INTENSIFIES

'GLOBAL WINDS MAY HIT | INDIA'S PRIYANSHU CRUISES

GDP, BUT INDIA RESILIENT' TO ORLEANS MASTERS FINAL

SPORT 7

VIJAYWADA



*Late City Vol. 33 Issue 97

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Apex court gave shock to Opp: PM

Modi slams dynastic netas; kicks off dev works, blames KCR Govt for delay in Central projects in State

PTI HYDERABAD

Taking a dig at political parties who approached the Supreme Court alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against Opposition leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the court gave them a "jolt" by refusing to entertain their plea.

Modi, who addressed a public meeting here after laying the foundation stone and inaugurating several development projects, also said the lack of cooperation from the State Government is leading to delay in the completion of several central projects in Telangana.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express train between Secunderabad and Tirupati at the Secunderabad Railway station here. Secunderabad is the headquarters of South Central Railway zone. The Vande Bharat train will reduce the travel time



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the flagging off ceremony of Vande Bharat Express, in Hyderabad on Saturday

between Secunderabad and Tirupati in the neighbouring State by almost three-and-half hours and will be particularly beneficial to pilgrims.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao did not attend the inauguration of the Vande Bharat train between Secunderabad and Tirupati, and also Modi's event dedicating to the nation and laying the foundation stone of several development projects in Telangana. Rao has stayed away from the events of Modi during the latter's visits to the State for more than a year now.

Observing that it is the people of Telangana who are at a loss, Modi urged the State Government to not allow any

hindrance in the works related to the development. "The noncooperation of the State Government in Centre's projects is affecting the dreams of the people of Telangana," he said, while stressing on the State's progress as being important for overall national growth.

Modi, who slammed dynastic politics, said his Government has attacked the real root of corruption of dynastic forces who want to keep their control over every system.

"Should we fight against corruption or not? Should we fight against the corrupt or not? Should the country be liberated from corruption or not?,

he asked the crowd. Continued on Page 2

PM Modi, Stalin camaraderie on show in Chennai

www.dailypioneer.com



Chennai Airport on Saturday as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin. State Governor RN Ravi, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Minister L Murugan look on.

Warmth amid DMK-BJP strife in TN, Stalin batting for Opp unity

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was on full display on Saturday during the former's visit here, as it came in the backdrop of persistent political face-offs between the ruling DMK in the State and the BJP. Incidentally, BJP State chief K Annamalai, who has already levelled allegations of irregularities against the ruling dispensation, has said he wil soon release what he described as a "corruption list" involving the DMK Ministers.

Despite everything, Modi was received by Stalin on Saturday at the airport here. After a warm reception at the Chennai Airport, the Chief Minister, also the DMK president, briefly held the PM's hand and patted it, while walking through the displays exhibited at the new Chennai airport terminal

The display of camaraderie comes at a time when the DMK is politically opposed to the BJP at the Centre and Stalin is batting for a Congressled Opposition unity against the NDA Government. The State leaders of the two parties have been sparring over a number of issues.

Tamil Nadu has been witnessing a war of words between the DMK and the Opposition BJP apart from the ruling dispensation's issues with the State Governor, RN Ravi.

Continued on Page 2

'SC panel will be more effective than JPC'

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

But not opposed to JPC, says Pawar as he tries to soothe Opp feathers after his 'Adani being targeted' comment a day before

Tn a bid to assuage the bruised **⊥** feelings of Opposition leaders who are vehemently campaigning against the Adani Group, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Saturday made it clear that he was not opposed to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations against the groups. He, however, added that a Supreme Court com-

mittee will be more effective.
On Friday, Pawar had said that he believed the Adani Group was being "targeted" by unknown entities. "The issues that were raised, who raised them, we had never heard of these people (Hindenburg) who gave the statement, what is their background? When they raise issues that cause a ruckus across the country, the cost is borne by the country's economy. We cannot disregard these things. It seems this (group) was targeted," he said in television intervision.

These remarks did not go down well with the Opposition parties which are targeting the Government over the Adani

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh responded to Pawar's remarks, saying that the NCP may have its view but the 19 like-minded Opposition



parties are convinced that the PM-linked Adani Group" issue is real and very serious.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said Pawar's stand will not lead to cracks in the Opposition unity in Maharashtra and in the country.

Continued on Page 2

SC committee on Adani issue will have limited terms of reference: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Saturday said the Supreme Court committee to look into the Hindenburg research report on the Adani group has limited terms of reference and "cannot bring out the deep nexus between the Prime

Minister and the billionaire businessman".

The remarks came soon after their major alliance partner NCP supremo Sharad Pawar said this panel will be more useful and effective than a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe the Adani issue.

Continued on Page 2

'Rahul raising Adani issue for political gain'

Jammu: Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday slammed him for "deliberately" raking up the Adani

issue. It is "deliberately' Gandhi, who has "failed politically," is

being made into an issue, the Minister said, adding that

trying to "brighten his political career." "The Congress is in frustration and attacking the judiciary but the Government will not

stay silent," Rijiju said.

Continued on Page 2

PATANJALI®

CAPSULE

ANGRY CHINA FLIES JETS NEAR TAIWAN

Beijing: China sent warships and dozens of fighter jets toward Taiwan on Saturday, the Taiwanese Government said, in retaliation for a meeting between the US House of Representatives Speaker and the President of the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing as

GUJ POLICE TO PROBE CONMAN'S BACKGROUND

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Crime Branch will probe the educational qualifications of alleged conman Kiran Patel who was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir last month for posing as a PMO official and was brought to Gujarat in the early hours of Saturday.

WANTED CRIMINAL ARRESTED IN BIHAR

New Delhi: A member of the infamous Ravi Gangwal-Rohit Choudhary gang, who is among the 10 most-wanted criminals of Delhi has been arrested from Bihar in connection with a murder case. Delhi Police officials said on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Manish Sahu.

Exodus of leaders from Cong continues; Kesavan joins BJP

PNS NEW DELHI

 $E_{\text{Congress}}^{\text{xodus of leaders from the}}$ week as the great-grandson of C Rajagopalachari, CR Kesavan Saturday. Congress leaders from South — former CM Andhra Pradesh Kiran Reddy, Anil Antony from Kerala have already crossed-over to the BJP in the last two days.

Kesavan, hailing from Tamil Nadu and a Congress media panelist and more famously the grandson of first Indian Governor-General C Rajagopalachari, joined the BJP at the party headquarters in presence of party leader and Union Minister (Gen retd) V K Singh. Kesavan announced his decision to resign from the party's membership in February this year saying he had not seen any "vestige of the value that made him work for

the party for over two decades". He said he had recently



CR Kesavan, great-grandson of India's first Indian Governor-General C Rajagopalachari, being welcomed as he joins BJP in the presence of Union Minister VK Singh and party leader Anil Baluni, at BJP HQ in New Delhi.

declined an organisational responsibility at the national level and also refrained from participating in the "Bharat Jodo Yatra" recently undertaken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Kesavan cited Tamil poet Tiruvallur saying "when crisis comes the best way to face it is with a smile " and maintained that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "faced Covid-19 crisis in a similar way".

He effusively praised Modi's leadership.

"I know people in my house who got 'pucca' houses through PM Awas Yojana. 3 crore houses have been built...Amit Shah once said DBT was earlier 'Dealer Broker Transfer', but now it has become 'Direct Benefit

Transfer," said Kesavan. "I want to thank you for inducting me into the world's largest political party - BJP, especially on a day when our PM is in Tamil Nadu," he said upon joining the party.

Continued on Page 2

SAY NO TO CHEMICALS Choose Patanjali to get natural cleansing & beauty

Made with Haldi, Chandan, Aloe Vera, Neem, Rose and

80% Natural Ingredients Use Patanjali Herbal Bath Soap

PATANJALI **ALOEVERA** KANTI BODY CLEANSER







Patanjali Face Wash Range



Free from harmful chemicals Made with natural herbs Beneficial in skin problems Suitable for all skin types

Protect your skin from pollution related problems such as acne (pimples), blemishes, excessive dry or oily skin and black heads etc.

China accuses WHO of smear on 'late response' charge

AP ■ BEIJING

hinese health officials Udefended their search for the source of the COVID-19 virus and lashed out on Saturday at the World Health Organisation after its leader said Beijing should have shared genetic information earlier.
The WHO comments were

"offensive and disrespectful," said the director of the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Shen Hongbing. He accused the WHO of "attempting to smear China" and said it should avoid helping

others "politicise COVID-19."

The global health body's Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on March 17 that newly-disclosed genetic material gathered in Wuhan in central China, where the first cases were detected in late 2019, "should

have been shared three years

"As a responsible country and as scientists, we have always actively shared research results with scientists from around the world," Shen said at a news conference. Continued on Page 2

Covid cases surge to 6,155

New Delhi: From 6,050 cases a day ago, the Covid infections surged to 6,155 on Saturday in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of active cases to 31,194. The daily positivity rate crossed five per cent on a national average and stood at 5.63 per cent. The weekly positivity rate stood at 47 per cent, said the Health Ministry.

(Detailed story on P4)

CNG, piped cooking gas price cut by up to ₹6 in Delhi-

The prices of CNG and cooking gas piped to household kitchens in the national Capital on Saturday were cut by up to ₹6 — the first reduction in two years — after the Government changed the pricing formula of natural gas. The revised retail price of gas. The revised retail price of CNG in Delhi would be ₹73.59 per kg, ₹77.20 in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad and ₹82.62 per kg in Gurugram. Piped natural gas (PNG) price has been reduced to ₹48.59 per standard cubic metre (SCM) in Delhi from ₹53.59 per SCM. The new

Sunday The Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in the city, shared this information on Twitter and said CNG in the national Capital territory of

prices will be effective from



kg, down from ₹79.56.

Simultaneously, the rates of gas piped to household kitchens, called piped natural gas (PNG), has been cut to ₹48.59 per SCM in Delhi from ₹53.59 per SCM, according to IGL. The IGL's announcement follows Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL), which reduced the price of compressed natural gas by ₹8 per kg and domestic piped natural gas by ₹5 per SCM in Mumbai and adjoining areas on Friday. Domestic gas price has fallen to \$6.5 per MMBTU from \$8.57 in March. Continued on Page 2

Shop Online- www.patanjaliayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - feedback@patanjaliayurved.org | Website - www.patanjaliayurved.org

Leaders of banned PFI, CFI arrested in Assam

Three leaders of the proscribed Popular Front of India (PFI) and Campus Front of India (CFI) were arrested by Assam police from Barpeta Road Railway station, police said on Saturday.

Two of the three arrested are top leaders of PFI and one of CFI, superintendent of police Amitabh Sinha told reporters

The trio were arrested from the railway station on Thursday night when they arrived there by train from Delhi, he said.

The CFI leader was identified to be its national treasurer Jahidul Islam while the PFI leaders are its Assam secretary Jakir Hussain and state president Abu Sama,

The police also seized Rs 1.5 lakh in cash and several documents from them, the SP

Sinha said that the trio had fled from the state after both the outfits were banned in September 2022 and were continuing their activities from



Police was on their trail for long and the three are being interrogated to ascertain the son for their visit, he said.

Islam and Hussain were residents of Baksa district, while Sama hails from Barpeta.

A total 36 PFI activists were arrested from different parts of the state and New Delhi during a national crackdown against the outfit in September. It led to a ban on the outfit the same month.

The organisation was found to be active in the minority-dominated districts, particularly in the char (riverine) areas, since 2014 when its activists began helping people from the community in filing documents for inclusion

of their names in the National Register of Citizens.

Prior to that, they were found to be mainly involved in educational activities in the riverine areas of Bengalispeaking Muslim dominated

PFI shot into prominence in the state during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019 and some of their activists were also arrested during the stir for alleged stone-pelting in the

The CFI is the student wing of PFI. PFI, CFI and seven other associated outfits were banned by the Centre for unlawful activities September, 2022.

Rijiju releases Dogri version of Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju released the first edition of Dogri version of the Constitution of India at University of Jammu on Saturday

Speaking during the event, the Union Minister termed this translated document very significant in dispensation of justice to common people.

He maintained that understanding law is essential in accessing justice by a common person and it can't be done better than having it codified in one's mother

He remarked that although the task has been accomplished a bit late after enshrining Dogri language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution back in 2003 but the cause of furthering its impact among people should not be delayed any further. He applauded the varsity for providing necessary support to the translators for this noble

Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice Kotishwar Singh, Senior Judges of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Vice Chancellor, JU,



Professor Umesh Rai, Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa, faculty members of University, senior functionaries from the Center and J&K government were

present on the occasion. Regarding developments with respect to making the process of justice delivery easy and affordable, he revealed that the government is digitizing a whole array of about 65000 words of legal glossary to frame a core

vocabulary for understanding of all the citizens.

He also informed that the Rs 9000 crore for upgradation of infrastructure at lower judiciary and Rs 7000 crore for e-Courts project is aimed at making the process of delivery of Justice easily accessible and freely available. He recalled that the time is not far when our courts would become totally paperless after completion of the 3rd phase of

e-Court project. He said that

the project has greatly aided in

the working of courts during Covid-19 pandemic.

Rijiju, in his remarks, described the technology as a solution to reduce pendency of cases in our courts. He stated that it pains him to see about 5 crore cases still pending for their final disposal. He made out that the technology can come to our rescue to even extend the benches of Supreme Court, High Courts or even Lower Courts beyond the four

walls of their complexes.

In his speech, Chief Justice
N Kotishwar Singh said that all
the legal discourses whether academic or legal are meant to benefit the public. He said that the purpose can only be served better if such debates are also comprehensible to common masses. He gave out that the same is possible only when the law of the land is available to masses in the language they understand well.

Justice Kotishwar also stated that the democratization of justice is important in a way to make justice available to rich and poor alike. He maintained that an informed decision about any legal matter can be taken by having both facts and law at hand. He enunciated that the knowledge of law empowers people without any discrimination.

Let's spread love in society by adopting values of Jesus, says Prez

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu P on Saturday greeted people on the eve of Easter and said everyone should spread love and harmony in society by adopting the values of lord Jesus Christ and take a pledge for contributing to the nation's development. Celebrated as Jesus Christ's resurrection, this festival of happiness is a symbol of love and compassion, she said. Jesus Christ gave us the message of love and forgiveness by sacrificing his life for truth and justice, the President said, adding that his life is an ideal example of compassion and sacrifice. "Let us spread love and harmony in our society by adopting the values of Lord Jesus Christ and take a pledge for contributing to the development of the nation," Murmu said.

The President has sent her reetings to all fellow citizens on Easter eve, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. On the auspicious occasion of Easter, I convey my greetings to all citizens living in India and abroad, especially the Christian community," she said.

Irrespective of Pawar's opinion, Cong firm on JPC probe into Adani scam, says Patole

T N RAGHUNATHA

The Maharashtra Congress I said here on Saturday that irrespective of the stand taken by its alliance partner NCP on the much-discussed fraud allegedly indulged in by the Gautam Adani-led Adani Group, it was firm on its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the report by Hindenburg on the Adani Group.

Within days after NCP chief Sharad Pawar said that the Adani Group was being "targeted" by unknown entities with questionable motives and distanced himself from the JPC probe, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole said: "Irrespective of NCP President Sharad Pawar's opinion, there must be a JPC inquiry to find out the truth about the scam"

"Though the ruling BJP will be in a majority in the Joint Parliamentary Committee and



from other parties in it, A illegally invested by the Modi probe by the JPC is necessary for the facts of the Adani scam to come out," Patole said.

Patole said that a court appointed committee had been set up into the allegations of a coal scam during the UPA government but a JPC was also set up to go into the coal scam based on the demand of the opposition. Even though Sharad Pawar has a different opinion on the Adani scam, the Congress is firm on its demand for a JPC probe".

"Money from LIC, State Adani group? Who does the

of the country have the right to know this," Patole said, alluding to a demand for a JPC probe made by Congress leader Rahul

It may be recalled that Pawar had in an interview to NDTV, a television news channel in which the Gautam Adani-led Adani Group is the majority shareholder, had said on Friday that he believed the Adani Group was being was being "targeted" by unknown entities with questionable motives and that he did not agree with stalling of Parliament by the Congress-led Opposition on the matter.

'This time, out-ofproportion importance was given to the issue. The issues that were raised, who raised them, we had never heard of these people (Hindenburg) who gave the statement, what is their background? When they raise issues that cause a ruckus across the country, the cost is borne by the country's economy. We cannot disregard

these things. It seems this was

Maharashtra CM to visit Ayodhya today

PNS LUCKNOW

Chiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will visit Ayodhya on Sunday. Shinde reached Lucknow

on Saturday and will leave for Ayodhya on Sunday morning by helicopter. He will stay in Ayodhya for nine hours and will also visit the underconstruction Ram temple at

Ministers, MPs, MLAs of Shiv Sena are also reaching Ayodhya. Close to 5,000 Shiv Sena workers reached Ayodhya on Saturday to accord a rousing reception to their leader Eknath Shinde when he arrives there.

This will be the first visit of Eknath Shinde to Ayodhya with 5,000 Shiv Sainiks, after becoming the chief minister of Maharashtra. He will offer puja at Ram temple and also meet his UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath. He is likely to address a press conference at Ayodhya on Sunday.



temple on Sunday, Shinde will seek blessings of saints on the Lakshman Tila ground and witness the aarti on the banks of river Sarvu.

Shiv Sena national general secretary Abhijit Adsul and former mayor of Thane Naresh Mhaske have already reached Avodhva to oversee the arrangements for Shinde's visit.

According to political analysts, Shinde is following in the footprints of Shiv Sena patriarch late Bal Thackeray, who had mentored him. After a day-long visit to Ayodhya, Shinde will return to Lucknow from where he will leave for

SC committee on Adani... Commenting on Rahul's tweet, Ramesh said, "Derail, Distort, Divert and Defame.

From Page 1

"The Supreme Court Committee has very limited terms of reference. It cannot bring out the deep nexus between PM and Adani," said Congress chief spokesman and AICC general secretary Jairam

"Only a JPC can find answers to the HAHK (Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun) series of 100 questions and more that are emerging," he said, adding that the "JPCs in 1992 and 2001 were both worthwhile exercises".

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi continued with his attack on Modi Government and tweeted, "They hide the truth, that's why they mislead everyday! The question remains the same who's Rs 20,000 crore benami money is in Adani's companies?"

He also put out a picture with Adani's name and merged the names of "Ghulam, Scindia. Kiran, Himanta, Anil" in it, to assert his claim that these issues are being raised to divert attention from the Adani issue. All these Congress leaders have quit the Congress and some

the JPC. There have been JPCs and I have been a chairman of some of the JPCs. The JPC will be constituted on the basis of

This Mr. M's 4D policy."

Pawar, while batting for the

Supreme Court panel, said, "I

am not completely opposed to

majority (in Parliament). Instead of a JPC, I am of the opinion that the Supreme Court committee is more useful and effective." Pawar also said he was not aware of the antecedents of USbased Hindenburg Research, which has alleged stock

manipulation and accounting fraud in firms belonging to billionaire Adani. The Opposition-led by the

Congress has been seeking a JPC probe in the Adani issue. The Adani group has refuted the allegations. "One foreign company

takes a position about the situation in the country. We should decide how much focus should be on this. Instead of this (JPC), a Supreme Court panel is more effective," Pawar

Exodus of leaders from...

From Page 1

"Modi's people-centric policies, corruption-free governance and reform-led inclusive development agenda have transformed India from a fragile economy to the 5th largest economy in the world," said the ex-Congress leader.

In this week, three leaders from the Congress joined the BJP - one each from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu - the States where the BJP is seeking to increase its footprints.

CNG, piped...

From Page 1

The reduction follows an over 80 per cent increase in prices in two years. CNG prices were hiked on 15 occasions between April 2021 and December 2022. Since April 2021, CNG prices have been increased by Rs 36.16 per kg, or 83 per cent. CNG prices were last hiked on December 17, 2022.

Similarly, PNG rates have increased by 10 times between August 7, 2021, and October 8, 2022. In all prices have gone up by Rs 24.09 per scm, or 81 per cent. Rates went up as energy

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General Public that Mr. Vipin
Behari Gupta, Mr. Arpit Gupta and Mr. Amit Gupta partners of Partnership Firm name as M/s. Vipin B Gupta & Co. Office at C - 15 & 17, Double Storey, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi- 110015, Registration No. Firm/West/ 2023/ 1660.Now, Mr. Vipin Behari Gupta, Mr. Arpit Gupta and Mr. Amit Gupta partner of the firm M/s. Vipin B Gupta & Co. Have decided to change the name of Firm from M/s. Vipin B Gupta & Co. to M/s. AVAG & Co. w.e.f. 07.03.2023 Shares of the partners are mentioned herein below M/s. Vipin B Gupta & Co.

Name of the Partners Shares
Mr. Vipin Behari Gupta (40 % sh Mr. Arpit Gupta (30 % share) Mr. Arpit Gupta (30 % share)

M/s, AVAG & Co.(Earlier known as M/s. Vipin B Gupta & Co.)

