A and the potential risk for

**How do I safely prepare foods** 

while pregnant? ■ Wash hands with soap before

■ Wash all eating utensils thor-

Cook meat thoroughly ■ Wash uncooked vegetables, salad leaves and fruit carefully before eating

■ Store food at the appropriate temperature

Consume food immediately

after cooking

How much more do I need to eat when pregnant?

During the first trimester, you don't need to eat any extra portions. In the second trimester, you will need an extra 340 calories per day, and in the third trimester, about 450 extra calories a day. To get the extra energy you need, try to keep healthy snacks on hand, such as nuts, plain yoghurt and fresh fruit.

speak to your healthcare provider. Can I follow a vegetarian or vegan diet while I'm pregnant?

To find a plan that works for you,

If you are following a vegetarian or a vegan diet, it is important to make sure that you are getting enough iron, zinc, calcium and vitamins B12 and D. To find a solution that works for you, speak to your healthcare provider or registered dietitian/nutritionist.

#### 2021. We must take learnings from the pandemic, such as the importance of innovations, stronger data sharing systems, and targeted behaviour change campaigns to accelerate the drive to end malaria in India once and for all." What vitamins and minerals do I need during pregnancy? SUMMERCOOLER

bowel health, and more.If too

many free radicals build up,

they can causeTrusted Source

oxidative stress, which can result in cell damage. This

damage may lead to issues such as heart disease or cancer.

The key vitamins and minerals

How can I make sure I'm getting enough folic acid? Because it's hard to get 600 mcg

Ferrari 'won't lose

 $F^{errari}\, team\, chief\, Mattia\, Binotto\, encouraged\, his\, team\, and\, their\, fans\, to\, "keep\, smiling"\, and\, bounce\, back\, in\, begin{center} 100\% by the control of the c$ 

pursuit of a first Formula One title since 2007 after

despite being soundly beaten by a Max Verstappen-led Red Bull triumph in Sunday's Emilia Romagna Grand

Grand Prix, he urged them to stay positive as they plan

ing result as champion Verstappen led his team-mate Sergio Perez home while Ferrari's championship leader

Charles Leclerc finished sixth and Carlos Sainz spun out

on the opening lap.

"Obviously, we are a bit unhappy for the results," said Binotto. "I think we need to keep heads up. It's part of racing. Some races may go wrong -- and it has been like that here -- but we've still got a competitive package.

"I think we need to keep the smile on and look for-

ward to the next races."

Having shone in the season-opening races, Ferrari arrived at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari hoping to

add to their championship lead in front of chairman John

Elkann and chief executive officer Benedetto Vigna in

a package of upgrades to boost their performance.

He told the scarlet Scuderia to hold their heads high

Looking forward to next month's inaugural Miami

Binotto admitted Ferrari had suffered a disappoint-

heart' despite

Imola setback

Sunday's setback on home soil.

Barca lose three straight home games to put Los Blancos on cusp on La Liga trophy

**AP** ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona suffered a shock 1-0 defeat by Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, handing Real Madrid the chance to win La Liga if they draw at home to Espanyol next weekend.

Barca's place in the top four is still not secure either after a third consecutive defeat at Camp Nou continued their late-season wobble and saw them squander the chance to pull away in the race for Champions League qualification.

Madrid remain 15 points clear with five games left to play and while Barcelona have a better head-to-head, Carlo Ancelotti's side know they will be uncatchable if they take just a point from Espanyol on Saturday

Barcelona should still have enough for the top four given they sit six points clear of Real Betis in fifth, with five games left to play, but winning this game in hand against an out-of-form Rayo side would certainly have made the run-in more comfortable.

Instead, their form, as much as their position, will be a real concern for coach Xavi, whose team have now won only twice in their last six matches.

This loss comes after they were beaten at home by Eintracht Frankfurt in the Europa League quarter-finals and then defeated by Cadiz in La Liga, also 1-0.

Xavi talked on Saturday about "recovering the sensations" of a few weeks ago, when a 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu looked set to place Barcelona even as favourites in La Liga next season.

But that feels like a distant memory now, with the team's season in danger of ending with a whimper.



Missing out on the Champions League would be unthinkable for Barcelona, who started the season with debts of more than a billion euros.

Missing out on second place would have consequences too given qualification for the Spanish Super Cup is also believed to be worth around eight million euros to the Catalans.

Sevilla, in third, are level on points with Barcelona while Atletico Madrid, in fourth, are two points behind. Rayo, meanwhile, move up to 11th

in the table, reaching the 40-point mark that should guarantee their survival.

After a brilliant start to the season, promoted Rayo went 12 games without a win between February and April but any concerns about relegation are surely now over.

They took the lead in the seventh minute when Isi Palazon danced through Barcelona's midfield and spotted the curving run of Alvaro Garcia, who had dashed inside from the left.

Sergino Dest was too slow to react and Garcia struck quickly controlling

and Garcia struck quickly, controlling with his left and firing in with his right, giving Marc-Andre ter Stegen no chance

Barcelona had chances, especially in the latter stages as Memphis Depay's shot was blocked by Nikola Maras.

Gavi looked to have a decent claim for a penalty in the 89th minute when Alejandro Ćatena barged into the back of the youngster in the box - but neither the referee nor VAR were convinced.

With 11 minutes of added time, Barca kept coming, and Dembele saw another effort cleared off the line by

Rayo held on for a sensational vic-

### Tonali's winner takes AC Milan back on top

**AP** ■ ROME

Sandro Tonali scored in stop-page time as AC Milan came from behind to win 2-1 at Lazio on Sunday and retake top spot from reigning champions Inter Milan in Serie A. Ciro Immobile gave Lazio

an early lead at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, but Olivier Giroud levelled shortly after half-time before Tonali's late heroics kept Milan firmly in the



They moved back two points above of Inter, who beat Roma 3-1 on Saturday and have a game in hand Wednesday away to Bologna. Inter also knocked Milan out of the Italian Cup semi-finals. Immobile became the lead-

ing active scorer in Italy's top flight when he turned in a cross from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic inside four minutes.

The Italy international's

181st Serie A goal took him past veteran Sampdoria strik-er Fabio Quagliarella as Immobile extended his leagueleading haul for the season to

But Giroud poked in after excellent work from Rafael Leao, and Milan won it at the death as Zlatan Ibrahimovic nodded across for Tonali to force home following a poor defensive header by Francesco

Sunday's rain-affected contest. But instead of extending their run of successes, Leclerc had his title advantage cut from 40 points to 27 and the team had their lead in the constructors' championship cut Leclerc, who was also defeated by Verstappen in

Saturday's sprint race, made a poor start and fell to fourth while Sainz exited after contact from Daniel Ricciardo's McLaren left him beached in a gravel trap.

Leclerc fought back to third, made a late switch to soft tyres when chasing Perez, but then spun and damaged his car. After a further pit stop, he salvaged sixth as the team's run of podiums ended.

Binotto said Ferrari had pitted Leclerc to "try to have some opportunity", but he conceded that "he made a small mistake" that ended their hopes for a podium finish.

"Of course, we are disappointed as we wanted a better result than this in front of all our fans," said Binotto. "It was a difficult race.

"Carlos was very unlucky at the start and for the second time in a row, he was unable to finish the race. It's a real shame, not just because of the points lost, but also because he's completed very few kilometres in the last few

"Nevertheless, we will not lose heart and we will continue to work calmly. We wanted to give the fans something to cheer about, as they packed out the grandstands and the fields with a sea of red to support us.

"But there will be other races and opportunities to put a smile on their faces.

He added that the team looked forward to the Miami

"We will continue to work hard to extract all the potential out of the F1-75 and to optimise the updates," he said.

#### Marseille closer to securing CL spot

Gerson struck a late winner as Marseille beat Reims 1-0 away in Ligue 1 on Sunday, while Rennes shrugged off back-to-back losses to direct rivals for a Champions League spot by crushing Lorient to reclaim

Brazil international Gerson came off the bench to grab the only goal seven minutes from time and keep Jorge Sampaoli's side six points clear of the chasing pack in second

They remain well placed to take France's only other automatic qualifying berth for next sea-

son's Champions League, but still have three of their four remaining games. OM also travel to Feyenoord next week for the first leg of their Europa Conference League semi-final. "It was a tough match against an opponent who defended very well,

win," said Sampaoli.
"It's good to keep the gap with those chasing us because we have a difficult fixture list and those behind us also won so that put pres-

but I think it was a deserved

sure on us to do the same.' Rennes recovered from defeats by Monaco and Strasbourg over to demolish Lorient 5-0 at Roazhon Park.