Name of the Partners Share

Mr. Vipin Behari Gupta (40 % Mr. Arpit Gupta

prices internationally climbed due to geopolitical conflicts.

Prices would have risen further but for the change in the way the price of natural gas the input raw material which is converted into CNG and PNG - was changed by the Government on Thursday So instead of using rates in

four international gas hubs, the locally produced fuel is now benchmarked to the cost of imported crude oil subject to a cap of USD 6.5 per million British thermal unit. The pricing formula kicked in from Saturday with the Oil Ministry announcing a gas price of USD 7.92 per mmBtu for the remainder of the month. But due to the cap, the gas will cost only USD 6.5 to city gas

retailers like IGL. This USD 6.5 per mmBtu cap price compared with USD 8.57 rates prevalent previously. In the Twitter post, IGL said the retail prices charged by it for CNG and PNG in the national capital "are one of the

lowest in the country." 'The revised retail price of PNG in Delhi would be Rs 48.59 per scm wef April 9, 2023," it said.

Apex court gave...

From Page 1

government in the Adani

group. The Hindenburg report

exposes malpractices in Adani

group and puts forward the question of whether the public

money is safe? Why is Prime

Minister Modi not talking

about the Adani scam when it

is such a big and serious issue?

What is the reason for the

Government to panic if there is

nothing wrong?," Patole asked.

20,000 crores via shell

companies come into the

"From where did the Rs

Should legal steps be taken against the corrupt however big or not. Should the law be allowed to work against the corrupt or not," he asked the gathering. That's why "these people" are upset and they are doing anything out of anger, Modi said.

"A few days ago, some political parties went to the court seeking protection that no one should seek to inquire our (parties) books filled with corruption. They went to court, but court gave them a shock," Modi said, without taking any

Recently, as many as 14 political parties led by the Congress filed a petition in the apex court alleging that there has been an alarming rise in the use of coercive criminal processes against Opposition political leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental right to dissent.

However, the Supreme Court, refusing to entertain the plea, observed that politicians do not have "higher immunity".

Modi, who said corruption and 'parivarvaad' (dynasty) are not different from each other, stated that every type of corruption begins to grow where there is 'parivarvaad'. The main mantra of dynasty and dynastic politics is control of all, he opined. T h e dynasts want to keep their control over every system and does not like it at all that someone challenges their control, he said.

Giving the example of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system promoted by his

government and the promotion of digital payments across the country, the Prime Minister said the dynastic forces did not to give up their control on the system earlier.

The dynasts want to keep control of which beneficiary would get what benefit and this had three meanings.

Firstly, Modi said, the family should continue to be praised; secondly, the money coming through corruption should keep coming to the family; and thirdly, the money that is sent to the poor should continue to be received by the corrupt ecosystem. While fulfilling the

aspirations of people is a priority for his government, a handful are agitated by the progress of development, he said. Those who have been

nurturing dynasty, nepotism and corruption have nothing to do with the interest of the country and the welfare of society, Modi said. They like to see only the

prosperity of their family and

these people see the self-interest

of their family in every project

and investment, he added. "Telangana needs to be very alert against such people," Modi asserted. Modi said due to the Covid pandemic and the continuing Russia-Ukraine war, the world was witnessing ups and downs in the economy, but amid this uncertainty, India was one of the countries that was investing record amount on infrastructure modernisation.

He said Rs 10 lakh crore was allotted for infrastructure modernisation in this year's Union budget.

Modi,

From Page 1

Modi on Saturday said people across the country always had a clear concept of the nation and as a country, for thousands of years, it reflected the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shrest Bharat," one India, great India. His remark is seen as a veiled attack on the ruling DMK which had a war of words with Governor RN Ravi on similar themes. Meanwhile, the ruling DMK's ally Congress party had threatened to hold a black flag demonstration at the airport to protest the arrival of Modi in the state amid disqualification of party leader Rahul Gandhi as Lok Sabha member, following his conviction in a court case over the Modi surname remark.

Only days before the PM arrived did Stalin write to him demanding that three coal blocks identified in the Cauvery Delta region of the state be removed from the national auction list.

The Centre was quick to remove the three blocks from the list, even Annamalai issued a statement thanking the PM for his swift response to the saffron party's demands.

In such an atmosphere, of the three events the PM was to participate in Chennai, Stalin not only participated in the first one where the Prime Minister inaugurated Chennai Airport's new integrated terminal, but

From Page 1

When asked about a reported threat by a Congress leader to chop off the tongue of the judge in Surat who had convicted Gandhi in a 2019 criminal defamation case, he said, "I am not going to make

any comment on it (the

Hindenburg-Adani issue) as the Supreme Court has already formed a committee and is looking into it. But I want to say that this all is being done to brighten the political career

of Rahul Gandhi," Rijiju told reporters on the sidelines of a function at the

Rahul raising Adani issue for political...

University of Jammu here. "The country is run by the Constitution and the law of the land. One man has failed politically and they are trying to highlight controversies, make an issue out of these to brighten his career," the senior

'SC panel will be more effective...

From Page 1

At a press conference on Saturday, Pawar also sought to justify his remarks on technical and practical grounds. Although 18-19 Opposition parties have come together on the Adani issue, not all of them will get representation on the JPC as some of them have only one or two members in Parliament, the NCP chief said. Pawar also alluded that it is improper to drag

business houses into the political arena. To a farmers, the former Union Minister said.

question on Saturday as to whether he supported the Adani group in the TV interview, Pawar said he had not said anything like that. "I said earlier when we attacked the government of the day, we would name Tata-Birla. Now we do not take these names. But Tatas have contributed to the

BJP leader said.

People are facing more important issues like unemployment, price rise and problems of

development of the country," he said.

China accuses WHO of smear...

The origins of COVID-19 are still debated and the focus of bitter political dispute.

Many scientists believe it jumped from animals to humans at a market in Wuhan, but the city also is home to laboratories including China's top facility for collecting viruses. That prompted suggestions COVID-19 might have leaked from one. The ruling Communist Party has tried to deflect criticism of its handling of the outbreak by spreading uncertainty about its origins.

Officials have repeated anti-US conspiracy theories that the also expressed some warmth. | virus | was | created | by

China. The Government also says the virus might have entered China on mail or food shipments, though scientists abroad see no evidence to support that.

Chinese officials suppressed information about the Wuhan outbreak in 2019 and punished a doctor who warned others about the new disease. The ruling party reversed course in early 2020 and shut down access to major cities and most international travel to contain the disease.

The genetic material cited by the WHO's Tedros was uploaded recently to a global

Washington and smuggled into database but collected in 2020 at a Wuhan market where wildlife was sold.

The samples show DNA from raccoon dogs mingled with the virus, scientists say. They say that adds evidence to the hypothesis COVID-19 came from animals, not a lab, but doesn't resolve the question of where it started. They say the virus also might have spread to raccoon dogs from humans.

The information was removed by Chinese officials from the database after foreign scientists asked the CDC about it, but it had been copied by a French expert and shared with researchers outside China.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

Scale up Covid testing: Health Dept to hospitals

City logs 535 fresh Covid cases, positivity rate 23.05%

Amid rise in Covid-19 cases in the past few days, hospitals, polyclinics and dispensaries in Delhi have been instructed by health department authorities to scale up testing. According to sources, the department has instructed hospitals, polyclinics and dispensaries in the city to increase Covid testing.

Sources said authorities at these facilities have been told that anyone who visits such facilities and exhibits ILI (influenza-like illness) symptoms, such as fever, cough, body ache is to be tested as cases have risen and the daily count is growing steadily. More than 3,800 coronavirus cases have been recorded in the city during the March 30-April 7 period

Delhi logged 535 fresh Covid cases on Saturday with a positivity rate of 23.05 per cent, according to data shared by the city government's health department. The city had logged 733 Covid cases — the highest in more than seven months — on Friday with a positivity rate of 19.93 per

The data showed that 3,678 Covid tests were conducted on Thursday. Delhi has witnessed a spurt in the number of fresh Covid infections over the last several days amid a sharp rise in H3N2 influenza cases in the



keeping an eye on the spurt in Covid cases in the national Capital and is "prepared to face any eventuality, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said last week. Addressing reporters after chairing a review meeting on the Covid situation, Kejriwal had said there was no need to worry for now and that the city government was taking all required steps. Amid a gradual increase in the number of Covid cases in Delhi, medical experts say the new XBB.1.16 variant of the virus could be driving the surge.

However, they maintained that there is no need to panic and people should follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and get booster shots of the

Another source claimed that Covid vaccine doses at city government facilities are "not in stock" at present. "Request had been sent to the Centre for allotment of more Covid vac-

The old stock has an expiry riod, so all doses were used before that date. Besides, people are not showing keenness to

get the booster dose for multiple reasons, so there aren't many takers anyway," he said. Precaution doses are available at private hospitals and those who haven't got their booster dose administered, should get it done, a senior doctor in the health department said.

"Many people who have got all three shots taken are also getting infected with Covid. Reports claiming side effects of vaccines, including on the heart, is also a factor in keeping people away.

"And, a section of people also feel that now they have got immunity from previous infection or first two doses, so they are not going for the booster dose. So, it's an interplay of multiple factors due to which less number of people have so far got precautions doses in Delhi, which is about 25 per cent of the eligible population

in this category," he said. Doctors said as testing is to be ramped up, more kits and equipment will be used, and the health department is making preparations for it. The national capital had recorded 620

Speaking about former

Kejriwal calls Sisodia architect of edu revolution

Calling him the architect of the "education revolution" in the national Capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the Government schools could be transformed over the last eight years only because of Manish Sisodia, who would wake up at 6 every morning and go on their inspection and were behind the "decision to send him behind

Kejriwal made the statement while laying the foundation stone for the new building blocks for Rajkiya Sarvodaya Kanya/Bal Vidyalaya in East Vinod Nagar. He said the school will look like Columbia University after it is fully constructed.

"French, German, Spanish and Japanese are taught in this school, so many foreign languages are not taught in any private school. A total 93 rooms will be constructed in the new building, classes will run in 71 and 22 rooms will be used for labs, library, activity, staff rooms, principal office," he

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva hit back, alleging that Kejriwal and other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders were "habitual liers" prepared to go to any length to "mislead" people. "Delhi Government schools education system has been collapsed and his claims of giving international standards schools while laying foundation of a school is a cruel joke.

There is no education kranti (revolution) instead we have seen peak of corruption in governance in Delhi Sachdeva said. Accusing successive governments across the country of gradually eroding the foundation of the state-run school infrastructure by shutting them down and replacing them with private schools, Kejriwal alleged that children belonging to poor families in Delhi had given up on their academic dreams till Sisodia came along.

education minister, Kejriwal said, "They (Centre) jailed Manish Sisodia accusing him of corruption. He is the same leader who used to wake up every morning at 6 to visit schools." Corrupt leaders don't sooner or later, the chief minister said the former Delhi deputy CM would be released.

The universe and God test people walking on the path of truth; today, Atishi (education minister) and I may be laying the foundation for this new school building, but when it gets ready by February next year, Manish and I will inaugurate it," he said.

Kejriwal also charged that while the AAP government is building new schools, the BJP was demolishing schools to build its office. "BJP's name will be etched in history if it demolishes its office to build schools but is doing the opposite which is very painful, Kejriwal, in a swipe at the saffron party which accused him of being a habitual liar".

The BJP claimed that the school building was lying abandoned for many years and no school was running there. Also, the building was on the land of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) which had already given a notice to the MCD to take back its pos-

Delhi BJP president said that Kejriwal and his party are habitual liar. "Every year the

government schools is rising and there is a drastic rise in failure rates in government

'If kids weak in studies, extra classes will be held for them'

Sad to see CM hiding his Govt's failure on edu front: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said if some children are weak in studies, extra classes will be organised for them. The CM's statement came in response to BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana who posted mark sheets of government school students and alleged that more than 1 lakh children fail in Class 9 every year.

"One of these children will become the prime minister of the country in future and we do not want anyone to become PM in future with a fake degree," Kejriwal tweeted. Reacting on Chief Minister's

reply Khurana has said it's disgusting to see a CM shamelessly trying to hide his government's failure on educational front. "The claim of starting extra classes for weak students is a cruel joke as more than 75 per cent students of class IX in government schools have either failed or got compartment so that means almost entire batch of class IX needs extra classes.

Similar is situation of all ther classes", he said. Delhi BJP Spokesperson has said that Kejriwal Government should stop playing around with education system and let professionals and teachers

Central Govt releases salaries, but Govt yet to give to staffers of DU colleges, alleges Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

Accusing the Kejriwal government, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the teaching and non-teaching staff of 12 Delhi University colleges, teachers appointed under the Samagra Shiksha programme, and vocational teachers are fighting for

go visiting schools for inspec-

tion at 6 am, he said. Students of Delhi govern-

ment schools are excelling in

academics. They are even clear-

ing competitive exams and

becoming doctors, engineers, and police officers. "There is

one man behind this education

transformation and he is

Manish Sisodia," Kejriwal said.

ernment schools in Delhi are

getting admission in IITs and

clearing the all-India medical

exam. This is a sea change, a

revolution. Delhi has witnessed

a revolution in education over

the last 8 years; there is only

one person behind this revo-

lution - Manish Sisodia,"

Kejriwal said. Expressing hope

'Today, children from gov-

The funds even after taking it from the Central government are not being given to the teachers. Taking a dig at the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal government which claims to be pro teachers and always propagate so-called education model, Bidhuri said the teaching staff are being treated with

step-motherly treatment. He said the latest case per-

tains to the overall education programme. Under this scheme of the Centre, teachers are given a salary of Rs.38,100.

Out of this, Rs 20,000 is paid by the Central government, and the remaining amount is required to be given by the Delhi government. The Central government releases the salary for the entire year to the Delhi government at one go, but Delhi is not giving its share of the salary to

these teachers. When the teachers approached the Directorate of Education, Delhi, for their outstanding salary, they were refused to pay it and even asked to go to court. The teachers say that their salaries have not been increased for the last five years, but now they are not being paid for the last eight months even according to the

contract. The Delhi government is sitting on our salaries and not disbursing us", he added. Bidhuri said that similarly the teaching and non-teaching staff of 12 colleges of Delhi University were not getting their salaries and other facilities on time.

Every time they must resort to agitation for salary. The Delhi government has the responsibility of 100 percent funding for these colleges, but the government has been running away from this responsibility for the last several years.

Apart from the salary, these teachers are not being given increments and promotions as per the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission. Apart from this, facilities like Medical Bills, Children's Education Fund, and LTC are also not provided," Bidhuri said. The leader of the Opposition said that the issue of vocational teachers is also very serious.

Vocation teachers are being given a salary of Rs 32 thousand in the neighboring state of Delhi, whereas in Delhi they are being paid only Rs 20 thousand. Vocational teachers were removed from their jobs when they demanded a salary hike, and the Directorate of Education sent an e-mail asking all the schools to teach vocational subjects by the general teachers.

This order is not only an injustice to those vocational teachers, but it is also playing with the education of children because those teachers are neither trained as vocational teachers nor do they have any industry knowledge.

Man arrested for killing lawyer over property dispute in Dwarka

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aman was arrested for allegedly killing an advocate over a property dispute in southwest Delhi's Dwarka area, police said on Saturday. The arrested person, identified as Pradeep alias Praveen, was previously involved in 12 criminal cases, they said. Advocate Virender Kumar

borne assailants in Dwarka Sector-1 on April 1, police said. During the investigation, Pradeep and Naresh's involvement in the murder came to the

There was an ongoing feud between the duo and the advocate, a senior police officer said. Police found that Pradeep was using a car which he bought sometime back and was constantly changing his location. He used to sleep in his vehicle and mostly took routes of small villages, away from highways, the officer said.

Police said they spotted Pradeep's car in one of the tolls in Murthal area in Haryana and he was later apprehended from Bhalgarh in Sonepat on Friday. The weapon used in the crime has also been recovered from his possession, they said. Pradeep's co-accused Naresh is absconding and efforts are on to nab him, they said. According to police, Pradeep, a resident of Narela, used to do wrestling at Guru Hanuman Akhara, Roshanara Road and commit car theft.

Bar Associations' delegation demands legislation to ensure safety of lawyers

assured the legal fraternity of extending all possible support within the ambit of Delhi Government. A delegation from the Coordination Committee of All District Courts Bar Associations of Delhi met with Kejriwal and submitted a resolution demanding the passage of the 'Delhi Advocate Protection Act'. The representatives highlighted various incidents of assault that have taken place in the recent past and emphasised the need for this legislation to ensure the safety of the lawyers in Delhi.

"Met a delegation of Bar Associations of District Courts. Due to a recent incident, advocates of Delhi are extremely worried about their safety and are demanding an 'Advocate Protection Act'. I promise - we will extend all possible help to all the lawyers within the jurisdiction of the Delhi govern-

ment," Kejriwal said in a tweet. Lawyers have been raising concerns about their safety after recent incidents of violence against them. The mur-

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI der of advocate Virendra Kumar Narwal in broad day-Chief Minister Arvind light on April 1, 2023, has furamong the legal community in

> During the meeting, Kejriwal acknowledged the concerns raised by the legal community and stated that the government is committed to ensuring their safety. Through their resolution, the lawyer's body has claimed that there is a long history of incidents of murders, violent attacks, grievous hurts, intimidation, damage of property of Advocates by their or opposite clients in and outside courts of Delhi.

> They have further argued that it is imperative to prohibit acts of violence against advocates and to penalise such acts and protect advocates. In accordance with the said demands, the committee has sought the notification and enactment of The Delhi Advocate Protection

> Bill', on urgent basis.
> The bill proposes to ensure adequate protection to members of the legal fraternity in discharging their duties as officers of court without any fear and worry about their protection and social security.

Country likely to witness rise in temp by 2 to 4 degrees: IMD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday predicted that most parts of the country are likely to witness a gradual rise in temperature by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over the next five days.

"Gradual rise in maximum temperature by 2-4 degrees Celsius over most parts of the country during next five days," the IMD said in its advisory. The IMD has also predicted thunderstorms and strong winds over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during the next two days.

Earlier this month, the weather department had said that several parts of country, barring parts of northwest and peninsular region, are expected to experience above-normal maximum temperatures from April to June. "A significantly higher number of heatwave days are predicted over parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra



Rapid rail makes maiden tunnel breakthrough for Delhi section

Guiarat, Puniab and Harvana," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mahapatra said.

The IMD has also predicted thunderstorms and strong winds over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during the next two days.

'Thunderstorms with gusty winds likely over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during next 2 days and decrease thereafter," it added.

The national capital expe-

rienced a sunny and pleasant Saturday as the maximum temperature settled a notch below the season's average at 34.1 degrees Celsius, the Met office said. The weather is likely to remain similar on Sunday with the maximum and minimum temperatures expected to hover around 35 and 14 degrees

The minimum tempera ture on Saturday settled six notches below the season's average at 14.1 degrees Celsius,

Celsius, the IMD said.

Airport road, Yamuna floodplains' facelift inspires UP officers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The transformation of the The transformation Control (IGI) Gandhi International (IGI) Airport Road and rejuvenation of the Yamuna flood plains by developing Asita East and Baansera in a record time of less than six months have inspired the authorities in Uttar Pradesh to replicate the same in the State.

A delegation comprising Divisional Commissioner, Bareilly, Saumya Agarwal, Vice Chairman of Bareilly Development Authority, Jogendra Singh and Municipal Commissioner, Bareilly, Nidhi Gupt Vats on Friday visited Asita East, Baansera and Dhaula Kuan – IGI Airport Road to get an insight into the three projects – right from the time of their conception to their execution in a cost-effective and time-bound manner The team also visited Waste to Wonder Park at Sarai Kale Khan, in a bid to learn innov-

igate the menace of municipal solid waste. The officers also went into the details of restoration and rejuvenation of Yamuna flood plains being undertaken by DDA.

They said the development of Asita East and Baansera from the heaps of garbage to lush green assets in the heart of the Capital – could be replicated along the ghats of Ram Ganga river in Bareilly. They further suggested that creation of water bodies at Asita East and Baansera could also be replicated in entire Uttar Pradesh.

The officers also met Lieutenant-Governor and sought to know as to how these projects were implemented in such a short span of time. The officers were particularly curious to know microdetailing in planning of these projects including coordination with multiple agencies and their flawless execution within stipulated time frame.