Martin Terrier scored his 21st goal of the season shortly after Benjamin Bourigeaud had given Rennes the lead at Roazhon Park. Terrier is now just one behind the league's top scorer Kylian Mbappe.

Captain Hamari Traore headed in a third at the start of the second half, with Flavien Tait and Gaetan Laborde also on target after Rennes defender Nayif Aguerd was sent off.

# Hertha edge away from drop zone

Hertha Berlin took a huge step towards Bundesliga survival on Sunday by securing a 2-0 home win over Stuttgart with both clubs fighting to avoid relegation.

Davie Selke fired Hertha into an early lead at Belfodil made sure of the three points with a second goal deep into stoppage time.

"The heart is relieved. The atmosphere was unbelievable. I don't need to explain how

important this win was," Selke told DAZN. The win, their second in a row after a 1-

0 victory at Augsburg last weekend, leaves Stuttgart, who are a place below them in the off next month.

Stuttgart have three games left to escape games since veteran Felix Magath, who took a 2-0 win at Bochum.



Hertha are away to second-from-bottom Arminia Bielefeld next Saturday, then host

Mainz before travelling to Dortmund on the Earlier, Augsburg put more daylight

Hertha have won three of their five between themselves and the drop zone after

# Schopman looking to build on good run ahead of WC

The Indian women's hockey team will be focussing on increasing its level of fitness and speed, according to chief coach Janneke Schopman, who is hopeful the side can build upon its recent successful run in next month's FIH Pro League matches and the upcoming World Cup. Following a successful FIH Pro League home leg, India are perched on top of the points table. The team has commenced its prepa-

rations for the final set of Pro League matches next month as well as the women's World Cup, scheduled to begin on July 1 in Spain and Netherlands

India will be up against teams like Belgium, Argentina and USA in their remaining Pro League games before



"We made good progress in the last months and we will look to build on our performance.

The focus will be on increasing our level of fitness and speed combined with finetuning our game principles. I'm keen to see the players individually take a step forward, as they know what areas they want to work on," Schopman was quoted as saying in a media release.

The camp for the core probables, which began on Sunday at the SAI Centre here, will conclude on May 31.

The 36-member probable list includes a mix of experienced players such as Savita, Gurjit Kaur, Deep Grace Ekka, Navjot Kaur, along with young players like Bichu Devi Kharibam, Ishika Chaudhary, Sharmila Devi, Salima Tete and Lalremsiami, who were part of team that finished fourth at the recently concluded junior World Cup in South Africa.

#### MEN'S TEAM BEGINS PREPS

The Indian men's team will begin its reparation for the upcoming Hero Asia Cup and the last two Pro League double-headers against Belgium and Netherlands, respectively.

The core probable group is set to report to the SAI centre here on Monday.

It features a mix of veteran players such as PR Sreejesh, Amit Rohidas, Manpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh and Akashdeep Singh, along with young guns Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and ugraj Singh, who recently made their international debuts for the team.

The senior men's camp will end on

# Max, Elaine win top honours at Laureus Sports Awards

**PTI** ■ SEVILLE

 $R_{
m world}^{
m eigning}$  Formula One Max Verstappen and Jamaican Olympic sprint queen Elaine Thompson-Herah won the top honours at the 2022 Laureus World Sports Awards

Leading an illustrious group of sports stars honoured by the Laureus World Sports Ácademy, Verstappen and Thompson-Herah were named World Sportsman of the Year and World Sportswoman of the Year on

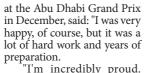
Sunday night. The Awards recognised the sporting achievements of 2021, one of the highlights of which was the European Championship victory by the Italian men's football team that won its second Laureus



Team of the Year Award as a

Tennis sensation Emma Raducanu received the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year Award following her US Open victory at the age of 18. India's star javelin thrower and reigning Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra was also nominated in

Verstappen, who secured his first World Championship



"I'm incredibly proud. Since I was a little kid I dreamt of being on the top step and winning the championship. I said to my dad (Former Formula One driver Jos Verstappen) 'We did it, this is what we worked for all these



two of us, all the memories, all the years of travelling all over Europe, going for that one goal and we achieved it'.

**FULL LIST OF WINNERS** World Sportsman of the Year **Award:** Max Verstappen World Sportswoman of the Award: oson-Herah World Team of the Year

Achievement Award: Robert

Award: Real

Award: Italy Men's Football World Breakthrough of the Year Award: Emma Raducanu

World Comeback of the Year Award: Sky Brown World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: Marcel Hug

World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award: Bethany Shrievei

Lifetime Achievement Award: Tom Brady Academy Exceptional

Lewandowski; Sporting Icon Award: Valentino Ross Sport for Good Award: Lost Boyz Inc. Sport for Good Society

Foundation Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Gerald Asamoah and the Black Eagles.



#### Kuldeep Vats re-elected as President of DOA

PNS NEW DELHI

Judge, Delhi.

ncumbent Kuldeep Vats was unopposed re-elected as the president of Delhi Olympic Association (DOA) in the elections held after the association's meeting on April 25, 2022.

Rakesh Gupta was elected as the secretary while Saroj Sharma elected as the treasurer. Deepak Kumar Singh elected as

senior Vice President while Raj Kumar elected as the Sr Joint Secretary. The election were conducted suc-

cessfully under the observance of Shri Gulshan kumar, returning officer who is the Retd. Additional Sessions

#### Alcaraz youngest entrant into ATP top 10 since Nadal

Cpanish star Carlos Alcaraz, Saged 18, on Monday became the youngest player to enter the top 10 of the ATP world rankings since his compatriot Rafael Nadal did so at the same age in

Alcaraz climbed two places to ninth in the world due to his straight-sets victory over Pablo Carreno Busta in the Barcelona Open final on Sunday. Britain's Cameron Norrie drops out of

the top 10 to number 11. It was the third title of the season for Alcaraz, having won the Miami Masters at the beginning of the month and the Rio tournament in February.

Carreno Busta swaps places with another Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut, the former climbing to 18 and the latter



Novak Djokovic still sits atop the standings despite losing to Russian Andrey Rublev in the final of the Belgrade Open. World number two Daniil Medvedev is out with a hernia problem.

### RCB aim to stop Buttler's juggernaut against Royals

Royal Challengers Bangalore will be aiming to halt the Jos Buttler juggernaut when they take on Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Attention will be on Virat Kohli as well following his

second consecutive first ball duck in the competition.

RCB would be hoping their star batter to be back among the runs besides a much improved performance by the bat-

ting unit after a shocker in the previous game. While the Challengers come into the match on the back of a demoralising nine-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan have had two successive wins and are one of the

While the focus

would be on Kohli,

RCB have also

power-hitters in cap-

tain Faf Du Plessis,

Glenn Maxwell,

Dinesh Karthik and

Shahbaaz Ahmed,

who can be destruc-

tive on their day and

if they fire in unison,

the RR attack would

have a tough time.

for his team, has

blown hot and cold

with the willow but

ties is playing the fin-

isher's role to near

Du Plessis, the highest run-scorer



with his hitting abili-

Bangalore vs Royals Live from 7:30 pm IST **STAR SPORTS 1** 

perfection. They are up against Rajasthan's varied attack, led by Trent Boult, who has troubled Kohli in the past with the delivery that comes

Prasidh Krishna and the spin duo of wily Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal can also pose problems for the RCB batters. Chahal, with 18 wickets so far, can turn the game on its head.

And ditto for Ashwin, who can be the opposition's nemesis on his day. Add to it the four overs by Obed McCoy; Rajasthan have a decent attack.

For Rajasthan, opener Jos Buttler has been in sublime form, having already hammered three hundreds this sea-

Opener Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Sanju Samson have also been toying with opposition attacks and are among the runs. And so is Shimon Hetymar, who can compound the bowling team's woes with his brutal onslaught. RR would be hoping that the top order delivers once again at the MCA Stadium, which has witnessed high-scor-

ing games. The weak links in Rajasthan's batting are Karun Nair and Riyan Parag and the duo would need to step up and

deliver. For RCB, they have the best death bowler in Harshal Patel, but he would need support from Mohammed Siraj

and Josh Hazlewood. The four overs by Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who has eleven wickets, could also change the

match's fate.

Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene has hinted at a few changes after repeated failures of the star-studded batting-line up and is also concerned about the drastic drop in form of star opener Ishan Kishan. Record five-time champions

Mumbai Indians are enduring their worst run in IPL history having lost their first eight games including the one against LSG on Sunday night. "Good question. I need to

review this and a have a chat with the rest of the coaches as well and make some plans," said Jayawardene when asked about potential changes in the batting line up going forward in the

competition.
"Batting has been a concern for us especially on good wickets where we have batted under



par. This is a senior group who understands the conditions and sistent whether we are batting first or chasing totals down," said the Sri Lankan legend. performed in the past. We need

to keep pushing and if we need to make those changes we will do that. "We had few changes Jayawardene also plans to sit down with Kishan whose performance graph has dipped drastically after fifties in the first (uptill now) but not a lot. We two games. "He has struggled a wanted to keep the batting consistent. Obviously there are conbit, we have given him the freedom to play his natural game. I cerns as we have not been con-

haven't yet spoken to him today but I will have a conversation with him soon," he said.

Mumbai had bought back Kishan for ₹15.25 crore at the IPL auction earlier this year. Skipper Rohit Sharma has

also not been at his best while veteran Kieron Pollard has also under delivered.

# GABBAR IS BACK

#### Dhawan's 59-ball unbeaten 88 helps Punjab Kings beat CSK by 11 runs

Punjab Kings beat defending cham-pions Chennai Super Kings by 11 runs in Match Number 38 of ongoing Indian Premier League season at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday to register its fourth win of this year's tournament.

Chasing the target of 188 runs to win, CSK were in the run chase till Ambati Rayudu (78 off 39 balls) was at the crease but his dismissal in the 18th over of the innings bowled by Kagiso Rabada sealed the game for Mayank Agarwal-led side.

Earlier batting first, opening batter Shikhar Dhawan struck his second fifty of the season to power Punjab Kings to

The 36-year-old left-handed batter anchored the Punjab innings with a brilliant 88 not out and combined with Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa (42) for a 110-run stand for the second wicket from 11.3 overs after captain Mayank Agarwal's early dismissal.

Dhawan hit nine fours and two sixes in his 59-ball superlative unbeaten knock. He went past his earlier highest score this season -- 70 against Mumbai Indians in Pune.

Dhawan got an able ally in Rajapaksa who made 42 from 32 balls with the help of two fours and as many sixes as the duo frustrated the CSK bowlers for a long stretch in the

Englishman Liam Livingstone, who was bought for Rs 11.5 crore in the IPL auction, played a little cameo of 19 runs



off seven balls with the help of a four and two sixes towards the end to swell the Puniab total.

Punjab made a slow start after being sent in to bat and their captain Agarwal's struggles this season continued as he was out in the sixth over for 18 off 21 balls. They reached 37 for 1 after powerplay overs.

Dhawan and Rajapaksa kept the scoreboard ticking with singles and doubles though without too many boundaries. The duo took Punjab to 72 for 1 at the halfway mark. The advantage for Punjab was that

they lost just one wicket in the first half of their innings and they capitalised on that later in the back-end.

They added 64 runs in the final five

Rajapaksa was out in the 18th over off Dwayne Bravo (2/42) who also scalped the wicket of Livingstone in the final over.

Jonny Bairstow was run out for six in the final ball of the innings. Maheesh Theekshana was the other wicket-taker for CSK.

#### **BCCI HAPPY WITH IPL PLAYOFF** ARRANGEMENTS AT EDEN: CAB

The BCCI is happy with the arrangements made for the two IPL playoff matches at the Eden Gardens Association of Bengal said on Monday.

May 24, while the eliminator will be held on May 25, both at the Eden

A BCCI team visited Eden Gardens IPL summit clash.

aPo. TEAM	M	W	L	NR	<b>Pts</b>	NRR
1. GT	7	6	1	0	12	0.396
2. SRH	7	5	2	0	10	0.691
3. RR	7	5	2	0	10	0.432
4. LSG	8	5	3	0	10	0.334
5. RCB	8	5	3	0	10	-0.472
6. PBKS	8	4	4	0	8	-0.419
7. DC	7	3	4	0	6	0.715
8. KKR	8	3	5	0	6	0.080
9. CSK	8	2	6	0	4	-0.538
10. MI	8	0	8	0	0	-1.000

boundarymeter 1067 556

and conducted a recce of the facilities ahead of the two matches, the CAB stated.
The IPL team thereafter met the top brass

of the CAB, led by President Avishek Dalmiya, along with Secretary Snehashis Ganguly. "The meeting was fruitful. The team was satisfied with the arrangements," Dalmiya here next month, the Cricket said. The playoff matches will witness 100 per ociation of Bengal said on Monday. cent capacity crowd for the first time after the The first qualifier will be played on outbreak of COVID-19.