1,700 prisoners granted emergency bail during Covid return to Delhi jails

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 1,700 undertrial prisoners and convicts, who were granted emergency bail or parole during the COVID-19 pandemic, have returned to Delhi's jails after the Supreme Court directed them to surrender, officials said on Saturday

On Friday, 963 inmates returned to three jails of the city - Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini. In Tihar jail, 448 undertrial prisoners (UTPs) and 195 convicts returned on Friday, according to official data. Similarly, 196 UTPs

Mandoli jail. In Rohini jail, 52 UTPs and nine convicts returned on Friday, the data stated. A total of 1,245 UTPs and 523 convicts have returned to the jails till Friday, the data said. According to officials, around 3,600 UTPs and around 600 convicts were released on emergency bail or parole.

and 63 convicts surrendered at

The Supreme Court on March 24 directed that all convicts and undertrial prisoners, who were released during the COVID-19 pandemic in a move to decongest jails, to surrender

Delhi-Gzb-Meerut corridor of rapid rail sees maiden tunnel breakthrough

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor of India's first rapid rail saw its maiden tunnel breakthrough for the Delhi section on Saturday, officials said. The tunnel-boring machine, Sudarshan 4.1, achieved the breakthrough in Khichdipur in East Delhi. The 3-km tunnel is the longest in



Delhi made by any tunnel-boring machine and its construction started in January 2022. More than 14,000 high-precision pre-casted tunnel segments have been used to ensure a long tunnel life, the National

Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) said in a statement. Four tunnels are being constructed in Delhi for the 82-kilometre Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

for movement in both directions. NCRTC said two parallel tunnels of about 3 km are being constructed between Anand Vihar and Khichdipur towards New Ashok Nagar RRTS station. Another set of parallel tunnels of about 2 km are being constructed between Anand Vihar and Vaishali towards Sahibabad RRTS sta-The RRTS tunnels have a

diameter of 6.5 metres, which is highly optimised when compared to global benchmarks of tunnels for a similar design speed of 180 kmph, with wider and higher rolling stock. 'NCRTC today achieved its first tunnel breakthrough for the Delhi section of the Delhi-

Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor," NCRTC said. Manoj Joshi, secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, initiated the breakthrough by pushing the lever in presence of Vinay Kumar Singh, MD, NCRTC.

"RRTS is aimed at easing regional mobility in NCR thereby reducing vehicular congestion on roads and lowering air pollution. Multimodal integration has been an important consideration while planning and implementing RRTS. I am confident that it will enhance the quality of life in NCR," Joshi said. The tunnel, going towards New Ashok Nagar, has negotiated very closely with existing metro sta-

tion piling structures, the foundations of expressways and non-engineered buildings in Patparganj and Khichdipur, said NCRTC.

NCRTC is targeting to open the entire 82-km-long RRTS corridor for public by 2025. Before that, it will operationalise a 17-km long priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai. The other tunnel boring

machine, Sudarshan 4.2, has completed tunnelling of about 2.5 km in the same direction. And Sudarshan 4.3 and 4.4 are boring tunnels in the direction of Sahibabad from Anand Vihar and they have completed tunnelling more than 1.5 km and 1 km, respectively.

Nadda holds meeting with K'taka | In push for south, PM flags off leaders on probable candidates

Aday before a meeting to finalise candidates for the Karnataka Assembly polls, BJP president JP Nadda on Saturday held discussions with key state leaders, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and BS Yediyurappa, on probable names.

The BJP's parliamentary board will meet on Sunday to finalise candidates for the May 10 elections to the 224-mem ber Karnataka assembly.

Before the discussions started, Chief Minister Bommai said, "We will discuss about all probable candidates. We have district and constituency wise details and recent survey outcomes. Keeping all that in mind, we will have a detailed discussion with national leaders."

The BJP, which aims to come back to power again in the southern state, has set a target of winning at least 150 of **ASSEMBLY POLLS**



Asked if the entire list will be announced in one go, Bommai told reporters that barring a few names, the rest may be announced after getting the board's approval.

The list of candidates will be finalised at the parliamentary board meeting scheduled at 5pm on Sunday, he said.

Dharmendra Pradhan and Mansukh Mandaviya, who are the BJP's in-charge for the assembly elections in the state, as well as senior party leader Arun Singh attended the meeting at Nadda's residence here. Besides Bommai and former Yediyurappa, BJP national secretary CT Ravi and state BJP president Nalinkumar Kateel were also present in the meet-

The state's principal opposition party, Congress, and the JD(S) have announced their initial lists of candidates for the polls. Their final lists are awaited. Smaller parties in Karnataka such as the Karnataka Rashtra Samithi, the Aam Aadmi Party, the All Majlis-Ittehadul Muslimeen and the Social Democratic Party of India too have announced their first and second lists.

The Congress has announced candidates for 166 out of the total 224 seats, while the JD(S) has announced a list of 93 candidates.

Election notification will be issued on April 13, while the last date for filing nominations is April 20. Results will be declared on May 13.

two Vande Bharat Express trains

PNS HYDERABAD/CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off two sets of state of the art Vande Bharat Express trains Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat and Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express for the southern India taking the total number of trains on run to 13.

Railway Ministry sources said three another set of three additional New Delhi-Jaipur, Ranchi-Patna and Howrah-Rourkela Vande Bharat trains are being planned for this month taking total number of much sought after trains in operation to 16 by month end. Modi flagged off first service from Secunderabad Railway station and now two trains are in operation from Telangana twin city.

The train will reduce the travel time between Secunderabad in Telangana and Tirupati in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, by almost three and half hours and will be



particularly beneficial for pilgrims. On January 15, Modi ĥad virtually flagged off the Vande Bharat train service between Secunderabad and port city of Visakhapatnam in AP, which was first such service connecting two Telugu-speaking states. Telangana Governor

Tamilisai Soundararajan, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy were among those who were present but Chief Minister

skip for the event. The PM also flagged off the Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express, which is expected to cut down the travel time between the state capital here and the western industrial city by more than one hour.

In a function at the MGR Chennai Central Railway Station, Modi the flagged off the inaugural special of the train, loaded with modern features and passenger amenities. He also interacted with school students in the train. "The Chennai and

Coimbatore connects small businesses with customers. It shall bring investments which creates income opportunities for the youth here," Modi said on the occasion. "It is the fastest train between the two cities with a travel time of 5 hours and 50 minutes, saving more than an hour of journey time," an official railway ministry Press release

said.
"The wonderful cities of Chennai and Coimbatore have even better connectivity thanks to the Vande Bharat Express. Flagged off the train and also met young friends on the occasion," the PM later tweeted.

The train, the first to connect two Tamil Nadu cities, has enhanced passenger safety with indigenous automatic train protection system 'KAVACH', CCTV cameras in all coaches and automatic sliding doors.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, TN Governor R N Ravi, Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Minister of State L Murugan were present.

Rahul takes swipe at ex-Cong leaders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday took a swipe at some leaders who have quit the Congress in recent years and some of whom have joined the BJP as he kept up his offensive against the government over the Adani issue.

"They hide the truth, that's why they mislead everyday! The question remains the same - whose Rs 20,000 crore benami money is in Adani's companies?" Gandhi asked in a tweet in Hindi and attached an image with the names of the leaders with that of Adani. He cited the names of Ghulam Nabi Azad, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Kiran Kumar Reddy and Anil K Antony in his tweet. After quitting the Congress, Azad

formed his own party, while the rest joined the BJP. Scindia is now a Union Minister and Sarma the Chief Minister of Assam. In another tweet in Hindi, Gandhi said, "How will inflation come down? How will the pain of the public be seen? The entire focus of the government is on increasing Adani's income and protecting it from investigation."

He also put out a chart showing the increase in prices of commodities such as rice, wheat flour, milk, ghee, oil, pulses and gas cylinder between 2013 and 2023, and said "your pocket is being picked through price rise".

Reacting to Gandhi on Twitter, Sarma said, "It was our decency to have never asked you, on where have you concealed the proceeds of crime



from the Bofors and National Herald Scams. And how you allowed Ottavio Quattrocchi to escape the clutches of Indian justice multiple times. Any way we will meet in the Court of Law." Anil K Antony, another former Congressman and son of veteran Congress leader A K Antony, said it was "sad to

It will be the responsibili-

staying for any reason whatso-

ever, he/she is liable to disci-

plinary action and other

adverse Civil Service conse-

quences which would include

the period of unauthorized

overstay not being counted as

qualifying service for the pur-

pose of pension and that any

increment due during the peri-

od of unauthorized overstay

being deferred with cumulative

effect, till the date on which the

officer rejoins his parent cadre,

cer concerned shall be taken to

the terms and conditions of

deputation before the deputa-

tion orders are issued. It is pri-

marily the responsibility of the

borrowing organizations to

ensure that deputationists are

relieved on the date of expiry

of their deputation tenure. Any

proposal for extension of the

tenure of deputation under

rules should be initiated suffi-

ciently before the expiry of the

tenure, reads the order.

Written consent of the offi-

it said

national party - the so-called PM candidate of the Congress - speak like an online / social media cell troll and not like a national leader."

Very humbled to see my fledgling name also with these tall stalwarts who have contributed decades for nation building work - and had to leave the party as they preferred to work for India and our people and not for a family," Antony said. Azad squarely blamed Rahul Gandhi for his ouster from the Congress. He also alleged that one had to be "spineless" to be in the

Anil K Antony and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Kiran Kumar Reddy have joined the BJP after quitting the

Congress earlier this week. Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate alleged that those leaving the Congress had benefitted the most from the party. "Rahul's conduct has been very good in public. We condemn their statements. All these people are those who were the biggest beneficiaries of the Congress. she said in response to their attacks on Rahul Gandhi.

Targeting Azad, she said when his Rajya Sabha tenure ended he turned "ghulam from being azad" and is now speaking against the Congress leadership in order to save his house and to sell his book.

Shrinate also said that Scindia was the youngest to become a Union minister in the erstwhile Congress-led government and his recent attacks on Gandhi "shows his charac-

Adults hospitalised with Omicron variant have higher death rate: Study

PNS NEW DELHI

 $E^{\rm ven\ though\ Omicron\ is}_{\rm considered\ less\ virulent}$ with lower case fatality rates than the Delta and Alpha strains, a study has found that adults hospitalised with the Omicron variant have a higher death rate than those hospitalised with seasonal influenza.

Thus, caution the study that the double whammy of overlapping influenza and Covid-19 epidemics will increase the complexity of disease and the burden on health systems.

The research by Dr Alaa Atamna and colleagues from the Rabin Medical Center at Belinison Hospital in Israel found that adults (18 years or older) hospitalised with influenza were 55 per cent less likely to die within 30 days than those hospitalised with Omicron during the 2021-2022 influenza season. Influenza and Covid-19 are both respiratory diseases with

similar modes of transmission. To find out more, ical outcomes of patients hospitalised with Covid-19

(Omicron variant) and those

hospitalised with influenza at a large academic hospital in Israel. Overall, 63 patients died within 30 days — 19 admitted with influenza and 44 hospitalised with Omicron.

Patients with Omicron tended to have higher overall comorbidity scores, needed more assistance performing activities of daily living (washing and dressing), and were more likely to have high blood pressure and diabetes, whereas asthma was more common in those hospitalised with influenza.

Respiratory complications and need for oxygen support and mechanical ventilation were also more common in Omicron cases than in seasonal influenza. "A possible reason for the higher Omicron death rate is that patients admitted with Omicron were older with additional major underlying illnesses such as diabetes and chronic kidney disease," said Dr Atamna.

The difference might also be due to an exaggerated immune response in Covid-19, Covid-19 was far lower among patients with Omicron," he

6.155 fresh Covid cases in India, active cases go up to 31,194



New Delhi: India on Saturday recorded 6,155 fresh Covid-19 infections, while the number of active cases increased to 31,194, according to Union health ministry data. India's Covid-19 tally now stands at 4.47 crore (4,47,51,259). The death toll climbed to 5,30,954 with 11 deaths, including two reconciled by Kerala, the data updat-

ed at 8 am stated. At 31,194, the active cases comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections.

The national Covid-19 recovery rate stands at 98.74 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,89,111, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. According to the ministry's Covid-19 vaccine have been administered so far under the

Review overstay of personnel on deputation, Ministries told

 $I^{\rm n}$ its bid to maintain discipline and administrative efficiency, the Centre has asked all to review cases of overstay of personnel on deputation. Now, all personnel on deputation will be deemed to have been relieved on expiry of their deputation tenure and they will be penalized in case of overstay beyond the approved tenures. "In this connection, it is

pertinent to mention that in relaxation of the provisions governing the tenure of deputation/foreign service indicated in DoPT's OM No. 6/8/2009-Estt.(Pay-ll) dated 17.06.2010, this Department had, vide OM No. 2/6/2016-Estt.(Pay-ll) dated 17.02.2016, conferred the powers to extend the tenure of deputation, where absolutely necessary in public interest, to the borrowing organisations up to a period not exceeding 7 years at a stretch with the approval of the Minister of their administrative Ministry / Department concerned," the DoPT said in a recent order circulated across the ministries and depart-

relaxation allowed in the provisions governing tenure of ty of the immediate superior deputation / foreign service, officer to ensure that the depproposals continue to be utationist does not overstay. In regularization of the period of overstay beyond the approved term of deputation, the department said.

In view of this, the Department reiterated its directives for strict compliance of the existing orders regarding deputation. 'The terms and conditions

of deputation shall clearly lay down not only the period of deputation as per the Recruitment Rules for the post or as approved by the competent authority but also the date of relieving of the deputationist. No further orders for relieving the officer will be neces-

sary;" it said.

The deputationist officer, including those who are presently on deputation, would be deemed to have been relieved on the date of expiry of the deputation period unless the competent authority has with requisite approvals, extended the period of deputation, in writing, prior to the

Cong to start 'Jai Bharat Satyagraha' in Maha from tomorrow PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

FI HI/MUMBAI/BENGAI URU

∼ongress on Saturday Cannounced to start 'Jai Maharashtra from Monday to create awareness about "wrong policies" of BJP-led Union govt and current political situation in country. The same may be replicated in all states at a later

At the same time the party regretted that the proposed event of its leader Rahul Gandhi which was supposed to take place on April 10 has been postponed further and now it will be held on April 16 at

According to Congress sources, the former party chief's event was earlier planned on April 5, which was changed to April 6.

Then it was again planned on April 9, which clashed with Prime Minister's 'Project Tiger event in Mysuru. The date was then resheduled to April 10 and now once again it has been postponed to April 16.

Starting Monday, the Jai Bharat Satyagrah campaign will be held across the state.

Opposition sees red over **Amul's entry** into K'taka

Calls it attempt to finish off State's Nandini brand

Bengaluru: A political slugfest broke out between the ruling BJP, and opposition Congress and JD(S) on Saturday over the "threat" to Karnataka Milk Federation's famed dairy brand 'Nandini' following Amul's entry to the state.

Three days ago, Gujaratbased cooperative society Amul tweeted: "A new wave of freshness with milk and curd is coming to Bengaluru. More information coming soon. #LaunchAlert. From Kengeri to Whitefield, wishing everyone a Taaza day."

In another tweet, the dairy brand said, "The #Amul family is bringing in some Taaza into #Bengaluru city. More updates coming in soon. #LaunchAlert. Taaza arriving soon in Bengaluru." While the opposition parties have charged that the BJP government was out to finish Nandini, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the government is clear on the issue of Amul.

SC to hear on Apr 10 plea for arrangement with YouTube to safeguard copyright of live-streamed proceedings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is sched-L uled to hear on Monday a plea seeking a direction for a special arrangement with YouTube for safeguarding the copyright of its live-streamed proceedings according to a 2018 judgment.

According to the April 10 cause list, uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala will hear the plea.

While hearing the matter on January 2, the Supreme Court had observed that it



was very easy to criticise someone or throw a stone at somebody after a petitioner contended that the court's registry has not followed the directions in the 2018 verdict on livestreaming of proceedings. The bench had asked advocate Virag Gupta, appearing for former RSS ideologue K N

Govindacharya, what modalities can be followed for livestreaming at a time when the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was saying it does not have sufficient technical infrastructure to live-stream court proceedings without third party

bench had referred to an affidavit filed on behalf of the secretary general of the apex court in the matter. The affidavit had said that the full court of the top court had taken a decision in a meeting held on September 20 last year to start live-streaming of proceedings before the constitution benches.

President Droupadi Murmu, supreme commander of the Indian Armed forces, before taking a sortie on IAF's fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30, at Tezpur Air Force Station

Figer census data to be released today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the latest tiger census data at a mega event to mark the completion of 50 years of 'Project Tiger' in Mysuru on Sunday. He will also release the government's vision for tiger conservation during 'Amrit Kaal', and also launch the International Big Cats Alliance

IBCA will focus on protection and conservation of seven major big cats of the world — Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah, with membership of the range countries harbouring these species.

The Prime Minister will visit Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district in the morning and interact with frontline field staff and self-help groups involved in conserva-He will also visit the

Theppakadu Elephant camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in neighbouring Tamil Nadu bordering Chamarajanagar district and interact with mahouts and 'kavadis' of the elephant He will also interact with

Field Directors of tiger reserves that have scored highest in the recently concluded 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation exercise. In July, 2019, the Prime

Minister had called for an 'Alliance of Global Leaders' to "obliterate demand" and firmly curb poaching and illegal Wildlife trade in Asia. Taking the message of the Prime Minister forward, the IBCA is being launched. PM Modi will

inaugurate the programme 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger' during which he will release the publications 'Amrit kaal ka vision for tiger conservation, summary report of 5th cycle of Management Effective Evaluation of Tiger Reserves, declare tiger numbers and release summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th A commemorative coin on

completion of 50 years of 'Project Tiger' will also be released on the occasion. India aims to sustain a viable tiger population based on a scientifically calculated carrying capacity of habitats while maintaining a balance between development and wildlife conservation, the head of 'Project Tiger', which completed 50 years on April 1, said earlier

'NGT refrains from levying green compensation on Ladakh'

The National Green Tribunal **▲** (NGT) has refrained from levying environmental compensation on the Union Territory of Ladakh for improper management of solid and liquid waste, after noting the area's "ground situation" and the statement of the UT's chief secretary that adequate funds will be made available for handling the waste.

The NGT is monitoring compliance with Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other environmental issues by states and Union territories. A bench of chairperson Justice A K Goel said it was the Union territo-

bility and absolute liability to provide a pollution-free environment, which was a part of the right to life, besides a basic human right, and that the UT had to arrange necessary funds from contributors or others. The bench also compris-

ry's constitutional responsi-

ing judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel said lack of funds or absence of other resources such as sites for waste management cannot be a plea to deny such right and such resources have to be found by the UT through its policies and by giving due

ject of waste management has to be on high priority. It is high time that the UT realises its duty to the law and to citizens and adopts further monitoring at its own level," the bench said. Noting the presentation filed on behalf of administrator of Ladakh, the bench said there were gaps in the management of solid and liquid waste. While 6.18 tonnes per day (TPD) of waste generated at Leh was being totally processed, 4.56 TPD of waste Kargil remained unprocessed and for liquid waste, there was a gap of 15 million litres per day (MLD)

between the generation of

sewage and its treatment.

ronmental norms on the sub-

priority to the subject. "Compliance with envi-

applications. In its January 2 order, the

Pak's judicial imbroglio intensifies

President Alvi returns Bill limiting CJ's powers to Parliament

 $P^{\text{akistan's judicial imbroglio}}_{\text{intensified on Saturday after}}$ President Arif Alvi returned to Parliament for reconsideration of a bill aimed at clipping the powers of the chief justice, saying the proposed legislation is beyond the jurisdiction of the legislative body.

Pakistan is witnessing a rift between the judiciary and the government after a three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Uma Ata Bandial on Tuesday fixed May 14 as the new date for elections to the Punjab Assembly and quashed the Election Commission's decision to extend the date of the poll from April 10 to October 8.

The apex court's verdict was criticised by the coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, which has refused to accept it. The government also is keen to curb the suo moto (on its own) powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Bandial.

The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 was approved by both houses of Parliament last month and sent to the president for assent.

The president said that the proposed legislation was prima facie beyond the jurisdiction of the parliament as only the Supreme Court has the power to make laws to regulate its

(Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 travels beyond the competence of the parliament and can be assailed as a colourable legislation," Alvi, a member of former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party before he became president, said in his reply to the government.

The bill was approved by the federal Cabinet on March 28. The National Assembly passed it after a few amendments suggested by the Standing Committee on Law and Justice. On March 30, it was passed by the Senate.

The bill states that every cause, matter, or appeal before the apex court would be heard and disposed of by a bench constituted by a committee comprising the chief justice and the two senior-most judges. It added that the decisions of the committee would be taken by a majority.

On exercising the apex court's original jurisdiction, called suo moto powers, the bill said that any matter invoking the use of Article 184(3) would first be placed before the com-

Alvi, who is a nominee of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, adroitly used his limited powers under the Constitution by first wasting viewed as interference with

"The Supreme Court

precious time without signing the bill and then sending it back to Parliament with his observation, which will give more time to the Opposition party to evolve a strategy to

In his detailed reply, which he also posted on Twitter, Alvi said that he thought it fit and proper to return the bill under the Constitution, with "the request for reconsideration in order to meet the scrutiny about its validity (if assailed in the court of law)".

He said that "these timetested rules are being followed ever since the year 1980 — any tinkering with the same may tantamount to interference with the internal working of the Court, its autonomy and independence."