The BCCI has given green signal to full capacity crowd in Kolkata and Ahmedabad which will host the second qualifier and the

#### No bio-bubble for India's home series against SA played in a bio-bubble for the safety players will be tested at regular inter-Obviously, all the players won't be staying confined to restricted areas can

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI in all likelihood will do **1** away with bio-bubbles from the upcoming five-match T20 series against South Africa, keeping in mind the mental well-being of cricketers. Bio-bubbles became a part of the

lives of cricketers with almost all the series (home and away) played in strict bio-secure environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The T20 series will be played across five venues — Delhi, Cuttack, Vizag, Rajkot, Bengaluru — between June 9 and 19.

of the players and the officials, will end on May 29 and the BCCI does not want it's players to move to another confined stay just after the conclusion of the league. "If all goes well and things remain

in control like it is right now, there will be no bio-bubbles and hard quarantine during the home series against South Africa," a senior BCCI official Then we are going to Ireland and

England and there won't be any biobubble in those countries too. The board is aware that bubble life

The IPL, which is also being is not sustainable for long period as

severely affect the players' mental "Some players have got periodic

breaks but if you look at the bigger picture, living in bio-bubble one series after another and now two months of IPL is simply exhausting for the players," he said. In UK, there are no bio-bubbles as

of now for any sporting activity and hence the Indian team is expected to have a free environment in the country where they would play one Test and six white-ball games in a space of three weeks

2nd over rate offence

"KL Rahul was fined ₹24 lakhs and the rest

"This was the team's second offence of the

Lucknow Super Giants registered a com-

of the members in the playing eleven were fined ₹6 lakhs or 25 percent of their match fee,

whichever is lower," said the IPL in a statement.

season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relat-

fortable 36-run win over Mumbai Indians, as

ing to minimum over rate offences.

they rode on Rahul's hundred.

PTI MUMBAI

Lucknow Super Giants Skipper KL Rahul has

been fined `24 lakh for

maintaining a slow over

rate in their IPL game

over rate offence of the

season. He was fined ₹12

lakh for the first offence.

It was Rahul's second

against Mumbai Indians.

vals to ensure there are no positive cases within the group. **WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT** 

**AFTER IPL 2022** 

An effective workload management program is being prepared so that all the stars including skipper Rohit Sharma, senior batters Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, keeper Rishabh Pant, pacers Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, spinner Ravindra Jadeja get adequate rest before jetting off to UK.

"There are five T20 Internationals

playing all the games. Some might be given total rest and some might play a few games.

"If these guys aren't given systemic breaks, it will only harm them. But obviously, the duration of break will be decided by selectors after talking to head coach (Rahul Dravid)," the source added.

It will be interesting to see if Hardik Pandya — whose comeback is just a matter of time — will picked for the Proteas series at home just after a gruelling Indian Premier League season or directly fielded in the T20I

However it is understood that the between June 9 to 19 in five cities. series in Ireland.

#### KL fined ₹24 lakh for | Deaflympics 2021: Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur sends off Indian contingent

PNS NEW DELHI

India's Deaflympics 2021 contingent received a rousing send-off on Monday ahead of embarking for the Games, starting May 1. Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik and other dignitaries graced the

A total of 65 athletes will be participating at the Games in Caxias Du Sul, Brazil, making it the largest and the youngest contingent ever from India to participate in the Deaflympics. They will participate in a total of 11 sports disci-plines: Athletics, Badminton, Judo, Golf, Karate, Shooting, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Taekwondo and Wrestling. The Games are scheduled from May 1-15.

Showering the contingent with the best of wishes, Thakur mentioned, "On



behalf of everyone in the country, I not only give the best of wishes to all of you but also want to say that you have already shown your mettle by getting selected to represent India for the Games. Since this is the biggest contingent, I also believe we will also get the highest number of medals from Brazil. India will be the next big sporting powerhouse, be it in Olympics, Paralympics or Deaflympics. India will not stop. This century is ours and we will keep on unfurling India's flag on all sporting

#### Sen, Sindhu eye medals at Asia C'ship Almora has been on a stellar run with title

 $F^{ocus \ will \ be \ on \ two-time \ Olympic}_{medallist \ P \ V \ Sindhu \ and \ world}$ championships Bronze winner Lakshya Sen when they lead India's challenge at the Badminton Asia Championships, beginning here on Tuesday. A lot of hope will ride on

Sen and Sindhu as the duo has been in good form in the run-up to the continent championships, which is returning after a gap of two years due to COVID-19. The prestigious event will, however, lose a bit of

sheen with the withdrawal of an injured HS Prannoy, who had claimed a Bronze at the 2018 Wuhan edition and is in good form. While Prannoy will miss

out due to a "small injury" sustained on way to his Swiss Open final finish, it will be a great opportunity for All England Silver medallist Sen.

The 20-year-old from

wins at the India Open Super 500 and final appearance at the German Open and All England Championships. Sen had also won a Bronze at the 2020 Asia team Championships, besides bag-

ging a Gold and Bronze at the 2018 and 2016 Asian Junior Championships. The fifth seeded Indian will be eagar to win a medal from the senior

tournament but it will be easier said than done as he faces 22-year-old China's Li Shi Feng, a two-time world junior championships Gold medallist, in his opening round.
All eyes will also be on for-

mer world champion fourth seed Sindhu, who had scooped a Bronze from the 2014 Gimcheon

edition and is coming into the event after securing two Super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open. The World No Indian will be

eagar to pocket

another medal

when she begins her campaign against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po. Sindhu is likely to come across fifth

seeded Chinese He Bing Jiao in the quarterfinals if she can cross the initial rounds. World championships Silver winner Kidambi Srikanth too has been in good

touch though he has been guilty of not able to close out some tight matches. The seventh seeded Indian, who won two Bronze in 2016 and 2020 Asia Team Championships but failed to secure an individual medal, will aim to grab the opportunity this time when he opens

against Malaysia's NG Tze Yong.

Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth too will eye a good show when he opens against fourth seeded Jonatan Christie. Focus will also be on London Olympics Bronze medallist Saina Nehwal as she looks to claim her fourth medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.

The former world number one will look to silence her critics when she begins campaign against Korea's Sim

World number 7 and third seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will open against Thailand pair of Apiluk Gaterahong and Natchanon

## Smith cleared of racism allegations

**PTI** ■ JOHANNESBURG

 $F^{ormer\ Cricket\ South\ Africa}_{(CSA)\ Director\ of\ Cricket}$ and captain Graeme Smith has been cleared of racism allegations against him following the outcome of the board's Social Justice and Nation-Building (SJN) commission's report.

In December last year, a 235page report submitted by the SJN Commission head Dumisa Ntsebeza had accused Smith, current head coach Mark Boucher and AB de Villiers, among others of engaging in racial discrimination. The Ombudsman's SJN

report had made various "tentative findings" regarding allegations of discrimination and racism. However, the Ombudsman had indicated that he was not in a position to make "definite findings" and had recommended that a further process be undertaken, follow-

ing which CSA launched a for-



Smith had discriminated against the black players by not selecting them in the national team.

After a full arbitration process, advocates Ngwako Maenetje SC and Michael Bishop cleared the former skipper of all the three account he was charged

"There was no evidentiary basis to conclude that Mr Smith Boucher, rather than Mr Enoch

engaged in racial discrimination against Mr Thami Tsolekile during the period 2012-2014," the CSA statement read. "2. There was no evidentiary

leadership at CSA; and "3. Tĥere was no evidentiary basis to conclude Mr Smith's appointment of Mr Mark Proteas team in 2019 amounted to unfair racial discrimination," it added. Lawson Naidoo, Chair of the

CSA Board, commented: "The manner in which these issues have been dealt with and resolved by the arbitration proceedings confirms CSA's commitment to deal with the SJN issues in a manner that treats them with utmost seriousness but also ensures fairness, due process and finality." Smith's contract as the

Director of Cricket ended, as per his original contract term, at the end of March 2022 and CSA has publicly advertised the position.

"We fully appreciate that after his time as the DoC, Graeme wants new challenges in basis to conclude that Mr Smith the commercial and cricket was racially biased against black worlds. He has a long career ahead of him and we very much hope that he will still work in the cricket world in appropriate capacities going forward," Naidoo added.