Alvi cautioned that any attempt to modify or tamper with these rules could be

Reacting to the president's move, Climate Change Minister Senator Sherry Rehman criticised President Alvi for following former prime minister Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's policy. In a tweet, she said, "By

returning the Supreme Court bill (to the parliament) for review, President Arif Alvi has proved that he is not the country's president but the PTI's secretary general even now."

She said Alvi had looked at 'Parliament's every decision with the perspective of the

"He is following his party's policy, not his constitutional role as the president," she said. A senior Pakistani minis-

ter on Friday demanded the resignation of Chief Justice Bandial after another judge of the Supreme Court issued a dissenting note on the suo motu notice regarding holding elections in Punjab province,

Meanwhile, a complaint was filed against the CJP before the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) for 'misconduct', seeking a probe into the constitution of a bench for suo motu proceedings on Punjab and Khyber Pakht-unkhwa elections.

PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif echoed the demand that CJP Bandial should resign because "his tilt towards" her rival party, the PTI, was 'glaring'.

US deploys submarine amid tensions with Iran

The US Navy has deployed a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk missiles to the Middle East, a spokesman said on Saturday, in what appeared to be a show of force toward Iran following recent tensions.

The Navy rarely acknowl-

edges the location or deployment of submarines. Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, spokesman for the 5th Fleet based in the Gulf nation of Bahrain, declined to comment on the submarine's mission or what had prompted the deployment. He said the nuclearpowered submarine, based out of Kings Bay, Georgia, passed through the Suez Canal on

"İt is capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and is deployed to US 5th Fleet to help ensure regional maritime security and stability," Hawkins said.

The 5th Fleet patrols the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20 per cent of all oil transits. Its region includes the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen and the Red Sea stretching up to the Suez Canal, the Egyptian waterway linking the Mideast to the Mediterranean Sea.

The US, the UK and Israel have accused Iran of targeting oil tankers and commercial ships in recent years, allegations denied by Tehran.

reported a series of tense encounters at sea with Iranian forces that it said were being recklessly aggressive.

Last month, the US launched airstrikes against Iran-backed forces in Syria after a rocket attack killed a US contractor and wounded seven other Americans in that country's northeast.

Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from ships or submarines can hit targets up to 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles away). They were famously employed during the opening hours of the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq and in response to a Syrian chemical weapons attack in 2018. US-Iranian tensions have soared since then-President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 agreement with world powers that provided sanctions relief in return for Iran curbing its nuclear activities and placing them under enhanced surveillance.

The Biden administration's efforts to restore the agreement hit a wall last year. The tensions have worsened as Iran has supplied attack drones to Russian forces in Ukraine and as Israel and Iran have escalated their yearslong shadow war in the Middle East.

In addition to drawing closer to Moscow, Tehran has sought improved relations with China, which brokered an agreement last month to restore diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

INDIAN PUSHED OUTSIDE SINGAPORE MALL, DIES

SINGAPORE: An Indian-origin man has died after he was pushed in the chest by another man and fell down a flight of stairs outside a shopping mall in Singapore. Thevandran Shanmugam, 34, fell backwards down the stairs at Concorde Shopping Mall on Orchard Road last month. He sustained multiple fractures to his skull and was taken to a hospital, reported The Straits Times newspaper on Friday. He was cremated at Mandai Crematorium on Friday evening, it said.

TRUCK KILLS 10 PEDESTRIANS

NAIROBI: A truck crashed into pedestrians and motorcycle taxis near western Kenya's border with Tanzania, killing at least 10 people and injuring 10 others Saturday authorities said. A local police commander said the crash in the town of Migori happened along a major highway when the driver lost control of the brakes. An operation to free people trapped under the truck was underway, and there were fears the deal toll might rise, Migori county commander Mark Waniala said

INDIAN-ORIGIN CHEF INVITED TO KING CHARLES CORONATION LONDON: An Indian-origin chef,

who works with a senior citizens charity in the UK, is among the British Empire Medal (BEM) winners on the royal invitation list for King Charles and Queen Camilla's Coronation ceremony in London next month, Buckingham Palace announced on Saturday. Manju Malhi was awarded a BEM for services to the community in London during the COVID-19 response and will join 850 BEM recipients as well as other community champions and charity representatives from across the UK at the ceremony to be held in Westminster Abbey on

MISSING TEXAS BOY FEARED DEAD

HOUSTON: A missing 6-year-old boy from Texas, whose parents fled to India from the US and face felony charges of abandoning and endangering their child, is believed to be dead, a top police official has said. Noel Rodriguez-Alvarez, who has special needs, was last seen in November shortly after his twin sisters were born in October last year. Everman Police Chief Craig Spencer said on Thursday that the search for the missing boy is now a death investigation and they are attempting to locate

IMF deal well on track: Pak FM

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday assured a jittery nation that the much-delayed ninth review of the USD 7 billion IMF programme was well on track, a day after he cancelled his visit to Washington for the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

Cash-strapped Pakistan and the IMF have failed to reach a staff-level agreement on the much-needed USD 1.1 billion bailout package aimed at preventing the country from going bankrupt. The funds are part of a

USD 6.5 billion bailout package the IMF approved in 2019, which analysts say is critical if Pakistan is to avoid defaulting

into Pakistan PM's

Islamabad (PTI): An Afghan man who intruded into the official residence of Pakistan Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday was arrested and handed

over to the Counter Terrorism Department for inter-

reportedly didn't know from where did the suspect

by the Counter-Terrorism Department of the Islamabad Police and has been shifted to an unknown

enter, The News International newspaper reported.

The security personnel deputed at the PM House

"The suspect was immediately taken into custody

Later officials revealed that the suspect claims to

be a resident of Afghanistan, and had made his way

to the PM House by passing through three different paths. They said that the CTD, police, and other secu-

The security agencies have acquired the CCTV footage of the suspect and are trying to find out how the suspect entered the highly-secured PM House, the

rity agencies were interrogating the suspect.

house; arrested

rogation, according to a media report.

place," the report said, quoting sources.

on external debt obligations.

The only hitch for the IMF deal to go through was the confirmation of a USD 1 billion commitment from a friendly country, Dar said in his address "In the past two weeks, one

of our friendly countries has again given them (the IMF) the confirmation [of its commitment to help Pakistan] with USD 2 billion. 'We are now only awaiting the confirmation of a USD 1 billion commitment from one

friendly country. After that, all

their requirements to conclude

the staff-level agreement will be complete. Following that, it takes two more weeks to take the matter into the board meeting," Dar said.

Though Dar did not name

the countries, local media reports said Saudi Arabia had given the commitment to the ĬMF on helping Pakistan.

Dar was expected to attend the spring meetings of the World Bank and IMF that are scheduled from April 10 to 16 in Washington. He clarified that he had postponed his visit to the US due to the political situation in the country. The finance minister acknowledged that there was a new development with the IMF deal over the past few weeks due to the "cross-subsidy" in the works regarding fuel prices.

When I went to the IMF with my delegation in October 2022, I invited them to Pakistan for the ninth review, which is technically the September 2022 review," he said.

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Russia lost

elections to three United Nations bodies this

week, a sign that opposition to its invasion

of Ukraine over a year ago remains strong. The votes in the 54-member UN

Economic and Social Council follow

approval of six non-binding resolutions

against Russia by the 193-member UN

General Assembly. The latest - on

February. 23, the eve of the first anniversary

of the invasion — called for Moscow to end

hostilities and withdraw its forces and was

adopted by a vote of 141-7 with 32 absten-

tions. In the ECOSOC votes, Russia was

overwhelmingly defeated by Romania for a

seat on the Commission on the Status of Women. It lost to Estonia to be a member.

of the executive board of the UN children's

agency UNICEF. And it was defeated by

Armenia and the Czech Republic in secret

Afghan man intrudes | Russia loses three UN

China conducts military drills around were launched after French southern coasts of the

¬hina on Saturday began China on Saturda, 220 military exercises around Taiwan to test the capabilities of its forces to "seize control of the sea, air and information," days after a meeting between the ÚS House Speaker and the President of the self-ruled island in defiance of repeated threats by Beijing.

the internal workings of the

Court, which could compro-

mise its autonomy and inde-

ther said the top court is an

independent institution as

"visualised by the founding

fathers that in the state of

Pakistan independence of the

judiciary shall be fully secured".

view, Article 191 was incorpo-

rated and the Supreme Court

was kept out of the law-mak-

ing authority of the parlia-

the Parliament to make laws

the bill returned by the presi-

dent is passed by Parliament, it

should be sent to the president

and would become law after ten

days even if he refuses to

He said the competence of

from

Under the Constitution, if

ment," he stressed.

Constitution itself.

stemmed

"With such an objective in

The head of the state fur-

pendence.

China views Taiwan as a breakaway province. Beijing has not ruled out the

possible use of force to reunify the self-ruled island with the mainland. The Chinese military

announced the start of threeday "combat readiness patrols," asserting that it is testing the capabilities of its forces to "seize control of the sea, air, and

Criminal Justice.

torial integrity.

Commission on Crime Prevention and

Greenfield said after Wednesday's votes,

"This is a clear signal from ÉCOSOC

members that no country should hold

positions on critical UN bodies when they

are in flagrant violation of the UN Charter.

missions, boards and expert groups that

ECOSOC oversees, Russia was elected to the

Commission for Social Development by

acclamation - which the United States and

the United Kingdom dissociated their

countries from, saying Russia's invasion vio-

lates international law and Ukraine's terri-

Russia was also elected by acclamation to the Intergovernmental Working Group

of Experts on International Standards of

In the voting for members of 14 com-

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-

elections over Ukraine

The multi-day exercises coincided with the return of Taiwanese President Tsai Ingwen to Taipei after her highprofile visit to the US earlier this week when she met US House Speaker, Kevin McCarthy, a move denounced by Beijing. China on Friday slapped

sanctions on two American organisations that hosted Tsai besides Asia-based groups --The Prospect Foundation and the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats -- for their involvement in promoting Taiwan's independence.

China views any official exchanges between foreign governments and Taiwan as an infringement on Beijing's claims of sovereignty over the island.

The aggressive exercises

President Emmanuel Macron concluded his high-profile visit to China on Friday, during which he held wide-range talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, prodding him to use his friendship with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to end the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Tsa's predecessor and pro-Beijing politician, Ma Yingjeou, also returned to Taiwan on Friday, ending a 12-day trip to the Chinese mainland, where he sought to promote the one-China framework as the basis for improving cross-strait ties and holding talks.

The Chinese military's patrol and exercises are taking place in the maritime areas and airspace of the Taiwan Strait, off the northern and

of Ukraine war documents

The Defence Department is

 ■ reviewing a handful of docu-

ments that were released on sever-

al social media sites and appear to detail US and NATO aid to Ukraine,

but may have been altered or used

as part of a misinformation cam-

paign.
The documents, which were

posted on sites such as Twitter, are

labeled secret and resemble routine

updates that the US military's Joint

Staff would produce daily but not

They are dated ranging from February 23 to March 1, and provide

what appears to be details on the

progress of weapons and equipment

going into Ukraine with more pre-

distribute publicly.

Pentagon reviewing possible leak

island, and to the island's east, said Shi Yi, a spokesperson for Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army These operations serve as a

stern warning against the collusion between separatist forces seeking "Taiwan independence" and external forces and against their provocative activities, Shi said, adding the operations are necessary for safeguarding China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity Video and images pub-

lished by the state media showed that the exercise included a long-range rocket unit from the Eastern Theatre Command, destroyers, frigates, missile boats, fighter jets, bombers and electronic warfare planes.

US generally provides publicly. They are not war plans and they

provide no details on any planned

Ukraine offensive. And some inac-

curacies - including estimates of

Russian troops deaths that are sig-

nificantly lower than numbers pub-

licly stated by US officials — have

led some to question the documents'

ber that in recent decades, the

Russian special services' most suc-

cessful operations have been taking

place in Photoshop," Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for Ukraine's military

intelligence directorate, said on Ukrainian TV. "From a preliminary

analysis of these materials, we see false, distorted figures on losses on

both sides, with part of the information collected from open sources."

'It is very important to remem-

authenticity.

Berlusconi responding well to treatment

ROME (AP): Silvio Berlusconi's doctor, who is treating him for a lung infection, said Saturday that the former Italian premier is responding well to treatment in an intensive care unit at a Milan hospital, an Italian news agency reported.

Alberto Zangrillo, who also heads the ICU at San Raffaele hospital where the Italian media mogul was admitted on Wednesday, said Berlusconi "is used to responding with his best" and that despite the "grave illness in a truly difficult situation, he's responding well

to the treatments," ANSA reported. Zangrillo revealed earlier in the week that Berlusconi, 86, has had a

On Saturday, Berlusconi was visited by a longtime advisor, Gianni Letta, who said, "I found him better than what I thought" and eager to rebound.

You know how every time he sets an aim, he reaches it," Letta told

chronic form of leukemia for some time.

reporters outside the hospital.

Accounting and Reporting. cise timelines and amounts than the ballot votes for membership on the N Korea tests another underwater nuclear drone

North Korea on Saturday claimed it tested this week nuclear-capable underwater attack drone designed to destroy naval vessels and ports, adding to a flurry of weapons demonstrations this year that have heightened tensions with

The report of the four-day test came a day after the nuclear envoys of the United States, South Korea and Japan met in Seoul to discuss the growing North Korean nuclear threat and called for stronger international efforts to crack down on illicit North Korean activities funding its weapons program.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the drone, named "Haeil-2" after a Korean word meaning tsunamis or tidal waves, travelled underwater for more than 71 hours before successfully detonating a mock warhead in waters near the eastern port city of Tanchon on Friday.









This combination of photos provided by the North Korean government, shows what it says a test of underwater strategic weapon system held during April 4 - 7, 2023 in the waters off South Hamgyong province, North Korea "Haeil-1," and described the KCNA said the test proved

that the weapon could strike targets 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) away with "fatal attack

North Korean state media last month reported two tests another drone, named

weapon as capable of setting off a "radioactive tsunami" to destroy enemy vessels and Analysts, however, are

skeptical whether such a device

would add a meaningful new

threat to North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal built around missiles and whether it's reasonable for the North to pursue such capabilities considering its still-limited supplies of nuclear bomb fuel.

South Korea's military has

said it believes North Korean claims about Haeil-1 were like-"exaggerated or fabricated."

On Friday, US President Joe Biden's special representative for North Korea, Sung Kim, met with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts in Seoul where they issued a joint statement calling for stronger international support to stem North Korean efforts to evade UN Security Council sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons ambitions. The envoys expressed particular concern about North Korea's cybercrimes and illicit labor exports, which Seoul says could possibly expand as it fur-ther reopens its borders as COVID-19 fears ease.

Korean targets.

North Korea in 2023 alone fired around 30 missiles in 11 different launch events, including an intercontinental ballis tic missile that demonstrated potential range to reach the US mainland and several shorternectivity among others. range weapons designed to deliver nuclear strikes on South

Nepalese, Chinese officials discuss bilateral cooperation **PTI** ■ KATHMANDU

Officials from Nepal and China have held a highlevel meeting to discuss existing bilateral ties and cooperation and deliberated on the ways to further expand and consolidate cooperation in various areas like trade promotion, investment and connectivity.

The 15th meeting of the ateral Diplomatic Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and China was held in Beijing on Friday.

The two sides discussed existing bilateral ties and cooperation and deliberated on the ways to further expand and consolidate partnership in various areas such as economic cooperation, trade promotion, investment, tourism and con-

The meeting also reviewed the progress of different infrastructure development pro-

jects under China's grant assistance as well as Chinese-contracted projects and agreed to expedite the implementation of the projects so as to complete them in time, according to a statement issued by Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs here. However, the statement did not mention Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which could not take off even six years after the two countries signed the agreement. During the high-level meeting Bharat Raj Paudyal, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, and Sun Weidong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, led their respective delegations to the meeting, the statement said.

"The meeting was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship," it said, adding the Vice Minister of China "admired Nepal's consistent adherence to 'one-China' policy and respect for the five principles of peaceful coexistence." Foreign Secretary Paudyal appreciated the Chinese policy of non-interference and respect for Nepal's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence, the statement said.

"With a view to reducing the trade deficit, Foreign Secretary Paudyal proposed for the preferential treatment to Nepali primary products such as tea, coffee, herbal products, cooked buffalo meat, and other agricultural products," according to the statement. The Chinese side agreed to

encourage Chinese investors to make the investment in mutually beneficial areas, adds the statement. "The two sides discussed promoting people-topeople contacts and cultural cooperation, increasing the number of scholarships to Nepali students and professionals, and capacity development of technical experts, among others," the statement said.

'Global gale may hit GDP, but India resilient' NBFC REC raises \$750 m

lobal headwinds are like-Gly to slow down India's GDP growth, but the country is more resilient than many large economies, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh said on Saturday

India has enough tailwinds with political stability, vaccine security, food security, a robust domestic consumption-based economy, digitisation initiatives and a robust regulatory system for the financial sector, Parekh said at SPJIMR's Centre for Family Business and Entrepreneurship (CFBE)

"India is not immune to the global shocks but has proved to be more resilient than many large economies. For sure, India's GDP growth will slow down because of global headwinds," he said.

For startups, he said, "many investors still have



plenty of dry powder for good, innovative ideas, but the days of cash burn and high valuations are behind us".

Entrepreneurship in India has exploded because of the conducive startup environment in the country and India has the third largest number of startups after the US and China, Parekh said. "In the recent period,

geopolitics has dominated over geoeconomics with spillover impacts on trade, services,

technology, capital flows and even in the mobility of the labour force.

There is immense distrust amongst countries at a time when we most need global cooperation to solve common pressing issues like global supply chains, global warming, cyber threats, moneylaundering, data privacy, responsible use of artificial intelligence amongst several others," he said.

Parekh further said that

the other critical global issue of the Western world has been nesses stay relevant," he added the sudden change from years Minister of Road of quantitative easing and neg-

Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, who also attended the event, said that the country needs education and research institutes that can guide and give appropriate vision to the youth.

"In order to make the country truly self-reliant, there is a need to develop and work on such technology that can help reduce imports," the minister added

Gadkari also urged young entrepreneurs to focus on rural and tribal areas, which have immense potential.

"The rural and tribal areas have enough raw materials that can be utilised to reduce imports through technology. I urge entrepreneurs to use such technology that will help in reducing our dependence on imports and also help in wealth and jobs creation,"

through green bonds

State-owned non-banking finance company (NBFC) REC Ltd on Saturday said it has raised USD 750 million (about Rs 6,138 crore) through issuance of green bonds.

The net proceeds from the issue of the bonds will be applied to finance, in whole or in part, the eligible green projects in accordance with the approvals granted by Reserve Bank of India from time to time and in accordance with the ECB guidelines, according to a statement.

"REC Ltd has successfully raised USD 750 million through 5-year 144A/ RegS green bonds under its global medium-term programme of USD 7 billion," the statement

As a frequent issuer in the market and given the relative-



ly stable market backdrop last week, the REC decided to capitalise on the environment to carry out an intra-day execution post extensive investor roadshows spanning two weeks in different geographies covering Singapore, the UK, and the US, it stated.

The issue marks the REC's return to the capital market since 2021, with the last 144A transaction in 2020, this being REC's 10th venture into the international bond market.

It is the largest-ever senior USD tranche by an Indian NBFC (non-banking finance company). It is also the largest-

ever senior green bond tranche by a South & South-East Asian issuer. In this issue, the pricing risk of benchmark yield mitigated by the company with the first-ever USD treasury lock transaction.

There was over-subscription of approximately 3.5 times from 161 investors with an active participation from qual-

ity accounts. It stated that investors from across the globe participated in the issue with Asia Pacific (APAC) at 42 per cent, Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) at 26 per cent, and the US at 32

The green bond has tenure of 5 years with a maturity date of April 11, 2028.

Barclays, DBS Bank, MUFG, Standard Chartered Bank and State Bank of India, London Branch were the joint book-runners for the issue

HC asks for presence of Dy, Addl Labour Commissioners over functioning of placement agencies

The Delhi High Court has sought the presence of Additional Labour Commissioner and Deputy Labour Commissioner in a case alleging non-compliance with the court's order for regulating the functioning of private placement agencies.

Besides calling the Deputy

Commissioner, the high court also asked the Additional Labour Commissioner to remain present at the next hearing after being informed by the counsel for the Delhi government that the latter has supervisory control over all the

"The Additional Labour Commissioner is directed to remain present in court along with the Deputy Labour Commissioner, on the next date of hearing. List on May 26," Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said in a recent



The court was hearing a contempt petition by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) alleging there was a complete wilful disobedience and non-compliance" with the

order for regulating the functioning of placement agencies. The court also issued notice and sought the response of the authorities on an application filed in the pending

court's September 30, 2014

contempt petition seeking direction to the Delhi government to take steps forthwith in a time bound manner to shut down all unregistered and unli-

censed placement agencies. The application by the NGO, represented through advocate Prabhsahay Kaur, also sought direction to the authorities to penalise unregistered placement agencies in accordance with the provisions of Delhi Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Order, 2017, file FIRs and launch prosecution against those responsible under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Juvenile Justice Act, Bonded Labour Act, and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation)

ative interest rates to a sharp

rise in interest rates to combat

of living crisis across many advanced economies. In India,

based on yesterday's (RBI pol-

icy) announcement, we are

lucky to have finally got a

pause in the rising interest rate

Talking about the family business, Parekh said, the most

significant change seen in

family businesses today has

been the investment in the

education of the next genera-

game changer. Better educa-

tion has helped bring in scale,

vision, professionalism and

diversification in businesses.

Armed with better education,

there is a deeper understand-

ing of changing market reali-

"This is the single biggest

cycle," he added.

"This has resulted in a cost

inflation.

Rati Singh Phogat, Deputy Labour Commissioner, who was present in the court, stated he will pursue the averments in this application, verify them and take immediate remedial

Delhi government standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi and lawyer Arun Panwar sought time to file the reply and set out the verification and remedial steps taken.

In the application, Kaur informed the court about a recent incident where a 15year-old girl was placed in a home here by an illegally run placement agency where she was subjected to torture and inhuman treatment.

The minor girl was found searching for food in a trash bin when she was approached by a neighbour who asked her about her background and the information was provided to police after which she was rescued, it said. Kaur claimed the minor girl was not fed, was beaten and burnt with hot tongs. She was found with over 30 injuries all over her face and body when

The girl was brought to Delhi from Jharkhand on the pretext of getting her a job. She was taken to a placement agency by her uncle and placed as a domestic help at a house where she worked for 2

As per the plea, the girl wanted to leave the job but was confined in the house where she was allegedly sexually exploited and beaten up by the

'The failure of the respondents to take action against unregulated and unregistered placement agencies and complete willful disobedience and non-compliance of the order of this court dated September 30, 2014, is directly leading to such incident, where every few months a minor girl is rescued from abject torture and diabolical treatment.

"It is submitted that the respondents must be made directly responsible for their inaction and their contempt," the application said.

The government had earlier said all such unregistered agencies will have to shut down after October 25, 2014.

The high court had in its 2014 order, after taking note of the government's submission, asked it to implement at the earliest the executive order passed on September 25, 2014 for compulsory registration of

private placement agencies providing domestic workers.

It had directed the government to follow its instructions in letter and spirit to check the problem of trafficking of girls. The NGO said in its con-

tempt plea that it seemed the executive order was passed by the government in an attempt to hoodwink the court into closing the proceedings. "The non-compliance by

the Delhi government is completely in the face of the human trafficking lobby that is increasing on an unprecedented scale under the comfortable and safe swaddle of unregulated placement agencies," it alleged.

It claimed that non-implementation of the earlier directions of the court and the executive order of the government was fuelling a business that thrives on human trafficking by unregulated placement agencies across the

"In the absence of a regulating framework, which acts as a deterrent, placement agencies specifically employ children because they are cheaper to employ and can be easily exploited. Consequently, the phenomenon of trafficking has spread its fangs far and wide into our system, affecting the most vulnerable members of our society i.E. Children and women.

"Being unregistered, these placement agencies are outside the net of the authorities concerned and hence, are not answerable to anyone unless apprehended," the plea said.

The NGO has sought directions to the secretarycum-labour commissioner and chief inspector, shops and establishments of the government, to compulsorily register all placement agencies within eight weeks, and take action

Public sector non-life insurers don't respect **CLC orders: GIEAIA**



1,000-1,500 round Aemployees of the government owned general insurance companies have been transferred and the management are violating the orders of the Chief Labour Commissioner, government of India, alleged Trilok Singh, General Secretary, General Insurance Employees' All India Association (GIEAIA).

In a letter to the Union Labour Minister Bhupinder Yadav on Saturday, Singh said: "In the ongoing week, we came to know that the Management of these PSGICs (public sector general insurance companies) are implementing the KPI (key performance indicators) and has issued transfer orders for nearly 1,000-1,500 employees/officers in the compa-

The four companies are National Insurance Company Ltd, Oriental Insurance Company Ltd, United India Insurance Company Ltd and The New India Assurance Company Ltd.

Singh also said contrary to the Chief Labour Commissioner's orders that the management should have bilateral discussions with the unions and others before rolling out any restructuring exercise, the companies have begun the implement KPI and restructuring exercise.

"Further, it is very painful that the management of the PSGICS are even not having basic courtesy to show respect for the orders issued by the constitutional bodies, as they moved with roll out before having any discussion with the Unions and Associations."

India surpasses ₹85,000 cr worth mobile phone exports in FY23

IANS NEW DELHI

The government's push towards local manufacturing of consumer electronics items has helped India cross record more than Rs exports in the fiscal year ending March 31, industry data showed on Saturday.

Buoyed by attractive gov ernment incentives towards local manufacturing, India surpassed a remarkable \$10 billion worth smartphone exports in the fiscal year 2022-2023, according to the data provided by the India Cellular and Électronics Association (ICEA) to IANS.

Smartphone exports from India have doubled from a corresponding period from the last fiscal year, driven by production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes.

The top five global destinations India currently exports mobile phones to are the UAE, the US, the Netherlands, the UK and Italy, according to the ICEA data.

The mobile phone industry will cross \$40 billion manufacturing output and 25 per cent exports at \$10 billion is a stellar performance," Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of ICEA, had earlier told IANS.

More than 97 per cent of the smartphones sold in India are now being produced local-

India is now the second



largest mobile phone manufacturer in the world.

According to Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the year 2023 will be a milestone as the country will cross Rs 1 lakh crore in mobile phone

exports this year. India is likely to produce 45-50 per cent of Apple's iPhones by 2027, at par with China, where 80-85 per cent of iPhones were produced in 2022. According to estimates, India and Vietnam are to become the biggest beneficiaries of smartphone supply chain migration out of China. India accounted for 10-15 per cent of iPhones' overall production capacity at the

end of 2022. Apple became the first smartphone player in India to have exported \$1 billion worth iPhones in the month of December. It currently manufactures iPhones 12, 13, 14 and 14 Plus in the country.

The country is now moving in a different direction, "which is largely export-focused and led by the government's performancelinked scheme (PLI) pusha.

No sweeping power or draconian move: MoS IT on Govt's fact-checking unit

IANS NEW DELHI

mid the debate over the Agovernment forming a fact-checking unit to curb the flow of misinformation on various social media plat-State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, on Saturday said there are no sweeping powers or a draconian move at the behest of the Centre which solely aims to safeguard its "digital

Replying to a tweet from Independent MP Kapil Sibal, Chandrasekhar said that the new IT rules "already provide for social media platforms to ensure nine types of content to be avoided on their platforms, including Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and misinformation, etc to qualify for legal immunity under

the Section 79 of the IT Act". The fact-checking unit will flag misinformation and patently false information pertaining to the govern-ment," the Minister posted in a tweet.

Social media platforms and intermediaries can choose to ignore the factchecking unit if they wish to

"However, then the aggrieved department will have the right to pursue its case in a court of law under relevant sections of the law," explained Chandrasekhar.



Sibal had tweeted: "Now PIB will decide what is fake and what is not and notify it.

"If online platforms choose to ignore, they will lose their immunity from prosecution.

Now the government to decide what is fake and what is not!"

Earlier, after the final amendments to the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021 were notified, Chandrasekhar on Friday said the IT Ministry will form a "fact checking unit" to stop the flow of misinformation about the government.

The government will not ask intermediaries to remove content, but only label it as fake, patently false or misleading.

According to Chandrasekhar, it will be discussed if the new fact-checking unit will be under the Press Information Bureau (PIB) or will be an entirely

new unit. "Our goal is to ensure that the Internet is safe and trusted for all our digital nagriks," he stressed, saying that no social media platform can "ever violate the fundamental rights of the citizens of India".

Macrotech Developers adds 12 land parcels in FY23 to build new projects with ₹20k cr revenue potential

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{ealty firm Macrotech}}_{\text{Developers has added 12}}$ land parcels for the development last fiscal, with an estimated revenue potential of nearly Rs 20,000 crore as it seeks to expand the business to tap rising housing demand.

The company had given a guidance of Rs 15,000 crore for new business development for 2022-23 fiscal. Macrotech Developers,

which sells its properties under the Lodha brand, acquires land outright and also enters into joint development agreements

(JDAs) with landowners to expand the business. It mainfocuses on Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and the Pune market. It has entered Bengaluru recently.

"We continue to remain the preferred partner for various landowners across micromarkets for JDA partnerships," Macrotech Developers MD and CEO Abhishek Lodha said.

The company has added 12 projects in FY23 on 14 million square feet for a combined GDV (gross development value) of Rs 19,800 crore, he

"Business growth robust-



ness continues to strengthen with a significant number of land proposals under evalua-

tion," Abhishek said. Meanwhile, Macrotech Developers' sales bookings rose 34 per cent to Rs 12,064 crore in the last fiscal on better demand despite the rise in interest rates on home loans. The company surpassed the full-year guidance of Rs 11,500

The collections of money from customers stood at Rs 10,606 crore for FY23, up 23

per cent YoY (year-on-year). Net debt has further reduced to Rs 7,071 crore,

showing a decline of Rs 2,229 crore for the fiscal.

Abhishek said the company has achieved yet another quarter of strong performance enabling it to surpass its annu-

al guidance. The icing on the cake is that this has happened in the face of one of the fastest-ever increases in interest rates," he

Lodha said the industry is poised to continue seeing demand acceleration for qual-

ity tier-1 branded homes. 'The on-ground demand fundamentals driven by improving affordability, con-

above all consumer's desire to upgrade their lifestyle have continued to strengthen," he Macrotech has delivered

more than 89 million square

feet of real estate and is cur-

sistent income growth, and

rently developing around 100 million square feet under its ongoing and planned portfolio.

The group has approximately 4,400 acres of land

beyond its ongoing and planned portfolio, which will be utilised in developing further residential, commercial and industrial & logistics



Women's hockey camp ahead of Australia tour set to begin

PTI ■ BENGALURU

ockey India is organising a 35-day senior women's national camp here from Sunday to fine tune the "structure" and "tactics" of its core group ahead of the tour of

Australia in May.

The women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman said the camp, from April 9 to May 13 for 33 probables, followed by the series against Australia should give her a fair idea where the team stands against the top

hockey-playing countries.

"After the last camp, in which we were able to establish our baseline for the needed physical output and addressed individual improvements, we're looking to improve our team structure and tactics," said Schopman in a Hockey India statement on Saturday.

All India Football Federation general secretary Shaji

Prabhakaran is hopeful of the

national U-17 team gaining

"valuable experience" from the

exposure tour of Spain and

Germany as part of preparations for the AFC U-17 Asian Cup

Final Rounds in June-July in

met the India U-17 men's team,

which will travel to Spain and

Germany to train and play matches. The team is currently

Prabhakaran said: "For us

camping in Goa.

Prabhakaran on Saturday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"Playing Australia in Australia at the end of this camp will help us assess where we are compared to the top of women's hockey," she added.

CORE PROBABLES GROUP: Goalkeepers: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, Bichu Devi Khari-

bam, Bansari Solanki. **Defenders:** Deep Grace Ek-ka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Jyoti Chhatri, Mahima Chaudhary.

Midfielders: Nisha, Salima

Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Mariana Kujur, Sonika, Neha,

Baljeet Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Vaishnavi Phalke, Ajmina Kujur. Forwards: Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur, Vandana Katariya, Sharmila Devi, Deepika, Sangita Kumari, Mumtaz Khan, Sunelita Toppo.

ration is one of the biggest pri-

ority focus areas and these youth

players will have big exposure

opportunities in Europe in the

"We had a long chat with the boys. I have advised them to

concentrate on the job they

have in the AFC U-17 Asian

Cup final in Thailand. The tour

of Spain and Germany would be

a huge opportunity to gain valuable experience by playing

against quality opponents.
"I am sure the boys will

make the best use of it, so that

the team can achieve the target

we are all aiming for and plan-

coming weeks.

SHIVA TO LEAD 13-MEMBER INDIAN SQUAD IN WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Amit misses out

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Six-time Asian Champion-ships medallist Shiva Thapa will spearhead the Indian squad in the men's World Boxing Championships even as last edition's silver medallist Amit Panghal will miss out on the marquee event to be held in Tash-kent, Uzbekistan from April 30 to May 14.

Shiva, who won a World Championships bronze in Doha in 2015, will be looking to add another medal to his name. He will be representing the country in the 63.5kg category.

Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Panghal, on the other hand, finished second behind 2019 Asian Championships silver medallist Deepak Bhoria under Boxing Federation of India's new selection policy in the 51kg flyweight category.

He scored 682 after the three-week evaluation process where the boxers were judged on various parameters, while Deepak, who has been one of the most improved boxers in recent times, had an overall total of 731.

Notably, Panghal had become the first male boxer from the country to clinch a silver medal at the world event, in 2019. Deepak announced his arrival on the global stage in 2021, when he defeated 2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist and

2019 world champion Shakho-

"Men's team has been work-India (BFI), in a release.

The Indian team will leave for Tashkent on April 17 and

The championships will also feature seven defending world champions including Sofiane Oumiha from France, Japan's

where they will stay in the facil-

ities of Club Atlético de Madrid.

The Blue Colts will play six

friendly matches against acade-

my teams of different age groups

of top Spanish professional sides.

then travel to Frankfurt on May

The Indian U-17 team will

Tomoya Tsuboi and Sewonrets Okazawa, Loren Alfonso from Azerbaijan, Saken Bibossinov from Kazakhstan and Cuba's Yoenlis Hernandez Martinez

have experienced campaigner and 2022 Asian Championships bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin. He will box in

The Tashkent championships have already seen a registration of around 640 boxers from 104 countries.

medallist Ashish Chaudhary

will also be representing the country at the event for the second time and would be keen to add another major medal to his

Govind Sahani, who recently won silver at the Strandja memorial boxing tournament, will be showcasing his skills in the 48kg category.

Meanwhile, 2021 World

Youth champion Sachin Siwach will be representing India in the 54kg bantamweight category. He will be eager to continue his impressive form and add to his medal tally.

Young pugilists Varinder Singh (60kg), Akash Sangwan (67kg), Nishant Dev (71kg) and

Sumit Kundu (75kg), who had won the gold medal at the National Championships earli-er this year, will be donning the Indian jersey in their respective categories.

The quartet had represent-The quartet had represented the country at the 2021 World Championships and will be looking to use the experience to win this time.

Harsh Choudhary, who hails from Rajasthan, will be making his debut at the World Championships in the 86kg cat-

Championships in the 86kg category, while national champions Naveen Kumar and Narender Berwal will be seen competing in the 92kg and 92+kg categories respectively.

The gold medallists will walk away with a prize money of USD 200,000. The silver medallists are to be given USD 100,000 and both bronze-medallists will be awarded USD 50,000

In the seven Olympic weight categories — 51kg, 57kg, 63.5kg, 71kg, 80kg, 92kg and 92+kg — two boxers each will participate

in the training camp.

Indian squad: Govind
Sahani (48kg), Deepak Bhoria
(51kg), Sachin Siwach (54kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), (57kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Akash Sangwan (67kg), Nishant Dev (71kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Ashish Chaudhary (80kg), Harsh Choudhary (86kg), Naveen Kumar (92kg) and Narender Berwal (92+kg).



Tejaswin wins decathlon silver in US, misses national record by whisker

PTI NEW DELHI

ommonwealth Games Cmedallist high jumper Tejaswin Shankar bagged a decathlon silver and came close to breaking the national record at the Jim Click Shootout competition in Arizona, USA.

Tejaswin, who won the high jump bronze in the 2022 CWG in Birmingham, competed in the gruelling 10-event decathlon and scored a cumulative 7,648 points — 10 less than Bharatinder Singh's national record of 7,658 set in 2011.

The competition was held at the University of Arizona's Tucson campus and is recognised by United States Track and Field (USTAF).

Till Steinforth of Nebraska stood first with 7,845 points after two days of gruelling competition over the 10 grant tion over the 10 events.

The 24-year-old Tejaswin, who is currently working in the US after completing college at the Kansas State University, competed as an unattached athlete. He won high jump (2.19m) and 400m race (48.41 sec).

The other eight events are 100m race, long jump, shot put, 110m hurdles race, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw and

1500m race. Though he missed the national record by a whisker, his 7,648 points breached the Asian

Games standard of 7,500 set by the Athletics Federation of India. The Delhi boy had recent-

started competing in decathlon, and he had expressed his desire to represent the country in the event in the upcoming Asian Games.



bidin Zoirov of Üzbekistan, at the Strandja Memorial tourna-

ing extremely hard and I wish them all the best. I am confident each one of them will make the country proud," said Ajay Singh, president, Boxing Federation of

they will attend a multi-nation training camp before the World Championships.

and Julio La Cruz. The Indian team will also

the highly competitive 57kg category at the showpiece event.

Tokyo Olympian and 2019 Asian Championships silver

16 to play two more friendly

matches there. Lastly, the contin-

gent will move to Bangkok on May 31 for the final preparation

camp before India's first match

The secretary general

against Vietnam on June 17.

added: "We had an in-depth dis-

AIFF secretary general optimistic ahead of U-17 team's exposure tour of Europe Bibiano Fernandes and the support staff. They are totally focussed and I am sure the results in the next few months will make us proud."

India U-17 Squad for the tour of Spain and Germany:

Gazi, Pranav Sundarraman.

Defenders: Ricky Meetei Haobam, Surajkumar Singh Ngangbam, Manjot Singh Dhami, Mukul Panwar, Malemngamba Singh Thokchom, Pramveer, Dhanajit Ashangbam, Balkaran Singh.

Goalkeepers: Sahil, Julfikar

Midfielders: Vanlalpeka Guite, Danny Meitei Laishram, Omang Dodum, Faizan Waheed, Akash Tirkey, Prachit Forwards: Thanglalsoun Gangte, Shashwat Panwar, Gogocha Chungkham, Lemmet

Gurnaj Singh Grewal, Korou

Singh Thingujam, Lalpekhlua,

Rohen Singh Chaphamayum,

Tangvah. Schedule of matches in Spain: **April 19, 2023:** India U-17 vs Atletico de Madrid U-16

April 25, 2023: India U-17 Leganes Ú-18

April 27, 2023: India U-17 vs Atletico de Madrid U-17 May 3, 2023: India U-17 vs Real Madrid U-17



Woods extends Masters cut streak to record-tying 23 straight

AP AUGUSTA

¬iger Woods can thank good I friend Justin Thomas for helping to extend his streak of consecutive cuts made at the Masters to a record-tying 23 on

Woods was in danger of missing it for the first time as a professional when he resumed his second round in cold, driving rain and bogeyed his final two holes. That left Woods at 3 over and tied for 52nd, while the top 50 and ties

make the cut. Moments after Woods signed his scorecard, though, Thomas missed a short par putt at the 17th, dropping him to 3over and bringing everyone at that number inside the cut line. Thomas then bogeyed the 18th, ensuring Woods would play the rest the weekend and match Fred Couples and Gary Player for the longest streak of cuts made at the Masters. "I've always loved this golf course, and I love playing this event," Woods said before

"I hope I get a chance to play this weekend — I'm sorry, weekend. I wish I get a chance

Thomas finished. I got a chance to play on the to play two more rounds." Woods got his wish, while Thomas' bogey-bogey finish sent him home instead.

The second round was suspended Friday when storms swept over the course, bringing down three large pine trees near the 16th green. Nobody was hurt when they fell, and workers had them cleared by the time play resumed

Woods was 2 over with seven holes left when he returned to the course, and his birdie at the par-5 15th gave him some breathing room. But a wayward tee shot at the 17th forced Woods to lay up short of the bunker, leading to bogey, and a tee shot into the trees left of 18 forced him to hit his approach shot off the pine straw. Woods came up short of the green, backed up his approach shot and two-putted for another bogey.

The weather wasn't getting

any better, though, and Thomas took the brunt of it. With rain driving so hard at the tough, uphill par-4 18th that he had to hit a fairway wood from 218 yards, Thomas went so far left he nearly landed among the patrons. His pitch shot checked up short, and another bogey resulted in a second-round 77 and a missed cut.



 $F^{ormer\,Inter\,Milan\,midfield-}_{er\,Antonio\,Candreva\,scored}$ a stunning goal in the final minute to help Salernitana snatch a 1-1 draw against his old club in Serie A.

ning meticulously for a long

time." Present during the meet-

ing was the federation's chief

technical officer Vincent

Fernandes, the 25-man squad

will on Monday leave for Madrid

Led by head coach Bibiano

Subramaniam.

Candreva's strike canceled out Robin Gosens' early opener for Inter, which hasn't won for more than a month - a run of five matches in all competitions.

Inter hit the woodwork twice, while Salernitana also hit the crossbar.

Inter remained a point below third-placed AC Milan, which was held by Empoli to 0-0 at home. Fifth-placed Roma was a point further back in a tight battle for the Champions League qualifying places.

Leader Napoli won at Lecce 2-1 to move 19 points clear of second-placed Lazio, which hosts Juventus on Saturday. The other six league matches this weekend will all be played on Saturday because of the Easter



Wednesday, the day after Inter plays at Benfica.

Inter's first goal from open the top left corner.

holiday. Milan hosts Napoli in the Champions League on

play in nearly 500 minutes came when Romelu Lukaku nodded on a Kristjan Asllani ball over the top for Gosens to sweep into Lukaku should have dou-

bled Inter's lead on the stroke of

halftime with a header from

point-blank range which

Salernitana goalkeeper Guil-

lermo Ochoa saved off the line with his knees.

Ochoa was the busier of the goalkeepers and he did well again early in the second half to fingertip Nicolò Barella's strike onto the post.

Inter went even closer to doubling its lead from the ensuing corner with an incredible triple chance. First, Lukaku headed off the crossbar, then Ochoa denied Stefan de Vrij on the rebound, and the Inter defender's followup was blocked

final minute when what appeared to be a cross from Candreva from the right looped over Inter goalkeeper André Onana and into the far top corner. Candreva made more than

100 appearances for Inter in four

TWO HANDBALLS

Milan was held by mid-table Empoli just five days after humiliating the Serie A leader. Milan thought it scored a last-minute winner but Olivier

Giroud headed it in off his arm. The Rossoneri were awarded a penalty on the hour mark for an apparent handball by Empoli defender Tyronne

Ebuehi but it was revoked on

Milan dominated and had 20 shots to Empoli's one. It also hit the post through Alessandro Florenzi but has now won only one of its past six matches in all competitions.

Bengaluru FC, Sreenidi Deccan

Inter held 1-1 by Salernitana India's Priyanshu cruises to Orleans Masters final

PTI ORLEANS

Tndia's Priyanshu Rajawat **■** stormed into the finals of the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament with a straight game demolition of Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in the semifinals here on Saturday.

The 21-year-old, who was part of the India team that won the 2022 Thomas Cup, dished out an attacking game to outplay the world number 35 Nguyen 21-12 21-9 in a lop-sided men's singles semifinals to progress to his maiden final of a super 300 world tour event.

He will face either Denmark's Magnus Johannesen or China's Lei Lan Xi in the summit clash. Rajawat was sharp at the net and precise in his returns. He exploited his opponent's forehand and the Indian's flat drives and cross court flicks troubled Nguyen, who committed many errors.

After an initial fight, Rajawat moved into the mid-game break



with a 11-9 lead. However, after resumption, he dominated the rallies to swiftly move to 17-11.

In the end, another steep return from the Indian ended in his opponent hitting out as Rajawat grabbed 10 game points and sealed it with another overthe-head precise return on his opponent's forehand.

After the change of sides, Raiawat started on the same note as the Irish huffed and puffed across the court. The Indian produced some powerful smash from deep into the court to keep marching ahead.

At the interval, the Indian was 11-3 up, leaving his opponent in deep sea. Rajawat punished his opponent every time he erred or lifted short as points kept coming thick and fast.

Rashford hurt in Man United's game against Everton

AP MANCHESTER

 $M^{
m arcus}$ Rashford hobbled off with an apparent groin injury late in Manchester United's 2-0 win over Everton in the Premier League on Saturday.

The England forward gestured to United's bench that he needed to come off and was feeling the groin area in his right leg as he left the field in the 81st at Old Trafford. 'We have to wait — doesn't

look well," United manager Erik

ten Hag said of Rashford, who

has netted 28 goals in all com-

petitions this season to be

United's top scorer.

busy stretch of games, with the team fighting to finish in the league's top four and also still in the Europa League and FA Cup.
Ten Hag said Rashford's
injury was "due to the schedule."

United is in the middle of a

"It can't be that you play three games in six days," he said, referring to United playing Newcastle last Sunday and Brentford on Wednesday. "We have to protect our

players and everyone wants the best player on the pitch. "Everyone wants to see great, entertaining football like today but then you need your

share points in Super Cup opener **PTI** ■ KOZHIKODE **T**-League side Sreenidi Deccan

held ISL heavyweights Bengaluru FC to a 1-1 stalemate to begin their campaign in the Super Cup by sharing points here on Saturday.

First-half goals from Javi Hernandez (9th minute) and Faysal Shayesteh (21') saw the spoils being shared at the end of what was a closely-fought match in humid conditions.

Earlier, Blues' head coach

Simon Grayson named a starting XI featuring Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in goal and a back three comprising Sandesh Jhingan, Parag Shrivas and Bruno Ramires.

Javi, who was the top scorer for Bengaluru in the 2022-23 Indian Super League, manned the midfield along with Rohit Kumar and Suresh Wangjam as the duo of Sunil Chhetri and Roy Krishna led the forward line for the home side.

Bengaluru dominated the early exchanges and didn't take long to open the scoring, with Javi finding himself on the scoresheet. The Spaniard saw his initial shot from the edge of the box saved by Deccan 'keeper Aryan, and the shot-stopper then parried an attempt on the rebound by Roy Krishna before running out of luck when Javi as on point to smash home.

Carlos Vaz Pinto's side equalised just over 10 minutes

Afghan international picked a pass from Rilwan Hassan in the box and cut in from the left before unleashing a shot that deflected off Parag Shrivas and into the back of the net past Gurpreet. The game continued to

later through Shayesteh. The

flow at a brisk tempo with both sides packed with intent to attack and score. Naorem Roshan Singh and Rosenberg Gabriel were involved in an intense battle on the wings, as the two proved influential to the attacking fortunes of their respective outfits. The defensive units of both teams were kept busy in an entertaining first 45

Bengaluru started the sec-

and carrying the threat to the opposition. But Sreenidi Deccan came knocking on the Blues' door in the 56th minute when Gabriel's cross from the right narrowly evaded Arijit Bogui's head with the winger bearing down on Gurpreet's goal. Chances were few and far between despite the efforts of the two teams as heat and

the first, creating more chances

fatigue took a toll at the EMS

Stadium. Bengaluru came close to taking the lead from a late opportunity that fell to Chhetri. Roshan's cross found the skipper at the far post, but Chhetri didn't get enough purchase on

CSK CRUSH MI BY 7 WICKETS

Rahane smashes season's fastest 50, Ruturaj scores unbeaten 40

A jinkya Rahane smashed the fastest half-century of IPL 2023 — off just 19 balls — and Ruturaj Gaikwad struck an unbeaten 40 to power Chennai Super Kings to a seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians here on Saturday. An ordinary Mumbai Indians succumbed to their second consecutive defeat in as many matches while CSK recorded their second win on the trot, moving to the fourth spot in the points table while the five-time winners remained at

The 34-year-old Rahane made a cracking debut for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, producing one of the most brutal knocks in the competition to make 61 from only 27 balls with seven fours and three sixes while recording the fastest fifty of the league this year.

Rahane's blitz and Gaikwad's knock, combined with the efforts of Chennai spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Mitchell Santner who shared five wickets earlier, fuelled CSK's win over arch rivals Mumbai Indians

'To go with

spinners

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

three mystery

against Titans

On a high after Suyash Sharma's dream IPL debut, Kolkata Knight Riders are mulling playing three spinners against defending champions Gujarat Titans, bowling coach Bharat Arun said on Saturday.

The relatively unknown 19

year-old from Delhi was a wel-

come addition to KKR's "mys-

tery" spin lineup of Sunil Narine

trio claimed nine wickets bet-

ween them to bowl out Royal

Challengers Bangalore for 123 in

a chase of 205 in their previous

and bounce, KKR would not shy

away from bowling the trio in

tandem again. "With the impact

player rule it gives us a lot of

options, we would be excited to

go with three mystery spinners,

as you would call it," Arun said

impact player in place of

Venkatesh Iver in their match

against RCB at Eden Gardens on Thursday, a move that paid off

with the youngster claiming

"That's something on the go.

3/30 to mark a splendid debut.

It's got to be a very dynamic

Suyash was included as the

during a media interaction.

On a pitch that aids pace

CSK finished at 159/3 in 18.1 overs chasing 158, winning with 11 balls to spare. Rahane collected 23 runs hitting Arshad Khan for four boundaries and a six in the fourth over while CSK's young gun Gaikwad happily took the backseat. Rahane truly looked at home on his 'home ground' Wankhede Stadium, unleashing delightful strokes that reaffirmed Chennai Super Kings' command on the game.

Rahane and Gaikwad came together in the first over of CSK's chase with Devon Conway playing one onto his wickets off Jason Behrendorff. They added 82 runs for the second wicket before Rahane perished in the eighth over, caught by Surya-kumar Yadav off Piyush Chawla.

With Rahane's blitz at the top and CSK bringing down the equation to almost a run-a-ball by the 10th over, Gaikwad enjoyed the freedom to build his innings. The right-handed opener struck his first four only on the 20th delivery and in the 10th over when CSK were nearing the 100-run mark.

Gaikwad made 40 not out from 36 balls with two fours and

Senior India Test batter Cheteshwar Pujara is excited to be

back among runs with a centu-

ry in his county season-opener

for Sussex and said things that

By his standards, the India

"Things which I've been

he's been working on are "pay-

No. 3 had a lacklustre outing

against Australia in the Border-

Gavaskar Trophy, scoring just one half-century in four Tests.

working on is paying off," Pujara

said after his 163-ball 115, his

well, you feel confident. I hope

The seasoned Moeen Ali has

rounder Ben Stokes as the front-

runner to succeed Mahendra

Singh Dhoni as captain of IPL

heavyweights Chennai Super

Kings once the Indian icon

rated Ruturaj Gaikwad highly as

far as leading the team in the

a staggering Rs 16.25 crore on

Stokes in the IPL 2023 players

auction, indicating that the fran-

chise is looking at the England

Test captain as a potential suc-

self," Moeen said of Stokes on the

eve of CSK's match against

Mumbai Indians at the

where you come here and you

do tend to enjoy yourself and

"He's really enjoying him-

"CSK is the type of franchise

Besides Stokes, Moeen also

Chennai Super Kings spent

decides to step down.

future is concerned.

cessor to Dhoni.

Wankhede Stadium.

sixth hundred for Sussex.



a six, adding 43 runs for the third wicket with Shivam Dube (28) and another 34 runs with Ambati Rayudu (20 not out) to take CSK over the line.

Earlier, Jadeja (4-0-20-3) and Santner (4-0-28-2) shared five wickets to lead Chennai Super Kings' charge as Mumbai Indians hobbled to 157/8.

The pair halted Mumbai's advance after the home side had raced to 61 for one in the powerplay, with MI's fight petering out against CSK's spinners who made up for the absence of strike bowler Deepak Chahar.

The India and CSK seamer looked far from best and struggled to even complete his first over, post which he left the field.

An opening stand of 38 runs between skipper Rohit Sharma (21 off 12 balls) and Ishan Kishan (32) was the best partnership for Mumbai, with Suryakumar Yadav's struggle continuing and young batters flopping again. Rohit hit the first six of the game off Tushar Deshpande (3-0-31-2) but the local player, playing for CSK, had the final laugh, rattling the MI captain off a terrific delivery that held its line to crash into the off and middle stump while the batter looked to play it on midwicket.

With a strong start Mumbai looked well-positioned to launch

for a big total, but instead, collapsed to 84/5 in 10 overs, losing four wickets for just 23 runs in 24 balls with Jadeja and Santner causing the damage. Kishan made a brisk start

but Jadeja had him caught at long on in the seventh over. Suryakumar was left baffled when MS Dhoni made the right DRS call appealing for a caught-behind in the eighth over, with the batter trying to sweep a delivery angled down the leg side from Santner. The umpire, who had called it a wide, had to overturn his decision as replays showed the ball flicked Suryakumar's gloves before settling into Dhoni's. Mumbai's slide continued with Green (12) hitting one powerfully back at Ja-

deja, who grabbed a sharp catch. Arshad Khan was adjudged out leg-before in the 10th over off Santner and Jadeja pinned Tilak Verma (22 off 18 balls) in front of the wickets to keep the Mumbai Indians under the pump. With pressure piling up, Tristan Stubbs (5) perished in the 16th over as South Africa's Sisanda Magala took his first wicket in the IPL for CSK. However, vital contributions from Tim David (31 off 22 balls) and Hrithik Shokeen (18 not out) took Mumbai past the

"I love batting on this pitch.

It's important to get a good start.

I'm really happy with the way

things went.
"We needed some partner-

ships, at one point we were in a

spot of bother when we lost four

wickets for 91. So that partner-

tunate and soft dismissals. I've

already spoken to the guys. If we

get good start we can chase it

dreds and was the fourth high-

est run scorer in the champi-

onship last season, amassing

1094 runs in eight games.

Pujara had scored five hun-

Some of them were unfor-

ship was important.

down," Pujara added.



Openers set tone as RR hammer DC by 57 runs

Delhi Capitals' 'Summer of Horrors' continued as they crashed to a 57-run loss against Rajasthan Royals, completing a hat-trick of one-sided defeats in this edition of Indian Premier

League, here on Saturday. While Yashasvi Jaiswal reaf-firmed his status as the brightest talent among India's gen-next batters with a superb 60, Jos Buttler showed no signs of finger pain en route a chiselled 79 in Rajasthan Royals' challenging 199 for 4 after David Warner committed a tactical 'harakiri' by opting to field on a batting

The Australian couldn't be

In the Royals' innings, there were 23 boundaries and seven sixes while DC in their entire innings failed to hit a single six on what was considered to be

The Royals thus earned

having lost a high scoring thriller against Punjab Kings at this very Trent Boult (3/29 in 4 overs)

then did what he does for a living. He got one to move a shade, squaring up Prithvi Shaw (0) and exposing his poor techball jagged back enough and found Manish Pandey (0) rooted to his crease for a plumb leg before decision. There was not much left in the game after that kind of horrendous start.

In three games, Shaw has been dismissed in three distinct fashions - raw pace in the opener, well-disguised short ball rearing up in the second and old fashioned seam and swing in the

He would himself know that he has now fallen way behind in national team's pecking order after this inept perfor-

mances game after game. Skipper David Warner (65 off 55 balls) scored his second

opposition.

balls) was dismissed by Boult, in his second spell, the humiliation was written all over Barsapara Stadium.

Earlier, it was a case of 'Afternoon showing fate of evening' as Jaiswal hammered a hapless Khaleel Ahmed (0/31 in 2 overs) into submission by crunching five boundaries in the opening over. His 31-ball innings laid the foundation before Buttler finished with a flourish. The English swashbuckler faced 51 balls.

The fate of DC bowlers could have been sealed in the first six overs, which yielded 68 runs along with 14 boundaries, but Kuldeep Yadav (1/31 in 4 overs), Mukesh Kumar (2/36 in 4 overs) and Rovman Powell (1/18 in 2 overs) did well to control the damage to some extent

at the back-end. The total on this track would be considered a par score taking the pitch into account as

220 looked possible during the first 10 overs. Khaleel literally lost both line and length and looked bruised as Jaiswal inflicted one humiliation after another on

him during those couple of overs. Khaleel, in his career, has never had three consistent games on trot and Saturday was another such day.

Anrich Nortje (0/44 in 4 overs), DC's big bowling hope, seemed to have had too much on his plate, as the onslaught at he also went for a flurry of boundaries, including one over the bowler's head.

Such was Warner's helplessness that he had to ignore that Axar Patel's (0/38 in 4 overs) match-up against left-handers isn't great, and he was promptly smashed for three boundaries

n his very first over. The 50 came in the fourth over and 100 in the 10th even as Jaiswal completed a 25-ball half-

century, his fifth over three editions of the tournament. Seeing Axar's plight, his spin twin Kuldeep also started

finally induced a mis-timed pull from Jaiswal which ballooned up

Once Lalit Yadav (38 off 24

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

shirtfront.

blamed as his pencil-thin Indian batting unit was put on its haunches as they managed only 142 for 9 in the end after being out-batted by the two Royals openers with Shimron Hetmyer adding a bit of icing on the cake.

batting paradise.

their second win in three games,

third.

half-century in three games but has been very 'Un-Warner' like where he has never looked like taking the game away from

bowling quick and flat which resulted in half-trackers, which were promptly punished.
It was Mukesh Kumar, who

and resulted in an easy return

decision, we will take it on the

AP QUEENSTOWN

New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by four wickets with one ball remaining in the third Twenty20 international Saturday to win the series 2-1 after opener Tim Seifert led its run-chase

for the second match in a row. Seifert made 88 from 48 balls and New Zealand passed Sri Lanka's 182-6 in the last over. He made 79 from 43 balls when New Zealand won the second match by nine wickets after Sri Lanka won the first in a Super

Kusal Mendis also paced Sri Lanka's innings from the top of the order, making 73 from 48 balls. He had support throughout the innings from Pathum Nissanka (24) with whom he put on 76 in 9.3 overs overs for the first wicket, Kusal Perera (33), whose run out in the 17th over might have cost Sri Lanka a bigger total, and Dhananjaya de Silva (20)

Queenstown's Sir John Davies Oval became the world's newest Twenty20 international

venue and provided not just a picturesque backdrop but a superb and competitive pitch which was unused and provided pace and bounce.

Both Mendis and Seifert were able to turn that to advantage after weathering the risky early moments of both innings when full deliveries swung and short balls pinged through. Mendis hit six fours and five sixes, Seifert 10 fours and three sixes. Seifert put on 53 for New Zealand's first wicket with Chad Bowes and 84 from 52 balls for the second with captain Tom Latham who made 31.

At 85, he passed his previous highest score in T20 internationals but he was out soon afterwards, remonstrating with himself for letting a T20 century slip through his grasp. He had played the cut shot

or back foot drive frequently and well but he reached for a ball well wide of off stump, mis-timed his shot and was caught by Kasun Rajitha at cover from the bowling of Pramod Madushan.

Sri Lanka made 182-6 after



as saying by 'ESPNcricinfo'.

to carry on from here and keep scoring runs throughout the

season," said Pujara, a vital cog

light, Pujara is back at the

English county which will serve

as his preparation for the mar-

quee World Test Championship

final against Australia in two

Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 to make a

back-to-back WTC final, which

is slated to be held at The Oval

Sussex were struggling at 91/4

of the proceedings in a 112-run

Dhoni's successor at CSK

Moeen picks Stokes as

from June 7-11.

"As a batter, when you start when skipper Pujara took charge

India won the Border

In reply to Durham's 376,

Away from the IPL lime-

in India's Test batting line-up.

Besides CSK, Stokes and Moeen also share the England dressing room.

"I think there's a chance (that Stokes succeeds Dhoni); of course there's a chance, because he's obviously done really well in Test cricket," Moeen said.

"But MS is still obviously in charge and he's going to be captain for a while. We have some

being sent into bat.

We thought 180 was a

"We got ahead of the run

good score that they put on so

we knew we had to get off to a

good start and we managed to

get across the line," Seifert said.

rate and you don't want to get

too far behind so you have to

play catch-up. Tom (Latham)

came in and played his role and

we managed to kick on from

when Seifert was out, still need-

New Zealand was 153-4

World Cup-winning hero Stokes has been dealing with an injury in his left knee for a while and received cortisone injections before travelling to India for the

Pujara excited to be back among runs, says hard work 'paying off'

partnership with Oliver Carter

(41) on day two of the match, on

Friday. Sussex made 335 in the

first innings to cut the deficit to

Stokes has so far scored just 15 runs in two innings, while also bowling an over and conceding 18 runs against Lucknow Super Giants

Impact player rule doesn't threaten all-rounder's position: Miller

The impact player rule in the IPL doesn't "threaten" the role of all-rounders and instead strength, said South Africa and Gujarat Titans batter David Miller on Saturday.

"It was an important knock

for the team as well. We could

still have batted a bit better, but

we are still not too far behind,"

he said in a video posted by

Introduced ahead of the ongoing edition of the IPL, the rule allows the teams to replace a batter or bowler anytime during the match. "I've just come in the last couple of days and I'm still trying to kind of get the concept of it, but it seems like it takes away the impact of all rounders, takes their role away," Miller said during the pre-match press conference when asked to comment on the new rule.

"That's my understanding, where you can take six or seven frontline batters or six frontline bowlers. So, yeah, I mean, we'll see how it goes as IPL goes on."

All-rounder Krunal Pandya had blasted a 23-ball 34 after claiming three wickets with his spin bowling to steer Lucknow

skied the next and was caught.

Jimmy Neesham came to the

crease and was run out from a

from four balls with five wick-

ets in hand. Mitchell (15) skied

the next and was caught; New

Zealand had lost three wickets

to consecutive balls - not a hat

trick because of the run out - and

then needed three from three

with four wickets remaining. Rachin Ravindra and Adam

Milne scampered through for a

risky single, leaving two from two and finally Ravindra found

a gap in the field, the batters ran

two and New Zealand got home

the result today," Latham said.

"Bowling first they put us under

a little bit of pressure and it was

good to see the way the guys

responded to that. The way we

pulled it back those last five

overs to get the total just below

par was great.'

"It was obviously nice to get

with one ball remaining.

New Zealand needed three

wide without facing a ball.



against Sunrisers Hyderabad on

Friday. When asked if the all-

rounder's position is threatened

due to the new rule, Miller said: "No, not necessarily threat-"I mean, ultimately, you've got your all-rounders position. But I think the fact that you've got the choice to have the extra

atter or the extra bowler just gives extra strength to the team. "So I wouldn't sav it's a rounders have always been high-

threat to any all rounders. All ly regarded in any team. So I think their role still remains but it just gives this extra strength to the team in terms of batting or



PTI SRINAGAR

Sri Lanka cricket legend Sanath Jayasuria on Saturday dismissed suggestions that too much cricket was leading to burnout saying the playing period at the top level was short and players should make optimum use of it.

"That is an individual opinion and I would not like to comment on it. The period of players' careers is short and they have to make best use of this time," Jayasuria told reporters here.

The 'Player of the Tournament' in 1996 World Cup feels that fitness is paramount as the best years will allow an individual to ply his trade in various T20 leagues, which is fast changing the priority for a section of cricketers. "You cannot say 'No' to these things. At the end, the player has to decide how much his body can take," he said. Javasuriya was non-committal on most issues

during his interaction with media. "It is too early to name three contenders. All

the teams are playing good cricket right now," Jayarusia replied when asked about favourites for the World Cup.

Asked about chances of Sri Lanka, which has to play the qualifiers, going through to the main World Cup event, he said "we have to qualify first and I am confident.'



ers have come to limelight from the instant form "It is an individual opinion (that Test cricket is losing out to T20 cricket). We have seen good

players coming through from T20 in India, Australia and Bangladesh," he added. The former cricketer, who donned the Sri Lankan colours 586 times across the formats, was

all praise for bats made of Kashmir willow "I have played with Kashmiri bats, there is nothing wrong with these bats. It is up-to the individual players (whether they want to use it)," he

said in response to a question. Asked if India and Pakistan should play each other beyond the ICC events, Jayasuria said "I I cannot talk about domestic issues of your coun-

try. I am an outsider.'

New Zealand beats Lanka by 4 wickets to win T20 series Chapman hit the first ball of the over, an anticipated slow ball, for six and was out when he

ing 30 runs from 23 balls. The

innings lost most of its momen-

tum on his departure as Daryl

Mitchell and Mark Chapman

were at the crease and Sri

Lanka's bowlers contained them

with a mixture of yorkers and

off the last two overs with seven

wickets in hand and, after a good

over from Madushan, needed 10

from the last over. That turned

into on ordeal as three wickets

The Black Caps needed 17

slower balls.

New Delhi, April 9, 2023

a Continue of the pioneer of the pio

Beauty is only skin deep.
I think what's really
important is finding a
balance of mind, body
and spirit



Striving for happiness could be making you unhappy – here's how to find your own path writes LOWRI DOWTHWAITE-WALSH

PATH OF LAND PARTIES OF LAND P

appiness is big business, with sales of self-help books in the UK reaching record levels in the past year. Perhaps that's because happiness is no longer the birthright of the elite. Just half a century ago, psychologist Warner Wilson seemed to suggest that you are less likely to be happy if you're uneducated and poor when he stated that a happy person generally is "young, healthy, well educated, well paid, extroverted, optimistic, worry free, religious, married, with high self-esteem, high job morale, modest aspirations, of either sex and of a wide range of intelligence".

Today happiness is something we can all aspire to. But, as many of us try out gratitude journals, meditation and positive affirmations, we often discover that they don't make us substantially happier. The same often goes for reaching the goals that society values – such as marriage, an interesting job or physical fitness. So is happiness just a myth? Research suggests no. The problem, however, is finding a recipe that works for everyone.

Wherever we turn, we are encouraged to strive for happiness. We're told it will make us better at parenting, work and life in general. So it's no wonder most of us seek happiness goals to which to aspire, whether they are based on cultural norms, self-help books or scientific research. However this pursuit of happiness can be stressful – and research suggests that it actually makes many people unhappy.

What's more, much of the research on happiness uses quantitative methodologies that report on what works for most people, for example by working out average results. Therefore, while insightful, studies about what makes people happy are not representative of us all. After all, people value fundamentally different things in life, from material possessions to intellectual growth.

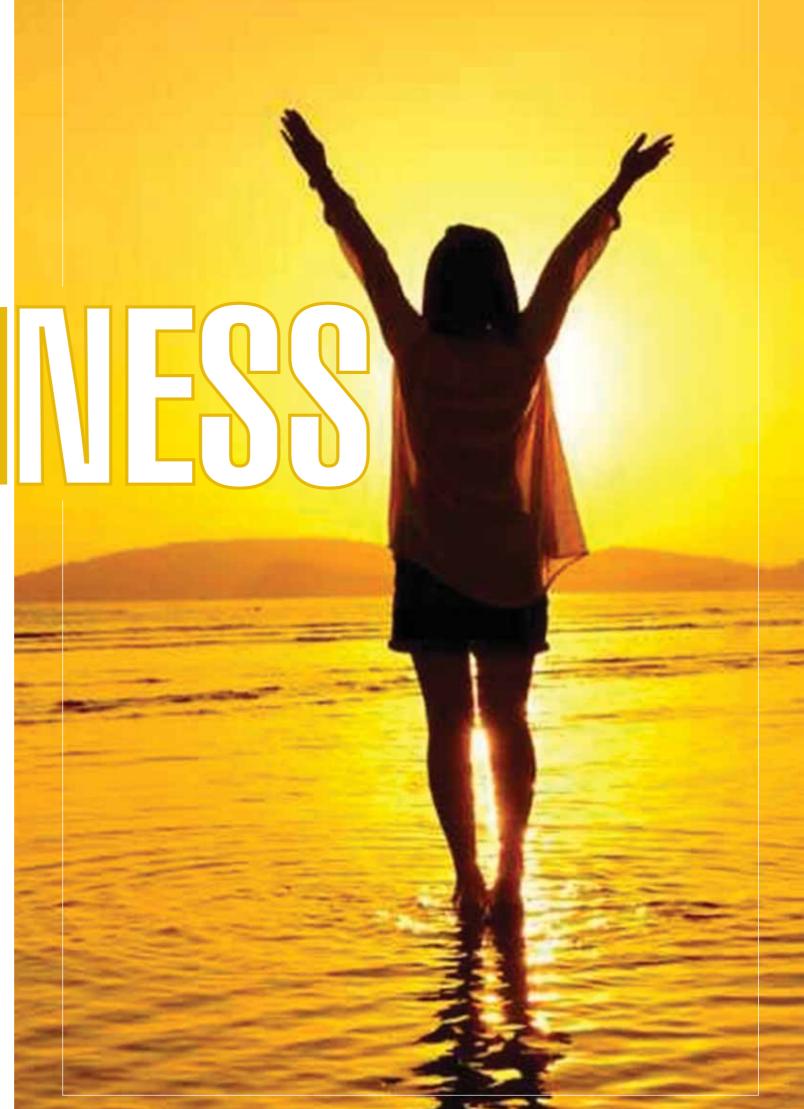
Originally, the branch of science most devoted to happiness studies – positive psychology – stated that well-being is all about maximising positive emotions and minimising negative emotions. But this approach has recently been found to be too simplistic. Recent research instead suggests that individual differences play a great role in our psychological fit for happiness.

MEANING VERSUS POSITIVITY

The view of many researchers today actually ties in with the ancient philosopher Aristotle's view of the "good life". Aristotle argued that happiness is not just about feeling good but about feeling "right". He suggested that a happy life involves experiencing the right emotions based on your values and beliefs

Therefore, happiness is not simply about a hedonistic pursuit of pleasure, but a meaningful

ORIGINALLY, THE BRANCH OF SCIENCE MOST **DEVOTED TO HAPPINESS** STUDIES -**POSITIVE** PSYCHOLOGY -STATED THAT WELL-BEING IS **ALL ABOUT MAXIMISING POSITIVE EMOTIONS AND** MINIMISING **NEGATIVE EMOTIONS**



engagement with life. At times it may be appropriate to be sad or angry as well as being optimistic and

hopeful that things can change.

Meaning is a close relative of happiness. They often go hand in hand, but are two entirely separate constructs. It is possible to lead a pleasurable life, but without much meaning. It is also possible to experience a meaningful life dedicated passionately to a cause, but experience very little positive emotion. My own forthcoming study has found

that meaning is more predictive of happiness in the long run – over and above positive emotions.

PERSONALITY AND MATURITY

But meaning and pleasure can be subjective. For one person, raising children in a stable and homely family house may be the best way to achieve meaning, while for someone else it may be travelling the world and learning as much as possible about it

with or without children.
 Research has indeed found that

people with different personalities differ in their experience of happiness. For example, people who are extroverted are more likely to feel fulfilled by a hedonistic approach to happiness. But for other people, this approach is not linked to a happy life. So if you are introverted, you may be more likely to find happiness by developing a meaningful purpose in life – whether that's charity work, art or formily.

art or family. Studies have found that people who are "open to experiences" meaning they like to explore new and unconventional things and ideas - are also more likely to report having a happy life. For these people, experiencing negative emotions from time to time does not significantly reduce happiness overall. They also report less fear than others of being "too happy", which naturally allows happiness to flow more easily. Perhaps another factor is that people who are open to new experiences are less likely than many others to conform to society's norms - including those about happiness.

What's more, our personalities change over time – we tend to get

more emotionally stable and conscientious as we age. That means our approach to happiness may change. One qualitative study exploring the way individuals talk about happiness and personal growth found that people experience well-being differently based on what stage they are in of their conscious development, as determined by the researchers.

In the stages of early development, our happiness is mostly dependant on social norms - being loved and accepted by others. As we mature, we can differentiate between our own and other people's emotions in order to pursue meaningful goals. Even higher stages of development are associated with a self-transformation which involves a shift of awareness from pursuing goals to the process of living. For example, when it comes to family time, it may be more important to just be together than doing certain things as a group - such as going to Legoland because everyone else is. The researchers found that mature individuals exercised more control, choice and flexibility over their well-being, and that this opened up more opportunities

for happiness.

So it's unlikely that a few simple rules could make everyone happy. Even the "rule" that money can't make you happy is now questionable. More recent research shows that this isn't necessarily true, but depends more on how we spend money and whether this fits with our personality

and what we value.

So the next time a well-meaning relative tells you that renovating your house will boost your life satisfaction, don't panic. We all have different ways of being happy and do not need to conform to a universal formula. As much as it is tempting at times to find happiness through learning from others – and being accepted by them – if it's someone else's version of happiness, it might not fit with you.

In fact, it is very possible that the social norms about what constitutes happiness make many of us miserable. Perhaps the key to happiness is truly getting to know yourself and having the guts to do what makes your life worth living at a certain point – regardless of what others say.

(The Conversation)

health 10





Dr POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH WHO Regional Director South-East Asia

Today, in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis, around 40 per cent of people in the Region are unable to

access essential health services. In 2017, around 299 million people in the Region faced catastrophic health spending, and an estimated 117 million people in the Region

were pushed or further pushed below the purchasing power parity poverty line of US\$ 1.90 a day – a figure that has since been exac-

As highlighted by the Region's 2021 the Region's vision to build back better from the Covid-19 pandemic, whole-of-government, whole-of-society action is needed to drive rapid and sustained progress towards UHC and Health for All. We must all con-

The Covid-19 crisis has shown that investments in UHC and health system resilience underpin not just health, but social and economic security, as well as the achievement of an array of Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy makers and programme managers must continue to implement the Region's Strategy for PHC. A specific focus should be strengthening public health infrastructure, workforce and financing, while at the same time increasing equity for those at risk of or who are already being left behind. Shared learning must continue to be a core priority, leveraging the full power of the Region's new Forum for PHC-Oriented Health Systems.

Dr RAJESH KUMAR Senior Consultant

Internal Medicine, Paras Health Gurugram

ue to its huge population, India faces public health. Poverty, illiteracy, language barrier, quality, accessibility and last-mile delivery of healthcare services are some of the major challenges our country faces in improving public health outcomes of the

However, it is heart-warming to note that India has made positive strides in public health in the last several decades. But there is still a long way to go. For example, India spends less than two per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on healthcare and our out-of-pocket expense is one of the highest. The road ahead would be increasing our health expenditure considerably, improving public health surveillance and diagnostic and improving last-mile delivery of healthcare services through proper governance and a robust public healthcare infrastructure.

Dr GS GREWAL

Former President (Punjab Medical Council), SAS Grewal Multispeciality Hospital, Ludhiana Cuccessive governments have ignored

Shealth and education despite the fact these two are the assets for the development of

been a meagre allocation of budget in these two sectors. Therefore we have witnessed corporatisation of health in the last few decades. No

doubt every doctor is duty bound morally and ethically to give medical aid in case of emergency but their genuine grievances should be sorted out through dialogue. It

would be wrong to paint all the doctors with the same brush. Several corporate hospitals however have been allotted land at throw away prices but they have failed to comply with the clause of giving free medical aid in return. This is because there is complete failure of the regulatory bodies. Medical treatment has become very expensive and causes exorbitant burden on the out of pocket expenditure by the patients. It is time that regulatory mechanism should be strength-ened. The institutions which have been given charitable status and have received benefits from the government should put up a board highlighting their charitable status and also mention the obligations due to them.

Dr SARVESH PANDEY Orthopedician, Vice president

General Secretary, FORDA



As we talk use.

Health for All, it is s we talk about important to introspect the Right to Health bill brought by Rajasthan Government in its original form. We believe it was a poorly thought

The World Health Day celebrated on April 7 aims to promote awareness among people towards the importance of good health. **ARCHANA JYOTI** talks to people from various walks of life about the challenges and issues that need to be sorted out in the sector to achieve the goal of Health for All, which happens to be the theme for this year's D-Day too



strong and valuable inputs from the medical fraternity. As healthcare professionals, we are committed to ensuring that every individual has access to quality healthcare. We believe that the government should first focus on strengthening their own healthcare systems for the general public to realize that their interests are the primary focus and not just as a vote bank. However, after the recent protests, we are pleased to see that changes have been made to exempt small private setups from the ambit of the bill. Despite this, we feel that the remaining provisions still require better implementation and fore-

Dr MANISH JANGRAFounder FAIMA, MD Dermatologist

↑ s you know Health is one of the funda-Amental rights according to article 21 of constitution of India Being Fundamental right every citizen of india deserves a better & affordable healthcare that to be ensured by Government of India. Medical professionals born in

india are providing quality health not just in India but as well as abroad making us proud but at the same time of recession economy slowing down the government of the day

needs to support citizens of the country to get affordable and quality healthcare irrespective of socio-economic status. On this World Health Day We choose Health For All for this year for the same reason. Hopefully we will be able to achieve it.

AKSHI KHANDELWAL

Founder & CEO Butterfly Ayurveda

The age-old Indian life science of Ayur-'Swastha' which essentially means to be root-

ed in self. It lays stress on practicing and learning activities that bring together the mind and body, such as Yoga, and the practice of 'Dhyana', meditation, to find the inner rhythm of your own.



This inner rhythm becomes the guiding force or the guiding light for our daily living, and helps us bring balance into the daily routine, bring focus and awareness to our diet, lifestyle and fitness regimen. It empowers us to transform our health. Further, learning about our own Ayurvedic bodymind constitution empowers us to make better decisions with respect to everything in

SANDEEP CHACHRA Executive Director

ActionAid Association The Covid-19 pan-



also happen, it is time for all countries to scale up investment in public health services and ensure everyone has access to medical support. Making healthcare a fundamental right for all may be the desirable and much-needed way forward. And in doing so, we need to ensure that the right to health is to a free, good quality, universal, genderresponsive public service that remains sensitive to the diversities of populations it serves.

JR GUPTA

President

Senior Citizens Council of Delhi

The Health For All
Day gives us an opportunity to create

awareness about the problems faced by we senior citizens. I would request the Governzens should be issued health cards and allowed health insurance

policy without any extra premium while health mobile vans should be deployed in remote areas across India. To ensure less medical burden on the patients, Health budget should be doubled and the health budget should be doubled. Also, the Delhi Government should implement National Ayushman Health Scheme.

H E A L T H B R I E F S GIMS, GREATER NOIDA CELEBRATES WORLD HEALTH DAY

NOIDA: On the occasion of the World Health Day on April 7, Government Institute Of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida, UP organized a CME based on "Universal Health Coverage: Health for



All ". It was attended by Dr (Brig) Rakesh Gupta, Director, GIMS, Dr Suneela Garg, Professor of Excellence, Chair Program Advisory Committee, NIFHW, Dr Manish Chaturvedi, Professor, Planning and Evaluation, NIHFW, New Delhi among others.

Dr Gupta talked about the importance of celebrating World Health Day while Dr Suneela Garg highlighted the importance of strengthening the health system for achieving health for all. Dr Manish Chaturvedi dwelled in detail on measures needed for tackling the increasing number of non-communicable diseases. Dr Rambha Pathak, Dean, Professor & Head, elaborated about the steps taken by policy makers towards achieving health for all. Dr Anurag Srivastava, Professor, highlighted the role of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in improving health care for deprived sections of the population. A poster competition and a quiz competition were also organised for MBBS students and the winners were awarded certificates of appreciation.

WALKATHON HELD TO MARK WORLD HEALTH DAY



New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya led 'Health for All' walkathon on the occasion of World Health Day with an aim to spread awareness about healthy habits in order to keep away non-communi-

cable diseases and to promote mental well-being.

Along with Mandaviya, Minister of State for Health Bharti Pravin Pawar also took part in the walkathon. The participants of the walkathon took a pledge to adopt healthy habits to prevent lifestyle-related health problems such as cancer, diabetes,

hypertension, and other mental illnesses. Ashim Sanyal, from Consumer VOICE, an NGO working in the field of consumer awareness said that such initiatives should be a regular features to create awareness among public regarding ill-health impact of the NCDs like hypertension and heart related ailments among others which currently account for more than 63 per cent of all deaths in the country and are huge burden on the economy as well as households.

Medical d evices imports galore, what about Atmanirbharta?

ndia imported medical devices worth Rs 63,200 crore in 2021-22, up 41 per cent from Rs 44,708 crore in 2020-21 and this is not a good sign for Indian manufacturers. Even Budget 2023 didn't provide much relief to the sector. There seems to be a stalemate in this regard. Whereas, globally, other countries are doing better with their own consortiums/ groups in the MedTech sector.

With the majority of the devices being imported, the way out for Indian manufacturers is very limited. We are seeking policy clarity because if the government really has no wish to provide tariff protection or to make it profitable for manufacturing of medical devices in the country then the people who are importing will keep on importing then there is no point in trying to invest money in putting up factories.

What we noticed is that post Covid the imports have come down for the covid critical medical devices as demand fell, not for all but quite a few of them, at the same time there's been a steep increase of the import of noncovid medical devices.

There have been many cases where the imports have gone up from 25% to 152% which is extremely alarming and the government needs to seriously consider tariff and non-tariff barriers to address this particular issue as a tit for tat policy otherwise India will always be 80% import dependent. We've seen the gains done in the toy industry using non-tariff barriers, we've seen the gains done in the mobile phone industry and consumer electronics for using tariff barriers, a mix of both I would say are required in

case of medical devices The Indian medical devices factories are audited by the Indian Certification bodies and then inspected by SLA but there is no Indian Regulators or Certification Body doing inspection or audit of the companies in China or the other countries and it's easier and faster to get an import License than a manufacturing License from CDSCO. That is not a level playing field, the domestic manufacturers do need a level playing field.

However, if the government starts implementing what parliament health





RAJEEV NATH,

Managing Director, Hindustan Syringes & Medical Device Ltd and forum coordinator, The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD), while speaking to Health Pioneer, rues that the domestic medical devices sector is being given stepmotherly treatment and suggests ways to boost

the segment which

played a pivotal role

during Covid pandemic

committee has suggested and that's what AiMeD has also been recommending then there is definitely hope that what is 80% import dependency can convert into 60% market share for Indian manufacturers with even 70% of the recommendations of Parliament being implemented. The most important strategic recommendations made by the Parliamentary committee on

To have a separate law for Medical Devices separate from Drugs Act Have a separate medical devices

Health are:

department considering these are engineering products not chemicals like in the case of pharmaceuticals

The third area is the issue of review of tariff structure

■ The area of review of the trade margins and the price control mechanisms to protect consumers and to support

ethical marketing Another area which the parliament has recommended is the case of having a research linked incentive scheme and they've also recommended widening the scope of PLI scheme to cover more medical devices, lower investments as well as to cover critical components and raw materials which are key to manufacturing certain medical devices in the country

The Medical Device policy by

itself has been on the anvil under discussion since 2014, multiple drafts have been made but the strong imports lobby manages to get the announcement

In the area of public procurement also it's important that the government needs to incentivize procurement by quality-based selection criteria rather than just the lowest price criteria, so to have an objective quality certification like ICMED (Indian Certification for



or Design India certification from DPITT as a criteria to promote R&D and indigenisation. We are unaware of the reasons why

the government is shying away from providing the much-needed nominal custom duty protection to support investments in the medical devices sector to address the 80% import dependency. While it is understandable that the government seeks to protect consumers and would like to ensure that they access medical devices at a low nominal cost then capping of MRP over the imports landed price is more impactful for consumers, also equally important is the issue of healthcare security of the country which was shown when Covid came and the government had to resort to lockdowns so that manufacturing of medical devices could be done to provide support to the healthcare infrastructure and the healthcare facilities in the country as supply chains internationally got dis-

rupted.

We request kind consideration of the government for encouraging domestic manufacturing to be sustainable and as an attractive proposition in long term for becoming AtmaNirbhar to address national healthcare security needs exposed at the onset of Covid and for Ease of Doing business.

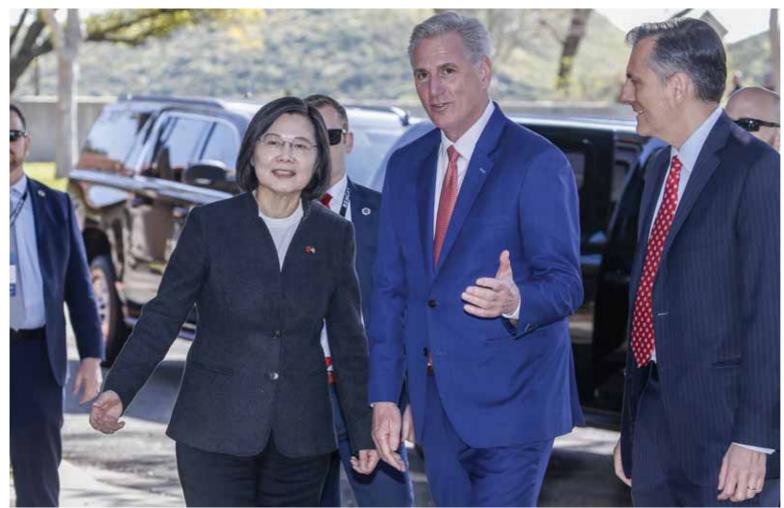
West's follies sowing dragon's teeth

China is on the move. The Cobjective is to dethrone the US from the seat of global leadership. And some say, China is trying to create its own global order. Seen in this perspective, China's rapid advances in major fields are becoming a potential threat to the US and American friends in the dragon's neighbourhood like India.

Beijing's renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh is an indication how Chinese President Xi Jinping is hell-bent on disturbing the sovereignty of India. However, China coming out with invented names for the Indian territory is not a one-off case. China does it purposefully just to flex its muscles. It is another matter altogether that a formidable Delhi under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi retorts in the same measure.

Second, China's recent war games in and around Taiwan have bearing on the peace across the straits and in the region. And precisely, China has been targeting Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's regime since the visit of the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the island in August last year. In fact, China showcased its biggest military might in decades near the self-ruled island. For long, trade, travel and communication between the island nation and mainland China were cut off, offering opportune moments for Washington to support regimes

One might say that China can display its might today just because of its sheer economic heft. It is fast expanding its weapon of economic imperialism all across the world, especially in Africa, Latin America and in island nations of the Asia-Pacific region. Decades-long animosity between Taipei and Beijing has reached a tipping point. And this regional conflict is feeding a big power rivalry between the US and the People's Republic of China (PRC).



US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., second from right, welcomes Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen as she arrives at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California on April 5, 2023 AF

Now the moot question is why the US is interested in protecting the island of Taiwan? Some argue that there are enough military, diplomatic and political reasons for the US to safeguard the interests of Taiwan as long as China represents a direct threat to the former locally and globally. For Taiwan, it is a sovereign state, but for China, it is a breakaway province.

For Xi, reunification of Taiwan in mainland China must be fulfilled. He said the reunification must happen peacefully, but also warned that the people of China had a glorious tradition of fighting

separatism tooth and nail. It is plain and simple that Beijing will not allow Taiwan to retain its independent status for long. Also, it is certain that China's growing economic and military might will allow neither the US nor any other power to aid Taiwan sufficiently to become a full-fledged independent state, leading to the membership of the UN in future.

While assuming the third presidential term last year, Xi warned that China will not renounce the use of force to unify Taiwan with the mainland. He also vowed to modernise the country's military to world-class standards to safeguard national sovereignty, security and developmental interests. Xi's intervention comes after China sent a record number of military jets to Taiwan's air defence zone.

When Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited the US and met US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy this week, China strongly protested against both Taiwan and the US. Xi said that it was wishful thinking to expect Beijing to compromise on Taiwan. The real threat to the US comes from two critical points in East Asia — the Senkaku Islands and Taiwan. Both these areas indicate a particular threat to geographic

advantage that the US and its allies enjoy.

The arduous task is to decipher what Xi wants from these covert and overt war games in the region. Is he directly challenging the US and its allies in East Asia or trying to send a signal to the rest of the powerful nations like India that they must not dare to cross the Red Line he has drawn? Xi is a megalomaniac who wants to grab every opportunity to cling onto power and prove that China can do whatever it wants to. And these issues keep the pot

It must be admitted here

that isolating Vladimir Putin and his Russia would be counterproductive for the West. This would offer China one more golden opportunity to bolster ties with Moscow and capitalise on the economic and military opportunities brought in by over year-long war in

The West led by the US should have been adequately guided by the talisman once Napoleon gave in the year 1817: "Let China sleep, when she wakes, she will shake the world." It is a reality now. China is absolutely shaking the globe by entering into every corner of the world.

founder of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, who died in the year 2015, once said: "The size of China's displacement of the world balance is such that the world must find a new balance. It is not possible to pretend that this is just another big player. This is the biggest player in the history of the world." It is a fact. Time has come now to rethink and pose this dilemma in the West and in India.

Again, master statesman and

China's biggest gambling is fast turning into real power games all over the world. America's declining power, disintegration in Europe, Russia's resurgence under Putin and the current military threat he is posing to the rest of his neighbours, disturbances in West Asia and in Africa, all are directly contributing to the backsliding of the global order.

Soon, the US will become number two. It would be really difficult for Washington to accept the reality and listen to the new global narratives set by Beijing. The process seems to have started. Within a decade or so, Beijing will take the centre stage.

Countries like India, Australia, Japan, South Korea, etc, would find it too difficult to challenge China unless they stand united. The AUKUS, QUAD and all other bilateral and multilateral alliances should put their efforts together to stop China's aggression. China will not be able to help itself indeed. It is not the time for war, it's time for global interdependence and partnership to advance one's goals and promote others as well. No one will listen to China's dictatorial terms and conditions simply set forth by the Communists in Beijing if nations understand the ulterior motive of the dragon. History could guide China better than the US or any other entity in the world.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)

Isolating Vladimir Putin and his Russia would be counterproductive for the West ultimately. This would offer China one more golden opportunity to bolster ties with **Moscow** and capitalise on the economic and military opportunities brought in by over year-long war in Ukraine



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE •

Can't trust Language AIs for rational decisions

Until researchers figure out how to endow large language models with a general sense of rationality, the Al models should be treated with caution, especially in applications requiring high-stakes decision-making, writes Mayank Kejriwal of the University of Southern California

The past few years have seen an explosion of progress in large language model artificial intelligence systems that can do things like write poetry, conduct humanlike conversations and pass medical school exams. This progress has yielded models like ChatGPT that could have major social and economic ramifications ranging from job displacements and increased misinformation to massive productivity boosts.

Despite their impressive abilities, large language models don't actually think. They tend to make elementary mistakes and even make things up. However, because they generate fluent language, people tend to them as. This has led researchers to study the models' "cognitive" abilities and biases, work that has grown in importance now that large language models are widely accessible.

This line of research dates back to early large language models such as Google's BERT, which is integrated into its search engine and so has been coined BERTology. This research has already revealed a lot about what such models can do and where they go wrong.

For instance, cleverly designed experiments have shown that many language models have trouble dealing with negation — for example, a question phrased as "what is not" — and doing simple calculations. They can be overly confident in their answers, even when wrong. Like other modern machine learning algorithms, they have trouble explaining themselves when asked why they answered a cer-

Words and thoughts
Inspired by the growing body of research in BERTology and related fields like cognitive science, my student Zhisheng Tang and I set out to answer a seemingly simple question about large language models: Are they rational?

Although the word rational is often used as a synonym for sane or reasonable in everyday English, it has a specific meaning in the field of decisionmaking. A decision-making system — whether an individual human or a complex entity like an organisation — is rational if, given a set of choices, it chooses to maximise expected gain.

The qualifier "expected" is important because it indicates that decisions are made under conditions of significant uncertainty. If I toss a fair coin, I know that it will come up heads half of the time on average. However, I can't make a prediction about the outcome of any given coin toss. This is why casinos are able to afford the occasional big payout: Even narrow house odds yield enor-



Furwee — The World's First ChatGPT Conversational Character for Kids from Animatic Media

mous profits on average.

On the surface, it seems odd to assume that a model designed to make accurate predictions about words and sentences without actually understanding their meanings can

understand expected gain. But Lee Whorf in the early 20th there is an enormous body of research showing that language and cognition are intertwined. An excellent example is semia person thinks. nal research done by scientists Edward Sapir and Benjamin

century. Their work suggested that one's native language and vocabulary can shape the way

The extent to which this is true is controversial, but there

is supporting anthropological evidence from the study of Native American cultures. For instance, speakers of the Zuñi language spoken by the Zuñi people in the American southwest, which does not have sep-

arate words for orange and yellow, are not able to distinguish between these colours as effectively as speakers of languages

Making a bet

that do have separate words for

So are language models rational? Can they understand expected gain? We conducted a detailed set of experiments to show that, in their original form, models like BERT behave randomly when presented with betlike choices. This is the case even when we give it a tricky question like: If you toss a coin and it comes up heads, you win a diamond; if it comes up tails, you lose a car. Which would you take? The correct answer is heads, but the AI models chose tails about half

Intriguingly, we found that the model can be taught to make relatively rational decisions using only a small set of example questions and answers. At first blush, this would seem to suggest that the models can indeed do more than just "play" with language. Further experiments, however, showed that the situation is actually much more complex. For instance, when we used cards or dice instead of coins to frame our bet questions, we found that performance dropped significantly, by over 25 per cent, although it stayed

So the idea that the model can be taught general principles of rational decision-making remains unresolved, at best. More recent case studies that we conducted using ChatGPT confirm that decision-making remains a non-trivial and unsolved problem even for much bigger and more advanced large language

Getting the decision right

This line of study is important because rational decisionmaking under conditions of uncertainty is critical to building systems that understand costs and benefits. By balancing expected costs and benefits, an intelligent system might have been able to do better than humans at planning around the supply chain disruptions the world experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic, managing inventory or serving as a financial adviser.

Our work ultimately shows that if large language models are used for these kinds of purposes, humans need to guide, review and edit their work. And until researchers figure out how to endow large language models with a general sense of rationality, the models should be treated with caution, especially in applications requiring high-stakes decision-

New Delhi, April 9, 2023





























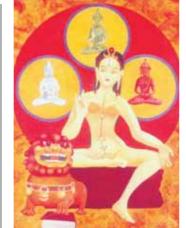




ARIES March 21-April 19

Among the family, there is peace, balance, mirth, and a good vibe. Yet, this week you must prioritize your health and finances. Pay attention to your intuition. A disciplined and methodical way of living will help you. Students and children are instructed to concentrate on their academics. Love affairs, movies, and romance will be distractions. There is also a probability of experiencing a fresh surge of emotions or vivid dreams. They might be the source of disagreement with your mother or have a negative impact on your academic career. Spending money on physical and mental issues will put you in debt. The week's theme is moderation and control. If you maintain this, you will have an easy week.

Lucky number 31 Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You are attempting to escape the situation and wish to relocate to leave the challenges behind. You lack the patience and courage required to restore balance, so you seek assistance. Your anxieties will originate from your underestimation of your own ability. There will be a wonderful message for you by mid-week.
There is a communication, potentially from far away, regarding a vacation or professional change, or about a leadership position. Your children will also provide iov to the family. There will be a burst of new energy and perspective. By the end of the week, you're daydreaming and living in a fantasy world. You will feel too optimistic, wanting to get out and enjoy the world. You get a youthful and energizing feeling.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you are generous and kind. You give your friends and family your undivided attention. Financial assistance in the form of money and presents to others who are less fortunate can bring you joy. There are other signs that someone in your life wants to help you financially or emotionally by giving you advice that will put you on the correct road. There is a possibility of winning a legal case against you. It is because of vour religious efforts in a past incarnation that you are receiving accolades and having nice things happen to you. A new connection or friendship may begin, or you may experience a new level of happiness and pleasure in an existing relationship, or any event related to an emotional beginning

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, your self-assurance and vitality are limitless. The stakes are high, and you are suddenly under pressure. This is when others get envious of what you have accomplished. Yet you stay on the ground and refuse to let your opponent's take control. This mentality is what helps you to succeed. There is joy in the family. There may be an opportunity to begin home construction or to lay a strong and stable foundation for a house. Married couples will maintain cordial relations and make key decisions for their children. Children are also a source of joy. Singles will find love by the end of the week. There is an elation of emotions too which may inspire you to pen down your feelings on the paper.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Navy Blue Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You are charming and want to be the leader everywhere you go. You try your hand at everything, picking up new friends along the way. You are wellliked and the focus of attention. You lead the squad and demonstrate your abilities. You may play a bully who is inconsiderate to other people's sentiments. Mid-week is a good time to rest. It is time to restore harmony to the mind, heart, and soul. You will find relief in a calm and tranquil setting. Towards the end of the week, you may experience emotional tension, misunderstanding, or an argument with a female supervisor at work or a senior lady at home. There will very certainly be conflict between parents and

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Life has taken a sharp turn. There is a transition to the next stage of life. Every change has a purpose. Significant changes are coming your way, maybe in your lifestyle. An old attitude or notion is no longer useful to you, and you intend to let it go. For some, it's as if one door is closing while another is opening. You are effective at work during the week. You are the leader, and you will empower and enable others to assist in your absence. The mind and heart are in harmony. You will not be ruled by your emotions, but you will consider every decision you make. By the end of the week, your motto should be to broaden your mind, acquire new skills, and have fun while doing it.

Lucky number 39 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

There is an abundance of energy saved for you, which inspires you to give your all to your career/work. Individuals seeking promotions are only one step away from their objectives. Your confidential report will be reviewed by your seniors at the start of the week. You may receive notification of your promotion or increased income. Your consistent efforts and perseverance have been recognized. A retreat and a celebration in a picturesque location are also planned. Be wary of thieves since they may steal from you. Someone may try to steal your honour, ideas, or time, or create rumours about you to win a race or bring you down.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Golden **Lucky day** Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you will be eager to enhance your talents, particularly your mental skills. As the week continues, so does my mental hunger. And you notice that your thinking is becoming sharper and clearer. Several misunderstandings will be cleared. You will be so preoccupied with your mental pursuits that you will overlook other aspects of your life. There is emotional unrest. There is a potential that your spouse will challenge you to file for divorce or will leave you. Take caution in this aspect. Establish a balance and set your goals accordingly. At the end of the week, you are lively and put out your best efforts at work. Your income will be increased, or you will be promoted. You will have a high social status or be given a significant responsibility.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Pastel Green Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are efficient and skilled in your profession. You understand not only what you must do, but also how and why you must accomplish it. You have excellent communication skills and are comfortable interacting with the public. You are confident in your abilities to create the desired consequences. It is your personality's aura, which illuminates your path to glory. The week is also favourable for financial dealings. There will be fresh prospects that will lead to greater success and prosperity. Money in the form of a gift, inheritance, wedding rings, and a marriage proposal are also indicated. Your previous efforts have been recognized. You also devote time to achieving your spiritual objectives. You must keep your feet firmly on the ground and trust on your common sense to guide you to success.

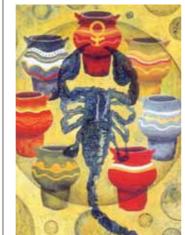
Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are highly intuitive and work as a counsellor or psychic. You have the perfect solution to the difficulties of home, friends, and love. Hormone issues, depression, moodiness, and other similar addictions may stop you from living a normal life. Yet by the middle of the wee you'll be a completely different person. There is a shift ir both your views and your actions. You are self-assured and in command of your emotions. You may feel sad, empty, or down, yet this will provide a means for you to rise again. There is loyalty, faith, determination, and a conviction that will lead to success regardless of the circumstances. A trip is also planned. Your horses keep the wheel turning, but it is your control and direction that gets you to your destination.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Orange Laucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You alternate between nightmares and illusions. You are scared, dreamy, and on an emotional and mental roller coaster this week. There are concerns about the future, and family and friends are refusing to cooperate. The financial position is not good. Costs exceed income. There is loneliness, despair, and mental stress. Now is the moment to reflect on your mistakes and learn from them. Recall how you received more job, money, luck, and health, but you didn't share any of the benefits with anyone. You are always afraid, unable to enjoy what you have. At the end of the week, you will discover that you are in a position of good health, money, and comfort, but you are frightened of losing all of this.

Lucky number 29 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

The week begins with a pleasant surprise at work. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment of time and money have all paid off handsomely. You have a sense of strength and pride. You were not distracted by initial hardship and are already bearing fruit. Your compassion for one another and selfless efforts will be a bonus. You are the captain of your team because you have learnt to control your emotions. You may overindulge in wine, food, and romance towards the end of the week. There is a caution not to spend lengthy hours on online conversation; instead, cherish what you have. Meditation, prayers, and a wish to live in peace will overtake you. There is a need for balance, relationships, and other

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Indigo

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

Make conscientious choice and



omeone following my articles for long, came with loaded questions about the laws of causation driving the living world: "Sir, so far as I have understood from Indian scriptures is that it is through God's will that the manifest world with all its diversity and enormity has come into place. It is again divine power that holds the key to our dynamic existence with all our functionalities going on. So long as divine power is available to us, we are alive. The moment it becomes unavailable, one becomes dead. Here again, God decides our destiny - rewarding for good deeds and painful for all undesirable acts. Truth remains that it is divine power that drives all actions on our part, but our ahamkara makes us believe that we make choices and are doers. Yet you confidently keep writing that we can make conscientious choice to turn life into a beautiful experience through self-efforts. Would it not mean questioning scriptural authority?"

Well, it is usual human tendency to look at all happenings even at the invisible higher dimensions of the universe, the way it works for human

beings. That tempts them to believe that God (Creative Matrix) would act human like, who willed and the manifest world came into being. Exposure to Advaita Vedanta as explained by Shankaracharya, the summum bonum of Indian philosophy, however, suggests that the Primal-Source wherefrom creation began is formless and attribute-less. Kashmir Shaivism further elaborates that it is in nature of the Creative Matrix to expand and manifest into the world of names and forms, and it happens spontaneously. In the process a well-orchestrated system came into place, which works in self-automated mode. And that system works on different dimensions of existence and species varied ways. Much before the theory of relativity got discovered, there is a story in Mahabharata, which suggests that time scale operative at different dimensions of the Universe are relative.

All species other than human beings are bound by the nature driven design parameters underlying their existence. They instinctively carry on their cyclic functions. The trees, plants, and the animal world begin and

sensory limitations, as they do not have a choice. Human beings, on the contrary, enjoy exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and dis-

option is there, the probability of its use and misuse becomes equal. And there is nothing like a free lunch in this world. You have to own up the responsibility of the choices made and

The quality and content of the choices made and the actions thereto will decide the quality of life, good or bad, you become due for. This is the premise on which law of causation (destiny) stands. We, thus, become subject to a cause-effect chain. And it acts in self-automated mode. No assumed extraneous authority sits on judgment. The quality and intent of our work gets imprinted in mind. It not simply affects us in immediate terms, but its impressions get carried over to the next life in the form of thought-seeds parked in our memory. As and when these memory imprints get a congenial ground, they come into play. They, thus, keep guiding our life pattern unless otherwise consciously

bear with the consequences thereto.

Here again, if there is choice option in hand, it also enjoins upon us with the capability to self-reflect upon our inner frame of mind, identify its inherent traits - weaknesses as well as potential. Following which, we can make necessary amend through fresh educative inputs, transcend our mental and emotional limitations, expand our

vision and evolve. Also, hone indwelling potential to come out with one's best. We, thus, could make a conscientious choice to redefine our course of destiny.

A befitting example is the concept underlying Lord Jagannath. He is shown without arms. The belief is that Lord lent his hands to human beings, for them to perform and accordingly, enjoy the fruits of actions, good or bad. Through good deeds you prepare the ground for a better tomorrow. You could also expand your reach beyond the known limits, and improve your striking power to improve the quality of life. Following this spirit only, science and technology have been evolving. Not simply that, you could raise even your level of consciousness (awareness) and evolve to return back and be one with the divine. Otherwise, you will remain stuck to the labyrinth (chakravyuha) of Maya (illusionary living world).

> The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com



redefine destiny

end up the way they are born. They can't evolve further to go beyond their

crimination. But whenever choice